



**DRAFT 1.0 FOR INTERNAL REVIEW ONLY.**

## **International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS), Initiative on Forensic Geology (IFG)**

### **Potential Information for IUGS E-Bulletin**

#### **Submission for August 2020**

Each month IUGS requests a couple of headlines for potential inclusion in the IUGS E-Bulletin, for global circulation to about 16,000 members, in approximately 122 countries. The proposed IFG items for inclusion in August 2020 are as follows:

#### **IFG Commences a 'Special Project' on Crimes in Minerals, Mining and Metals**

The Initiative on Forensic Geology (IFG) has started a 'Special Project', which has been awarded by IUGS and will focus on the '*Forensic Geological Analysis of Crimes in International Mining, Minerals and Metals*'. Civilisation could not exist, as we know it, without the minerals upon which it relies. However, there is a global growing crime problem. Mining-related crime includes, but is not restricted to: (i) illegal mining beyond regulatory control, (ii) fraud, (iii) theft, (iii) adulteration of mineral concentrates or processed metals, (iv) the substitution of samples ahead of assaying, (v) the mining and trading of conflict minerals, (vi) mineral smuggling and (vii) fakery. The scale of such criminal activity is at present poorly documented, but is suspected to take place around the world and is linked to serious and organised crime cartels, terrorist organisations and some political regimes. As a result, mining crime, can directly or indirectly affect many parts of society. The project will last for two years and aims to report its findings in 'Episodes'. If you would like further information about the Special Project, or would like to contribute to it, please contact Laurance Donnelly ([geologist@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:geologist@hotmail.co.uk)) or Duncan Pirrie ([duncan.pirrie@southwales.ac.uk](mailto:duncan.pirrie@southwales.ac.uk)). We are particularly interested in hearing from geologists working in the global mining and minerals industry.

#### **Forensic Geology Training, International Commission on Missing Persons (ICMP), Bogota, Colombia**

IUGS-IFG provided training in forensic geology with the ICMP in Bogota, Colombia. This included an introduction to forensic geology, the collection and analysis of geological trace evidence (soils, minerals, rocks and fossils) and anthropogenic materials. Training in search was provided based on the development of a conceptual geological model (CGM). Field training in Colombia included the use remote sensing, aerial photography, geomorphology and geophysics. Care was taken to avoid areas where there were suspected antipersonnel mines. A simulated grave using a pig, within the campus of the Antonio Nariño University, gave the opportunity for the search strategy and geophysical instruments to be demonstrated. Operational cases were referenced of searches for missing persons people in Colombia including the positive results obtained at a cemetery in Granada, Meta, in Colombia.

#### **Establishment of a Forensic Geology Sub-Group in Brazil**

A sub-group on forensic geology (known as the 'Student Chapter') has been established in Brazil by students to create an academic network for the development of forensic geology. This is supported and endorsed by IUGS-IFG. Further information can be found on the web site link: [Geoforenses.com](http://Geoforenses.com). The 1<sup>st</sup> Brazilian Geoforensic Webinar and Virtual Workshop be held from 30 November to 4 December 2020, called '*Exploring Advances in Forensic Geoscience*'. This will be supported by IFG including the delivery of key presentations.

#### **Geological Society of London (GSL) Forensic Geoscience Group (FGG) Webinar, December 2020**

GSL-FGG plans to host a joint two-day meeting on forensic geology, with the GSL Near Surface Geophysics Group (NSGG) and in collaboration with IUGS-IFG, on 1-2 December 2021, which will include webinar facilities.



Illegal, artisanal mining in Colombia (Photos: Dr Laurance Donnelly)



Geophysical prospecting with electric tomography, as part of training delivered by IUGS-IFG in Colombia, with the International Commission for Missing Persons (ICMP), a simulated grave using a pig (Photo: Carlos Molina Gallego) and finding of victims of the armed conflict in a cemetery. ([www.fiscalia.gov.co](http://www.fiscalia.gov.co))



UniBH IFG STUDENT CHAPTER

Logos associated with the Brazilian Sub-Group on Forensic Geology, associated with IUGS-IFG (The Student Chapter)



## Novos Student Chapters da IFG!

Atualizado: Jul 27

A partir de agora, estudantes de Graduação e Pós-Graduação em áreas das Geociências podem se unir para criar os novos Student Chapters da Initiative on Forensic Geology (IFG)!



*Curso de Geologia Forense e Microvestígios organizado pela IFG Brasil em parceria com a Academia Nacional de Polícia.*

Extract from the website [Geoforens.com](http://Geoforens.com) (The Brazilian Sub-Group on Forensic Geology, associated with IUGS-IFG (The Student Chapter))



# 1<sup>st</sup> Brazilian Geoforensic Virtual Workshop

11/30 - 12/04

*Exploring  
advances  
in Forensic  
Geosciences*

It is with great honor and joy that we announce the **1<sup>st</sup> Brazilian Geoforensic Virtual Workshop**, which will take place between November 30th and December 4th, 2020, in a complete online environment.

Supported by the Initiative on Forensic Geology (IUGS-IFG), the meeting will gather national and worldwide forensic geoscientists that plays a major role on their fields of expertise. The goal is to set forth the latest achievements and advancements on Soil Forensics, Forensic Geophysics, Environmental Forensics, Forensic Ecology, Forensic GIS, and Forensic Isotopes.

The webinar will held lectures and short courses designed for academics and professionals that aims to improve their knowledge on the subject. Save the date and be our guest on the 1<sup>st</sup> Brazilian Geoforensic Virtual Workshop!

#### ORGANIZATION



#### NGO TO DONATE



#### SUPPORT



Extract from flier on the 1<sup>st</sup> Brazilian Geoforensic Webinar and Virtual Workshop be held from 30 November to 4 December 2020