



E10 The Spanish Police Intervention Unit Inside the Chaos: Crime Scene Protection Cases

Carlos J. Lopez-Gobernado, PhD, Policia Nacional, UCSP, Calle Rey Francisco 21, Madrid 28008, SPAIN*

After attending this presentation, attendees will better understand the concepts of rioting and police crime scene protection used by the Spanish National Police and how the evidence is protected and collected by the crime scene investigators at public disturbances and after terrorist attacks.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by illustrating how the Spanish National Police Intervention Unit (UIP) operators are trained to protect dangerous crime scenes, thus allowing investigators to perform their job safely. This presentation will highlight a number of actual cases and explain a new way to investigate complex crime scenes.

While a number of different studies have looked into the different scenes between the military and civilians, there are few studies regarding the protection of crime scenes in civilian disorders, such as riots. The Spanish National Police UIP is responsible for protecting public safety in case of riots, crowd control, and after a terrorist attack. Also, Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) personnel must be protected in such chaotic scenarios, providing them a guaranteed environment in which to work. The UIP training provides the operators with the guidelines to work side-by-side with forensics in dangerous scenes. There will be an in-depth focus on the significant challenges faced during a number of actual UIP cases, including special crime scene issues and the urban “combat” environment.¹

This presentation will present three high-profile investigation cases in which Spanish National Police UIP operators played a key role in protecting crime scene investigators and will explore the interaction of multiple forensic disciplines of the ForLab Project, in which UIP operators are trained to protect themselves and the crime scene.

In May 2002, before the Champions League Semifinal match between Real Madrid and Barcelona, there was a bomb attack near the Torre Europa building, forcing UIP operators to protect the football match and the work of forensic investigators while angry hooligans flew into a rage. In March 2004, several commuter trains were blown up after the worst terrorist attack on Spanish soil, and UIP operators were deployed to protect the scene as soon as the first call arrived. In November 2014, two clubs’ hooligans fought at Manzanares riverside, resulting in one man dead after the clash. The ForLab Project (Forensic Laboratory for *in situ* Evidence Analysis in a Post-Blast Scenario), in which the Spanish National Police Forensic branch is involved, depend on UIP operators to seal and protect the crime scene until forensics arrives.²

The opinions or assertions contained herein are the private view of the authors and are not to be construed as official or as reflecting the views of the Spanish Ministry of the Interior or Spanish National Police.

Reference(s):

1. López-Gobernado C.J. Unidades de Intervención Policial - UIP. *Madrid: Fundación Policía Española*. 2016: 110-114.
2. Rodríguez J.A. FORLAB: A la vanguardia de la investigación. *Policía*. 2015; 286: 8-20.

National Police UIP, Crime Scene, Evidence Protection