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3 Check In at Airport; 1 Departed Beforehand

By SARAH LYALL

LONDON — Something was not right about the elderly man in the wheelchair, the check-in agents at Liverpool John Lennon Airport thought when he showed up with his wife and stepdaughter for a flight to Germany on Saturday.

For one thing, he appeared not to be breathing.

But efforts by the two women to claim that the man, 91-year-old Willi Jarant, was just resting were thwarted when it turned out that he was, in fact, dead.

On Tuesday, a spokesman for the Greater Manchester Police said that the pair, identified as Gitta Jarant, 66, and her daughter, Anke Anusic, 41, had been arrested “on suspicion of failing to give notification of death.” They have been released on bail and are to appear in court on June 1.

Some reports suggested that Mr. Jarant might already have been dead for 24 hours and that Mrs. Jarant had been trying to smuggle his body back to Germany, where the couple is from, to avoid the considerable expense and hassle of formal repatriation.

But in various interviews on Tuesday, Mrs. Jarant and Ms. Anusic, who live near Manchester, said that Mr. Jarant had definitely been breathing when they left the house and that, unbeknownst to them, he had expired in transit.

“He was alive,” Ms. Anusic [told the BBC](#). “He was pale, but he wasn’t dead.”

According to the [BBC](#), the pair said that Mr. Jarant, who suffered from Alzheimer’s disease, had been treated for pneumonia in a local hospital and that they had waited until he recovered to take him back to Germany. He was wearing sunglasses, they added, because he had wanted to shield an unsightly eye from fellow passengers.

“My Willi is my god,” Mrs. Jarant told the BBC. And Ms. Anusic said: “They would think that for

4/12/2010

3 Check In at Airport - 1 Departed Bef...

24 hours we would carry a dead person? This is ridiculous.”