Why has the femicide rate in the city of Juarez increased since 1993?

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The Increase of Industrial Production

In 1993 Mexico, Canada and the United States signed the North American Free Trade Agreement. This caused an influx of the industrial production along the border states of Mexico and the US including Ciudad Juarez. The increase of production led to many new jobs for the women of Juarez. This also gave the factory owners a cheap form of labor because of the little to no laws protecting the workers. This meant that they did not have laws on how safe the factory must be for their workers and no laws to protect the workers in case of injury.

The Increase of Gang and Narco Violence

With the increase of workers came an increase of barrios and gangs. The city of Juarez is a border state with El Paso, Texas making it a breeding ground for narcotrafficking. This comes with an increase of kidnapping and murder for sex workers. The sex work also brought an increase of murder and violence against sex workers. The increase of murders caused by the narco violence also brought a sense of normality to an increase of homicide rates. People began to not even question when a new murder happened.

Awareness in Society

There has always been protests about the femicides in Mexico but the issue recently reached global awareness in February of 2020 when a 7 year old was brutally murdered. This opened up the awareness that femicide is very common in Latin American countries bringing to light other movements like the “ni una menos” movement. Recently Latin trap singer Bad Bunny used his platform to make a music video for one of his songs where he dresses up in drag and dances alongside a “ni una menos” sign in support of a transgender woman murdered in Puerto Rico. This was a big deal because of his big following and the amount of “machismo” not only in his genre of music but also in the Latin community.

How have protest affected society?

The fight against Femicide in Mexico has been both positive and negative.

Pros

- Have brought light to the massacres of innocent women around the world.

Cons

- Confrontations between women police and women protesting.
- Vandalism of public buses, trains, statues.
- Overall Violence.

Political Movements

- According to the Washington Post

The biggest protest yet was held in Mexico.

“About 80,000 women took part in the march in Mexico City, the local government said, making it one of the biggest in the capital in years. “

“A day without women” was held on March 9, 2020 in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. A day where women were allowed to go on strike and not show up to work, in hopes of showing how much women are really needed and how important they are to society.