

The case of the cotton field



Fuente : Difusión Norte.

Among the most serious violations of human rights that women suffer on a daily basis there is femicide. Femicide refers to the murder of a woman for the sake of being one, the end of a continuum of violence and the most brutal manifestation of a patriarchal society. This phenomenon has been classified according to the relationship between victim and perpetrator into four categories: i) intimate partner's femicide, ii) family member's femicide, iii) femicide by other acquaintances and iv) femicide of strangers, all of these colliding with the different oppressions that women live day by day. Although femicides take place in all regions of the world, there is a country that in recent decades has seen an increase in the percentage of women killed due to their condition. In Mexico, only in the first five months of 2020 there were about 375 femicides - only those whose bodies were found. There is a famous case that exemplifies the violence suffered by women

in this country and that caused a stir in the 1990s and 2000s, also coinciding with a firmer implementation of the term femicide as such.

Between 1993 and 2003, in Ciudad Juárez - one of the most dangerous city in Mexico - a wave of disappeared women took place. Francisco Granados and Edgar Álvarez were later identified as the perpetrators of the crimes. They kidnapped their victims and took them to unpopulated areas where they raped, mutilated and murdered them, sometimes following Satanic rituals. The bodies of these women were later abandoned in the fields.

There was one particular case that shocked Mexico, the one of Esmeralda Monreal. She disappeared in October 2001, on her way home, and her body was found weeks later in Campo Algodonero. The victim's mother, Irma Monreal, found out about the death of her daughter

from the newspapers and begged authorities to show her the remains for later identification.

Irma was one of the few people who denounced the femicide to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, and eight years later she got the Mexican state to be responsible for the death of Esmeralda, along with other victims, Claudia González and Laura Ramos. It was considered an historic victory for the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, as they got the state, for the first time, to pay for its lack of impetus in the investigation of the more than 400 deaths of women in that city in 1993.

The case of the Cotton Field is just one example of the daily violations suffered by women, not only in Mexico, but throughout the world. It served as a precedent in the country regarding the identification of such crimes as feminicides, and not simple disappearances or murders. It is of great importance to note that these acts are committed out of hatred against women.

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