



Scenario of violence against women during the coronavirus pandemic in Brazil

El escenario de la violencia contra las mujeres durante la pandemia de coronavirus en Brasil

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Abstract: The main objective of this article is to analyze the panorama of violence against women during the coronavirus pandemic in Brazil. social isolation in which victims are even more vulnerable, exposed all day to the aggressor, which reflects the predominance of machismo and gender violence, and the growing intolerance and hostility against women inside and outside their homes, being necessary, therefore, a study of this nature in order to understand and rethink solutions to that problem. And it starts with the following problem: What is the panorama of violence against women on the national scene during the coronavirus pandemic? In the present study, the deductive method will be used, and the historical-evolutionary method will be used as a procedure. The research technique to be adopted is the bibliography, through doctrinal consultations, scientific articles on the subject, as well as documentary, through the analysis of the main legal provisions in the country, and data from the study carried out by the Brazilian Public Security Forum. With this, it was observed that during the covid-19 pandemic, due to social isolation measures, the vulnerability of women victims of domestic violence was latent, given that they were subject to greater and constant contact with their aggressors, perpetuating the cycle of violence, and making requests for help and complaints to public bodies difficult. It is concluded that the reality goes beyond the data collected in the various surveys carried out across the country, the situation is even more alarming, of a still sexist, misogynist and unequal culture, which mutilates the human rights of this public.

Keywords: *Violence; Woman; Isolation; Coronavirus.*

Resumen: El objetivo principal del presente artículo es analizar el panorama de la violencia contra la mujer durante la pandemia del coronavirus en Brasil, expuestas todo el día al agresor, lo que refleja el predominio del machismo y la violencia de género, y la creciente intolerancia y hostilidad contra las mujeres dentro y fuera de sus hogares, siendo necesario, por lo tanto, un estudio de esta naturaleza para comprender y repensar soluciones a este problema. Se planteó el siguiente problema: ¿Cuál es el panorama de la violencia contra la mujer en el escenario nacional durante la pandemia del coronavirus? En la metodología se utilizó el método deductivo de abordaje y el método histórico-evolutivo de procedimiento. La técnica de investigación a ser adoptada es la bibliográfica, a través de consultas doctrinarias, artículos científicos sobre el tema, así como, documental, a través del análisis de los principales dispositivos legales del país, y datos del estudio realizado por el Foro Brasileño de Seguridad Pública. Así, se observó que durante la pandemia del covid-19, debido a las medidas de aislamiento social, la vulnerabilidad de las mujeres víctimas de violencia doméstica quedó latente, ya que están sujetas a un mayor y constante contacto con sus agresores, perpetuando el ciclo de violencia, y dificultando las solicitudes de ayuda y denuncias a los organismos públicos. Se concluye que la realidad va más allá de los datos recogidos en diversas encuestas realizadas en todo el país, la situación es aún más alarmante, de una cultura aún sexista, misógina y desigual, que mutila los derechos humanos de este público.

Palabras clave: *Violencia; Mujer; Aislamiento; Coronavirus.*

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INTRODUCTION

The occurrence of violence against women has historical and cultural roots, reflecting centuries of domination, subordination of women to the commands and wills of men, having their fundamental rights violated on a daily basis.

The Maria da Penha Law represents in the national scenario an important instrument in the fight for the eradication of the various forms of violence against women, whether in the domestic and family spheres or in affective relationships, creating mechanisms of protection and assistance for the countless victims.

In this perspective, women can be victims not only of physical, moral, psychological, sexual, and patrimonial violence, but also be victims of the extreme and fatal form of gender violence, which is death, characterized in our legal system as femicide.

However, in times of the coronavirus pandemic around the world, the problem of violence against women reemerges, since the confinement of people in their homes as a preventive and inhibitory measure of the virus, makes the women victims stay longer in their homes with their aggressors, resulting in new episodes of violence with more rigor and intensity.

Such approach is of utmost relevance since the growing incidence of cases of violence perpetrated against women all over the country, especially in the period of social isolation in which the victims are even more vulnerable, exposed all day long to the aggressor, which reflects the predominance of machismo and gender violence, and the growing intolerance and hostility against women inside and outside their homes, being necessary, therefore, a study of this nature in order to understand and rethink solutions to this problem. And we start from the following problematic: What is the panorama of violence against women in the national scenario during the pandemic of the coronavirus?

Thus, the present work aims to analyze the panorama of femicide in Brazil during the pandemic of the coronavirus. And specifically, it intends to approach the concept and types of violence against women according to the Maria da Penha Law; and investigate the scenario of violence against women in Brazil during the pandemic of the coronavirus in Brazil, according to a study conducted by the Brazilian Forum of Public Safety.

THEORETICAL FOUNDATION

Contextualization of violence against women

Violence against women is externalized due to a patriarchal, macho culture, in which inequality, discrimination, and submission of men and women have prevailed for centuries, and still exist, being

fertile ground for the offense of fundamental rights of so many women, such as the right to life, freedom, privacy, and even more, their dignity.

Violence against women is understood as a type of gender violence, as provided in Article 1 of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women, known as the Convention of Belém do Pará, 1994, as any act or conduct based on gender that causes death, harm, or physical, sexual, or psychological suffering to women, whether in the public or private sphere.

The concept of domestic and family violence against women, as inferred from the Maria da Penha Law, is any action or omission based on gender that causes death, injury, physical, sexual or psychological suffering, and moral or property damage in the domestic or family sphere or in any intimate affective relationship, where the aggressor lives or has lived with the victim, regardless of cohabitation. It establishes that every woman, regardless of class, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, income, culture, educational level, age and religion, enjoys the fundamental rights inherent to the human person, being assured the opportunities and facilities to live without violence, to preserve her physical and mental health and her moral, intellectual and social improvement, as provided in Article 2 of the law.

In addition, it expressly establishes the guarantee to women the conditions for the effective exercise of their rights to life, safety, health, food, education, culture, housing, access to justice, sports, leisure, work, citizenship, freedom, dignity, respect, and family and community life. (BRASIL, 2006)

It highlights, therefore, the art. 7th of the referred Law, which mentions the forms of domestic and familiar violence, among others :

I - physical violence, understood as any conduct that offends their integrity or bodily health;

II - psychological violence, understood as any conduct that causes emotional harm and diminishes self-esteem, or that harms and disturbs their full development, or that seeks to degrade or control their actions, behavior, beliefs and decisions, by means of threats, embarrassment, humiliation, manipulation, isolation, constant surveillance, constant persecution, insult, blackmail, ridicule, exploitation and limitation of their right to come and go, or any other means that causes harm to their psychological health and self-determination;

III - sexual violence, understood as any conduct that forces her to witness, maintain, or participate in unwanted sexual relations, by means of intimidation, threat, coercion, or the use of force; that induces her to commercialize or use, in any way, her sexuality, that prevents her from using any contraceptive method, or that forces her into marriage, pregnancy, abortion, or prostitution, by means of coercion, blackmail, bribery,

or manipulation; or that limits or annuls the exercise of her sexual and reproductive rights;

IV - property violence, understood as any conduct that results in the retention, subtraction, partial or total destruction of their objects, work instruments, personal documents, assets, values and rights, or economic resources, including those intended to meet their needs;

V - moral violence, understood as any conduct that amounts to slander, defamation, or insult.

The five types of violence listed in the device under study, brings a merely exemplary list, showing that violence is not limited to conduct that leaves obvious signs on the victim's body, since there are many situations in which violence is perpetrated in a veiled, imperceptible way, manifesting itself through humiliation, threats, embarrassment, and portray traces of gender violence. For DIAS (2019, p. 53): The Maria da Penha Law inserted in the scope of protection not only the woman, but the family entity itself when speaking also of domestic violence. Violence committed against women in the domestic sphere is capable of damaging, simultaneously, several protected legal goods".

Besides an important progress in the Brazilian legal system to face domestic and family violence against women with the edition of the Law to protect and combat this secular problem, the understanding that this public has the right to a life without violence, as well as their family, is essential to create the necessary conditions for the effective exercise of rights, and this is everyone's duty: family, society, and government.

METHODOLOGY

In this study as a method of approach will be used, the deductive, which assumes the existence of general truths already stated that serve as a premise to reach, through it, new knowledge (UFPA, 2021). Regarding the research technique, the bibliographical research will be adopted, through doctrinal consultations, scientific articles on the subject, as well as documentary, through the analysis of the main legal provisions of the country, and data from the study conducted by the Brazilian Forum of Public Safety. As for the method of procedure, it will be historical-evolutionary, because it addresses the contextualization of domestic violence against women in the country, and then makes an analysis of this violence during the pandemic of coronavirus in Brazil.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Scenario of violence against women during the coronavirus pandemic in Brazil

The picture of the pandemic of the coronavirus in the national scenario, reflects not only the serious problems and deficiencies present in the public health system of the country, as well as in the

economy, but also comes to light the increase in cases of violence against women in its various forms, as well as the cases of femicide, which destroys the lives of many women and entire families forever.

In this context, social isolation emerges as the safest and most necessary measure to minimize the direct effects of the pandemic, and the result of this is that the women victims remain longer in their homes with their aggressors, while the coexistence that was no longer friendly, healthy, becomes a real war field, with more aggressions of all kinds with more rigor and intensity.

Therefore, measuring violence presents itself as a great challenge faced by the Brazilian government, considering that many women are unable to leave the confines of their homes and report their attacker, breaking the cycle of violence experienced, and end up suffering silently, alone, or even fear suffering even greater reprisals from their partners.

In order to face the problem of gender violence during this period of crisis faced worldwide, the United Nations (UN) recommended that countries increase investment in online services and civil society organizations, ensure that judicial systems continue to hold aggressors accountable, establish emergency alert systems in pharmacies and markets in order to facilitate reporting and not raise suspicions of the aggressor, invest even more in public awareness campaigns to combat violence against women, among other important measures.

The reality of many nations was even more critical, because in face of the increase in cases of violence against women, they faced the weakness of institutions in general, without financial investments and enough professionals to meet the demand, and can cite as an example the area of health, public safety, as well as support institutions, shelters for women victims and their dependents.

In Brazil, the adoption of confrontation measures can be seen in the different regions of the country: Integrated Program Patrol Maria da Penha, with headquarters in João Pessoa, the state capital, which serves women who are with protective measures requested and granted by the justice; request for urgent protective measures through the online police station through the electronic site: www.delegaciaonline.pb.gov.br, for women who suffer psychological or moral violence, as well as, the renewal of protective measures by virtual means and by telephone; the creation of the application SOS Mulher PB available for cell phones with Android and IOS operating systems and has several features, such as the denunciation via telephone by 180, by form and e-mail, among other important measures.

In addition, Law 14.022, of July 07, 2020, was issued, which provides for measures to combat domestic and family violence against women and to combat violence against children, adolescents, the elderly, and people with disabilities during the public health emergency of international importance resulting from the coronavirus.

The legal device established the maintenance, without suspension, of procedural deadlines, the examination of matters, the service to the parties and the granting of protective measures that are related to acts of domestic and family violence committed against women, among others, recognizing the urgent nature and special condition of this public.

It also stipulates that the registration of the occurrence of domestic and family violence against women can be done electronically or through an emergency phone number designated for this purpose by the public security agencies, given the difficulty of access in person by women to seek assistance.

The legal provision under analysis also emphasizes that, in cases of crimes of a sexual nature, when social isolation measures are adopted by the public power, the security agencies should establish mobile teams to perform the *corpus delicti* exam in the location where the victim is.

In this context, we highlight the study conducted by the Brazilian Public Safety Forum, about domestic violence during the Covid-19 pandemic, collecting data in May of this year, and requesting data from March and April 2019 and 2020 from some Brazilian states.

Regarding the total number of complaints registered in the Central de Atendimento à Mulher em Situação de Violência - Ligue 180, there is a significant growth of 27%, from 15,683 complaints in the months of March and April in 2019, to 19,915, for the same period in 2020.

It is worth highlighting the month of April this year, when compared to April last year, with an increase of 37.6, according to the Brazilian Forum of Public Safety, reveals a high rate of denunciations in that month, demonstrating that, the victims are breaking the silence and inertia, and regardless of the form of communication chosen, are seeking to end the cycle of oppression experienced.

The records of denunciations via 190 point to the same trend, indicating an increase in attendance related to domestic violence against women, citing as an example the region of Acre with a 2% growth when comparing March 2020 and March 2019, as well as the State of São Paulo with a 45% growth in occurrences recorded on 190.

Regarding the femicide records, the indexes are considerable and worrisome, in face of the 22.2% growth, jumping from 117 victims in March/April 2019 to 143 victims in March/April 2020, and the homicides of women had a 6% increase, according to a study conducted by the Brazilian Forum for Public Safety (FBSP).

In an analysis of the study carried out in 12 Brazilian states, Acre stands out with a 300% growth, from 1 to 4 victims this year; in Maranhão the growth was 166.7%, from 6 to 16 victims; in Mato Grosso the growth was 150%, from 6 to 15 victims. Only three states registered a reduction in the number of femicides in the period, namely Minas Gerais, with a reduction of 22.7%, Espírito Santo with 50%, and Rio de Janeiro with 55.6%.

In relation to homicides of women, the number of victims in only eight states was analyzed. Acre grew 75%, from 4 to 7 victims, and in Amapá two women were murdered this year and none last year, compared to the same period last year. The research also alerts the state of Ceará, with 36 murders of women between March and April last year, and in the same period this year it presents 61 victims.

Thus, it is verified that the femicide rates in this period of social isolation showed a significant increase, especially in some regions of the country, crimes coated with cruelty and barbarity, which reinforces the latent need for change in vision and behavior of society in general, to help the victims by reporting the cases they become aware of in order to prevent the result of death, to seek to support and welcome these victims, and not treat them as guilty, responsible for the situation experienced.

CONCLUSIONS

Facing a critical picture of the pandemic of the coronavirus, the problem of domestic violence against women in the country reemerges, and the discussion of all sectors of society, in view of the increase in cases of violence due to social confinement, with most women all day long under the eyes and commands of the aggressor agent, resulting in new episodes of aggression and violation of their fundamental rights.

Therefore, many efforts are being made to combat and eradicate violence against women in the country and in the world, due to the high vulnerability of these victims. This is because, although there is an apparent reduction in the number of reports, one must keep in mind that if before the challenge was only the fear of reporting and suffering even more reprisals from the aggressor, today there is another obstacle to be faced, due to the restriction of services and limitation of mobility in quarantine, and therefore, they suffer silently, alone.

It is observed that the femicide rates in Brazil continue to grow in this period, in spite of the inclusion of the qualifying circumstance of feminicide in the Penal Code in order to confer a more rigorous treatment, as well as, in spite of all the measures taken for the confrontation and eradication of violence against women, This demonstrates the latent need to reformulate new intervention strategies, since the preventive measures currently used are not producing the expected results, especially because many of the murder victims have protective measures granted and are not complied with by the aggressor, culminating in death.

Thus, the reality goes beyond the data collected in the various surveys conducted throughout the country, the situation is even more alarming, of a culture still predominant machismo and male superiority, having the woman as an object of his property.

Thus, it is important to create and disseminate possible channels for victims to report violence, not

only through calls to the existing call centers, but also to create and facilitate the access of applications and online sites for these records of violence, since many women, either due to lack of education or lack of practice with the use of cell phones and applications, are not able to use it, making the instrument ineffective.

In addition, a change in the vision and behavior of the community in general is necessary, to help the victims by reporting the cases they become aware of in order to prevent the death result, to seek to support and welcome these victims, and not treat them as guilty, responsible for the situation experienced.

Most importantly, it is essential that Brazil recognizes the services to combat domestic violence and to shelter the victims as essential, in order to prevent total or partial interruption of services, as well as to reinforce investments and transfers to face the problem in the different regions of the country.

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