

**DNA IDENTIFICATION OF THE 15 VICTIMS OF THE 'DECEMBER MURDERS' IN SURINAM**

**Arnoud J. Kal<sup>1</sup>, Rene H.P. Mieremet<sup>2</sup>, Carla J. Bruijning - van Dongen<sup>1</sup>, Ate D. Kloosterman<sup>1</sup> and Peter de Knijff<sup>2</sup>**

*<sup>1</sup>Netherlands Forensic Institute, Department of Biology, The Netherlands*

*<sup>2</sup>Forensic Laboratory for DNA-Research, Department of Human Genetics, Leiden University, The Netherlands*

---

On December 8, 1982, fifteen civilian opponents of the military regime in Surinam were executed at Fort Zeelandia. Five days later, the victims were buried. Eighteen years went by before in 2000, the Surinam Court of Justice ordered an investigation. The Netherlands Forensic Institute was requested for assistance. In 2002 the graves were opened and investigated by the Surinam authorities assisted by a forensic team of the Netherlands Forensic Institute. This presentation will discuss how the DNA identification of the victims was performed using new techniques for retrieval of DNA from bones and teeth. Through autosomal and Y chromosomal DNA analysis and kinship analysis, all fifteen victims were identified.