

Forensic odontology for human rights group

.....
Emilio Nuzzolese ¹
Sakher AlQahtani ¹
Joe Adserias ¹
John William Berketa ¹
Parul Khare Sinha ¹
Lise Malfroy Camine ¹
Sheila Manica ¹
Mithun Rajshekar ¹
Ricardo Henrique Alves
da Silva ¹
Ivana Cukovic-Bagic ¹

¹ FOD4HR Forensic Odontology
for Human Rights Group -
www.dentify.me

.....
Corresponding author:
forensicodontology4humanrights@gmail.com

POSTER PRESENTATION
.....

J Forensic Odontostomatol
2017 Nov 1; Supp1(35): 145
ISSN :2219-6749

ABSTRACT

The Forensic Odontology for Human Rights International Working Group was inaugurated on May the 5th 2015 at the Annual Interpol DVI Meeting in Lyon. The Group seeks forensic odontologists and oral health professionals with forensic background to promote forensic odontology and forensic science principles to caseworks with the purpose of preventing Human Rights violations through the application of best practice in human identification, age estimation and where dental evidence is involved.

This presentation will highlight the importance of dental evidence in criminal investigations and the importance of a multidisciplinary approach involving all the experts needed for the best outcome of the forensic analysis. Teeth and jaws can provide a tremendous amount of information in the field of disaster victim identification, missing and unidentified persons, child abuse and neglect, domestic violence and sexual abuse with bite mark evidence, age estimation of unaccompanied minors, border control and human trafficking. This underlines the importance of promoting international co-operation between experts, also on a volunteer basis.

Forensic Odontology for Human Rights Group members are volunteering for forensic casework, teaching and scientific research in odontology and dentistry applied to forensic sciences.

It should be clear to all those involved in the process of human identification that an incomplete post mortem assessment can lead to a delayed identification and represents a violation of human rights and international humanitarian law. Forensic Odontology can lead to a swift identification of nameless cadavers also providing evidence to the families which may be used in Court, as in cases of genocide and mass graves or after a terroristic attack.

In the year since constitution the number of members of Forensic Odontology for Human Rights has risen to 39 experts in Forensic Odontology from 16 different Countries: Australia, Brazil, Canada, Croatia, France, Hong Kong, Hungary, Israel, India, Indonesia, Italy, Pakistan Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden, Thailand and the United States of America.

Given the low numbers of well-trained and experienced Odontologists around the world today and the risk of omitting odontological assessment where appropriate, Forensic Odontology for Human Rights can be utilised as a resource to prevent human rights violations by promoting routine involvement of odontologists and best practice in odontological assessments and human identification.