



Joana Gallego (Coord.) (2009). *Si te vas, te mato. Mujeres que murieron por su libertad*. Barcelona: Edici n Icaria Antrazyt.

Birgit Wolf (Autonomous University of Barcelona). The title of the book “Si te vas, te mato”, “If you leave, I kill you”, points at the horrible truth of 19 assassinations against women by their husbands or ex-husbands, when they struggle for their liberty and aimed to quit with their partners. The publication signs for the result of the reconstruction of these 19 cases during the time period 1986 and 2006 in Catalonia, Spain. The research project was realized by a group of journalism students of the lecture “Journalism about Society”, at the Faculty of Communication Sciences, Autonomous University of Barcelona, directed by Joana Gallego Ayala.

The goal of the research was to reconstruct circumstances that lead to the assassination, the story of the former life of the women as well as the one of their (ex-) partners, who have been the responsible perpetrators. So the project results in 19 reportages on women, who have one incidence in common; they died because of their struggle for liberty, for freedom from maltreatment by their partners in their daily life.

The publication approximates the serious but in the public sphere far often marginalized topic of gender-based violence. So the reportages about the 19 cases demonstrate the diversity of stories of each of the women, reports of suffer, pain, power, lack of love and particular defeat. The description of these different paths provides a deeper understanding on the complexity of the phenomenon of gender-based violence. Thus, the publication is also aimed as a source of reflection for persons dealing with this topic of domestic violence against women, as advocates, judges, psychologists, women’s associations, journalists, experts, etc.

As Joana Gallego states, the project worked out by her students was a great experience for them as well. The scholars, for the first time during their studies, have carried out their research for a real reportage, not simulating, but meant to be published, challenging with such a sincere topic and handling all the difficulties of sources and collecting the facts.

The collection of these 19 reports are published as well as a homage to all those women, who died for their seek of liberty, the freedom from a life of violence; and moreover a homage to all the hundreds of women in Spain, assassinated by their (ex-) partners. It is a contribution to combat gender-based violence against women, which is still situated at the core of societal problems, as the figures in Spain, as well as in Europe and all over the world show very clearly, and, which we have to overcome as soon as possible, so that women don't need to loose their lifes for liberty in order to escape gender-based violence.