



## NMSU Library News Release

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### **NMSU Library Presents Program on the Women Murdered in Juárez**

Journalists Adriana Candia, Isabel Velázquez and Rohry Benítez will tell the stories of the women murdered in Juárez during a presentation on March 10, 2000, at 3:30 p.m. on the second floor east of the New Mexico State University Library's Branson Library. Candia, Velázquez and Benítez are the authors of *The Silence that Our Voices Break: Women and Victims in Ciudad Juárez* (*El Silencio que la voz de todas Quiebra: Mujeres y Víctimas de Ciudad Juárez*) (Ediciones del AZAR, 1999). Copies of the book will be available for purchase at the program. The program is made possible by an American Library Association Reference & User Services Association Facts on File Grant for current affairs programming.

Candia and Velázquez are members of the NMSU campus community, Candia a Spanish instructor and Velázquez a graduate student. Benítez is the publications co-editor at the Universidad Autónoma de Ciudad Juárez. They wrote *The Silence that Our Voices Break* along with four other women.

In the introduction to *The Silence that Our Voices Break*, the women note that "We did not want to give a voice to the murderers or the suspects; we wanted our book to be about life, not death. We wanted in some way to enable the voices, the images and the dreams of Erendia, Sagrario, Olga, Alicia, Elizabeth, Adriana, Silvia, Elena and Argelia, at least, to live on in ourselves and in our readers. Ciudad Juárez should be remembered not only for its murdered women, but for all of the women who live ordinary lives, perhaps like your own, or that of your mother, your sister, or your daughter."

*The Silence that Our Voices Break* was born from a feeling of impotence and frustration. The women asked themselves how it was possible that the violent murders of children and women could go on and on, while at the same time the officials charged with providing security for the population could hide behind their constant repetition of the tired old "blame the victim" myths. They decided that their objective would not be to find the perpetrator or perpetrators of the murders or to simply provide more in-depth reporting on the crimes. Instead, they would bring their readers closer to the human drama of the murdered women.

The book is composed of two interlocking themes or patterns. Analysis of the social, economic, and police climate is based on facts and events gleaned from research in newspaper archives, articles and documents from diverse organizations and institutions, interviews and other journalistic work. On the other hand, the victims' stories are based on interviews with their families and friends. Although they appear as an integral part of the journalistic accounts, the stories of the women and girls have been recreated to present a clearer and deeper picture of their lives.

This program is a Special Collections Event of the NMSU Library. For more information, please call Cheryl Wilson, Special Collections Librarian, at 646-3238.