

Press Statement
1 February 2010, Islamabad

Statistics of violence against women in Pakistan in 2009

Islamabad: A total of 8548 incidents of violence against women were reported in the four provinces of Pakistan and in capital territory Islamabad during year 2009. Of these, 5722 cases of violence were recorded in Punjab; 1762 in Sindh; 655 in NWFP; 237 in Balochistan and 172 in Islamabad. Almost all these cases are reported cases

The State, the honorable Judiciary, the free media, the women's rights and human rights organizations and common citizens MUST KNOW that 1384 daughters of Pakistan were murdered; 928 daughters of Pakistan were raped; 683 daughters of Pakistan committed suicide; and 604 daughters of Pakistan were killed in the name of 'honour' in year 2009; only to mention some, and we cannot do anything to stop these crimes (we owe thanks only to media which reported these cases and brought these violations to our notice).

With extreme pain and anguish, Aurat Foundation and Members of Violence against Women Watch Group express their outrage and resentment over this state of affairs where women and girls are being murdered, kidnapped and subjected to various forms of violence, including killings in the name of 'honour', suicides, acid throwing and stove-burning with shameless impunity and the State functionaries are doing nothing except lip service before TV cameras, and that too, only in some high profile cases.

While having no expectations from the interior ministry or provincial governments and their departments, we urge the Ministry of Women's Development, which is under the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Women's Parliamentary Caucus, which is headed by the Speaker of National Assembly and comprised women MNAs, who are strong supporters of women's rights and the National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW), which is headed by a renowned women's rights activist to do something to stop this horrible situation of violence against women in the country.

The number of cases of violence in different categories of offences and their province-wise breakdown is as follows. There were:

- **1384 cases of murder:**
(752 in Punjab; 288 in Sindh; 266 in NWFP; 39 in Balochistan; 39 in Islamabad);
- **604 cases of 'honour' killing:**
(245 in Punjab; 284 in Sindh; 14 in NWFP; 59 in Balochistan; 2 in Islamabad);
- **1987 cases of abduction/kidnapping:**
(1698 in Punjab; 160 in Sindh; 64 in NWFP; 13 in Balochistan; 52 in Islamabad);
- **608 cases of domestic violence:**
(271 in Punjab; 134 in Sindh; 163 in NWFP; 22 in Balochistan; 18 in Islamabad);
- **683 cases of suicide:**
(448 in Punjab; 176 in Sindh; 43 in NWFP; 10 in Balochistan; 6 in Islamabad);

- **928 cases of rape/gang-rape:**
(786 in Punjab; 122 in Sindh; 7 in NWFP; 4 in Balochistan; 9 in Islamabad);
- **274 cases of sexual assault:**
(227 in Punjab; 44 in Sindh; 0 in NWFP; 2 in Balochistan; 1 in Islamabad);
- **50 cases of stove burning:**
(33 in Punjab; 10 in Sindh; 4 in NWFP; 1 in Balochistan; 2 in Islamabad);
- **53 cases of acid throwing:**
(42 in Punjab; 9 in Sindh; 1 in NWFP; 0 in Balochistan; 1 in Islamabad);
- **1977 cases of violence were of miscellaneous nature** (vanni/swara, custodial violence, torture, trafficking, child marriages, incest, threat to violence, sexual harassment, attempted murder, suicide & rape) in the four provinces and Islamabad.

The number and percentage of the cases of abduction/kidnapping are 1987 (23.25%), murder 1384 (16.9%), rape/gang-rape 928 (10.86%), suicide 683 (7.99%); and ‘honour’ killing of women 604 (7.07%) among all the recorded/reported cases of 2009, followed by cases of sexual assault 274 (3.21%); stove burning 50 (0.58%); acid throwing 27 (0.60%); and offences of miscellaneous nature around (23.13%). 1,977 cases of violence were of miscellaneous nature i.e. (vanni/swara, custodial violence, torture, trafficking, child marriages, incest, threat to violence, sexual harassment, attempted murder, suicide & rape.) in the four provinces and Islamabad

Cases of Violence against Women: Comparison between 2008 & 2009

According to the data collected by Aurat Foundation’s offices in Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi, Peshawar and Quetta during 1st January to 31st December 2009, through its press clipping service, the cases of violence against women have increased in 2009 as compared to the previous year in 2008. There were 7571 cases of violence against women in 2008, which have jumped to 8548, an increase of almost 13 percent. This is despite the fact that less statistics were available from several districts of NWFP and Balochistan due to security situation.

Below is the table showing categories of offences, number of incidents and the percentages in comparison between 2008 and 2009.

VAW CASES: Comparison between 2008 & 2009

	<i>Number of Cases of VAW in Pakistan during January to December</i>	<i>Number of Cases of VAW in Pakistan during January to December</i>
Categories of Crime	Year 2008	Year 2009
Abduction/kidnapping	1,784	1,987
Murder	1,422	1,384
Domestic Violence	281	608
Suicide	599	683
Honor Killing	475	604
Rape/Gang Rape	778	928

Sexual Assault	172	274
Acid Throwing	29	53
Burning	61	50
Miscellaneous	1,970	1,977
Total	7,571	8,548

Overall Cases of Violence against Women in Punjab:

The data has shown that a total number of 5722 incidents of violence against women occurred in 35 districts of Punjab between (January- December) 2009.

Of these 5722 cases, there were:

- 752 cases of murder:
- 245 cases of ‘honour’ killing:
- 1698 cases of abduction/kidnapping:
- 271 cases of domestic violence:
- 448 cases of suicide:
- 786 cases of rape/gang-rape:
- 227 cases of sexual assault:
- 33 cases of stove burning:
- 42 cases of acid throwing:
- 1220 cases of violence were of miscellaneous nature in different parts of the province.

Out of the total of 5722 incidents, there were 1698 cases of abduction/ kidnapping; 752 cases of murder; 245 of ‘honour’ killing; 786 of rape/gang-rape; 448 incidents of suicide; 227 cases of sexual assault; 33 of stove burning; 42 of acid throwing; and 1220 cases of miscellaneous nature of violence against women occurred in different parts of the province.

Overall Cases of Violence against Women in Sindh:

A total number of 1762 incidents of violence against women were recorded in 23 districts of Sindh during January- December, 2009.

Out of a total of 1762 cases of violence against women in Sindh, there were:

- 288 cases of murder
- 284 cases of ‘honour’ killing
- 160 cases of abduction/kidnapping
- 134 cases of domestic violence
- 176 cases of suicide
- 122 cases of rape/gang-rape
- 44 cases of sexual assault
- 10 cases of stove burning

- 9 cases of acid throwing
- 535 cases of miscellaneous in nature

Of the total of 1762 incidents, there were 288 cases of murder (one of the heist ratio of crime against women reported from the province) ; 284 cases of ‘honour’ killing; 160 of abduction/ kidnapping; 176 incidents of suicide; 122 cases of rape and gang-rape; 122 cases of domestic violence; 44 of sexual assault; 10 of stove burning; 9 of acid throwing; and 535 cases of miscellaneous nature violence occurred in different parts of the province.

Overall Cases of Violence against Women in NWFP:

A total number of 655 incidents of violence against women occurred in 23 districts of NWFP during January- December, 2009.

Out of a total of 655 cases of violence against women in NWFP, there were:

- 266 cases of murder
- 14 cases of ‘honour’ killing
- 64 cases of abduction/kidnapping
- 163 cases of domestic violence
- 43 cases of suicide
- 7 cases of rape/gang-rape
- 0 cases of sexual assault
- 4 cases of stove burning
- 01 cases of acid throwing
- 93 cases of miscellaneous nature.

Of the total of 655 incidents, there were 266 cases of murder; 43b incidents of suicide; 163 cases of domestic violence; 64 of abduction/ kidnapping; 14 of ‘honour’ killing; 7 cases of rape/gang rape; 4 cases of stove burning; 1 acid throwing and; 93 cases of miscellaneous nature.

Overall Cases of Violence against Women in Balochistan:

The study has shown that a total number of 237 incidents of violence against women occurred in 28 districts of Balochistan between during January- December, 2009.

Out of a total of 237 cases of violence against women in Balochistan, there were:

- 39 cases of murder:
- 59 cases of ‘honour’ killing:
- 13 cases of abduction/kidnapping:
- 22 cases of domestic violence:
- 10 cases of suicide:
- 4 cases of rape/gang-rape:
- 1 cases of sexual assault

- 1 cases of stove burning:
- 88 cases of miscellaneous in nature

Of the total of 237 incidents, there were 59 cases of ‘honour’ killing; 39 cases of murder; 13 cases of abduction/ kidnapping; 4 cases of rape/gang-rape; 10 incidents of suicide; 1 cases of stove burning; 22 cases of domestic violence; and 88 cases were of miscellaneous in nature

Overall Cases of Violence against Women in Islamabad:

There were a total of 172 incidents of violence against women in Islamabad between (January-December, 2009)

Out of a total of 172 cases of violence against women in Islamabad, there were:

- 39 cases of murder
- 2 cases of ‘honour’ killing
- 52 cases of abduction/kidnapping
- 18 cases of domestic violence
- 6cases of suicide
- 9 cases of rape/gang-rape
- 2 cases of sexual assault
- 2 cases of stove burning
- 1 case of acid throwing
- 41 cases of miscellaneous nature

Of the total of 172 incidents, there were 39 cases of murder; 2 of ‘honour’ killing; 52 of abduction/ kidnapping; 18 cases of domestic violence; 9 of rape/gang rape; 1 of sexual assault; 2 incidents of suicide; 2 of stove burning; 1 acid throwing and 41 cases of miscellaneous nature of offences against women were recorded .

The data is part of a report that will published soon, which will carry the entire collection and compilation of statistics on the incidents of violence against women during January to December 2009 under Aurat Foundation’s national programme ‘Policy and Data Monitor on Violence against Women’ for the elimination of violence against women in Pakistan.

Violence against Women Watch Group, Islamabad

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