

## Alleged Extraterrestrial Beings in Mexico

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Image credit: Daniel Cardenas / Anadolu Agency via Getty Images

In September 2023, Mexico's Congress was presented with an unusual sight: two small, mummified bodies claimed to be the remains of extraterrestrial beings. They were brought to the storied chambers by a Mexican journalist and UFO researcher named Jaime Maussan. The figures were roughly human in shape, with long thin necks and three fingers on each hand.

As intended, the story was promptly covered in the international press. During his presentation, Maussan explained that the pair, found in Peru six years earlier, are “non-human beings that are not part of our terrestrial evolution.” He indicated the specimens were over one thousand years old based on data

from the public university National Autonomous University of Mexico (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, or UNAM). Maussan emphasized that the extraterrestrial beings were not recovered from crashed UFOs—as is usually the claim regarding nonhuman bodies examined at Area 51, Roswell, and elsewhere—but rather were buried: “These are not mummies; they are bodies that are intact, complete, that have not been manipulated inside and that have a series of elements that make them truly extraordinary.”

While tabloids and social media users shared the story widely, scientists were immediately skeptical. The website Proceso titled an article this

way: “Scientists Call Jaime Maussan’s ‘Aliens’ a Fraud.” The figures had the skeleton of a child, and the discovery was questioned from its place of origin. The alleged bodies were found in the Peruvian coastal desert of Nazca—known for its enigmatic gigantic figures and designs carved into the Earth—but they were never presented in Peru despite Maussan’s attempt to disseminate them. UNAM also reacted with skepticism. Julieta Fierro, researcher at the UNAM Institute of Astronomy, said that the matter “makes no sense.” The UNAM Institute of Astronomy issued a statement to distance itself from the presentation in San Lázaro. “To date there is no observational or experimental report that offers evidence of life outside Earth or visits from civilizations from other worlds,” the academic body said in a statement. If the mummies—parts or all of which seem to be genuinely old and created from animal bones, human bones, and vegetable fibers—are in fact Peruvian, it’s not clear how Maussan obtained them or whether he violated any Peruvian antiquities laws.

Maussan presented at the request of a congressman, Sergio Gutiérrez Luna, who did not personally vouch for their authenticity but—in a common gambit among mystery mongers—said he was interested in presenting a wide variety of views and perspectives. Maussan is widely known for promoting outlandish and discredited claims, including the Metepec Creature (which ended up being a monkey), a Demon Fairy (which ended up being a bat), and a child from another planet (which ended up being a mummified child). ■

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