



E49 Case Study: Perfect Crime? The Forensic Sciences at the Service of the Crime

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After attending this presentation, attendees will understand how, through a comprehensive process of analysis of the evidence at the crime scene, a reconstruction of a criminal behavior was obtained in which a police colonel, an expert in crime scene investigations, tried to hide the driving motivation and the dynamics of the murder of his wife.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by showing how, despite being an expert in the processing of crime scenes, fingerprinting, and forensic anthropology, a police officer tried to manipulate and alter the evidence. Thanks to the proficient processing of the crime scene and an adequate interpretation of the behavioral evidence by the investigative and criminal profilers teams, the real dynamics of the offense and what the criminal's motivation was is explained.

From September 9-12, 2009, segments of a human body were discovered in different fields of crops and road sides leading from the town of Ibaguè to other municipalities in the state of Tolima, 160 miles from Bogota D.C., the capital of Colombia.

The autopsy identified the victim as a woman who died as a result of direct trauma with a blunt item that fractured her skull and was dismembered postmortem. The murderer disfigured the victim's face with 58 cuts, removed her finger pads, extracted her third and fourth left ribs and her breast implants, and mutilated her genitals. The body was identified as the wife of an important police officer in this state, reported missing by her family.

The characteristics of the murder of this police officer's wife activated the police's special investigative units in the country, thus the Criminal Behavior Analysis Group of the Attorney General's Office was called upon to support the investigation through a process of criminal behavioral analysis and the possible developing of a criminal profile.

Based on the investigation of the crime scene, specifically the analysis of the basement of the house the couple shared with their daughters, the discovery of blood spatter patterns found by the application of a chemiluminescence reagent, the recovery of trace evidence (specifically, human blood which matched the victim's genetic profile), the victimology, and the evaluation of the versions provided by the police colonel and other witnesses, the team was able to redirect the investigation and establish that the crime was committed and motivated by passion.

This new view in the case offered the team a clear vision about the dynamics of the events that led to the death of the woman. Therefore, the line of investigation focused on probing deeper into the couple's relationships. Discovered was an intricate world of infidelity and a husband with a passive-aggressive personality, who protected his professional and social reputation and did not accept his wife's intention of leaving him.

After fitting all parts of this criminal and forensic puzzle together, the prosecutors demonstrated definitively and beyond reasonable doubt that the crime was committed by the colonel, who was sentenced to 43 years in prison; on appeal, the sentence was upheld by the superior court.

Crime Scene Investigation, Criminal Behavior Analysis, Victimology