

Women Narrating Justice

The value of women's storytelling in response to gender violence during Mexico's "War on Drugs"

Every minute of every week
They steal our friends, they kill our sisters
They destroy their bodies, they make them disappear
Don't forget their names, please.

- Song Without Fear by Vivir Quintana



Cempasúchil flowers, an important element during the celebration of "Day of the Dead"

What is happening in Mexico?

The beginning of the 'War on Drugs' in Mexico can be traced to 2006, when President Calderón deployed the army across the country to fight the cartels,¹ costing the lives of about **150,000 people** who have died because of this failed strategy.²

- ▼ Mexico is built upon a *patriarchal social system* where males hold primary power in the private and public sphere, exacerbating the inefficiency of laws and authorities.³
- ▼ Socio-legal research have shown the legal institutions to be a *corrupt and inefficient machinery* incapable of carrying out their basic functions.⁴
- ▼ Further research has shown the systematic failure of the criminal justice system due to the dominance of *masculinist privileges and sustained masculinist values*.⁵

Gender violence in Mexico

Academics, NGOs, international bodies, and other actors have pressured Mexico for its **failure to address** the wave of ongoing **human rights violations** perpetrated specifically **against women**.



10 women⁶
are killed everyday.



13 out of 32 states⁷
are under the "Gender Violence Against Women Alert".



93% of crimes⁸
crimes are either unreported or not investigated.

The value of stories

This research project explores the **possibilities** of opening a space for **women to use storytelling mechanisms** to **reimagine justice**.

- ▼ Storytelling has the potential to aid societies and individuals as they seek to remember the past, uncover the truth, heal, define, and achieve *justice beyond the formality of a criminal trial process*.⁸
- ▼ For women, storytelling presents an opportunity to *set the historical record straight, to heal, and to supplement official truths*.⁸



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References

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