



### **F41 Human Skeletal Remains Found During Excavation of Rufisque's Town Hall Annex in Senegal**

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After attending this presentation, attendees will understand how to utilize multiple methodological approaches for identifying human skeletal remains.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by establishing that the reliability of scientific evidence based opinions may be overlapped by experts from various disciplines.

The construction of an annex to the Rufisque Town Hall building necessitated excavation and removal of earth to allow for the annex's foundation. Once underway, the removal unearthed a large stone that halted progress until it could be broken up. Underneath the stone, human remains were found. On the second day of the project, the Attorney General of Senegal ordered excavation to continue where a second pit revealed additional human bones and four bottles of dubious liquid. The third day of excavation unearthed a third pit containing an entire human skeleton along with the smell of putrefaction.

The commissioned forensic pathologist, anthropologist, and odontologist were assigned to determine race, age, and sex, as well as the manner and likely date of death for those interred in the pits. Photographs of bone fragments, teeth, a skull, and a black, cord-like substance were cataloged for study. The teeth were x-rayed and sand samples were extracted from the spaces between teeth and the eye orbits to cross reference with soil samples from the immediate area.

In this investigation, each discipline is trying to determine the sex, race, and age of the skeletal remains. The odontologist will examine the skull, teeth, and postmortem radiographs that will reveal the status of the person's oral health and can be compared to antemortem dental records if they can be located. The odontologist is one of the best person to work up skeletonized, decomposed, and macerated bodies to arrive at a confirmation or unknown identification.

The anthropologist would arrange and study the skeletal remains to also make an analysis as to age, sex, race, and height. All human are unique and an analysis will make the compared groups smaller. The more unique the characteristics the smaller the group become by eliminating other groups.

The pathologist is concern with race, sex, disease, DNA, trauma, and cause of death.

In conclusion, the first body found in pit one was Black in race from Africa. The upper canine appeared to be 50 years of age according to Gustafson's analysis. In the second pit, there were only human bones and four bottles of liquid substance. The race, sex, and origin are undetermined. In the third pit the human remains is that of a Black African male. The determination of average age according to Gustafson is 30 years of age. A longitudinal section of an upper premolar was use to determine the age.

This is not a case of murder but a case of some mystic practices.

**Excavation, Human Remains, Forensic**