

Annex II

POSTMORTEM DETECTION OF TORTURE

Torture technique

Physical findings

Beating

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|--|---|
| 1. General   | Scars. Bruises. Lacerations. Multiple fractures at different stages of healing, especially in unusual locations, which have not been medically treated. |
| 2. To the soles of the feet ("falanga", "falaka", "bastinado"), or fractures of the bones of the feet.                     | Haemorrhage in the soft tissues of the soles of the feet and ankles. Aseptic necrosis.  |
| 3. With the palms on both ears simultaneously ("el telefono").   | Ruptured or scarred tympanic membranes. Injuries to external ear.   |
| 4. On the abdomen, while lying on a table with the upper half of the body unsupported ("operating table", "el quirofano"). | Bruises on the abdomen. Back injuries. Ruptured abdominal viscera.  |
| 5. To the head.  | Cerebral cortical atrophy. Scars. Skull fractures. Bruises. Haematomas.   |

Suspension

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|---|---|
| 6. By the wrists ("la bandera").  | Bruises or scars about the wrists. Joint injuries.  |
| 7. By the arms or neck.   | Bruises or scars at the site of binding. Prominent lividity in the lower extremities.             |
| 8. By the ankles ("murcielago").  | Bruises or scars about the ankles. Joint injuries.  |
| 9. Head down, from a horizontal pole placed under the knees with the wrists bound to the ankles ("parrot's perch", "Jack", "pau de arara"). | Bruises or scars on the anterior forearms and backs of the knees. Marks on the wrists and ankles. |

Near suffocation

10. Forced immersion of head in water, often contaminated "wet submarine", "pileta", "Latina").
11. Tying of a plastic bag over the head ("dry submarine").

Faecal material or other debris in the mouth, pharynx, trachea, esophagus or lungs.  
Intrathoracic petechiae.  
Intra-thoracic petechiae.

Intro-thoracic petechiae.

Sexual abuse

12. Sexual abuse

Sexually transmitted diseases.  
Pregnancy. Injuries to breasts, external genitalia, vagina, anus or rectum.

Forced posture

13. Prolonged standing ("el planton").
14. Forced straddling of a bar ("saw horse", "el cabellete").

Dependent edema. Petechiae in lower extremities.

Perineal or scrotal haematomas.

Electric shock

15. Cattle prod ("la picana").
16. Wires connected to a source of electricity.
17. Heated metal skewer inserted into the anus ("black slave").

Burns: appearance depends on the age of the injury. Immediately: red spots, vesicles, and/or black exudate. Within a few weeks: circular, reddish, macular scars. At several months: small, white, reddish or brown spots resembling telangiectasias.

Peri-anal or rectal burns.

Miscellaneous

18. Dehydration

Vitreous humor electrolyte abnormalities.

Bite marks.

Animal bites  
(spiders, insects, rats,  
mice, dogs)