

La Cantuta, a case of investigative journalism

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This research project rescues a singular experience in Peruvian journalism: the discovery of clandestine graves of missing people of La Cantuta, conducted by a team of the *Sí* magazine in 1993 in circumstances particularly adverse. But, how was it possible that a weekly with a modest circulation of 3,000 copies carries out an investigation of this magnitude and obliges the judicialization of the case when the Attorney General's Office, the Judiciary and the State were under control of an authoritarian government implicated in the facts?

In order to answer this question, the research process was rebuilt to sort all the information known to date: 35 reports issued by *Sí* between July and December 1993 were systematized, authors and known and unknown witnesses were found and all not revealed was under discussion. Likewise, the origin of the inquiry, sources and points of break were pointed out, the investigative journalism with the attorney general investigation and the political and legal context and seven investigation stages were settled. Each stage was subdivided into steps pointing out, in every steps, the good decisions and errors.

Finally, it was possible to understand why *Sí* was capable of doing these findings. Some of the causes identified were the independence and professionalism of its journalists, sources work, and the specialization of reporters in police and military sources and the democratic and supportive work style of the media.

The technical study was completed with three other results on the same subject: *La Cantuta en la boca del Diablo* documentary, a book with the same title (in process), and a web page.