



Forensic Genetics, Citizenship and Insecurity in Mexico

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UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (UN, 2015):

- “98 percent of all crimes in the country remain unsolved, with the great majority of them never properly investigated [..]
- 151,233 people killed between December 2006 and August 2015, including thousands of transiting migrants.
- Since 2006, there are at least 27,000 people missing, many believed to be as a result of enforced disappearances... And hardly anyone is convicted for the above crimes”



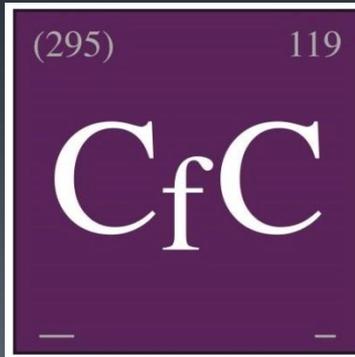
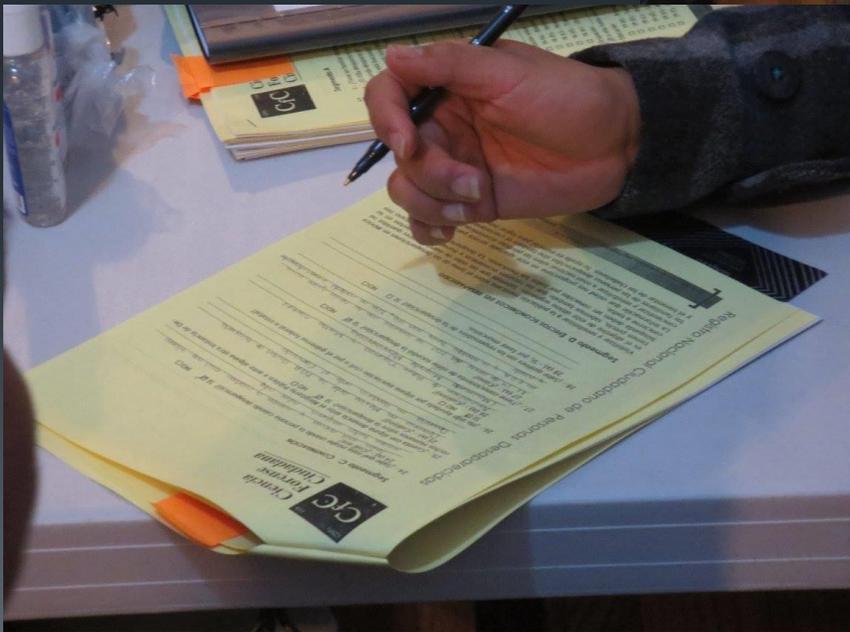
‘Cotton Field’ Case Ciudad Juarez, Mexico

As the EAAF, 2006, report on Mexico reads:

- ... many of the [unidentified] remains from Ciudad Juárez have had previous anthropological and pathological analyses, as well as dental records and genetic studies conducted on them. In some cases, the reports produced by official expert witnesses from one discipline, contained results that contradicted the reports produced by an official expert witness from another discipline working on the same case.
- [...] in some cases, multiple genetic tests conducted on a specific set of remains produced different results—indicating both exclusion from and inclusion to a biological relationship with a given family, thereby contradicting each other. The confusion resulting from these conflicting forensic reports created a lack of trust between families of victims and forensic officials' (EAAF, 2006:05)



‘Citizen-led Forensics’



**Ciencia
Forense
Ciudadana**

Image taken from 'Citizen-led Forensics'



Image taken from *'Citizen-led Forensics'*



‘I’ve known families who have been looking for their loved ones for over forty years... we need to collect the DNA from the biological parents of those who have disappeared, otherwise time is going to play against us ... we are still alive and we need to collect this data to match our DNA, with the DNA of those bodies that are buried all over the country, the country is now a big mass grave...’



‘Emerging Citizen-led Initiatives’

Closing remarks...

- New governance mechanisms for emerging citizen-led DNA Databases
- Security challenges that these databases bring forth, as well as, opportunities to rethink the state's role in governing them
- Responsibility and commitment that these databases create among the communities that made them possible.