



Nameless Dead Body Identification: A Focus on Ghana

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INTRODUCTION

The sheer volume of unidentified dead body cases poses a significant challenge to every nation that believes in the rudiments of human rights. On any given day, families, medical examiners, humanitarian and disaster management agencies and law enforcement in Ghana face issues concerning missing and unidentified bodies (1-3).

OBJECTIVE

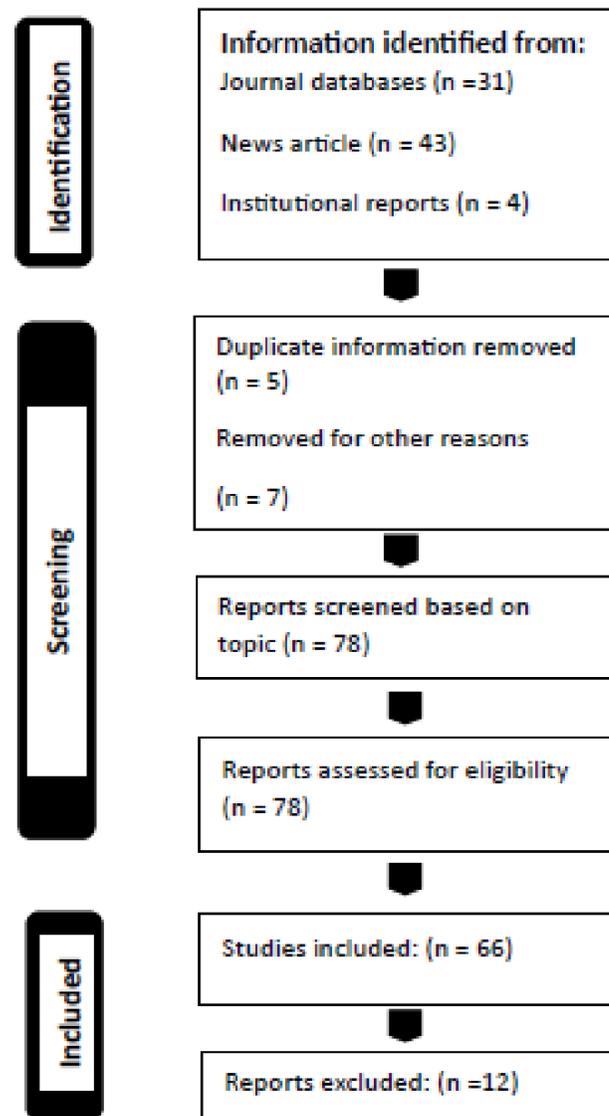
To document an appeal for action-driven policies to be implemented toward the identification of nameless and unknown dead bodies in Ghana

SOME KEY ISSUES

In Ghana, there seems to be an ununified approach to reporting or identifying nameless bodies but sooner or later we will have to address this issue from a philosophical viewpoint as a nation.

Mass burials seems to be the best alternative as It appears that the science involved in tackling this “silent mass disaster” have been ignored and this is the reason why a call for action-driven policies toward human identification in Ghana is of relevance (1).

METHODOLOGY



CONCLUSION

- Even though there are limitations in Ghana, adopting specific forensic biometric legislature and establishment of DNA databases will bring effectiveness in the field of human identification in Ghana.
- There should be a comprehensive roadmap for capacity building in forensic DNA technology, training of police, DVI teams, and all relevant expertise towards the appropriate use of DNA materials as there are concerns about it being easily compromised.
- Ghana is already very late in the aspect of using forensic DNA technology. All stakeholders involved should come together to ensure that the application of forensic technologies in identifying anonymous and missing persons is prioritized while we wait for evolution to take its cause towards improving it.
- It is very exigent to adapt forensic DNA and related technologies to give these bodies back their identities.

Related literature

1. Police Hospital battles with unclaimed dead bodies - Graphic Online [Internet]. [cited 2022 Sep 4]. Available from: <https://www.graphic.com.gh/news/general-news/ghana-news-police-hospital-battles-with-unclaimed-dead-bodies.html>
2. June 3rd Disaster | Ghana National Fire Service, 2022. Available from: <http://gnfs.gov.gh/article/june-3rd-disaster>. [Last accessed: June/13/2022].
3. Ghana plans mass burial for 120 unclaimed bodies - Ghananewsonline, 2022. Available from: <https://ghananewsonline.com.gh/ghana-plans-mass-burial-for-120-unclaimed-bodies/>