

DNA Evidence and Crime-Solving

“DNA links man with rape,” *St. Petersburg Times* (Florida) September 2, 2005.

Police arrested Amos Mequal Busby for the rape of a woman just two weeks ago, after they were linked DNA from the rape to Busby through the state DNA database.

“Suspect charged in repeated rapes,” *St. Petersburg Times* (Florida) September 2, 2005.

Just two weeks after a woman was raped, police have been led to a 34-year-old man who had previous convictions. Amos Mequel Busby was arrested based on DNA collected from the crime and compared with the statewide DNA database.

“Man guilty of killing half sister in 1991,” *Chicago Tribune* September 3, 2005.

Jose Gonzalez, 50, has been convicted of the murder of his half sister Molina, who was killed 14 years ago. The murder of Molina in 1991 went unsolved until Jose was investigated for the murder of his mother in which he was never charged. Investigators ran Jose’s DNA against DNA found on Molina in 2002 which conclusively linked him to her murder.

“Army killed villagers, then fudged DNA tests; Soldiers claimed the innocent men were Pakistani militants who murdered Sikhs *South China Morning Post* September 6, 2005.

An investigation into the accusation that four army officers killed innocent people and tried to pass off their murders as that of the killing of Pakistani militants who were responsible for the murders of Sikhs in Kashmir, has led to suspension of doctors working for the army, who apparently tampered with DNA results to cover up the murders of the innocent.

“Soldiers Deny They Murdered Iraqi in Unprovoked Attack,” *The Independent* (London) September 6, 2005.

Nadhem Abdullah al-Saqer, an unarmed 18-year-old Iraqi, was beaten to death on May 11, 2003 by seven British paratroopers of the 3rd Battalion. DNA from bloodstains on one of the Battalion members’ rifle butt matched Abdullah's DNA.

Controversies Concerning DNA Databanks and Laboratories

“Man convicted of slaying 9-year-old girl with pickax; Jury begins penalty phase of trial Sept. 14,” *The San Diego Union-Tribune* September 3, 2005.

While defense lawyers contended that the DNA used in the cold case “could have been planted in the Chula Vista Police property room,” Manuel Bracamontes was still found guilty by a jury when new DNA evidence tested in October 2003 linked him to the 1991 murder of 9-year-old Laura Arroyo.

Expanding the DNA Databank

“Katrina Aftermath: THE VICTIMS: Body recovery poses problems; FEMA hires private firm to ID victims,” *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* September 3, 2005.

Forensic experts said Friday that it might take years to identify the bodies of those killed by Hurricane Katrina, and that some victims may never even be identified. DNA taken for comparison to the DNA from victims may not be recovered because personal affects such as toothbrushes and razors may have been washed away in the storm.

DNA-based Post Conviction Challenges

“Convicted rapist to get new trial after 14 years in jail. First time in Israeli judicial history that DNA used as basis in decision,” *The Jerusalem Post* September 6, 2005.

Adrian Schwartz, 53, who has served 14 years in prison for raping a girl in Jerusalem in 1991, will be given a new trial, due to controversies regarding DNA taken a few years ago from the scene of the crime and the claims brought by Schwartz's attorneys that their client's blood type was not the same as that of the rapist. This assertion was supported by the fact that the head of the biological laboratory of the National Institute for Forensic Medicine wrote in a preliminary report that the DNA findings at the crime scene of the "could not be those of Schwartz."

DNA Evidence and Sentencing

“Brown's DNA data sought; Judge told that it may have been destroyed,” *Chicago Tribune* September 2, 2005.

Judge Vincent Gaughan, the criminal judge handing the case of against the men charged with the 1993 Brown’s Chicken massacre, wants to clear up conflicting statements by analysts about the DNA evidence that originally broke the case. Some of analysts say that the evidence has since been destroyed, while at least one other analyst believes that the data may have been saved by the Illinois State Police Forensic Science Center. Judge Gaughan suggested that there was something flawed with the way that records were being kept at the lab.

DNA Science and Technology

“DNA the Key; Dilemma of which twin should face rape trial,” *The Advertiser* September 3, 2005.

In the case of Darrin Fernandez, prosecutors believed that they had enough evidence to convict him for the rape of a woman in 2001. Prosecutors had DNA evidence from the crime that matched Fernandez, and he had been convicted of a similar rape the year before. However, the juries in two separate trials were unable to convict him because he had an identical twin brother with the same DNA. Now, the director of Orchid Cellmark, Robert Giles, has said that the technology will soon be available to differentiate between twin’s DNA.

“Man cleared in rape, in prison on other charges,” *The Dallas Morning News* September 2, 2005.

A Dallas man has been cleared by DNA analysis in a 1984 rape case, but remains in prison serving sentences on two unrelated felony convictions. A judge ruled that Eugene Henton, 39, probably would not have been convicted in the rape case if the DNA evidence had been available in 1984. Henton plans to seek a pardon for the rape conviction and file a legal challenge of his prison terms.