

A large, white, three-dimensional triangle is centered on the page. Inside the triangle is a photograph of a man wearing a white shirt and a cap, crouching down and working on a stone or rock surface. The background of the triangle shows a rocky, outdoor environment with some greenery and a small fire at the base.

# uncover

May 2024 | Vol 1 | Issue 3

Dear Lucy,

Welcome to our 3rd issue of Friends of FAFG's newsletter: *Uncover*. There is lots to report as this year is moving fast!

- FAFG and Friends of FAFG supported the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP) and the Search Unit for Disappeared Persons (UBPD) with 2 successful forensic interventions in Colombia.
- In Guatemala, since April 5th, 2024, the Lucas García genocide trial has been ongoing. Several FAFG staff have provided expert testimony during the trial.
- FAFG and Friends of FAFG welcomed the first cohort of 14 participants to the inaugural Global Forensic Academy to Guatemala City in early May. After an intensive two-weeks, they departed to their homes to lead small projects with a seed grant. We thank each participant for their energy, commitment, and willingness to learn!

Finally, donations are **essential** to the operations and institutional security of the FAFG and Friends of FAFG. One of our financial goals this year is to double our recurring donors. Click the link below to easily add your recurring donation to support the application of forensic sciences to search for and identify Disappeared loved ones.

Thanks to everyone for reading this far! Our inbox is always open, feel free to reach out if you would like further information about Friends of FAFG's role and impact.

Sincerely,  
**Friends of FAFG**

[Donate today!](#)

# Friends of FAFG Updates and News



## The Lucas García Trial

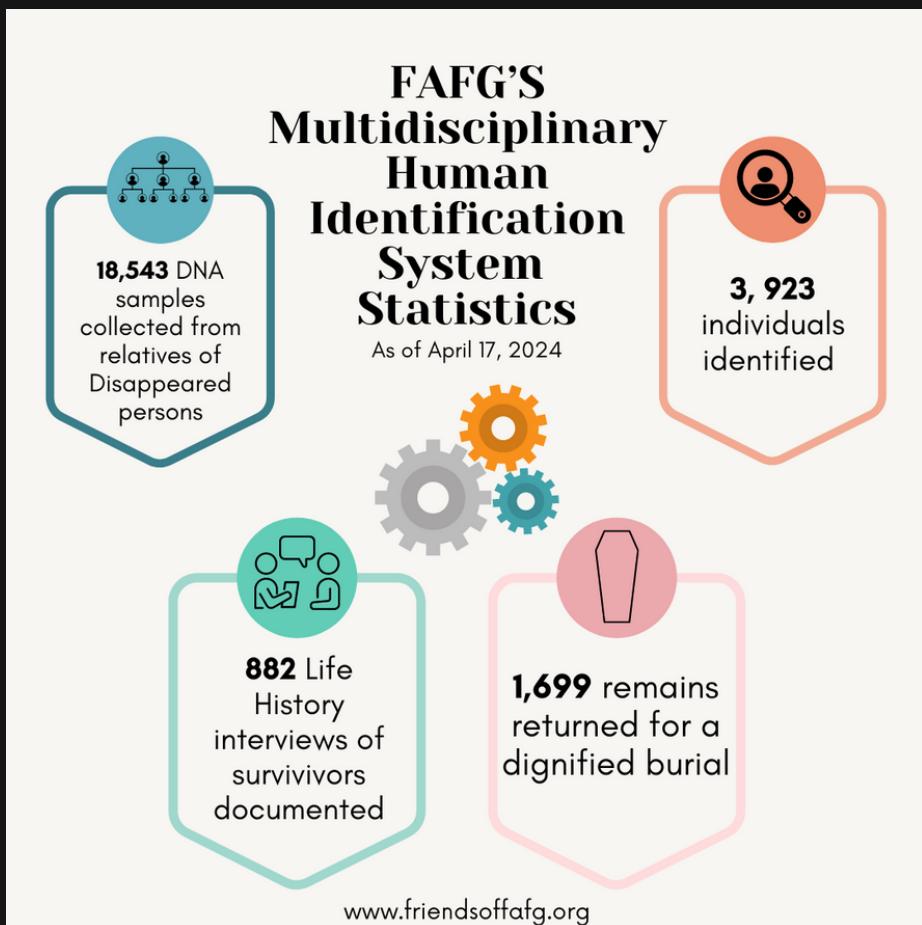
The former head of the Guatemala Army, Manuel Benedicto Lucas García, is on trial for genocide, crimes against humanity, enforced disappearances, and sexual violence against the Maya Ixil people.

Board Director Jo-Marie Burt explained the historic significance of the Lucas García trial to CNN.

Many FAFG forensic experts have been or will be called to testify over the course of the trial, as well as over 150 witnesses and 30 survivors of sexual violence.

[CNN Article](#)

## FAFG by the Numbers



## Forensic Assistance for the Disappeared in Colombia

There has been lots of progress in Colombia! Two exhumations are under way to ultimately dignify the Disappeared. Friends of FAFG and FAFG continue to provide technical guidance, offer forensic strategies, and accompany forensic processes in Colombia. Shown to the right is a well in Barrancabermeja, CO that is being excavated. FAFG, with technical experience in well exhumations, is accompanying the UBPD during the excavation. 2 bodies recovered from the well.



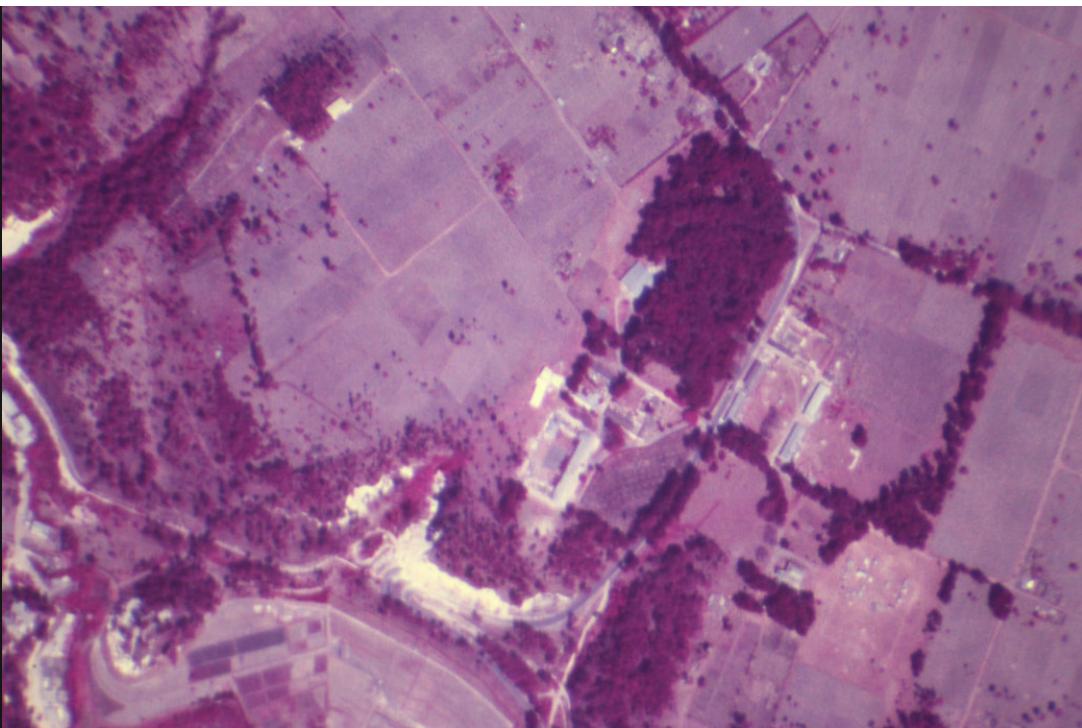


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## Forensics for Truth, Justice, and Memorialization

Using over 40-year old Cold War era declassified satellite imagery, FAFG's Innovative Technologies Unit will work to analyze ground cover change to identify potential sites of mass graves in Guatemala. A Friends of FAFG researcher visited the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) to photograph satellite imagery recorded by the CIA in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Note the level of detail from a 1976 film satellite image of Chimaltenango, Guatemala.





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## Global Forensic Academy

"Two takeaways from the Global Forensic Academy:

- 1) Break the Silence and 2) Truth Comes from the Ground."

-Misty, Task Force Detainees of the Philippines (TFDP)



On May 16th, the first cohort of the Global Forensic Academy finished their 2-week immersive training in FAFG's family-led multidisciplinary approach to Human Identification in Guatemala City. The Academy welcomed 14 participants from Africa, Asia, and Middle East. Click to [see the countries represented!](#) Participants witnessed firsthand the work of

FAFG: staff opened the doors to their Genetics and forensic

anthropology labs, and even created a practice excavation and exhumation. Participants learned to center families' of victims needs while developing victim documentation, psychosocial support, and investigation processes.

The Global Forensic Academy, supported by Friends of FAFG, is a new iteration of previous 5 Forensic Academies.





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## In the News



Click the link below to watch  
Guatemalan genocide survivors'  
Life histories on the USC Shoah  
Foundation visual history Archive.

[Visual History Archive](#)



Article about FAFG's accompaniment of the JEP's  
forensic intervention in Samaná, CO

[Article](#)



A popular Guatemalan TikToker made a video about the important work of the FAFG. Click below to watch!

[Video](#)



FAFG Forensic experts visited Raqqa, Syria to meet with the Missing persons identifications team and visit mass graves

[Article](#)

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