Interferences 2023, Brazil

Between 28-30 August, IUGS-IFG was represented at ‘Interforensics’ in Brazil, one of the largest forensic events in the world, and the most extensive in Latin America. It was attended by approximately 1000 forensic scientists from multi-disciplinary background including; practitioners, researchers and students. Forensic geology was one of the most popular and dynamic events requested by the audience. The presentations and discussions included Brazilian emeralds, forensic jewellery, forensic gemology, geophysical applied to forensic science and archaeology. There was also a special session on mining crime, including the techniques for combating fossil trafficking, the Clean Gold Program and Gold Rush Project, and forensic geophysics in Latin America.

Interforensics 2023, Brazil, showing presentations on forensic jewellery (left), student attendees (middle) and a master class given to the police and other specialists (source: Fabio Salvador, IUGS-IFG Co-officer for Latin America)

New Horizons in Forensic Geoscience, 4-5 December, London

Registration is now open for the London event, ‘The Bedrock of International Security in Minerals, Mining, Metals, Murders and the Missing’. This is a joint event by the International Union of Geological Sciences, Initiative on Forensic Geology (IUGS-IFG) The Forensic Geoscience Group of the Geological Society of London (GSL-FFG). Contributors from the UK and internationally, can present and debate the results of recent research and operational case studies in forensic geology. This event will demonstrate where forensic geology has delivered to policy and practice with sessions on regulation and the law. The event will also focus on minerals, mining and metal crimes, search operations, geological trace evidence and policy. We anticipate this event attracting international delegates and will encourage this by enabling livestreaming of some of the presentations. Suppliers of equipment, software and services will also be invited to attend. The meeting therefore represents an invaluable opportunity for practitioners and researchers to exchange information about recent global developments in forensic geology. The link below provides information on tickets, registration and abstracts.


Major Copper theft reported in Europe

One of Europe’s largest copper producers reported a huge theft, reported to be into hundreds of millions of Euros, associated with criminal activity, and reporting a fall in share price. The IUGS-IFG ‘Special Project’ in illegal mining and mining crime is evaluating these types of crimes and considering the role of geological strategies to help manage and mitigate the associated risks.

https://www.ft.com/content/84dd94f3-4d1b-4180-8219-0a0a955e55ae
https://www.reuters.com/markets/commodities/aurubis-shares-plunge-suspected-metal-theft-2023-09-01/
https://geoforensic.com/

INTERPOL: Illegal Mining

Information from INTERPOL on illegal mining and associated crimes is available on the links below.


Guardian Reports on Operation Xapiri, Illegal Mining in the Amazon

The Guardian reports on Operation Xapiri, to neutralise illegal mining operations and gold mining camps in the Brazilian rainforest.