

IDENTIFYING THE MISSING PEOPLE IN CYPRUS: A MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACH FOR RESOLVING COMPLEX CASES

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The Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus (CMP) is a bi-communal body established in 1981 by an agreement between the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities, under the auspices of the United Nations, to determine the fate of 2002 Cypriots reported missing due to the inter-communal conflict in 1963-64 and the events of 1974. The primary objective of the CMP is to identify and return the remains of missing persons to their families for a dignified burial and close a long period of grief and uncertainty.

The project employs a multidisciplinary approach to conclude an identification. It includes the primary investigation, archaeological investigation, anthropological and genetic analysis where the information and results of each analysis performed are integrated and evaluated. The genetic phase consists of an international, multi-agency collaboration. The family reference samples are typed at genetic labs within each respective Cypriot community and batches of skeletal samples are sent to Bode Technology for genetic analysis.

This poster will present cases focusing on the collaboration between the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities, collaboration between the CMP and Bode Technology, collaboration between multiple testing methods (STRs, expanded STRs, mini STRs, Y-STRs and mtDNA) and collaboration between multiple disciplines to identify a match. The importance of using a multidisciplinary approach will be highlighted by emphasizing how genetics, anthropology and other meta-data play a role in identifying the missing. To date, 939 missing persons have been identified by the CMP.