



A156 A Multidisciplinary Identification Approach of Armed Conflict Victims Exhumed From La Resurrección Cemetery in Granada, Colombia

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Learning Overview: This goal of this presentation is to describe the importance of a multidisciplinary approach in the identification of armed conflict victims exhumed from La Resurrección Cemetery in Colombia that were analyzed by the human identification team of the National Institute of Legal Medicine and Forensic Sciences in the Eastern Region of Colombia.

Impact on the Forensic Science Community: This presentation will impact the forensic science community by demonstrating the effort of the Colombian judicial system and medicolegal system to investigate these complex cases from the following perspectives: (1) the recovery of antemortem and contextual information concerning the unidentified victims buried in La Resurrección Cemetery in Granada, Colombia; (2) the exhumation of the cases by the Technical Investigation Corps (CTI) and analyses of these unidentified victims by the medicolegal system; (3) the multidisciplinary approach of the human identification team of the National Institute of Legal Medicine and Forensic Sciences in the Eastern Region of Colombia using the comparison of the contextual information of the deaths and the new information provided by the analyses performed; and (4) the results up to this point and the upcoming challenges.

The phenomenon of missing people in Colombia has been analyzed from different perspectives throughout the years. The recent official numbers given by the National Center for Historical Memory (Centro Nacional de Memoria Histórica [CNMH]) provides an approximate number of 82,998 missing persons from 1958 to 2017; this period corresponds to the origins and growth of the armed conflict as well as the post-conflict phase. During this period, all actors in the armed conflict performed different types of violence against each other, including torture, disappearance, and multiple incidents of combat between these groups and the Colombian army.

The majority of the investigations around combat casualties, especially the victims from the groups outside the law, were focused on cause and manner of death; the identification of the dead was not the main purpose, leaving hundreds of unidentified victims buried in different cemeteries around the Colombian territory. Since 2010, the State Prosecutor's Office, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and other organizations in Colombia began a characterization of these cemeteries with the objective of achieving a better understanding of the number of unidentified victims buried as No Name (NN), creating strategies to enable an effective recovery, analysis, and identification of these specific cases.

The continuing forensic effort in Colombia must respond to the high number of cases, the lack of antemortem and contextual information, and the small number of specialized forensic teams, which represents an improvement for the victims and their families.

Forensic Anthropology, Identification, Armed Conflict