

# EQUIPO ARGENTINO de ANTROPOLOGIA FORENSE (EAAF)

(ASOC. CIVIL SIN FINES DE LUCRO)

P. J. N° 000318

## ANNUAL SUMMARY OF NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

(January, 1991 - February, 1992)

### ARGENTINA:

#### The Avellaneda Case:

Since January of 1988, we have been working in Section 134 of the Municipal Cemetery of Avellaneda, located on the outskirts of Buenos Aires. This section of the cemetery contains approximately 300 people buried in a series of common graves. These people were "disappeared" between 1976 and 1978, during the last military dictatorship.

The forensic investigation of this case is divided into three stages: 1) archaeological excavation of the site; 2) historical investigation of the identity of the disappeared persons buried in this part of the cemetery; 3) laboratory analysis to identify and determine the cause of death of the victims.

#### 1.) Archaeological Excavation:

By December 1991, 90% of the total surface of the site had been excavated. Skeletal remains of 302 individuals were recovered, including 14 newborns and fetuses and 2 children-- which in some cases were associated with adult skeletons. According to the entry records of the Avellaneda cemetery, 220 people were buried in Section 134. That is to say, the number of skeletons recovered up to this time exceeds the official count by approximately 38% (83 individuals). Most of the skeletons were found without any clothing.

#### 2.) Historical Investigation:

We are continuing the investigation of 18 clandestine detention centers which were functioning near the cemetery during the military dictatorship. In conjunction with this information, we also study military files, entry records of unidentified bodies (John Doe) in the cemeteries, civil registries from areas around Avellaneda, and journalistic accounts of the time.

#### 3.) Laboratory Work:

We are continuing with the first phase of laboratory work, which began in April 1990: washing, labeling, X-ray analysis, and the reconstruction of the 302 skeletons from their fragments. During this phase, preliminary investigations are being made of the individuals, with respect to race, sex, age, stature, pathologies, and cause of death.

The final phase of laboratory identification of individuals found in Avellaneda cemetery has not yet begun. Nevertheless, during 1990-1 the skeletal remains of three disappeared persons were positively identified: Luis Adolfo Jaramillo; Marie Adelia Garin; and Lidia Massironi de Perdoni.

#### The Jaramillo Case:

On November 29, 1976, Mr. Jaramillo was kidnapped by security forces, at the door of the heater factory (S.A.I.A.R.) where he worked in Quilmes, Buenos Aires Province. He was last seen alive on December 30, 1976 in the headquarters of the Investigative Brigade of Avellaneda, where he was being illegally detained along with other workers from the same factory. His remains were found in quadrant D5 of Section 134. Positive identification was based on dental evidence and a comparison of pre- and post-mortem X-rays. The cause of death, determined from the skeletal remains, was a bullet in the skull. During the exhumation, three bullets were found: one inside the skull, another at the level of the right elbow, and a third at the level of the dorsal vertebrae. The relatives of Luis Adolfo Jaramillo reburied his remains in March of 1991.

#### The Garin Case:

On January 13, 1977, Ana Maria Garin de De Angelis, two-and-a-half months pregnant, was kidnapped by security forces in the San Ramon clinic, where she was working as a pediatrician. She was last seen alive in April of 1976, in the clandestine detention center known as "Pozo de Banfield." At that time she was still pregnant. When Ana Maria was captured, she was 28 years old. Her remains were found in quadrant D5 of Section 134. Positive identification was based on dental evidence and the discovery of a surgical wire in the sternum, a result of heart surgery, which Ana Maria underwent in 1975. Cause of death, determined by the skeletal evidence, was a bullet in the skull. Remains of a fetus or newborn were not found, suggesting that the baby was born while Ana Maria was still in captivity. The organization, "Grandmothers of the Plaza de Mayo" continues to search for the child. Ana Maria's remains were reburied by her relatives in January of 1991.

#### The Case of Massironi de Perdoni:

Around the middle of June 1976, Lidia Massironi de Perdoni and her husband Luis Perdoni, were captured by security forces in the town of Lomas de Zamora, Buenos Aires Province. They were not seen in any clandestine detention center. Lidia was 36 years old when she was abducted. The remains of Lidia Massironi were found in quadrant B 5/6 of Section 134 of the Avellaneda Cemetery. Positive identification was based on dental evidence and the traces of infantile poliomyelitis in the right leg. Death was caused by multiple injuries from bullets in the skull, cervical vertebrae, and pelvis. Her children reburied her remains in November 1991.

At this time, we are in the final stage of identification of three other disappeared people exhumed from Section 134.

#### **The Morello Case:**

In March of 1977, Miguel Angel Morello, 31 years old, was assassinated by security forces on the corner of Pasco and Asuncion Streets in Temperley, Buenos Aires Province, while attempting to escape capture. He was buried in an individual grave, as "N.N." (John Doe), in the cemetery of Lomas de Zamora, Buenos Aires Province. Identification became clear after study of the entry records of this cemetery, the civil registry of the zone, and a military file which described the event. Miguel Morello's relatives knew how he had died, but the security forces never returned his body nor told them where he was buried. His remains were identified by positive dental evidence. Death was due to multiple gunshot wounds in the chest and abdomen. His relatives reburied his remains in December 1991.

#### **ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES:**

EAAF was invited by the University of Buenos Aires to deliver a seminar on the application of forensic sciences to the investigation of human rights violations. The seminar took place on August 19-22, 1991 at the Faculty of Philosophy and Letters.

#### **Academic Exchange**

EAAF received visits from five foreign professionals who took part in the daily work of the team in Avellaneda. The length of these internships varied from four weeks to three months. Four of them came from the United States: Eric Ratcliff, a physical anthropologist from the University of Texas at Austin; Eric Carlson, a political science student from American University in Washington; Elizabeth Ferry, a graduate in anthropology from Columbia University in New York;

and Dawnie Lee Wolfe, a physical anthropologist from the University of Chicago; and Jose Pablo Baraybar, a physical anthropologist from the University of San Marcos, Lima, Peru.