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Attorney for boat captain charged with skipping court calls it a mix-up

By DAVID OVALLE, dovalle@MiamiHerald.com

A North Miami boat captain facing a manslaughter charge is expected to be released from jail Saturday, one day after he was rearrested for failing to appear in court because of a paperwork mix-up, his lawyer said.

Eulices Alvarez Barrios, 38, is accused of hurling a partygoer from his boat into Biscayne Bay on July 4. The man he allegedly tossed, Domingo Vilalta, 22, was killed by a boat propeller, and his body was not found until two days later.

Miami-Dade police say Barrios was enraged with Vilalta's drunken behavior aboard his boat. The two men were part of a group of young people partying aboard two boats just south of the Broad Causeway in North Miami.

A Miami-Dade judge on Friday issued an arrest warrant for Barrios after he failed to appear for his arraignment. Defense lawyer Ed O'Donnell Jr. said Barrios did not know his court date because the hearing notice was mailed to the wrong address.

Barrios was to be released Saturday on his original \$50,000 bail. He was originally arrested in late October. O'Donnell said his client should have never been charged because the episode "was a tragic accident."

Vilalta and another girl were seen swimming to the group's second boat, O'Donnell said.

"Everyone thought he got on the other boat," O'Donnell said.