

# *Colombian Experts and Teachers Facilitate Search for Disappeared*

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The idea is to promote a campaign for the relatives of those persons of unknown fate to contribute to collect genetic samples needed in the procedures of identification, explained Eduardo Valdes, the Director of the IML.

"We need the held and consent of close relatives to advance in those missions; therefore, the educational effort oriented to that priority is essential.

According to registers of the National Unity of Attention to Victims, some 45,000 persons were targets of forced disappearance in the context of the internal war while other estimates consider over 80,000 are being claimed by their relatives.

The Government and the insurgent Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia-People's Army (FARC-EP) signed recently a pact to track the people disappeared in over half a century of conflict.

The agreement includes the exchange of information between and deepened investigations in cemeteries to search for the disappeared.

Since 2012, the parties have been in talks in Havana to find a negotiated solution to the conflict, which has caused the deaths of some 300,000 people and direct damages to over six million persons.

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