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VICTIMS OR "FIGHTERS"? NARRATIVES OF BATTERED WOMEN WHO KILLED THEIR MALE INTIMATE PARTNERS

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Researchers, advocates, clinicians and other technicians who work in the field of intimate partner violence, mostly, consider that women who live in a violent relationship suffer an impairment of their ability to protect themselves, namely to end their relationship, as part of their experience of being victimized. Maintenance of those violent relationships is understood as lack of empowerment. In the present study, that is part of a larger study, it has been used a qualitative approach. A semi-structured interview was specially conceived for this research. Our participants are 4 female adults, inmates, condemned for homicide perpetrated by themselves against their male partner and 2 females condemned by hiring someone to kill their male partner. A content analysis from the interviews transcripts was conducted in order to explore dimensions associated to women's self-perception, their perception of their husband, perception of their power in the relationship and their explanations for pursuing into the relationship. Their narratives reveal a sense of strength and endurance that allows them to persist in the relationship. At the same time, that perception seems to prevent those women of being aware of the danger in which they live as much of being victimized as of becoming perpetrators.

THE RISK OF FORGIVING THE INTIMATE VIOLENT PARTNER ON THE DECISION OF REPORTING TO THE POLICE AND OF RECIDIVISM

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Intimate partner violence (IPV) is a growing social problem, affecting the lives of many women and families across all the world (WHO, 2013).

One main issue is the constant increase of risk associate with the recidivism of such behavior and the impact over the victim of such apologies-forgiveness-violence pattern. This method of interpersonal violence will affect women's resiliency and the psychological well-being and decisions planning. In this study we looked at the effect of forgiveness, and detect under which conditions forgiving the violent partner could be of risk and to women's well-being.

A large and well known literature shows that forgiving yields salutary outcomes for victims; nevertheless forgiveness has also a dark side and can be detrimental . Gordon et al. (2004), for example, reported that the more women victims of intimate partner violence hosted in a shelter home were prone to forgive their violent spouses, the more they were likely to get back to their abusive partners. Moreover, McNulty (2010) found that whereas less forgiving spouses experienced