

Man killed, found in shallow grave

Sniffed out by Police dog 'Reds'

PHOTO: KENRICK BORN

Darryl Heeralal

NICK AUGUSTINE witnessed a gang killing and was himself killed by men who buried him in the hills of Morvant.

Augustine, 39, a single father of five daughters, was abducted on June 28 near his home at Thompson Trace, Laventille Road Extension, Morvant.

His body was found buried in a shallow grave in a gully at Romaine Lands around 2.30 p.m. yesterday.

Augustine's already decomposing body was found by a police dog, said to be the Caribbean's only cadaver dog.

Called "Reds", the dog is a locally trained Golden Retriever.

The dog belongs to the Police Services K-9 Academy.

Augustine had witnessed the June 22 murder of Kriston Cooper.

Cooper was said to be a henchman for a Morvant gang and was shot dead in reprisal for the murder the week before of Selvon Roberts in Never Dirty.

Augustine was cooking a meal for his children when he went to the shop to get something and on his way back, he was taken at gunpoint.

The family was not given a ransom demand and based on rumours in the village, they contacted the police who went to the hills in search of the body.

Regiment soldiers, the K-9 Unit and members of the Morvant CID and Task Force aided in the search.

Augustine's relatives are expected to make a positive identification of the body today and a post mortem will be done to confirm the cause of death.

Police say they are treating the discovery of the body as a homicide.

Up to yesterday, the Homicide Bureau had recorded 201 murders, excluding that of Augustine.



Reds, the Golden Retriever that found the body of Nick Augustine in the Morvant hills yesterday. Reds, a locally trained cadaver dog, is the only one of its kind in the Caribbean.