

Vaidya Family Loved To Travel

'March Break Was Perfect Time For Trip'

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Manant Vaidya, Kosha Vaidya's brother told media that he had dropped off the family at Pearson International Airport on Saturday morning.

"The news came at night. The phone rang 15 or 20 times. When we woke up at 7, Papa's friend — he gave us the news (and asked) if we have any news what happened on the flight so we were not sure. We went to the airport to confirm the news, and they had the list of the family members," Hiral Vaidya, Manant's wife, said.

"It's a huge tragedy. I lost my parents, I lost my sister. I don't have anyone else now," he said.

Manant said that his sister who became a Canadian permanent resident in 2003, wanted to take her children to Nairobi where she was born and lived for some years.. "It has been almost 35 years since my sister went to Kenya. She wanted to show her daughters where she was born, where she got delivered in the hospital, and an African safari...

"They thought March break was the perfect time for them to go over there, have fun. It was going to be a really great trip for everybody."

The Vaidya family loved to travel and had already visited Alaska, Mexico and Hawaii. After the Kenya trip they were planning to go to London, UK to see cricket matches and then go to India and later to Dubai in the United Arab Emirates.

The grandparents also insisted that they wanted to go on the trip. His brother-in-law Preit Dixit used to work seven days a week to earn money to pay for the trip, he said.

Manant sponsored his parents to come to Canada from India in

2006 and they became permanent residents of Canada in 2012.

He said he has been in contact with both the Canadian Consulate and the Indian Embassy in Ethiopia. The family is now discussing how to find hair samples or dental records of their kin for DNA testing. They said they were in anguish at the possibility of not being able to identify the bodies so that the family could be cremated in their native Gujarat in India in accordance with Hindu religious rites.

The Indian Embassy in Ethiopia on Sunday said that four Indian nationals were killed and they were identified as Pannagesh Vaidya, Hansini Vaidya, Nukavarapu Manisha, a doctor based in the US, and Shikha Garg, United Nations Development Programme consultant attached with the Environment Ministry.

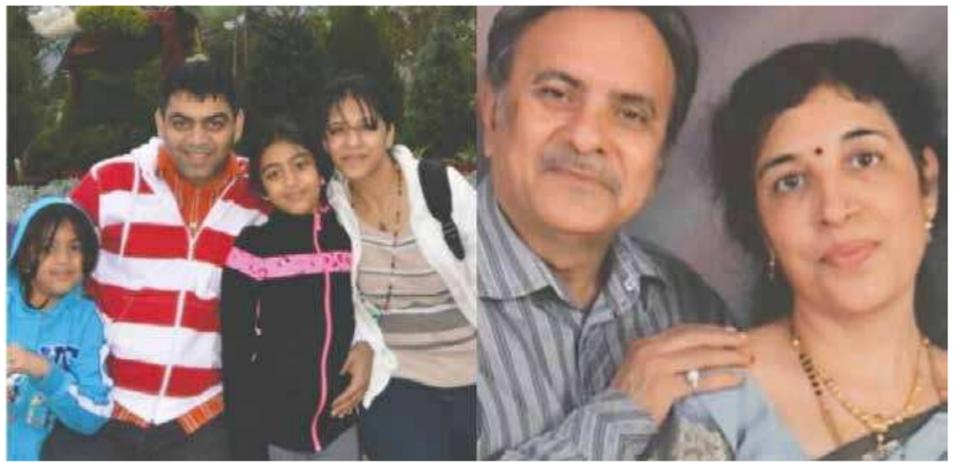
The other Canadians who died in the crash are:

Dawn Tanner, an Ontario high school teacher with a passion for volunteering, was on her way to visit friends in Kenya.

Cody French said his mother, who worked with the Grand Erie District School Board, had previously done community work in small villages to help "homeless and vulnerable children."

Nine-month-old Rubi was travelling to Kenya with her family to meet her grandfather for the first time. Her 34-year-old mother, seven year-old brother, four-year-old sister and 60-year-old grandmother were on the flight with her. Rubi was the only Canadian citizen in the family.

Pius Adesanmi was a Nigerian-born professor in the Department of English Language and Literature and the Institute of African Studies at Carleton



Members of the Vaidya family who were killed in the Ethiopian Airlines crash.

University in Ottawa. He was a "towering figure in African and post-colonial scholarship," said the school's president, Benoit-Antoine Bacon.

Adesanmi was the winner of the inaugural Penguin Prize for African non-fiction writing in 2010.

Angela Rehborn, 24, from Orillia, Ont., was developing a citizen science project on bat conservation. The Canadian Wildlife Federation says she had recently participated in its Canadian Conservation Corp. She was on her way to participate in the UN Environmental Assembly in Nairobi.

Stephanie Lacroix was passionate about youth education and life skills development in both Canada and southern Africa.

Lacroix was working with the UN Association in Canada to help engage young Canadians to grow global citizens as a project officer with the Canada Service Corps. She was a board member of the African Community Fund for Education Canada.

Darcy Belanger: Parvati.org, a not-for-profit conservation group, says the former Edmonton resident was its founding member and director of strategic initiatives. He was working as a United States director of professional development with PCL Construction in Denver.

Micah Messent: Messent was an environmentalist from British Columbia on his way to attend



Manant Vaidya and his wife Hiral as he speaks about losing his family in the crash- THE CANADIAN PRESS/Tijana Martin

the fourth session of the UN Environment Assembly in Nairobi.

The First Nations Leadership Council said Messent was a member of the Red River Metis Nation in Manitoba and was raised as the youngest of five siblings in the Comox Valley on Vancouver Island.

Peter deMarsh: A dedicated community activist, deMarsh also travelled the world as chairman of the International Family Forestry Alliance. The international group, based in Luxembourg, represents more than 25 million forest owners worldwide.

Amina Ibrahim Odowaa and her daughter Sofia Faisal Abdulkadir: The 33-year-old Edmonton woman and her five-year-old daughter were travelling to Kenya to visit relatives.

Derick Lwugi: An accountant with the City of Calgary, Lwugi was on his way to Kenya to visit both his and his wife's parents. The couple have three children, aged 17, 19 and 20, all of whom live at home.

Jessica Hyba: Hyba's Facebook page says she was born in Ottawa and pursued a career in international aid work. She worked for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees as a public relations officer, based in Mogadishu, Somalia.

Danielle Moore: A 24-year-old marine biology student from Winnipeg, Moore graduated from Dalhousie University in Halifax in 2017. She was travelling to Nairobi for the United Nations Environment Assembly.

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