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NEWS FOR TODAY

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NOT ONE MORE!

FEMICIDE, THE KILLING OF WOMEN BY MEN BECAUSE THEY ARE WOMEN, A GLOBAL PROBLEM!

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Femicide is the ultimate form of violence against women and girls and takes multiple forms. Its many causes are rooted in the historically unequal power relations between men and women and in systemic gender-based discrimination. For a case to be considered femicide there must be an implied intention to carry out the murder and a demonstrated connection between the crime and the female gender of the victim. So far, data on femicide have been highly unreliable and the estimated numbers of women who have been victims of femicides vary accordingly. Femicides take place in every country of the world. The greatest concern related to femicide is that these murders continue to be accepted, tolerated or justified - with impunity by the norm. To end femicide we need to end impunity, bring perpetrators to justice, and every individual has to change his/her attitude towards women.

To date, the United Nations has not adopted a resolution directly addressing gender-related killings. According to the declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, violence against women "means any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological

harm or suffering to women and girls, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life". This definition fails to include explicitly violence that can lead to death and consequently misses an important component of violence against women. Recognizing that femicide is the killing of women and girls because of their gender, which can take the form of inter alia: 1) the murder of women as a result of domestic violence/intimate partner violence; 2) the torture and misogynist slaying of women; 3) killing of women and girls in the name of "honour"; 4) targeted killing of women and girls in the context of armed conflict; 5) dowry-related killings of women and girls; 6) killing of women and girls because of their sexual orientation and gender identity; 7) the killing of aboriginal and indigenous women and girls because of their gender; 8) female infanticide and gender-based sex selection foeticide; 9) genital mutilation related femicide; 10) accusations of witchcraft and 11) other femicides connected with gangs, organized crime, drug dealers, human trafficking, and the proliferation of small arms.

Femicide as a Result of Domestic Violence

Femicide as a result of domestic violence is most commonly referred to as 'intimate partner homicide'. Intimate partner femicide can collectively be defined as the killing of women, in a domestic situation, because they are women. This includes the killing of women by former, or current, spouses or boyfriends, but does not exclude the killing of women by other male family members such as sons and fathers. Intimate partner femicide is an international issue that has gained attention from the United Nations, non-governmental and other international organizations. Domestic violence is an 'invisible' crime in which 90 percent of domestic violence abuse goes unreported.

On an international scale, women are far more likely than men to be assaulted, raped, or killed by their former or current partners. Domestic violence has a higher rate of "REPEAT VICTIMIZATION" than any other type of crime. Since 2005, the World Health Organization (WHO) has stated that, "the number of intimate partner violence prevalence studies increased fourfold, from 80 to more than 300, in 2008."

In Europe, Ms. Rashida Manjoo, the United Nations' Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, its causes and consequences, has stated at the European Parliament in Brussels on October 9th 2012, that intimate partner violence and femicide are significantly underreported in the region, and throughout the world. Ms. Manjoo also stated that in Italy the number of women murdered by men has increased. In 2010, 127 women were killed by men. Of those female victims, 70 percent were Italian, while 76 percent of male perpetrators were Italian. Of all female homicides in Italy, 54 percent were committed by a former or present partner, and only 4 percent were committed by complete strangers. According to UN Women, Italian intimate partner femicides have increased from 15.3 percent from 1992 to 1994, to 23.4 percent from 2007 to 2008. From January 2012 to November 2012, roughly 105 Italian women were killed via intimate partner violence.

In the cases of Spain and Finland, intimate partner homicide rates have increased substantially. Meanwhile in England, Wales, Norway, Hungary, and Ireland, these rates have decreased over time. Overall in the region, intimate partner homicide rates have remained constant over the last 70 years.

In the United Kingdom, in 2001 and 2002, 46 percent of female femicide victims were killed by a former or current partner, whereas 5 percent of men were killed by an intimate partner. Roughly two women per week in the UK are killed by an intimate partner. Specifically in the country of Ireland, 188 women have been murdered since 1996, 115 (61%) by their intimate partner, while 73 women, or 53 percent, were killed by a former or current partner, with 48 (35%) killed by someone they knew (brother, son) in resolved cases since 1996. Of the resolved cases in 1996, 99 percent of women were killed by men, while only one percent were killed by another female 64. Further, according to the University of Tullburg, Victimology Institute, "12,000 women are killed annually in Russia, in domestic

violence disputes, - one every 45 minutes."

In Australia, Canada, Israel, South Africa, and the United States, 40 to 70 percent of females were killed by their former or current partners. In Guatemala roughly two women are killed per day. In Mexico, men are most frequently killed by firearms, whereas women are killed in more violent means via suffocation, strangulation, by drowning, being poisoned, burned, raped, and mutilated.

In the United States in 2007, 45 percent of women were killed by a current or former partner, compared to 5 percent of men. Furthermore, femicide is the leading cause of death in African-American women aged 15-45 years of age and the seventh leading cause of death of all U.S. women. Intimate partner violence is responsible for 40 to 50 percent of femicides, increasing from 54 percent in 1976 to 72 percent in 1996. 67 to 80 percent of intimate partner femicides involved physical abuse prior to death. The U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) classifies these killings as intimate homicides. From 1976 to 2004, 40,823 women have been killed, with an average of 1,500 women killed per year in the United States.

The killing of women in intimate femicides



1 in 3 women worldwide experience physical and/or sexual violence in their lifetime.

is almost double to the 23.56 women killed by an intimate partner during the same time period. Overall, one-fifth of murder victims were killed by an intimate partner, and two out of five female murder victims were killed by an intimate partner. The percentage of male victims has decreased, while female victim rates have fluctuated decreasing from 43 percent in 1980 to 38 percent in 1995 only to reach 45 percent in 2008. The study conducted by the American Medical Association, "one-third of all women's injuries coming into our emergency rooms are no accident. Most are the result of deliberate premeditated acts of violence. And frequently they occur over and over

until the woman is killed." The New York City Department of Health has stated that "battered women increase their chances of being killed when they try to escape a domestic violence situation". According to Dr. Kevin Fallon of the American Medical Association, "one-third of all women's injuries coming into our emergency rooms are no accident. Most are the result of deliberate premeditated acts of violence. And frequently they occur over and over



"We can no longer stand by as women are murdered for one reason and one reason only, because they are women. The crime of femicide is growing all over the world and often remains unpunished. It is a human rights violation that is characterised by misunderstanding and impunity." - Michelle Bachelet Executive Director, UN Women

Female Genital Mutilation Femicide

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is a DESTRUCTIVE OPERATION, during which the female genitalia are partly or entirely removed or injured for non-medical reasons. Most often the mutilation is performed before puberty, often on young girls between infancy and age fifteen. FGM is prevalent in Africa, Asia and the Middle East and also among immigrants in Australia, Europe and the USA. About 140 million girls and women worldwide are currently living with the consequences of FGM. In Africa, an estimated 92 million girls, 10 years old and above, have undergone FGM. In the UK, it is estimated that up to 24,000 girls under the age of 15 are at risk of FGM.

According to the UNFPA, infant mortality rates are higher in countries where FGM is practiced. Furthermore, "death rates among babies during and immediately after birth are also higher for those born to mothers who have undergone FGM/C. It is estimated that an additional one to two babies per 100 deliveries die as a result of FGM/C. The consequences of FGM/C for most women who deliver outside the hospital setting are expected to be even more severe, especially in places where health services are weak or women cannot easily access them". Additionally, according to a WHO study on Burkina Faso, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal, and Sudan, where the practice of FGM is common, "deliveries to women who

have undergone FGM are significantly more likely to be complicated by caesarean section, postpartum haemorrhage, episiotomy, extended maternal hospital stay, resuscitation of the infant, and inpatient perinatal death, than deliveries to women who have not had FGM." "Overall, 1760 (6%) women were delivered by caesarean section, and 1970 (7%) deliveries were complicated by postpartum blood loss of 500ml or more. Women with FGM II [removal of clitoris and labia minor] and FGM III [removal of part or all of the external genitalia with stitching or narrowing of the vaginal opening.] were significantly more likely to have a caesarean section and postpartum blood loss of 500ml or greater than were women who had not had FGM."

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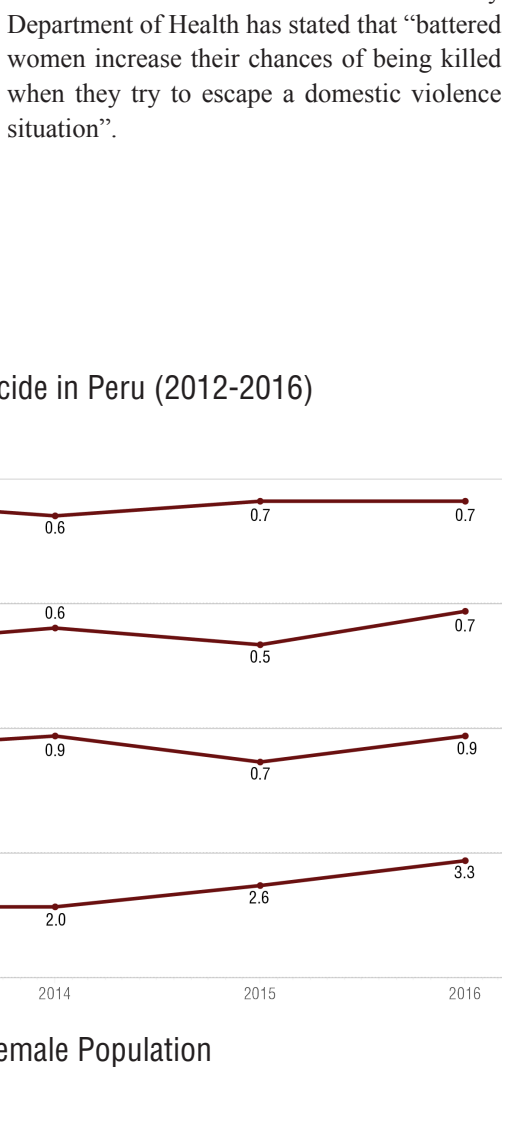
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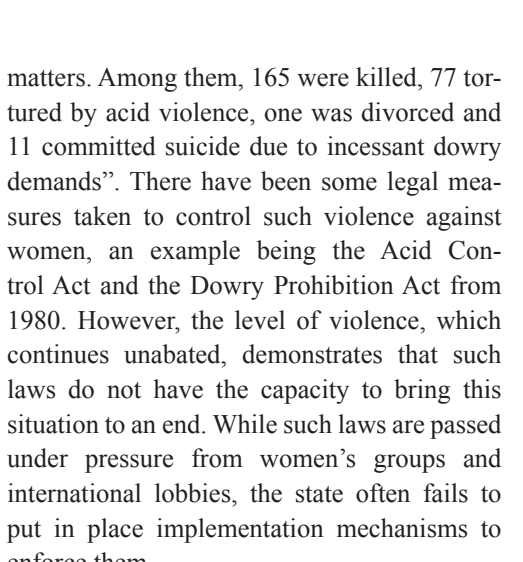
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Prevalence of FGM/C Among Younger and Older Women



Rates of Female Total Homicide in Peru (2012-2016)



Rate per 100,000 Female Population

outlawed dowry-related cruelty carried out by the husband and his relatives, and the 1986. Amendment introduced stronger punishments for dowry deaths. Nevertheless, in reality, legal enforcements have proved to be rather inefficient. Investigation and prosecution have been hampered by corruption, insensitive police personnel, a sense of social and cultural apprehension towards this type of murder, and a general tendency on behalf of investigators to dismiss dowry deaths as 'suicides', 'kitchen accidents' or merely as events related to family disputes. Another flaw can be traced in the vague statutory language in the law's definition, since it does not specify which items are included in the dowry before and after the wedding takes place. According to the Indian National Crime Record Bureau, dowry deaths are on the rise in India. In 1982, 392 cases were registered, and in 2006, 7,618 cases were recorded, in 2009, 8,383 and in 2011 8,618. The Crime in India Report of 1999 acknowledges that records of REGISTERED dowry deaths should be reviewed with caution, since a considerable number of crimes against women go unreported due to the social stigma attached and the lengthy court procedures.

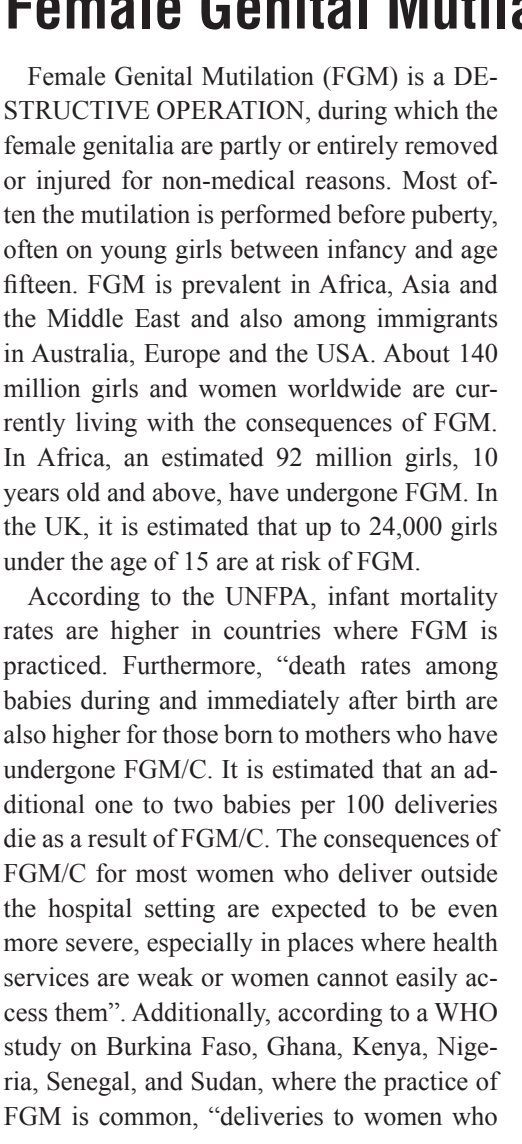
A study conducted by Nigan in 2002 reports that dowry-related killings follow two patterns: first, the young brides are either murdered or forced to commit suicide (18.4%) when their parents refused to concede to continuing dowry demands or second, the murders are committed on the pretext of complex family relations or extra-marital relations (52.6%). Following a decade of sustained advocacy and activism by the women's movement in India, the passage on the PROTECTION OF WOMEN IN THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ACT OF 2005, re-

organized women's needs for emergency relief, improved the situation of victims significantly. Drafted by the Lawyers Collective Women's Rights Initiative through a consultative process and with support from the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women, the law built on the past EXPERIENCES OF WOMEN. It sought to do this, responding to the need to protect women and to enable them to negotiate a life free from violence. It also brought the issue into the public sphere, overcoming the traditional private-public divide and highlighting that any form of violence against women is an infringement of their human rights.

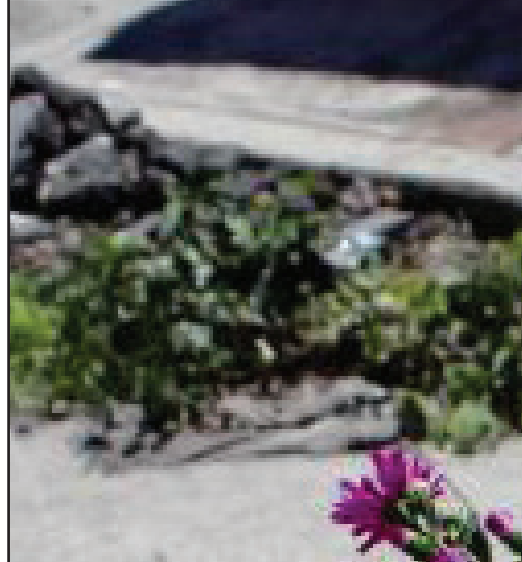
The dowry practice is may also be found in Pakistan, even though it was banned by an anti-dowry law in 1976. Statistics on the number of casualties resulting from dowry deaths are unclear, so that the term "bride burnings" is often used. According to the findings of the Progressive Women's Association, a Pakistani NGO, in 1999 bride burning resulted in the violent deaths of at least 300 women, the perpetrators being most often the victim's husbands or the husband's family. An article by Anderson, which analyzes the prevalence of dowry practice in contemporary societies, points out that in Pakistan, during the 1970s and 1990s, in both rural and urban areas, dowry had been paid for almost 90% of the marriages included in the study's sample.

According to the Asia Legal Resource Center (ALRC), dowry-related violence in Bangladesh where femicides occur, if a family fails to pay the full dowry claim. According to a statement released by the ALRC in 2004, quoting Odhikar, a human rights organization in Bangladesh, "267 women including one child were victimized due to dowry-related

Human Trafficking Profiles of Victims Identified in 61 countries, 2006



Human Trafficking Forms of Exploitation, 2006



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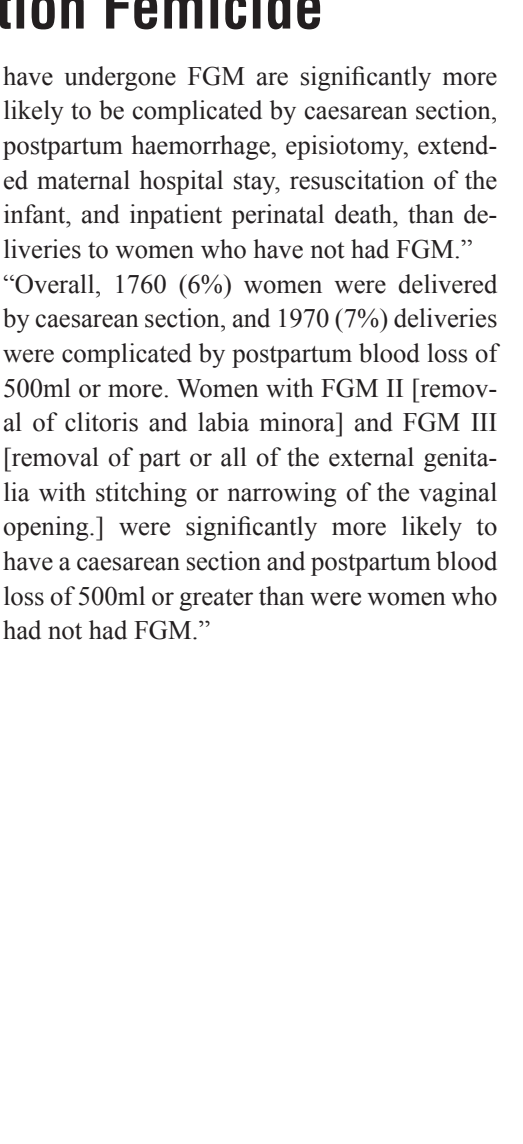
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Comparison of Rate of Honour Killings in Pakistan: Sindh Province vs All Other Provinces, 2004-2007



Organized Crime Related Femicide

In the last decades, a new tendency has emerged in drug cartels. An increase in the amount of drugs being trafficked has gone hand in hand with a rise in the killing of women. Many articles relate this to the 'Macho' culture of drug trafficking that appears mostly in Latin-American countries. Femicide in the drug trade has a meaning, it is SYMBOLOGICAL, killing the woman of your enemy means that you can hurt him and that your power extends by hurting his 'belongings'. Within the MAS-CULINITY OF THE DRUG CULTURE, hurting a woman symbolizes the cohesion of the gang, demonstrates masculinity and diminishes the enemy's morale. Drug-related femicides occur not only with respect to the enemy, but also to the government. Killing a woman is used, in a sense, to send a message to the government, for example to warn them about drug policies.

Conclusion

In the last decades, drug sales in Latin America have grown enormously. In the three countries of Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras, also called the "Primary Drug Corridor", a tendency has appeared where a strong rise in drug trafficking coincides with an equally strong rise in female killings. In Honduras, the number of women killed per man has grown for 1 woman per 10 men to 4 women per 10 men. These murders follow other types of violence against women, such as sexual savagery,

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"Papier-mâché masks and flowers from the Invisibles Somos Visibles performance in Colonia Ostor, Ecatepec" - Nidia Bautista

Sources: Academic Council on the United Nations System (ACUNS) Vienna Liaison Office, Small Arms Survey, European Journal of Public Health, UNICEF For Every Child, GBAV 2011 femicide database, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Global Study on Homicide (UNODC), UNODC Homicide Statistics, Fiscalía Nacional ELAC, Registro de Femenicidios del Ministerio Público, World Health Organization, Eliminating Female Genital Mutilation: An Emergency Statement, OIGIR, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNICEF, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNIFEM, WHO (Geneva: WHO, 2016), NGBR (2014), NACLA, New Statements America (Sarah Dittus), KORINA MORENO | DES 523.01 | TROGU | SFSU | SPRING 2019