

Interest of Lifting Body in Thanatological Practice

Prkamel Boussayoud

*Professor In Forensic Medicine, Forensic Department, Hospital University Of Lamine Dabaghine,
Bab El-Oued, Algiers, Algeria*

Abstract: *The discovery of a corpse constitutes a very important legal event and a number of questions arise, which automatically leads to the establishment of a forensic investigation that will elucidate the circumstances of the death. The author of this work propose, from a clinical sticker, recall interest of body lifting in thanatological practice.*

Keywords: *body lifting, discovery of o corpse.*

I. Introduction

In front This communication was inspired by the discovery of a corpse at the level of a Daira (province) in Algiers, which provoked the mobilization of all the security services (all corps combined) considering the fact that the person belonged to a constituted body. The team responsible for the lifting of this person has raised several questions, we will return to it.

II. Statements of facts

The medical team made up of forensic pathologists of the forensic department of hospital university of Bab El-Oued moved to the scene to help elucidate this legal enigma, arrived on the scene we found the judicial police who already secured the scene of discovery of the corpse, the technicians of the scientific laboratory carried out the various sampling at the site and the identification of the corpse.

As forensic specialists we carried out the various stages of the lifting body, namely the search for biological spots and the examination of the corpse (the clothes and the body itself). All its operations were supervised by the prosecutor of the republic present on the scene. After all the investigations (the testimony of the neighborhood, the search and the examination of the corpse) the presumption of a crime was totally rejected.

We go in a few boards to show you the case: From the testimonies of the neighborhood, it is a mental patient who is used to wandering and isolating himself in this place by eating what the neighbors give him. The discovery of the remains of the meal and the blood, located every two or three meters associated with the nature of the trauma found on the body, made it possible to reconstruct the route of the fall from the summit to the foot of the mountain where the body has Been found. This legal enigma was solved thanks to the results of the investigations of the lifting of bodies.

In total, the lifting of bodies is a medico-judicial emergency, well done to answer the questions asked by investigators responsible for elucidating a suspicious death.



- Forensic iconography -

What about department's statistic?

Unfortunately, the judicial authorities rarely entrust this task to forensic pathologists; In fact, we carried out a retrospective epidemiological study on the lifting bodies carried out during the last five years 2011-2015 by the forensic department of Bab El-Oued Hospital.

- The total number of autopsies is 1309 cases
- The number of violent deaths is 629

How many lifting bodies were ordered by the judicial authorities during this period? Only 68 lifting bodies were carried out by the forensic department of hospital university of Bab El-Oued, which represents 10,8 % by contribution to the autopsied violent deaths.

III. Interest

The physician's participation in lifting body allows:

1 / On practical plan:

- To determine the forensic cause of death.
- Avoiding undue obstacles to burial
- Avoid burying bodies whose causes of death are questionable.
- To direct the magistrate and the investigators on the judicial procedure to be undertaken (the raising of bodies is the catalyst and inhibitor of an investigation).
- To facilitate the task of the forensic pathologist on the comparison of autopsy findings with the elements of the lifting body.

2 / On the academic level: it allows

- To train on the ground the different parties involved (doctors, magistrates, judicial police and identity technicians ...) provided that the medical team appointed to carry out the lifting of the body is the team performing the autopsy.

Recommendations

1.The physician appointed to carry out the lifting of the body must:

- Have adequate forensic training, especially in post mortem semiology.
- Demonstrate readiness to respond promptly to the requirements of the judicial authorities.
- Experience in the field.

After all, the forensic pathologist is a medical practitioner and possesses all these qualities.

2.The practice of the lifting of bodies must be generalized to facilitate the orientation of the judicial investigations especially when there is presumption of crime.

3.The lifting of bodies should be considered the first time of theatrical operations (autopsies).

4.it is necessary to develop the relations between the medical team and the judicial authorities in particular the judicial police in charge of the investigation and the magistrates.

5.The legal framework for this important operation must be reviewed.

IV. Conclusion

Giving the interest of the lifting of bodies, is essential for the investigations undertaken when there is presumption of crime, The Forensic Medicine Department of hospital university of Bab El-Oued has inscribed a scientific research project (Thesis of Specialized medical degree) on this important and practical problem which will certainly facilitate the investigations of investigators on the ground in the field of crime.