Maria da Penha Fernandes a pharmaceutical who lives in Ceara, Brazil, was married with a man who tried to kill her several times. In 1983, while she was sleeping the man shot on her, and this caused her being paraplegic.

When she came back from the hospital, after this, her husband was not satisfy yet, and tried to kill her one more time. He tried to eletrocute her while she was having a shower, but Maria did not die.

During nineteen years the case named Maria da Penha, stayed in the courts and the husband stayed in freedom while the process was not yet decided.

Thus, it was necessary that the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights started an investigation in that case. This Commission also criticized the inertia of the brazilian government to resolve the Maria da Penha case.

Therefore, in 2007 the ex-president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, approved a law called "Maria da Penha law's about the domestic and family violence (Lei Maria da Penha sobre a violência doméstica e familiar)", which punishes who makes domestic and family agressions, making sure that the author of the crime will be prohibited to come close to their family.