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Prosecutor on McCann case says naming of suspect is legal formality

London.—A German prosecutor investigating a jailed rapist over the 2007 disappearance of British toddler Madeleine McCann said yesterday that the man's naming as a suspect in the case by Portuguese police was a legal formality while investigations continued.

Braunschweig prosecutor Hans Christian Wolters said the suspect - whom he identified as Christian B but has previously said a man called Christian Brueckner, 45, is his main suspect in the case - had been told of the development by German prosecutors in prison in the north-west German city of Oldenburg.

Wolters said the suspect status related solely to the Portuguese enquiry - there are separate British, German and Portuguese investigations - and that his own probe could take longer to yield results. "We can't say whether we'll come to a conclusion this year or next year," he said. Portuguese prosecutors announced on Thursday that Brueckner was now an official suspect, the first in the long-running case since Madeleine, aged 3, disappeared from her bedroom on May 3, 2007 during a family holiday in the Algarve resort of Praia da Luz while her parents were dining with friends nearby.



The Queen Elizabeth, arrives in port on Monday morning.

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