



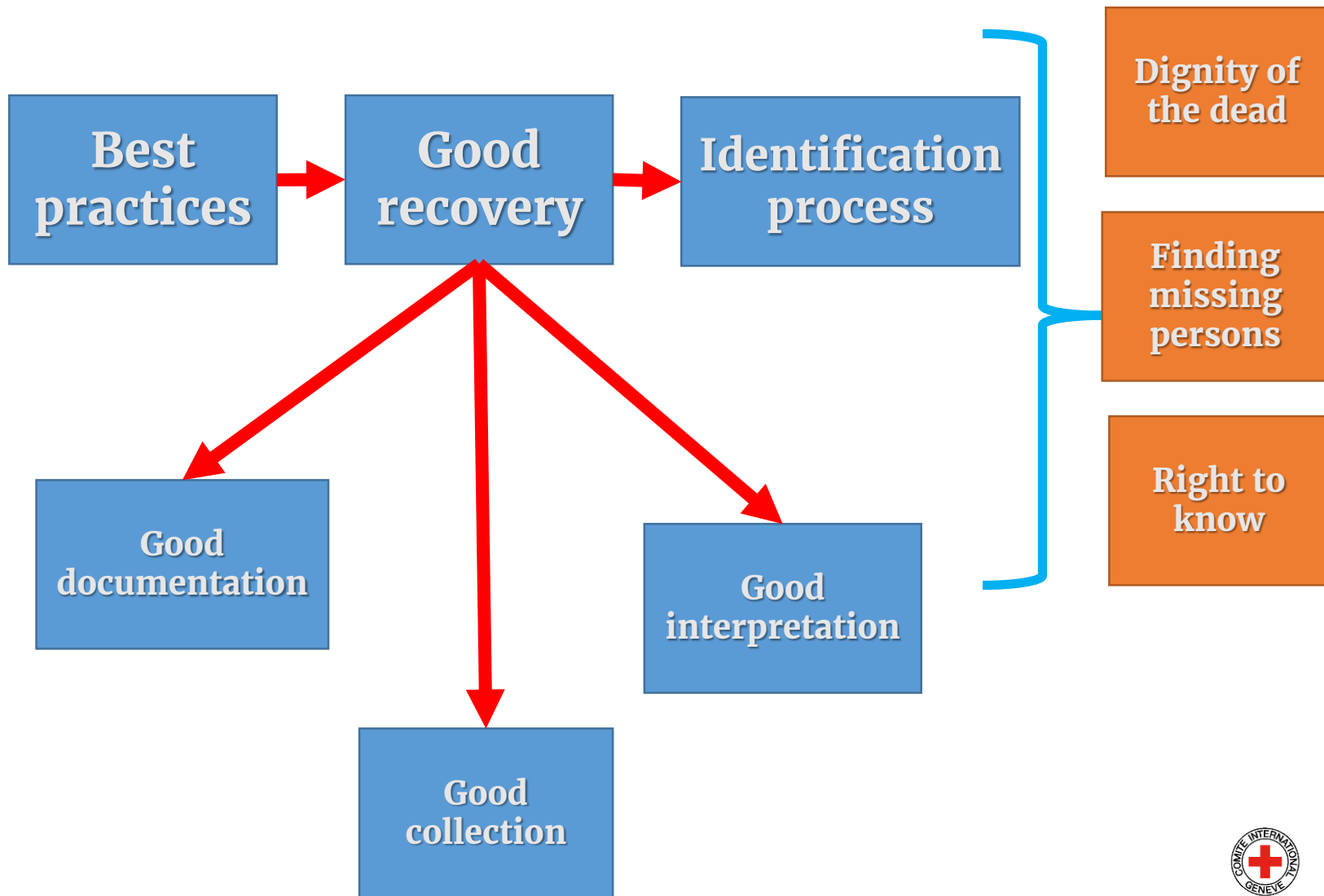
INTRODUCTION TO FORENSIC ARCHAEOLOGY

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Humanitarian need



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The right and need to know

- To know the fate
 - Where?
 - What and how?



30.08.2012. Kathmandu, Nepal. Red cross Society headquarters. Family members of missing persons present the updated list of missing persons published jointly by the ICRC and Nepal Red Cross Society in Nepal. Photographer: Limbu, Deb Raj. Copyright: ICRC



2017. Kathmandu. Families of missing persons pour their concerns and feelings on paper during an event organized to mark the International day of the disappeared. Copyright: ICRC.



06/2012. Bank district, Kohalpur. Commemoration ceremony for missing persons. Families regularly hold events as part of their efforts to find out what happened to missing relatives. Photographer: Shrestha, Natendra. Copyright: ICRC.

Families as protagonists

- Not “data givers” and “bone receivers”.
- Part of the processes.



05.10.2013. Lamjung district, Fedikuna. With the support of the ICRC Hateymalo psychosocial support program, a prayer ceremony is organized for the persons who went missing during the conflict. Photographer: s.n. Copyright: ICRC.



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Memory



30.08.2012. Nepal. Bardia district, Gulatiya. Families of missing persons mark the 29th International Day of the Disappeared. Photographer: Sharma, Vijay. Copyright: ICRC.



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Dignity and care

- To treat the dead with dignity



05.06.2016. On the outskirts of Maiduguri, Muna informal camp for internally displaced persons. Men bury body of a young boy named Abba who died earlier that day. Photographer: Knowles-Coursin, Mackenzie. Copyright: ICRC.



10/2014. Huancasancos. One of the twins blows smoke into his father's cranium as a sign of respect for a last smoke during a family vigil in the house in which his father was murdered. Photographer: Cohen, Nadia Shira. Copyright: ICRC.



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Dignity and care

- Impact of forensic work on the dead



11.03.2015. Ukraine. Donetsk, Donetsk airport. ICRC forensic action. Photographer: Davydova, Olga. Copyright: ICRC.



Baghdad, morgue of the Medico Legal Institute. Forensic anthropologists walk past body bags containing mortal remains. Photographer: Ov, Ed. Copyright: Getty Images/ICRC.



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Mourning and repatriation



08.05.2013. Guatemala. Yalambojoch, near the Guatemala-Mexico border. The community is burying the remains of persons who went missing – or were “disappeared” – during the conflict in the 1980s.. Photographer: Hernandez-Salazar, Daniel. Copyright. ICRC.



14.09.2016. Tbiisi. 17 sets of human remains of persons unaccounted for in relation to the 1992-1993 armed conflict in Abkhazia are handed over to their families.. Photographer: Imedashvili, Aleksander. Copyright. ICRC.



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Mourning and repatriation



01.2009. Ayacucho region, Huamanga province, Huamanga city. Families in the office of the Prosecutor of Huamanga, during the returning of the bodies of identified missing persons. Photographer: Atauje, José.. Copyright. ICRC.



08.2010. Peru. Ayacucho. The bodies of missing persons are restituted to their families by the Institute of forensic medicine. Copyright. ICRC.



08.2009. Peru. Ayacucho region, Huamanga province, Huamanga city. Families in the office of the Prosecutor of Huamanga, during the returning of the bodies of identified missing persons. Photographer: Atauje, José. Copyright. ICRC.



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Places of death



20.06.2010. Kyrgyzstan. Shark village. Fresh graves of Uzbek victims of the recent violence. Photographer: Kokic, Marko.. Copyright. ICRC.



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Best practices

- Knowledge
- Equipment
- Planning



Contextualized

Best possible
practices



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What is Forensic Archaeology?

Contribution from the
Social Sciences to forensic
contexts



03/2009. Peru. Ayacucho region, Huanta province. Huanta city. Experts in forensic medicine from the Fiscalía and the EAPAF exhumating the bodies of the missing persons. Photographer: Atauje, José.. Copyright. ICRC.

Forensic archaeology – theories, methods, perspectives, techniques, paradigms from archaeology to a legal/humanitarian context

Multidisciplinary approach



11/01/2016. Baghdad. The ICRC supports forensic institutions. Photographer: El Hage, Ralph. Copyright. ICRC.



20.06.2017. Falkland/Malvinas Island.. Near Darwin, Argentine military cemetery. The Forensic work continues on the autopsy table where the mortal remains are analysed in-depth. Photographer: Revol, Didier. Copyright. ICRC.



25.06.2014. South of the country, Raska, Rudnica. A human cranium exhumed from a gravesite. Photographer: COHEN, Nadia Shira. Copyright. ICRC.



12.06.1998. Vukovar, Communal grave.. Photographer: Shirley, Clive. Copyright. ICRC.

Stories, things and people



04.05.2010. Kuwait. 15 kilometres from the Iraqi border. Mortal remains exhumation organized by the ICRC. Photographer: Woodget, Nicola. Copyright. British embassy in Kuwait



29.08.2008.. Putis. Exhibition of clother of missing persons found in a mass grave close to the village. Photoprapher: Martos, Dagné. Copyright. ICRC.

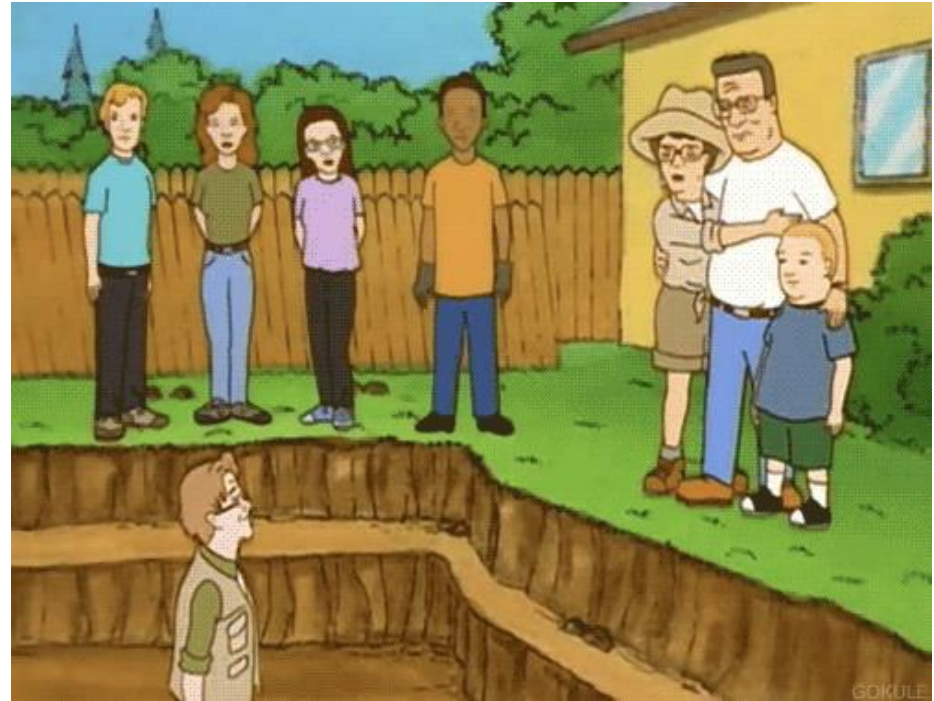


02/2008. Bosnia-Herzegovina. Tuzla. The personal belongings that have been retrieved from persons who have been executed in te hope that family members might through these items be able to identify a missing relative. Photoprapher: Danziger, Nick. Copyright. NB picture for ICRC.

Field work

1. Underestimated:

- Heavy
- Demanding
- Stressful
- Monotonous
- Long
- Dangerous



Non specialists, people want to leave, but they cant

2. Huge importance

- Starting point
- Face of project
- Build/ruin the relation with community and families
- Preserve/destroy evidences
- Allow/compromise whole conclusion and interpretation
- Straight relation with planning and costs



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Basic concepts for proper recovery



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Context

- Place where and how things were found, in relation to soil, layer, features.



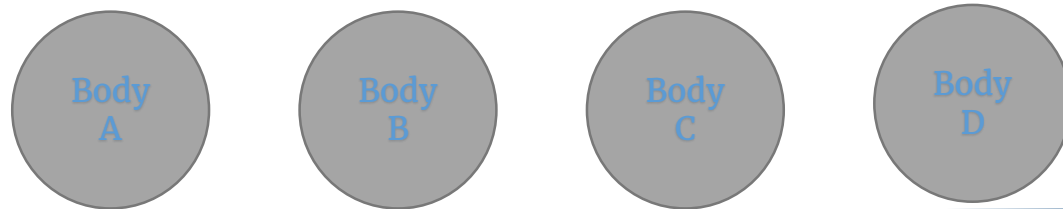
Somaliland. Photo: EPAF, 2016.



30.07.2013. Sukhum(i).. Laboratory, human remains awaiting analysis. Photographer: De Viguerie, Veronique. Copyright. ICRC.



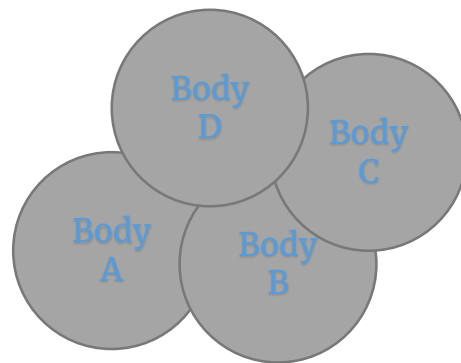
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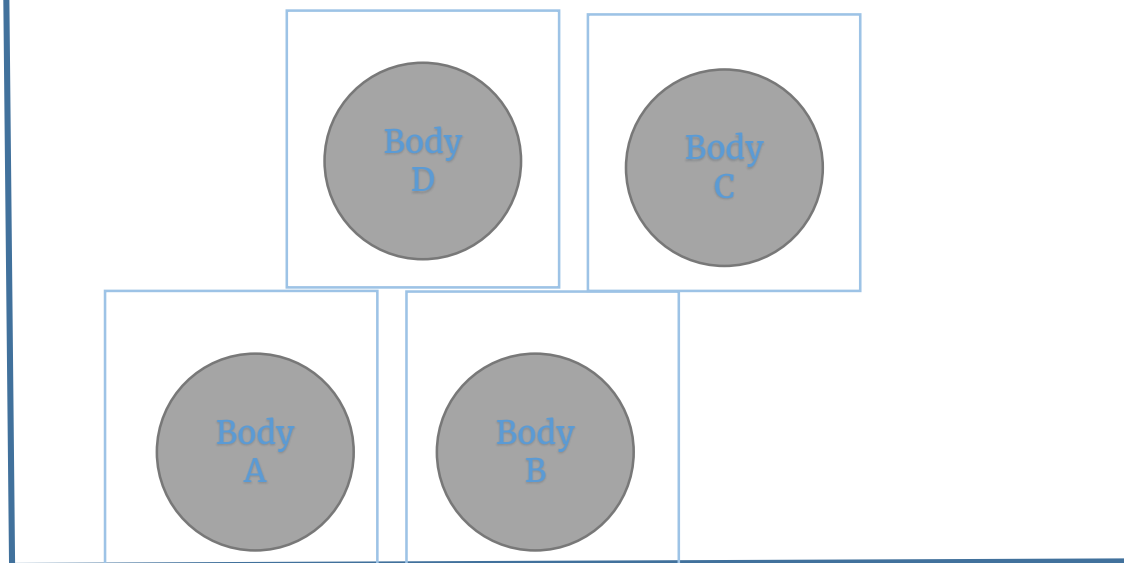
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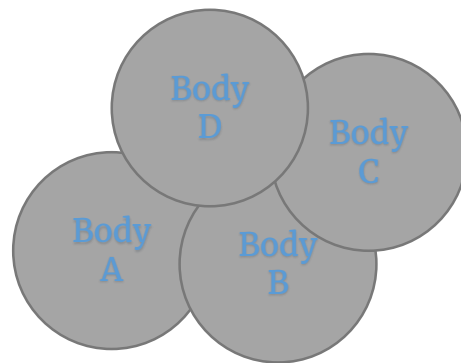
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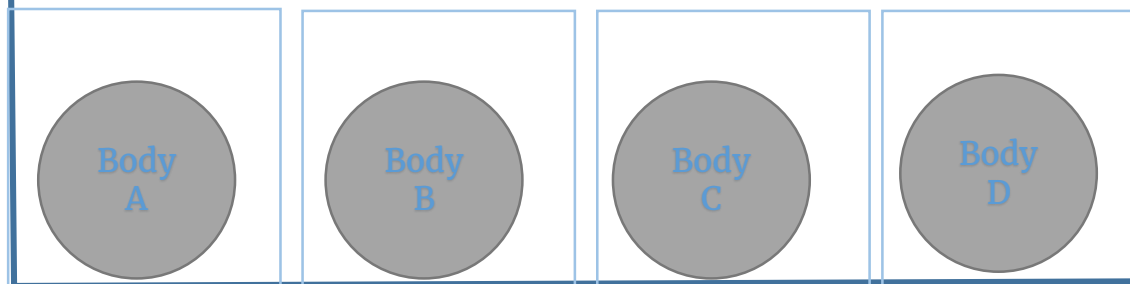
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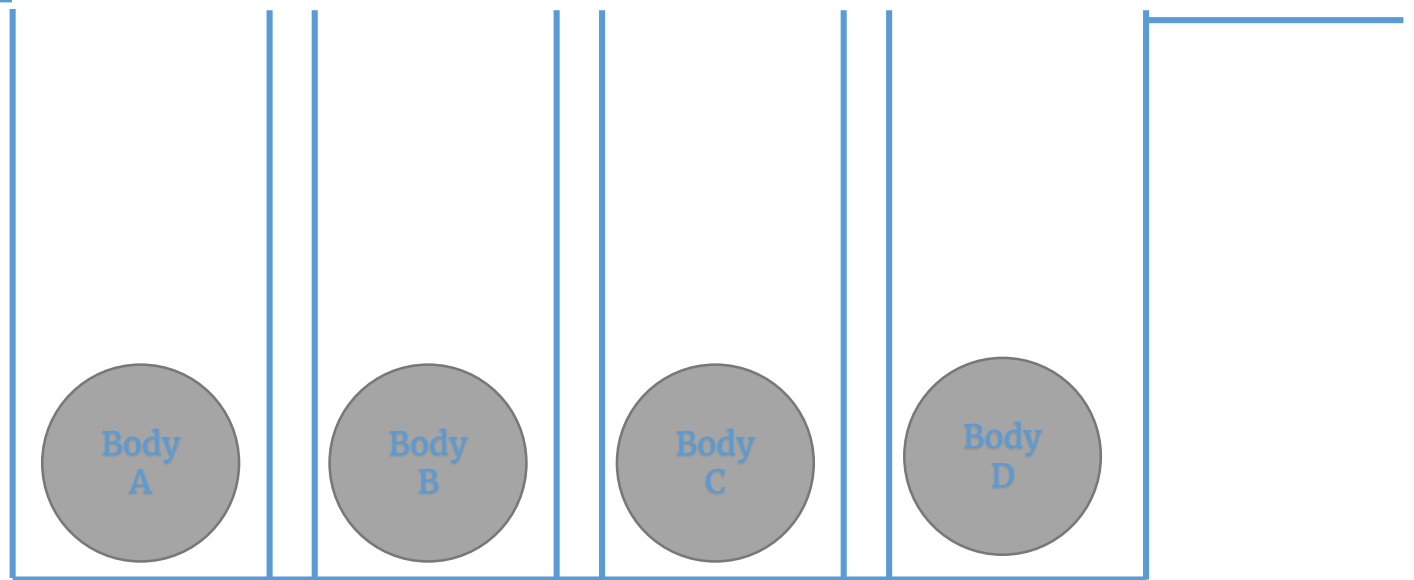
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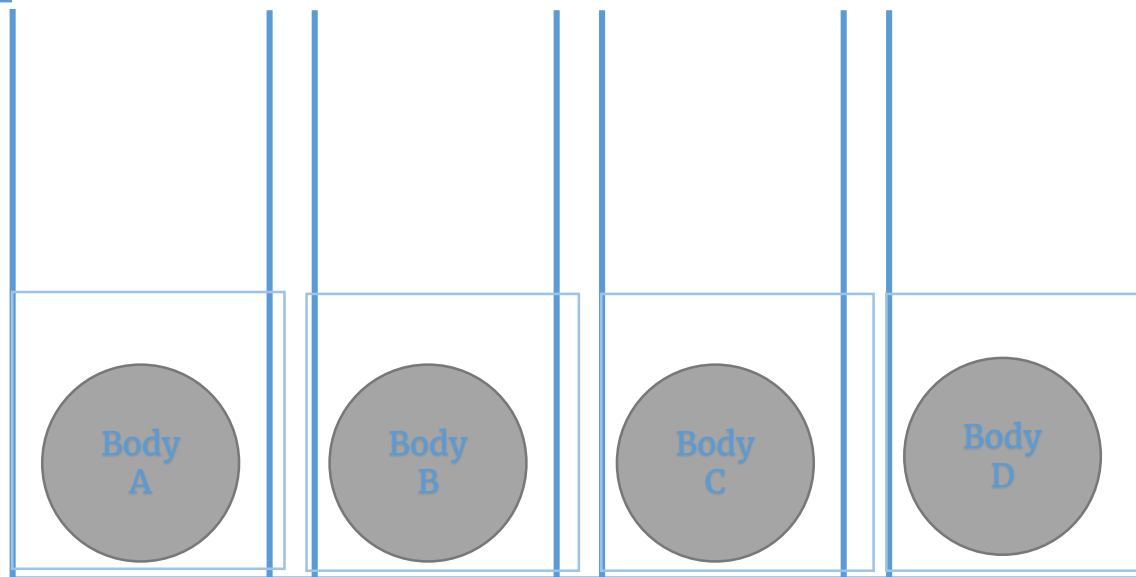
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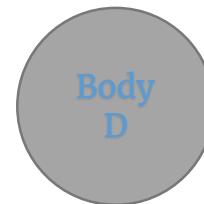
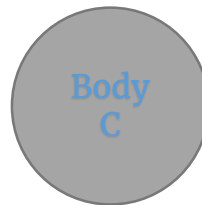
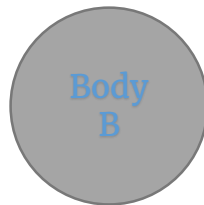
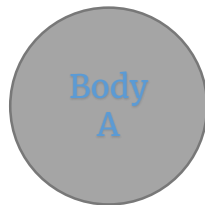
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No context = less information = less chances to find someone



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Surrounding context

- Respecting the place
 - E.g.: cemeteries



18.06.2017. Falkland/Malvinas Islands. Near Darwin. Argentine military cemetery. ICRC Forensic logisticians mark all graves to identify and precisely document those hosting unidentified soldiers. Photographer: Revol, Didier. Copyright: ICRC.

19.10.2016. Evros, Orestiada. ICRC forensic specialists are mapping graves in order to ensure the traceability of the bodies.. Photographer: Couvaris, Costas. Copyright: ICRC.



Destruction

- Excavation is a destructive process

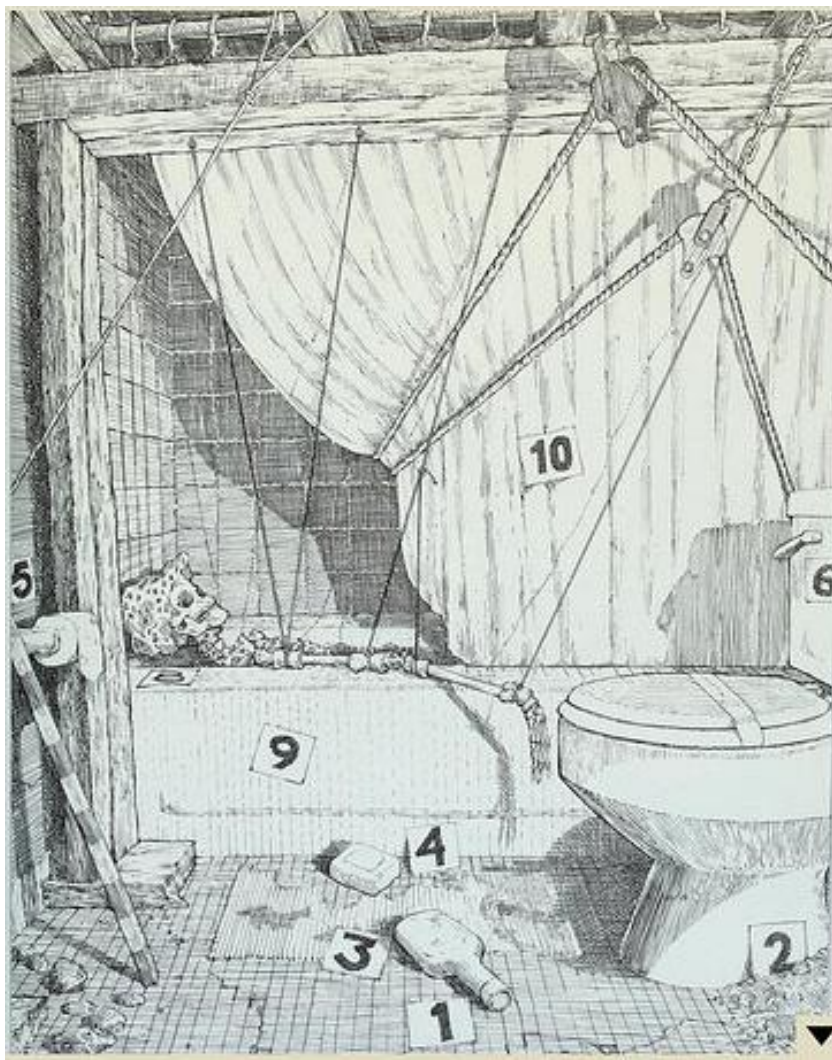


11/2009. Iraq. Governorate of Basra and Nasirya. Exhumation of bodies of people missing in connection with the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war and the 1990-1991 Gulf war. Photographer: s.n.. Copyright: ICRC.



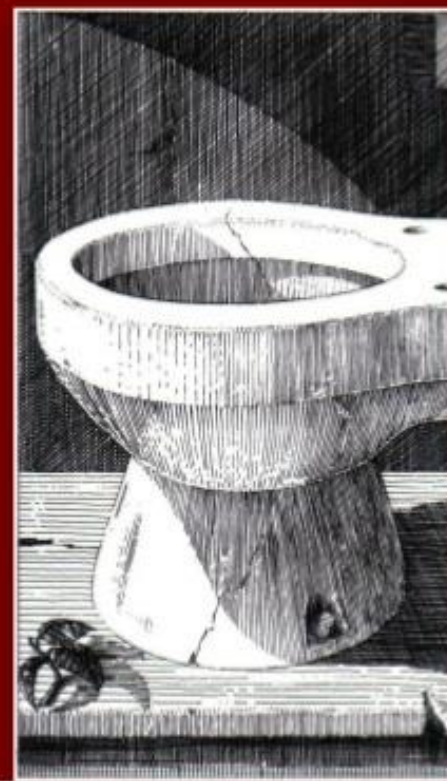
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Documentation and interpretation



Motel dos Misterios, 1970,

The Sacred Urn



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Identification

- Giving identity back
 - What happened during ones life?
- Proper recovery and management of remains:
 - Maximize chances of identification through:
 - collection of information.
 - preservation of remains and data.



08.05.2013. Guatemala. Yalambojoch, near Guatemala-Mexico border. The community is burying the remains of persons who went missing during the conflict. Photographer: Hernandez-Salazar, Daniel.. Copyright. ICRC.



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