



**Permanent Secretariat of the Latin American and Caribbean
Network for Democracy (Redlad): high levels of persistent violence
against women in Latin America and Caribbean.**

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***Unofficial translation done only for the purpose of being understood.**

The Permanent Secretariat of the Latin American and Caribbean Network for Democracy (RedLad) warns of high levels of persistent violence against women in Latin America. According to the Organizacion Panamericana de la Salud (OPS), the levels of violence against women affecting between 17% to 53% of the female population in each country of the region.

In absolute figures, it is estimated that the rate of sexual violence against women in Latin America accounts for 500 episodes per day. Human trafficking, sexual and domestic violence, femicide, bullying, moral and sexual discrimination and misogyny, displacement by armed conflict, systematic rape of women and girls, as well as other series of behaviors and actions, continue to be perpetrated in Latin America and the Caribbean. Resulting Haiti one of the countries with the highest rate of rape.

Poverty remains linked with parent families headed by women heads of household, the wage gap based on gender remains latent and discrimination in access to educational opportunities especially in higher education has not diminished.

On the issue of violence in Ecuador for example, it is estimated that 6 out of 10 women suffer physical or psychological violence. A few days ago, the United Nations Office in Bolivia, called on Bolivian society as a whole to eradicate actions, violent or overlapping, which slow the rights and opportunities of women to live fully and without discrimination.

In Argentina, during 2012, there were on average five femicides per week, for a total of 255 murders only because were women. These deaths throw another fact



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that must not fail to note: in 2011, the "collaterals" victims of femicide were 212 orphans before the age of 18 years, only in this country.

In Uruguay, during the months of January and February 2013, there have been six murders of women by their partners, plus two suicides committed by the perpetrators. According to official data, there were 24,000 victims of domestic violence in 2012, against 16,000 in 2011, and about 15,000 in 2010.

In the case of Colombia, every six hours a woman is abused by the armed conflict in that country. Between 2001 and 2009, more than 26,000 women were raped and abused 400 000. Social Action over 1,950,000 registered women displaced by violence and in particular because of the armed conflict.

Mexico is an alarming case, where 7 out of 10 women have experienced at any point in their life, some violence and a violation is calculated every 4 minutes. According to the National Observatory of Femicide in Mexico, in the period between June 2010 and June 2012 about 4,000 women disappear, 51% of these women were between 11 and 20 years and a lot of them disappeared in relations matters with human trafficking.

In Brazil, for its part, despite great advances in the field, only in 2011 killed more than 2982 women in cases of violence, and it is estimated that every 15 seconds a woman suffer domestic violence physically, verbally or psychologically. Although only 2% of the perpetrators have been convicted.

Venezuela is no exception to this reality, and that despite having an Organic Law on the Right of Women to a Life Free of Violence, published in 2007, the implementation of it reiterates the absence of mechanisms to make it effective, although government reports more than 40 special courts and special prosecutors since 2010 for such cases, the reality is that these legal instruments are not in anywhere. Every 15 minutes a woman is abused by her partner or ex-partner in Venezuela, which means that nearly 100 women are harassed daily.

The above are cases of individual countries but the reality as such extends throughout Latin America and the Caribbean, as in most countries of the region are similar and alarming statistics.

While all Latin American countries have signed and ratified, INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION ON THE PREVENTION, PUNISHMENT AND ERADICATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ("Belem Do Para Convention"), RedLad considers alarming the systematic violence against women in Latin America.

Also, not all cases of violence are often reported, and deaths resulting from domestic violence are not registered as such. Are the assumptions of women admitted to hospitals with evidence of gender-based violence, but to die in their



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certificates of death figure cardiac arrest or other cause, obscuring the violence traumatic generated picture, we also talk about women dying from abortions clandestine, women featured in the news as dead by suicide, but who have previously suffered a situation of violence against women and/or violations.

We urge States - outside its scope of dissemination, promotion and guarantee of human rights - to invest more resources in the implementation of strategies to ensure that women and girls the right to life and awareness aimed at citizenship, remembering that this scourge is not a private matter, but affects the whole society.

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