



Friends of FAFG

Uncover the truth



u n c o v e r

July 2024 | Vol 1 | Issue 4

Dear Lucy,

Welcome to our 4th issue of Friends of FAFG's newsletter:
Uncover.

We are over halfway through 2024. Can you believe it?

With so many devastating crises ongoing, it is important to center responses around the needs and right to truth of survivors, victims, and victims' families.

Friends of FAFG does just this: the FAFG's Multidisciplinary Human Identification System, a multi-faceted approach that incorporates forensic, communication, and data-driven strategies to human identification, is led by victims' families and associations.

Below, find out about our multilevel work that includes support to state institutions to improve their procedures, and facilitates workshops for victims' families so they understand and build awareness of the complex forensic processes crucial to human identification.

Join us in the search for the Disappeared today by donating below!

Thank you so much for reading.

Sincerely,
Friends of FAFG

Friends of FAFG Updates and News



Get some new threads!

Donate \$100 or more, provide your address (only shipping to US), and a note saying "T-shirt please and preferred unisex size (S, M, L, XL)" and we'll send you a T-shirt while supplies last!

There is a 1 t-shirt per donation limit.

[Donate today!](#)



Meeting with Ambassador-at-Large for Global Criminal Justice Beth Van Schaack in mid-June

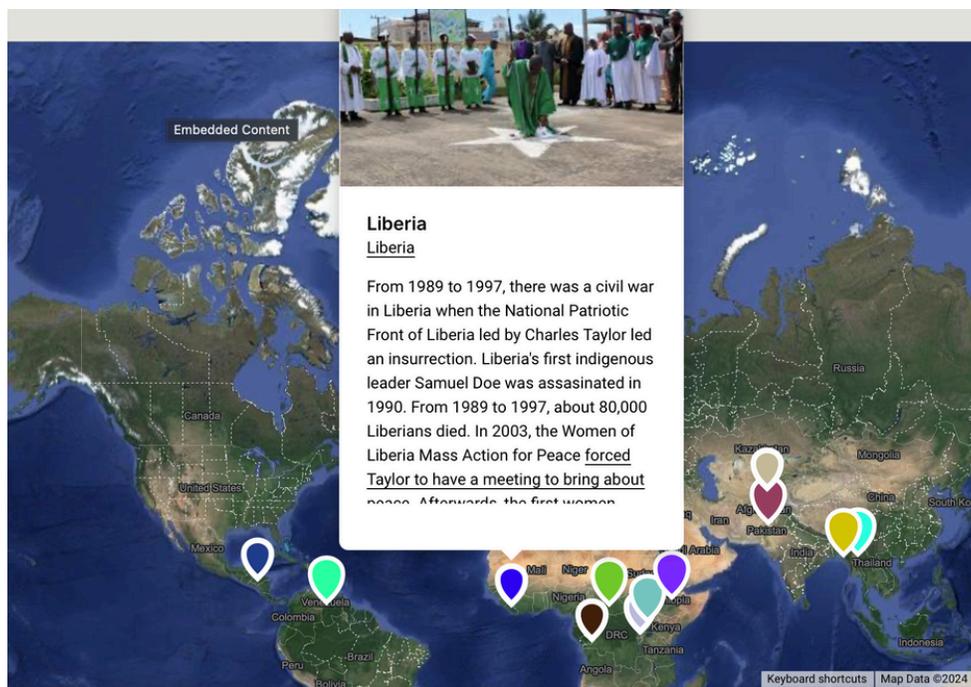
FAFG directors joined Friends of FAFG for meetings in downtown D.C. to discuss joint work and future plans to search for Disappeared loved ones across the world.

[Link](#)

Join Friends of FAFG Telegram channel for news and updates

The private Telegram channel **Uncover the Truth** will provide news and updates about enforced disappearances that Friends of FAFG staff are following. Stay in the know with us!

[Link to join](#)



Check out the new updates to the Map of Enforced Disappearance.

[Map](#)

Capacity-building

Held Archive Management, Forensic archaeology and anthropology trainings for CSOs

Facilitated exchange between Colombian institutions and Human Identification Center - Jalisco (CIHJ)

Held bone trauma workshop with technical forensic teams



Evaluation and Assessment

Evaluation of processes, staff, and physical layout of future laboratory solely focused on cases from the Armed Conflict

Recommendations to implement massive sample processing and comparison in said laboratory



Friends of FAFG Multilevel Support to Colombian Search Institutions and CSOs

Technical Accompaniment

Expert accompaniment to recoveries of remains in complex contexts ie: wells, commingled remains in an ossuary

Best practices for data and evidence management

Future development of dignified spaces to safe keep remains



Expert Advice

Consistent revision of Forensic Standards for Human Identification

Provided advice about data storage of potential clandestine graves

Provided advice about facilitating collaboration with victims and victims' families to create memorials

Proposed independent human identification center



Learn more at:

WWW.FRIENDSOFFAFG.ORG

Forensics for Truth, Justice, and Memorialization

At the San Juan Comalapa Paisajes de la Memoria memorial, people gathered to celebrate the National Day Against Enforced Disappearance, June 21, and the 6th anniversary the Memorial. Comalapa families, families from surrounding communities, victims' relatives, and representatives from the Presidential Commission for Peace and Human Rights (COPADEH) listened to poetry readings and marimba music, learned about the history of the memorial, and saw the virtual exhibition "*Habitar los Archivos*" (Inhabit the Archives).





Building Trust in Forensic Processes with Mexican CSOs

An inter-institutional workshop held in May in Guatemala brought together Mexican search collectives and organizations from the states of Jalisco, Coahuila, and México. During the workshop, participants had the opportunity to practice reference sample taking, visit the FAFG forensic genetics and anthropology laboratories, and visit the San Juan Comalapa Memorial for Victims of Enforced Disappearance. At the end of the workshop, participants shared they more deeply understood the forensic processes crucial to human identification and are more willing to engage with their local centers.



Global Forensic Academy

We are preparing for the arrival of the second cohort of the Global Forensic Academy 2024. Click to [see the countries represented](#) in the second cohort!



In the News



FAFG's Director of International Programs in MX and El Salvador was interviewed for a *New Yorker* article about human identification in Mexico

Article



Important answers to important questions provided by SJAC about the power of DNA to identify a Missing person.

Article



Lucas-García Genocide Trial Updates:

Multiple FAFG experts have been providing testimony for the duration of the trial. See the NISGUA trial monitoring articles for more info.

[Updates](#)



Former Syrian government official during Assad regime arrested by DOJ in Los Angeles with the help of partner organization Syria Justice and Accountability Center (SJAC)

[Article](#)

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