



### **D22 Behavioral Evidence: Following the Traces of a Disappearance in a Case Study**

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After attending this presentation, attendees will learn about the first case convicted in Colombia with behavioral evidence, and see how the criminal behavior special unit of the attorney general's office carried out analysis of a mysterious disappearance of a woman, the wife of a prestigious doctor.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by showing the dramatic effect of behavioral analysis in a case without any physical evidence to reach a verdict in the Colombian criminal justice system.

On August 8, 2007 Luz Amanda Vargas Lemus disappeared and lost contact with her family. Her children were the last people who saw her when they went to school that day. With this information, a Missing Persons Report immediately activated the search; however, this did not provide information to her whereabouts, because her cell phone was off. After the report investigators contacted Jesus Guillermo Burgos Bacca, the victim's husband, who then disappeared without a trace and had left his job in the hospital where he was a gynecologist. Immediately the criminal behavior analysts were called and with the information obtained through interviews, the team was able to assess the victimology of the woman. She was a sociable person, emotionally expressive, but had aggressive behavioral manifestations including jealous behavior. With her two sons, she had a protective and responsible parental behavior.

The house of this family showed no signs of violence within the residence; however, the crime scene investigators apparently found blood stains. The investigators applied a latent blood reagent, which reacted showing different patterns in various parts of the house. All spots were sampled and the laboratory obtained a DNA profile that was consistent with the genetic profile of Luz Amanda. The analyst group was surprised to find no blood from Burgos, but his belongings were found, while his wife's belongings were not.

During the investigation, it was found that the couple had a dysfunctional relationship with an escalation of violence. It was very interesting for the investigation team that they found the blood of only one of them at the scene in a distribution pattern that went from the bathroom to the garage of the house. Jesus Guillermo was the only person for which there was no information about his whereabouts on August 8; he had exhibited different behavior than usual for the days before this event, including the purchase of a gun, massive withdrawals of money, and changes in work schedules in hospital. This continued with a variant in behavior culminating in his disappearance, leaving his personal and professional life. His flight intentions remained unknown until the time of his capture when he was very close to leaving the country using false documents.

Jesus Guillermo was put on trial for the crime of forced disappearance. After four weeks of hearings in which the prosecution and defense presented their evidence, the judge found him guilty based on behavioral evidence presented that showed pre-meditation and post-offense conduct. Currently he is paying a sentence of 32 years in prison. To this day the body of Luz Amanda Vargas Lemus has not been found.

**Behavioral Evidence, Forced Disappearance, Criminal Behavior**