

# WOMEN VICTIMS OF FORCED DISAPPEARANCE IN COLOMBIA

Natalia Alzate De león

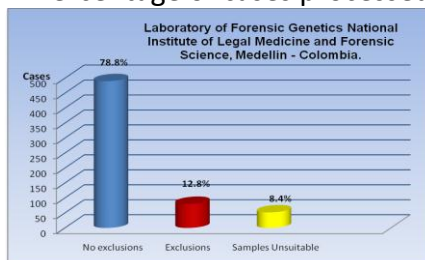
Instituto Nacional de Medicina Legal y ciencias Forenses. Medellín – Colombia

Abstract: The Justice and Peace Law was created to respond to the armed conflict in Colombia. Its goal is the demobilization of the members of armed groups operating outside of the law and the reparation of their victims. The conflict has left thousands of victims, men mostly, and affected family members, but according to the data collected there is an increasing number of missing women. This study was conducted at the Laboratory of Forensic Genetics of the National Institute of Legal Medicine and Forensic Sciences in Medellin, Colombia, and concerns a series of statistical information about the missing and their relatives from the cases processed there. The Justice and Peace Law attempts to benefit the victims by examining their rights in the administration of justice and providing them with the truth, protective measures and their right to remembrance and justice. Its intention is that the research will lead to the identification, capture and punishment of the perpetrators. Additionally, victims should have the ability to access effective remedies that will repair the damages.

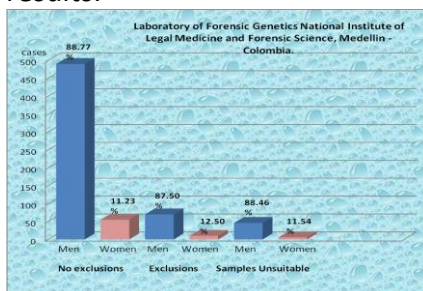
Methods: Currently, the Laboratory of Forensic Genetics of the National Institute of Legal Medicine and Forensic Sciences in Medellin, Colombia, has a database with all of the cases identifies and compiles information about the victims and their families. This database has been in place since 2007 and is regularly updated with information related to their genetic profiles. The information used for this work corresponds to 622 identification cases it processed between October 2007 and May 2010. This is a retrospective descriptive study and the variables analyzed are quantitative and were analyzed using histograms.

## Results:

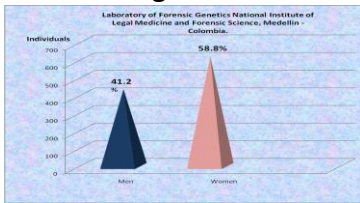
### 1. Percentage of cases processed according to the results



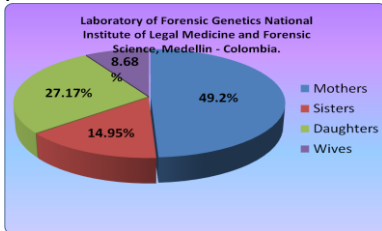
### 2. Percentage of men and women missing in the cases processed according to the results.



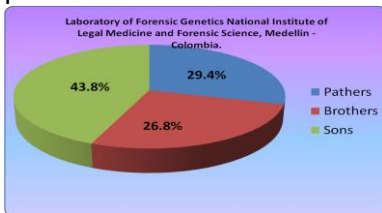
### 3. Percentage of men and women relatives of missing cases processed



### 4. Percentage discriminating between the kinship of women relatives of missing cases processed



### 5. Percentage discriminating between the kinship of men relatives of missing cases processed



**Conclusion:** Forced disappearances have affected women greatly as a group. And this finding is supported by the data collected as part of the identification work conducted by the Laboratory of Forensic Genetics of the National Institute of Legal Medicine and Forensic Sciences in Medellin, Colombia. Since 11.23% of the identifications were women as well, 58.8% of relatives of the missing are women, where mothers have the highest percentage.

#### References:

- 1.) Oriente: Memoria Desenterrada. Un camino para identificar personas desaparecidas en el conflicto armado en el oriente Antioqueño. Observatorio de Paz y Reconciliación Del Oriente Antioqueño. Diciembre de 2008.
- 2.) Esquema Ley 975 de Justicia y Paz. Alto Comisionado para la paz.
- 3.) Observatorio Internacional DDR – Ley de Justicia y Paz. Informe Primera fase, Diciembre de 2008.
- 4.) Informe: Instrumentos de lucha contra la desaparición forzada. Comisión de búsqueda de personas Desaparecidas.
- 5.) Decreto 1290 Ministerio de educación Nacional.
- 6.) INFORME DE ICMP: *RESPUESTA DE COLOMBIA A LAS DESAPARICIONES FORZADAS Panorama general y recomendaciones*