



# Forensic Anthropology & Missing Persons: Recovery, Identification, and Justice



**AGILE LEADERS**  
Training Center

01 - 05 Mar 2027  
کیب تاون

# Forensic Anthropology & Missing Persons: Recovery, Identification, and Justice

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## Course Overview:

The course is a specialized training course designed to equip professionals with the skills to locate, recover, and identify human remains in contexts of conflict, disasters, and enforced disappearances.

Guided by ICRC and UN frameworks, this course combines humanitarian principles with scientific rigor. Participants will cover forensic skeletal analysis, ground-penetrating radar for graves, forensic odontology, and DNA matching. They will also learn to support families of the missing, understand legal protocols, and conduct trauma-informed search operations.

This training is ideal for forensic practitioners, humanitarian workers, and legal professionals dealing with missing persons cases in war zones, natural disasters, or cold cases.

## Target Audience:

- Forensic anthropologists
- Human rights investigators
- Disaster response specialists
- Criminal investigators
- Legal professionals in international justice
- NGO and IGO staff involved in the missing persons work

## Targeted Organizational Departments:

- Forensic science and pathology units
- Humanitarian operations and protection divisions
- Criminal justice and legal affairs departments
- Emergency response and disaster management teams
- Search and rescue divisions
- Transitional justice and reconciliation bodies

## Targeted Industries:

- International humanitarian organizations
- Government ministries of justice and interior
- Criminal investigation agencies
- NGOs dealing with war crimes and disappearances
- Disaster victim identification DVI teams
- Universities and forensic research institutes

## Course Offerings:

By the end of this course, participants will be able to:

- Apply forensic anthropology principles in the recovery and analysis of human remains
- Conduct forensic skeletal analysis to estimate age, sex, trauma, and pathology
- Use search and recovery tools such as GPR and archaeological methods for graves
- Implement DNA-based identification techniques for unknown bodies
- Navigate legal frameworks governing enforced disappearances and humanitarian forensics
- Provide psychological support to families of missing persons
- Document and report findings in compliance with international protocols
- Coordinate multi-agency missing persons investigations

## Training Methodology:

This course features hands-on training with case-based learning, simulations, and expert-led seminars. Participants will engage in mock field exercises for mass grave excavation, data matching, and forensic odontology assessments. Discussions will incorporate the ICRC's Handbook on Supporting Families of Missing Persons, emphasizing trauma-informed practices. Real-world scenarios from conflict and disaster zones will promote ethical awareness and practical skills. The course encourages collaborative peer learning, continuous feedback, and the use of interactive digital tools to enhance engagement and knowledge transfer.

## Course Toolbox:

- Field recovery checklist templates
- Digital human osteology atlas
- Ground Penetrating Radar GPR simulation toolkit
- DNA sampling and documentation protocols
- Legal framework quick-reference guide
- ICRC Handbook PDF: "Accompanying the Families of Missing Persons"
- Templates for forensic reporting and chain of custody
- Trauma support guidelines for interaction with families
- Access to online forensic databases and 3D reconstruction platforms

## Course Agenda:

### Day 1: Foundations of Forensic Anthropology & Humanitarian Action

- Introduction to Forensic Anthropology and Its Evolution Topic 1:
- The Role of Forensic Anthropology in Missing Persons Investigations Topic 2:
- Human Rights, ICRC Guidelines, and Legal Obligations Topic 3:
- Ethics, Cultural Sensitivity, and Working with Families Topic 4:
- Overview of Human Osteology and Skeletal Documentation Topic 5:
- Skeletal Remains as Medico-Legal Evidence Topic 6:
- Aligning Forensic Science with Justice and Humanity Reflection & Review:



## Day 2: Recovery of Human Remains & Crime Scene Protocols

- Search and Survey Techniques for Clandestine Graves Topic 1: •
- Ground Penetrating Radar and Remote Sensing Technologies Topic 2: •
- Excavation and Documentation of Mass Graves Topic 3: •
- Chain of Custody and Scene Integrity Topic 4: •
- Forensic Taphonomy: Understanding Decomposition and Burial Effects Topic 5: •
- Forensic Archaeology: From Field Recovery to Lab Processing Topic 6: •
- Integrating Field Recovery with Identification Goals Reflection & Review: •

## Day 3: Identification Techniques and Skeletal Analysis

- Biological Profile: Estimating Sex, Age, Ancestry, and Stature Topic 1: •
- Forensic Odontology and Dental Record Matching Topic 2: •
- Trauma Analysis and Identification of Perimortem Injuries Topic 3: •
- Postmortem Interval Estimation PMI and Weathering Analysis Topic 4: •
- DNA Sampling Protocols and Comparative Methods Topic 5: •
- Forensic Facial Reconstruction and Biometrics Topic 6: •
- Synthesizing Physical and Genetic Data for Positive ID Reflection & Review: •

## Day 4: Legal, Emotional, and Administrative Aspects

- Legal Frameworks for Enforced Disappearances and Identification Topic 1: •
- Ante-Mortem and Post-Mortem Data Collection and Comparison Topic 2: •
- Supporting Relatives of the Missing: Psychological First Aid Topic 3: •
- Cultural and Religious Considerations in Return of Remains Topic 4: •
- Reporting Results and Testifying in Court as an Expert Topic 5: •
- Working with NGOs, Governments, and International Bodies Topic 6: •
- Holistic Accountability and Community Engagement Reflection & Review: •

## Day 5: Advanced Applications and Practical Integration

- Case Study Workshop: From Discovery to Identification Topic 1: •
- Mass Fatalities and Disaster Victim Identification DVI Protocols Topic 2: •
- Interdisciplinary Coordination and Communication Strategies Topic 3: •
- Ethical Dilemmas and Professional Resilience in Field Operations Topic 4: •
- Digital Tools in Forensics: 3D Models, Databases, and Simulations Topic 5: •
- Future Trends in Forensic Anthropology and Humanitarian Forensics Topic 6: •
- Action Planning for Real-World Forensic Challenges Reflection & Review: •

FAQ:

What specific qualifications or prerequisites are needed for participants before enrolling in the course?

No formal prerequisites are required; however, a background in forensic science, criminal investigation, humanitarian work, or related fields of law and psychology is highly beneficial.

How long is each day's session, and is there a total number of hours required for the entire course?

Each day's session is generally structured to last around 4-5 hours, with breaks and interactive activities included. The total course duration spans five days, approximately 20-25 hours of instruction.

How does trauma affect the identification process and the role of the family?

Trauma impacts both memory recall and engagement. Families may experience denial, ambiguous loss, or conflict when presented with partial or inconclusive results, affecting consent, communication, and legal processes. This course addresses trauma-informed interaction based on ICRC guidelines.

**How This Course is Different from Other Forensic Anthropology Courses:**

This course uniquely combines forensic anthropology with humanitarian practice, legal frameworks, and psychosocial support. Unlike typical courses focused on skeletal analysis, it emphasizes real-world operations, including post-conflict recovery and mass disaster investigations, guided by ICRC protocols.

Participants will gain technical recovery methods while addressing the legal, emotional, and ethical aspects of enforced disappearance investigations. Practical simulations, stakeholder engagement methods, and access to advanced digital resources provide a comprehensive approach to missing persons investigations worldwide.



## فئات الدورات التدريبية



HR TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

دورات إدارة و تطوير الموارد البشرية



دورات إدارة و تحليل البيانات ودورات علم البيانات



دورات إدارة الجودة وتطوير العمليات



الدورات التدريبية في مجال البيئة والاستدامة



دورات التسويق وإدارة علاقات العملاء وإدارة المبيعات



دورات التدريب القانوني والمشتريات والتعاقدات



دورات الاتصال الجماهيري و السياسات والعلاقات العامة



دورات النظم السبراني ودورات تقنية المعلومات



دورات الصيانة ودورات المجالات الهندسية المتنوعة



دورات الصحة والسلامة والأمن المهني



دورات السكرتارية و إدارة المكاتب



دورات الحوكمة وإدارة المخاطر والامتثال



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## فئات الدورات التدريبية



دورات معتمدة بشهادة CPD



دورات في مجالات القيادة والإدارة



دورات المهارات الشخصية وتطوير الذات



دورات المحاسبة و التمويل و دورات الإدارة  
الهائية



دورات مكتب إدارة المشاريع وإدارة المشاريع  
الرشيقية



دورات معتمدة من قبل هيئات دولية

## مدن التدريب



اسطنبول - تركيا



أمستردام - هولندا



أنقرة - تركيا



أثينا - اليونان



الرياض - المملكة العربية السعودية



الدوحة - قطر



الدار البيضاء - المغرب



الجبيل - المملكة العربية السعودية



باريس - فرنسا



المنامة - مملكة البحرين



الكويت - الكويت



القاهرة - مصر



براغ - جمهورية التشيك



بانكوك - تايلاند



بالي - جمهورية إندونيسيا



باكو - أذربيجان

## مدن التدريب



جاكرتا - جمهورية اندونيسيا



تيليسي - جورجيا



بوكيت - تايلاند



برشلونة - اسبانيا



روما - ايطاليا



دبي - الامارات العربية المتحدة



جوهانسبرغ - جنوب افريقيا



جنيف - سويسرا



شرم الشيخ - مصر



سيول - كوريا الجنوبية



سان دييغو - الولايات المتحدة  
الامريكية



زنجار - تنزانيا



طوكيو - اليابان



طشقند - اوزبكستان



طرابزون - تركيا



شيكاغو - الولايات المتحدة  
الامريكية

## مدن التدريب



كوالالمبور - ماليزيا



فيينا - النمسا



عن بعد - منصة زووم



عمان - المملكة الأردنية الهاشمية



ماربيا - اسبانيا



لندن - المملكة المتحدة



لانكاوي - ماليزيا



كيب تاون - جنوب إفريقيا



ميلان - إيطاليا



مونترال - سويسرا



مسقط - سلطنة عمان



مدريد - إسبانيا



نيس - فرنسا



نيروبي - كينيا



ميونخ - ألمانيا

# WHO WE ARE

Agile Leaders is a renowned training center with a team of experienced experts in vocational training and development. With 20 years of industry experience, we are committed to helping executives and managers replace traditional practices with more effective and agile approaches.

## OUR VISION

We aspire to be the top choice training provider for organizations seeking to embrace agile business practices. As we progress towards our vision, our focus becomes increasingly customer-centric and agile.

## OUR MISSION

We are dedicated to developing value-adding, customer-centric agile training courses that deliver a clear return on investment. Guided by our core agile values, we ensure our training is actionable and impactful.

## WHAT DO WE OFFER

At Agile Leaders, we offer agile, bite-sized training courses that provide a real-life return on investment. Our courses focus on enhancing knowledge, improving skills, and changing attitudes. We achieve this through engaging and interactive training techniques, including Q&As, live discussions, games, and puzzles.



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## CONTACT US

 UAE, Dubai Investment Park First

 +971585964727  
+447700176600

 [sales@agile4training.com](mailto:sales@agile4training.com)