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H	<p>Expert Declaration of Dr. Aracely Bautista Bayona, Center for Gender and Refugee Studies, August 24, 2017, (“Bautista Decl.”) and certified English translation available at: http://cgrs.uchastings.edu/</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enforcement of laws against domestic violence related to violence and international treaties which purport to protect women in El Salvador have been ineffective. Like Salvadoran society as a whole, law enforcement officials, prosecutors, and judges discriminate against women, reduce the priority of women’s claims and otherwise prevent women from accessing legal protections and justice. • Police and prosecutors typically presume that a woman victim of violence deserved her injuries, or that her male aggressor acted within his rights. If a woman violates traditional gender roles, law enforcement officials often believe the man is justified for beating her or “putting her in her place” because of her “insubordinate” behavior. This is all the more common in domestic violence cases, where the cultural bias of the <i>pater familias</i> further justifies aggression because the man is allowed to treat his property (i.e., women) as he wishes. • Even in the unusual situation where a woman successfully acquires an order of protection from her aggressor, law enforcement officials 	55-92

	<p>do not enforce such orders. The same biases described above, coupled with inadequate resources, are the reason for the lack of enforcement and the lack of follow up on measures of protection for victims.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Courts either do not possess or do not expend the resources to follow up on their own orders of protection and leave the enforcement to the police; the police simply ignore the orders of protection and do not enforce them in an effective manner.• Nonetheless, judicial officials continue to value family unity over the needs of victims for protection from their abusers, and judges exert pressure on women victims to reconcile with their partners before adjudicating their legal claims.• Femicide-the murder of a woman because she is a woman- is the most extreme manifestation of violence against women. Though El Salvador has ratified treaties and enacted laws to prevent and punish violence against women, femicides have been on the rise in recent years.• Mass graves containing bodies of femicide victims are now common cases; multiple mass graves have been discovered with many bodies, a high percentage of them female among which 95% showed signs of torture, rape, and sexual assault.• A study released in 2015 by the University Institute of Public Opinion (Instituto Universitario de Opinión Pública, or IUDOP) based at the Centro American University José Simeón Cañas, shows that only 6.5% of all crimes initiated by the prosecutor result in a sentence.• Although general levels of impunity are high, it is widely recognized that the level of impunity for crimes involving crimes of violence against women are even higher because of the attitudes described above that do not take these crimes seriously. To illustrate: according to ISDEMU (Instituto Salvadoreño para el Desarrollo de la Mujer), of the 628 murders of women documented between January 2012 and June 2014, only approximately 5 percent of these cases even made it to the initial stages of trial, and even fewer resulted in a sentence. And, according to ORMUSA (Organización de Mujeres Salvadoreñas por la Paz), a non-governmental organization that investigates gender-based violence, out of the 978 cases of violence against women documented in 2014, only 4 resulted in convictions.	
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<p>I</p>	<p>Affidavit of America Joaquina Romualdo Carcamo, Center for Gender and Refugee Studies, June 18, 2015, (“Romualdo 2015 Aff.”), obtained from: America Joaquina Romualdo Carcamo</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through my work, I have seen the plight of Salvadorian women who must overcome the social presumption that the man has the right to abuse his partner. Such a belie[f] is widespread in Salvadorian society and even judicial officials share it. This belie[f] allows violence against women to be committed with impunity. • Even with the existing legislation, violence against women still exists with the highest levels of impunity in El Salvador. The violence against women is especially serious in our society because of the lack of sensitivity of the judicial system and the lack of priority given to the problem by public institutions • In El Salvador, the belief among women that domestic violence is normal and expected is perpetuated by various factors: at home, by the abuser, social attitudes that ignore or don’t pay attention to gender-based violence and an unresponsive legal system that is unwilling to protect women • Tolerance towards violence against women has permeated to such an extent in Salvadorian society that the aggression against women has often reached such extremes as murder. • El Salvador is rated as the second country in Central America, after Guatemala, by its number of femicides. • It is estimated that 60% of murders are not punished. 	<p>93-103</p>
<p>J</p>	<p>Expert Declaration of America Joaquina Romualdo Carcamo, Center for Gender and Refugee Studies, May 16, 2011, (“Romualdo 2011 Decl.” and certified English translation <i>available at:</i> http://cgrs.uchastings.edu/</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discrimination against women pervades every facet of society in El Salvador. Machismo-the set of misogynistic gender biases that relegate women to being the property of men- is ingrained in the country’s history and culture, creating a patriarchal society that justifies domestic violence....These machista norms apply not only to spouses but also to any girl or woman vis-à-vis her male relatives (e.g. brothers, cousins, fathers, uncles) and other male relations (e.g. boyfriends, ex-husbands, male friends of relatives). 	<p>104-135</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Society justifies this form of violence by reasoning that the man has the right to demand sex from woman he owns, controls and financially supports, regardless of her consent.• Even if a woman overcomes these barriers and leaves an abusive relationship, abusive men usually do not accept the woman’s “abandonment” and can easily track her down.• El Salvador is the smallest country in Central America and one of the smallest on the American continent.• Family unity is considered so important that the police, schools, hospitals and other institutions frequently disclose location information to men who claim to be the victim’s husband or father.• If a woman is in a violent relationship with a gang member, her chance of escaping safely is virtually nonexistent due to the ubiquitous networks gangs maintain throughout the country.• The government offers no support for women who need long-term shelter. There is only one shelter run by the governmental Salvadoran Women’s Institute. This shelter offers only limited, temporary protection.• Officials have investigated and prosecuted few femicide cases.• Discriminatory gender biases are prevalent among governmental authorities responsible for providing legal protection to women. Police, judges, prosecutors and other officials often believe that women deserve the blame for the violence they encounter at home, and that domestic violence cases are a waste of time.• Criminal prosecution may only take place if: (1) the injury to woman is “sufficiently severe”- such as when the resulting bruise lasts five days or longer; or (2) the aggressor is a “repeat offender” in that he has violated an order of protection or other resolution issued pursuant to the LVI process.• The police may arrest the aggressor in a domestic violence situation only if they catch him in flagrante delicto (i.e., during the criminal act or immediately thereafter). A victim’s testimony of past violence, no matter how extreme, is legally insufficient to make an arrest. If the police arrest the aggressor they may detain him for a maximum of seventy-two hours.	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LVI mandated the creation of a specialized police division to handle domestic violence cases; however, over fourteen years after the LVI became law, there is still no such police division. The LVI also requires the police to train officers and staff on issues of domestic violence, yet there is still no such training in the Police Academy. • Though the law requires police to escort the victim home to retrieve documents for her case and to the hospital to receive medical treatment, this rarely occurs in practice because officers claim that there are no available vehicles or there is not enough money for gasoline. • Under these circumstances, fleeing El Salvador is the only real option for a woman whose life is at risk as a result of gender violence. 	
K	<p>Expert Declaration of Nancy K. D. Lemon, Center for Gender and Refugee Studies, July 29, 2016, available at: http://cgrs.uchastings.edu/</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender is one – if not the – primary motivating factor for domestic violence. Statistics, comparative cross-cultural studies of domestic violence, and behaviors exhibited by male batterers show that disparities between the socially or culturally constructed roles assigned to women and those assigned to men are at the root of domestic violence. Being female, in short, is the strongest risk factor for whether an individual will become a victim of partner violence. • Ultimately, the batterer does not view marriage as a partnership where husband and wife make joint decisions, but as a relationship in which he, as the man, has unilateral authority to make the rules, and the abused, as a woman, must submit to his authority. Thus, a battered woman is viewed not as a partner, but as property. • Men have the power, within this cultural and social construct, to assign proper roles and duties to a woman, dictate her behavior, and punish her when she deviates from the proper norms. The existence of such a construct is indicative of pervasive domestic violence. • Indeed, rigid acceptance of men’s entitlement to superiority and control over family members is among the leading risk factors for intrafamilial violence within a society. • The batterer treats his wife or partner like a servant or property rather than an equal partner, acts like the ‘master of the castle,’ and 	136-195

	<p>assumes authority to define men’s and women’s gender rules and make final decisions regarding what his wife or partner will or will not do.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As with intimate partner violence, in-law abuse is driven by social and cultural attitudes about the inferiority of women and their subservient role in the household. Women who are viewed and treated as property by the batterer are also viewed and treated as such by his family. • Women are expected to be subservient to the man and—by extension—the members of his family, to anticipate their needs and put them above her own, to run the household, care for the children, and do all of this without complaint. • Members of the batterer’s family feel empowered to abuse the woman in part because they see how the batterer treats her. They do not condemn spouse abuse; rather they understand it as a legitimate sanction applied for noncompliance with certain expectations regarding the female role. As such, it is a ‘deserved’ punishment. 	
<p>L</p>	<p>United States Department of State, El Salvador 2016 Human Rights Report, April 12, 2017, available at: https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/265798.pdf</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Violence against women, including domestic violence, was a widespread and serious problem. A large portion of the population considered domestic violence socially acceptable; as with rape, its incidence was underreported. • Laws against domestic violence were not well enforced, and cases were not effectively prosecuted. • The government’s efforts to combat domestic violence were minimally effective. • As of August, the Office of the Inspector General reported 40 cases of alleged violations of police officers against women due to their gender. • Impunity persisted despite government steps to dismiss and prosecute some officials in the security forces, the executive branch, and the justice system who committed abuses. 	<p>196-231</p>

M	<p>Amnesty International Report 2017/18: The State of the World's Human Rights, February 22, 2018, Index number: POL 10/6700/2018, available at: https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/POL10/6700/2018/En/</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • El Salvador continued to have one of the world's highest murder rates, although the number of homicides fell from 5,280 in 2016 to 3,605 in 2017. The figure for 2017 included 429 femicides. • El Salvador's high rate of gender-based violence continued to make it one of the most dangerous countries to be a woman. 	232-237
N	<p>OAS Press Release, Conclusions and Observations on the IACHR's Working Visit to El Salvador, January 29, 2018, available at: http://www.oas.org/en/iachr/media_center/PReleases/2018/011A.asp</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In terms of women and girls who are victims of violence, the IACHR observes with concern that El Salvador continues to be the country with the highest number of killings of women in the region. According to data from the Institute of Legal Medicine (IML), from January through October 2017, 395 women were killed in the country. • According to information received during the visit, there is a disturbing situation of general impunity, evidenced in the wide gap between the acts of femicide and homicide handled and investigated by the Attorney General's Office and those for which there has been a final judicial resolution. In this regard, the Commission calls on the State to intensify its efforts to fight impunity by strengthening the investigative capacity of prosecuting authorities and by creating specialized investigative units with a gender perspective that are part of the justice sector. 	238-243
O	<p>Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, El Salvador: Information Gathering Mission Report-Part 2 The Situation of Women Victims of Violence and of Sexual Minorities in El Salvador, September 2016, available at: https://www.justice.gov/eoir/page/file/905681/download</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sources report that laws against domestic violence are not effectively enforced, as is the case with laws against rape • The legal consultant to the Legislative Assembly interviewed by CGRS and a female police officer interviewed by BBC both stated that some police officers think of women as male abusers' property (CGRS 14 Aug. 2015, 8; BBC 8 Mar. 2013). The female police officer further stated that, according to "many of [her] male 	244-251

	<p>colleagues," men have the right to mistreat their wives (ibid.). She explained that when a woman reports a domestic violence dispute and a [translation] "macho" police officer takes the call, he tells her that there is no one available to help her (ibid.).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sources report that a man killed his ex-partner in front of their daughter (US 25 June 2015, 16; El Diario de Hoy 1 Oct. 2014) on 30 September 2014 (ibid.). The woman had previously been granted a restraining order (ibid.; US 25 June 2015, 16), but authorities reportedly "did not provide further protection to the victim"(ibid.). • Sources indicate that there is one state shelter (CGRS 14 Aug. 2015, 15; AI 25 Feb. 2015, 142; Director 11 Aug. 2015), which is run by the Salvadoran Institute for the Development of Women (Instituto Salvadoreño para el Desarrollo de la Mujer, ISDEMU [2]) (ibid.; CGRS 14 Aug. 2015, 15). The shelter can accommodate 35 women and children victims of domestic violence (AI Sept. 2014, 55 (Note 30)). • The Director of CGRS pointed out that NGO-run shelters are "extremely limited" (CGRS 14 Aug. 2015, 16). • The Director of the Specialized Assistance Unit to Women Victims of Violence of the PDDH similarly stated that NGO-run shelters for women victims of violence are "temporary" and "small" (Director 11 Aug. 2015). 	
<p>P</p>	<p>UN High Commissioner for Refugees ("UNHCR"), <i>UNHCR Eligibility Guidelines for Assessing the International Protection Needs of Asylum-Seekers from El Salvador</i>, March 15, 2016, ("UNHCR Eligibility Guidelines"), available at: http://www.refworld.org/docid/56e706e94.html</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent of the violence is reflected in the fact that the small and densely-populated country of El Salvador presently has the highest rate of homicides of any country in the world. • A five-fold rise in 'femicides' (murders of women because of their gender) was reported during the 2000s, coinciding with the spread of gangs but also reflecting wider gender inequality, that gave El Salvador the highest recorded rate of femicide in the world between 2004 and 2011. After a decrease in 2012-2014, the number of femicides again increased drastically in 2015. 	<p>252-300</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presently, domestic violence is considered the leading form of violence against women, followed closely by violence perpetrated by gang members. • Indeed, women linked with one gang are reported to be considered a target for rival gangs and they and other women are reported to be abused, (gang) raped and killed as part of gang initiation rites or if they try to leave the gang to which they belong or with which they are affiliated. • Across most of the departments that make up the territory of El Salvador, many hundreds of local street gangs are reported to operate in both urban and rural zones, with between 30,000 and 60,000 active members in total. • Official statistics show that 65 per cent of the murders registered in the country between January and mid- November 2015 were committed by gang members. • Despite the existence of this legal framework, weaknesses and corruption in the Salvadorian security forces and the judiciary reportedly contribute to creating a high level of impunity for crimes in El Salvador. • Policemen who investigated high-level drug smugglers have reportedly had their investigations shelved and were instead investigated themselves on minor charges by the Attorney General. The gangs reportedly have their own infiltrators in the police and the military, including certain elite units and the General Staff, who warn them about anti-gang operations and with access to intelligence, weapons and uniforms. • In 2014 alone, 900 police officers were reported to have been sanctioned for misconduct, with this figure likely representing only a fraction of those who committed abuses. • Indeed, individual officers and entire local forces within the police reportedly sometimes take one or the other side in disputes between rival local gangs. • One of the reported reasons for multiple displacements is that displaced persons often have little choice but to relocate to areas that are also controlled by gangs. If they move to an area controlled by the same gang, their problems are likely to follow them to the new location; if they move to an area controlled by a different gang, they are likely to be challenged by this gang as rival gangs usually do not 	
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accept persons coming from areas controlled by other gangs settling in their home territory. Where gangs and other criminal groups have serious problems with a person or believe that the person in question could represent an ongoing threat, they are reported to make efforts to try and track the person down even after they have fled their home.

- Deportees are reported to be easily identifiable by gang members at the point of return to El Salvador, putting deportees who had left El Salvador because of specific problems with a gang at particular risk. In some cases, deportees and other returnees who left the country due to insecurity or threats have been killed by gangs shortly after arrival in El Salvador.
- Discrimination and violence against women and girls is reported to be prevalent in El Salvador. The country has one of the highest recorded rates of femicides in the world, and young women are reportedly increasingly represented among the victims of forced disappearances.
- Domestic violence is reportedly considered the leading form of violence against women and girls in El Salvador, followed closely by violence perpetrated by gang members.
- There are reported cases of domestic violence by gang members against their wives and other female members of their own household; women and girls in this situation are often trapped as any attempt to report the violence or to escape the situation in the home would likely lead to targeting for violence by gang members, and may also put the woman's family members at risk.
- Women and girls perceived as being linked with a particular gang are reportedly also a target for rival gangs and they and other women and girls are reportedly abused, raped and killed as part of gang initiation rites, or if they try to leave the gang to which they belong or with which they are affiliated, or if they are seen to resist its authority in other ways, including by rejecting the sexual advances of a gang member.
- [I]n certain parts of the country the Government has lost effective control to gangs or other organized criminal groups and is unable to provide protection to civilians.

<p>Q</p>	<p>U.S. Dep’t of State, El Salvador 2017 Crime & Safety Report, Feb. 22, 2017 (“State Dep’t Crime Report”), available at: https://www.osac.gov/pages/ContentReportDetails.aspx?cid=21308</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • El Salvador has one of the highest homicide rates in the world, and the U.S. Department of State updated the Travel Warning for El Salvador in January 2016 to notify U.S. citizens about travel safety concerns, to include the increased frequency and intensity of security incidents. • Crime statistics showed that the 2016 annual homicide rate — 80.94 per 100,000 inhabitants — was significantly lower than 2015’s 103.1 per 100,000 rate. In 2016, authorities recorded 5,278 homicides, a 20.7% decrease from the 6,657 in 2015. The decrease is attributed primarily to the government’s country-wide implementation of its “extraordinary” security measures in an effort to curb the gang violence. • Rape remains a serious concern. In 2016, there were 330 reported rape cases, up from 314 reported cases in 2015. Services for victims of rape are very limited, and many victims choose not to participate in the investigation and prosecution of the crime for fear of not being treated respectfully by the authorities. Many murder victims show signs of rape, and survivors of rape may not report the crime for fear of retaliation. • The police are often hampered by inadequate funding and limited resources, and as a result of perceived corruption, they do not enjoy the full confidence and cooperation of citizens. The police’s investigative units have shown great promise; however, routine street level patrol techniques, anti-gang, and crime suppression efforts remain a constant, difficult challenge. Equipment shortages (radios, vehicles) limit their ability to deter or respond to crimes expeditiously. Other impediments to effective law enforcement include unsupportive laws, general distrust, and the occasional lack of cooperation between the police, prosecutors, and corrections. 	<p>301-312</p>
<p>R</p>	<p>U.S. Dep’t of State, El Salvador Travel Advisory, Jan.10, 2018 (“State Dep’t Travel Warning”), available at: https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories/el-salvador-travel-advisory.html</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • El Salvador – Level 3: Reconsider travel due to crime. 	<p>313-315</p>

S	<p>El Salvador, CIA WORLD FACTBOOK, available at: https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/es.html</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • El Salvador is only 21,041 square kilometers, roughly the size of the state of New Jersey. 	316-328
T	<p>Considerations for Asylum Officers Adjudicating Asylum Claims from Women, Memorandum to All INS Officers/HQASM Coordinators from Phyllis Coven, Department of Justice Office of International Affairs, May 26, 1996, available at: http://www.state.gov/s/l/65633.htm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [R]ape...sexual abuse and domestic violence...are forms of mistreatment directed at girls and women and they may serve as evidence of past persecution on account of one or more of the five grounds. • Severe sexual abuse does not differ analytically from beatings, torture, or other forms of physical violence that are commonly held to amount to persecution. 	329-342
U	<p>Matter of L-R-, Department of Homeland Security Supplemental Brief, (“DHS Supp. Br.”), April 13, 2009, available at: http://cgrs.uchastings.edu/sites/default/files/Matter_of_LR_DHS_Brief_4_13_2009.pdf</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DHS "accepts that in some cases a victim of domestic violence may be a member of a cognizable particular social group and may be able to show that her abuse was or would be persecution on account of such membership." • An intimate relationship may also be considered immutable where “economic, social, physical or other constraints made it impossible for the applicant to leave the relationship during the period when the persecution was inflicted” or “if the abuser would not recognize a divorce or separation as ending the abuser's right to abuse the victim.” • DHS suggests two social groups: (1) “Mexican women in a domestic relationship who are unable to leave;” and (2) “Mexican women who are viewed as property by virtue of their position within a domestic relationship.” 	343-374
Z	<p>El Salvador Family Code, Cod. Fam. art. 118 (El Sal. 1993), with Certificate of English Translation, available at: https://www.oas.org/dil/esp/Codigo_de_Familia_El_Salvador.pdf</p>	395-397

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art. 118. • The non-matrimonial union regulated by this Code, is that which has been constituted by a man and a woman who, without any legal impediment to contract for marriage between one another, made a life together in open and free union, in a monogamous form, continual, stable and notorious, for a period of three or more years. • The participants of this union, will be deemed cohabiters or companions for life and will enjoy all the rights and benefits of which this chapter has referred. In the same way, those rights and benefits will be conferred upon those persons not yet of age who have cohabitated as a result of child in common where one of them is not of the required age for the marriage contract or has died before completing the three-year period 	
AA	<p>Catalina Lobo-Guerrero, <i>In El Salvador, ‘Girls Are a Problem’</i>, The New York Times, Sept. 2, 2017, available at: https://www.nytimes.com/2017/09/02/opinion/sunday/el-salvador-girls-homicides.html</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is the women who survive violence and sexual assault — 10 per day — who pose a problem for Salvadoran society. Even more so when they turn to the police, the district attorney’s office or hospitals for help, or when they dare report their attackers. • But gang members are not the only ones responsible for the violence against women. The men who rape them are also their husbands, fathers, uncles, acquaintances, neighbors. Nearly three out of every four acts of sexual violence take place in the victims’ homes, and seven of every 10 victims are under the age of 20. • I asked various specialists and Dr. Méndez, “Where does this machismo and misogyny come from?” I wanted some clarity and, above all, some hope. Several of them responded, with the kind of answer a foreigner never wants to hear: “That’s the way we are.” 	398-402
BB	<p>UN News Service, <i>Following El Salvador Visit, UN right expert urges authorities to protect people from gangs</i>, 21 August 2017, available at: http://www.refworld.org/docid/59b67cdd4.html</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • El Salvador is suffering a ‘hidden tragedy’ due to gang-related violence, an independent United Nations human rights expert today said, urging national authorities to intensify efforts to help and protect people affected by gangs. • “El Salvador is suffering a hidden tragedy of people who have had to leave their homes because of the high levels of gang-related violence,” said Special Rapporteur Cecilia Jimenez-Damary, who 	403-405

	<p>examines the human rights of internally displaced persons, after visiting violence-hit areas including Mejicanos in San Salvador.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The UN expert noted that gangs dominate people through threats, intimidation and "a culture of violence" that infects entire communities and every day interactions. 	
CC	<p>Mark Townsend, <i>Women deported by Trump face deadly welcome from street gangs in El Salvador</i>, The Guardian, Jan. 13, 2018, available at: https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2018/jan/13/el-salvador-women-deported-by-trump-face-deadly-welcome-street-gangs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As with most hostilities, women are routinely caught in the crossfire. Around 10 a day are subjected to violence and sexual assault, with many afraid to speak out. Others are silenced forever. El Salvador ranks among the world’s deadliest countries for women. During 2016, 524 were killed, one in every 5,000, although such figures document only bodies taken to morgues and not those discovered in hidden dumping grounds. • “Deportees from the US face being killed or sexual violence. Most girls try to hide from the violence. The problem is that most don’t have a place to go,” said Salvadoran lawyer Laura Morán. • Lawyers believe that impunity affects 80% of all cases of violence against women. 	406-412
DD	<p>UN News, “Wrapping up visit, UN rights chief urges El Salvador to address femicide and abortion ban”, November 17, 2017, available at: https://news.un.org/en/story/2017/11/636552-wrapping-visit-un-rights-chief-urges-el-salvador-address-femicide-and-abortion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Despite the introduction of the 'Safe El Salvador' Plan that aims to curb and prevent violence, the level of violence in the country remains shockingly high, he said, citing reported deaths of more than a thousand civilians and 45 police officers in armed confrontations between the police and alleged gang members from January 2015 to February 2017. • “El Salvador has the awful distinction of having the highest rate of gender-based killings of women and girls in Central America – a region where femicide is already regrettably high, as is impunity for these crimes,” Mr. Zeid pointed out, noting that investigation, prosecution and punishment of such crimes can help to counter the perception that violence against women is tolerated. 	413-415