

Athletes go missing from games in Victoria. (1994, August 28). *The Toronto star*.

## Athletes go missing from games in Victoria

By Bob Mitchell  
Staff Reporter

Six African track and field athletes and a Sri Lankan boxer, competing in the Commonwealth Games in Victoria, have been reported missing.

A spectator at the games claims he spotted the six Ghanaian athletes yesterday, leaving a Toronto-bound Greyhound bus in Sudbury.

They had last been seen Wednesday at the athletes' village at the University of Victoria. The Sri Lankan boxer was reported missing Thursday.

"They were definitely on the bus," Tijjani Omar said in an interview at the Bay St. bus terminal yesterday.

"There were three men and three women and they all carried adidas gym bags," said Omar, a former Nigerian now living in New York who went to see his former countrymen compete.

"They kept to themselves. They spoke English. I didn't try to talk to them. I had a friend on the bus and we talked all the way so I didn't feel obliged to talk to them. I didn't know there was anything wrong."

### MAY SEEK ASYLUM

The missing track and field athletes are identified as Kofi Yevakpor, 22, Awuku Boateng, 20, Tanko Abass, 19, Martha Edusei, 19, Nabiamina Salifu, 18, and Philomina Mensah, 19.

Also missing is Ilandari Kulantunge, 26. Omar said he didn't think Kulantunge was on the bus.

Omar said the Ghanaian athletes boarded the bus in Vancouver on Thursday night. The bus stopped briefly in Calgary, Winnipeg and Sudbury, where they boarded another bus for Montreal about 11 a.m. yesterday.

Commonwealth Games officials said it's possible the athletes may seek asylum or refugee status in Canada. Police said there's no suspicion of foul play. Athletes at the games have a six-month visa to stay in Canada.

None of the athletes had won medals at the games. The Ghanaians were scheduled to run in the men's relay races yesterday and the women's relay today.

*With files from Canadian Press.*