

Irruptions

Someone entered my house,
the computer, a camera, two cellphones
robbed.
Made a mess.

Companions were followed
someone opened our cars,
harmd the tires.
Those kind of things.

And in August
they entered again
And one week ago
they entered.

There is a pattern;
all the irruptions
converge
with certain moments.

The arrival of thousands
of federal police;
state elections,
this context.

People in uniform
make me
less nervous
than those without.

In moments of fury
I have put myself at risk.

When the attacks
are institutional; we publish a report
statistics, disappearances, femicides,
violence, abortion access.
They contradict this,
delegitimise.

Arrests, death threats,
cautionary measures.

There is a peril of fracture.
Balancing ourselves
with what we see
outside.

The corporeal impacts are centered
in the shoulders, stomach, genitals.
We see that as intimate,
but if you cannot - what does that mean?

Composed by Juliana Mensah from the interview transcript of woman human rights defender from Mexico working on gender based violence, indigenous rights and civil and political rights from the research project 'Navigating Risk, Managing Security, and Receiving Support', which focuses on the experiences of human rights defenders at risk in Colombia, Mexico, Egypt, Kenya, and Indonesia (securityofdefendersproject.org)