

# L07 CODIS Cold Case

## IST 110

### Case Summary: 2015 Biometric Identification Award

The case in question occurred in 2008 and involves a female U.S. Navy officer who was tied up and raped within her own home by a man armed with a knife. Initially fingerprints were taken from the scene, however there were no matches found in Virginia's databases. Subsequently, the attacker returned to the same woman to attack her and her daughter. This time, both fingerprints and DNA evidence was taken from the scene, however after comparison both to the same fingerprint systems as well as CODIS, there were no results.

In 2010, a female service member in Kuwait was attacked, though this time she had fought off the knife-wielding attacker. Blood samples were subsequently taken from the scene and more DNA evidence was taken from a blood-stained shirt found in the trash nearby. Analyzing the DNA evidence against CODIS found a link between the suspect and the previous cases in 2008, however not the identity of the attacker.

Further investigations in 2012 that coordinated the Naval Criminal Investigation Service, CJIS Division's Latent and Forensic Support Unit, and the Norfolk Police Department compared the fingerprints of the previous two cases against the Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System (like CODIS, but for fingerprinting). This found a link with a man by the name of Amin Garcia.

Now that they had a name, investigators compared acquired DNA samples from Garcia and found a positive match with the DNA found at both cases. This ultimately led to him receiving a 120-year sentence in 2014. (Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2015)

As for my beliefs regarding what should be done with DNA collected from a person who was not convicted of a crime, I do not believe such data would need to be stored if there is no sufficient remaining suspicion on the person in question. However, if adequate enough suspicion can be proven, I could see reasoning for this data to remain in federal systems.

### References

Federal Bureau of Investigation. (2015, November 23). *2015 Biometric Identification Award*. Retrieved from [www.fbi.org](https://www.fbi.org/news/stories/2015-biometric-identification-award): <https://www.fbi.org/news/stories/2015-biometric-identification-award>

