

The Third Army Corps had jurisdiction over the provinces of Córdoba, San Luis, Mendoza, San Juan, La Rioja, Catamarca, Santiago del Estero, Tucumán, Salta and Jujuy — an area of approximately 800,000 square kilometers. At least forty Clandestine Detention Centers (CDCs) are documented to have operated in this region from 1975 to 1980. The city of Córdoba was in Subzone 31 under the second command of the Third Army Corps.

Preliminary Investigation

Based on information collected to date, most of the people “disappeared” by the state in Córdoba and its outskirts were taken to two CDCs controlled by the Army, *La Perla* (The Pearl) and *Campo La Ribera* (The Shore). *La Perla*, located in a military post on the highway between the cities of Córdoba and Carlos Paz, started functioning as a CDC after the military coup of March 1976.¹ The *Campo La Ribera* military prison began operating as a CDC in December 1975, a few months before the military coup. The National Commission on Disappeared Persons (CONADEP) estimated that between 1976 and the end of 1979, approximately 2,200 disappeared people passed through *La Perla*, making it one of the largest CDCs in the country.

Although the repression was organized on a national level with some coordination among command zones, Zone Three had a high degree of autonomy. Unlike most of the CDCs managed by the army where prolonged contact between repressors and prisoners was avoided, there were several cases of prolonged imprisonment at *La Perla*. There was also a greater number of survivors who have detailed memories about the way the unit functioned, including who was on the staff and who was detained at the CDC. EAAF has also learned that the bodies of most of the people who disappeared in Córdoba city passed through the Córdoba city morgue and were later buried in San Vicente Cemetery (also in Córdoba city).

In 1984, the existence of at least one mass grave in San Vicente Cemetery became public when morgue and cemetery employees submitted official

testimonies to CONADEP. They testified that beginning in 1976, members of the security forces delivered a large number of unidentified bodies to the Judicial Morgue in Córdoba city, located in the San Roque Hospital and later in the Córdoba Hospital. In almost every case, the victims reportedly exhibited gunshot wounds, clear signs of torture, and ink stains on their fingers, implying that they had been fingerprinted. A majority of the bodies arrived without papers, so there was no indication of which state agency had sent them, although reportedly the security forces delivered them. Additionally, most of the bodies were entered as “N.N.,” / *Ningún Nombre*, (John/Jane Doe). At the morgue, the bodies were recorded as “found in the street,” or “killed in confrontations with security or military forces.”² In some instances, the bodies were identified while at the morgue, and Military Judges (*Jueces de Instrucción Militar*) sometimes delivered the remains of the victims to their families. Police physicians signed the death certificates.

Some morgue employees also stated that they had taken part in transferring bodies to the San Vicente Cemetery. At least four mass transfers of bodies were documented in 1976, involving approximately a total of 200 bodies. The bodies were placed in a mass grave that was used multiple times; they were naked and had no identification, except in a few cases in which a metal tag corresponding to a morgue number was hung from their carpal bones (wrists). Beginning in 1977, there were transfers of smaller groups of bodies, most of which were buried individually. The total number of bodies delivered to San Vicente during 1977 seems to be similar to the figures indicated for 1976.

According to morgue and cemetery workers, the bodies were buried secretly during the night, in common or individual graves, without coffins or any identifying markers or the requisite entries in the cemetery registers. Thus, hundreds of citizens whose names were known to the authorities were systematically transformed into “N.N.” cadavers. After democracy returned to Argentina in 1984, Federal Court No. 3 in Córdoba City opened an investigation based on this information.

In 1984, judicial and CONADEP investigations led to the identification of some bodies buried in this manner. Investigators determined that a large mass grave contained the bodies of seven youths who had been sent to the Córdoba city morgue in October 1976 from the town of Los Sargentos, Córdoba Province. Their records state the youths died in an “armed confrontation.” The investigation revealed that the corpses had been bound at the wrists, which allowed the judge to qualify them as homicides. This was confirmed by a partial exhumation of the mass grave by cemetery staff on orders from the Federal Court. Ante-mortem odontological records compared with those of one of the exhumed individuals led to the identification of a young woman whose remains were delivered to her family. Subsequently, CONADEP and the Federal Judiciary declared that they were unable to make further identifications given the information and technology available at the time.³ (The extraction of DNA from bones became possible at the end of the 1980s.)

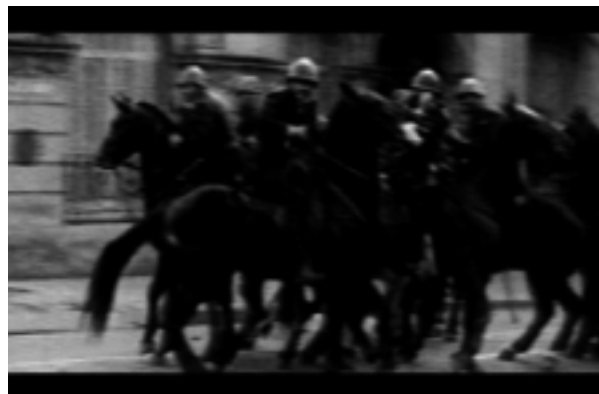
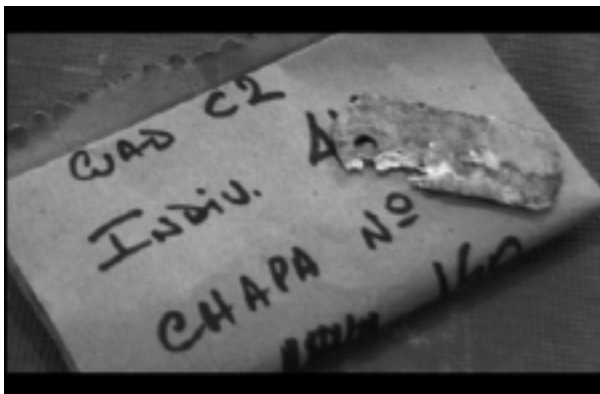
EAAF Preliminary Investigation

In the early stages of the investigation in San Vicente Cemetery, EAAF compiled and analyzed different sources of information relating to clandestine burials in the cemetery. The aim was to compile and compare the names, number of victims, dates of disappearance, burial dates, and death certificates, among other sources, to establish a hypothesis about the identity

of the victims in the graves. EAAF and the local human rights organization, *ARHISTA*, also conducted in-depth interviews with survivors from *La Perla* and *La Ribera* CDCs and relatives of disappeared persons.

At the end of 2002, EAAF conducted exhumations of individual graves in San Vicente Cemetery. During the first half of 2003, the team organized large-scale exhumations that were conducted with the assistance of a Córdoba morgue employee who participated in the 1976 burials and could identify locations where common graves had been dug. This resulted in the discovery and excavation of the largest common grave relating to the Dirty War, found in Sector C of San Vicente Cemetery. In this grave, EAAF found remains corresponding to a total of 91 individual skeletons and numerous clusters of incomplete remains from two different “floors” or layers, presumed to correspond to different burial dates.

Following the excavation, EAAF completed laboratory work at the Córdoba Institute of Legal Medicine. The position of the skeletons on the different “floors” did not follow traditional burial practices. They were intertwined, one on top of each other, with lower and upper limbs in different positions. This confirmed the witness testimony that the bodies had been thrown into the graves. Additionally, markings found in the sediment, as well as the sediment’s consistency and coloration indicated that the graves had been dug with mechanical shovels or bulldozers. The team also estimated that approximately 30% of the skeletons



(left) A tag associated with remains exhumed in Córdoba province. Photo from Mambo Productions film, “*El Último Confin del Mundo/The Last Place on Earth*.” Photo courtesy of Mambo Productions; (right) Security forces in the streets of Córdoba city during the last military dictatorship. Photo courtesy of Mambo Productions, from the film “*El Último Confin del Mundo/The Last Place on Earth*.”

exhumed in these graves most likely correspond to persons disappeared at the end of 1975 and during the military dictatorship (1976-1983).

Based on EAAF's identity hypothesis, LIDMO, a private genetic company in Córdoba, conducted DNA analysis on bone samples from some of the individuals exhumed from the San Vicente mass grave as well as blood samples from their possible relatives. As a result, EAAF was able to make four identifications of disappeared persons: **Mario Andrés Osatinsky, Liliana Sofía Barrios, Horacio Pietragalla** and **Gustavo Gabriel Olmedo**. Their remains were returned to their families (*see 2003 Annual Report*).

2004 EAAF WORK

In 2004, EAAF worked in two main areas: identifying the remains exhumed in 2003 from the large mass grave, and investigating the location of other clandestine graves in San Vicente Cemetery.

Other Clandestine Graves in San Vicente Cemetery

From February 24 to December 29, 2004, EAAF conducted archaeological excavations in Sector B of San Vicente Cemetery in Córdoba city.

Site One: The Crematorium

The cemetery's Crematorium oven, built in 1978, was one of the main areas the team searched for other graves possibly containing the remains of disappeared people. Based on previous EAAF burial findings in areas near the Crematorium and testimonies in the judicial file about clandestine burials in the cemetery, we hypothesized that the presence of a mass grave underneath the Crematorium was possible.

Darío Mariano Olmo from EAAF led a team of investigators, including Professor Fernando Olivares, Marina Mohn and Melisa Paiaro (from the Museum of Anthropology, Department of Philosophy and



EAAF members work in San Vicente Cemetery, Córdoba. Photo by EAAF.

Humanities in the National University of Córdoba), and Alejandro Gómez, Andrés Antonio Agüero and Roberto Gaspar Ramallo. Custody of the site was provided by the Federal Police from Córdoba as requested by the judge.

The Crematorium Oven in San Vicente Cemetery is a one-story, rectangular building, approximately 29 meters long and 12 meters wide. The ovens are located 10 meters from the entrance at the center of the building, covering an area of about 100 square meters.

The excavation work began on February 24, 2004. The team could not locate construction reports for the Crematorium at the Municipality of Córdoba, but EAAF's preliminary investigation work shows that the Crematorium was built at the end of 1977 and into 1978, inferring that graves had been dug before its construction and could be located underneath the building.

The excavation strategy was to first excavate trenches

outside and along two walls of the building, digging several meters deep to reach the same level of a possible mass grave. If it existed, the grave would have been dug before the building was built. Once reaching that depth, the team continued excavating towards the building, penetrating as much as possible in order to get underneath the base of it.

EAAF labeled the first excavation area Eastern Border (*Franja Oriental*). Below the east wall of the Vigil Room, EAAF excavated a section four meters deep, 5.6 long and 3.7 meters wide. We did not find any anomalies in this section, only a light brown sediment with a medium to thick granule. Thus, EAAF concluded that there were not any signs of burials in this area.

Based on information from witness testimonies, the next step was to search along the back wall of the building. This work began on March 1, 2004. The team excavated a 3 by 6 meter trench along the back wall of the building. At a depth of 3 meters, the team began digging towards the building under its base in search of graves that might have been dug before the building was constructed.

Because EAAF was working during a period of heavy rains, occasionally the trench flooded, delaying the work. Despite this delay, two weeks after starting the work, the team discovered the beginning of a mass grave underneath the building containing articulated human remains, including a bullet fragment associated with a pelvic bone. The grave's sediment was completely different from its surroundings, and the regularity of its borders and its width of four meters, suggested that it was originally excavated with a bulldozer. This corresponded to witness testimonies.

In the second half of March, the team began digging from the other side of the building to expose more of the grave underneath the building. However, the building blocked the team's ability to remove the remains from this and other entry points that had been dug to understand the limits of the grave and to try to remove the remains. Once EAAF identified the edges of the grave, we built a fence to not disturb the functioning of the Crematorium, which continued to operate during the archeological work.

The Vestuary at the Crematorium

In June 2004, EAAF began new excavations inside the Crematorium because we were unable to reach the remains from the sides. This site was labeled the *Vestuary (El Vestuario)*, the room where workers at the Crematorium change their clothing. EAAF began to break through the floor inside the *Vestuary* room of the building to reach the top of the grave. First, EAAF removed the tiled floor, then the lower layer of the building's foundation; we then reached the top of the grave.

The first skeletons were lying at a depth of 40 centimeters below the original tile floor. EAAF registered the remains and took photos, notes and drawings. We recorded general descriptions of each individual and the position of each skeleton in the grave with twelve points of reference for each skeleton, and sent the remains to the Forensic Medical Institute, where they will remain under custody during the laboratory work.

EAAF continued the excavations in *The Vestuary* site until September, 2005. We concluded that the burial site is a primary grave, meaning that the grave is the first place where the bodies were buried or, at a minimum, the remains still had soft tissue when buried there.

Site Two: Paradise

On March 6, 2004, EAAF continued excavations at a second site 35 meters north of the Crematorium. EAAF started exploring the area in 2003 based on witness testimony that clandestine burials had taken place in this area. During the 2003 exploration, we discovered articulated human remains located near a *Paradise* tree. We marked out a grid of 28 squares, creating a seven by four meter rectangle. At a depth of approximately one meter EAAF discovered a layer of articulated human remains and began removing the skeletons on April 15, 2005.

At the time of this writing, EAAF has exhumed remains corresponding to 40 individuals. We transported them in cardboard boxes to the Medical

Forensic Institute in Córdoba City, under the Provincial Justice, where the team conducted initial forensic anthropological analysis. Because additional remains are still in the *Paradise* site, EAAF will continue to excavate during 2005 and 2006.

Main Findings

The excavations at *the Crematorium* led to the discovery of a single mass grave. EAAF recovered remains corresponding to 53 individual adults and eight fetuses from *the Vestuary* and *the Crematorium*. The remains corresponding to 40 individuals were recovered from the mass grave at *Paradise*. We placed the 93 individuals and their associated evidence in labeled boxes and transferred them to the custody of the Forensic Medical Institute in Córdoba city of the Superior Tribunal of Justice of the Province.

EAAF conducted the laboratory examination of the remains recovered from *the Crematorium*, *the Vestuary* and *Paradise* in 2005. Based on the preliminary analysis of the remains, we observed minor signs of violence. However, many of the remains showed clear signs of autopsy, suggesting that they came from morgues in Córdoba city before 1978 (when the Crematorium was built). This corresponds to the worst period of state-sponsored terrorism in Argentina.

The biological profiles of the remains exhumed from *the Crematorium* and *the Vestuary* show a group of mature adult individuals; 80% of the individuals are males, showing a low frequency of signs of trauma. The laboratory study of the remains from these sites was finished in August 2005. This study was done in the EAAF Forensic Anthropology Laboratory at the Forensic Medical Institute in Córdoba city and was carried out by EAAF team members and students from the University of Córdoba who participated in the excavations in 2004. While the analysis of the 40 recovered skeletons from the *Paradise* site has not been finished, thus far they present a similar biological profile as those from *The Crematorium* and *the Vestuary*. The biological and traumatic profiles typically identified with disappeared people are young individuals who usually have been shot. However, this

profile does not include all of the disappeared population and further studies are necessary to be able to conclude if the remains found at the Crematorium and the Paradise correspond to or include the remains of disappeared people.

EAAF Activities at the Military Base in La Calera

In September 2003, at the request of Federal Court No.3, in Córdoba, EAAF began the investigation of reported clandestine burials of disappeared people in “La Perla,” one of the largest Clandestine Detention Centers (CDC) in the country during the military dictatorship.

To narrow our focus and determine the most logical sites to excavate, we first collected and analyzed various documentary sources including human rights archives, judicial files, and oral sources such as interviews with witnesses and survivors of the CDCs. Using archaeological techniques, we then tried to see how this information could be related to the physical aspects of the terrain.

CDC “LA PERLA”

The National Commission for Disappeared Persons (CONADEP) report describes La Perla as “*the most important CDC in Córdoba Province, located on national highway Number 20, towards the city of Carlos Paz, where Cavalry Air Force Exploration Squadron Number 4 currently operates. Based on its size, surroundings and operating capacity, it is comparable to other major CDCs such as Campo de Mayo or the Navy Mechanical School (ESMA). It was incorporated to the network of CDCs at the beginning of the military coup. It is estimated that more than 2,200 people passed through this camp between March 1976 and the end of 1979. Illegal repressive activity in all parts of the Province was coordinated from La Perla. Disappearances that occurred hundreds of kilometers away were planned and ordered from La Perla. It maintained relationships with other CDCs in other parts of the country. In addition to its role as a clandestine detention and torture*

center, many extra-judicial executions also took place at La Perla as part of the regime's extermination policy."⁴ Several testimonies from survivors of La Perla, including residents from around La Perla, former police and soldiers, mention possible burial sites.

The CDC was located at the Military Base in La Calera, which measures more than 10,000 hectares and where various military buildings are located, including the Army Third Command Corps.

BACKGROUND: Previous Investigations

“The Hole’ in ‘Loma del Torito’: The testimonies of the survivors speak of fear of being ‘traslados’ (transfers), which is a euphemism referring to people who were periodically taken away in a dark Mercedes Benz that would return later without any passengers. The jailers would repeatedly threaten the prisoners by saying they would be sent to ‘the hole.’ This reference, painful to say, suggests the extermination of many detainees by means of shooting them on the edge of a hole which was dug previously for the burial of bodies. The hole is (reportedly) located in a zone named ‘Loma del Torito’ within the ‘La Perla’ camp in the military jurisdiction of the headquarters of the Exploration Squadron of Cavalry Air Force No 4 in Córdoba. This Commission judicially required the excavation of this area which was carried out on March 22, 1984, but did not produce any findings. However, testimony from a witness, a farmer that has worked many years in the area, showed that dirt had been removed. This



A sign shows the “Do Not Disturb” order given by Federal Court Number Three to protect the site of the former CDC La Perla during EAAF’s investigation. Photo by EAAF.

is similar to other testimonies, all of which signal exhumation of human remains there, indicating that the detainees ‘fear for their lives was completely rational.’” CONADEP Final Report “Never Again,” 1984.



(left and right) The exhumations that took place in 1984 were done with bulldozers and large shovels and were carried out by officials who were not trained in forensic anthropology, causing damage and co-mingling of remains, which has complicated the identification process.



EAAF team members map the area under investigation at La Perla. Based on witness testimonies the team established two zones, Zone A and Zone B, and identified areas where burials could be located. Photo by EAAF.

The testimony of José Julián Solanilla, a farmer from the area, for CONADEP in Federal Court No. 2 presided over by Judge Becerra Ferrer resulted in a ruling to conduct excavations in the area. The CONADEP delegation consisted of members from Federal Court No. 2, the Chief Commander of Third Corps of the Army, Colonel Horacio Oscar Lullo, and witness who visited the area in March 1984. In the following days they conducted inspections for excavations in two areas. However, only one excavation was conducted and only in a very limited area. A military judge then questioned the witness and stopped the investigations until several years later. Federal Court No.3, presided over by Judge Cristina Garzón de Lascano, reinitiated the investigation for the judicial file 9.693, “Investigation of clandestine burials requested by Pérez Esquivel, Adolfo and Martínez, María Elba.”

EAAF WORK

Investigation Team

The investigation team included: one EAAF anthropologist, Anahi Ginarte; two archaeology

students from the National University of Córdoba (UNC); and Ivana Wolff, Laura Lazo and Marcos Gastaldi from the Museum of Anthropology at UNC. Assisting them in the exploratory/inspection work were four groups of four students each from UNC and workers for the San Vicente Cemetery in Córdoba City.

In mapping and demarcating “*Loma del Torito*,” the team established two zones, one towards the south labeled Zone A, and the other, labeled Zone B, towards the north. Zone A covers approximately 250 hectares and Zone B covers approximately 75 hectares.

In Zone B, EAAF contracted the company Landwork to remove vegetation from the area to be excavated with a bulldozer driven by Victor Escudero. Victor, who was from the Police Explosives Team in Córdoba Province, also came to verify whether there were explosives in the excavation area, which is under custody of the Federal Police.

Additionally, EAAF worked with Dr. Abril, a geologist and expert witness to Court No. 3 on this case, who carried out investigations during 2002, 2003 and 2004 and produced the report, “Research on

Clandestine Burial Sites in the Military Base in La Calera, Córdoba (Argentina) Using Digital Analysis of Images with Remote Sensors and Field Work.” To date, his investigation has not produced sites to be archeologically investigated. In his last report in December 2004, he indicates five places that need further investigation.

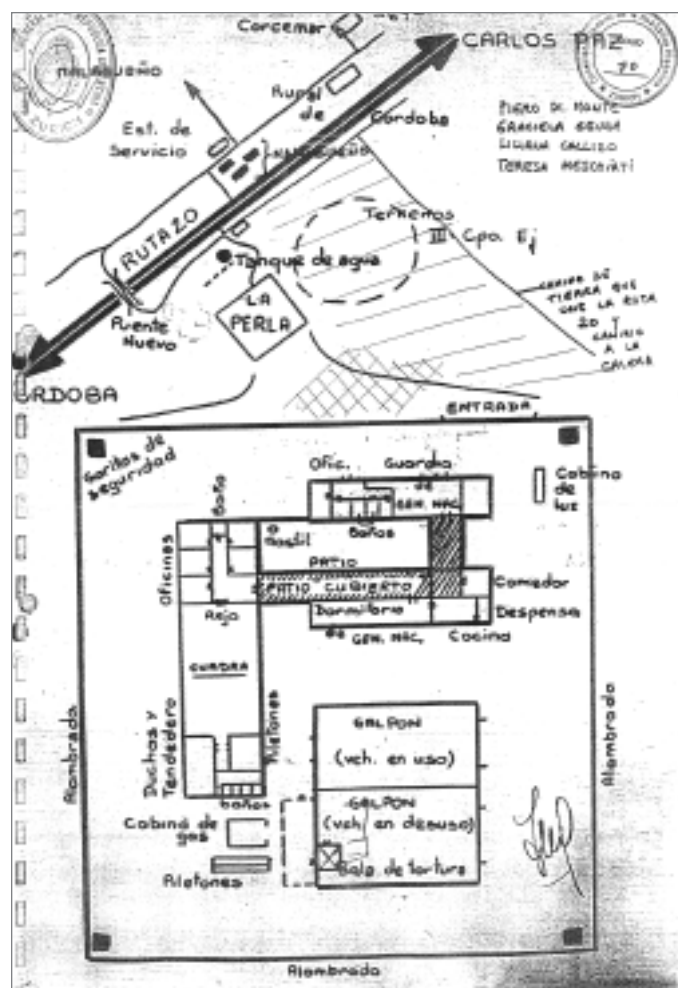
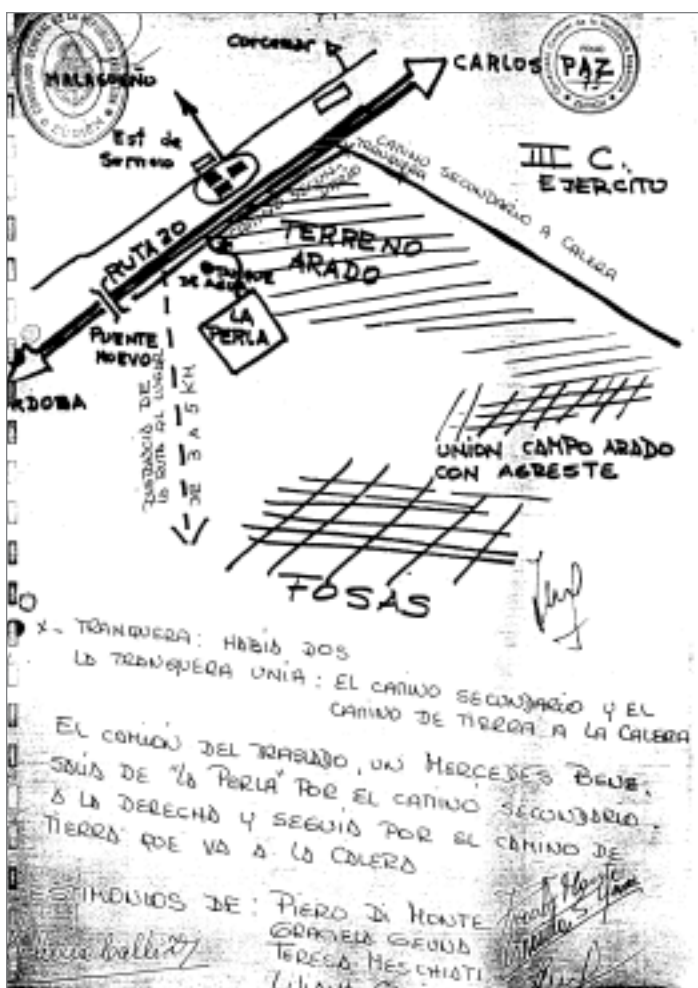
Preliminary Investigation

The first step of the investigation was to review testimony and documents from Federal Court No. 3, all of which either directly or indirectly discussed possible burial places in the “La Calera Military Base.” The team created a database of the most relevant testimony in order to analyze and establish whether the witnesses were detention camp survivors,

residents of the area, military personnel, or whether they had any other position in the armed forces.

The following information summarizes the testimonies of the witnesses:

1. Testimonies indicate that there are clandestine burials at ‘La Calera Military Base’ within the CDC known as *La Perla*. Most of the testimonies of the survivors are indirect, meaning that the survivors were not present during the clandestine burials but had heard soldiers speak about them. Some testimonies are more specific, given that some of the witnesses say they saw the open graves and cadavers. One witness says he was present at a massive execution where victims were shot. These testimonies are the most important for defining areas to investigate.



Graphics from the judiciary file on the claim of clandestine burials at the military base where La Perla used to operate. They were made by survivors of that illegal detention center.

2. Based on the testimonies, we can expect to find mass graves of more than 50 people, as well as smaller graves containing the remains of one to five people.
3. Reportedly there was an attempt to “clean out” or “transfer” the buried cadavers from these graves in 1979.
4. Some residents from the area reportedly know about the existence of graves.
5. Some of the survivors of the CDC know of the existence of the graves, mostly indirectly from overhearing discussions of burials among soldiers at the time, or through assumptions made during their captivity.

From these testimonies, EAAF defined two large areas where clandestine burials could be located: *La Loma del Torito* and the area known as *Los Hornos* at the “*La Ochoa*” farm.

EAAF ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK Methodology

EAAF held meetings with court personnel from Federal Court No 3 and military authorities, requesting permission to mark the boundaries of the working area and asking the military to temporarily cease training exercises in the zone for security reasons. In July 2004, it was agreed that during EAAF’s archeological research activities in the *Loma del Torito* zone, military training would be restricted to an area called “Quebrada de la Cancha.” It was also agreed that due to security reasons and not to alter the surface of the terrain, only small caliber firearms would be used during military practices.

To find the clandestine burials, EAAF conducted an initial inspection of the land looking for depressions in the terrain, as well as changes in the vegetation and color and compactness of the soil, all of which could be indicators of movement of land which could indicate burials. When surveying large areas many years after the event under investigation occurred,

such as in the case of *La Perla*, visual alterations in the surface are no longer obvious. Thus, we tried to add geophysical methods to the archaeological survey to identify changes (disturbances) to the subsoil made by people (rather than by animals or weather). In general, archaeologists and other scientists trying to explore the underground layers of the soil use the same geophysical methods that engineers use when looking for pipes or oil. They look for disturbances and changes in the soil’s components and/or in its layers in relation to the surroundings. These changes can indicate that a natural or man-made intrusion has occurred. In some cases they may correspond to burial sites. In this investigation, the team used geo-electric technology, which signals disturbances in the terrain. However, a “disturbance” does not always signify a burial. Most geophysical methods point out the areas where the archeologists should later excavate to see if the disturbance is either natural, such as a rock, or man-made, such as a burial. EAAF’s strategy included using both archaeological survey techniques as well as geophysics techniques.

Our first visit to the area was on September 20, 2003. We were accompanied by expert geologist Ernesto Abril who reviewed the areas he had identified earlier for further examination. Dr. Abril explained the methodology he used and described the characteristics of the hill landscape, including its geological and vegetation characteristics.

Additionally, geologists David Aguilera and Guillermo Sagripanti from the National University in the nearby Province of San Luis and the University in Rio Cuarto, Córdoba province, conducted geoelectrical resistivity studies in some of the areas indicated by EAAF (see Zone B below).

In the center of the Military Base in La Calera there is a series of hills, two kilometers long, known as *Loma del Torito*, that extend from north to south. Within the internal division of the military base there is a pasture known as *Las Lomitas*. Most of the testimonies collected by EAAF identified this pasture and its small valleys as possible places for clandestine graves. Therefore, the archaeological exploration during 2004 was mostly focused on this area.



EAAF survey trenches in the Lomas del Torito area. *Photo by EAAF.*

EAAF focused on two places where man-made alterations were observed in the landscape: A) the low-lands around the bottom of the hills where there is farming and original vegetation has been completely eradicated, and B) the land on the hill and its slopes that has not been used for agriculture, where there is still original vegetation, and that is used as pastures for cattle. These hills have been modified because they were also used by soldiers at the base for target practice with weapons, including mortars and grenades.

EAAF Work Conducted in *La Loma del Torito*

EAAF mapped and marked the zones with sediment deposit in the eastern part of *Loma del Torito*. The rocky areas were marked with the help of a GPS, making a “track” (or path). It was highly unlikely burials would have taken place in such areas. EAAF arbitrarily established two zones, one towards to south, Zone A, and the other towards the north, Zone B.

Zone A is approximately 250 hectares and Zone B is approximately 75 hectares.

EAAF examined both areas and classified the different changes that could have been man-made along with artifacts that indicated the possible existence of clandestine burials. The man-made alterations observed included “trenches,” “machine gun nests,” “explosion craters,” and other indications that the land has been used for military practice in recent decades. Additionally, EAAF observed clear man-made structures of uncertain origins that we labeled “depressions” or “mounds.” The team also estimated whether the alterations were old, intermediate, recent or undetermined. EAAF’s analysis of each of the alterations included a ranking based on the likelihood that a grave might be found: 0 = no possibility, 1 = little possibility, 2 = medium possibility, and 3 = high possibility.

All of this information was incorporated into a database. EAAF used a GPS to measure and record the geographical coordinates of each structure. We entered this data into a program, Geographical Information System (GIS) that links databases to maps and aerial photographs to obtain additional information such as the location of the mounds and depressions labeled “hierarchy 3” (high possibility) in each one of the zones.

In Zone A, the team mapped and described 576 structures, from which 390 were identified as corresponding to “depressions of uncertain origin” and 14 of which were evaluated as “hierarchy 3,” meaning there is some possibility that they may correspond to a burial site. Thirty-seven “mounds” were identified, 12 of which were catalogued as “hierarchy 3.”

EAAF determined that Zone B was the most likely to contain burial sites. Based on the exploration experience in Zone A, the team decided to modify the exploration in Zone B, establishing subzones and tailored approaches for each one:

A) Subzone with valleys in the southwest: forest of autoctone vegetation and pastoral areas. EAAF decided to continue with the same archaeological inspection methodology designed for Zone A.

B) Subzone with hills in the east: dense forest vegetation and high pastures without cattle. Because of the dense vegetation, the existence of interesting structures and old marked paths, EAAF decided to remove all surface vegetation and excavate trenches with a bulldozer in three different sites: B1, where we excavated a total of 24 trenches; B2, where we excavated 15 trenches, and B5, where we excavated 13 trenches.

C) Subzone in the bottom of the valley: a large arid zone. We selected areas within this subzone and explored them with geoelectric technology, some of which were later excavated, including sites B6 and B10.

Los Hornos Zones, of the “La Ochoa” Farm

At the beginning of 2004, EAAF and Dr. Abril inspected areas towards the west, known as “La Ochoa” Farm and “La Estefa” Farm. This work consisted of: 1) recognizing the eight zones flagged by Dr. Abril’s analysis; 2) entering a description in the field book; 3) making a photographic registry; 4) mapping with the GPS⁵; 5) classifying areas according to their likelihood to contain burial sites as conducted in Zone A. EAAF continued working in this area in 2005.

CONCLUSIONS

The Military Base in La Calera is extremely large, covering more than 10,000 hectares. Through testimonies gathered in our preliminary investigation, EAAF located the areas of interest in *La Loma del Torito* and *Los Hornos* zone at the “La Ochoa” farm. The work in 2004 concentrated completely on *La Loma del Torito*, identifying two zones of interest, Zone A and Zone B and used diverse techniques for exploration.

The investigation work for the clandestine burials in the Military Base in La Calera advanced during 2004. Even though at present EAAF has not found any graves, this is the first time there has been systematic and interdisciplinary work done in the area. The work is still in its initial phases. It is important to continue the investigation to prove or disprove the hypothesis that clandestine burial sites exist in the area.

In 2005, EAAF hopes to excavate the “mounds” and “depressions” of uncertain origin where there is a high probability for discoveries in the archaeological exploration of Zones A and B. Additionally, the team will continue to conduct geoelectric exploration in Zone B, widening it towards other valleys in the northeast of *La Loma del Torito* and beginning exploration in the “La Ochoa” and “La Estefa” farms. Geophysicists Aguilera and Sagripanti will continue to support EAAF work on this case during 2005.

AWARD July 7, 2004

In recognition of the team’s work in Córdoba, EAAF was given the Mayor Jerónimo Luis de Cabrera award, by the City of Córdoba on its 431st birthday.

ENDNOTES

1. La Perla is located on the site of the Air Cavalry’s Exploration Squadron #4 (*Escuadrón de Exploración de Caballería Aerotransportada N° 4*).
2. Sources: CONADEP, *Nunca Más*, p. 245; EUDEBA (Editorial Universidad de Buenos Aires) CONADEP Archive #1420, entitled “Interior Ministry of the Province remits presentation by staff of the Judicial Morgue before the President of the Nation,” opened at the Tribunal Superior de Justicia, Córdoba, on August 8, 1980.
3. See CONADEP and EAAF, *Tumbas Anonimas*, Catálogos Editora, 1992.
4. CONADEP (National Commission on the Disappearance of Persons) report, *Nunca Más (Never Again)*, 1984.
5. GPS (Global Positioning System) is a measuring instrument that reads information sent by different satellites and gives location based on longitude and latitude coordinates. Having this information allows the investigation to continue with the location having a probable margin of error of within five meters.



EAAF team members and collaborators from the national university of Rosario work in San Lorenzo Municipal Cemetery near the city of Rosario in the province of Santa Fe, where witnesses testified seeing military personnel place coffins and large black bags into a mass grave in 1976. *Photo by EAAF.*

Province of Santa Fe

CITY OF ROSARIO

On June 3, 2003, in Rosario, Santa Fe Province, EAAF was asked to serve as an expert witness on a claim filed in December 2002 in Federal Court Number Four. The court, under Judge Dr Omar Di Jeronimo, asked EAAF to investigate the reported existence of a mass grave in San Lorenzo Municipal cemetery, located near the city of Rosario. According to witnesses, in the winter of 1976, a military truck entered San Lorenzo Cemetery and military personnel unloaded black sacks and coffins, burying them in a large grave in the northeastern corner of the cemetery. This claim initiated judiciary file No. 654/02 regarding clandestine burials in that cemetery.

BACKGROUND

As previously explained, during the military government from March 24, 1976 until June 1982, the country was divided into five military command zones. Command Zone Two included all of the provinces in the Northeast

with central command in the city of Rosario, Santa Fe Province.

The commanders in charge of Zone Two were Brigade General Andrés Anibal Guerrero from February 1976 to November 1977; Brigade General Luciano Adolfo Jáuregui from December 1977 to February 1979;



EAAF excavations in San Lorenzo Municipal Cemetery during 2004. Photo by EAAF.

Brigade General José Luis Sextón from February to December 1979; and General Hector Humberto Gamen beginning in December 1979. All were located in Sub-zone 21. The Santa Fe Province includes areas 211 and 212.

The city of Rosario was an important urban area targeted by the repression, yet further investigations of forced disappearances during the military dictatorship still need to be conducted throughout the province. In Rosario and its outskirts, 440 claims of disappearance were registered as occurring during the last military regime. EAAF is working with a register of more than 400 disappeared people compiled from the list made by the National Commission on Disappeared Persons (CONADEP), lists from human rights organizations, and testimonies of family members and survivors.

Since the headquarters of the Second Army Corps and the leadership of Zone Two were located in Rosario,

EAAF worked on the hypothesis that orders for clandestine repression in Santa Fe, Entre Ríos, Corrientes, Misiones, Chaco and Formosa (all provinces under Zone Two) came from the base in Rosario.

Through testimonies, EAAF learned that the majority of people kidnapped in Rosario were initially brought to the *Servicio de Informaciones de la Unidad Regional N° II de la Policía de la Provincia de Santa Fe* (Information Service of Regional Unit No. II of the Police of the Santa Fe Province), also known as “*El Pozo*” (“The Hole”) or “*La Favela*” (“The Shanty”). The existence of other Clandestine Detention Centers (CDCs) is known and documented. In Santa Fe Province, at least 35 clandestine detention centers were operating in locations such as police precincts, military facilities, and private houses (*see list of CDCs below*).

The system of repression in Zone Two is identical to that practiced in other zones throughout the country during those years, including mostly arbitrary and

illegal detentions, kidnappings, torture, forced disappearances, executions, raids, and other forms of suppression. The same hierarchical system was also used, with the Commander in Chief giving directions and orders to lower officers.

City of Rosario

At this point in the investigation, the manner in which extra-judicial executions of disappeared people were carried out and how their bodies were disposed remained largely unknown. In the main cemetery in Rosario named “*La Piedad*” (“Mercy”), less than one hundred of the unidentified people registered from that period seem to correspond to the profile of the disappeared people.

Unfortunately, according to the Rosario municipal records, between 1979 and 1981, nearly all unidentified bodies were exhumed from their original graves and deposited in the common ossuary. In Argentina, based on municipal decrees, if the burial fees are not paid for five years, the cemetery is legally allowed to exhume the remains and deposit them in a general ossuary with thousands of others, mostly filled with bones. Because the disappeared were buried as N.N. (John/Jane Doe), nobody paid their fees. If the cemetery needed the space, they could exhume the remains and place them in the ossuary. This made it practically impossible to retrieve them. When democracy returned to Argentina, judges issued “do not disturb” orders on N.N. graves that were suspected to correspond to disappeared people. However, these orders were not always respected.

In the case of Rosario, it was important to find out whether there were other N.N. burials in other cemeteries in the outskirts of Rosario that may have corresponded to disappeared people and if so, whether the bodies remained in their original burial sites.

If the investigations did not reveal findings, this suggested either that other locations of unregistered clandestine burials may have existed within or outside the cemeteries or that another type of mechanism possibly was employed to eliminate people who were clandestinely detained.

Work in Rosario

In 2004, EAAF coordinated an investigation team consisting of:

1. The Investigation Team for Cultural-Political Memory. National University of Rosario (UNR) – Faculty of Humanities and Arts, headed by Silvia Bianchi.
2. Gabriela Águila, Director of the History Department in the Faculty of the Humanities, National University of Rosario, who is an expert witness for the investigation of clandestine burials in San Lorenzo cemetery and led a team of ten students from the History and Anthropology departments.
3. Juan Nobile (UNR) and Pedro Mondoni (MMCSL), archaeologists from the National University of Rosario.
4. The association of ex-political prisoners and survivors.
5. Association for the Historical Recuperation of Argentina (ARHISTA).
6. The Office for Historic Reconstruction of Human Rights, Secretary of the Province of Santa Fe.
7. HIJOS, representing sons and daughters of the disappeared.
8. Mothers and Grandmothers of Plaza de Mayo.
9. Municipal Museum of the City of San Lorenzo (MMCSL).

1. Activities of the Investigation Team for Political and Cultural Memory

Headed by Silvia Bianchi (National University of Rosario) and advised by Doctor Alcira Argumedo from *Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas* (National Council on Scientific and Technical Investigations). the team is comprised of 20 students majoring in Anthropology, Philosophy, Science, Politics, History, and with double majors in Library Studies, Archival Studies and Teaching.

Work on the CDC Information Service within Regional Unit II

- Developing maps of the CDC, both current and from the specific time periods, marking the function of every part of the building when it was utilized as a CDC as well as any modifications that may have been made.
- Analyzing the basement below the CDC, using the Harris matrix to understand the inscriptions written on the walls (dates, names, slogans, etc.).
- Archival work:
 - a) Maintaining a list of detainees (approximately 1,000).
 - b) Creating a chart of facts about detained people in this CDC from 1976 to 1979. This chart allows for cross-referencing between who was seen there and by whom. In this manner, we can approximate the time the detainees were there and establish the dates for the “*Traslados*” or “transfers,” a euphemism used by security forces indicating the removal of one detainee or a group from a CDC to be extra-judicially executed.
 - c) Recording and filming interviews with the survivors of the CDC.

2. Activities of Gabriela Águila and the Student Team

This working group is collecting the following documents:

- A) Death certificates of unidentified individuals, where the cause of death was recorded or suspected to be violent, such as “gunshot wound,” “acute internal and external hemorrhage,” or “skull traumatism,” among others. The offices being researched are:
- Civil Registry Death Certificates from Rosario, between 1975 and 1983.
 - Civil Registry Death Certificates from the Department of San Lorenzo between 1977 and 1983.
 - Civil Registry Death Certificates from the Department of Caseros between 1975 and 1983.

B) Cemetery books from Rosario and its outskirts: San Lorenzo, Granadero Baigorria, Villa Gobernador Gálvez, Ibarlucea, Andino, Serodino, Capitán Bermúdez, and Fray Luis Beltrán. We collected information from N.N. cadaver entries in these cemetery books, favoring those who were recorded as experiencing a violent death.

C) Press articles from local newspapers *La Capital* and *Tribuna* from 1975-1983 that had any information about shootouts and/or the discovery of cadavers.

D) Judiciary files from Federal Courts. The goal was to find claims and investigations brought by organizations and family members in addition to initial cases from 1984, as well as judiciary files in the Provincial Courts that pertain to the discovery of cadavers from 1976-1983. These latter judicial files were the official way to “legalize” the dumping of cadavers belonging to disappeared people.

3. Activities of the Archaeology Team

Under the supervision of EAAF member Miguel Nieva, a team of archaeologists led by Juan Mobile (UNR) and Pedro Mondoni (MMCSL) was in charge of the excavation and investigation of the N.N. or unidentified individuals buried in San Lorenzo Cemetery within judicial file No. 654/02.

The team found at least 34 primary and individual burial sites in its excavations of the northeast corner of the cemetery. Currently, more than a dozen bodies have been recovered, three of which correspond by age and cause of death to the profile of disappeared persons in the 1970s. In early 2005, EAAF completed an anthropological analysis of these remains and is now working to identify them.

4. Activities of the Collective of Ex-Political Prisoners and Survivors (Civil Association)

This group is made up of survivors from the CDCs and ex-political militants from political and guerilla groups such as *Montoneros*, *Juventud Universitaria*

Peronista (JUP), Union de Estudiantes Secundarios (UES), Ejercito Revolucionario del Pueblo (ERP), Partido Revolucionario de los Trabajadores (PRT), etc. Currently, they are working on:

- Compiling a list of the disappeared from Santa Fe Province.
- Conducting interviews with survivors.
- Contacting relatives of disappeared people so that EAAF can interview them and collect pre-mortem data and samples for DNA analysis.
- Creating charts with dates of detention of individuals in the CDCs, his or her affiliations, and dates of kidnapping or detention.

ARHISTA, the Office for Historic Reconstruction of Human Rights, HIJOS, the Mothers and Grandmothers of Plaza de Mayo, and the Municipal Museum of the City of San Lorenzo also assisted and supported the project.

Other work carried out by EAAF

EAAF reviewed the record of the Rosario Judicial Morgue, looking for entries of remains that could correspond to disappeared people. This book is not complete, and it is possible that the majority of the most relevant cases for EAAF's investigation did not go through the Judicial Morgue. In Rosario, from 1976-1983, there were at least four places where bodies could have been deposited, including the Cadet School Morgue for the Provincial Police, the *Gendarmería Morgue*, the Public Assistance Morgue (*Maternidad Martín*) and the Judicial Morgue. The majority of the judicial files that could be related with unidentified bodies from that period was burned by a Supreme Court Justice order in Santa Fe Province in 2002, alleging the need for space in their offices. Today, only photocopies of the Judicial Morgue entry book remain, which EAAF recovered in the "El Salvador" Cemetery along with a few judiciary files about the "discovery" of cadavers.

Most Known CDCs in Santa Fe Province:¹

1. Mayor's Office, Santa Fe City
2. Alejandra, Santa Fe City
3. Ayacucho al 2000, Rosario City (Former Textile Factory)
4. Batallion 121, Rosario City
5. Investigation Brigade of Santa Fe City (Bishop Gelabert and San Martín Streets)
6. Women's Prison, El Tránsito. Santa Fe City
7. Second Command Army Corps - Moreno and Córdoba, Rosario City
8. 11th Precinct, Santa Fe City
9. 4th Precinct, Santa Fe City
10. 7th Precinct, Santa Fe City
11. 13th Precinct, Rosario City
12. 14th Precinct, Rosario City
13. 17th Precinct, Rosario City
14. 24th Precinct, Rosario City
15. 3rd Precinct, Rosario City
16. 6th Precinct, Rosario City
17. El Chalet, Funes
18. El Fortín, Funes
19. Industrial School N° 288 "Osvaldo Magnasco", Rosario City
20. Military Factory for Portable Arms "Domingo Matheu", Rosario City
21. Reinforced Infantry Guard (G.I.R.), Santa Fe City
22. Reconquista Third Aerial Brigade, Reconquista
23. Reconquista Headquarters, Reconquista
24. Reconquista Headquarters, Santa Fe City
25. Santa Fe Headquarters, Santa Fe City
26. La Calamita, Granadero Baigorria
27. La Intermedia, Villa La Ribera
28. Federal Police, Santa Fe City
29. Federal Police, Rosario City
30. Pumas, Vera
31. Fisherton Fifth Operation, Rosario City
32. Fifth Operation, Puerto Gaboto
33. Information Services - URII, Rosario City
34. SIDE, Santa Fe City
35. Second Army Corps House, Villa Gobernador Gálvez

ENDNOTES

1. Snow, C. and M. Bilhurriet, "An Epidemiology of Homicide," Human Rights and Statistics, p.328-363.

Province of Santiago del Estero

On March 15, at the request of Dr. Angel Jesus Toledo, Federal Judge of Santiago del Estero, three members of EAAF traveled to the province of Santiago del Estero with Dr. Luis Bosio, a forensic pathologist and expert witness for the Medical Forensic Institute in the Federal Capital. The objective of the trip was to determine the cause of death of Ms. Consolación Carrizo and assist with the Cecilio Kamenetzky case. On March 16, EAAF exhumed the remains of Consolación Carrizo from the Sumamao Cemetery. On March 17, the team exhumed the remains of Cecilio Kamenetzky from the Misericordia Cemetery.

CONSOLACIÓN CARRIZO

In 2003, Julio Alejandro Carrizo brought a complaint to the Secretary of Human Rights (File Number 9002/03) denouncing Musa Azar, former intelligence chief of the province, for the disappearance and death of his daughter, Consolación Carrizo. On the morning of November 20, 1976 security forces raided the home on 25th of May Street, number 300, in the neighborhood of Centro de Santiago del Estero, where Consolación worked as a domestic employee. The security forces probably suspected that Consolación knew the whereabouts of her boyfriend, Mario Rene Orellana, a *Montonero* militant from the City of Tucuman.

The “official version” about the cause of death is that Consolación “was fatally hurt as a result of a fall when she tried to flee through the back of the house,” producing her death. However, the case has been re-opened, and there is an official claim of her disappearance based on testimonies from survivors, her relatives and their lawyers. They believe that she died from “torture applied in the office of the provincial Intelligence Service (SIDE) on Belgrano and Alsina Avenues in the capital.” Orellana Mario Rene, Consolación’s companion who was kidnapped in the same raid, is one of the witnesses of the conditions of her captivity and ill-treatment.

After two days in SIDE, Consolación was admitted to the Regional Hospital where her sister reported seeing her showing signs of having been beaten. When she died her body was taken to her house, and the authorities ordered her relatives to keep her coffin closed.

Consolación’s father remembers that Musa Azar gave him the jacket that Consolación was wearing when she was kidnapped. Azar, former Police Commissioner (*Comisario General*) and intelligence chief of department D-2 in Santiago del Estero, had close ties with then-governor Carlos Arturo Juárez and was named in 23 of the approximately 60 cases of disappearance included in CONADEP’s report.

Twenty-seven years later, at the request of the Federal Judge in Santiago del Estero, the case was re-opened with the proposal to establish the cause of death of Consolación Carrizo.

EAAF Participation

Three members of EAAF and pathologist Dr. Luis Bosio, a forensic expert from the Medical Legal Institute, conducted the exhumation and study of Consolación Carrizo’s remains at the Judicial Morgue. On March 16, 2004, EAAF went to the Sumamao cemetery, 65 kilometers south of the capital of Santiago del Estero to exhume the remains.

EAAF drew the following conclusions from the laboratory analysis conducted later:

The skeleton recovered corresponded to a female individual with a biological age between 19 and 23 years, and a height between 157 cm and 166 cm, consistent with the ante-mortem information for Consolación Carrizo. The identification was documented by the family at the time; nevertheless, EAAF corroborated the



EAAF member Patricia Bernardi works on the laboratory analysis of remains found in Santiago del Estero. *Photo by EAAF.*

identification based on the information given by the relatives who had seen her just before she died.

Based on the osteological findings in Consolación Carrizo's remains and the circumstantial background information present on her judicial file, EAAF determined that the cause of death was trauma to the skull. Furthermore, the remains also showed thoracic trauma (peri-mortem rib fractures and sternum lesions) but these were not part of the cause of death. We could not determine if these lesions were the result of a fall or if she was beaten.

Kamenetzky Case

Cecilio Kamenetzky was detained and died on August 9, 1976 in a men's prison, when the so called "escape law" was applied, a euphemism to imply that the killing of a prisoner was necessary because he/she was trying to escape or that he/she was killed a few blocks outside the prison when he/she was released. The cause of death is not included in the death certificate in the judicial file; thus, his family requested that EAAF conduct an investigation. On March 17, 2004 EAAF exhumed the grave corresponding to the Bulgarelli family (mother's maiden name).

In the laboratory analysis conducted later, EAAF reached the following conclusions:

The remains recovered correspond to a male individual with an estimated age between 18 and 20 years, with a height between 165 cm and 171 cm, consistent with the ante-mortem information for Cecilio Kamenetzky. The identification was documented by the family at the time of his death; nevertheless, EAAF interviewed his sister to obtain ante-mortem information to corroborate the identification. Regarding cause of death, the osteological findings and ballistic evidence gathered from the body of Cecilio Kamenetzky showed the existence of at least two bullet wounds from an Ithaca semi-automatic shotgun that affected the skull and thorax. The shots entered from the back to the front of his body. EAAF concluded that the cause of death was multiple gunshot wounds.



X-rays help EAAF members determine peri-mortem wounds, which occurred around the time of death, and ante-mortem wounds, which occurred earlier in the individual's life. This evidence helps us identify remains when compared with information from survivors and family members.