



## A91 Forensic Anthropology Practice in Indonesia

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**Learning Overview:** The goal of this presentation is to highlight the diverse background and challenges that professionals working with forensic anthropology face in different countries. The long history of forensic anthropology has brought considerable advances, and it is essential that these advances are noticed, and trends assessed.

**Impact on the Forensic Science Community:** This presentation will impact the forensic science community by creating a channel for professionals to discuss and debate the successes, challenges, and possible solutions to maintain the high standard of the field worldwide.

Indonesia belongs to the South East Asian Region, where its position at the archipelago provides a hot tropical climate and high humidity. Most often, the forensic cases that are found at the scene of open ground are skeletal remains. Due to the area's religion (approximately 80% of the population is Muslim (Islamic Religion)), their belief from the Quran is that the dead body should be buried immediately (before 24 hours) and the sooner the better. However, with a police investigation for unnatural death, this is becoming an obstacle and often after burial, the family will request an investigation and autopsy, with some remains being skeletal. This task is performed by forensic pathologists in a big city where there are forensic departments in institutions or hospitals, but in places where there is no forensic pathologist, the police will sometimes ask the physical anthropologist to help them solving this problem.

Indonesia does not have a forensic anthropology department, only a division from the faculty. After graduating from the faculty of medicine as a General Practitioner, a person can choose to become a forensic pathologist with three to four years of training, including two semesters of forensic anthropology, where they learn anatomy, biology, and the pathology of skeletal remains. Physical anthropologists can graduate from any discipline and then choose to study sociocultural anthropology, including some forensic anthropology/physical anthropology into their faculty curriculum for one semester.

The forensic pathologists that provide the forensic anthropology examination should also having a good quality education and advanced training to make the best report. The physical anthropologist should be guided by a forensic pathologist who is practicing forensic anthropology to share and transfer knowledge between them, especially in looking for forensic evidence to solve cases.

Within these global cases, the highest standards of examination and reporting procedures should be used. This panel presentation would like to combine the advance methods and highest quality of training when practicing forensic anthropology fieldwork collaborations with the international forensic anthropology association and institutions, as well as universities.

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### Forensic Anthropology, Training and Practice, Indonesia