

THE KILLING OF A WOMAN BECAUSE SHE IS A WOMAN

FEMICIDE

OF MIGRANT WOMEN



THE EXTREME FORM OF MALE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

"Today, femicide is a concept, is a category and is also a paradigm to study and analyse violence against women and murders of women. Its global dimension makes it very unique as an international crime, because it is not genocide. It does not affect political or ethnic or religious groups, it affects women, it affects half of humanity, more than half of humanity. So how is it possible if we are half of humanity and we don't know yet how many women are being killed for being women in the 21st century?"

- Nerea Novo Paleo, feminicidio.net

FEMICIDE

**"I never intended to kill this woman.
I just wanted her to be quiet"**

- Robert S., 49 y.o. Swiss banker, at the trial for murdering Justina P.,
a 25 y.o. woman in prostitution from Poland.

Robert killed Justina in a luxurious hotel in Zurich, Switzerland, on 14 September 2014.

Justina's body was later found in a wine fridge of his flat.

Femicide is a grave and unacceptable violation of women's and girls' most basic human right to life. It is a leading cause of premature death of women globally. Although the rate of homicide has been on the decline across the world, the rate of femicide has remained the same, and, in some contexts, increased.

According to Diana Russel who presented the term at the 1976 International Tribunal on Crimes against Women in Brussels, femicide applies to all forms of sexist killings ***"motivated by a sense of entitlement to or superiority over women, by pleasure or sadistic desires toward them, or by an assumption of ownership of women"***. The Latin American feminists defined femicide as ***"the misogynist killing of women by men;" "the mass killing of women committed by men based on their group superiority;"*** and ***"the extreme form of gender-based violence, understood as violence inflicted by men against women in their desire to obtain power, domination, and control."***

The Latin American Model Protocol for the investigation of gender-related killings of women defines femicide as **"the murder of women because they are women, whether it is committed within the family, a domestic partnership, or any other interpersonal relationship, or by anyone in the community, or whether it is perpetrated or tolerated by the state or its agents"**.

Femicide is also broadly categorised by type, motivation and aggravating factors, including *direct* and *indirect* femicide, with different categories, such as intimate femicide, racist femicide, 'honour' based killing, femicide of girl-child and elderly women, femicide of lesbians, femicide of women in prostitution, femicide through organised crime and trafficking, femicide in conflict, among others. Globally, the intimate femicides make over 50 % of all sexist killings of women.

Men kill women using different methods: one of the most common instruments of murder is a knife or sharp object. Other ways of killing include strangulation, hitting with blunt objects, hitting without a weapon, head injuries, causing to fall against a hard surface, setting on fire and burning women, as well as by secondary causes resulting from violent acts, including sexual assaults, rape, as well as Female Genital Mutilation.

In Europe the research on femicide is not well documented and sporadic. While the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCS) provides the framework for recording homicide and crime data according to various factors (e.g. sex of offender and victim, situational context, location, date, time and motive) very few countries collect the data on the circumstances surrounding femicidal killings of women and girls.

FEMICIDE OF MIGRANT WOMEN IN EUROPE

"foreign governments and women's NGOs hold the safety of girls and women in third world cultures to a different standard than they would hold their own. They often prioritize cultural 'sensitivity' over the safety of individual women and girls, and pander to the former...Their [communities'] response is geared more towards protecting cultural identity than protecting women."

- Rita Banerji
founder of The 50 Million Missing
a global campaign to stop the female genocide in India

According to the official statistics in countries such as UK and France men kill two to three women every week. Reflecting the global pattern of misogynist murders most femicides are committed by current or former male partners, known as intimate femicide. Europe-wide, according to the Eurostat data, the countries with the highest rates of women dying as a result of murder are Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia as well as such countries like Romania, Finland, Hungary. However, these statistics, even though disaggregated by sex, do not allow us to see how many women exactly died as a result of femicide or the type of femicide they became the victims of.

Due to the lack ethnicity- and legal-status-disaggregated data and due the fact that the data on femicide remains sporadic and mostly collected by non-governmental feminist organisations, the exact number of migrant women victims of femicide in Europe is unknown. However, based on the research on Violence against Migrant Women, there is evidence suggesting that in many countries migrant women may be at a heightened risk of femicide.

The well-known factors contributing to migrant women's **position of vulnerability** to **different forms of male violence** can also contribute to migrant women becoming the **target of its most extreme form, femicide**. These factors include barriers to employment and legal and economic dependency on their spouses (whether of same or different ethnicity); barriers to reporting, access to justice and protection; low language skills and poor understanding of legal systems; lack of social networks; fear of deportation and undocumented status; community control and pressure; and racialised bias from authorities when dealing with the cases of violence against migrant women.

For example, in Spain, according to *feminicidio.net*, migrant women represented the total 30% of the 681 registered femicide cases between 2010 and 2015, whereas in 2019 out of 51 femicide victims, 21 were of foreign origin.

This publication is our first step highlighting the femicide of migrant women and a commemoration of the lives of migrant women and girls perished in the systemic and interpersonal male violence in Europe.

The cases included in this publication have been collected through the membership of the European Network of Migrant Women, as well as the feminist groups who research, document and maintain databases on femicide in several European countries.

These cases are by no means exhaustive or comprehensive. Many more migrant women have been killed, by men, in Europe. Neither they represent a research on the causes, patterns or contextual factors of femicide. Rather the cases listed here represent a fraction and tragic examples of the total and continued loss of lives of migrant women and girls, in Europe.

We are particularly grateful to all our members who contributed to this report as well as the feminist activists, journalists and researchers from *feminicidio.net* Spain, *stopfeminicide.blogspot.com* Belgium, Counting Dead Women UK, *Féminicides par compagnons ou ex* France, as well as the *www.cost.eu* Action IS1206 project.

SAY HER NAME

**TYOLOGY OF
MISOGYNIST KILLINGS**



INTIMATE FEMICIDES BY (EX-) PARTNER

Intimate femicide is the most prevalent type of misogynist killing of women. The common risk factors for intimate femicide worldwide are separation and estrangement. Motivated by perpetrator's sense of ownership of a woman, jealousy and control, and, often preceded by 'lesser' acts of violence, these killings are manifestations of the extreme end on the continuum of male violence in intimate partner relationship. Even when the female victims manage to obtain a restraining order or move to another location, the risk of femicide remains high.

FINLAND

VICTIM: CECILIA CHILUBA, 38 y.o.

ORIGIN: Zambia

KILLER: name n/a, male, 53 y.o.

CAUSE OF DEATH: shot by firearm

VERDICT: n/a

CASE: Cecilia, a mother of one, married a Finnish man in 2016. In January 2019 Cecilia sought a divorce. After the couple separated, not knowing the Finnish laws Cecilia accepted seeing her child on weekends only, however, two weeks before the murder she had filed an application to the district court requesting the child's custody, which, according to the media, motivated her ex-husband to kill her.



SPAIN

VICTIM: HELENA VESLOS, 44 y.o.

ORIGIN: Russia

KILLER: Roman Chernov, male, 54 y.o.

CAUSE OF DEATH: multiple stabbing with knife

VERDICT: n/a

CASE: Helena migrated to Spain by the invitation of her future husband, a Russian man she had met online. Following repeated intimate violence Helena reported her partner to the police on several occasions. She was in the process of divorce and had a restraining order in place since 1 October. In the early hours of 22 October 2019 Helena's ex-husband, Román Chernov, accessed the balcony of the flat in Valencia where Helena resided with her daughter. He slaughtered sleeping Helena in front of their daughter.



UNITED KINGDOM

VICTIM: LUZ MARGORY ISAZA VILLEGASY, 50 y.o.

ORIGIN: Colombia

KILLER: Alberto Giraldo-Tascon, male, 55 y.o.

CAUSE OF DEATH: blunt force traumas to the head, strangulation

VERDICT: 19 years imprisonment on charges of murder

CASE: Margory fled Colombia as a refugee with her husband in 1999. On 13 January 2019, when the couple was divorced but still living in the same house, Alberto murdered his wife, carried her in a suitcase to a forest, burnt and buried the body in a shallow grave. In court he denied the charges of murder claiming that Margory attacked him with a knife before collapsing.



INTIMATE FEMICIDES BY (EX-) PARTNER

GERMANY

VICTIM: OM MARWAN, 37 y.o.

ORIGIN: Syria

KILLER: Abu Marwan, male, 41 y.o.

CAUSE OF DEATH: multiple stabbing in the neck with knife

VERDICT: n/a

CASE: In 2016 Om separated from her husband and in 2018 earned custody of their three children. On the day of the murder, 2 March 2018, Abu visited his wife in Mühlacker attempting to "resolve the marital dispute" however was rejected by Om. He then stabbed her to death and fled the flat with his son leaving their underage daughter in the house with the dying Om. The daughter reported the murder to the police. Immediately after the murder, Abu went live on Facebook blaming Heba for entering into relationship with another man, accusing her of prostitution and stating that was what the women would face if they angered their husbands.



FRANCE

VICTIM: AMINATA T., 31 y.o.

ORIGIN: Mali

KILLER: Alou T, male, 40 y.o.

CAUSE OF DEATH: multiple stabbing with knife

VERDICT: n/a

CASE: Independent and strong woman by the description of her female friends, Aminata married Alou when she was 19. After they settled in France, Aminata pursued active career and had just obtained her driving license when Alou attacked and killed her on 12 November 2019. The murder was reported by the couple's daughters who witnessed the attack and fled to the neighbours. During the attack Aminata defended herself with a knife inflicting a fatal injury to her husband who died in hospital later. Aminata's friends reported that her husband was preventing her from working full-time and she had been considering renting a flat on her own.



UNITED KINGDOM

VICTIM: ASMA BEGUM, 31 y.o.

ORIGIN: Bangladesh

KILLER: Jalal Uddin, male, 47 y.o.

CAUSE OF DEATH: 58 knife stabbing on the face, neck and arms

VERDICT: life sentence

CASE: Asma and Uddin got married in 2006. According to the reports domestic violence was part of Asma's life for many years and in 2016 she reported her husband to police however later dropped the case. On 11 January 2019 Asma was found dead in her apartment, her face and arms mutilated from multiple knife stabs and slashes. According to the judge, the stabbing was so extreme that the knife broke off Asma's face. According to the reports Uddin killed Asma after she confronted him about his spending the household money.



FEMICIDAL KILLINGS OF GIRLS

A female can become a victim of femicide at any age, however, girls may be particularly at risk of violence perpetrated by male peers and adults, due to extreme power differentials. Daughters whose mothers are at risk of intimate partner violence are also at much greater risk of such violence. *Girls on the Move* (migrant, refugee, asylum seeking girls) are in a particularly vulnerable situation at high risk of abduction, torture and murder.

IRELAND

VICTIM: ANA KRIEGEL, 14 y.o.

ORIGIN: Russia

KILLERS: Boy A and Boy B, 13 y.o.

CAUSE OF DEATH: Sexual assault, rape, multiple blunt force injuries

VERDICT: Boy A - life sentence on charges for murder and twelve years for aggravated sexual assault. Boy B - fifteen years in jail

CASE: Ana was adopted from a Russian orphanage when she was two. A happy child, she was subjected to bullying at school, often of sexual nature. On 14 May 2018 the boys lured Ana into a remote farmhouse outside of Dublin, sexually and physically assaulted and murdered her. According to the court materials only one boy took active part in the assault and killing, whereas the other boy assisted him. A large amount of pornographic materials was found in boys' devices including the images similar to the assault perpetrated on Ana.



FRANCE

VICTIM: SHAÏNA HANSYE, 15 y.o.

ORIGIN: Mauritius

SUSPECTED KILLER: Shaïna's boyfriend, 17 y.o.

CAUSE OF DEATH: Multiple stabbing in the abdomen

VERDICT: n/a

CASE: Shaïna was declared missing by her family on 26 October 2019 after she disappeared on 25 October. On 27 October her body, charred, was discovered in a burnt shed in a garden allotment in Ceil, Northern France. According to the autopsy, after Shaïna had been stabbed in the abdomen, her body was soaked in gasoline and set on fire. It was reported that at the time of murder Shaïna was pregnant. The primary suspect, Shaïna's boyfriend, was arrested and indicted with premeditated murder. On 17 November 2019 Shaïna's family organised a White March in Ceil to honour her life and to denounce violence against women.



GERMANY

VICTIM: AYESHA, 2 y.o.

ORIGIN: Pakistan

KILLER: Sohail A., father, 34 y.o.

CAUSE OF DEATH: knife cuts on neck amounting to beheading

VERDICT: life sentence on charges of 'revenge murder'

CASE: Sohail, Ayesha's father, and her mother Lubna, both from Pakistan, married in Germany in 2013. In the course of their marriage Lubna had filed several criminal charges against her husband, for violence and threats against her and her son. She also demanded a divorce. No action was taken by police and according to the child services involved in the case there had been 'no sign the situation would worsen.' On 23 October 2017 Lubna left the house to report Sohail, once again, for a violent attack. Ayesha stayed at home as Sohail did not allow the mother to take her. When she returned home with police officers she found Ayesha dead with her head practically separated from her body, her father gone. He was later arrested in Spain.



FEMICIDES OF YOUNG WOMEN

SPAIN

VICTIM: DARÍA OLIVA LUNA, 20 y.o.

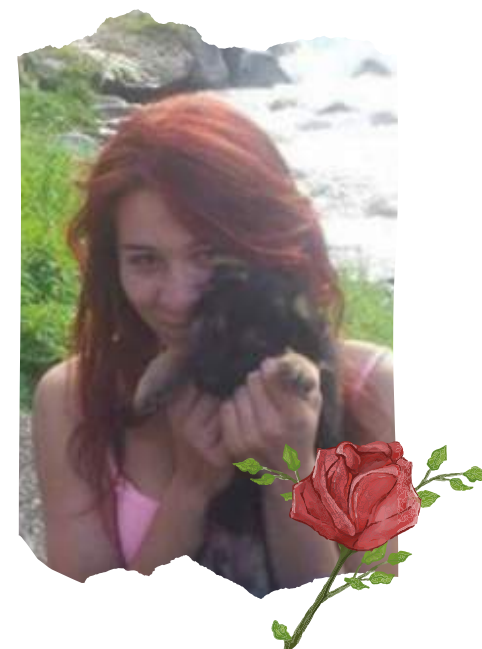
ORIGIN: Russia

KILLER: Manuel Moreno Agudo, male, 42 y.o.

CAUSE OF DEATH: unknown, dismembering of body

VERDICT: n/a

CASE: Daria was adopted from Russia as a child. She worked as a waitress in Madrid, when in October-November 2017 (the exact date is unknown) her Spanish partner Manuel, 20 years her senior, murdered Daria in the flat that they shared. He then dismembered Daria's body and kept it in a freezer for the next 15 months. For at least one year no one inquired about Daria. In December 2018, when her mother reported her missing, the Spanish police found Daria's body, dismembered, in a freezer of the same apartment where she was killed.



GERMANY

VICTIM: HEBA A., 22 y.o.

ORIGIN: Syria

KILLER: Bandar S., male, 28 y.o.

CAUSE OF DEATH: stabbing with knife

VERDICT: initially charged with murder; 6 years in prison on charges of manslaughter

CASE: Heba arrived to Greece as a refugee in 2016 with her son. After several months in Greece she reunified with her husband in Germany. Soon after the move, they divorced and she remained at a camp. Threats, fear of being a single mother in a foreign country and family pressure forced her to marry Bandar who became the father of her daughter. On 23 January 2019 Bandar stabbed Heba to death in their apartment following Heba's reactions to his violent behavior. Initially charging Bandar with murder, the German court ruled that Heba was partially responsible for her death by "having brought the knife" into the scene, according to Bandar. In his defense Bandar noted that Heba smoked, "was aggressive towards him", "did not clean up," and did not treat him "like a man". Prior to the murder, the neighbours reported the noise inside the flat, however the property management dismissed them as "xenophobic". Evidence provided by her friends and former hosts in Greece has not been taken into consideration by the court. The case is being pursued by them jointly with Melissa Network, the organization that supported Heba and her little son while in Greece.



SWEDEN

VICTIM: VATCHAREEYA BANGSUAN, 20 y.o.

ORIGIN: Thailand

KILLER: Kristoffer Johansson, male, 22 y.o.

CAUSE OF DEATH: Rape, multiple stabbing with knife-like object, dismembering of body

VERDICT: Initially sentenced to 14 years for murder; on appeal, convicted to 10 years for manslaughter. While in prison Johansson started identifying as a 'woman', was transferred to women's prison in November 2019 and may be released in 2020, serving only 6 years.

CASE: At the age of eleven, Vatchareeya migrated to Sweden with her mother. She was studying engineering and practiced Karate, when in May 2013 her ex-boyfriend Kristoffer lured her into a forest cabin, raped and murdered her. He dismembered her body and scattered its parts in the forest. Kristoffer had misled the police by taking an active part in the search of missing Vatchareeya before he was identified as the main suspect and charged with premeditated murder. Johansson denied his crime throughout the entire trial.



MOTHER AND CHILD FEMICIDE

Children of the women subjected to violence by men in intimate relationship are often the target of the same violence. In the case when men attempt to murder women, it is not uncommon that they also attempt to murder their kids and, sometimes entire family, 'by extension'. It also not uncommon that such men commit suicide after murdering the family.

FRANCE

VICTIMS: HANG ROL & DAUGHTER HELENE, 41 y.o. and 9 y.o.

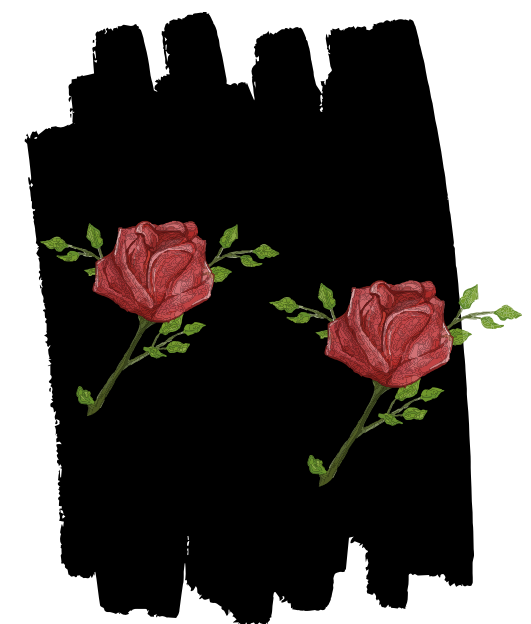
ORIGIN: Vietnam

KILLER: Jacky, male, 65 y.o.

CAUSE OF DEATH: shot by firearm

VERDICT: n/a | killer committed suicide

CASE: On 7 October 2019, in their family home in the village of Eygalières, a 65-year-old man shot and killed his 9-year-old daughter while she was sleeping in her bed before killing her mother Hang Rol. He then called a neighbour to confess his crime and to announce he was intending to commit suicide. He shot himself in the head, leaving behind a note currently analysed by the police.



NORTHERN IRELAND

VICTIMS: ALLISON & GISELLE MARIMON-HERRERA, 15 y.o. and 37 y.o.

ORIGIN: Colombia

KILLER: Russel Steele, male, 38 y.o.

CAUSE OF DEATH: Strangulation

VERDICT: n/a | killer committed suicide

CASE: Giselle moved to Northern Ireland in 2015, followed by her teenage daughter Allison. In early March 2019 both were reported missing by Giselle's sister. Several days later police discovered their bodies in their flat. Together with them was found the body of the presumed partner of Giselle, who, after strangling both females committed suicide by hanging. He also killed Giselle's dog. It was reported that Giselle was planning to return to Colombia where her parents expected her to join them in the days following the murder.



AUSTRIA

VICTIMS: MOTHER 29 y.o., DAUGHTER 2 y.o., SON 11 month old.

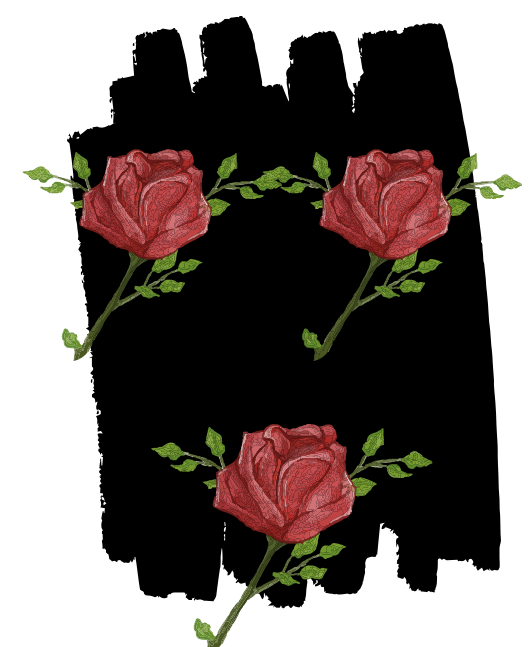
ORIGIN: Turkey

KILLER: Sanat A., male, 31 y.o.

CAUSE OF DEATH: Knife stabs and cuts

VERDICT: n/a

CASE: On 27 October 2019 Sanat stabbed to death his wife and two-year-old daughter and attempted to suffocate his eleven month old son. After that he reported himself to police. It was reported in the media that the murder was motivated by the separation of the couple. The 11 year-old son, who suffered severe respiratory damages, later died in hospital.



KILLINGS OF WOMEN IN PROSTITUTION

The rates of men killing women in prostitution are known to be between 12 to 40 times as high as for other groups of women. The very system of prostitution is built on sexualised-racialised objectification of women and is inherently abusive, placing the women in the sex trade - including the countries where prostitution is decriminalised or legalised/regulated - at a constant risk of male violence. In Europe migrant women, including the intra-EU migrants, constitute the largest population exploited in the sex trade.

ITALY

VICTIM: BLESSING BENEDICTA DANIEL

ORIGIN: Nigeria

KILLER: Leopoldo Scalici, male, 40 y.o.

CAUSE OF DEATH: Blunt force injuries to the head

VERDICT: n/a

CASE: On 6 April 2019 Scalici, an Italian man, solicited Blessing for a sexual act in the industrial area of Modena. In the back of the van where Blessing was alone with Scalici, he murdered the woman by hitting her head with an iron bar after which he threw Blessing's body into a ditch. It was reported that Scalici was "provoked into aggression after being dissatisfied with the sexual act."



SPAIN

VICTIM: ISABELL ELENA RADUCANU, 36 y.o.

ORIGIN: Romania

SUSPECTED KILLER: unknown male 'sex'-buyer

CAUSE OF DEATH: Beheading

VERDICT: n/a

CASE: Isabell, a mother of two and pregnant with the third child, was found dead on 11 June 2019 in her apartment in the region of Valencia. Her partner, who testified Isabell was engaged in prostitution, found her naked and decapitated in bed. According to the neighbours, prior to Isabell's murder they had heard a man arguing with Isabell in the flat.



BELGIUM

VICTIM: EUNICE NANCY OSAYANDE, 24 y.o.

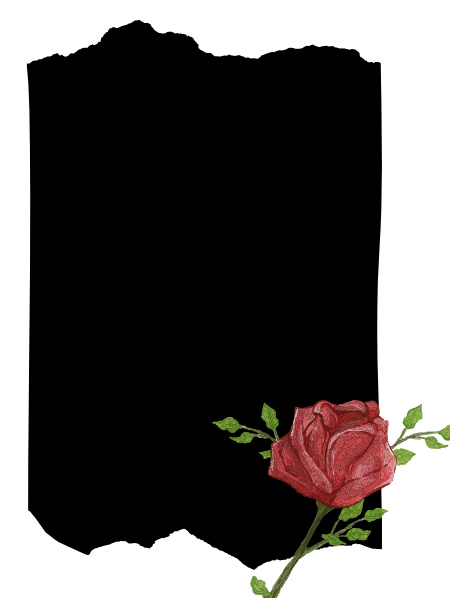
ORIGIN: Nigeria

SUSPECTED KILLER: unknown male 'sex'-buyer

CAUSE OF DEATH: Multiple knife stabbing

VERDICT: n/a

CASE: Born in Benin City, Eunice was in the 'tolerated' red-light district of Brussels - the area known for its criminal activities and frequent abuse of women in prostitution. On 5 June 2018 Eunice was killed by one of her "customers" who stabbed her multiple times. Her body was found in a nearby street.



'HONOUR'-BASED KILLINGS OF WOMEN

'Honour' based murders of women occur in communities where the concept of honour is fundamentally bound up with women's behaviour. Such killings are often committed by male relatives and spouses, and, often the entire family sanctions the murder. Women are blamed for 'dishonouring' family/man by transgressing the norms of 'culture' and 'tradition', particularly when they do not conform to the prescribed rules of personal, sexual and social behaviour, dress code, refusing a marriage or seeking a divorce.

ITALY / PAKISTAN

VICTIM: SANA CHEEMA, 26 y.o.

ORIGIN: Pakistan

SUSPECTED KILLERS: Sana's father, Ghulam Mustafa Cheema, her brother Adnan Cheema and uncle

CAUSE OF DEATH: strangulation

VERDICT: n/a | the accused were acquitted by court in Pakistan

CASE: Sana was born in Pakistan but lived in Italy most of her life. In April 2018 she was reported dead while visiting her family in Pakistan and originally buried without an autopsy. After the public outcry, Sana's body was exhumed and a cause of death was identified as strangulation (her voice box was swollen and a neck bone had been dislocated). It was widely reported that she had been brought back to Pakistan for an arranged marriage, but refused. Her friends also alleged Sana had wanted to marry a Pakistani-Italian man in Italy, the marriage which her family did not approve.



FINLAND

VICTIMS: MOTHER AND THREE CHILDREN

ORIGIN: Iraq

SUSPECTED KILLER: Hayder Al-Hmedawi, male, 33 years old

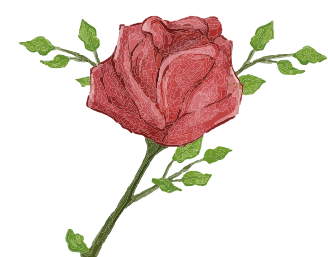
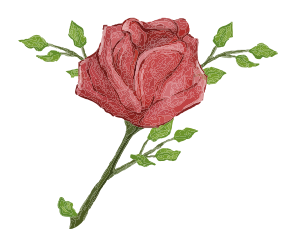
CAUSE OF DEATH: NO DEATH | Multiple stabbing with knife with a purpose to kill

CHARGES: Two counts of attempted murder, three counts of aggravated assault, one count of menace. [the accused is fugitive]

CASE: The alleged perpetrator stabbed his ex-wife and her female friend in front of a Child Welfare Services Unit after a family meeting. The three children of the perpetrator were also injured.

The couple arrived to Finland in 2015. In early 2018, when the couple was already separated Al-Hmedawi's ex-wife applied for a restraining order on her husband.

According to the woman, her ex-husband's violence was the result of a divorce which she sought after she had been assaulted. Al-Hmedawi and his relatives began to intimidate her to "restore honour" to him and his family. According to her, Al-Hmedawi's relatives did not approve the divorce and said the couple was still married under Sharia law. Al-Hmedawi's and his family thought that his ex-wife had given up her honour when she stopped wearing the veil, divorced and started living independently.



SERIAL FEMICIDAL KILLINGS

The serial killings of women and girls are usually committed by men with pathological and targeted hatred of women and often contain explicit sexual and torture elements. In such killings men often target the women in vulnerable and high risk situations, such as prostitution, homelessness, destitution and distress. These murders are usually premeditated and well planned in advance.

CYPRUS

VICTIMS: FIVE MIGRANT WOMEN AND TWO GIRLS, different ages

ORIGIN: Philippines, Nepal, Romania

KILLER: Nicholas Metaxas, male, 35 y.o.

CAUSE OF DEATH: Six victims died of strangulation; one died of a head injury.

VERDICT: Seven life sentences for seven premeditated murders

THE WOMEN NICOLAS METAXAS KILLED:

Mary Rose Tiburcio, 38, and her **daughter Sierra**, 6, from the Philippines

Arian Palanas Lozano, 28, from the Philippines

Maricar Valtez Arquiola, 31, from the Philippines

Livia Florentina Bunea, 36, and her **daughter Elena**, 8, from Romania

Ashita Khadka Bista, from Nepal

CASE: On 17 June 2019 the Cyprus court sentenced Nicholas Metaxas, a 35 y.o. Greek-Cypriot army captain, to seven life sentences for kidnapping and premeditated murder of five women and two girls, their children, in the period of two years. All the women were migrant domestic workers. The first victim was found dead by tourists taking pictures at a mining shaft in late April 2019. The last victim discovered, the six-year-old girl, was finally found in a lake in July.

Metaxas identified women online and entered into 'relationship' with them, after which he kidnapped and murdered them, getting rid of their bodies in remote locations of the island.

When the women were declared missing by their friends and relatives, the police failed to investigate their disappearance, later described by the local women's rights groups as an act of negligence because the women were foreign and domestic workers. The police chief was sacked and the justice minister resigned following accounts of bungled investigations.



UNITED KINGDOM

VICTIM: CELINE DOOKHRAN, 20 y.o.

ORIGIN: Pakistan / UK

KILLER: Mujahid Arshid, male, 33 y.o.

CAUSE OF DEATH: Slit throat, hitting on the head, sexual assault, rape

VERDICT: life sentence on charges of sexual assault, two counts of rape, murder and attempted murder.

CASE: In 2018 Celine temporarily moved in the house of her uncle Mujahid Arshid as a following the family disagreement over the choice of Celine's romantic partner. On 19 July 2019 Mujahid Arshid abducted his niece together with her female friend. He brought the victims to an empty house in West London where he raped both and killed Celine by cutting her throat. He attempted to kill her friend however she managed to escape and reported the crime. Celine's body was found stuffed in a freezer that Mujahid had installed at the scene of murder several days earlier. It was reported at the trial that Mujahid had previously sexually assaulted the surviving victim when she was a child. He also planned to murder the two women several weeks in advance of the crime.



ORGANISED FEMICIDE

Organised femicides are associated with gangs, organized crime, drug dealers and human trafficking. Such killings often include abduction and disappearances; torture and sexual assault by groups of men; murder and mutilation, particularly of the sexual organs and breasts; decapitation in some cases; and the public display and/or dumping of naked bodies and/or body parts in empty wastelands.

GREECE

VICTIMS: MOTHER 35 y.o. AND TWO DAUGHTERS 17 y.o. and 15 y.o.

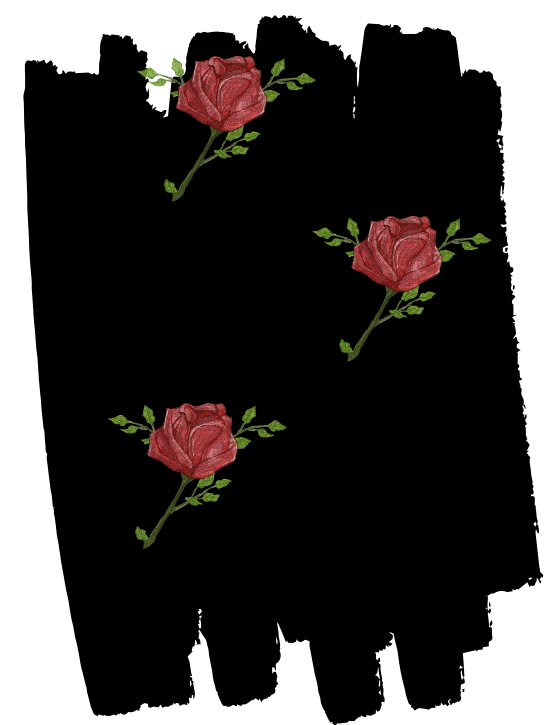
ORIGIN: Asian ethnicity

KILLERS: unknown

CAUSE OF DEATH: multiple wounds on neck area, slit throats

VERDICT: n/a

CASE: On 10 October 2018 three female bodies, knelt, hands tied, their throats slit, were found near the River Evros between Greece and Turkey - an area that is a major crossing point for refugees fleeing to Europe. By forensic investigation the women were identified as mother and her two daughters. It was reported the women may have been killed as a "punishment" by traffickers. It was established the mother managed to untie her hands to defend her daughters before she was killed.



MEDITERRANEAN SEA | ITALIAN COAST

VICTIMS: TWENTY SIX YOUNG WOMEN AND GIRLS, 14 - 20 y.o.

ORIGIN: Nigeria

KILLER: unidentified organised trafficking ring

CAUSE OF DEATH: drowning at sea

VERDICT: Two men were sentenced to five years in prison, for aiding and abetting illegal immigration and for causing, as a result of that crime, the death of at least five people.

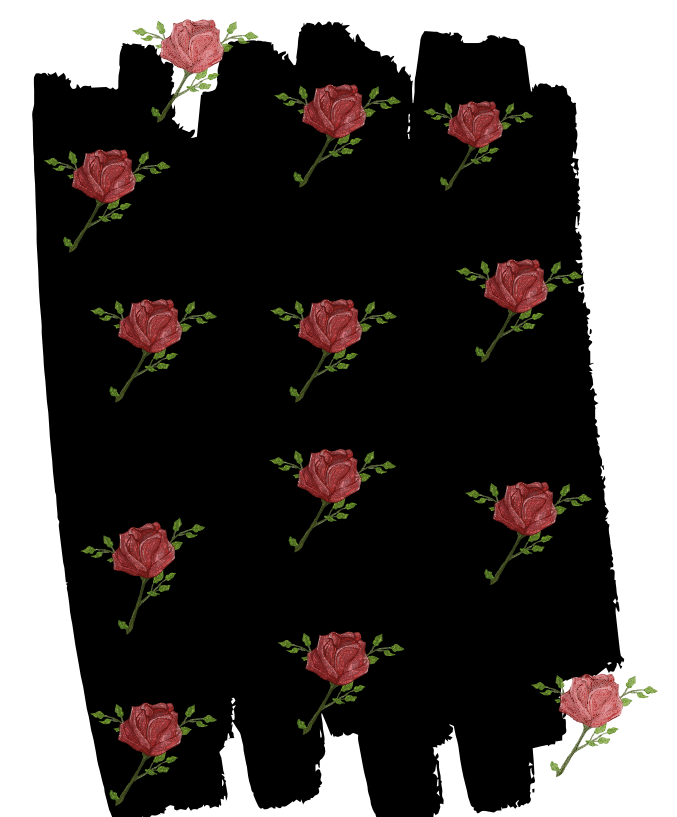
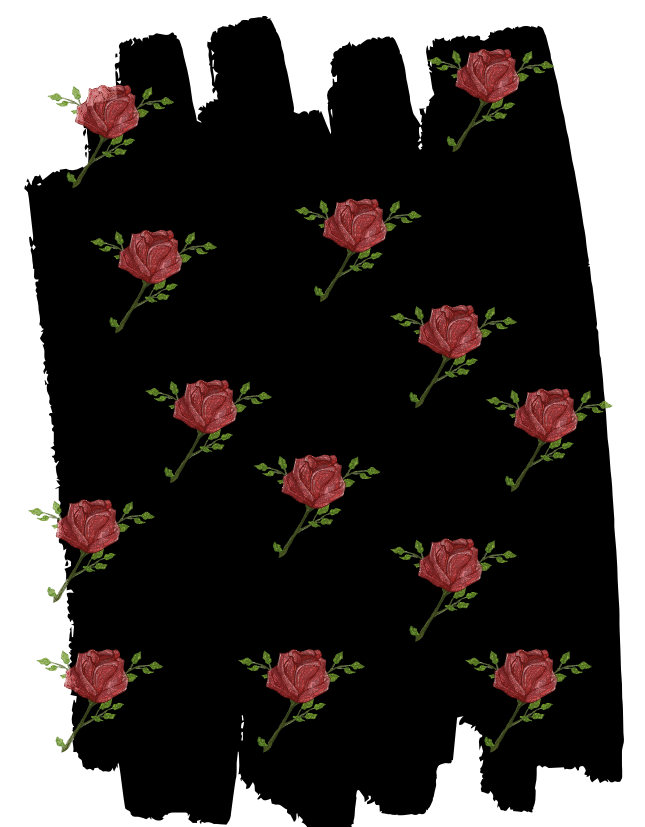
TWO OUT OF TWENTY-SIX VICTIMS IDENTIFIED:

Osato Osaro, 20 y.o.

Marian Shaka, 20 y.o.

CASE: On 3 November 2017 twenty-six female bodies, aged 14 - 20 y.o. were retrieved from the Mediterranean sea off the Italian coast, by a Spanish rescue ship. The victims were suspected to be sex-trafficked and either intentionally thrown off the boat or to have drowned when the boat capsized

After the discovery of the bodies Nigerian and Italian authorities were investigating the case to determine who was criminally responsible, finally convicting the two men. However, the investigation did not lead to an identification or conviction of a trafficking ring likely to be responsible for the deaths. In the process of the investigation and trial the young female victims have been largely forgotten. Only two were formally identified by their relatives. The rest of the women, nameless and unclaimed, were buried in Salerno with a six-digit number marking their graves, with documents placed inside their coffins describing their identifying marks, such as scars, the clothes they were wearing when their bodies were recovered from the sea.



DISAPPEARED WOMEN AND GIRLS

Many women who die as a result of male violence are first reported missing. Some of these women are found months or years later and some are never found at all. In the case of migrant and refugee women, women seeking asylum and undocumented women, their 'disappeared status' may never be reported to police and when it is, it is not always given due consideration and process.

UNITED KINGDOM

VICTIM: HADEER JAMIL ALONAZI, 26 y.o.

ORIGIN: Kuwait, Bidoon Arab minority

AGE OF DISAPPEARANCE: 26 y.o.

MISSING SINCE: July 2019

CASE: *The Bidoon minority are not regarded as citizens of Kuwait and are effectively stateless. Hadeer and other members of her family had travelled as refugees to Greece. In November 2018 together with her daughter she arrived as a refugee to UK and moved in with relatives. In July 2019 she was reported missing. A murder investigation was launched and although her body has not been found, the police reported she "may not be alive". Two men were arrested on suspicion of murder and later released.*



IRELAND

VICTIM: NAIMA ALI ADAN

ORIGIN: Somalia

AGE OF DISAPPEARANCE: 16 y.o.

MISSING SINCE: 11 December 2012

CASE: *Naima Ali Adan, a Somali National, is missing from the Templeogue area of Dublin since 11th December 2012. When last seen Naima was wearing a black jacket, gold/beige head scarf and skirt, carrying a black bag.*



UNITED KINGDOM

VICTIM: NGA DIEP THAI

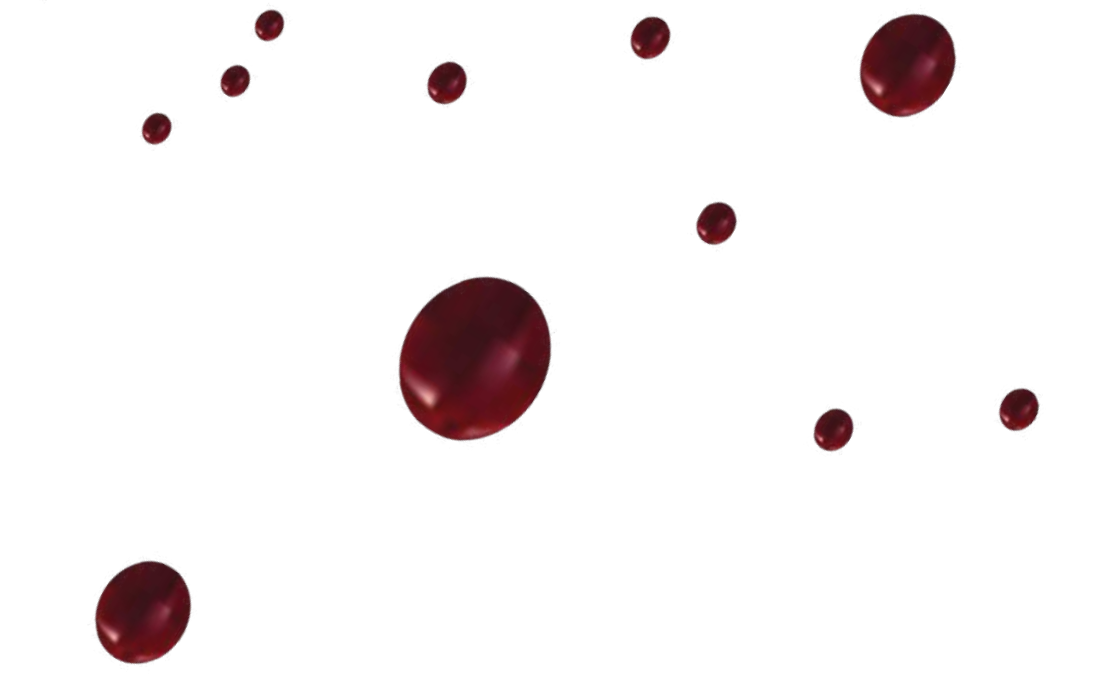
ORIGIN: Vietnam

AGE OF DISAPPEARANCE: 17 y.o.

MISSING SINCE: 5 January 2017

CASE: n/a





Only one in five homicides at the global level are perpetrated by an intimate partner or other family member, yet women and girls make up the vast majority of those deaths.

A total of 87,000 women were intentionally killed in 2017. More than half of them (58 per cent) 50,000 were killed by intimate partners or other family members, meaning that 137 women across the world are killed by a member of their own family every day. More than a third (30,000) of the women intentionally killed in 2017 were killed by their current or former intimate partner someone they would normally expect to trust.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)



FEMICIDE: RELEVANT PUBLICATIONS

Vienna Declaration on Femicide, Vienna Symposium on Femicide held on 26 November 2012 at the United Nations Office at Vienna

Taking action against gender- related killing of women and girls, Resolution 70/176 adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, December 2015

Report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, Rashida Manjoo, to the United Nations General Assembly, May 2012

Modalities for the establishment of femicides/gender-related killings, Report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, Dubravka Šimonović, to the United Nations General Assembly, September 2016

Latin American Model Protocol for the investigation of gender-related killings of women (femicide/feminicide), Regional Office for Central America of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

Femicide across Europe: Theory, research and prevention, edited by Shalva Weil, Consuelo Corradi and MARceline Naudi, Policy Press University of Bristol, 2018

The Femicide Census: 2017 Findings, Annual Report on UK Femicides 2017, Dr Julia Long, Keshia Harper, Heather Harvey and Karen Ingala Smith

Femicide, Volume I - Volume X, Academic Council on the United Nations System (ACUNS), Vienna Liaison Office

Terminology and indicators for data collection: Rape, femicide and intimate partner violence, European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE), December 2017

2019 Study on Global Homicide: Gender-related killings of women and girls, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Vienna, 2019

Femicide Watch: <http://femicide-watch.org>

FEMICIDE DATABASES: EUROPE

France: <https://www.facebook.com/feminicide>

Belgium: <https://stopfeminicide.blogspot.com>

Spain: <https://feminicidio.net>

United Kingdom: <https://kareningalasmith.com> | www.femicidecensus.org.uk

European Network of Migrant Women (ENOMW) is an Europe-wide feminist secular platform of migrant women NGOs, not affiliated with any political group, advocating for the rights, freedoms and equality for migrant, refugee and ethnic minority women and girls in Europe.

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