

WOMAN'S BLOOD

- **The death girls from Juárez**

Alma Chavira Farel was a child in 1993 and her name is already part of History because the most sad of reasons: she was the first one on a list of people of female genre who were registered in a wave of atrocious murders committed in Juárez City, Chihuahua, México, at the beginning of that decade. Maybe to have been born as a female is the only identifiable cause. But the scene is even worst. Alma is the tip of a thread in a skein which has not been untangled, and its end is impossible to see because the femicidal stain has spread widely across the nation

This backdrop is so close to a horror movie where young women of working class use to be tortured and sexually abused. Starting in 1994, México became part of North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and this commercial opening assumed the arrival of many assembly plants to this city nearby El Paso, Texas. Therefore, Juárez City became a meeting point of hundred of families that arrived from other states. All of them expected to find their livelihood.

By the number of cases and similarity of circumstances It was said at the beginning that the death girls from Juárez were victims of a serial killer, but the hypothesis lost steam when authorities started capturing criminals and femicides kept whipping through town.

Narcotraffic is another factor that has been connected with this issue and even a powerful cartel was born in Juárez and it has built an international wide web. Then the attack against the Twin Towers happened in 2001 and came transit restrictions stemming from this circumstance. So, México stopped being a trafficking land to become a costumer one. As a consequence, violent criminality stepped up.

Diana Russell, initial promoter of word feminicide, defined it as “the murder of women by men and/or women, based on hate, contempt, pleasure or possession feeling into women”. Death is at the end of a road of that could be infested of events such as sexual enslavemet, physical abuse and verbal violence.

Diaries splashed female blood much earlier than drug trafficking moved to the foreground and however we did not have an able government to disrupt in this phenomenon. Marta Lamas, one of the historical feminist, has told she went with other women to an appointment with the president's wife, Marta Sahagún. It happened in Vicente Fox six-year period (2000-2006, famous because of its frivolity). Guests expected some sensitivity and some empathy, so they expressed:

-We are worried about feminicides

-¿About what? –Said the president's wife.

Authorities has taken a deaf and blind role. In 2006, the next president kept on digging down and stated war against narco. A war that was a kind of civil war, even when we were

not officially in one.

Several international judgments have pointed out a poor management of Mexican government. An example is the sentence of Comisión Interamericana de Derechos Humanos, in 2009. The most heart-rending story about activism is Marisela Escobedo's one. She died in 2010, in the middle of a protest in front of the government building, in the state of Chihuahua. She was protesting because of the murder of her daughter (2008). Cameras of the official lodge recorded how a man pursued and executed her. In 2011, Susana Chávez was killed and maimed; she was a human rights activist. In 1995, she coined the clause "not one death more". This statement is typical of the women's movement which demands justice and the authorities' action

- **The macho culture**

Complementary to these circumstances, the macho culture is the fact that overcomplicate being a woman in this country of deep patriarchy roots. The prototype of macho has ruled the living together in a system of thinking that sharpens the violence environment, meanwhile woman always has been the stereotype of a consumer item. It has been fed from a make-believe that was cooked by cultural industries (press, tv, and movies).

Woman is always susceptible of being manipulated or fooled. Central state of Tlaxcala has a world fame because of its procurers. They become professionals in charm to poor girls. It does not matter how many times they must have to "marry" (fake weddings, of course), they separate girls from their families and after some time the procurers force girls into prostitution in México City, in north border cities of México, or in NY City.

Politicians and businessmen bring exprofeso to young woman from other countries for their parties. Girls are always the most close to a racist concept of beauty: blond and tall. This is a practice so normal that is not exclusive of México, just as it is shown the Netflix documentary series about Jeffrey Epstein's. Obviously, men does not bring them to perform the dance art.

In México, women die in strange episodes, above all if they move in powerful circles. If they are invited to parties or if they are wives of stuffed shirts politicians. Jorge Emilio González Torres, a figure who had the fame of living of public purse thanks his party he became in tangled scandal because in 2011 asked to his Bulgarian friend (who was the owner of a models agency) to bring three European girls in order to do a celebrations in his Cancún flat. The case would not have trespassed to the public area but one of them dawned death as a result of an unexplainable fall. González Torres said the woman had jumped from the 19th flat. However, before jumping, she had been raped and her body shouted self-defense, according to the forensic doctor report. The agency owner took the blame of the event and González Torres affirmed he had not attended to the party.

There is another shocking file: the wife of a governor (emerged of the Partido Revolucionario Institucional PRI) had a mysterious end. PRI was the hegemonic party until 2018, gangster and corrupt like anybody else. That governor became president (2012-2018). Even during his term in State of México, Peña Nieto had an interview in 2009. Despite the time elapsed, (his wife had died in 2006), Peña Nieto could not give a credible explanation about the cause of the death of his wife. "She lived two years having some illness ... It seemed to be.... (...) I do not remember the name of... eeehhh... the

name of the illness exactly... Something like epilepsy....”

One of three girls child is sexually abused, 90% of abusers are a relative or a friend, and children are silent because of fear or shame. 30 girls aged between 10 and 14 years give birth everyday in México. I mean, we have 10800 pregnancies in minor per year. Guerrero, Oaxaca and Chiapas are the poorest states and have the highest rates of child pregnancy.

Since two years ago, México has a president with a social profile, but we are harvesting a violence that was sown through decades of non scrupulous government. In fact, they were partners of criminal gangs. Today the numbers are disturbing yet: authorities register 4000 death women per year.

On February 11th, Ingrid Escamilla was murdered and her assassin was captured in the same way that six agents. They were imprisoned for filtering the body photos. So far, they have not been punished. On the contrary, they remain in their jobs.

This 90% of impunity from Judiciary does not help us to feel more safe. Immunity is still an invitation to assault to a woman across several scales. Right now, we can not speak too much about laboral equity between men and women, and we can not speak about double shift neither. That double shift for female genre. And many issues out of agenda, so far.

Up to now, feminist movement has got out to crash glasses and painting walls, but it is not enough for the cultural twis that, of course is a collective responsibility. Society, activists and three branches of government will have to go beyond this basic level of civilisation in which we are trapped. Intelligence, sensibility and dialogue capacity must have to be used. These must have to be the main components. And they will demand as much strenght and braveness as we have.

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