



EXAMINATION OF SKELETAL REMAINS: IMPORTANCE OF FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY IN CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATIONS

Ariyaratna H.T.D.W.^{1,2}

¹Department of Forensic Medicine, Faculty of Medical Sciences,
University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka

²Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka
ariyaratna@sjp.ac.lk

Abstract

The scene examination is usually an exhaustive, time consuming exercise needing a lot of manpower and money. However, it is almost always useful in determining medico-legally important facts but occasionally it might become a futile exercise. Two scene examinations related to forensic anthropology are illustrated here. The case number one is regarding a suspicious case of homicide which was said to be secretly disposed by burning after killing the victim. The second case was a set of bones found in a temple following an anonymous call to the police. According to the routine practice both scenes were visited by the magistrate and the Judicial Medical Officer (JMO) of the relevant area. Examination of the two sets of bones revealed one to be human and the other to be of animal origin. At times, the scene investigation seems to be of no use but for formulation of medico-legal opinion scene examination is considered to be a mandatory exercise.

Keywords: futile crime scene investigation, JMO, forensic anthropology