

Remains of Arizona teen identified after two decades

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CROW HANG VILLAGE, Ariz. (KVOA) - After nearly two decades, the remains of a teenager found in 2008 on the Tohono O’odham Nation have been identified as **Maria Eluvia Mendez Morales** from San Marcos, Guatemala. She was 16 at the time of her death.

On June 22, 2008, the body of a Hispanic/Latin American female was discovered in Crow Hang Village. She was found with fraudulent Mexican identification papers under the name "Maria Mendez Morales," but authorities could not confirm her identity.

Moxxy Forensic Investigations and the Pima County Office of the Medical Examiner initiated a crowdfunding campaign, bringing together nearly 60 contributors to fund the case.

“This is a case that represents the power of community,” said Kaycee Connelly, Investigative Genetic Genealogist and Co-Founder of Moxxy Forensic Investigations. “Thanks to the generosity of strangers and the dedication of our partners, Maria finally has her name back and her family now has Maria back.”

The identification was confirmed by her family, revealing her as Maria Mendez Morales from San Marcos, Guatemala. She was last seen in San Marcos between April and June 2008.

"Investigative genetic genealogy is transforming the way we identify unidentified human remains, offering a voice to those who died seeking a better life and a measure of closure to the families left behind," said **Katie Thomas**, Investigative Genetic Genealogist and Co-Founder of Moxxy Forensic Investigations.

Moxxy extended special thanks to Computer Evidence Specialists, LLC for their financial support and Intermountain Forensics for their laboratory work.