



The Forensic Anthropology Center of Quintana Roo: human identification and the recovery of dignity

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Mexico is facing a forensic emergency as 73,201 persons are missing, and more than 36,000 bodies have not been identified. The Attorney General's Office of Quintana Roo is actively working in human identification and to provide a dignified place for human remains.



The Forensic Anthropology Center will have the capacity to storage 1000 skeletons. It will be opened in 2021

Bones remains exhumed at the forensic cemetery will be transported to this center for cleaning, analysis and to ensure its preservation in climate controlled storage. A Taphonomy research unit will be based at this center.



The forensic cemetery is a transitory space that shelters the remains of unidentified and unclaimed persons in dignified conditions.

The bodies have been forensically examined. The purpose is to ensure that once they are identified, they can be returned to their families with no delay. Each body will have an individual and dignified niche in compliance with the Law on Disappearances.



Forensic experts of the Attorney General's Office have been trained in the recovery and handling of human remains.

2020 Workshops

- 1) Biosecurity in the autopsy room (60 attendees)
- 2) Recovery of human remains inside geological formations (14 attendees)
- 3) Human remains: excavation and surface recovery (50 attendees)

Resources provided by the HHRC resulted in the acquisition of supplies for the analysis of skeletal remains, and packaging material designed by a bone conservator. In addition, working spaces in the morgues were adapted for the analysis and sampling of the skeletal remains. So far 273 unidentified individuals have been sampled for genetics.