

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR IMMIGRATION REVIEW
IMMIGRATION COURT
HYATTSVILLE, MARYLAND**

IN THE MATTER OF	IN REMOVAL PROCEEDINGS
[REDACTED]	A# [REDACTED] (AD) A# [REDACTED] A# [REDACTED]

The Honorable [REDACTED] Next Individual Calendar Hearing [REDACTED]

RESPONDENTS' EVIDENCE IN SUPPORT OF ASYLUM APPLICATION

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR IMMIGRATION REVIEW
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HYATTSVILLE, MARYLAND**

IN THE MATTER OF	■	In removal proceedings
	■	
	■	
	■	A# [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	■	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	■	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	■	[REDACTED]

EXHIBIT LIST IN SUPPORT OF RESPONDENT'S APPLICATION FOR ASYLUM

TAB	PAGES
A. Addendum to I-589 with updated information.	2
B. Identity documents for Ms. [REDACTED] and her children [REDACTED], including passport and birth certificate for Ms. [REDACTED] birth certificate for daughter, [REDACTED], with certified translation, and employment authorization document, passport and birth certificate for son, [REDACTED]	4-21
C. Identity documents for [REDACTED] children who are not in removal proceedings with her, including birth certificate for her son [REDACTED] birth certificate for her infant son [REDACTED], and death certificate for her adult son [REDACTED].	23-29
D. Evaluation of Ms. [REDACTED] conducted by [REDACTED], MPH, Assistant Professor, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. [REDACTED] conducted an evaluation of [REDACTED], which included a discussion of her medical and psychiatric history and her traumatic experiences suffered in Guatemala. This included her history of having suffered domestic violence as well as multiple instances of rape and sexual assault. Ms. [REDACTED] was also forced into a childhood marriage at the age of 14 and is a victim of sexual trafficking by her former partner [REDACTED]. Dr. [REDACTED] diagnoses Ms. [REDACTED] as suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and major depressive disorder. A virtual physical examination of [REDACTED] revealed multiple scars that remain due to the trauma she suffered in Guatemala.	31-41
E. Psychosocial evaluation conducted by [REDACTED] Associate Professor, Department of Social Work, George Mason University confirming that [REDACTED] developed PTSD from having suffered through numerous violent events: multiple rapes and beatings by her ex-partner [REDACTED]; multiple death threats; and the feeling of helplessness and horror following the death of her brother	

since she fled Guatemala. [REDACTED] also confirms that [REDACTED] struggles with memory issues and sleep disruption as a result of her PTSD and that she is at risk of suffering severe trauma were she forced to return to Guatemala. 43-48

- F. Proof of compliance with biometrics requirements. 50-52

Country Conditions Materials

- G. **Intimate Partner Violence Against Indigenous Women in Sololá, Guatemala: Qualitative Insights into Perspectives of Service Providers.** Sage Journals, Zoe Elspeth Wands and Tolib Mirzoev, et.al, January 20, 2021. This research states that “over a third of women in Guatemala are subjected to intimate partner violence.” It confirms that this violence can have a serious effect on the “physical and mental health of victims.” It also reiterates that Guatemala exhibits a “culture of state-cultivated impunity [which] means that 98% of femicides go unpunished.” 54-72
- H. **Victimization and Distress in Indigenous Maya Women: A Qualitative Investigation of Gender-Based Violence and Mental Health Outcomes in Rural Guatemala.** National Institutes of Health, National Library of Medicine, Magda C. Rogg and Carla Pezzia, January 28, 2023. This report reiterates that Indigenous women in rural Guatemala experience high rates of violence and low access to health resources, posing a serious threat to public health and safety. It also confirms that structural gender violence continues to affect the daily lives of Guatemalans. Systemic impunity, historical gender inequality and the normalization of violence as a social device have resulted in Guatemala being called “the most dangerous place for women in all of Latin America.” It also confirms that Indigenous Guatemalan women face a unique burden of violence and that gender-based violence in low-income countries has been associated with mental health disorders such as suicidal ideation, depression, PTSD and eating disorders. 74-110
- I. **State Department 2022 Human Rights Report, Guatemala.** This report confirms that violence against women and girls was infrequently addressed by the authorities. Impunity persisted for crimes that were committed. Laws against domestic violence remain poorly enforced and violence against women, including domestic violence, remained a widespread and serious problem. 112-154
- J. **Guatemalan Indigenous Women’s Situation Denounced.** TeleSUR, September 13, 2022. This article confirms indigenous women of Guatemala suffer extreme violence. As of September 2022, over 8,100 cases of sexual violence against indigenous women were reported in Guatemala that year alone. It also confirms the prevalence of violence against indigenous girls, with 2,143 cases of sexual violence having been reported against indigenous girls under the age of 14 years. It reiterates how this violence is perpetuated by “the abandonment in which the State of Guatemala has the indigenous population,” as only 833 convictions have been made out of the total number of complaints. 156-58

- K. Guatemala: Submission to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women.** Human Rights Watch, October 14, 2022. This article confirms the prevalence of street gangs, including the two factions of the 18 and Mara Salvatrucha 13 (MS-13) throughout Guatemala, along with an “inadequate and discriminatory police response” to the gangs’ acts of violence. It also confirms the frequency of sexual violence against young girls in Guatemala, stating that as of July 2022, there were 1,323 pregnancies in girls between 10 and 14 years old. “The country still lags well behind the rest of the region in recognizing women’s rights...” 160-171
- L. Femicides Increase by 31% in Guatemala During 2021.** The Rio Times, September 15, 2021. This article confirms “the little attention that the [Guatemalan] authorities give to the threats and intimidations against women...lead to homicides against them.” It also states that the most committed crime in Guatemala “during recent years is violence against women.” Registered femicides in Guatemala saw an increase of 31% between January and August 2021, with 43 registered femicides in August alone. “...in those eight months of 2021, 396 women were murdered in Guatemala.” 173-74
- M. ‘I am tired of it’: Femicides Spark Outrage Across Guatemala.** Aljazeera, Sandra Cuffe, October 10, 2020. This article confirms the high number of women killed in Guatemala in 2020 alone, stating more than 3,000 women and girls have been killed since 2015, adding that the overwhelming majority of these cases remain unsolved, further proving that the Guatemalan government is unwilling and unable to protect Guatemalan women and children. It also cites the forty-one teenage girls who burned to death inside a state-run facility and 15 others who were injured in that same facility on March 8, 2017. These girls had reported being sexually assaulted and forced into prostitution in the Hogar Segura Virgen de la Asuncion shelter, but their protests were ignored. 176-181
- N. How Guatemalan Women Are Taking the Endemic of Gender Violence into Their Own Hands.** Remezcla, Maria Ines Taracena, February 3, 2020. This article confirms that Guatemala is the country in the region with one of the largest number of gender-based murders, with an average of 62 women murdered in Guatemala every month and that since 2016, some 2,500 women and girls were killed. “There is an undeniable war against women and girls in Guatemala.” It also speaks to the government’s unwillingness to support and protect Guatemalan women and children, “often referring to the feminist movement as a public enemy.” 183-92
- O. UN Experts Concerned by Guatemala’s Proposed ‘Backward Step’ for Women’s Rights.** United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner, June 19, 2020. This article expresses the UN experts’ concern over proposals to substitute Guatemala’s highest-ranking institution on women’s rights, citing the impact moving to a lower ranking institution would have on women’s rights in Guatemala. 194-97