

ICMP ASSISTANCE TO CHILE TO HELP ACCOUNT FOR PERSONS MISSING FROM THE PERIOD OF MILITARY RULE

For almost two decades, the International Commission on Missing Persons (ICMP) has worked with the authorities in Chile to help relevant institutions address the issue of persons missing from the period of military rule.

ICMP participated in the work of the Presidential Advisory Commission on Human Rights established in May 2006 to improve the pace and efficiency of work on resolving cases.

Chile signed the Agreement on the Status and Functions of the International Commission on Missing Persons in December 2015 and ratified the Agreement in 2018.

In June 2008, ICMP signed an agreement with Chile to provide technical assistance in identifying victims of enforced disappearance.

ICMP's DNA Laboratories have been working with the Servicio Medico Legal (SML) since 2009, providing DNA Short Tandem Repeat (STR) profiling of reference and post-mortem (PM) exhibits, while also offering technical advice on DNA matching. The agreement with the SML has been successively renewed, most recently in June 2023.



Photo credit: Ivan Alvarado/Reuters

DNA SUBMISSION

ICMP's DNA Laboratories have profiled:



2,591

Reference Samples



1,098

Missing Persons



439

Post Mortem Samples



50 of which are currently being tested.

To date, ICMP has a DNA STR profiling success rate of **72% for post mortem exhibits from Chile**.

DNA REPORTS

ICMP's DNA Laboratories Team has provided extensive assistance with profile comparison and match reporting, issuing **93 DNA reports** relating to Chilean submissions:

- **54** relate to new identifications
- **32** were re-association reports
- **7** reported on presumptive identifications

POSSIBILITIES FOR ENHANCED ICMP ASSISTANCE

→ The National Search Plan announced in August 2023 by President Gabriel Boric addresses strategic objectives, to find and identify those who have disappeared, to establish the circumstances of disappearance, and to bring justice to families. This will require:

- Significantly increased coordination among institutions that have, to a greater or lesser degree, a role in the missing persons process;
- Placing of all information related to missing persons cases in a unified data depository that enables secure storage and authorized sharing of information;
- Application of the latest forensic DNA testing standards and technologies to make reliable identifications; and
- Empowerment of families of the missing so that they can make a meaningful contribution to the process.

→ ICMP has a record of working effectively with Chilean institutions and proposes to build on this by:

- Providing stakeholders in Chile with input on institutional and legislative provisions that will sustain a long-term process. (The experience of other countries shows that establishing a single missing persons institution with responsibility for the overall process can deliver success);
- Providing access to ICMP's Spanish-language Integrated Data Management System (iDMS) to support and accelerate efforts by Chilean institutions to consolidate information on missing persons cases so that it can be used in an effective way;
- Providing DNA STR profiling and Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) training to ICMP staff, increasing capacity and resilience of DNA testing resources working on behalf of Chilean institutions at ICMP's Headquarters; and
- Providing training to families of the missing so that they can develop partnerships with Chilean institutions and reach the common objective of securing truth, justice and reparations.



About ICMP

ICMP is a treaty-based intergovernmental organization with Headquarters in The Hague, the Netherlands. Its mandate is to secure the cooperation of governments and others in locating missing persons from conflict, human rights abuses, disasters and other causes and to assist them in doing so.

ICMP's Syria/MENA Program draws on almost 30 years of experience in more than 40 countries. ICMP builds partnerships with families of the missing, civil society organizations, governments and other international organizations; it supports legislative and institutional initiatives and develops the capacity of stakeholders to address the issue of missing persons, and, through training and technical assistance, it enables large-scale location and identification of missing persons through advanced databased technology and forensic science.