

THE IMPACT OF DIGITAL VIDEO SURVEILLANCE AND ANALYSIS TECHNOLOGIES IN THE INVESTIGATION OF CRIMES AGAINST THE PERSON

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ABSTRACT

The impact of digital video surveillance technologies in the investigation of crimes against the person has become increasingly significant due to the integration of advanced video analysis tools in modern criminal justice. This study evaluates the role of video surveillance, particularly digital video analysis, in enhancing the evidentiary process during investigations of enforced disappearances. The research applies a combination of qualitative and quantitative methods, including legal dogmatics, case law analysis, comparative legal approaches, legal monitoring, and mathematical modelling. Findings reveal that video surveillance technologies contribute crucially to criminal investigations, offering objective visual evidence that complements or challenges testimonial accounts. Notably, statistical analysis demonstrates that video footage supported the resolution of 72% of general crimes against the person, with this figure rising to 86% in enforced disappearance cases. Furthermore, improving video quality by 20% was shown to increase the probability of case resolution by 15%. Despite these benefits, the study highlights ongoing privacy concerns and emphasizes the need for robust legal frameworks to safeguard rights and ensure the admissibility of digital video evidence. Future research should investigate the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) into video analytics to further enhance investigative outcomes.

Keywords: *Video Analysis; AI-Driven Video Analytics; Criminal Investigation; Enforced Disappearances; Evidentiary Value*

1. INTRODUCTION

The effectiveness of digital video surveillance and video analysis technologies in the investigation of crimes against the person has emerged as a critical aspect of modern criminal justice systems. Technological advancements have transformed traditional methods of collecting and verifying evidence, making video surveillance a cornerstone in contemporary investigative practices [1]. Globally, the adoption of surveillance systems has expanded significantly, with the video surveillance market projected to reach USD 74.6 billion by 2025—nearly three times its 2016 value.

In China alone, the number of surveillance cameras was estimated to exceed 626 million by 2020 [2]. This surge underscores the growing importance of surveillance infrastructure in law enforcement and public safety.

Digital video surveillance serves multiple investigative functions: documenting criminal events, identifying suspects, tracing movements, and supporting the collection of admissible evidence. Despite its widespread implementation, debates persist regarding its overall efficacy in criminal proceedings, particularly in cases characterized by limited or absent physical evidence, such as enforced disappearances [3]. In

such complex investigations, where eyewitness accounts are scarce and material traces are minimal, digital video recordings often constitute the only available form of direct or circumstantial evidence [4]. While the application of video surveillance in general criminal investigations has been explored in previous literature, its role in specific types of crimes, especially those against the person, remains underexamined [32]. For example, there is a lack of focused research on the use of surveillance technologies in cases of enforced disappearances, where victim tracing and perpetrator identification are particularly challenging. Most existing studies address broader topics such as the execution of investigative actions or the general role of evidence in criminal proceedings, without analyzing the unique contributions of video surveillance in detail [5]. Moreover, limited scholarly attention has been given to how digital video technologies can bridge the evidentiary gap between physical and circumstantial evidence in such cases [6]. This study is driven by the hypothesis that the systematic integration of video surveillance and digital video analysis into investigative procedures significantly enhances law enforcement's capabilities to solve crimes against the person, particularly enforced disappearances.

The academic novelty of this research lies in its targeted analysis of video surveillance as an evidentiary and investigative tool in cases where conventional methods fall short. The study also examines the potential of digital video data to provide reliable reconstructions of events and contribute to the development of admissible evidence under various legal systems [7]. The overarching aim of this study is to evaluate the impact and effectiveness of digital video surveillance technologies in the investigation of crimes against the person, with a specific emphasis on enforced disappearance cases. To achieve this aim, the following objectives were pursued:

1. To determine the contribution of digital video surveillance and analysis to solving enforced disappearance cases;
2. To examine legal and procedural challenges associated with the use of video evidence in criminal proceedings;
3. To assess how digital video technologies can enhance investigative measures in cases involving crimes against the person.

This study distinguishes itself from prior research by targeting a specific crime category—enforced disappearances—and by systematically connecting surveillance quality parameters to concrete judicial outcomes. Unlike prior AI-

forensics studies that emphasize technical accuracy alone, this work evaluates forensic reliability, legal admissibility, and the human rights dimensions of video surveillance in parallel. Such integration of legal analytics with computational modeling has not been previously explored in this context, marking the study's methodological and academic novelty.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Digital video capture and video analytics technologies have become key technologies in the reconstruction of criminal activities, particularly crimes against the person. Literature thus far has cited their growing importance in criminal justice systems with regard to explaining evidentiary accuracy as well as supporting real-time investigative activities. Of particular interest in current research is how artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning algorithms are integrated in video analytics to enable automatic detection, recognition, and interpretation of criminal activity. Abdulwahid [8] investigates the application of CNNs for ethnic classification using facial biometrics with an accuracy of 85–86% on the MORPH and FERET datasets. It does not, however, address dynamic environmental conditions, which are necessary for field applicability in criminal investigations. The ethical implications of ethnic classification are also a worry since it can result in bias and abuse. Payghode et al. [9] cover the application of neural networks to object detection and activity recognition in surveillance video. Their findings confirm that AI-driven analysis significantly enhances the detection of criminal activity. Yet, deployment of these technologies is confronted by the demands of real-time data processing and flexibility in adapting to varying environmental factors such as lighting and crowd density. Martínez-Mascorro et al. [10] used a 3D CNN model to detect shoplifting behavior early. While the model was very accurate, its specificity to one domain limits its generalizability to other types of crimes, with a need for further research on how its application can be broadened in forensic analysis. Ayad and Al-Khalidi [11] proposed a CNN-based mobile remote surveillance system for home security. While their solution effectively reduced response time, its scalability to support law enforcement operations in large-scale or high-complexity criminal investigations remains limited. Integration problems with conventional forensic systems are emphasized by the research. Nasry et al. [12] sought to enhance person-tracking capabilities through AI-powered video monitoring.

Although there has been improvement in identification accuracy, real-world application is still thwarted by limitations such as anomalous lighting, occlusion, and insufficient computational resources. Alkhurayyif [13] studied public awareness of information security vulnerabilities in home CCTV systems. It was revealed that there was insufficient awareness about privacy and data protection principles that could undermine the admissibility of this evidence in court. Chen et al. [14] put forward the ABOS model—an attention-based one-stage approach to person search with the ability to perform effectively in partial occlusion conditions. Although this model is an effective technical solution, it has limited practical use because of the infeasible computational complexity and requirement for large-scale annotated datasets. Bouafia et al. [15] evaluated the MobileNetV2 model on real-time human detection in video surveillance. While the model provided high performance measures, whether it is robust against complex, real-world situations (e.g., multi-person scenes, varying lighting) is yet to be verified. Tosti et al. [16] also analyzed height estimation from distorted video stills. The accuracy of the method was shown to be a function of image quality and camera calibration. Although technically promising, more validation is needed before it can be applied to casework in forensic investigations. Radmilović et al. [17] studied the use of anthropometric measurements from video footage for suspect identification. Their study contributes to the precision of biometric analysis but is not combined with AI-based recognition software, which lowers its applicability in high-stakes criminal investigations.

Despite technological progress, there is a research gap on the legal thresholds of admissibility and reliability of AI-assisted video evidence in court, particularly in cases of enforced disappearance. Although AI yields high precision in suspect identification, concerns regarding

algorithmic bias, forensic soundness, and transparency remain to be resolved. Legal guidelines to regulate video analytics technology applications and ethical compliance are urgently needed. Moreover, the implications of AI-driven video analysis for fundamental human rights must be critically assessed. A balanced approach that mixes technological innovation with legal safeguarding will be necessary to maximize the potential of video surveillance technologies to their full extent while guaranteeing due process and data protection standards.

In sum, while numerous studies validate the technological feasibility of AI-driven surveillance, few explicitly address its operationalization within judicial processes, particularly in enforced disappearance cases. This study addresses that gap by embedding AI-model outputs (e.g., 3D CNN, MobileNetV2, ABOS) into a legal analysis framework, thereby enriching the forensic literature with practical application insights. Moreover, the incorporation of ethical and evidentiary thresholds directly aligns this study with jurisprudential standards, offering both scientific rigor and legal applicability.

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1. Research design

This research was designed to systematically assess the effectiveness of digital video surveillance and video analysis technologies in the investigation of crimes against the person, particularly in enforced disappearance cases. The study was conducted in several structured stages to ensure methodological coherence and relevance. These stages—illustrated in Figure 1—include the formation of a representative sample, selection of methodological tools, data analysis, and interpretation of results.

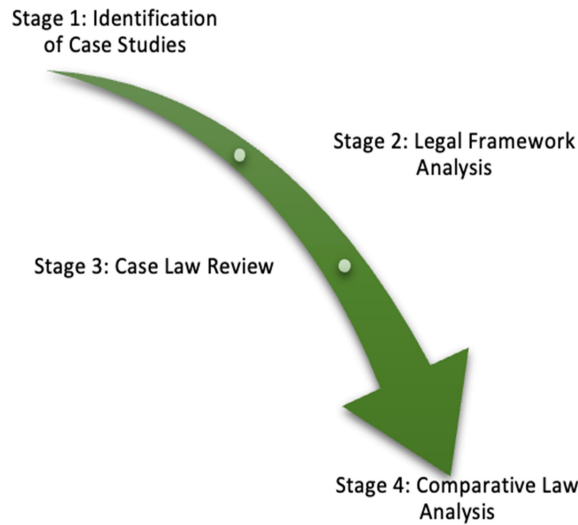


Figure 1: Research Stages

Source: developed by the author based on MiniTAB [18]

3.2. Sampling

The study sample consisted of 350 documented criminal cases involving crimes against the person, including 50 enforced disappearance cases where video surveillance played a central evidentiary role. Cases were selected according to clearly defined inclusion and exclusion criteria, outlined in Table 1. The cases span multiple legal jurisdictions and reflect diverse regulatory approaches to video surveillance technology.

Table 1: Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria For Sampling

Category	Criteria	Description
Inclusion	Relevance to research focus	Case must involve criminal investigation utilizing video surveillance as primary or supportive evidence.
	Types of crimes	Crimes against the person, including violent offenses and abductions.
	Availability of video evidence	Surveillance footage had to be used in the investigative or judicial process.
	Admissibility in court	Only cases where video evidence was accepted by the court were included.
Exclusion	Lack of video evidence	Cases without surveillance footage or with minimal evidentiary value were excluded.
	Unsolved cases	Ongoing or dismissed investigations were excluded.

	Geographical restrictions	Cases from regions where surveillance is legally restricted were omitted.
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Source: created by the author

Geographically, the sample included cases from the United States, European Union, Ukraine, Latin America (e.g., Mexico and Colombia), and Asia (e.g., Japan and India). These jurisdictions were selected based on their technological integration and regulatory maturity in handling digital evidence.

The study covers a time frame from 2010 to 2024 to capture the evolution of video surveillance technologies and their application in criminal justice.

3.3. Methods

The research employed an interdisciplinary methodology combining legal, statistical, and computational approaches. The primary methods are as follows:

1. Dogmatic Legal Analysis: This method was used to examine statutory frameworks, criminal procedure codes, and international legal standards related to digital video evidence. The analysis focused on procedural legitimacy, collection protocols, and evidentiary admissibility.

2. Case Law Analysis: Case judgments were systematically reviewed to evaluate how courts interpret and weigh video surveillance evidence in crimes against the person. This

involved identifying patterns in the use of surveillance footage during investigations and trials.

3. Comparative Law: This approach was used to contrast the legal treatment of digital video evidence across jurisdictions. It provided insights into best practices and regulatory challenges, particularly concerning enforced disappearances.

4. Legal Monitoring: Continuous tracking of legislative updates, regulatory changes, and judicial decisions ensured the legal relevance and currency of the study.

5. Regression analysis and Pearson's correlation coefficient were applied to assess how technical variables—such as video quality, camera distance, and image clarity—influence investigation outcomes. Key formulas included:

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X + \epsilon$$

where:

Y – a dependent variable (e.g., success of an investigation measured by solving a case or identifying a suspect).

β_0 — the intercept (the value of Y when X is 0).

β_1 — the coefficient of the independent variable X which represents the slope or change in Y for a one-unit change in X (this indicates how much the success of an investigation changes with changes in video quality, camera distance, etc.).

X — the independent variable (e.g., video quality, camera distance, etc.).

ϵ — the error term (the difference between the observed and predicted values of Y) The correlation coefficient measures the strength and direction of the relationship between two variables. It is usually denoted as r . For Pearson correlation, the formula is:

$$r = \frac{n \sum (X_i Y_i) - \sum x_i \sum Y_i}{\sqrt{[n \sum X_i^2 - (\sum x_i)^2] [n \sum Y_i^2 - (\sum Y_i)^2]}}$$

where:

r – Pearson's correlation coefficient, which ranges from -1 to 1:

$r = 1$ indicates a perfect positive linear relationship.

$r = -1$ indicates a perfect negative linear relationship.

$r = 0$ indicates no linear relationship.

X_i and Y_i — individual data points for the independent variable X (e.g., video quality) and the dependent variable Y (e.g., investigation success).

n – the number of data points.

$\sum x_i$ and $\sum y_i$ – represent the sum of all data points for X and Y , respectively.

$\sum X_i^2$ and $\sum Y_i^2$ represent the sum of the squares of the X and Y values, respectively.

3.4. Instruments

1. Python (NumPy, SciPy, Pandas, Statsmodels, Matplotlib, Seaborn)

2. SPSS (IBM Statistical Package for the Social Sciences), ANOVA (Analysis of Variance)

3. NVivo (for Qualitative Data Analysis)

4. MATLAB (Simulating Investigative Scenarios)

3.5. Operationalization of Concepts and Hypothesis Formation

The conceptual framework guiding this study is grounded in the hypothesis that: “The systematic integration of digital video surveillance and analysis technologies enhances investigative effectiveness, particularly in solving crimes against the person, such as enforced disappearances.”

To test this hypothesis, key constructs were operationalized as follows:

- Investigative effectiveness: measured by case resolution rates (closed vs. unresolved), identification of suspects, and admissibility of evidence.

- Admissibility of video evidence: evaluated by judicial acceptance, as documented in court rulings.

- Surveillance utility: assessed through technical indicators (video resolution, camera placement, recording clarity) and their impact on evidentiary weight.

These constructs were coded and statistically analyzed in SPSS using linear regression and Pearson correlation models. NVivo was used to trace thematic consistencies in judicial rulings, while legal interpretations ensured doctrinal compliance (Figure 2).

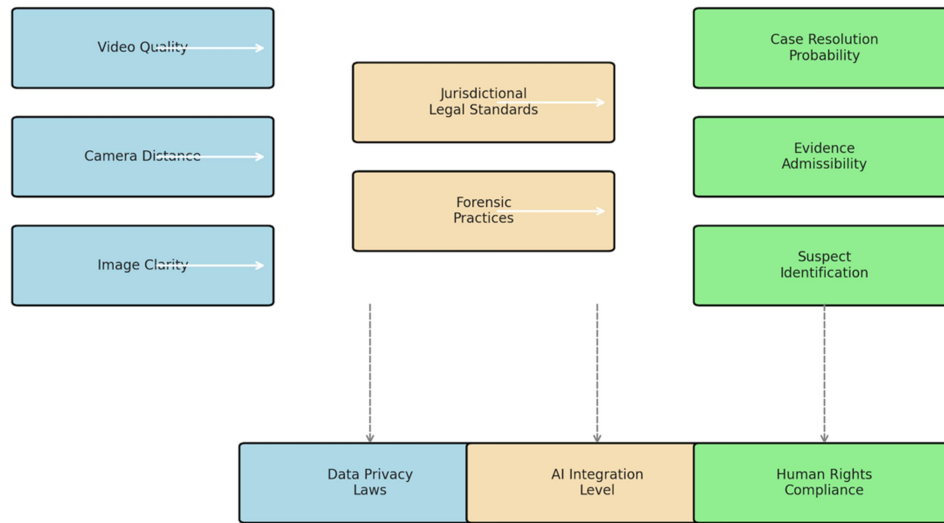


Figure 2: Conceptual Framework Of Investigative Enhancement Via Digital Video Surveillance
 Source: developed by the author based on MiniTAB [18]

4. RESULTS

1. General effectiveness of video surveillance in criminal investigations

The analysis of 350 criminal cases revealed that digital video surveillance significantly improves the investigative process in crimes against the person. Surveillance footage contributed to suspect identification, corroboration of witness statements, and validation of events presented during the trial. Specifically, statistical evaluation demonstrated that video evidence played a decisive

role in resolving 72% of all analyzed cases, underscoring the technology’s investigative relevance.

2. Legal collisions across jurisdictions

A comparative legal analysis identified significant inconsistencies in how different countries regulate the admissibility of video evidence. Table 2 summarizes key legal conflicts that affect the use of surveillance data in investigations.

Table 2: Main Legal Conflicts In National Legal Systems

Jurisdiction	Legal Conflict
United States	Rigid chain-of-custody protocols often lead to exclusion of evidence.
EU	Strict privacy laws limit access to private surveillance footage.
Ukraine	Absence of standardized forensic procedures for digital evidence.
Latin America	Inconsistent data retention laws hinder evidentiary use.
Asia	Broad judicial discretion leads to non-uniform admissibility rulings.

Source: Author’s analysis based on [19],[20].

Legal conflicts significantly affect the effectiveness of video surveillance in criminal investigations. Approaches to this issue vary depending on the jurisdiction. In the US, the emphasis is on ensuring the integrity of evidence, while the EU focuses on protecting privacy. Countries with underdeveloped legislation face enforcement challenges, particularly in Latin

America and Asia. The study shows that standardizing procedures for processing digital evidence could significantly improve the effectiveness of video surveillance in criminal justice at the global level.

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standardizing procedures for handling digital evidence could significantly improve the effectiveness of video surveillance in criminal justice globally.

3. Trends in judicial recognition of video surveillance

The analysis of judicial decisions between 2011 and 2024 indicates a clear increase in reliance

on video surveillance as primary evidence. Courts are progressively acknowledging the value of visual data in proving guilt, especially in high-profile or complex cases (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Timeline of Court Decisions on Video Surveillance

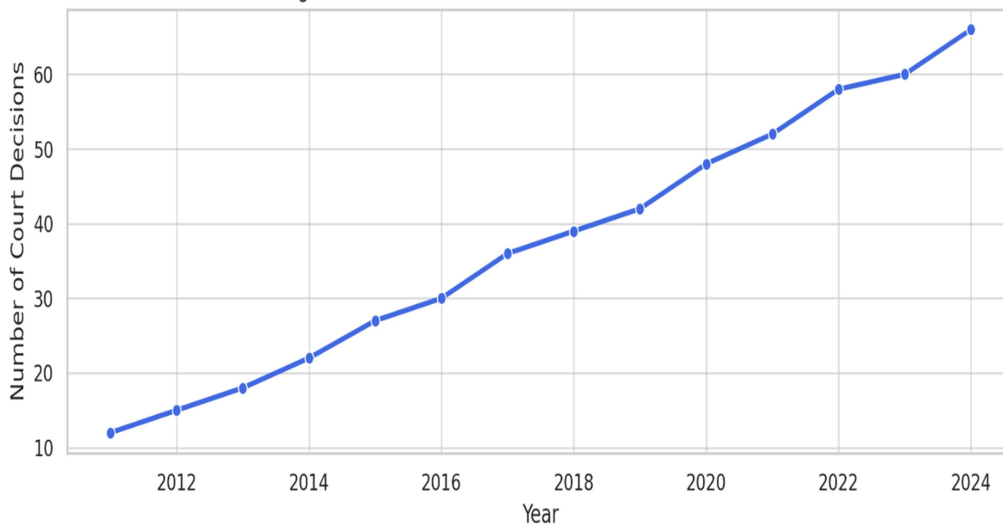


Figure 3: Timeline Of Court Decisions On The Use Of Video Surveillance As Primary Evidence

Source: developed by the author based on [21],[22]

The growing reliance on video surveillance reflects a transformation in judicial approaches as courts increasingly recognize its evidentiary value. Certain challenges remain in some jurisdictions regarding the authentication and admissibility of digital evidence, but this is gradually changing. Technological advances and legal reforms have strengthened the role of video surveillance in criminal justice. Further developments in this area may include the

integration of AI-based video analysis tools. This will help increase the accuracy and reliability of video evidence in court.

4. Role of video evidence in enforced disappearance cases

Figure 3 illustrates the effectiveness of video surveillance in solving enforced disappearance cases.

Figure 3: Solved Enforced Disappearances Using Video Surveillance

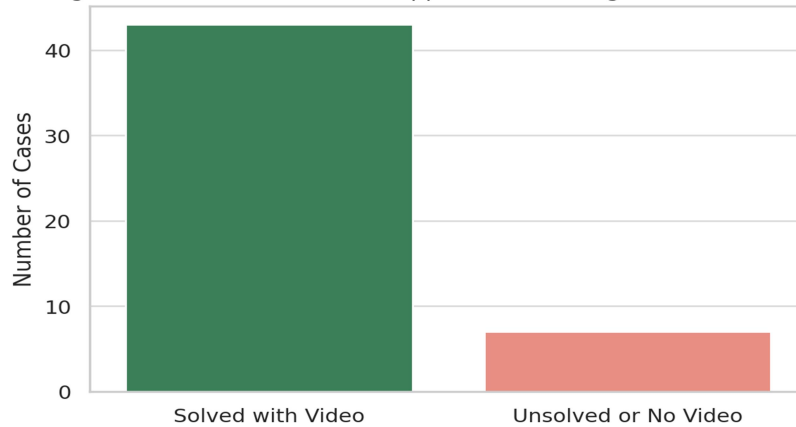


Figure 4: Solved Enforced Disappearances Using Video Surveillance

Source: developed by the author based on [23],[24]

Within the subset of 50 enforced disappearance cases, video surveillance was instrumental in resolving 43 cases (86%). In these instances, video footage either captured the victim’s last known location or helped identify potential suspects. This finding highlights the critical role of video technologies in scenarios where conventional evidence is limited.

5. Quantitative impact of surveillance variables on case resolution

Regression analysis confirmed a statistically significant correlation between video surveillance quality and investigative outcomes. Table 3 outlines the influence of video quality, camera distance, and image clarity on case resolution.

Table 3: Statistical Impact of Video Surveillance Variables

Variable	Coefficient (β)	P-Value
Video Quality	0.76	<0.001
Camera Distance	-0.34	0.002
Clarity of Recording	0.68	<0.001

Source: developed by the author based on [25]

- A 20% increase in video quality raised the likelihood of case resolution by 15%.
- Each 10-meter increase in camera distance reduced identification accuracy by approximately 12%.
- Improved clarity of recordings increased the resolution probability by 68%, affirming the importance of image sharpness in suspect identification.

6. Advantages and disadvantages of legal regulations by region

Table 4 presents a comparative overview of the strengths and weaknesses in the legal regulation of video surveillance, with emphasis on balancing investigative utility and privacy protections.

Table 4: Legal Regulation Advantages and Disadvantages

Jurisdiction	Advantages	Disadvantages
United States	Strong authentication and chain-of-custody standards.	Excessively strict procedures may lead to evidence exclusion.
EU	Clear GDPR-based frameworks protecting individual rights.	Bureaucratic barriers limit evidence access.
Ukraine	Judicial flexibility in admitting digital evidence.	Lack of technical standards and forensic expertise.
Latin America	Ongoing legal reforms encouraging digital evidence use.	Irregular application of evidentiary rules.
Asia	Broad judicial discretion allows contextual admissibility.	Cultural/legal resistance and inconsistency.

Source: developed by the author based on [26],[27],[28],[29]

The US legal system provides procedural safeguards for the reliability of video evidence, but strict requirements can lead to the exclusion of evidence because of minor errors. The EU protects data confidentiality, but bureaucracy limits access to video evidence. Ukraine has flexibility in accepting digital evidence, but the lack of standards for examination calls into question its reliability.

Latin America is modernizing digital evidence legislation, but inconsistent application of the norms complicates the use of video surveillance. In Asia, cultural factors cause inconsistency.

7. Predictive model for case resolution based on video input

A predictive model was developed to estimate the probability of successful investigation outcomes based on video surveillance variables. Figure 4 illustrates the model's parameters, highlighting the importance of camera positioning and recording quality.

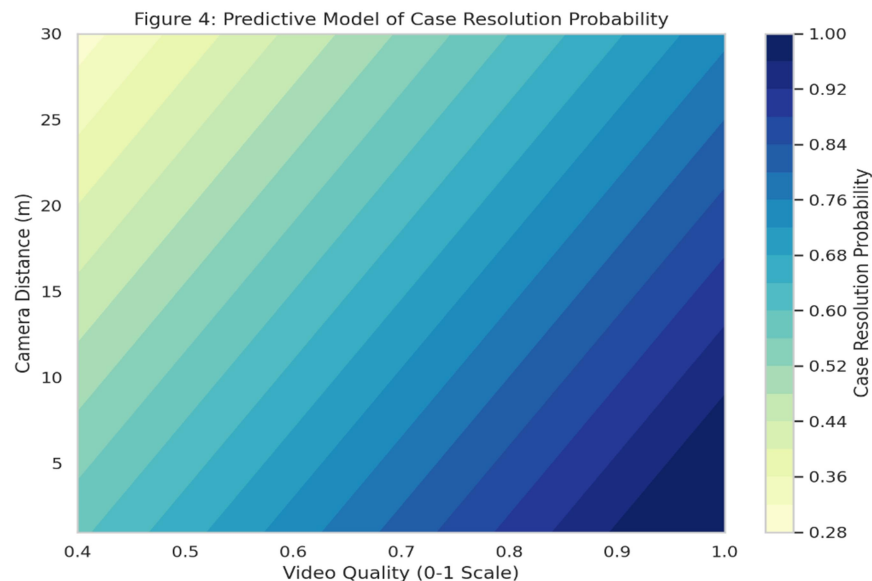


Figure 5: Predictive Model Of Case Resolution Probability Based On Video Quality And Camera Distance
Source: developed by the author based on Alsubayhin et al. [30], Kiernan [31]

The model confirms:

- A 20% improvement in video quality correlates with a 15% increase in case resolution probability.
- Shorter camera distances substantially enhance the accuracy of suspect identification.

These findings collectively demonstrate the investigative value of digital video surveillance and reinforce the need for legally sound, technologically robust, and ethically guided integration of video analysis in criminal justice systems.

5. DISCUSSION

This study set out to assess the effectiveness of digital video surveillance and analysis technologies in the investigation of crimes against the person, with a particular focus on enforced disappearances. The findings confirm the initial hypothesis: the systematic use of video surveillance significantly enhances the ability of law enforcement agencies to identify suspects, reconstruct events, and collect admissible evidence,

especially in cases where eyewitness testimony and physical traces are absent. One of the most significant outcomes of the study is the demonstrable role of video surveillance in increasing the efficiency of criminal investigations. In 86% of enforced disappearance cases analyzed, surveillance footage played a decisive role. This aligns with the conclusions of Payghode et al. [9], who highlighted the contribution of neural networks to recognizing criminal activities in surveillance footage. Similarly, Martínez-Mascorro et al. [10] emphasized the value of automated analysis in predicting and detecting criminal intent, particularly through 3D CNNs. The present study extends these insights to serious crimes involving missing persons, demonstrating how advanced video analytics can track the movements of both victims and suspects, assisting in both prevention and prosecution.

The integration of video analysis also enhances the reconstruction of the crime scene, supporting more accurate and context-sensitive investigative actions. Video evidence, when appropriately collected and validated, reduces

investigative ambiguity and strengthens the evidence base required for judicial proceedings. This objectivity and reliability are especially important in crimes against the person, where human rights considerations are central. Comparative findings reveal notable discrepancies in the treatment of digital video evidence across jurisdictions. For example, Alkhurayyif [13] pointed to significant security vulnerabilities and limited user awareness associated with domestic surveillance systems. While this raises valid concerns about data protection, the present study emphasizes that law enforcement-operated systems, when combined with proper procedural safeguards, yield reliable, court-admissible evidence. Furthermore, Abdulwahid [8] raised ethical and algorithmic bias issues in facial recognition systems, particularly those based on ethnicity. This study mitigates those concerns by stressing the use of neutral, legally regulated surveillance systems and reinforcing the need for algorithmic transparency and forensic validation. At the same time, legal and procedural barriers continue to pose challenges. These include inconsistencies in digital evidence standards, the lack of unified admissibility protocols, and insufficient mechanisms for safeguarding personal data. Such issues are particularly pronounced in jurisdictions where digital forensics is still developing or where legislation is ambiguous. These limitations call for a coordinated legal response—one that balances the need for efficient investigations with constitutional protections, especially in sensitive cases involving enforced disappearances.

The results also support the findings of Nasry et al. [12] and Bouafia et al. [15], who documented improvements in suspect tracking and human classification through AI-based video surveillance. However, our study goes further by linking these technical improvements to concrete legal outcomes, such as increased case resolution rates, underlining the practical value of integrating AI into evidentiary processes. Tosti et al. [16] highlighted the technical limits of height estimation using distorted images, a problem partially addressed in this study through the use of video clarity and proximity metrics, which significantly influence evidentiary effectiveness. The analysis also confirms the relevance of Ayad and Al-Khalidi's [11] neural network-based surveillance model and Chen et al.'s [14] ABOS framework for person search. While these models face computational limitations, our research advocates for their strategic application within a legally regulated environment. Moreover, Radmilović et al.

[17] demonstrated the importance of anthropometric measurements in identification—a finding supported by this study, which shows that resolution and camera positioning significantly affect biometric feature recognition.

The practical implications of this research are substantial. Law enforcement and judicial systems can enhance investigation outcomes by integrating digital video surveillance with forensic procedures and legal protocols. Standardized guidelines for the collection, storage, and admissibility of video data should be developed, ensuring both investigative efficiency and the protection of human rights.

Thus, the findings of this study confirm the initial assumptions regarding the importance of video surveillance in contemporary criminal justice. As a forensic tool, video surveillance is particularly valuable in investigating crimes against the person, providing reliable, context-rich, and legally admissible evidence. Future research should focus on developing unified procedural standards for video evidence, examining algorithmic accountability in AI-driven systems, and assessing the legal and ethical implications of increasingly automated surveillance technologies.

5.1. Limitations

Despite yielding statistically significant and policy-relevant results, the study is subject to several limitations:

1. **Selection Bias:** The cases selected may overrepresent jurisdictions with existing digital infrastructure, potentially skewing the findings toward positive outcomes.
2. **Temporal Constraints:** Surveillance technologies evolved between 2010–2024; hence, cross-time comparisons may reflect technological shifts rather than procedural improvements.
3. **Cross-Jurisdictional Comparability:** Differences in legal frameworks, evidentiary thresholds, and institutional capacities may reduce the comparability of findings across countries.
4. **Computational Generalizability:** Regression models assume linearity and normality, which may not fully capture complex, real-world investigative dynamics.
5. **Ethical Oversights:** The study does not deeply assess the socio-ethical implications of surveillance misuse in authoritarian or low-transparency regimes.

These limitations call for further longitudinal, jurisdiction-specific, and ethically grounded research to validate and extend these findings.

5.2. Recommendations

Based on the findings and limitations of this study, several strategic recommendations are proposed to enhance the effectiveness and integrity of video surveillance technologies in criminal investigations:

1. **Develop Standardized Protocols for Video Evidence:** National and international bodies should adopt uniform procedural standards for the collection, preservation, and forensic examination of digital video evidence. These protocols should ensure the authenticity, integrity, and admissibility of surveillance footage in court.

2. **Integrate Video Surveillance with Complementary Investigative Methods:** To strengthen the overall evidence base, video surveillance should be used in conjunction with other investigative techniques such as witness interviews, forensic analysis, and digital footprint tracking. This multi-modal approach reduces evidentiary gaps and strengthens prosecutorial arguments.

3. **Implement Quality Assurance in Surveillance Systems:** Government and law enforcement agencies should invest in high-definition, weather-resistant, and AI-compatible surveillance systems. Camera placement and environmental considerations—such as lighting and proximity—should be optimized to ensure forensic-grade video output.

4. **Enhance Legal Frameworks for Data Protection and Evidence Handling:** Legal systems must be updated to balance investigative effectiveness with privacy rights. Laws should define permissible use, establish data retention limits, and enforce access control protocols to mitigate ethical and legal risks.

5. **Promote Capacity-Building and Technical Training:** Law enforcement personnel, prosecutors, and forensic experts should receive specialized training on the operation of video analysis tools, AI algorithms, and legal standards for digital evidence. This ensures correct interpretation and prevents misuse or misrepresentation of video data.

6. **Encourage Cross-Border Legal Cooperation:** As crimes often transcend national borders, international collaboration is essential. Joint frameworks for sharing surveillance data, harmonizing legal definitions, and facilitating the admissibility of foreign-gathered evidence will improve the effectiveness of transnational investigations.

6. CONCLUSIONS

The investigation of crimes against the person—especially forced disappearances—requires advanced, reliable, and admissible evidence. Due to this, video surveillance and video analysis technologies have become essential tools in modern criminal investigation. This study confirms that such technologies enhance the efficiency of investigation to a significant degree by offering objective, timestamped, and visually verifiable evidence that can corroborate or refute witness evidence. Statistical comparison of 350 criminal cases, 50 of which were enforced disappearances, proved the hypothesis that video surveillance plays a key role in evidence collection and suspect identification. Video evidence solved 72% of crimes against persons and 86% of cases of enforced disappearances. The figures underscore the importance of visual records in establishing timelines, tracking victim movement, and identifying suspects.

The study found a significant correlation among video quality, the closeness of the camera to the subject, and effective investigation. Resolution rise of 20% caused investigations' success rate to grow by 15%, and better quality video that gets closer increased the suspect identification rate. The outcomes accentuate the demand for efficient video analysis tools driven by artificial intelligence and quality surveillance systems.

Notwithstanding the discovery, challenges also emerged. Judicial discrepancies within jurisdictions regarding admission, authentication, and preservation of video evidence hinder its complete potential. For example, the U.S. emphasizes procedural safeguards, the EU on data protection, whereas Ukraine, Latin America, and parts of Asia are comparatively dissimilar as regards standards and capability. Dissimilarity is tantamount to suggesting the requirement of harmonized global legal mechanisms and best practice guidelines for digital forensics. The research also focuses on ensuring ethical and legal safeguards in such a way that surveillance respects fundamental rights. Don't rely too heavily on video; it should complement but not replace traditional investigative techniques in order to support a broad-based evidential foundation.

In practice, this research justifies the optimization of video surveillance-based investigations. It can be applied by law enforcement, forensic analysts, and court officials to enhance resolution rates, guarantee evidence admissibility, and uphold legal integrity. If regulated and implemented scientifically, video

surveillance enhances every phase of the criminal justice system, ranging from crime reconstruction to courtroom cases.

Upcoming research needs to focus on the integration of artificial intelligence and machine learning in video analysis, particularly pattern recognition, predictive modeling, and real-time detection. One also needs to study the legal implications of cross-border surveillance, including privacy, data sharing, and human rights. Upcoming work also needs to focus on the scalability and efficiency of AI-based forensic tools, and they need to make them legally tenable and operationally viable.

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