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## Between technique and reality: the Manaus Forensic Institute as a pillar of criminal justice amid structural limitations

*Between Technique and Reality: The Forensic Medical Institute of Manaus as a Pillar of Criminal Justice Amid Structural Limitation*

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### Summary

This article analyzes the role of the Manaus Forensic Medical Institute (IML) as a key player in the production of technical evidence for criminal justice, especially in crimes that leave traces. Articles 158 to 184 of the Code of Criminal Procedure highlight the importance of official forensic examinations in ensuring due process and balancing the rights of victims and defendants. Despite its importance, the IML faces challenges such as understaffing, poor physical structure, and technological limitations, which affect the quality and speed of reports. The research includes direct observations, public data, and professional accounts, revealing the need for improvements. Proposals include modernizing processes, valuing experts, and expanding services to the state's interior. The study concludes that strengthening the IML is essential for a more efficient and evidence-based criminal justice system and should be a priority in public policy.

**Keywords:** Forensic Medicine Institute. Criminal justice. Technical evidence. Legal process. Amazonas.

### Abstract

This article analyzes the role of the Instituto Médico Legal (IML) of Manaus as a key institution in the production of technical evidence for criminal justice, particularly in cases involving material traces. Based on Articles 158 to 184 of the Brazilian Code of Criminal Procedure, the study highlights the importance of official forensic expertise in ensuring due process and balancing the rights of victims and defendants. Despite its institutional relevance, the IML faces significant challenges, including staff shortages, inadequate infrastructure, and outdated technology, which hinder the quality and timeliness of forensic reports. The research combines direct observation, public data, and testimonies from professionals to reveal the urgent need for improvements. Proposed measures include process modernization, professional development for forensic experts, and the expansion of services to remote areas of the state. The study concludes that strengthening the IML is essential for a more effective and evidence-based criminal justice system and should be prioritized in public policy agendas.

**Keywords:** Forensic Institute. CriminalJustice. Technical Evidence. Due Process. Amazon.

### 1. Introduction

Brazilian criminal justice is structured on several pillars, among which the most important is production of technical evidence as an essential element for determining the facts and holding accountable of those involved. In crimes that leave traces, as provided for in articles 158 to 184 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, the performance of expert assessments is mandatory, and replacement by other means is prohibited of evidence. In this context, the Legal Medical Institute (IML) assumes a central role, acting as an organ technician responsible for examinations ranging from the detection of bodily injuries to the determination of the cause of death in homicide cases.

The IML not only provides technical support for criminal investigations, but also



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contributes directly to the formation of judicial conviction, and is therefore a fundamental link between science and law. Forensic expertise, when translating biological and physical data into language legal, allows the criminal process to develop based on concrete evidence, reducing the space for arbitrariness and subjectivism. However, this essential function is often compromised by structural limitations that affect the quality, speed and reliability of reports produced.

The reality of the Legal Medical Institute of Manaus, capital of the state of Amazonas, illustrates emblematically this tension between the technical-legal importance of expertise and the practical obstacles faced by forensic institutions. Located in a region marked by logistical challenges, socioeconomic inequalities and lack of public investment, the IML of Manaus operates under conditions that hinder the full exercise of its mission. The shortage of human resources qualified, poor physical infrastructure and the absence of adequate technologies are factors that compromise not only the daily functioning of the body, but also the effectiveness of justice criminal as a whole.

Given this scenario, this article proposes a critical analysis of the Legal Medical Institute of Manaus, with the tension between the technical ideal provided for in the legislation and reality as a guiding thread institutional experience in practice. It is assumed that access to criminal justice is not limited to the formal existence of bodies and procedures, but depends on the concrete capacity of these institutions to produce reliable, timely, and technically adequate evidence. Official expertise, in this sense, it must be understood as an instrument to guarantee fundamental rights, especially in contexts of social and institutional vulnerability.

The relevance of the research is justified by two main factors. Firstly, need to give visibility to the situation of official expertise in the Northern Region of Brazil, often neglected in national academic and political debates. Secondly, due to the urgency of propose practical solutions that contribute to strengthening the IML as an essential technical body to criminal justice. The central problem guiding the study is: how the structural limitations of the Institute Legal Doctor of Manaus impact the production of expert evidence and, consequently, the effectiveness of criminal justice?

To answer this question, the work is organized into four thematic axes. The first addresses the role of forensic medical expert evidence in criminal proceedings, based on legal provisions and in specialized doctrine. The second analyzes the IML as a technical institution and guarantor of access to justice, highlighting its role in protecting the rights of victims and defendants. The third axis presents a diagnosis of the structural limitations faced by the Legal Medical Institute of Manaus, based on public data, reports from professionals and empirical observations carried out in local. Finally, the fourth axis discusses the procedural consequences of this reality and proposes measures



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concrete measures to improve the body, with emphasis on the public agents responsible for necessary changes, such as the Government of the State of Amazonas, the Civil Police and the Ministry of Justice.

Ultimately, we hope to contribute to the debate on the importance of official expertise as indispensable tool for democratic criminal justice, recognizing the technical work carried out in IML of Manaus and pointing out concrete paths so that it becomes, in fact, a solid pillar of the procedural truth and the protection of human rights

## **2. Theoretical Framework / Results**

### **2.1 Forensic medical expert evidence in criminal proceedings**

Expert evidence occupies a prominent place in Brazilian criminal proceedings, especially in cases where there are material traces of the crime. According to article 158 of the Code of Procedure Criminal (CPP):

*Art. 158. When the offense leaves traces, a forensic examination will be essential, direct or indirect, and the accused's confession cannot replace it.*

This legal provision reinforces the technical-scientific nature of criminal investigation and establishes expertise as a mandatory instrument for determining facts in certain situations.

The forensic medical examination, carried out by specialized professionals, aims to produce technical knowledge that helps the judge, the Public Prosecutor's Office and the defense in understanding of the material elements of the crime. This is evidence that requires specific training, methodology rigorous and impartial, being considered one of the most reliable within the evidentiary set. The examinations carried out by the Legal Medical Institute include, among others, reports of bodily injury, post-mortem examinations, checking for drunkenness and identifying victims.

In addition to its evidentiary function, forensic expertise also plays a guaranteeing role in criminal proceedings. By establishing objective parameters for the analysis of facts, it contributes to the protection of fundamental rights, such as the adversarial system, full defense and the principle of presumption of innocence. Technical evidence, in this sense, acts as a counterweight to the subjectivity of the others evidence, such as testimonies and confessions, which can be influenced by emotional, social factors or even for personal interests.

However, for the expertise to fulfill its guarantee function, it must be carried out with quality, timeliness and impartiality. The reliability of technical evidence depends directly from the institutional conditions of the bodies responsible for its production. This includes the qualification of experts, the availability of adequate equipment, the existence of protocols



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standardized and the technical autonomy of the professionals involved. When these conditions are not met, the expert evidence loses strength and may compromise the very legitimacy of the criminal proceedings.

Brazilian jurisprudence has recognized the importance of official expertise as an element essential for the formation of judicial conviction. In several judgments, higher courts have reaffirmed that the absence of a forensic examination in crimes that leave traces constitutes procedural nullity, except when there is suitable indirect evidence. This guidance reinforces the need for strengthening of expert institutions, especially in regions where there is greater vulnerability structural.

In the specific case of the Legal Medical Institute of Manaus, the production of expert evidence faces challenges that will be addressed in the following chapters. Before that, it is essential understand the institutional role of the IML as a technical body linked to the Civil Police, responsible for carrying out expert examinations that support investigations and legal proceedings. This understanding will allow us to contextualize the limitations faced by the agency and assess its impact on effectiveness of criminal justice.

## **2.2 the forensic medical institute as a technical institution and guarantor of access to justice**

The Legal Medical Institute (IML) is an official expert institution linked to the structure of the Civil Police, whose primary function is to carry out forensic examinations that support investigations criminal and judicial proceedings. Its activities are governed by technical and legal standards that aim to ensure the production of reliable, impartial, and scientifically based evidence. In crimes that leave traces, such as homicides, physical assaults, sexual abuse and fatal accidents, the work of the IML is essential for the investigation of the facts and the criminal accountability of those involved.

Historically, forensic institutes emerged as a response to the need for incorporate medical knowledge into the legal field, especially in societies that have come to value technical evidence as an instrument for rationalizing justice. In Brazil, this institutionalization is consolidated throughout the 20th century, with the creation of technical and scientific police departments in states, including Amazonas. The IML of Manaus, in this context, represents not only an agency to support police investigations, but a technical body that acts at the intersection between science, law and human rights.

The work of the IML is essential to guarantee access to criminal justice in its fullest dimension. material. The concept of access to justice, as developed by Mauro Cappelletti and Bryant Garth, goes beyond the simple possibility of appealing to the Judiciary, also involving the effectiveness of the institutional mechanisms that ensure the protection of rights. In this sense, the IML contributes for the implementation of due process of law, by offering objective elements that guide action



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of judges, prosecutors, and defense attorneys. Forensic expertise, by translating biological and physical data into legal language, allows the criminal process to develop based on concrete evidence, reducing the space for arbitrariness and subjectivism.

Furthermore, the IML plays a guaranteeing role by protecting the rights of both victims and the accused. For victims, the tests performed can confirm the occurrence of violence, identify the type of injury suffered and provide support for legal compensation. For accused, the expertise can demonstrate the absence of traces, the incompatibility between the reports and the technical data, or even the existence of natural causes for initially suspected events. In both cases, the actions of the IML contribute to the construction of a more balanced criminal justice system, transparent and evidence-based.

However, for this guarantee function to be effective, the IML must have adequate institutional conditions. This includes: a) physical infrastructure compatible with demand and with the required technical standards; b) qualified human resources, with specific training and professional development; c) modern equipment and sufficient supplies to carry out the examinations; d) technical autonomy in the face of external pressures, whether political, police or judicial; e) standardization of expert procedures, with clear and auditable protocols.

The absence of these elements compromises not only the quality of the reports, but also the credibility of the institution before the justice system and society. When the IML operates in precarious conditions, reports may be delayed, incomplete or inconclusive, harming investigations, delaying processes and, ultimately, violating fundamental rights.

In the case of the Manaus IML, this reality is particularly sensitive. The capital of Amazonas concentrates most of the state's expert demand, but faces logistical challenges, budgetary and administrative issues that hinder the full functioning of the agency. The shortage of experts, work overload, lack of adequate equipment and the absence of units in the interior of the state are factors that limit the IML's performance and compromise its guarantee function. Even so, the professionals who work at the institution demonstrate ethical and technical commitment, seeking to maintain the quality of services within existing possibilities.

Recognizing the IML as a technical institution and guarantor of access to justice is a step fundamental for the formulation of public policies that value official expertise. This implies not only financial investments, but also institutional strengthening, continuous training of professionals and integration with other instances of the justice system. Strengthening the IML must be understood as a strategic measure for the construction of a more criminal justice system scientific, democratic and respectful of human rights.



### 3. Material and Method

The work is organized into four thematic areas. The first addresses the role of the test forensic medical expert in criminal proceedings, based on legal provisions and specialized doctrine. The second analyzes the IML as a technical institution and guarantor of access to justice, highlighting its function in protecting the rights of victims and defendants. The third axis presents a diagnosis of the structural limitations faced by the Legal Medical Institute of Manaus, based on data public, reports from professionals and empirical observations made on site. Finally, the fourth axis discusses the procedural consequences of this reality and proposes concrete measures for the improvement of the body, with emphasis on the public agents responsible for the changes necessary, such as the Government of the State of Amazonas, the Civil Police and the Ministry of Justice.

### 4. Results and Discussion

#### 4.1 Diagnosis of the structural limitations of the Manaus Forensic Medical Institute

Despite its institutional and legal relevance, the Legal Medical Institute (IML) of Manaus faces a series of structural limitations that compromise its ability to produce evidence expert reports with quality, agility and safety. These deficiencies were identified by different control bodies, such as the Public Ministry of Amazonas (MP-AM), the Union of Experts Officials from the State of Amazonas (SINPOE-AM) and state parliamentarians, who reported publicly the precarious working conditions in the organization.

#### 4.2 Obsolete physical infrastructure and unhealthiness

Inspection reports carried out by the Union of Official Experts of the State of Amazonas (SINPOE-AM) and several professional councils point out that the Medical Institute building Legal (IML) of Manaus has an obsolete, old and inadequate physical structure for carrying out of expert examinations. Electrical problems, obstructions in corridors, fire extinguishers were identified expired fires, irregular disposal of biological material and lack of protective equipment individual (PPE). In addition, the storage of materials related to crimes occurs in a inappropriate, putting the integrity of the evidence and the health of the employees at risk. (18 HOURS, 2021).

These structural deficiencies are not recent. As early as 2019, professional councils such as Federal Council of Medicine, Regional Council of Engineering and Agronomy, Regional Council



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of Pharmacy, among others, had pointed out the same problems, reinforcing that it is a chronic situation neglected by the government. The precariousness of the facilities compromises not only the safety of professionals, but also the quality of the examinations performed, affecting directly the production of technical evidence essential for the criminal justice system. (ALEAM, 2021)

One of the most serious problems is the lack of sufficient cold storage rooms for the proper storage of bodies. In many cases, more than one corpse is accommodated at a time, which compromises the dignity of the deceased and the quality of autopsy examinations. This practice, in addition to being disrespectful, it can generate cross-contamination between bodies, making identification difficult of causes of death and the collection of evidence. In a city like Manaus, which records high rates of homicides and violent deaths, this structural deficiency becomes even more critical. (COMMON, 2023)

According to the Amazonas Public Prosecutor's Office (MP-AM), the situation at the IML is alarming. In inspection carried out in December 2023, the prosecutors found that the building is outdated, without minimum conditions to meet the demands of the civil police. The shortage of cold storage requires multiple storage of bodies, which compromises the chain of custody and the accuracy of examinations. In addition, experts often need to purchase supplies with their own resources to ensure that the expert assessments are carried out. (COMMON, 2023)

Given this scenario, it is clear that the physical infrastructure of the IML in Manaus does not meet to the standards required for the production of reliable expert evidence. Negligence with the structure of the body compromises not only the health of employees and the dignity of the dead, but also the right of victims and society to justice.

#### **4.3 Shortage of human resources**

The lack of forensic experts is one of the main limitations faced by the Manaus Legal Medical Institute (IML). Work overload, combined with the lack of competitive exams regular public services, has led many professionals to abandon the service, further worsening the staff shortage. In many cases, the experts themselves need to acquire supplies with resources own to guarantee the carrying out of the exams, which highlights the precariousness of the structure institutional. (COMMON, 2023)

This shortage directly impacts the speed of reports, which are essential for criminal investigations and legal proceedings. Slowness in issuing reports can delay custody hearings, hinder the investigation of assaults and compromise criminal accountability of the perpetrators of the crimes. According to the Amazonas Public Prosecutor's Office, there are cases in which the reports do not are added to the records before the hearings, making it impossible to verify possible aggressions



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suffered by those caught in the act. (18 HOURS, 2021).

The problem, however, is not exclusive to Amazonas. According to a survey by Federal Council of Medicine (CFM), IMLs across the country face a shortage of staff, basic and specialized equipment, in addition to the absence of services such as psychopathology, psychology and radiology. The study reveals that, although there are more than 380 IML units in Brazil, the majority operates with serious limitations, especially in the North and Northeast regions. States like Acre, Alagoas, Maranhão and Amazonas itself present what the CFM calls a “service void”. (ITAPIRA, 2016)

While the IML in Manaus has only one unit to serve more than 2 million of inhabitants, states like São Paulo have more robust and decentralized structures. The IML-SP, for example, performs around 70 autopsies per day and has regional centers, laboratories specialized and multidisciplinary teams (ICRC, 2024). The IML of Ceará (Pefoce) maintains centers in several cities in the interior, which allows greater capillarity and agility in the production of expert reports (PEFOCE, 2023).

This disparity reveals a scenario of inequality in access to official expertise in Brazil. lack of internalization of forensic expertise compromises the constitutional principle of access to justice, especially in remote and riverside regions. The lack of qualified professionals and adequate infrastructure not only makes it difficult to investigate crimes, but also contributes to impunity and the weakening of the penal system.

#### **4.4 Mismatch between demand and operational capacity**

With a population of over 2 million inhabitants, Manaus has only one unit of the Legal Medical Institute (IML), which is clearly insufficient to meet the demand expertise in the capital and throughout the state of Amazonas. This concentration of services in a single location creates operational bottlenecks, overloads professionals and compromises agility in production reports, especially during periods of high incidence of violent crimes.

The absence of decentralized IML units in the interior of the state further aggravates the problem. Distant municipalities, many of them accessible only by river, are left without access to forensic examinations essential for investigation and criminal liability. This directly affects the collection of evidence in a timely manner, especially in cases of domestic violence, sexual crimes and homicides occurring in rural and riverside areas. The lack of forensic infrastructure in these locations contributes for impunity and the weakening of the criminal justice system.

According to a study by the Federal Council of Medicine (CFM), the IML in Manaus has a “empty service”, with a lack of personnel, basic and specialized equipment, in addition to the absence



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services such as psychopathology, psychology and radiology, which are essential for more expert assessments complex. Specialist Rosylane Mercês Rocha, member of the CFM technical chamber, highlights that access to official expertise in Brazil is not widespread, and the country lacks expert units in practically all states, especially in the North Region.

The lack of internalization of official expertise in Amazonas is not just a logistical issue, but also a violation of the principle of access to justice. The Federal Constitution guarantees that everyone citizens have the right to effective judicial protection, which includes access to technical evidence produced by official bodies. When this access is denied or hindered for structural reasons, there is a weakening of procedural guarantees and a real risk of arbitrariness.

Furthermore, the overload of the IML central unit in Manaus compromises the quality of the reports issued. Professionals work under pressure, with exhausting hours and limited resources limited, which may affect the accuracy of the examinations and the integrity of the chain of custody of the evidence. The situation is aggravated by the lack of public tenders and the low value given to the expert career, factors that make it difficult to replace and retain qualified professionals.

Given this scenario, the creation of regional IML centers in municipalities becomes urgent. strategic areas in the interior of Amazonas, as well as the implementation of tele-expertise projects and technical cooperation with local hospitals and universities. These measures would not only expand the scope of official expertise, but would also promote greater equity in access to criminal justice in the entire state.

#### **4.5. Procedural consequences and proposals for improving the forensic medical institute**

##### **Manaus**

The structural limitations faced by the Legal Medical Institute (IML) of Manaus do not restricted to the administrative level — they directly affect the quality of criminal justice. The expertise official, when weakened, compromises the investigation of facts, the accountability of the perpetrators and the protection of victims. This chapter delves into the procedural impacts of this reality and proposes concrete measures to reverse the situation.

The slowness in issuing expert reports is one of the main consequences observed. In a criminal justice system that relies on technical evidence to validate the materiality of the crime, Any delay can have knock-on effects: stalled investigations, postponed hearings, arrests prolonged provisional measures and, in extreme cases, the prescription of the punitive claim. In crimes against life, for example, the absence of detailed autopsy reports can make classification difficult correct interpretation of the crime (intentional homicide, negligent homicide, femicide, etc.), prejudicing both the prosecution and the defense. In cases of domestic and sexual violence, the delay in carrying out physical examinations



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crime may compromise the protection of the victim and the effectiveness of protective measures.

Furthermore, the lack of structure for specialized examinations — such as toxicological analyses, genetic or ballistic — limits the IML's ability to contribute to more detailed investigations complex crimes, such as environmental crimes, drug trafficking, or firearm homicides. This can lead to dependence on private experts or the judicialization of evidence, increasing costs and risks of bias. The fragility of the expert opinion also affects the principle of adversarial proceedings. Without reports reliable, the technical defense is compromised, which can create an imbalance between the parties and compromise a fair trial. Official expertise, in this context, is a guarantee instrument — not only of prosecution, but also of protection of the defendant's rights.

Given this scenario, the need for a restructuring plan for the IML becomes evident. of Manaus that involves coordinated actions, sustainable investments and political commitment. To Therefore, the following proposals are organized by strategic axis, aiming not only to correct the current deficiencies, but also to strengthen official expertise as a pillar of criminal justice.

#### **4.6 Practical proposals for improvement**

Given this diagnosis, a restructuring plan for the IML of Manaus is necessary. involve coordinated actions, sustainable investments, and political commitment. The following proposals are organized by strategic axis:

- a) Physical restructuring and technological modernization
  - Structural reform of the IML headquarters, adapting to Anvisa and Ministry of Labor, ensuring safe, clean and functional environments.
  - Acquisition of modern equipment, such as cold rooms, microscopes digital, biological collection kits, expert management software and data storage systems data.
  - Complete digitalization of processes, with integration between the IML, police stations, Public Prosecutor's Office and Judiciary, allowing greater agility and traceability of reports.
- b) Enhancement and expansion of the expert framework
  - Periodic public competition for the recomposition and expansion of the medical staff. forensic doctors, dentists, autopsy assistants and administrative technicians.
  - Career plan with functional progression, bonuses for specialization and unhealthiness allowance compatible with the reality of the work.
  - Ongoing training, with courses in partnership with universities, exchanges with other institutes and access to updated scientific publications.



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c) Internalization of expert services

- Creation of regional IML centers in key cities in the interior of Amazonas, such as Parintins, Tefé, Coari and Tabatinga, with minimum structure for bodily injury examinations and necropsy.
- Mobile forensic units, equipped to serve riverside communities and indigenous people, focusing on crimes of domestic, sexual and environmental violence.
- Partnerships with local hospitals and universities for technical and logistical support, especially in hard-to-reach areas.

d) Institutional strengthening and intergovernmental coordination

- Agreements between the Government of Amazonas, Civil Police and Ministry of Justice, with transfer of federal resources via the National Public Security Fund.
- Creation of a State Committee for Official Expertise, with representatives from the IML, Public Prosecutor's Office, Judiciary, Public Defender's Office and civil society, to monitor the quality of services.
- Campaigns to promote official expertise, focusing on raising awareness of population and legal professionals about the importance of technical evidence.

#### 4.7 Public agents responsible for changes

The implementation of proposals for the restructuring of the Legal Medical Institute (IML) of Manaus requires coordinated coordination between different spheres of government. The Government of The State of Amazonas plays a central role in this process, being responsible for administrative management, for the agency's budget and infrastructure. The Amazonas Civil Police, in turn, is responsible for coordinate the technical activities of the IML, ensuring adequate working conditions and autonomy functional to official experts. At the federal level, the Ministry of Justice and Public Security may contribute financial resources, modernization programs and technical training initiatives, strengthening official expertise in the state.

Furthermore, the Public Prosecutor's Office and the Judiciary perform essential functions as inspectors and partners in the formulation of public policies aimed at improving production of expert evidence. These bodies are also directly impacted by the quality and speed of the reports, which reinforces their importance in demanding structural and operational improvements. Finally, the Legislative Assembly of Amazonas has the role of promoting public debates on the topic, by through hearings, and to allocate parliamentary amendments that enable investments in expertise official. The joint action of these public agents is essential to ensure that forensic expertise in Amazonas is strengthened, ensuring access to justice and the effectiveness of the penal system.



## Final Considerations

The analysis developed throughout this work showed that the Legal Medical Institute of Manaus occupies a strategic position in the criminal justice system, being responsible for production of technical evidence that supports investigations, judicial decisions and procedural guarantees. However, the reality faced by the body reveals a profound disconnect between its function provided for by law and the specific operating conditions.

The structural limitations of the IML — such as physical precariousness, the shortage of professionals, technological lag and centralization of services — are not mere administrative obstacles. They represent real obstacles to the effectiveness of criminal justice, directly affecting the speed of processes, the quality of evidence and respect for the fundamental rights of victims and defendants. In a system that depends on technical evidence to ensure the truth of the facts, the fragility of expertise official compromises not only the criminal investigation, but the very legitimacy of the criminal process.

Furthermore, the situation at the Manaus IML reflects a broader problem of invisibility institutional role of the Northern Region in national debates on public security and justice. The absence of public policies aimed at valuing official expertise reveal a historical negligence that perpetuates regional inequalities and limits access to justice in peripheral and riverside areas.

In light of this scenario, this study proposed concrete improvement measures, which will from the physical restructuring of the body to the internalization of expert services. Such proposals do not not only aim to improve the efficiency of the IML, but also to reposition it as a technical institution autonomous, committed to science, ethics, and human rights. Strengthening expertise official must be understood as a permanent public policy, integrated into the strategies of security, justice and citizenship.

The conclusion that emerges is that the IML of Manaus needs to be recognized not only as an auxiliary body of the police, but as a true guardian of procedural truth. Investing in official expertise is to invest in democratic criminal justice, in the protection of fundamental rights and in construction of a fairer, more transparent and efficient legal system.

This work, by shedding light on the forensic reality of Amazonas, seeks to contribute to the academic and institutional debate on the role of forensic science in Brazilian criminal justice. That valorization of official expertise is not just a technical issue, but an ethical commitment to truth, justice and human dignity.

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