

## **WOMEN UNDER FIRE**

### **USA**

"If I die, I want you to tell the world what happened to me. I don't want other women to suffer as I have suffered. I want them to be listened to."

On 15 April 1996 María Teresa Macias was shot dead by her husband, who then shot her mother twice before turning the gun on himself. In the 18 months before her death, Teresa appealed to the police for protection more than 20 times. The police failed to act. After her death, women's rights groups launched a national campaign. In July 2000 the US Court of Appeals found that Teresa's constitutional rights to benefit from police protection in a non-discriminatory manner had been denied. Teresa's family was awarded one million US dollars in compensation.

### **SOUTH AFRICA**

"My name is Zanele Beatrice Ngogodo Nyembe. I have been abused by my husband and his mother for 19 years. Now I am in shelter. I want to be free.

"When he came in the house he was drunk. He beat me. He beat the children also. My husband pointed a firearm at my head. I said, 'What are you doing?' 'He said, 'I want to kill you and the bloody children.'"

### **FRANCE**

On 7 August 2004 Marc Cécillon, five times French rugby captain, arrived at a party held in his honour. In the presence of sixty party-goers Marc approached the table where his wife Chantal was talking to friends and shot her four times, killing her instantly.

### **TURKEY**

Emine Yaman

Sirinevleri, Istanbul, July 2003. Emine was shot by her husband as he wanted to marry again. She remains paralysed from the waist down; she does not know whether she will walk again.

**ACT NOW! It's in your hands to Stop armed Violence Against Women.**

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Most perpetrators and most victims of armed violence are men. Most people killed in the home, however, are women.

When a woman is murdered in her home, her partner or male relative is most likely to be the killer. In France six women a month are killed by their partners or former partners. In South Africa a woman is killed by a current or former partner every six hours. A third of these women are killed with guns. In the USA the figure rises to two thirds.

Men may claim to need a gun to protect their family. In reality, guns can turn the home from a safe haven to a place of danger for women. When a man has a gun, domestic violence is far more likely to prove lethal. When a man holds a gun, a woman cannot fight back, and often cannot escape.

Women pay a very heavy price for the lack of controls on today's billion-dollar global trade in arms. The world is awash with an estimated 639 million small arms, and eight million new weapons are produced every year, yet no effective international instruments control this trade.

Amnesty International has joined others organizations to campaign for a Global Arms Treaty to tackle the proliferation of privately owned guns.

We also call on states to treat family violence as a serious crime equal to assaults in other contexts. Governments should ensure that nobody with a record of domestic violence is allowed to own or carry a gun.

Your support is vital in the run-up to the UN Review Conference of the Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons (27 June - 7 July), where governments could agree to incorporate gender issues and tougher global principles for arms transfers in a strengthened UN Programme of Action.

### **ACT NOW! It's in your hands to Stop armed Violence Against Women.**

- Sign the Million Faces petition for a Global Arms Treaty at [www.controlarms.org/actforwomen](http://www.controlarms.org/actforwomen) and join the Control Arms and Stop Violence Against Women campaigns online
- Encourage others to join the petition
- Organize events to raise awareness of the impact of guns in domestic violence