



D68 Database of Family Members of Human Rights Violations Victims in Chile

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After attending this presentation attendees will have a raised awareness regarding the need to build a solid normative basis and validated scientific protocols a bank for a Sample of Families, to enable identification if this information is required with relatives who are no longer alive.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by increasing the understanding of how this bank represents a heritage and a legacy for future Chile generations that tell about what happened and the hope of the families to know the fate of their loved ones and their whereabouts. It also allows having the necessary samples in the face of new findings, to advance in the identification process irrespective of the time of the find.

Knowing the history, context, circumstances, and time when the disappearance and execution of the victims occurred allows modeling a forensic approach strategy and clarifies the needs of the process to succeed in the identification of victims.

In the initial days following the Coup d' État, some of the deaths and arrests followed by disappearance were selective, affecting leaders of political movements, trade unions and neighborhoods, indigenous people, students, and supporters of Salvador Allende. Most of the deaths in the specified time period were people without political connections, paupers, young men who lived on the streets, persons accused of committing misdemeanors or for violation of curfew.

During the 17 years of dictatorship, most of the remains were not found. With the advent of democracy in Chile, the search and recovery of remains began with findings of mostly commingled, fragmented, without medical and dental characteristics, individualizing features, except in few cases.

The first antemortem data bank of the victims was set up by a non-governmental body in 1976, the Vicariate of Solidarity, where families are interviewed by social workers and volunteer lawyers. In 2006, facing the difficulties of making a comparative process of identification considering medical, dental characteristics, clothing, etc. and due to the state of the remains recovered, the international scientific community recommended the establishment of a bank of blood samples from family members with the limitations of time such as the absence of parents of the victims who have already died.

Despite the time elapsed and the distrust on the State, family members, with a vote of confidence and hoping for news of their beloved ones, donated blood samples. The process is carried out according to the international standards (national and international regulations; ethical, technical, and humanitarian aspects). In the sampling process, thousands of families have been received, going to their places of residence in Chile and also abroad through consulates, have launched a communication campaign with informative videos, and to date, all this has resulted in 3,200 samples with genetic profiles.

Each family will be giving at least three samples depending on the availability of relatives, with four FTA cards; all information is encrypted and protected according to the rules of sensitive data, and all have been obtained by genetic profile at least at two markers.

Antemortem Data Bank, Genetic Profiles, Family Members