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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 harm or suffering to women and girls, includagainst women and girls and takes multiple ing threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary forms. Its many causes are rooted in the hisdeprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life". This definition fails torically unequal power relations between men and women and in systemic gender-based to include explicitly violence that can lead to death and consequently misses an important discrimination. For a case to be considered component of violence against women. femicide there must be an implied intention Recognizing that femicide is the killing to carry out the murder and a demonstrated connection between the crime and the female of women and girls because of their gender, gender of the victim. So far, data on femicide which can take the form of inter alia: 1) the have been highly unreliable and the estimatmurder of women as a result of domestic vioed numbers of women who have been victims lence/intimate partner violence; 2) the torture of femicides vary accordingly. Femicides take and misogynist slaying of women 3) killing of place in every country of the world. The greatwomen and girls in the name of "honour"; 4) est concern related to femicide is that these targeted killing of women and girls in the conmurders continue to be accepted, tolerated or text of armed conflict; 5) dowry-related killjustified - with impunity as the norm. To end ings of women and girls; 6) killing of women femicide we need to end impunity, bring per- and girls because of their sexual orientation and gender identity; 7) the killing of aborigichange his/her attitude towards women. nal and indigenous women and girls because To date, the United Nations has not adopted of their gender; 8) female infanticide and gena resolution directly addressing gender-related der-based sex selection foeticide; 9) genital killings. According to the declaration on the mutilation related femicide; 10) accusations of Elimination of Violence against Women, viowitchcraft and 11) other femicides connected lence against women "means any act of genwith gangs, organized crime, drug dealers, huder-based violence that results in, or is likely man trafficking, and the proliferation of small

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 intimate 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

to result in, physical, sexual or psychological arms.

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

In the cases of Spain and Finland, intimate partner homicide has increased, while Cyprus' intimate partner homicide rates have increased substantially. Meanwhile in England, Wales, Norway, Hungary, and Iceland, 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 killed by an intimate partner. Specifically in the country of Ireland, 188 women have been murdered since 1996; 115 (61%) of those women were killed in their own homes, 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

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.67 Further-

In Australia, Canada, Israel, South Africa,

more, 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.68 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 over 1,500 women killed per year in the



is almost double to the 23,506 men 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 U.S. Department of Justice shows a direct correlation between intimate partner homicide and age. As the age of the female increases, so does the chance for intimate partner femicides Over the span of 1980 to 2008, spousal femicide has decreased while boyfriend/girlfriend sal, while only 25 percent were by boyfriend/

cent of men were killed by an intimate partner. femicide rates have increased. In 1980, 69.1 Roughly two women per week in the UK are percent of intimate partner homicide was spougirlfriend. In 2008, 46.7 percent was spousal while 48.6 percent was boyfriend/girlfriend. The means by which intimate partner femicide is conducted also contains a gender-gap over this time period. In 1980, 68.9 percent of men were killed with firearms and 30.5 percent by other means (knives, blunt objects, personal weapons); similarly 69.5 percent of women were killed with firearms and 28.9 percent by Further, according to the University of Till-other weapons. However, in 2008, 53 percent burg, Victimology Institute, "12,000 wom- women were killed with firearms, and 41 peren are killed annually in Russia, in domestic cent by other means. Overall, two-thirds of

more likely to be killed with knives, while girlfriends were more likely to be killed by force. According to Dr. Kevin Fullin 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

intimate partner femicides perpetrated by a

Department of Health has stated that "battered spouse were using firearms. Boyfriends were women increase their chances of being killed when they try to escape a domestic violence

until the woman is killed." The New York City

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

Rate per 100,000 Female Population

Dowry Related Killings: A Global Problem

gender-neutral term of homicide, which overlooks the realities of inequality, oppression and systematic violence against women. According to Deepka Puri dowry represents the property given to the daughter by her family to take with when she gets married. The term 'dowry deaths' refers to a particular type of femicide, which involves the killing of a woman, usually by immolation in the household. Since the parents are unable to provide any more dowry and the daughter cannot be a source of income for the family any longer, the husband starts considering her an unsuit-

Gangrade and Chander contend that the dowry system, as practiced today, has become an instrument of oppression and torture for the bride and her parents. The dowry tradition has undergone changes in the past centuries: what was supposed to represent a gift from the bride's family to that of the groom's has now come to imply a substantial payment of money or a transaction of jewelry, household items, appliances and even vehicles. The practice of the dowry system has deep

cultural roots in all parts of the world, going back to the ancient Greek city-states and Roman times; hence it is based on old traditions and customs. Anderson conducted a study in which he argues that two basic factors are responsible for the prevalence of marriage payments, which then vary across communities, depending on the social, political and economic structures existing there. The arranged marriage represents the foundation of the dowry system, where money or goods can on the PROTECTION OF WOMEN IN THE be transferred from the family of the bride to the groom', in which case the dowry applies or vice versa, where the bride price is applied.

There are relatively few comparative studies on marriage transfers in the rest of Southeast Asia, yet some indicate that dowry payments occur frequently in Nepal, and have started to spread to Bangladesh and Sri Lanka as well. Existing research points out that bride price is more common in Africa, and other Southeast Asian countries such as Indonesia, Thailand and Burma, while dowry is almost a universal practice in India and Pakistan. Traditional Chinese and Taiwanese practice/traditions include both bride price and dowry.

In India, the dowry practice has spread to different castes, provinces, economic classes, and religions. The Indian government has taken several measures in order to tackle this problem, including criminalizing dowry and dowry related violence against women. The INDIAN PENAL CODE amended in 1983

Femicide or gender-related killing of women outlawed dowry-related cruelty carried out by and girls is regarded as an alternative to the 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 Nigam in 2002 reports that dowry-related killings follow two patterns: parents refused to concede to continuing dowry demands or second, the murders are committed on the pretext of complex family relations decade of sustained advocacy and activism by the women's movement in India, the passage

first, the young brides are either murdered or forced to commit suicide (18.4%) when their or extra-marital relations (52,6%). Following a DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ACT OF 2005, recchild were victimized due to dowry-related

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

ognizing women's needs for emergency relief,

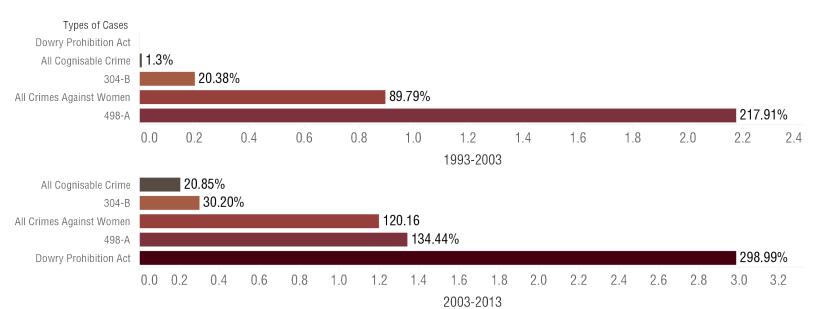
improved the situation of victims significantly.

Drafted by the Lawyers Collective Women's

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 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 matters. Among them, 165 were killed, 77 tortured by acid violence, one was divorced and 11 committed suicide due to incessant dowry demands". There have been some legal measures taken to control such violence against women, an example being the Acid Control Act and the Dowry Prohibition Act from 1980. However, the level of violence, which continues unabated, demonstrates that such laws do not have the capacity to bring this situation to an end. While such laws are passed under pressure from women's groups and international lobbies, the state often fails to put in place implementation mechanisms to

In Nepal, dowry is closely related to social prestige. There, the 'SOCIAL CUSTOMS AND PRACTICES ACT' (2009) prohibits the dowry system. However, not a single case has been registered in which somebody had been punished. Dr. Banshidhar Mishra argues that dowry deaths are a serious problem in Nepal, particularly in the Terai belt, a region on the border of India. There, many girls marry Indian men because of the open border, and their marriages follow the dowry-related traditions of India. Here most death incidents are obscured and labeled as private family affairs.

Dowry Related Cases Over 1993-2013 in India

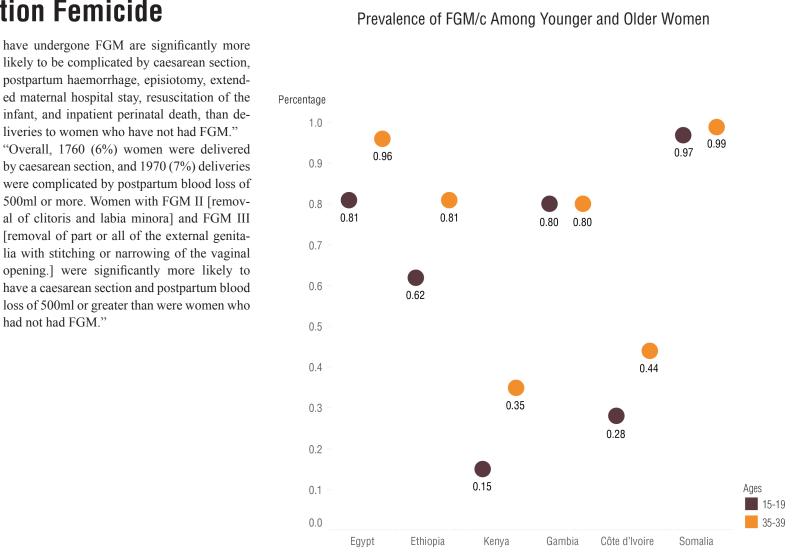


"We can no longer stand by as women are murdered for one reason and one reason only, because they are women. The crime of femicide is growing all over the world and often remains unpunished. It is a human rights violation that is characterised by misunderstanding and impunity." - Michelle Bachelet Executive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

Female Genital Mutilation Femicide

STRUCTIVE 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 morta 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

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is a DE- 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 minoral 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





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

Source: 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, Fiscalia Nacional: ELAC, Registro de Feminicidios del Ministerio Publico, World Health Organization, Eliminating Female Genital Mutilation: An Emergency Statements, OHCHR, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNECA, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNIFEM, WHO (Geneva: WHO, 2018), NCBR (2014), NACLA, New Statements America (Sarah Ditum). KORINA MORENO | DES 523.01 | TROGU | SFSU | SPRING 2019

Killing Women in the Name of Honour

of the now recognized body of honour-based crimes, which attempt to control female behavior. Victims are almost always females in their late teens to early twenties. Familial collusion is frequent, and, in some cases, a family council is set up to decide whether a woman should be killed and, if so, how. Killings are generally also perpetrated by members of the victim's family, particularly young boys in order to mitigate the severity of the sentence, or by a hired killer. An honour killing is usually the last resort following other forms of honour-based violence including forced marriage,

marital partner, education and employment, relation to the opposite sex, sexuality or a general failure to respect the familial and community STANDARDS OF FEMININE BEHAVIOUR. Tragically, victims of rape are also frequently killed to restore their family's honour. Their behaviour is viewed as casting shame upon the victim's relatives and only with their death can honour be restored to the "fallen" family. Should the family refuse to act, they may be subjected to harassment and exclusion by their community, as well as pressure to commit the crime. Stoning, stabbing, beating, burning, be-

heading, hanging, throat slashing, lethal acid attacks, shooting and strangulation are all common methods for executing honour killings. Killings are also frequently PUBLICLY PERFORMED in order to influence the behaviour of other women within the community. Furthermore, perpetrators are often exculpated or receive reduced sentences, with many governments indirectly supporting the practice through their own inaction or the defense of killings as customary practice. There is no definitive list of what is consid-

ered honourable, with the standard varying between communities and cultures. Honour killings have been practiced by a myriad of societies throughout different periods of history. A common misconception is that honour killings find their support within the scriptures of major religions. Instead, the origin of such crimes may be traced back to Roman law,

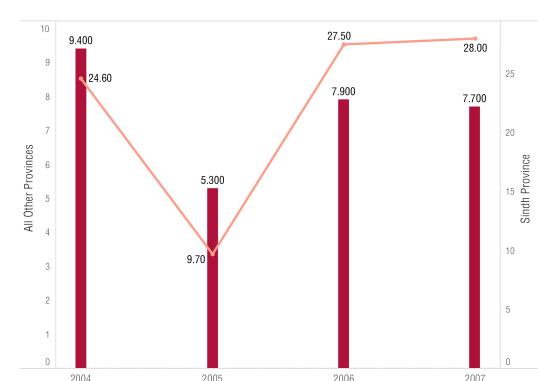
medieval Albania, Calvin's control of Geneva, the Ching dynasty in China, the Italian Penal Code until 1980 and the Penal Codes of the Described by the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay, as "a plague that affects every country," while honour killings are most prevalent in the Middle East and South Asia, cases have been reported in Bangladesh, Brazil, Ecuador, Egypt, India, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Pakistan, the Philippines, the Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, Uganda, Western Samoa and Yemen. In addition, within Europe, killings have occurred in France, Germany, Italy, Sweden and the Unit-The "crime" committed by the victim is ed Kingdom and further afield in Australia, typically related to their choice of sexual or Canada and the United States of America. In Western countries, the practice has been witnessed largely within immigrant communities, where authorities are wary of criminalizing the practices of religious and ethnic minorities. Despite these known instances, many crimes remain unidentified due to the high number of unreported cases and effective concealment by

> Recorded data on India and Pakistan recognizes around 1000 killings per year and 12 per year in UK, while Turkey recorded approximately 1000 over five years. However, since the United Nations Population Fund reported in 2000 that 5000 honour killings occurred per year, no subsequent figures have been published by the organization. This data gap highlights the "underreported and underdocumented" nature of the crime globally. In India, an increase in killings has been attributed by some to an intensification of the conflict between modern and traditional attitudes, values

the respective family, community and authori-

and beliefs fuelled by India's high economic growth, increasing social mobility and the relatively recent media focus on the crime. New Delhi is not alone, with evidence of a significant rise in killings globally between 1989 and 2009 due either to the genuine escalation of the crime or the increased incident of accurate classification. This data showed half of the victims to be daughters or sisters, and a quarter to be girlfriends or wives, of the perpetrator. Furthermore, almost half of the killings were carried out by multiple actors, and more than half of the victims were tortured before death.

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 torture and mutilation. occurred in drug cartels. An increase in the El Salvador has the highest rate of female hand in hand with a rise in the killing of womoccur mostly due to drug gangs' fights over en. 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 SYMBOLIC. 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

Concluding, in the world of drug trafficking, women are viewed as objects, as means to fulfill a goal, and are considered as belongings of enemies that you can hurt. The fact that women are used as "DRUG MULES" to carry drugs on their person (in their body cavities) without concern for their health or being caught reinforces their disposable value. 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 vio-

lence against women, such as sexual savagery,

the drug business. According to the Organization of Salvadoran Women (ORMUSA), the amount of murders in the country has doubled. but the amount of femicides has risen fivefold in the last couple of years. Another example of femicide in relation to drug trafficking can be found in Mexico. Amnesty International has reported that since 1993, organized crime in Mexico has grown significantly. In one city, Ciudad Juárez, the number of women being killed has risen by 400%. These murders have

different underlying causes, but many of them represent features of gender-based violence. In the annual report of the Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, its causes and consequences, Rashida Manjoo, the case of Ciudad Juárez is mentioned where, just outside the city, over 700 female bodies were found, which showed signs of rape and/or torture. The forensic investigators of these cases and many researchers believe that most of them are related to organized crime, such as local gangs involved in drugs. In 2008, Mexican president Calderon sent troops to the city to fight the drug cartels and the trafficking. Unfortunately, this measure led to an increase of 579% in femicides and women continue to be killed. Due to the perpetrators impunity, women continue to be killed just for sport.

Human Trafficking Profiles of Victims Identified in 61 countries, 2006

