



## Odontology Section – 2006

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### **F25 The Mission of the German DVI-Team in Sri Lanka After the Tsunami 2004**

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After attending this presentation, attendees will have an overview about the Mission of the German DVI-Team in Sri Lanka after the Tsunami 2004. This presentation will provide information about the situation in Sri Lanka after the tsunami.

Sri Lanka was extensively devastated by the tsunami on December 26, 2004. Numerous German tourists were reported missing. A disaster victim identification (DVI)-team consisting of three police officers, one forensic odontologist, and one forensic pathologist. The team, deployed by the German Federal Crime Police Office (Bundeskriminalamt, BKA), was later enlarged. The work was centred in Colombo, the capital of Sri Lanka. An office with equipment for communication and data handling could be adjusted in the German embassy. Permission to work in the mortuary of the Judicial Medical Officer was obtained. Networking with the DVIteams of the other nations such as Austria, Denmark, France, Great Britain, Japan, Holland, and Norway was mandatory. International standards following the Interpol victim identification report were constituted; multinational teams were working together. The identifications were mainly based on dental findings or on results of DNA-examination performed in Austria.

When the mission was completed at February 25th, 2005, no more German citizen was reported missing in Sri Lanka. The success of this extraordinary and challenging mission was based on the gracious support of the local authorities and the commitment of each member of the multidisciplinary teams of all the different nations working together for a common purpose.

#### **Dental Identification, Tsunami, German DVI Team**