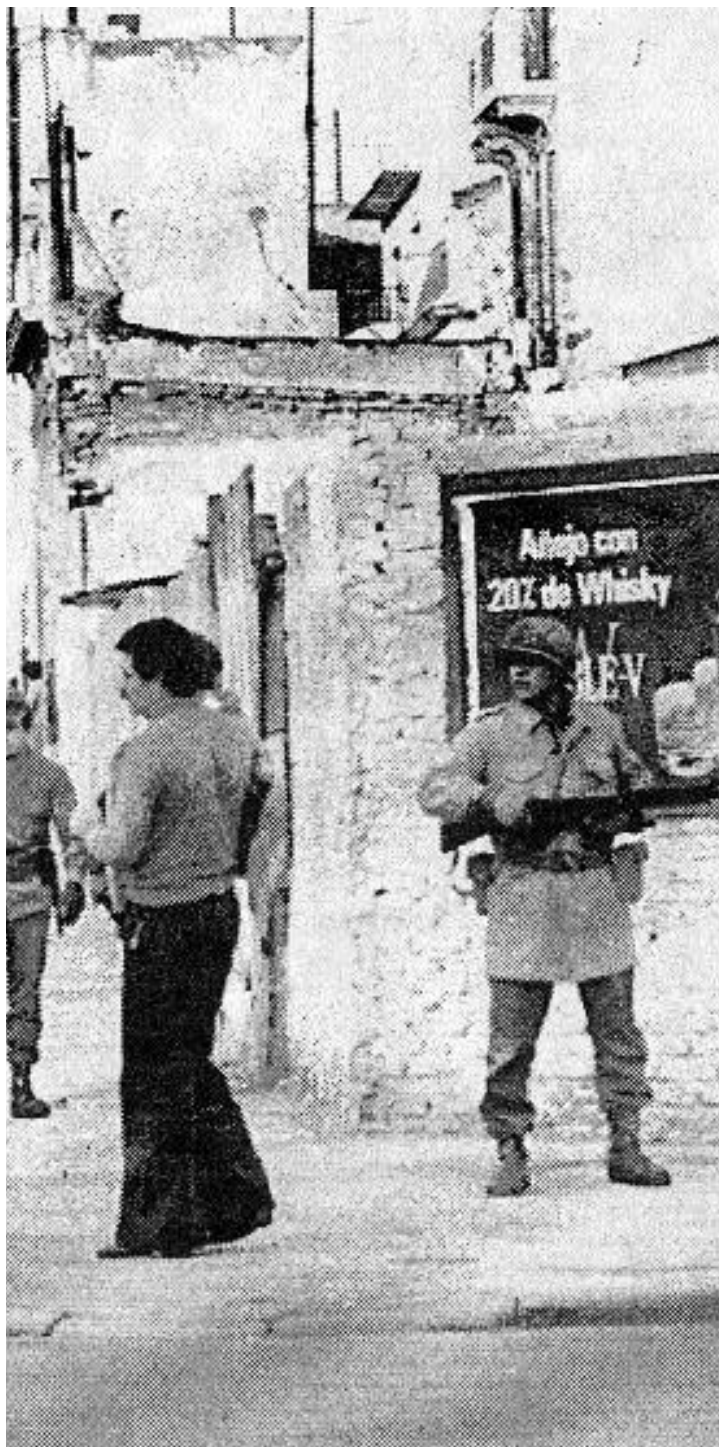




Argentine military personnel during an operation when the country belong to Operation Condor. photo by Clarín archive.



ARGENTINA

RECOVERY AND ANALYSIS OF OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS

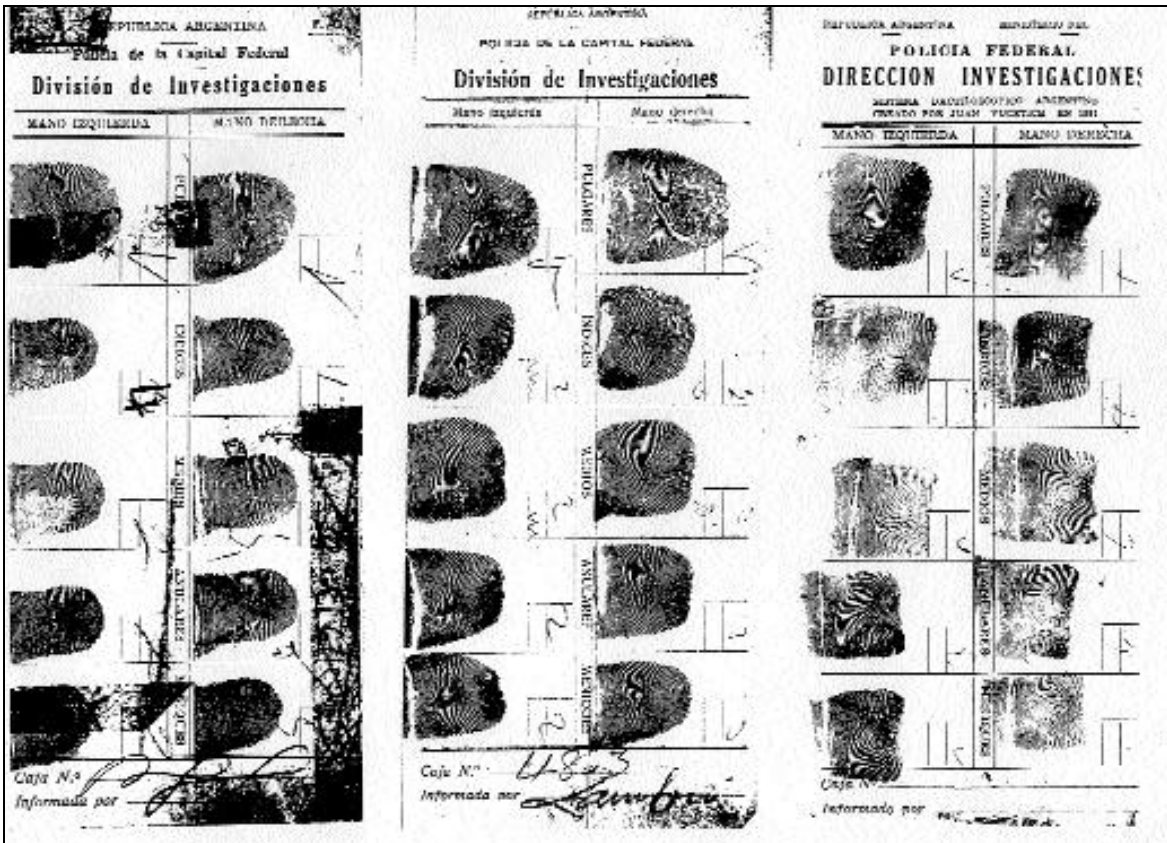
Since 1984, EAAF has been investigating political disappearances in Argentina. In the past few years, information has been increasingly accessible not only about the role of security forces, but also about state bureaucratic processes related to the repression.

In 1997, EAAF negotiated access to crucial documents stored by the Federal government and by the government of the Province of Buenos Aires. Since then, EAAF has been able to steadily retrieve these documents, more importantly, fingerprints files, which have allowed us to begin systematic regional surveys on the disappeared. Later in this section, we provide a list and descriptions of positive identifications we have made in 2000 with these records.

Background

During the last military government, most of the bodies of disappeared persons were disposed of in one of two ways: they were thrown from military aircraft into rivers, lakes, and the Argentine Sea, or they were buried as "NN" (no name, or John Doe) in public cemeteries across the country. Bodies that met the latter fate, first "appear" again on the streets before burial. EAAF is particularly dedicated to investigating these bodies and has gained access to extremely useful bureaucratic documents produced by state agencies before the remains of these individuals were buried.

Contrary to what was generally believed, some of the state officials' actions that have been most important to finding the remains of "disappeared" persons took place after individuals were kidnapped, taken to a clandestine detention center, tortured, and in most cases, killed.



Fingerprints from the Cadaver Registration book in the Antecedentes Section of the Buenos Aires Police. photo by Ana Aslam

Shortly after these killings, some bodies were deposited in public spaces. At this point a series of bureaucratic-administrative procedures were usually undertaken and a written account of certain of these steps was made in official records.

When a cadaver or group of cadavers was discovered, the police carried out almost all the procedures made in normal cases, in a very routine way, and as established in specific legal protocols. These procedures included writing a description of the find, taking photographs, fingerprinting the corpse, conducting an autopsy or external examination of the body, writing death certificate, making an entry in the local civil register, and issuing a certificate of burial.¹

In the past EAAF has collected death certificates and cemetery records of certain locations during investigations of specific cases, but this is the first time systematic regional surveys were conducted.

The fact that these procedures had been followed and records kept, suggested a strategy for approaching offices belonging to the Judiciary and to the Ministry of the Interior to ask for information about the discovery of cadavers in public places between 1976 and 1980.²

The Provincial Register of Persons

In 1997, with the object of gaining access to the aforementioned data, EAAF negotiated permission to enter the Provincial Register of Persons, located in the city of La Plata, where death certificates for those who died in Buenos Aires Province are concentrated.³ The choice of this registry was not random. Buenos Aires was one of the provinces most affected by the repression, particularly between 1976 and 1978.

Two EAAF members began work there in April 1997, using a portable computer to enter the data from death certificates referring to the discovery of bodies in the 38 jurisdic-

dictions comprising “Greater Buenos Aires,” where there was a high rate of kidnappings. The investigators prioritized as “highly probably corresponding to ‘disappeared’ persons” those certificates marked “NN” and which indicated violent or suspicious cause of death and/or death at a young age. The recovered data was incorporated into the EAAF database to further the project of matching disappearances with discoveries of bodies.

This project continued through 2000.

Buenos Aires Provincial Police

At the same time, a similar task was undertaken with the Buenos Aires Provincial Police, now called the Provincial Ministry of Security and Justice. This usually hermetic office was approached in two ways: a) judicially, and b) institutionally, through an accord with the “Intervention” in the Buenos Aires Provincial Police.⁴ The EAAF also established protocols of cooperation with the Ministry of Security and Justice of the province of Buenos Aires, at that time under the charge of Dr. Leon Arslanian, one of the Federal Chamber judges who sentenced ex-commanders of the last military government in 1985.

One of the most important contributions that this intelligence archive has made to EAAF’s project is the possibility of mapping the movements of militants by means of documents. Thanks to our access to this archive, this part of our database has acquired a complexity that would have taken years to attain via interviews with former militants. This information helps in locating and eventually identifying remains of militants who ‘disappeared’. In addition, the experience of working in a complete archive will be very useful for anticipating the organization of other archives, even those with very different contents.

Analyzing Fingerprints from the National Registry

In 2000, EAAF continued to work on two tasks related to the analysis and comparison of fingerprints. As was explained in the 1998 annual report, sources used were fingerprints of “John Does” found in the Microfilm Section ‘Cadavers File’ and the Cadaver registration book in the Antecedents Section of the Buenos Aires Provincial Police Archive. Once hypotheses were formulated as to the possible identity of the cadavers, EAAF compared those sets of

fingerprints with the ones in the National Registry Office: all Argentine citizens are fingerprinted for two mandatory National Identity Cards. Fingerprint experts from the Ministry of Justice and Security of Buenos Aires Province and from the Argentine Naval Prefecture collaborated with EAAF in this project.

The National Registry Office delivery of fingerprints has been slow. During 2000, we received fingerprints corresponding to 1,500 disappeared individuals. By now, EAAF has 5,200 fingerprints on file. Once there is a match between these two sets of fingerprints, EAAF sends the information to the Federal Appellate Chamber of Criminal and Correctional Cases of the Federal Capital, so that they can communicate with the relatives of the victim and begin the process of finding the cemetery where the remains may still be buried.

We also continue to work in other archives of the Federal Police and the Buenos Aires Provincial Police. Here, EAAF has discovered documents mentioning the names of persons listed as ‘disappeared’ in our databases. In some cases, these documents confirm information about the circumstances of death that EAAF and families of victims already possessed. In some others, it adds new information. At the same time, we are trying to correlate this information with John Doe burials in cemeteries in the Federal Capital and in Buenos Aires province. Regrettably, some of the remains had already been exhumed from their individual tombs by cemetery personnel and sent to the general ossuary of the cemetery. By municipal decree, this is done after five or ten years if grave duties are unpaid, most typically in cases of indigents and “John Does.”



Buenos Aires, July 9, 1980. Military Junta members Gnl Videla, Admiral Massera and Brigadier Agosti dirig National Day Parade. photo courtesy by P.Lasansky.



(clockwise top-left) Rosa Haydee Cirullo de Carnaghi and her daughter, Carmen María Carnaghi. José Daniel Bronzel & his wife Susana Pedrini de Bronzel. Jorge Daniel Argente and his wife, Carmen María Carnaghi.

THE FÁTIMA CASE

In 2000, we made important advances toward identifications in the Fátima case.

On August 20, 1976, the cadavers of twenty men and ten women were found in the town of Fátima, Buenos Aires Province. Their hands and feet were bound, and several exhibited gunshot wounds. Two had been dismembered by dynamite. These bodies were briefly seen by the medical examiner, and the local police made fingerprints, though the latter were subsequently lost, according to officials. Death certificates were issued for all the bodies, which were then buried in individual plots as John Does (NN) in the Presidente Derqui cemetery, near Fátima.

A case was opened at the Federal Court, Mercedes branch, but no further investigation was performed and the case was eventually closed. In 1982, the case was re-opened and five bodies were identified. All five had previously been officially listed as 'disappeared'.

EAAF worked on this case in 1987, at the request of a local Human Rights group, Relatives of Disappeared Persons and

Political Prisoners, exhuming and analyzing the remaining 25 individuals. At that time, we also conducted a thorough historical investigation and interviewed survivors from the clandestine detention center (CDC) that functioned during the dictatorship at the headquarters of the Superintendent of Federal Police in the city of Buenos Aires. In August 1976, the night before the discovery of bodies in Fátima, thirty people were taken away from the CDC in a truck. This and other information provided by witnesses suggest that the CDC was linked to the Fátima case. EAAF reconstructed a list of possible victims and interviewed dozens of their relatives. However, because pre-mortem information from possible victims was scarce and DNA analysis from bone was not yet available, only one person was identified at that time.

In 1997, the case was reopened in a new effort to identify the remains. In March 1998, EAAF collected DNA samples from the victims' molars, and sent them, along with blood samples from presumed relatives, to the lab of Ana Topf, an Argentine biologist at the University of Durham, England. The next year, the DNA information permitted a positive identification of the skeleton of Susana Pedrini de Bronzel.

In 2000, it was possible to identify another six individuals. On the basis of this positive identification, the Federal Criminal and Correctional Appeals Court of the Federal Capital authorized the return of the remains to the respective relatives. The following persons were identified and their remains returned to their relatives in 2000:

JOSÉ DANIEL BRONZEL,

29 years old, and his wife, Susana Pedrini de Bronzel (identified in 1999), were both teachers at the Faculty of Architecture of the University of Buenos Aires. Both were kidnapped in the Federal Capital on July 27th, 1976. Earlier, José Daniel's mother had been kidnapped. They were sighted alive in the clandestine detention center that operated in the Office of the Superintendent of Security of the Federal Police (Superintendencia de Seguridad de la Policía Federal).

JORGE DANIEL ARGENTE

20 years old, member of the Peronist Youth and a worker in a clinic. He was kidnapped in the Federal Capital on July 17th, 1976, and was also seen at the office of the Superintendent of Federal Security.

SELMA JULIA OCAMPO

36 years old, mother of two, factory worker. She was kidnapped on August 18th, 1976, together in the Federal Capital and was also seen at the Security Superintendent's Office. She was also known to have been kidnapped together with Ines Nocetti, whose body was one of those identified in 1982.

ROSA HAYDEE CIRULLO DE CARNAGHI

53 years old, and her daughter,

CARMEN MARÍA CARNAGHI, 26 years old. Mrs. de Carnaghi was a well-known member of the women's branch of the Peronist Superior Council. Her daughter was in her third year of law school. Both were kidnapped on August 4th, 1976, and were sighted in the Superintendent of Federal Security.

NORMA SUSANA FRONTINI DE DÍAZ

19 years old, student. Norma Susana was kidnapped together with her husband, Alfredo Díaz, on August 3rd, 1976. She was not sighted at any detention center.

At the time of this writing, the remains of other possible victims are being analyzed at the University of Durham.



Buenos Aires Province - December 2000. Reburial ceremony for Rosa Haydee Cirullo de Carnaghi and her daughter, Carmen María Carnaghi.

CASES IN THE INTERIOR OF THE COUNTRY

Córdoba

In March, EAAF members Luis Fondebrider and Silvana Turner went to the province of Córdoba, at the request of Federal Court No. 3, to conduct archaeological excavations on the grounds of the Artillery Group 141, in the city of José de la Quintana. On these grounds, according to anonymous witnesses, disappeared persons were executed and buried.

After two days of work, no human remains were found, nor was there any evidence of graves in the sectors indicated by the witnesses. EAAF contacted a local geologist, who said that the shallowness of the soil above a layer of bedrock at this location would have made burials very unlikely. They recommended to the judge that the investigation be broadened.

Santa Fé

In March, EAAF members Dario Olmo and Patricia Bernardi traveled to Santa Fé province at the request of the Federal Court No. 1 of the city of the same name, in order to carry out exhumations and analyses of the remains of people who died in several episodes between September 1976 and January/February 1977. The bodies of those persons had been buried as NN (John Does) in the municipal cemetery of the city of Santa Fé. Their relatives were unaware of the circumstances, their deaths, and the places of their burial.

Two anthropologists from Rosario, Miguel Nieva and Sofia Egaña, also collaborated with EAAF.

In 1981, the grid of burial plots in this cemetery was



(clockwise) Blanca Zapata de Corassa. Luis Alberto Vuistaz and his reburial ceremony in March, 2000. (bottom) Excavation in Santa Fé cementery, September, 1999. photos by EAAF and courtesy of Roberto Paroni/Diario La Capital.

altered, as were the markers at the actual graves. The management left nothing to indicate the correspondence between the old and new layouts. The families of the victims, however, gained access to the old layout, a plotbook from 1976, and the old measurements, and using Autocad, made a map of the old grid.

Taking the location of the grave of Luis Alberto Vuistaz and Evaristo Oviedo, two disappeared persons whose remains were discovered in 1999 (see EAAF 1999 Report), as a reference point, Dario Olmo and Miguel Nieva superimposed this old grid over the present one, and were immediately able to locate the old grave. While excavating the graves now numbered 685, 686 and 687, EAAF recovered the skeleton of a young man, which exhibited gunshot

wounds and a projectile was found. The remains were identified at the laboratory as belonging to Horacio Ferraza, killed in 1977.

In the morgue of this cemetery, we also examined five skeletons that had been exhumed under judicial order in 1984. Their identities had been established through a historical investigation conducted by the prosecutor's office of the same Federal court over the past two years. These remains all corresponded to persons killed as a result of several armed confrontations between armed forces and the Montoneros in January and February 1977. On the basis of the comparison between the bone remains and the pre-mortem information gathered about the victims, we were able to establish the identities of four of these five bodies,

bringing the total number of identifications to five.

The people whose identities were established through the examination of the remains, then, were:

HORACIO LISANDRO FERRAZA

active member of the Montoneros, a guerrilla organization, killed in a confrontation on Circunvalación Avenue in the city of Santa Fe, on September 23rd, 1977.

JUAN CARLOS GONZÁLEZ GENTILE

active member of the Montonero movement, killed on February 12th, 1977 in the city of Santa Fe. His remains were identified by comparing fingerprints taken at the time of burial with those in his file at the National Registry.

BLANCA ZAPATA DE CORASSA

also an active member of the Montoneros, captured and seriously injured while pregnant, on February 11th, 1977, from 4500 Castelli Street, Santa Fe. She was also identified using comparison of fingerprints.

CRISTINA RUIZ DE ZICCARDI

disappeared in the same episode as the previous case.

OSVALDO PASCUAL ZICCARDI

active member of the Montonero organization, killed on January 19th, 1977 at the intersection of Ituzaingó and Las Heras Streets, Santa Fé.

In the subsequent months (April to June 2000) the remains were returned to the families and were buried under their true names.

INDIVIDUAL CASES IN THE FEDERAL CAPITAL AND GRAN BUENOS AIRES



The Moyano-Camps Case

Arnolfo del Valle Moyano, 30 years old, was a leader in the guerrilla organization known as the Montoneros in southern Gran Buenos Aires Province. On August 17th, 1977, he died in an armed confrontation with members of the Police of

the Province of Buenos Aires, in the town of Banfield, Gran Buenos Aires. The episode involved a shootout between Moyano, who was on a motorcycle, and the police who were waiting for him. Two policemen received gunshot wounds. The shootout took place in front of 1700 Palacios Street.

Through investigations conducted by EAAF in the archives of the Federal Court of the Capital, a file on the confrontation was found from Stable War Council 1/1 (Consejo de Guerra Estable, a body belonging to the Armed Forces that compiled this sort of file during the Dirty War). According to this document, at 7:30 that morning, officers from the Banfield Precinct went to the site where “moments before, joint forces had held an armed confrontation with subversive delinquents.” There, they found “the body of a person, who was confirmed dead.”

After taking custody of the body, they followed the usual procedures: fingerprints were taken from the body (which were later lost), a death certificate was issued (No. 1195), and a medical doctor briefly described the wounds. Moyano’s body was buried as NN in grave No. 99, letter O, Section 33, in the cemetery of the city of Lomas de Zamora, Gran Buenos Aires.

In the same grave were the remains of a stillborn child, and the body of Alberto Miguel Camps, 29 years old, who had been in charge of military affairs for the Montoneros in the southern region of Gran Buenos Aires. Camps, whose body had already been identified, was killed a day before Moyano, at 451 Fray Luis Beltrán Street in Lomas de Zamora. In the same incident, his wife, María Rosa Pargas was captured. She was later seen at the clandestine detention center known as Vesubio, though her fate is still unknown.

In 1982, the authorities of the cemetery of Lomas de Zamora reported, in a court case, that the persons buried in that grave were two male NN, and a baby who had died shortly after birth. In the case of the adults, their addresses were indicated. One of them was 1700 Palacios Street in Banfield. The body had been brought in August of 1977. This, linked to the testimonies of Moyano’s relatives to human rights organizations, allowed EAAF to establish the hypothesis of the correspondence between the identity of the NN and A.V. Moyano.

Exhumation and identification of the bodies

During the first months of 2000, the EAAF contacted the Moyano family to inform them that their relative was pos-

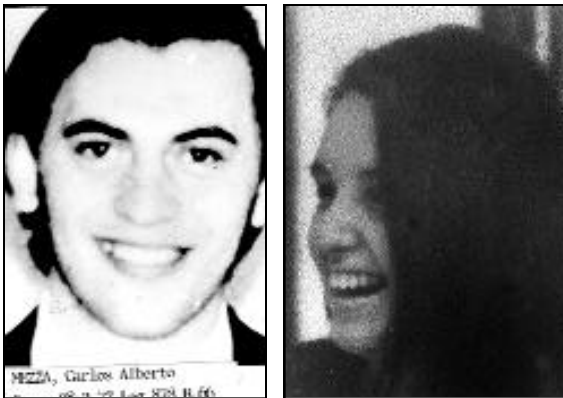
sibly buried in a mass grave in the cemetery of Lomas de Zamora. After consulting with the Camps family, we submitted a petition to the Federal Court of the Federal Capital to conduct the exhumation and analysis of the remains. On the basis of the information in the files on the burial registry, we exhumed the bone remains from the grave: those of a newborn and those of two adult individuals. The latter were labeled LZ-1 and LZ-2, according to the order in which they were found.

Subsequently, both skeletons were analyzed in the laboratory, where it was determined that they belonged to Moyano and Camps. Moyano's identity was confirmed with the use of dental records. Both had died as a result of multiple gunshot wounds. Once the report was presented, the court authorized the return of the remains to their families.

The Mezza Case

Carlos Alberto Mezza was disappeared on February 28th, 1977, at the age of 25, in the Federal Capital. From that moment on, there was no further information on his whereabouts, despite numerous inquiries by his family.

Through investigations conducted by EAAF in the archives of the Federal Court of the Federal Capital, a file was found, belonging to the Stable War Council 1/1 (Consejo de Guerra Estable). The file documented the death of a person on February 28th, 1977, at the intersection of Boulogne Sur Mer and Lavalle, in the Federal Capital. According to the file, it was a consequence of a confrontation between security forces and two people, one of whom escaped, and one of whom was killed. Through historical investigation, it was possible to establish the hypothesis that the person killed was Mezza.



Carlos Alberto Mezza and Leonor Inés Herrera de Mangini.

Afterwards, it was possible to corroborate that Mezza's body had been buried in May, as a NN, in grave number 11, row 20, block number 5, section 8 of the Chacarita cemetery in the Capital.

Mezza's body had been buried as NN. We compared the fingerprints that appeared in the file and those in Mezza's file at the National Registry of Persons. The prints matched, so the Federal Court authorized the exhumation of the body, which was carried out in the month of November.

The Herrera Case

Leonor Inés Herrera de Mangini, 24 years old, disappeared on March 9th, 1976 in Moreno, Gran Buenos Aires. From that moment on, there was no more information on her whereabouts, despite numerous inquiries made by her family.

Through investigations conducted by the EAAF in the archives of the Federal Court of the Federal Capital, we found a file from the Stable War Council 1/1, documenting the deaths of four people, one woman and three men. According to the military file, on May 21st, 1976, as a result of a confrontation between police forces and four people who were circulating in a Fiat automobile, at the intersection of Mario Bravo and Pilcomayo streets in Avellaneda, the four people in the car were killed: three men and one woman. The file contained photographs and fingerprints of the four bodies, as well as autopsy reports and death certificates. The four bodies were buried as NN in grave 5, sector 134, division 1 of the Avellaneda cemetery.

Because the graves in Avellaneda have been one of the focuses of the EAAF's investigations since 1987, special attention was given to this case. In fact, EAAF exhumed 336 skeletons from Sector 134, many of which are thought to correspond to disappeared persons. In mid 2000, we were able to establish a correspondence between the fingerprints of Leonor Herrera de Mangini with those of the female cadaver buried as NN that corresponded to the file, and therefore establish a positive identification.

Because the remains of Leonor Inés were buried in one of the cemetery's many mass graves, and not in an individual grave, it was necessary to conduct genetic analyses on the relatives and the bone remains, in order to return them. At the moment that this report is being written, we are awaiting the results of the analyses.

BLOOD SAMPLE DATABASE PROJECT

As we mentioned in previous reports, one of EAAF's most important projects is the organization of a database of blood samples taken from relatives of the disappeared. The purpose of this database is to preserve the genetic information of those people who have a disappeared relative and to carry out, in the cases in which it is necessary, comparisons between particular skeletons and a possible family.

Despite the fact that there was only partial funding for this project (from the World Council of Churches), in the year 2000 we continued taking blood samples from the relatives who visited the EAAF office in Buenos Aires. Until now, we have obtained 67 samples. It should be pointed out that the number is low due to several factors, among them the fact that time lapsed between contact with the relative and the extraction of the sample was on average 45 days, as well as lack of funding to conduct an adequate search.

At the time of this writing - fall 2001 - we have received partial but important funding from the government of the United Kingdom. We expect our collection to increase in size and quality because of this assistance.

ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE EAAF PHOTO EXHIBIT

In October, a photo exhibit curated by EAAF member Silvana Turner and photographer Ana Aslan was unveiled in Hamburg, Germany. The exhibit consists of three sets of 63 photographs, taken by members of the EAAF or contributed by photojournalists of cases investigated by EAAF in Bolivia, Guatemala, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Iraqi Kurdistan, and in Argentina. The exhibition includes explanatory text in English and Spanish.

The exhibit project was funded by Diakonisches Werk, Germany; the Böll Foundation, Germany, and the National Council of Churches, USA.

During 2000, the exhibit was also presented at the following places: Columbia University, New York, USA, sponsored by International Conflict Resolution, the Latin American Students Association, and the Human Rights Concentration at the School of Public Affairs (April); Stuttgart, Germany (February) sponsored by Diakonisches Werk and Bread for the World; the Intersection for the Arts Gallery, San Francisco, USA

(November); and Centro Cultural Municipal, Islas Malvinas, La Plata, Argentina (November).

ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

Throughout the year 2000, the EAAF participated in academic events in the following ways:

Presentation at the VI Conference of the Latin American Association for Biological Anthropology, held in Uruguay

Presentation at the Faculty of Philosophy and Letters of the University of Buenos Aires, as part of the program of activities organized by the Student Center

Seminar for the Special Operations Corps of Córdoba province, Argentina

Presentation at the Second International Conference of Legal Medicine and Forensic Science, held in Buenos Aires, Argentina

Presentation at the Faculty of Natural Sciences of the University of Tucumán, organized by the Institute of Archaeology and Museum of that university.

COLLABORATIVE AGREEMENTS

A technical cooperation agreement was signed between the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Buenos Aires and the EAAF. Through this agreement, the EAAF and the faculty of the Legal Medicine and Thanatology collaborate on research concerning the development and promotion of forensic anthropology, and postgraduate courses Forensic Medicine and Thanatology.

The work of EAAF in Argentina is partly funded by Diakonische Werk, Germany.

FOOTNOTES

1. Such indirect sources of information were first studied by Dr. Clyde Snow, a US forensic anthropologist who trained and helped found EAAF. Snow gained access to important information and subsequently wrote a very useful article on the investigation of cemetery records in the province of Buenos Aires. See Snow, C.C. and Bilhuriet, M.J., 1992. "An Epidemiography of Homicide: Ningún Nombre Burials in the Province of Buenos Aires from 1970 to 1984," in *Human Rights and Statistics: Getting the Record Straight*. Eds. T.B. Jabine and R.P. Claude, Philadelphia: University of Philadelphia.
2. Although the military government extended to 1983, the 1976-1980 period is considered to have had the highest concentration of "disappearances."
3. Capital of Buenos Aires Province, La Plata is situated about 60km south of the city of Buenos Aires.
4. Regarding this issue, it is worth making the following clarification. During an investigation of two violent events in which the Buenos Aires provincial police appeared to be involved—the death of photographer Jose Luis Cabezas in January 1997, and the attack on the headquarters of the Jewish organization AMIA in July 1994 – Governor Eduardo Duhalde intervened in the force's affairs for a period of four months. This intervention resulted in a departmental restructuring, as well as the retirement of hundreds of police officers suspected of corruption and human rights violations.