

# Selfie Identification App as a forensic tool for missing and unidentified persons

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## ABSTRACT

Social media and Smartphone applications can be a valuable investigative tool in the search for missing and unidentified persons. There are several applications for smart phones which assist in the search for missing persons. Crime investigations already benefit from the vast amount of information available online, such as videos and photos. There is not yet a forensic application with the aim of assisting the human identification process, through the search of ante mortem data to be used as adjunct data in the comparison with post mortem data collected during a dental autopsy.

The aim of this presentation is to introduce a new application for Smartphones which will employ selfie and face photographs as an archive of dental data and dental features of the frontal teeth of missing persons. "Selfie Forensic ID" app will be available to public for free download, thus creating a way to search for extra ante mortem identifying features of the lower third of the face and front teeth when the search of compatible profiles of missing persons has already been narrowed by investigators and forensic technicians. Features such as diastema, rotated or wrongly positioned teeth, lip anomalies, recognisable fixed prosthetics, dental crown discolorations, dental or cutis piercing could represent strong identifiers in the comparison of AM and PM data, through visual recognition including forensic dental identification.

In the authors' opinion, the increased number of terrorist attacks and natural disasters which result in the premature death of innocent people, underlines the importance of storing personal identification data in order to avoid bodies remaining unidentified. The authors believe there will be an increased public willingness to share personal ID information, including Selfie photographs and DNA samples, through understanding of the ethical and administrative consequences to the families of deceased persons should bodies remain unidentified.