

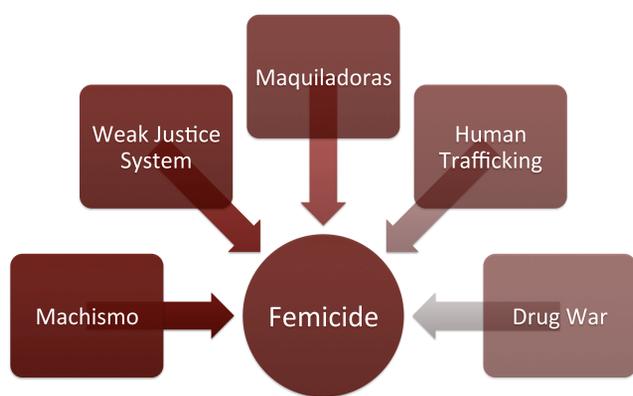
# The Ongoing Femicide in Ciudad Juarez

Aileen Sanchez, Blum Center, UCLA



## Abstract

Approximately 100 women are killed in Ciudad Juarez each year; however, data are notoriously unclear and this figure may be an understatement of the real number of murders occurring each year. The killing of women in Ciudad Juarez have been going on since 1993 and can now be considered a femicide because of the continued number of deaths. The leading cause has been the establishment of maquiladoras, manufacturing operations, where woman are paid low wages and are faced with poor working conditions. It was seen as a chance for job employment and never as making women vulnerable. Now other possible causes of the brutal killing of women are human trafficking, the drug war in Mexico, machismo, and the lack of government action. Unfortunately, even with support coming from several NGOs, progress has not been made to the point where the murderers have been found and put behind the bars. The complexity of the problem has prevented it from being solved.



## Objectives of the 40 Point Plan

Because of the Mexico's weak judicial system, the secretary of government came up with the 40-point program that was meant to improve justice, public security, and to give women more security by strengthening their rights.



## How the 40 Point Plan Responds

The 40 point plan invests money in providing security measures for the female workers. Some investments were made in trying to improve the female worker's safety from the time she leaves her house to get to her work place and back.

The factory has also established a data storage system, which stores workers' fingerprints and DNA testing, to assist in murder investigations.

Another safety measure has been that the police station will respond more quickly to emergency calls.

In addition, the 40 point plan also has created civil society organizations to help women who have suffered from violence.

Other interventions have included:

- Shelters for the victims of violence
- Workshops, conferences and forums on topics that deal with social participation, violence prevention, and human rights.

The 40 point plan attempts to address a weak justice system by establishing laws that will punish officials who have allowed the murder of women to reach such proportions in the border region.

Investments have also been made to the Ciudad Juarez police by providing better technology that would help them in their investigations.

## Conclusions

Because the 40 point plan is multidisciplinary, followed by several institutions, organizations, and the government, it is hard to record the progress and creates several limitations. For that reason, more time is needed to see the positive effects this program can make. The 40 point plan has taken some good first steps to identify the murderers, improve the judicial system and train women in safety precautions and understanding their human rights.

The program could be improved if men were included in this program to make them stop believing in machismo. While the program has provided transportation services to female workers in the maquiladoras, these job sites continue to hire only females. These women that are already in Ciudad Juarez stay there for work, which makes them vulnerable because they are part of the lowest working class who no one bothers to notices. Although messaging has been distributed to warn women migrating to Ciudad Juarez about the risks and potential dangers of the area, stronger measures still need to be taken. Missing or murdered women and violence against women in Ciudad Juarez continue even until this day.



## Literature Cited

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