

INTERNATIONAL

# THE NEWS

## '862 women subjected to violence in five months'

By our correspondent

Karachi

At least 862 women were subjected to violence in 712 incidents from July 2010 to December 2010 in Sindh, according to a report released by the Aurat Foundation at the Karachi Press Club on Monday.

Around 159 women were murdered, 137 women and men were killed in the name of honor, 109 women were kidnapped, 99 became victims of domestic violence, 66 were sexually abused while 61 women committed suicide during this period.

The report revealed that around 27 women were attempted to, murder, 105 became victims of custodial violence, 30 attempted suicides, 10 received violent threats, and 34 became victims of Vanni and customary practices.

The report stated that FIR was registered in 341 cases, whereas in 323 cases it could not be lodged. On the other hand, the status of the FIR could not be ascertained in 51 incidents.

The data stated that the motive behind the murder incidents was mainly domestic conflicts, followed by robbery, marriage disputes and others. Meanwhile, the motive behind honor killing was allegations of illicit relations followed by free will marriage, old enmity and domestic violence. According to the data, most of the accused were said to be the male members of the victim family such as the hus-



Mahnaz Rahman speaks during a press conference at the Karachi Press Club —The News photo

band, brother, cousins and others.

The report further stated that 24 jirgas were held on women-related issues in which eight women were given as compensation to settle the tribal conflicts or free will marriage issues.

Speaking on the occasion, Mahnaz Rahman, the resident director of Aurat Foundation, expressed concern over the rising incidents of honor killings and said that the government should take notice of it.

Another representative, Shireen Aijaz said that the data

is based upon cases which were reported in the print media and feared that the actual number of cases of violence against women were high as many of them were not reported.

Speaking on the issue of Saira Jatoi and Ismail Soomro, a couple who was declared Karo-Kari in 2008, she said, "Our organization never promised that we would send them abroad. Since, they were getting serious threats, therefore we made every effort to help them get immigration of various countries, but all our efforts ended up in vain."

She said that despite the fact that the Aurat Foundation had given them a place in Sindh and paid for their rent and other expenses, Saira Jatoi and her husband were only interested in going abroad. She added that after the case of Shaista Almani, people started thinking that the organization will send them abroad, but they should realize that NGOs do not have so many resources.

Marvi Rashidi, a parliamentarian from PML-F, urged the government to implement the women-related laws, which were passed earlier.