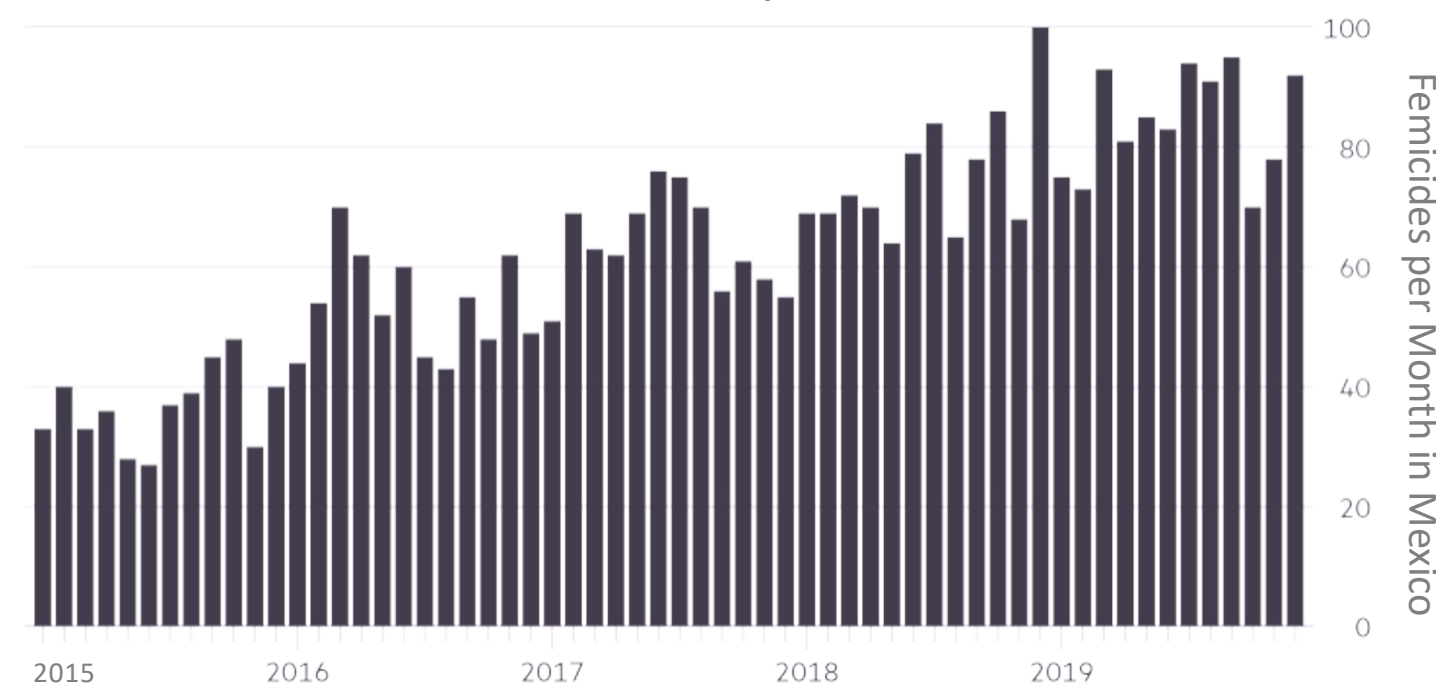


Introduction

- Femicide: **murder of women specifically on account of their gender**
- Ciudad Juárez, Mexico 1993 to 2005 → more than 370 femicides
 - Highly likely that these numbers are underestimated due to government indifference and unrecorded cases
- Femicide began in the early 1990s and continues to modern day
- Little action from Mexican government over these thirty years to prevent femicide or remember the victims
- Concerned families and citizens have taken it upon themselves to
 - Inform others on the issue
 - Memorialize the victims
 - Decrease occurrence of femicide



Femicide Contributing Factors

Maquiladoras Machismo Impunity



Art-Based Activism

“It is through words and images that the traces of horror overcome the limits of expression, even if incomplete or fragmented. It is through these traces that art becomes ‘the triumph of the word over the silence of absence’” ~Cynthia Milton

Pink crosses began appearing in 1999 and are found all over the city on various surfaces in different locations (left).

- Painted by **Voces sin Echo** (family members of femicide victims) a grassroots organization created in 1998
- Members of this group wore black veils as a symbol of mourning and paint the crosses near where their loved ones disappeared.



The metal barrier fence in front of the National Palace in Mexico City lists names of thousands of victims (left)

- Painted by mothers of murdered girls and women
- ‘Anti-monuments’ try to remember those victims who did not achieve justice so that their cases do not fall into oblivion.
- Installation occurred on Friday before International Women’s Day in 2021.
- Activists made additions to the monument
 - Crosses, flowers, candles, posters



Service-Based Activism

Casa Amiga

- Founded in 1999 by **Esther Chávez Cano** (right)
- Juárez’s first rape crisis center
- Overall mission of eliminating and preventing the different forms of oppression that affect women, particularly violence



“Provides for a different kind of memory, a memory that avoids historical objectification and instead becomes a catalyst for change” ~Karen Elizabeth Bishop

Red Mesa de Mujeres

- Organization began in 2004 in response to the Campo Algodonero Case
- Network of NGO’s that work in the fields of
 - Gender and domestic violence
 - Feminist perspective of women’s health
 - Labor rights
 - Community organizing
 - Sexual and reproductive rights

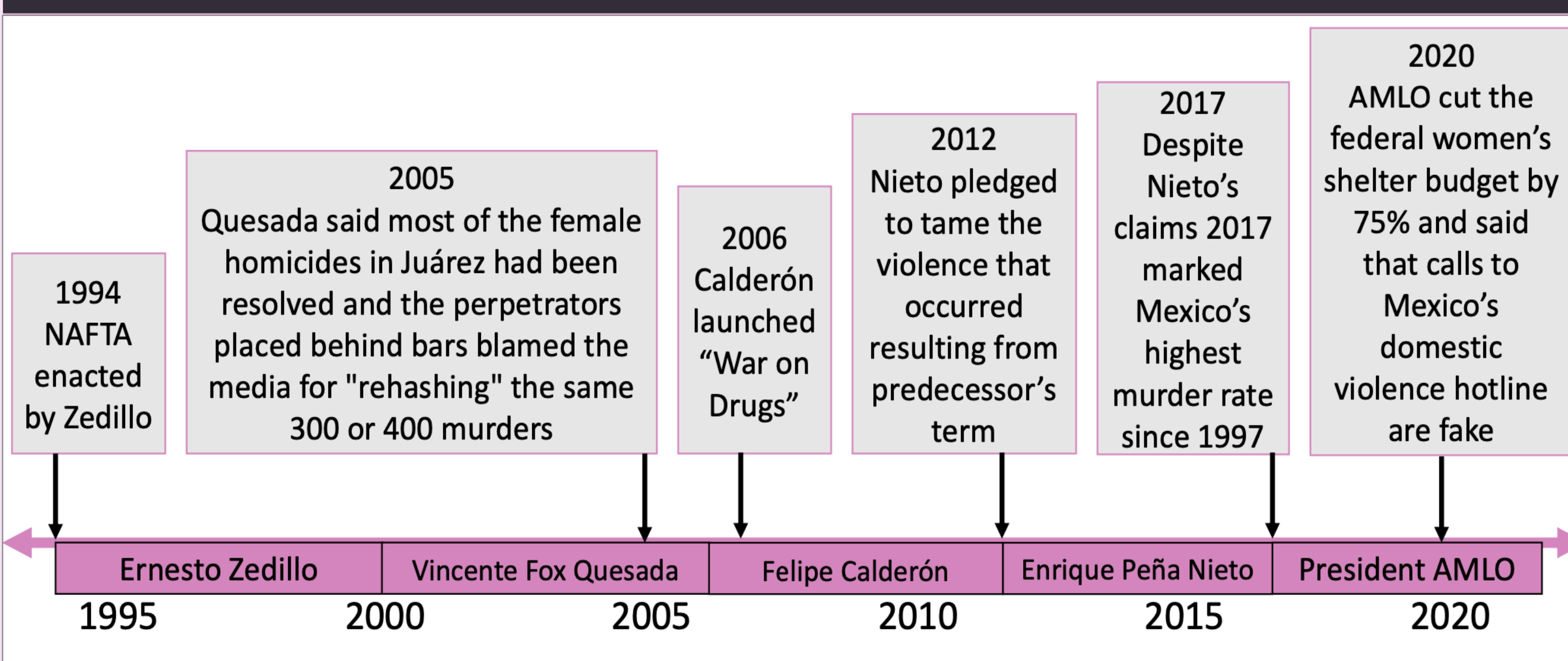


Ni En More

- Founded in 2017 by
 - Lise Bjorne Linnert (Artist) (Oslo, Norway)
 - Jane Terrazas (Artist) (Juárez, Mexico)
 - Veronica Corchado (Human Rights Activist) (Juárez, Mexico)
- Name inspired by poetry of Susana Chávez Castillo, femicide victim 2011
- Non-profit sewing studio → safe employment for women living in vulnerable conditions



Government Timeline



Large, pink, wooden cross on the Paso del Norte bridge (right)

- Main passage between Ciudad Juárez and El Paso, Texas
- Installed by anti-femicide activist group **Ni Una Mas**
- End of six-day march from Chihuahua City to Ciudad Juárez (Exodus por Vida)
- Slips of paper with victims’ names attached to the nails



Conclusions

I believe that action by artists, women’s service centers, and NGOs can

- Help fill the government created gap in memory of femicide victims
- Spread awareness of the problem
- Assist in preventing further women from becoming victims

However, it is necessary for the Mexican government to take responsibility and demonstrate actionable effort. Memory of femicide does not only memorialize victims, but it also helps facilitate prevention in the present and future.



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