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THE LATÍNAMERICANISM OF THE FEMINIST MOVEMENT.

A PHOTOGRAPHIC ESSAY FROM THE BEATRIZ CASE

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Abstract

In March 2023, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights convened a hearing of witnesses and experts to advance the trial of the Beatriz case. The lawsuit filed by the young woman's family against the state of El Salvador was based on the ban on terminating a pregnancy with an anencephalic fetus in 2013, a situation that worsened the autoimmune diseases she suffered from. Salvadoran feminist organizations called on their Latin American counterparts to be present in the streets of San José, Costa Rica to support Beatriz's family in the fight to guarantee the autonomy of women and people with the possibility of gestating. This photographic

project tries to bring visual elements to make visible what happened in those days, showing different scenes from that moment that can mean a milestone in the advancement for reproductive justice throughout the region.

Descriptors: Abortion; Social movement; Photography.

<p>O LATINO-AMERICANISMO DO MOVIMENTO FEMINISTA. UM ENSAIO FOTOGRÁFICO A PARTIR DO CASO BEATRIZ</p> <p>Resumo: Em março de 2023, a Corte Interamericana de Direitos Humanos convocou uma audiência de testemunhas e especialistas para avançar no julgamento do caso Beatriz. A ação impulsada pela família da jovem contra o estado de El Salvador baseou-se na proibição de interromper uma gravidez com feto anencéfalo em 2013, situação que agravou as doenças autoimunes que sofria. Organizações feministas salvadoreñas convocaram suas congêneres latino-americanas a estarem presentes nas ruas de San José, na Costa Rica, para apoiar a família de Beatriz na luta pela garantia da autonomia das mulheres e pessoas com possibilidade de gestar. Este projeto fotográfico busca trazer elementos visuais para tornar visível o que aconteceu naqueles dias, mostrando diferentes cenas daquele momento que pode significar um marco no avanço da justiça reprodutiva em toda a região.</p> <p>Descritores: Aborto; Movimento social; Fotografia.</p>	<p>EL LATINOAMERICANISMO DEL MOVIMIENTO FEMINISTA. UN ENSAYO FOTOGRÁFICO A PARTIR DEL CASO BEATRIZ</p> <p>Resumen: En marzo de 2023, la Corte Interamericana de Derechos Humanos convocó una audiencia de testigos y peritos para avanzar en el juicio del caso Beatriz. La demanda de la familia de la joven contra el estado de El Salvador se basó en la prohibición de interrumpir un embarazo de feto anencefálico en 2013, situación que provocó un empeoramiento de las enfermedades autoinmunes que padecía. Las organizaciones feministas salvadoreñas convocaron a sus pares de América Latina para que se hicieran presentes en las calles de San José de Costa Rica para apoyar a la familia de Beatriz en la lucha por garantizar la autonomía de las mujeres y las personas con posibilidad de gestar. Este proyecto fotográfico intenta traer elementos visuales para visibilizar lo que aconteció en esos días, mostrando diferentes escenas de ese momento que puede significar un hito en el avance por la justicia reproductiva en toda la región.</p> <p>Descriptor: Aborto; Movimientos sociales; Fotografía.</p>
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INTRODUCTION

The Life of Beatriz and the Latin-American Support

In 2013, Beatriz was 20 years old when she became pregnant for the second time; she lived in extreme poverty in Canton, a rural region of El Salvador. She was diagnosed with systemic lupus erythematosus, lupus nephropathy and rheumatoid arthritis. All these health conditions began to worsen, so she had to be hospitalized several times during gestation; with the anguish of knowing that the fetus was anencephalic, she had to continue with the pregnancy knowing that it would have no chance of extrauterine life. She insistently asked the medical team to terminate the pregnancy; however, this possibility was denied.

El Salvador has one of the most restrictive abortion laws in the world, as it prohibits the procedure in all situations and pregnant women are forced to continue the pregnancy against their will. Given the prohibition of therapeutic abortion in Salvadoran law, Beatriz and her family filed an injunction requesting an abortion to save her life. The Constitutional Chamber admitted the request appeal and issued a precautionary measure, although a few days later it was declared inadmissible.¹

In June 2013, Beatriz, with a clear worsening of her health condition, went into labor, so she had to undergo a cesarean section, and the anencephalic fetus died five hours later. She and her family, accompanied by Salvadoran feminist organizations, initiated a lawsuit against the State of El Salvador so that other women would not be subjected to similar torture.

Sadly, Beatriz passed away in 2017, but her family continued with this process. In March 2023, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights - IACHR heard the allegations of experts and witnesses about Beatriz's situation.

The photographs (Figures 1-6) in this paper were taken on March 22, 2023 on the street where the IACHR is located in the city of San José, Costa Rica and was the scene of demonstrations by both feminist and anti-rights groups.

A few months in advance, the Salvadoran companions made a call to all feminist organizations in the region to accompany Beatriz's family at that moment, either by presenting the *Amicus Curiae*, making visible what is happening through social networks or by personally participating in the three-day hearing.

Thus, a multitude of feminist organizations from Latin America occupied the streets of San José in support of Beatriz's family. Women and diverse identities from Argentina, Brazil,

Colombia, Mexico, Guatemala, among other countries, were present for three days sharing spaces for discussion and artistic activities in front of the Court's headquarters. As Verónica Gago states:^{2(internet)}

Feminist power means vindicating the indeterminacy of what is possible, of what we can, that is, understanding that we do not know what we are capable of until we experience the displacement of the limits in which we were convinced to believe and were made to obey. This is not a naive theory of power, but an understanding of power as the development of a counter-power (including a double power). And, finally, the affirmation of a power of another kind, which is common invention in the face of expropriation, collective usufruct in the face of privatization and expansion of what we want to be possible here and now.

It was the collective organization that established the parameters of discussion on abortion in the countries where it has already been legalized, and it is the Latin American solidarity among feminist organizations that allows to strengthen the struggles that are being waged in each country.

Beatriz's ruling will have an impact throughout Latin America in terms of the autonomy of women and people with the possibility of gestation and, once again, it will have been the collective organization of the feminist movement at the regional level that will promote this advance.



Figure 1. Justice for all

Source: Angelini (2023).



Figure 2. Do the police care over us?

Source: Angelini (2023).



Figure 3. On rituals and interventions

Source: Angelini (2023).



Figure 4. The Court

Source: Angelini (2023).



Figure 5. The Feminist Stir

Source: Angelini (2023).



Figure 6. Justice for Beatriz

Source: Angelini (2023).

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTION

Carla Angelini is the author of the photographs and text in this paper.

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