

« Individuals X » in France : a project of standardization of unidentified bodies and missing persons data

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Lise Malfroy Camine
Yves Schuliar²
Christian De Trane²
Christian Kaempf
Jean-Marc Hutt

¹ Unité d'identification
Odontologique

² Pôle judiciaire de la Gendarmerie
Nationale

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Corresponding author:
lise.malfroy@gmail.com

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ABSTRACT

Each year in France, many unidentified corpses are found, in an extrajudicial context. Without appropriate research, they will be buried under X. This situation is an ethical and social issue, and a possible judicial problem.

In parallel, each year, a thousand of french individuals are declared missing and not found. Their disappearing represents a real psychological torment for their families.

By these two observations, we conclude that, among this corpses burried under X certainly are missing persons, still researched by their family, and who are named here "Individuals X".

Despite different identification processes, other countries face with the same issue, and regarding to free movement of persons in the European Union, each have nowadays to take into account the fact that some of their nationals can disappear – and die – abroad. That's why the project we present here may have some interest at an international level.

Identification of Individuals X is necessarily based on an efficient comparison of post-mortem (PM) data collected during bodies examination, and "ante-mortem" (AM) data from missing persons files.

We propose here a model of PM and AM files, based on the DVI Interpol process, and so manually and computationally comparable.

Interpol forms, that have proven effective during the last mass disasters have been simplified, so they can be used in classical autopsy process, and completed by an additional "anthropological examination" part for specific cases.

Using this forms, in association with classical identification methods (dental, digital and genetic), and by anticipating an anthropological examination, should allow to bring back more corpses to their family, and so facilitate grieving and psychological repair.