"I THOUGHT I WAS BEING STRONG WITH A COMPLICATED PERSON":

THE TALES OF INTIMATE GENDER-BASED ONLINE ABUSE IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH

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DISCLAIMER

This talk will discuss harassment, domestic abuse, gender-based abuse/violence and discrimination.

If you feel uncomfortable,

feel free to leave ;)

You mental health matters

A TALK FOR EVERY SURVIVOR OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

For us to build a digital world where it does not happen

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WHERE DOES ONE BEGIN?

From a personal experience

To a shared experience

To a community experience

To a global situation

- Gender-based violence is the first cause of death of women all over the world
- In countries like Ecuador, every 71 minutes a woman is killed for being a woman
- It is not only a problem that only exists in the Global North

THE RESEARCH IN THE GLOBAL NORTH

- Focuses on malware, spyware
- Shows that attackers use malware or social engineering (in a “passive” form)

WHAT IS THE STATE IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH, SPECIFICALLY, IN LATIN AMERICA

- There is not so much research: local research
- What we mostly know is from helping survivors or from organizations working to end domestic violence
- What methodology can be used?

SEXUAL VIOLENCE

“Mandaron fotos mías, fotos íntimas, al WhatsApp que tenemos como grupo en la universidad. Me tomaron las fotos sin que yo quiera”.

“They sent photos of me, intimate photos, to the WhatsApp that we have as a group at the university. They took those photos without my wanting them to”.

“No sé quién me amenazó, no sé quién fue. Mandaron mensajes, amenazas contra mi familia. Dijeron que iban a hablar sobre mí, que les iban a contar quien realmente yo era. Me pidieron fotos explícitas y videos, y se los mandé. Las fotos y el video llegaron a todos, a todos los de mi colegio. Yo me sentí mal, y no puedo hablar con nadie”.

“I don't know who threatened me, I don't know who it was. They sent me messages, threats against my family. They said they were going to talk about me, that they were going to tell them who I really was. They asked me for explicit photos and videos, and I sent them to them. The photos and the video reached everyone, everyone at my school. I felt bad, and I can't talk to anyone"

- How is women sexuality thought of in Latin America?
- Why are intimate images sent with the purpose of shaming or vengeance?
- Why is shameful to reveal women's sexuality?

"Desculpa se eu não fui a filha perfeita"

"Excuse me if I wasn't the perfect daughter"

- Prevalence of facebook and WhatsApp groups for sharing intimate photos/media illegally
- Public women or women activists: the target of sexual violence
- #SiNoTeGolpeaNoTeAma, #SerMachistaEsHermoso, #QuemaATuMujerPorGolfa

WHEN WOMEN ARE PUBLIC...

“Me han ‘aconsejado’ no ser feminista tan públicamente”

“They ‘advise me’ not to be a feminist so publicly”

WHEN WOMEN ARE PUBLIC...

- Targeted messages, hate speech, sexual imagery directed towards women that are public about fighting their rights
- Malware only in the case of a high public profile
- It escalates to physical violence

THE PRIVATE SPACE OF WOMEN

- Coerced about giving away passwords
- Denied the use of digital devices
- Denied ‘digital literacy’
- Denied access to digital education

THE FUTURE?

- Concerns raised to platforms does not generate any response
- Privacy laws do not take the experience of gender-based violence into account
- Research focusing in malware is not enough: malware is not the main problem
- Sharing of intimate media should be rethought

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RESOURCES

- Diagnóstico Violencia de género digital en Ecuador by Taller Comunicación Mujer: https://www.navegandolibres.org/images/navegando/Diagnostico_navegando_libres_f.pdf
- Violência de gênero na Internet by Instituto Patrícia Galvão: https://dossies.agenciapatriciagalvao.org.br/violencia/violencias/violencia-de-genero-na-internet/
- Online gender-based violence: diagnosis, solutions and challenges: https://www.internetlab.org.br/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Relatorio_ViolenciaGenero_ONU.pdf
- My own experience: https://claucece.github.io/2020/06/06/abuse.html

THANK YOU

Any questions?

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