



Facial Identification Success Story

The following example of law enforcement using facial identification technology is from online news sources.

WARNING

The below links include graphic details and/or images which some readers may find disturbing

After being at large for 13 years, Luiz Carlos da Rocha, also known by the name "Cabeça Branca" ("White Head" in a literal English translation), was captured by the Brazilian Federal Police in a major operation which was only possible thanks to a facial comparison examination carried out by the National Institute of Criminalistics of the Brazilian Federal Police. Also known as the "ambassador of trafficking" and considered the greatest drug dealer in Brazil for more than three decades, "Cabeça Branca" commanded an international drug trafficking scheme responsible for monthly supplying at least five tons of highly pure cocaine to the United States as well as countries in Europe and Africa.

Living under the false identity of Vitor Luiz de Moraes (a big rancher in the interior of the country), "Cabeça Branca" underwent plastic surgery to keep himself hidden and preclude arousing suspicion. After investigations pointed to Vitor's involvement with command of the drug trafficking network, a facial comparison examination provided the necessary evidence to confirm his true identity: Luiz Carlos da Rocha. That allowed investigators to obtain search and arrest warrants which revealed the scheme to conceal the network and perform money laundering.

Media links:

<https://news.sky.com/story/drug-kingpin-white-head-who-changed-his-face-with-plastic-surgery-caught-in-brazil-10934097>

<https://apnews.com/63963caa2e8a4a0faf2726ea52f7b405/Brazil-captures-drug-lord-who-used-surgery-to-hide>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=37VVfUm2TM> (in portuguese, available with English subtitles)