

= Illegal (song) =

" Illegal " is a song recorded by Colombian singer @-@ songwriter Shakira for her seventh studio album , Oral Fixation , Vol . 2 (2005) . It was written and produced by Shakira and Lester Mendez and it features Mexican guitarist Carlos Santana . Epic Records released the song as the album 's third and final single on November 6 , 2006 , following the release of " Hips Don 't Lie " . " Illegal " is a pop and country ballad with lyrics concerning mourning of a past lover complete with an understated vocal performance by Shakira and an electric guitar riff by Santana throughout . It received mixed reviews from music critics , who compared it with Alanis Morissette 's material and were mixed towards Santana 's contribution .

The song achieved moderate success , topping the chart in Romania and the US Dance Club Songs chart and peaking withing the top ten in Austria , Italy , Netherlands , Hungary and Switzerland among other countries . The music video for the song , co @-@ directed by Jaume de Laiguana and Shakira , had its premiere on November 16 , 2006 on MTV 's Total Request Live (TRL) . It features the singer portraying a girlfriend of a boxer and follows a similar storyline to the song 's lyrics . " Illegal " has been performed by the singer live on few occasions , such as during the MTV 5 Star event (2005) and Good Morning America (2006) .

= = Composition and production = =

" Illegal " is a ballad with lyrics revolving around mourning for the loss of a lover , as seen in the lines , " It should be illegal to deceive a woman 's heart " . It contains elements of pop and country music . Spence D. of the website IGN felt that Shakira adopted an " almost modern day country @-@ styled pop aesthetic " . Throughout the song , her vocals are subdued , complete with " rolling delivering , breathy accentuations , and ... trill " . AllMusic reviewer Stephen Thomas Erlewine noted that the lyrics " You said you would love me until you died / And as far as I know you 're still alive " were similar to Alanis Morissette 's " You Oughta Know " (1995) .

" Illegal " was written and produced by Shakira and Lester Mendez , with all additional production handled by Jose " Gacho " Torres . Mexican guitarist Carlos Santana appears as a featured artist on the song , playing an electrical guitar throughout . The guitar was also played by Lyle Workman . The other instruments featured in the song are keyboards played by Lester Mendez , bass by Paul Bushnell , drums by Shawn Pelton and percussion by Luis Contez . The mixing was done by Rob Jacobs while the audio engineering was finished by Kevin Killen , Serge " Sergical " Tsai and Vlado Meller , who mastered the song with the assistance of Mark Santangelo .

= = Critical reception = =

The song has received polarized reviews from music critics . A writer of Billboard was very positive towards the song , calling it " gorgeous " and Shakira 's " most understated performance to date " . He further praised Santana 's quiet guitar contribution , comparing it to " tears accompanying the loss " . The critic finished his review by concluding that time would be needed for channels streaming the song to propel it to the top 40 of the charts , " but this forlorn masterpiece is as instantly reactive on the slow side as ' Whenever , Wherever ' was on the fast " . In a review of Oral Fixation , Vol . 2 , Thomas Erlewine said that Shakira takes her music into unexpected directions with " Illegal " . Matt Cibula , in a review for PopMatters , found country music elements on the song , adding that its chorus could easily make it a CMT number @-@ one single . A Dotmusic journalist praised the singer 's vocal performance in the song as a proof that she " certainly has a sweet croon " . Spence D. of IGN also praised her vocals in the quiet song and complimented Santana 's performance for bringing " nice ambiance " . Entertainment Weekly 's David Browne gave a more mixed review , opining that " ' Don 't Bother ' and ' Illegal ' are sister @-@ of @-@ Alanis catfights we 've heard before " . Barry Walters from Rolling Stone said that Santana 's contribution in the song was " instantly recognizable and somewhat disruptive " . Similarly , Lauren Murphy from entertainment.ie felt that his " conscription " and riff contribution to the song was " somewhat

lackluster " . A writer of E ! Online dubbed " Illegal " a " total buzzkill " .

Robert Copsey of the website Digital Spy placed the song seventh on his list of Shakira 's ten best songs , published in 2014 writing that " it hasn 't aged a day " . The same year , Emily Exton of VH1 placed the track on her list of Shakira 's best duets , summarizing " The pained musings of a woman scorned , punctuated by the legend 's iconic guitar groove " . A writer of the website Telemundo included " Illegal " on his list of Shakira 's best musical collaborations in 2015 .

= = Chart performance = =

In the United States , " Illegal " managed to top the Billboard Dance Club Songs chart for the week of February 10 , 2007 . On the UK Singles Chart , the single debuted at the position of 94 on December 16 , 2006 and it moved to its peak position of 34 the following week . It spent a total of four weeks on the chart . On the charts in Austria , " Illegal " debuted at number nine on December 8 , 2006 which later became its peak position on the chart on which it gradually descended for seventeen weeks , appearing for the last time on the chart issue of April 13 , 2007 . At the end of 2007 , it emerged as the 66th top single in that country 's year @-@ end chart . The single debuted at number ten in its first week of charting on the Swiss Hitparade on December 3 , 2006 and it spent a total of 21 weeks in that country . In Germany , " Illegal " rose to the position of eleven and was ranked 76th on the 2007 year @-@ end chart in that country . On November 23 2006 , " Illegal " debuted at number nine on the Italian Singles Chart and then rose to number four in its ninth week of charting , on January 18 , 2007 . It spent fourteen consecutive weeks in the chart 's top twenty and was last seen on February 22 , 2007 . Inside the Romanian Top 100 , " Illegal " was Shakira 's fourth single to reach the number @-@ one position on January 22 , 2007 . It held the top spot for five non @-@ consecutive weeks . The single further peaked at numbers three , four and six on the charts in Slovakia , the Czech Republic and Hungary , respectively .

= = Music video = =

The music video for " Illegal " was shot in Mexico City on October 17 , 2006 , during a short break in the schedule of the Oral Fixation Tour , between concerts in Mexico and Guatemala . Jaume de Laiguana and Shakira were the co @-@ directors of the video . The filming took a full day , and some American and Mexican fans were invited over as extras . It officially premiered on November 16 , 2006 on MTV 's Total Request Live (TRL) . The video features Shakira as the girlfriend of a boxer . Throughout most of the video , she is shown in the empty boxing venue where her former boyfriend boxes . Through flashbacks , she remembers the good times in their relationship - including being alone in the ring , affectionately treating each other . At the end of the video , the reason behind their break @-@ up is shown . Shakira comes to see her boyfriend boxing in the championship match where he wins , unaware that Shakira is there watching him . Another girl steps in the ring and kisses the boxer , revealing to Shakira he is cheating on her . Her boyfriend , to his shock , finally sees that Shakira is watching him kiss the other girl . The video ends with her looking back at him , clearly hurt , before turning away and leaving .

= = Live performances = =

An MTV 5 Star performance of the song from 2005 , was uploaded to Shakira 's official Vevo account on March 24 , 2011 . In December , 2006 , " Illegal " was performed during the singer 's appearance at Good Morning America .

= = Track listing and formats = =

= = Credits and personnel = =

Credits and personnel adapted from the liner notes of Oral Fixation Vol . 2 .

= = Charts = =

= = Release = =

= = = Process = = =

" Illegal " was released as a CD single on November 6 , 2006 . An EP of the song featuring two versions of the song and " La Tortura " was available for digital download on December 9 , 2006 . A second , enhanced CD single featuring two versions of the song along with " La Tortura " and its music video was released on December 18 , 2006 .

= = = History = = =