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"Beast": Ingrid Olderöck. the cruel torturer who inspired the Oscar-nominated Chilean short film

Powerful within the secret service tasked with torturing and eliminating opponents in Chile during the Pinochet regime, Olderöck was tasked with forming a detachment of young women to confront the enemy.

Known as "the woman of dogs," Ingrid Felicitas Olderöck Bernhard was a former agent of the National Directorate of National Intelligence (DINA), the security service created by Augusto Pinochet after overthrowing Salvador Allende in 1973.

But she was not just another agent of the body in charge of torturing and eliminating the political opponents of the military regime. Olderöck, a former Carabineros officer, became the most prominent woman within the DINA and had among her functions the training of dozens of young people whom she trained to face political enemies.

Rape with dogs

Victim accounts accuse her of training dogs to rape prisoners in detention centers where many disappeared. Especially in one of the most brutal clandestine enclosures, "La Venda Sexy", a two-story house in a middle-class sector of the commune of Macul, in Santiago, where Ingrid Olderöck used to operate.

The agents named the clandestine center because the preferred method of torture was sexual harassment, as established in the first report of the National Commission on Political Prison and Torture, better known as the Valech report.

Survivors who went through the Sexy Venda, such as Beatriz Bataszew, have denounced the use of dogs as a method of torture, in addition to hangings, drownings, mock shootings, forced pregnancies, forced abortions or electric shocks to the genitals. "In the Venda Sexy there was a dog named Volodia trained to sexually assault women," he told local media. A similar story is that of Alejandra Holzapfel, who at just 19 years old was arrested in that house. I was "sexually assaulted with a German shepherd dog that the agents of the dictatorship called Volodia," Holzapfel told The Clinic newspaper. "Ingrid directed the animal, while the other torturers forced the detainees to adopt positions that facilitated the abuse. Men and women who passed through La Venda Sexy were victims of this atrocity." Olderöck denied all the allegations and was never subjected to a judicial process.

The short film "Beast" Her figure has returned to the public debate after she became the protagonist of the animated short film "Bestia", by Chilean director Hugo Covarrubias, which this week was nominated for an Oscar. "It's a psychological thriller about a sinister mind," Covarrubias tells BBC Mundo.

In Olderöck's house

One of the few people who had the opportunity to talk at length with the former agent was the Chilean journalist Nancy Guzmán, who published the book "Ingrid Olderock, the Woman of the Dogs", in which -from those conversations- she elaborates a chronicle where she describes her as "the most powerful and brutal woman of the DINA".

In an interview with BBC Mundo, Guzmán says that one day in 1996 he knocked on the door of Olderöck's house on Bremen Street, in the commune of Ñuñoa. "A woman with a thick body, big hands and a hoarse voice appeared, with a cigar in her hand." It was her. "She was wearing a flowered skirt, a handmade sweater of undefined pink color and short boots." "She lived completely alone," Guzman says. "She had no children she had no husband." Olderöck, the writer continues in her story, "was the officer who took charge of the detachment of women within the DINA trained to torture, persecute and murder opponents."

"She was like a commando in herself. She was a specialist in shooting, skydiving, martial arts, horse riding and dog training." "She was the one who trained a dog named Volodia that during the torture sessions was dedicated to raping women and men," says Guzmán. "There are former detainees who suffered that torture or who saw what happened to others. They all remember that one of the young women, Marta Neira, arrived crying desperately and destroyed because she was the victim of the rape of the dog. Days later Marta disappeared."

"I am a Nazi"

Íngrid Olderöck's father emigrated from Germany in 1925, at the age of 29. Together with their sisters, Hannelore and Karin, they grew up under a very strict family system. They were not allowed to speak Spanish or have Chilean friends. That's how they grew up practically isolated. "I have been a Nazi since I was a child, since I learned that the best period that Germany lived was when the Nazis were in power, when there was work and tranquility and there were no scoundrel thieves," Olderöck says in Guzman's book.

When in 1967 the Carabineros authorized the entry of women to their Officers' School, Olderöck joined the first contest. She was the first female paratrooper in Chile and Latin America. She claimed to be an expert in horse riding and dog training, as well as having a blue judo belt. She also practiced tennis, skiing, mountaineering and claimed to be an expert in shooting. With these credentials, she quickly became part of the secret service led by Colonel Manuel Contreras: the DINA. As she demonstrated his capabilities, Olderöck consolidated her position of power within the service.

One bullet in the head and one in the belly

But in 1981 her life took a turn. Leaving her home, she was attacked by two strangers who shot her at point-blank range in the head and belly but did not kill her. In fact, she survived to the end of her days with a bullet lodged in his head, Guzman says. She accused members of the Revolutionary Left Movement, MIR, of the attack. However, Olderöck always insisted that the attack had been planned against her by the intelligence services themselves who were trying to punish her for her alleged attempted defection. After the attack she withdrew from the Carabineros and when the justice [tribunal] summoned her to testify in the cases of disappeared detainees of La Venda Sexy, she pretended to have amnesia, says Guzmán.

"She had no mercy"

"She was a violent, aggressive woman who had no mercy," Guzman adds. In one of the conversations Olderock told her that she always had three weapons: a gun in her wallet, another on the bedside table and one in the kitchen oven. "Then she stops, goes to the kitchen, comes back and puts the gun on the table. I didn't know what to do." "Until I tell her 'take this gun out, I don't like guns' and at that moment she gets furious and tells me she hates people like me. 'I hate you, I hate pacifists.'" That's what the interviews were like, Guzman says. On another occasion she told her to be careful because there was an active organization of former agents called DINITA and that "anything could happen to her." "she was a terrible character in a world of horror," reflects the writer. "Societies have these monsters. And these monsters don't end with dictatorships. Monsters are permanently in societies." At the age of 58, Íngrid Olderöck died alone, of acute gastrointestinal bleeding, without having been convicted of any crime.

Original Text:

"Bestia": Ingrid Olderöck la cruel torturadora que inspiró el cortometraje chileno nominado al Oscar

Poderosa dentro del servicio secreto encargado de torturar y eliminar a opositores en Chile durante el régimen de Pinochet, Olderöck tuvo la misión de formar un destacamento de jóvenes mujeres para enfrentar al enemigo.

Conocida como "la mujer de los perros", Ingrid Felicitas Olderöck Bernhard fue una exagente de la Dirección Nacional de Inteligencia Nacional (DINA), el servicio de seguridad creado por Augusto Pinochet tras derrocar a Salvador Allende en 1973.

Pero no fue una agente más del órgano encargado de torturar y eliminar a los opositores políticos del régimen militar.

Olderöck, exoficial de Carabineros, llegó a ser la mujer más destacada dentro de la DINA y tuvo entre sus funciones la formación de decenas de jóvenes a las que entrenó para enfrentarse a los enemigos políticos.

Relatos de víctimas la acusan de haber adiestrado a perros para violar a prisioneros y prisioneras políticas en los centros de detención donde muchos desaparecieron.

Especialmente en uno de los recintos clandestinos más brutales, **"La Venda Sexy"**, una casa de dos pisos en un sector de clase media de la comuna de Macul, en Santiago, donde solía operar Ingrid Olderöck. Los agentes le pusieron ese nombre al centro clandestino porque el método preferido de tortura eran las vejaciones sexuales, según quedó establecido en el primer Informe de la Comisión Nacional sobre Prisión Política y Tortura, más conocido como informe Valech.

Violaciones con perros

Sobrevivientes que pasaron por la Venda Sexy, como Beatriz Bataszew, han denunciado la utilización de perros como método de tortura, además colgamientos, ahogamientos, simulacros de fusilamiento, embarazos forzados, abortos forzados o descargas eléctricas en los genitales.

"En la Venda Sexy había un perro llamado Volodia adiestrado para violentar sexualmente a las mujeres", dijo en declaraciones a la prensa local.

Un relato similar es el de Alejandra Holzapfel, quien con apenas 19 años fue detenida en aquella casa. Fui "violentada sexualmente con un perro pastor alemán al que los agentes de la dictadura llamaban Volodia", dijo Holzapfel al diario The Clinic.

"Ingrid dirigía al animal, mientras los otros torturadores obligaban a los detenidos a adoptar posiciones que facilitarían el abuso. Hombres y mujeres que pasaron por La Venda Sexy fueron víctimas de esta atrocidad".

Olderöck negó todas las acusaciones y nunca fue sometida a un proceso judicial.

"Yo soy nazi"

El padre de Ingrid Olderöck emigró desde Alemania en 1925, a los 29 años de edad.

Junto a sus hermanas, Hannelore y Karin, crecieron bajo un sistema familiar muy estricto.

No se les permitía hablar español ni tener amigos chilenos.

Fue así como crecieron prácticamente aisladas.

"Yo soy nazi desde pequeña, desde que aprendí que el mejor período que vivió Alemania fue cuando estuvieron los nazis en el poder, cuando había trabajo y tranquilidad y no había ladrones sinvergüenzas", cuenta Olderöck en el libro de Guzmán.

Cortometraje Bestia.

Cuando en 1967 Carabineros autorizó el ingreso de mujeres a su Escuela de Oficiales, Olderöck se anotó en el primer concurso.

Fue la primera mujer paracaidista de Chile y de América Latina. Decía ser experta en equitación y entrenamiento de perros, además de tener cinturón azul de judo.

También practicaba tenis, esquí, montañismo y aseguraba ser experta en tiro.

Con esas credenciales, rápidamente pasó a formar parte del servicio secreto que dirigía el coronel Manuel Contreras: la DINA.

A medida que demostró sus capacidades, Olderöck fue consolidando su posición de poder dentro del servicio.

Una bala en la cabeza y otra en el vientre

Pero en 1981 su vida dio un giro.

Saliendo de su casa, fue atacada por dos desconocidos que **le dispararon a quemarropa en la cabeza y en el vientre**, pero no la mataron.

De hecho, sobrevivió hasta el final de sus días con una bala alojada en su cabeza, cuenta Guzmán.

Acusaron del ataque a miembros del Movimiento de Izquierda Revolucionaria, MIR.

Sin embargo, Olderöck siempre insistió en que el ataque había sido planificado en su contra por los propios servicios de inteligencia que intentaban castigarla por su supuesto intento de desertión.

Después del atentado se retiró de Carabineros y cuando la justicia la citó para declarar en las causas de detenidos desaparecidos de La Venda Sexy, ella pretendió tener amnesia, cuenta Guzmán.

"No tenía piedad"

"Era una mujer violenta, agresiva, que no tenía piedad", agrega.

En una de las conversaciones le contó que ella siempre tenía tres armas: una pistola en la cartera, otra en la mesa de noche y una en el horno de la cocina.

"Entonces ella se para, va a la cocina, vuelve y pone la pistola en la mesa. Yo no sabía qué hacer".

"Hasta que le digo 'saque esta arma, no me gustan las armas' y en ese momento se pone furiosa y me dice que odia a las personas como yo. Me repetía? 'yo a usted la odio, odio a los pacifistas'".

Así eran las entrevistas, cuenta Guzmán. En otra ocasión le dijo que tuviera cuidado porque había una organización activa de exagentes que se llamaba la DINITA y que podría "pasarle cualquier cosa".

"Fue un personaje terrible dentro de un mundo de horror", reflexiona la escritora. "Las sociedades tienen estos monstruos. Y estos monstruos no terminan con las dictaduras. Los monstruos están permanentemente en las sociedades".

A los 58 años, Ingrid Olderöck murió sola, de una hemorragia digestiva aguda, sin haber sido condenada por ningún delito.