



E69 Pozzetto: Inside Behavioral Mazes

Edwin O. Olaya Molina, BA, Bogotá 111321, COLOMBIA*

Learning Overview: After attending this presentation, attendees will be familiar with one of the most violent episodes in the history of Colombia, the characteristics of the case, and some of the results that emerged from the discussion with the current knowledge of the criminal investigation and forensic sciences.

Impact on the Forensic Science Community: This presentation will impact the forensic science community by showing the status of a criminal investigation in the 1980s in Colombia and how the research activities in this specific case searched for an explanation for what happened and focused on other aspects.

In Colombia, there have been thousands of massacres. Innocent people have suffered directly or indirectly from guerrillas, paramilitaries, drug traffic, politics, and extreme brutality. But after many years, an atypical case in Colombia remains in the memory of many.

The first week of December 1986, one man, Campo Elias Delgado Morales, committed one of the worst crimes that has been registered in Colombia. In a 24-hour period in three different places, armed with a knife and a gun, Morales killed 28 people. He stabbed and burned his mother, her neighbors were shot, he bound and stabbed his English student and her mother, and, finally, after dinner, he shot at several customers in a restaurant named Pozzetto. After an exchange of gunfire with the police, the murderer died. The case was called the Massacre at Pozzetto.

Today, after reviewing photographs, plans, autopsy reports, and statements pertaining to the case more than 30 years later, some of the circumstances of the event are further explained. Forensic ballistics and bloodstain pattern analysis “spoke” about the circumstances surrounding the death of a murderer; the crime scene analysis and behavioral analysis allowed a glimpse of the strong personal feelings of a murderer and a sexual motivation in some of the crimes. Finally, this work attempts to explain what type of killer Campo Elias Delgado Morales was and the particulars of his actions.

This is a case of mistakes and successes, pointing out the importance of comprehensive investigation to seek answers in the criminal investigation, especially the “Why,” which quite often is overlooked in legal proceedings in Colombia. Also discussed will be the contribution of criminal behavior analysis in this and other cases.

Behavioral Evidence, Criminal Behavior, Murder