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### A129 Getting the Record Straight: Forensic Evidence of the Lurigancho Prison Massacre in 1986

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After attending this presentation, attendees will have a better understanding of the injuries related to cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment in a prison context as well as of the complexities of death while in custody.

This presentation will impact the forensic scientific community by showing the way in which inmates, after surrendering, were the subject of numerous episodes of trauma that resulted in their deaths while in custody of the Armed Forces.

According to the final report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, in the early morning of June 18, 1986, terrorism inmates secluded in three prisons launched a simultaneous mutiny, in some cases taking prison guards and police hostage.<sup>1</sup> Coincidentally, the XVII Congress of the International Socialist was taking place in Lima, Peru. Then-president Alan Garcia Perez entrusted reestablishing order to the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who in turn assigned one prison to each branch of the military (Army, Navy, and Air Force). The next day, June 19, 1986 the human cost of ending the riots was known: at the prison-island of El Fronton, 118 prisoners and four marines died; at the women's penitentiary, one inmate died; and, at Lurigancho prison, once inmates surrendered, 123 of them were summarily executed in the prison yard.

This study presents the results of the examination of 114 bodies corresponding to adult males between 20 and 50 years of age, who were buried secretly and without identity in various cemeteries in and around Lima by the military immediately after taking control of the prison. Under a Supreme Court ruling, graves were located and bodies exhumed in order to identify them and determine the circumstances in which these individuals died.

While official accounts indicate prisoners were shot to death after being extracted from the pavilion in which they were housed, forensic evidence suggests further episodes of trauma prior to the time of death, including, but not limited to, blunt force trauma to the chest, possibly caused by kicks, stomping, or other mechanisms of compression.<sup>1</sup> Additionally, multiple gunshot wounds from high-velocity missiles, the majority of which were located in the head/neck, chest, and upper and lower limbs, were recorded. Considering the good preservation of the skeletal remains and associated artifacts, it has been possible to associate trauma episodes between bone and clothing.

This case study is a unique opportunity to establish the relationship between the "control of fact," by which an organization (the Armed Forces, in this case) controlled a situation through its command structure, functioning, and hierarchy, and the nature of the injuries sustained by the individuals during the time they spent in the organization's custody.

#### Reference:

1. 2.6\_7. Las ejecuciones extrajudiciales del penal de el Fronton y el Lurigancho (1986). pp. 737-768. In: Informe final de la Comision de la Verdad y Reconciliacion. Lima, Peru. Available at: <http://www.cverdad.org.pe/ifinal/>

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#### Extrajudicial Killings, Trauma, Peru