

The 22 mothers and three step-mothers that killed their children in Spain

*In the last five years 28 children have been killed. The last one was Gabriel.

<<People may see now the Gabriel case as an anomaly, but it isn't>>

Says Andrés Conde, director of the NGO Save The Children <<It is not a single success. It is a systemic and invisibilized problem>>, he goes on. <<All weeks there are cases of extreme violence against children. Their deaths is, unfortunately, a chance: we must shed light on the violence against children. Even for Gabriel's sake>>

The murder by strangling of Gabriel Cruz, confessed this week by his father's partner, Ana Julia Quezada, has put on the spot a phenomenon that rarely has any trajectory on the media and that no official organism counts: that of children killed by their mothers or step-mothers. But finding a trustworthy list of such cases in Spain seems like an impossible mission. <<We don't have those data>>, answer the Health Ministry, Social Services and Equality; <<only register minors killed by their male parents>>

Often the only information that circulates over Internet are confusing numbers without known source and list made by webs that oppose the so called <<gender ideology>> in which murder cases data is confused with others of involuntary manslaughter in which they didn't have the intention to kill. Of these children, no statistics are made, and for them there are not automatic calls for public protest.

But this little one do exist, or existed. Their mothers were investigated and in many cases condemned (at 20 years of jail at most). Now, the District Attorney ask for some of them the revisable life imprisonment.

According to the data compilation from different journalistic and judicial sources, that has been performed by *Crónica*, in the last five years at least 25 women (22 mothers and three step-mothers) have killed their children and step-children in Spain. In three cases they killed two children, so the victim toll goes up to 28 minors. They have been asphyxiated, thrown out of windows, hit...even stabbed. Often the mother has psychological problems; sometimes, in a behavior generally attributed to men, they acted in revenge against their partners. In five cases, the women took own their lives afterwards. In all cases, the victims where children -from newborns to boy and girls of 12 years- who died unjustly and too soon.

Gender Violence

In the same period, 20 fathers, partners or ex-partners of the mothers have killed 24 children. This data is official: since 2013 the Government register year by year the cases of children killed by their male parents in the frame of public policies against gender violence.

Against this <<invisibility>> of minors murdered in Spain the organization Save The Children have started an awareness campaign called The last 100. The NGO made a research from 2010 and documented one hundred cases of children murdered by their fathers, mothers or other family members, additionally many minors have killed themselves, in many instances due to school bullying.

The organization had spent 3 years demanding a law for minor protection that allows to act in the field of prevention (in cases of mistreatment at home, bullying in school, sexual abuse, etc.). The approval of this norm was part of an agreement of investiture between the PP and Ciudadanos (Spanish political parties), and all the groups in the Congress support it. However, Mariano Rajoy had not included it in his legislative calendar for this year.

<<Doesn't exist enough public relevance about the problem of violence against children>>, complains Andres Conde. Those murdered by their mothers are paradoxical. <<Data? You won't find it. Children violence doesn't have official registries, unlike countries around us. That is quite telling: if nobody measure it, nobody cares about it. Only children victims of gender violence are registered. I hope that they would made as great efforts for the children as they have done with gender violence>>

Next, by reverse chronological order, cases of the last five years. Among them there are no cases of involuntary manslaughter, or cases in which the woman was condemned for failing to prevent the death of the minor at the hands of her partner. Also cases of babies dumped on trash containers, at least ten cases during the last five years, have been removed from the list, because of doubts in the process or due to lack of information of their judicial stage.

Unknown name, 19 years old.

Alcala de Henares, 2/23/2018

The case has been known this week. At seven in the morning of the last Friday of February, a 19 y.o. girl went to the Principe de Asturias hospital of Alcala de Henares (Madrid) with symptoms of delivering a

child a few hours ago. But there was no information of the baby. Until the in-laws of the woman entered the hospital with a bag containing the body of the baby, a death girl with several stab wounds. They found it on a closet inside their house. She, of maghrebi origin but with Spanish citizenship, is suffering from a psychological ailment according to investigation sources, and didn't want to have a child, been the motivation for presumably killing the baby, that was born alive.

Unknown name, 42 years old.

Palma, 11/24/2017

The scene was found by the firefighters on the third floor of an apartment building on Gabriel Maura de Palma street, after the ex-partner of the women have seen through a gap in one of the rooms, the inert bodies of the mother of 42 and his 13 y.o. son, in the middle of a strong burning smell. When the firefighters could knock down the door, they found both bodies. According to investigators, the mother manipulated a brazier covering with a blanket and lock down herself with her children to die together, intoxicated. It was a sweet death by carbon monoxide. It is called extended suicide and it is often linked with depression. It is usual that this type of cases don't have a judicial record since the perpetrators die with their offspring.

Raquel, 34 years old.

LLucmajro 4/4/2017

At Lluccmajor (Balears), the history of Raquel M, his husband and his little 18 months old daughter is hard to forget. After a fight with her husband -he wanted a separation, and going back to Canarias with their daughter, according to *Diario de Mallorca*-, Raquel left the family home located on a rural zone and didn't come back. In the morning the man mobilized the family and went on their search. In an abandoned building he discovered the tragedy. Raquel had strangled her daughter with a nautical knot and then she committed suicide. Julio Ramon, that is the name of the father, picked up his daughter, took her in his arms, and ran across the field screaming <<My girl, you have killed my girl! >>

Nali, 37 years old.

Las Palmas, 5/8/2016

The D.A. ask revisable life imprisonment, for Nali, a chinese woman resident of Las Palma. Her case was especially hard. Nali lived with her husband, also Chinese, with their mutual son, and with a stepson: a 10 y.o. boy that his husband had have with another woman in China and that he brought with him to Spain. For the minor his short life in Gran Canaria was a martyrdom. Burns, constant hits and a final beating, according to her own confession. The D.A tells that the stepmother got angry with him because he hit his younger brother. She beat her during 40 minutes, bathed him with cold water and sent him to his room. When she went to see him, she got mad at the boy's attitude. So she took a 25centimeters stick with a metal tip and she beat it with it until he was dead. Then she left him in the bead. The father that it is also implicated on the case since he failed to prevent the violence that the stepmother used.

Unknown name, 50 years old.

Sant Boi de Llobregat, 4/16/2016

A boy called 112 and the Mossos d'Esquadra (Barcelona police force), arrived to the home in Sant Boid de Llobregat (Barcelona). At the home there was a mother and her four children. The youngest one, of four years old, was dead. The woman, of Pakistani origin, confessed. She drowned the little one in the bathtub. The press office of the Catalanian Justice Tribunal could not give more information about the case.

Alejandra, 39 years old.

Seseña (Toledo), 3/7/2016

When the father arrived to his house in Seseña, at three in the afternoon, he found his wife, Alejandra, half unconscious, little Daniel, over one year of age, was dead. The case is pending trial. She declared that she squished the child without realizing it, and when she saw him, she decided to take a flask of pills to

die with him. But the autopsy shows that Daniel died <<by mechanical asphyxiation due to suffocation>> -his nose and mouth were covered, presumably with a pillow- and a forensic file says that she was conscious of what she was doing, according to D.A. sources. After almost two years of provisional imprisonment, the defendant has been released. But the future seems complicated, the defense lawyer ask for a conviction of unintentional manslaughter, but the D.A wants life imprisonment as well as Daniel's father.

Mireia, 42 years old

Gerona, 12/9/2015

Mireia P. seemed to have everything. She was an architect in Gerona, she spoke four languages, and she was married with a famous architect. But that December 9th, she jumped form the thirteenth floor with her two daughters: Syria of 10months and Bruna of 11 y.o. A third child that was not at home was spared from the tragedy.

Marisol, 34 years old.

Santiago de Compostela, 8/31/2015

The Provincial Audience of La Coruña condemned Marisol Fabiola R. to 25 years of internment on a penal psychiatric center for killing her newborn baby in a hotel room in Santiago. Born in Chile but with German citizenship, Marisol suffered from paranoid schizophrenia and she has traveled to Santiago with her husband to participate in a congress organized by a sect. According to her during the travel she discovered that her daughter of 6 month <<was the evil>>. The sentence says that Marisol put the baby <<over the bed and pressed with her fingers over her cervical zone, provoking her asphyxia followed by death>>

Zaida, 36 years old.

La Villa de Don Fadrique, 8/12/2015

Zaida P. beheaded her three months old baby in a cemetery while she shouted <<Satan, come for me>>. It occurred in La Villa de Don Fadrique, in Toledo. According to the Provincial Audience sentence, she was condemned to six years of jail, the woman suffered of delirious episodes <<with constant references to Satan, the Bible and the like>>, due to a post-natal depression. That night she took her baby, brought him to the cemetery and she cut his throat in the chapel.

Mireia, 36 years old.

Santa Perpetue de Mogoda, 5/27/2015

The Mossos d'Esquadra arrested this 36 y.o. Spanish woman accused of having drowned her two and half months old son on the bathtub of her apartment. It happened at 9AM. The woman filled the bathtub with water, introduced the baby and drowned him. After that she phoned her husband and told him what she just did. Before hanging the phone she told him she intended to commit suicide. Since there are no special registry for this type of cases, Catalanian Justice Administration has not been able to locate the judicial files upon a petition from *Crónica*.

Odil, 38 years old.

Almàspera, 5/23/2015

<<My idea was to take him to heaven with me>>, said Odil M. when she confessed her crime to the jury in the Audience of Valencia. She didn't get along with her husband and he wanted the child custody. That was the motivation, according to her confession, to kill little Alejandro, of five years old. She gave him a drug to sleep him and the boy fainted on the bed. Then she asphyxiated him with a pillow. When the father arrived home, he found the minor without a pulse and the woman with wounds in the abdomen

and the wrist. <<I wanted that his life went easier without us, to stand aside from his path>> affirmed the homicidal. Born in Nicaragua, she was condemned last year to 18 years of imprisonment for murder with aggravating circumstance of kinship and the mitigating factor of psychological disorder.

Anarda, 37 years old.

Gibraltar 3/30/2015

It was described as the most terrible crime on recent Gibraltar history. And as a surprise as investigations advanced. When in a house of the city a complete family was found dead -the husband, the wife and the two daughters-, on the beginning it was assumed that he has killed them and then suicided. But it didn't happen that way. According to investigations, Anarda de la Caridad P., Spanish born in Cuba and suffering from postnatal depression, stabbed his husband and her daughters of four years and 45 days each, and the she cut her wrist.

Ikram, 27 years old.

Zaragoza, 11/21/2014

Ikram B. had 27 years old on 2014, when she asphyxiated Narwa, her nine months old baby, while she was breastfeeding her in her home in Zaragoza. According to the sentence ratified by the Supreme Tribunal, the woman, of Moroccan origin, killed Marwa by pressing her mouth against her breast preventing her from breathing. She declared herself innocent (<<I love all my daughters, I resisted 9 months with vomiting, fainting and bleedings, so I would not be able to do that. Is barbaric>>), but investigators considered that behind the murder, a beriberi ritual was involved, and that she believed that the house she was inhabiting was bewitched and her daughters were threatened by evil spirits. Also it is suspected that she did the same with her other two daughters, of which only one survived, but she was absolved due to lack of evidence. She has been condemned to 18 years of jail.

Alicia, 41 years old.

Madrid, 9/5/2014

Little Miguel of only two years old, died stabbed and strangled by his mother in Madrid, According to the sentence of the Provincial Audience, who condemned her to 12 years of interment in an psychiatric center. Alicia R., an institute teacher, who had a Music and Chemistry degrees, tied Miguel's feet with a rope, tied duct tape around his head and then stabbed him 67 times in the abdomen and groin. Then she put a cord and the cable of a phone charger around his throat and pulled them until he died. They found her unconscious on the bathtub. Alicia had left the treatment that she was following when she decided to get pregnant.

Vanesa, 18 years old.

Alcoy, 8/6/2014

Young Vanessa Q., of 18 years, accepted the facts in the first session of the trial: on the summer of 2014 she killed his newborn baby of several stabs on the bathtub of her house in Alcoy (Valencia) and afterwards she throw the body in a plastic bag in a trash container. Vanessa had kept her pregnancy hidden, but she have studied over Internet about childbirth and had some additional knowledge because she studded nursing assistance. Her crime came out to the light because, after dumping her children, she started to bleed, and had to go to the hospital. The Audience condemned her to 15 years of prison.

Maria Laura, 34 years old.

Alicante, 2/4/2014

At her 5 years, little Yaiza had very bad fortune. Her mother was a drug addict and his father was in jail and the woman in charge of her was his father's last partner, Maria Laura A. The step mother, who worked as a cook in a bar, beat her often. When the girl died by the last beating, Maria Laura held that it was an accidental hit. In the 2015 trial the Alicante Audience condemned her to 14 years and a half of

imprisonment, and 60.000 euros compensation to Yaiza's mother. The sentence considered proven that the girl died as a consequence of a <<brutal aggression>> and that she constantly suffered beatings from her stepmom, sometimes even with wooden hangers.

Katharina, 40 years old.

Torreveija, 1/23/2014

The case of Katharina K. is terrible. Katharina arrived with her 10 months old son to Spain, fleeing from his country Switzerland, after taking his child out of the Zurich hospital where he was admitted because he was born with hydrocephaly. She took him because she didn't trust traditional medicine y and wanted to use alternative medicine. The international arrest warrant was successful and she was captured on a shopping mall of Torreveija (Alicante), well the civil guard arrested her. The baby was taken to the hospital. But the next day, in a room of the medical center, Katharina, guarded by two police agents, asked for permission to give a bath to the child. What she did was to undress him, take out a knife that she carried on a bag, and cut the baby's throat. Afterwards she tried to commit suicide. She recognized the facts and accepted 11 years of jail.

Rosario, 42 years old.

Teo, 9/21/2013

His face flooded the newspapers. She was <<the bad>> of the Asunta case. According to the sentence, both Rosario (lawyer, 42y.o) and Alfonso (journalist,51y.o.), adoptive parents of Asunta (12y.o.) agreed to kill the girl. When that day, the three of them were dining, Rosario and Alfonso put a small dose of <<a medicine containing lorazepam, which was toxic, so after the drug made effect, asphyxiate her>> Rosario took Asunta to a house on Teo (La Coruña), where she asphyxiated her, then they tied the hands and feet of the body. They were condemned to 18 years of prison.

Icíar, 36 years old.

Las Rozas, 8/26/2013

<<Honey I killed our child>>, told Icíar M. to her husband. Icíar had 36 years old and, according to her own confession that she would later confirm, she asphyxiated Koldo, his 33 days old baby with a pillow. The man attempts to reanimate Koldo where useless. It happened in the summer of 2013 in Las Rozas(Madrid). According to the sentence that condemned her, Icíar killed him convinced of the <<distorted idea>> that a <<grimm future>> awaited him, and that finishing his life she would spare him from suffering. Koldo have been born with malformations and have been operated. <<I didn't want to do it, I am the worst, I am the devil, I have killed my son>>, told Icíar to the Local Polcie and Summa operatives. The killer mother, was diagnosed with post-natal depression, she accepted a bargain with the D.A. and the boy's father, who was indemnitee by 101.000 euros. It was condemned to four years and six months of imprisonment and was admitted on a psychiatric center.

Hortensia, 48 years old.

Córdoba, 4/26/2013

The event, so dramatic, left Cordoba shaken. At 22.20 hours of April 26th 2013. Hortensia R., born on the Andalusian city, went to the Miraflores bridge with his son, of four years of age, she climbed over the bridge railing and throw his son to the Guadalquivir river. She also jumped to the river, but local cops rescued her. They couldn't save the child, he drowned. The Provincial Audience had into account that Hortensia she had been drinking and took Bromacepam pills. She was sentenced to 15 years old and to idemnify the father's child with 90.000 euros.

Unknown name, 17 years old.

Cambil, 4/10/2013

A little newborn was found death on a closet in Cambil (Jaén). Her mother, of 17 years confessed the crime, she wrapped the body of the boy in towels and hid it on the closet of her room. On the little body they found stab wounds. The authorities have notice of the case when the minor attended a hospital afflicted of pain. At first she denied that she had given birth, but she accepted it afterwards, but she claimed that the child was stillborn. She accepted six and a half years of internment in a specialized center of closed regime and for additional years of probation.

Rina, 35 years old.

Barcelona, 4/7/2013

Two siblings, Alison (11 years old) and Andrés (9 years old) lost their life on April, 2013 on the Carmel de Barcelona suburb. Their mother, Rina M, Bolivian, of 35 years, drowned them in the house bathtub. She was sentenced to 20 years of jail. According to the sentence of a Barcelona court, Rina consciously and voluntarily decided to kill her two children. First she drugged them and then she submerged them in the bathtub until they weren't able to breath anymore. The woman accepted the facts, that at first had denied, she justified her assuring that she had been dumped by her husband, she was unemployed and she didn't have any papers and didn't want that her children <<suffered more>>. The sentence recognized that she at least was suffering of psychological harassment by the husband, who didn't provide any child alimony.

Marián, 40 years old.

Gijón, 3/5/2013

The Provincial Audience of Asturias sentenced Marian O. to 17 years of jail for killing her baby of just two months due to constant beatings. Grave aggressions like taking the baby of the cradle by his ears and dig her nails with force to stop him from crying. It happened on Gijón, on March 2013. Marián , of 40 years - who assured to have drink problems and suffer from hallucinations-, was troubled by the crying of her three children. To told her husband that the wounds were made by the children. She accepted the sentence. During those 17 years of jail Marián won't be able to exercise parental rights and during the first six she is prohibited to have any contact to her children in any way or getting near any place they might go.