Forensic

[Name of the Writer]

[Name of the Institution]

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On February 7, 1985, United States of America's Drug's Enforcement Agency, Special Agent Enrique Camarena was abducted near the US consulate in Guadalajara, Mexico. After a short period of time Captain Alfredo Zavala, A DEA source was also kidnapped from a car near the same airport. These two kidnaps would trigger a series of incidents which further leads towards the largest investigations which were conducted by The DEA and also one of the largest case ever received by the FBI laboratory. It is also noteworthy that during the investigation of this case various unusual forensic problems were born which ultimately required unusual solutions. The witness in case of Camerena said that he was forced into a light coloured small car in front of a restaurant near the US consulate located in Mexico. The Mexican Federal Judicial Police commenced an investigation procedure where the head was Coman-dante Pavon-Reyes. The Incharge of the investigation had two main suspects who were also well-known drug traffickers, they were held suspects because both these drug traffickers were trying to flee the country with a private jet.

Although both the DEA and MFJP have some sort of confrontation with them at the end, they were able to escape because they offered 6 figures to the investigation in charge in order to leave. Later the FBI forensic team arrived and they requested to get permission to process the clothes, cordage and also the burial sheet of the bodies but the permission was denied but later they were allowed to cut small known samples from both of the corpses. Along with that soil samples were removed from the bodies and also the clothing items. Later in March, 1985 the agents of DEA were able to locate a black Mercury Grand Marquis which according to them was used in the abduction of the US agents. The FBI team then processed the vehicle for any hair, blood, fibre and also for any fingerprint evidence. When the FBI team surveyed the residents of surrounding areas they were able to find a small guesthouse where Camereon was held and tortured and from every room of the residence, known carpet samples were taken. On the second day of their search, the FBI forensic team were walking through the tennis court and they were able to trace the folded licence plate of the car from where he was abducted. Later the fall of 1985 the FBI team collected Camerena’s burial sheet, a piece of rope which was used to blind him, and also a portion of the pillowcase which was obtained from one of the bedrooms along with a piece of unsoiled rope which was removed from the covered the body (MICHAEL P. MALONE, n.d.).

One of the biggest mistake in this entire case was the contamination of the crime scene as the site was not ceased and it was easily accessible and was open to everyone, therefore, the original evidence, in this case, was highly contaminated and they were mixed with other irrelevant traces. Another drawback, in this case, was the delay that offered on the part of the Mexican government who were intentionally delaying this case so that the FBI will not be able to reach the real culprit. Having said that there were many correct steps that were taken by the investigation team that helped to solve the case. Firstly the forensic team was able to collect the soil samples from the corpse body and the soil samples were not clearly from the area in which they were buried so when the forensic team investigated and compared the soil samples with the ones in which the other dead bodies were recovered they came to know the original place where both the events were kept, tortured killed and later buried and from there they also found the licence plate of the car in which they were kidnapped. They were also able to collect samples from all the bedrooms of the residence where they were held, this further helped them to identify the real suspect and also the fact that the Mexican government was creating hurdles in the case. All the evidence that was collected from the crime scene were immediately dispatched to the FBI office n US in order to examine them and this one one of the best steps that was taken by the FBI team because only then they could examine and identify the evidence and in this way only, they reached out to the real culprits and many personals are still in jail due to their direct or indirect involvement in the killing of Camaren (“Hair Fibers Linked to Camarena Case Suspect,” 1990).

The one major thing that could have been done in this case was the delay in this case which was created by the Mexican government, if the entire investigation was carried out on time then the case would not take a long time. Secondly, the crime scene was not ceased and it was contaminated and most probably some of the main evidence vanished from the crime scene. Also, the room where the victims were kept was completely washed away intentionally to prevent the FBI team to reach the real culprits, if all these delays did not happen then it would be much better and also easy to reach the real culprits in this case. Having said that all the evidence that were found in this case played a very significant role in solving the overall case.

**References**

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