

From Dismemberment to Detection: Forensic Unraveling of a Blind Murder at Korba District of Chhattisgarh, India

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Abstract

Introduction: On July 10, 2024, a brutal and complex homicide case came to light in Korba District, Chhattisgarh, when dismembered human body parts were discovered in bags and sacks near a dam. The absence of an identifiable torso and the decomposed condition of the remains posed significant forensic and investigative challenges. **Methodology:** A multidisciplinary team comprising the District Scene of Crime Mobile Unit, Korba Police, and Cyber Cell undertook a scientific site inspection. Visual examination of the scene, systematic underwater searches with local divers, and meticulous documentation of body part distribution were performed. Forensic profiling, including analysis of clothing, cutting patterns, and associated evidence (passport, Aadhaar card, gold chain receipt, and airline tickets), was conducted. Cyber forensic tools were employed to trace the victim's communication and location history, and CCTV footage was reviewed to identify the suspects and reconstruct the sequence of events. **Results:** A total of 33 dismembered body parts were recovered, showing signs of cuts made using both a heavy sharp-edged weapon and a saw. Through identification documents found in the victim's clothing and corroboration via family and cyber evidence, the deceased was identified as a Muslim youth who had returned from abroad days prior. Further investigation revealed a motive rooted in deception and betrayal involving a love affair, ultimately leading to the arrest of the perpetrators who attempted to conceal the crime by dismembering and disposing of the body. **Conclusion:** The case underscores the critical role of interdisciplinary forensic methods in solving blind murder cases, especially when traditional identification methods are hindered.

Keywords: Forensic Investigation, Crime Scene Analysis, Dismemberment, Blind Murder Case, Identification Techniques, Cyber Forensics, Multidisciplinary Approach, Evidence Recovery.

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INTRODUCTION

Forensic science plays a pivotal role in solving complex and brutal crimes, especially when human remains are discovered in a dismembered state. The scientific investigation of crime scenes involving mutilated bodies requires a multidisciplinary approach, incorporating crime scene analysis, forensic anthropology, DNA profiling, and cyber forensics to identify victims and reconstruct the sequence of events (Byers & Juarez, 2016; DiMaio & DiMaio, 2001). Dismemberment is often used by perpetrators to delay identification, complicate investigations, or dispose of bodies more easily (Binford, 1981).

This report documents a medico-legal investigation initiated on July 10, 2024, when severed

human body parts were discovered stuffed in bags at a dam site in Korba district, Chhattisgarh, India. The swift response by the District Scene of Crime Mobile Unit, led by Dr. Satyajeet Singh Kosariya, facilitated the systematic recovery of remains and evidence. This case exemplifies how meticulous scene documentation, forensic examination of cut marks, and digital evidence can converge to unravel cases of "blind" or unidentified homicides. The use of identity documents, travel records, and call detail analysis further exemplifies the integrated role of forensic and cyber-investigative tools in establishing victim identity and linking suspects (Houck, 2007; James & Nordby, 2002). The present report outlines the scene response, evidence recovery, postmortem indicators of dismemberment, and the

eventual breakthrough that led to the identification of the deceased and apprehension of the accused.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research methodology adopted for this medico-legal investigation is based on a multidisciplinary forensic case study approach, integrating crime scene investigation, forensic anthropology, trace evidence analysis, and digital forensics to reconstruct the circumstances surrounding the dismembered human remains recovered from a dam in Korba district, Chhattisgarh, on 10th July 2024. This methodology followed standard forensic protocols and scientific procedures for the collection, preservation, documentation, and analysis of physical and digital evidence (James & Nordby, 2002; Houck, 2007).

1. Crime Scene Investigation

Many studies show that by observing and integrating evidence under the guidance of forensic scientists at a crime scene, it helps the police to establish the criminal, the relation of evidence with the crime and thus, it becomes easier for the victim to get justice (Singh, *et al.*, 2024; Narajo & Avais, 2012; Nagwanshi, Kosariya, Kujur, Mishra, & Chandra, 2024; Nagwanshi, Kosariya, Mishra, Chandra, & Chakraborty, 2024; Kosariya, Mishra, Chandra, & Chakraborty, 2024).

Upon receiving information from the Pali police station, the District Scene of Crime Mobile Unit, led by forensic expert Dr. Satyajeet Singh Kosariya, arrived at the site within an hour. The initial assessment involved: Visual documentation and systematic photography of the scene. Search and recovery of multiple plastic bags containing 17 pieces of human remains. Identification of associated non-biological evidence, including clothing, bags, and bricks used for submersion. Coordination with local divers to recover submerged evidence, including a sack containing a human head and personal belongings (e.g., Aadhar card, passport, air tickets).

2. Forensic Anthropological and Taphonomic Analysis

Recovered body parts were examined *in situ* and later in controlled environments to:

- Assess the number of individuals represented.
- Determine sex, approximate age, and possible identification features based on visible anatomical characteristics.
- Analyze cut marks to distinguish between different weapons or tools (e.g., heavy sharp instrument vs. saw blade), aiding in reconstructing the dismemberment process and postmortem interval (Byers & Juarez, 2016).

3. Digital and Documentary Evidence Analysis

The team analyzed identity documents found in the pockets of recovered clothing, including:

- Passport and Aadhar card (for preliminary identification).
- Airplane tickets and tax invoices for chain of travel and possession records.
- Cyber forensic investigation of call detail records (CDRs), geolocation

data, and social media interactions of the deceased, coordinated with the cyber cell of Korba Police, to establish the timeline and relationship network.

4. Interagency and Cross-State Coordination

Once the identity of the deceased was provisionally established, coordination was carried out with law enforcement authorities in the neighboring state, including: Verification of identity via family members through digital communication. Sharing forensic photographs and recovered documents via secure messaging platforms (e.g., WhatsApp). Investigation of local contacts, particularly the female suspect known to be in contact with the deceased, leading to the tracing of the suspects' rented residence.

5. Evidence Recovery and Analysis at Secondary Location

At the suspects' residence: Blood-stained clothes, a large knife, cosmetics, and personal belongings of the deceased were recovered. All materials were documented, photographed, and preserved following forensic evidence handling protocols (National Institute of Justice (NIJ), 2000). This case utilized triangulation of physical, digital, and testimonial evidence to piece together the events leading to the homicide. A systematic, evidence-driven approach allowed investigators to resolve a complex blind murder case through scientific reasoning and interdepartmental collaboration.

CASE STUDY RESULTS

One day on 10th July 2024, information was received from Pali police station, District Korba for site inspection that pieces of human parts (pieces of hands and legs) were found in bags and sacks along with polythene from a dam. On receiving the information, Dr. Satyajeet Singh Kosariya immediately left for site inspection from District Scene of Crime Mobile Unit Korba along with driver constable Rajesh Chandra and head constable Hemant Chauhan. After receiving the information, we reached the site of incident within 1 hour. The incident must have happened at around 11:50 a.m. The site was a dam, about 4-5 kilometers inside Highway no 130.

Police station inspector, outpost in-charge, additional superintendent of police had reached the site of incident and checked it. On the dam's bank, a red-blue coloured bag and muddy white- and blue-coloured bags stuffed in polythene, containing pieces of human body parts like 15 pieces of hands and feet were found along with red bricks. Along with that, a black-coloured shirt, a white-coloured shirt on which DDIESEL MAN DIVISION was written on the back. In which human both hands' paws were found separately, both feet's paws were found in separate pieces. Similarly, the part below the elbow and above the elbow of both hands were found in separate pieces. Similarly, 9 feet and 6 hand pieces were found. Till 12:55 pm, we had nothing to identify the

human parts. At the site of the incident, Additional SP was requested to provide any diver or local diver, I want to conduct more search in the dam, we hope that something more will be found in the dam to identify these body parts. Then with the help of a diver from a village near the dam, instructions were given to search the possible site of the dam in a planned manner. After searching for about 1 hour, at 1:55 a blue-coloured sack was found in which 777 Gold Rice was written and it was stinking. The body of the body was still not found, which was searched by the team of the DRAF but the body was not found even after an hour.

The sack with 777 Gold Rice written on it was opened and a white-coloured sack was found inside it, the sack was tied and on opening it, a human head, a small piece of a leg, a maroon-coloured cargo jeans pant and two red bricks were found.

As the smell was very strong, the police personnel were facing a lot of difficulty and were keeping the cargo jeans without looking at them. Then I instructed to have a proper look at the cargo jeans and got all the pockets of the cargo jeans searched in front of team of Crime Scene Mobile Unit Korba. A passport, Aadhar card, receipt of a gold chain and some airplane tickets were found in the pockets of the cargo jeans. From the documents found in the cargo jeans, the human body parts were identified as belonging to a Muslim youth whose native place was a neighboring state.

Perspective of the passport: The name and address of the youth was found written as arrived in New Delhi on July 2024 from abroad. Perspective of the tax invoice: A 22-karat gold chain taken from abroad (Saudi) was found weighing 20.84 grams. Indigo ticket review: Departure from abroad on 1st July at 12.35 am, arrived in New Delhi at 7.5 am, departure from New Delhi to Ranchi at 12.25 pm was found.

Close observation of the pieces of human organs: A total of 17 pieces of human organs were found. There is black on the head, bald beard and moustache on the face, a slight tongue is visible between the lips. Marks of cutting with a large sharp weapon were found on the left cheek, the length of which is from the left eye to below the left ear. Marks of cutting several times were found on the neck.

Observation of the pieces of hands and legs: A total of 16 pieces were found. Two types of cutting marks were found on the pieces of body parts, one was made by a heavy sharp weapon and the other was made by cutting with a saw-blade. When the body could not be cut into pieces with a heavy sharp weapon, then a saw-blade was used to cut the body.

The police of Korba district contacted the police station of the neighbouring state and talked to the family members of the Muslim youth. But they refused to give

any information in this regard and were told that the Muslim youth has gone abroad to work. When the family was informed about coming to Ranchi from abroad by Korba police, the passport and Aadhaar card were sent to the family through WhatsApp for identification.

After identification from the passport and Aadhaar card, the mobile number of the deceased was found out and with the help of cyber cell, his location and call records were extracted and analyzed. In which he was found to be in constant contact with the mobile number of a girl from a village related to the outpost.

CCTV footage of the toll plaza of Highway No. 130 of 2-3 July was observed in which the suspicious vehicle was identified and investigated.

It was reported that a young man and a young woman from a village in the outpost had brought the deceased from Bilaspur railway station to their rented house. The young woman was in constant touch with the deceased through social media and had called him after falling in love with him. Both the accused young man and the girl were live-in partners, which the deceased came to know about. Due to a quarrel, the young man and the girl together killed the deceased. And with the intention of hiding the evidence, the body was cut into pieces, filled in bags with bricks and thrown in the dam. The torso of the deceased could not be recovered as it was thrown in the big dam.

Other evidence: The deceased's bag, imported makeup box, clothes of the deceased, a big knife, and the blood-stained clothes worn by the accused and the accused at the time of the incident were recovered from the rented house of the accused. Thus, through joint scientific investigation by the team of Forensic Scientists, Crime Scene Mobile Unit Korba, officers of Cyber Cell of Korba Police and Korba Police, the culprits of a blind murder case were reached.

DISCUSSION

The present case exemplifies the complexity and scientific rigor involved in investigating dismemberment homicides, particularly when the identity of the victim is initially unknown and remains are recovered in a fragmented state. The recovery of human body parts from a dam in Korba district posed significant challenges in terms of identification, time of death estimation, and sequence reconstruction. Dismemberment cases typically indicate premeditation and an attempt to hinder detection by dispersing body parts and eliminating identifying features (Symes, Chapman, Rainwater, Cabo, & Myster, 2010). The anatomical distribution of cuts—at joints and along natural lines of weakness—further suggests the use of both heavy sharp instruments and mechanical tools like saws, pointing to prolonged and deliberate dismemberment.

Patterns of Dismemberment and Tool Analysis

The forensic examination of the recovered limbs revealed at least two distinct types of tool marks: clean incisions by a sharp-edged weapon and jagged cuts consistent with saw blades. This dual-tool usage aligns with established typologies of dismemberment: defensive dismemberment (to hide identity), offensive dismemberment (linked with rage or symbolic acts), and post-crime pragmatic disposal (Ross & Cunha, 2018). The placement of bricks in the bags containing body parts suggests a clear intent to submerge and conceal the remains, typical in water body disposals aimed at delaying decomposition detection (Prahlow & Byard, 2011).

Forensic Identification and Document Recovery

A breakthrough in the case occurred when investigators discovered a passport, Aadhaar card, airline tickets, and a gold chain receipt in the pants pocket of the victim. These documents not only facilitated rapid presumptive identification but also established a temporal travel timeline, suggesting the victim arrived from abroad on July 1st, 2024. The use of identity documentation as forensic evidence is critical, especially in transregional crimes, and when families initially deny knowledge of the victim's return (Christensen, Passalacqua, & Bartelink, 2025). The physical description—bald head, beard, visible tongue, and facial cuts—further aided postmortem identification through facial recognition and soft tissue analysis.

Cyber and Behavioral Evidence Analysis

Using the victim's mobile phone data, call detail records (CDRs), and social media communications, the cyber forensic unit traced interactions between the deceased and a female suspect. Their relationship and subsequent meeting, followed by the victim's disappearance, established motive and opportunity. The suspect's existing live-in relationship with a male accomplice and the revelation of this triangle to the victim likely triggered the conflict leading to homicide. The psychological dynamics of romantic deception, betrayal, and fear of exposure are often strong motivations in relationship-driven murders (Douglas, Burgess, Burgess, & Ressler, 2013).

Crime Scene and Secondary Evidence Correlation

The recovery of blood-stained clothing, the murder weapon (a large knife), and personal belongings of the deceased from the rented house of the accused aligns with the theory of primary homicide scene being the residence, with secondary disposal site being the dam. This separation is commonly observed in cases involving intentional concealment of crime, and it supports the concept of multi-scene forensic correlation, where behavioral and physical evidence converge (Turvey, 2022).

CONCLUSION

The investigation into the recovery of dismembered human remains from a dam in Korba

district on July 10, 2024, highlights the critical role of forensic science, interdisciplinary coordination, and digital evidence in solving complex homicide cases. Initially a blind case with unidentified body parts scattered in multiple bags, the timely and systematic response by the Crime Scene Mobile Unit, led by Dr. Kosariya, enabled the recovery of crucial physical and documentary evidence. The presence of identity documents such as a passport, Aadhaar card, and airline tickets played a pivotal role in establishing the victim's identity, while cut-mark analysis confirmed the use of both sharp and mechanical tools in the dismemberment.

The integration of cyber forensics, including call detail records and social media analysis, revealed the victim's connection to a female suspect, leading to the unraveling of the motive behind the crime. The collaborative efforts between forensic experts, the cyber cell, and local police from two states resulted in the identification and arrest of the perpetrators. This case underscores the value of modern forensic methodologies, behavioral analysis, and interagency cooperation in solving violent and premeditated crimes, especially in cases where perpetrators attempt to conceal evidence through dismemberment and body disposal.

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