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‘The role of EAAF is absolutely essential’

By Pablo Suarez

*Miguel Rodríguez Arias talks about his documentary *Buscadores de identidades robadas**

The highly valuable Argentine documentary *Buscadores de identidades robadas* (Seekers of Stolen Identities) accounts for the origin and development of the Equipo Argentino de Antropología Forense (Argentine Team of Forensics Anthropology — EAAF), which since 1984 has found and identified the remains of 577 persons disappeared during the 1976-1983 military dictatorship. So far, no other feature, neither a fiction film nor a documentary, has told the story that documentary-maker Miguel Rodríguez Arias is now telling with remarkable precision.

When did you first think of making *Buscadores de identidades robadas*?

The project actually started back in 2009, though I’ve known the EAAF since it was founded in 1984. And even before 2009 I had thought of making this documentary, but I needed their consent.

Broadly speaking, what’s the film’s main goal?

To account for the 29-year-history of the EAAF and to expose the entire process to identify disappeared people during the military dictatorship, beginning with the preliminary investigation, then accompanying the relatives, the relationship with justice, the history of the discovery of identification through the DAN from bone samples... The goal is to inform, we want young people to know our history and elders to remember so as to keep memory and conscience alive. It’s a didactic documentary.

What are some of the achievements of the EAAF?

I think that the most severe consequence of the dictatorship is the disappeared for they remain throughout time. The thousands of people thrown into sea will never