



Femicide *in Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua, Mexico*

PRESENTED BY SARAH RUIZ

What is femicide? Feminicide?

FEMICIDE IS THE MURDER OF WOMEN BY MEN. THE TERM IS DIRECTLY CONNECTED TO GENOCIDE, WHERE THE GOAL IS TO EXTERMINATE AND DESTROY A PARTICULAR GROUP OF PEOPLE—DOMINATING THAT GROUP THROUGH OPPRESSION.

FEMINICIDE IS A TERM THAT ADDRESSES THE POLITICAL SIDE OF THE ISSUE. IT ADDRESSES THE IMPUNITY, SILENCE, AND THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM CREATED BY THE GOVERNMENT—WHO ALLOW AND ENCOURAGE FEMICIDE TO OCCUR WITH NO PUNISHMENT.

Where is this happening?



CIUDAD JUÁREZ, CHIHUAHUA
LOCATED ACROSS THE BORDER FROM EL PASO, TEXAS

Who are the victims?

THE VICTIMS OF THESE MURDERS ARE POOR, DARK-SKINNED, LONG-HAIRED, SLIM YOUNG WOMEN WHO ARE USUALLY MAQUILADORA WORKERS OR STUDENTS.

THE FIRST REPORTED FEMICIDE ACT WAS IN 1993 – ANA MARIA GIL BRAVO.

SINCE 1993, IT IS STATED THAT THERE HAVE BEEN OVER 500 WOMEN MURDERED IN JUÁREZ. WITH MANY STILL MISSING WHOSE BODIES HAVEN'T BEEN RECOVERED.

Who is killing these women?

THE CASES OF THESE MURDERED WOMEN STILL REMAIN UNSOLVED. IT IS HIGHLY PROBABLE THAT THERE ARE ORGANIZED GROUP OF KILLERS, SUCH AS GANGS, DRUG CARTELS, AND "COPY-CATS" THAT TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE CURRENT SITUATION.

IN THE END, EVEN THE AUTHORITIES, LOCAL GOVERNMENT, AND MEXICAN GOVERNMENT CANNOT BE TRUSTED.

Government's Involvement?

"BEING A WOMAN AND BEING POOR IS TO BE INVISIBLE, ESPECIALLY IN THE EYES OF THE MEXICAN AUTHORITIES."

BLAME VICTIMS FOR THEIR OWN FATE.

AUTHORITIES HAVE NOT BEEN INVOLVED IN INVESTIGATING THE CRIMES.

POLICE AND POLITICAL PEOPLE ARE EASILY CORRUBTABLE.

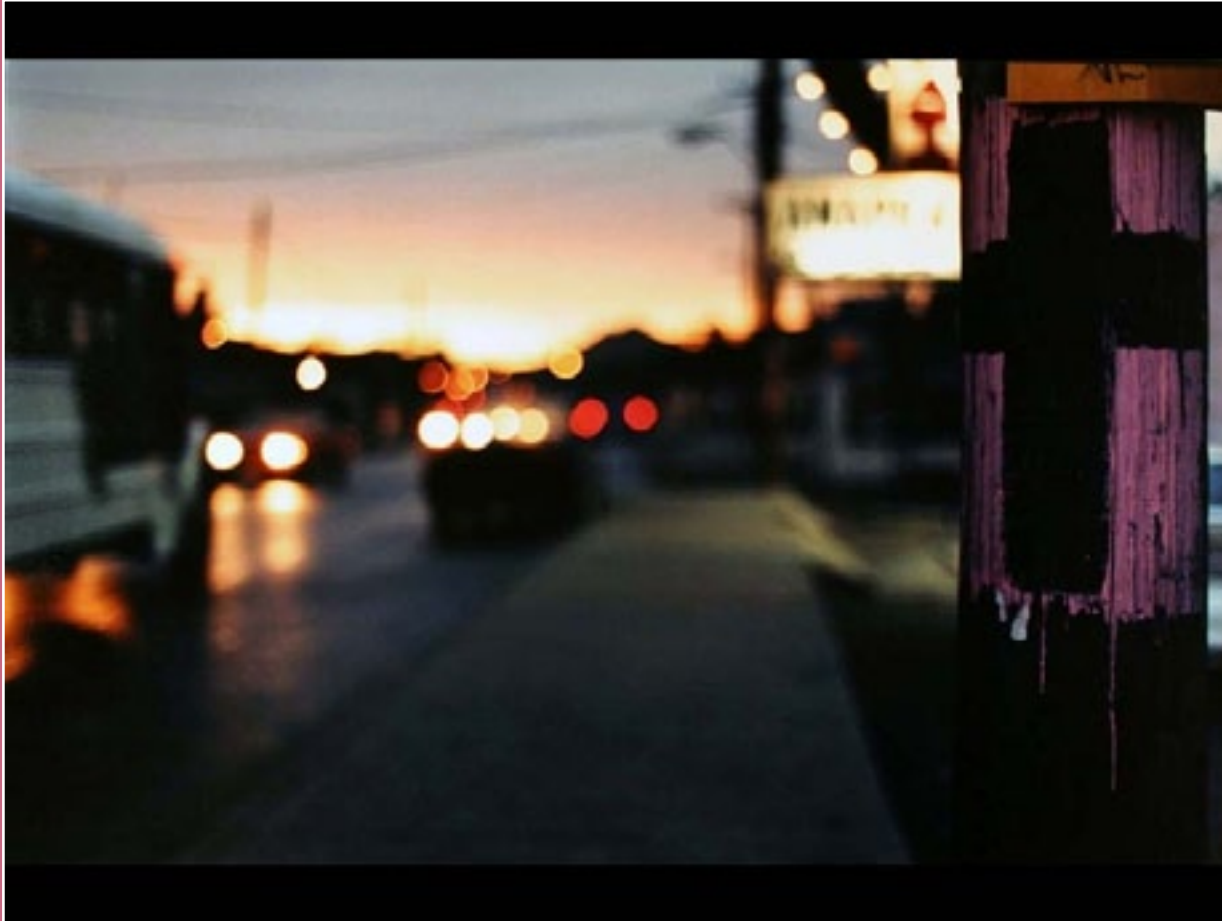
Community Organizations

MANY ORGANIZATIONS HAVE ARISEN OUT OF THE DISSAPEARANCES AND MURDERS OF WOMEN. MANY OF THESE ARE FOUNDED BY THE MOTHERS OF THE VICTIMS—WHO SEEK JUSTICE FOR THE MURDERS OF THEIR DAUGHTERS AND ALSO SEEK CHANGE IN JUÁREZ.

“NUESTRAS HIJAS DE REGRESO A CASA”

“JUSTICIA PARA NUESTRAS HIJAS”

Community Organizations



International Awareness / Global Efforts

THE UNITED NATIONS AND AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL HAVE BEEN THE KEY ORGANIZATIONS IN FOLLOWING THE CASES OF FEMICIDE IN CIUDAD JUÁREZ.

BOTH EXPRESS THAT WHAT HAPPENS IN JUÁREZ IS... "A MODEL OF INTOLERABLE GOVERNMENT NEGLIGENCE."



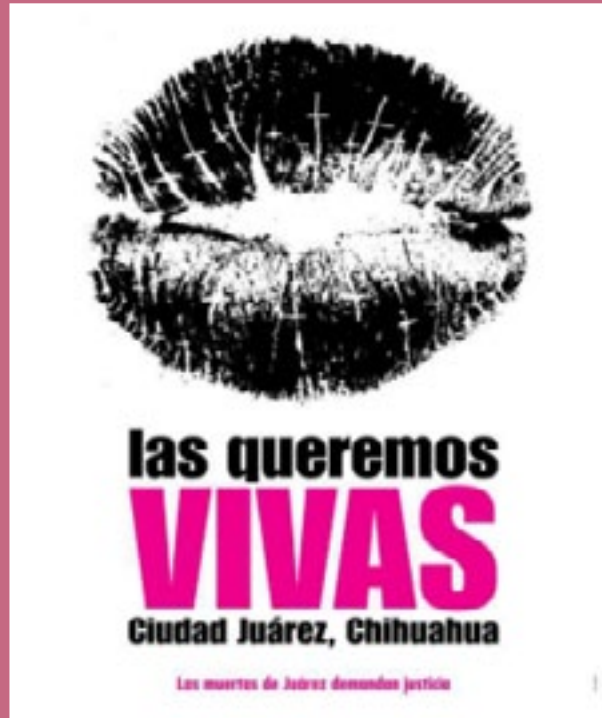
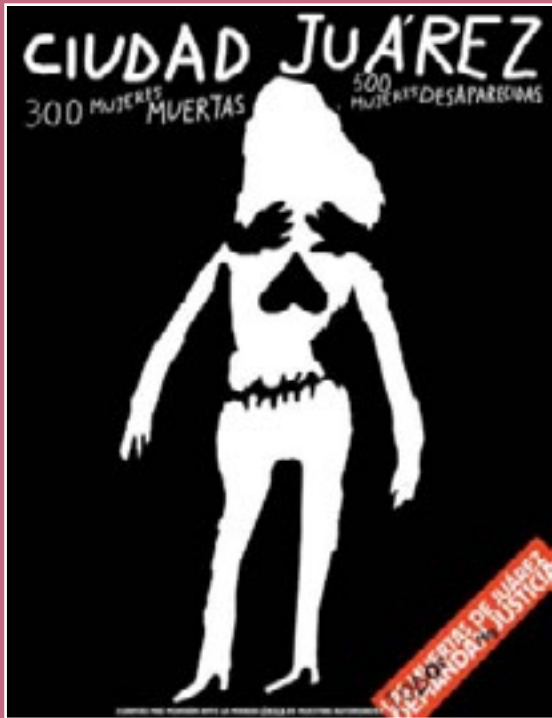
MARCH AGAINST FEMICIDE IN SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

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DESIGNERS AND ARTISTS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ACQUIRE LOCAL, NATIONAL, AND INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION TO THE ISSUE THROUGH THEIR WORKS. THEY HAVE CREATED MYTHOLOGIES THAT DEMAND JUSTICE, REJECT VIOLENCE, AND EMPOWER WOMEN TO STRIVE FOR CHANGE IN THEIR SOCIETY.

A GROUP OF GRAPHIC DESIGNERS FROM MEXICO CITY WERE THE FIRST TO EXPRESS THEIR CONCERNS AND DEMAND JUSTICE THROUGH THEIR WORKS. THEY INVITED COLLEAGUES FROM AROUND MEXICO TO DO THE SAME. POSTERS WERE DESIGNED AROUND THE SLOGAN "THE WOMEN OF JUÁREZ DEMAND JUSTICE."

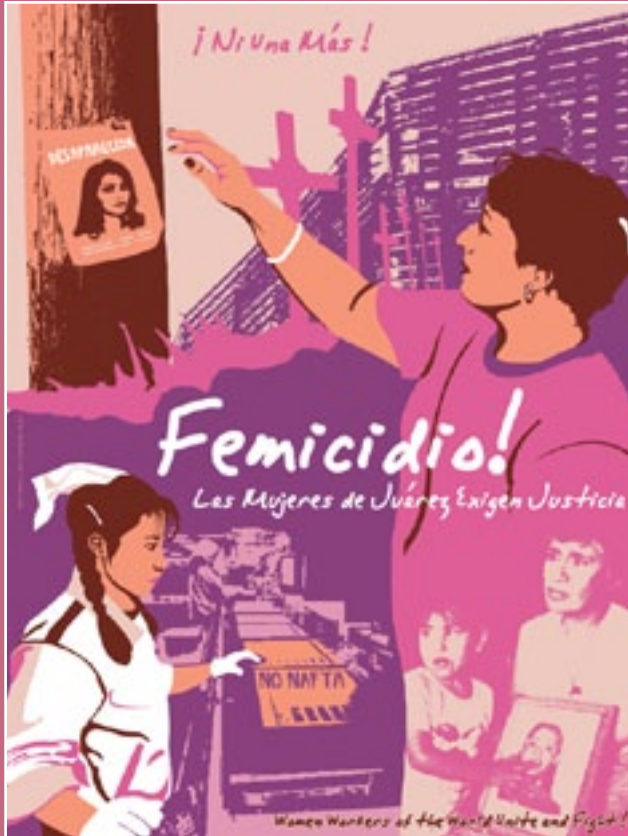
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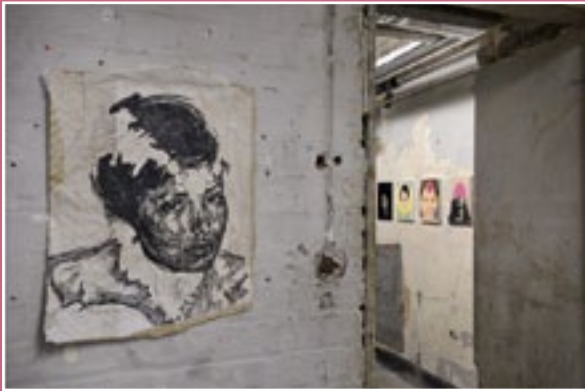
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FAVIANNA RODRIGUEZ:

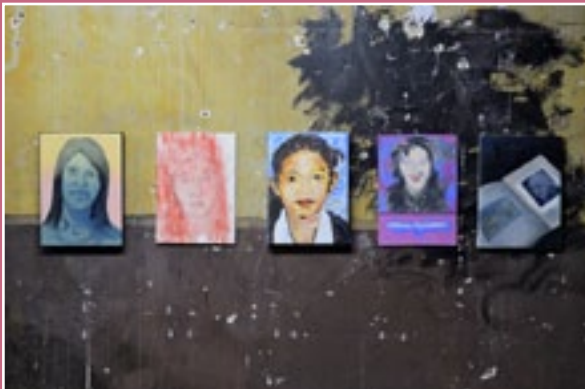
“...MOST HAVE FAVORED DEPICTIONS OF MUTILATED BODY PARTS TO EMPHASIZE THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE CRIMES...I INSTEAD CREATED A PIECE THAT ADDRESSED OTHER ASPECTS OF THE ISSUE...”

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TAMSYN CHALLENGER:

400 WOMEN— INSTALLATION THAT BROUGHT TOGETHER 200 ARTISTS INTERNATIONALLY. EACH ARTIST WAS ASSIGNED A FEMICIDE VICTIM THAT THEY HAD TO REPRESENT THROUGH THEIR ART.



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DOCUMENTARIES ABOUT THE JUÁREZ MURDERS HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN RAISING AWARENESS AROUND THE GLOBE. DOCUMENTARIES SUCH AS SEÑORITA EXTRAVIADA BY LOURDES PORTILLO AND JUÁREZ: A CITY WHERE WOMEN ARE DISPOSABLE BY ALEX FLORES AND LORENA VASSOLO PROVIDE INTERVIEWS BY THE FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS, FORENSIC SPECIALISTS, AND ACTIVISTS.

[HTTP://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=YNEQHTPCG2M](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YNEQHTPCG2M)

[HTTP://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=Z2HTYXSTFMW](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z2HTYXSTFMW)



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OTHER FORMS OF EXPRESSION HAVE EMERGED, SUCH AS SPOKEN WORD, THAT CAN ALSO BE INFLUENTIAL TO RAISING AWARENESS ABOUT NUMEROUS SOCIAL JUSTICE ISSUES.

AMALIA ORTIZ:

[HTTP://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=DWJJPDE2PWK&FEATURE=RELATED](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DWJJPDE2PWK&feature=related)

In Conclusion,

ALTHOUGH THE MURDER OF THESE WOMEN OF JUÁREZ REMAIN UNSOLVED, DESIGN AND ART—IN ALL OF ITS FORMS—HAS BECOME A TOOL IN WHICH COMMUNITY MEMBERS, ACTIVISTS, DESIGNERS, ARTISTS, AND FILMMAKERS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO RAISE AWARENESS ON ALL LEVELS ABOUT THE ISSUE OF FEMICIDE.

I BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD BE IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE FAMILIES AND FRIENDS OF THE MURDERED WOMEN OF JUÁREZ. THE RISE IN INTERNATIONAL AWARENESS COULD POSSIBLY LEAD TO THE INVESTIGATION OF THE MURDERS BY AN OUTSIDE ORGANIZATION AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF JUSTICE TOWARDS WOMEN IN MEXICO.

