

## Press Briefing

# Incidents of Violence against Women in Pakistan Reported during January to June 2011

**Islamabad:** Aurat Foundation's Policy Data Monitor-Violence Against Women (PDM) Programme has observed sharp increase in the reported cases of violence against women during January to June, 2011, as compared to the same time period last year. As a leading organization, the Foundation is constantly struggling to seek the attention of policy makers for ending violence against women.

The statistics revealed by the organization with heavy heart, show that a total of 4448 cases of VAW were reported during January to June, 2011, as compared to 4061 reported during same period in year 2010.

Out of the total 4448 cases of VAW during first six months of the current year, 3035 cases were reported from Punjab, 819 from Sindh, 389 from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and 133 from Balochistan, whereas 72 cases were reported from Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT).

Abduction and kidnapping topped the list of violence against women with 1137 cases reported in only six months. Murder of women for various reasons (including property dispute, men going for more marriages etc, but not including the 'honour' crime) was the second largest crimes with 799 number of women murdered during the reported period. Rape / gang-rape were the third largest category with 396 cases reported. Increase in committing suicide among youth, was another alarming factor which indicated the violent environment women of the country live in – During the reporting period, 402 precious lives were lost as they killed themselves.

Contrary to overall increase in reported cases of violence against women in the country, the number of reported cases in Sindh province show a decline in violence against women, compared to the figures composed last year. This might be due to fact that print media put on its priority the coverage of law and order situation in Sindh during the reporting period. Compared to last year's figure of 940 cases, this year, during the same period, i.e. January to June 2011, 819 incidents of violence against women were reported in 23 districts of Sindh.

The Aurat Foundation believes that these statistics are just the tip of the iceberg and majority of VAW cases remain unrecorded due to social and traditional norms. Lack of access to reporting system of violence which women face, the so-called tradition of 'keeping family's respect unbroken'.

Aurat Foundation has entered its **fourth year** in monitoring and highlighting the cases of violence against women from all the provincial regions of Pakistan and the ICT (not including the region of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB)); however, Aurat Foundation is in a process

of setting an office in GB, and monitoring the violence against women in the region). The objective behind releasing qualitative and quantitative analysis on bi-annual and annual basis has always been to lobby with legislators, particularly women legislators in the National Assembly, the Senate of Pakistan, and the four provincial assemblies, for recognizing violence against women as an offence and mobilizing law enforcing agencies and communities to take necessary measures like introducing required legislation, effective arrangement for legal literacy on the issue to the concerned implementing state institutions including lower courts, and sensitizing police institutions towards reporting cases of violence against women properly.

By sharing this data with the media and concerned institutions, Aurat Foundation also expresses its commitment to shape a society composed for 'Zero Tolerance to violence against women' in Pakistan. The data was gathered and compiled from the newspapers from all regions and languages.

Data breakdown in terms of 'type of violence against women' and provincial total is given below:

### **Type and intensity of violence against women**

As compiled, out of a total of **4448** cases of violence against women in Pakistan, there were:

- **1137 cases of abduction/kidnapping:**  
(986 in Punjab; 101 in Sindh; 28 in KP; 9 in Balochistan; 13 in Islamabad);
- **799 cases of murder:**  
(405 in Punjab; 160 in Sindh; 179 in KP; 40 in Balochistan; 15 in Islamabad);
- **396 cases of rape/gang-rape:**  
(343 in Punjab; 43 in Sindh; 3 in KP; 4 in Balochistan; 3 in Islamabad);
- **402 cases of suicide:**  
(271 in Punjab; 76 in Sindh; 41 in KP; 11 in Balochistan; 3 in Islamabad);
- **382 cases of 'honour' killing:**  
(148 in Punjab; 155 in Sindh; 14 in KP; 64 in Balochistan; 1 in Islamabad);
- **356 cases of domestic violence:**  
(181 in Punjab; 85 in Sindh; 81 in KP; 0 in Balochistan; 9 in Islamabad);
- **57 cases of sexual assault:**  
(25 in Punjab; 29 in Sindh; 0 in KP; 0 in Balochistan; 3 in Islamabad);
- **16 cases of stove burning:**  
(16 in Punjab; 0 in Sindh; 0 in KP; 0 in Balochistan; 0 in Islamabad);
- **22 cases of acid throwing:**  
(17 in Punjab; 3 in Sindh; 0 in KP; 0 in Balochistan; 2 in Islamabad);
- **881 cases of violence were of miscellaneous nature:**  
(vanni/swara, custodial violence, torture, trafficking, child marriages, incest, threat to violence, sexual harassment, attempted murder, Land Encroaching, harassment at workplace, suicide & rape) in the four provinces and in Islamabad.

The number and percentage of the cases of abduction/kidnapping is the highest i.e. 1137 with a very high percentage of 25.7%. Murder, the second highest offence reaches about

17.56% of the total offences. However, the menace of suicide seems to have taken over the youth and reaches up to 9.04% of the total cases with 400 victims losing their lives. The shameful incidents of rape and sexual assault collectively reach 10.24% leaving young girls and women in a distressing situation.

The detailed offences in terms of percentages are shown as under:

***Number & Percentage of Cases of VAW in Pakistan during January to June 2011***

<b>Category of Crime</b>	<b>Total Number of Cases</b>	<b>%age of the Total</b>
Abduction/kidnapping	1137	25.6%
Murder	799	17.96%
Domestic Violence	356	8.00%
Suicide	402	9.04%
Honour Killing	382	8.59%
Rape/Gang Rape	396	8.90%
Sexual Assault	57	1.28%
Acid Throwing	22	0.49%
Burning	16	0.34%
Miscellaneous	881	19.81%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4448</b>	<b>100%</b>

It is a state of great concern that Islamabad, the city that houses standard institutions, also fails to control VAW cases. The AF believes that a positive change can be brought in a country when at least its capital is made safe zone from women. The officials need to pay attention to this situation because if we aim to end violence and crime in our society, we will first have to establish an ideal situation in the ICT.

**Regional Data**

**Overall Cases of Violence against Women in Punjab:**

The report has shown that a total number of 3035 incidents of violence against women occurred in 35 districts of Punjab between January to June, 2011. Of these 3035 cases, there were:

- 405 cases of murder:
- 148 cases of ‘honour’ killing:
- 986 cases of abduction/kidnapping:
- 181 cases of domestic violence:
- 271 cases of suicide:
- 343 cases of rape/gang-rape:
- 25 cases of sexual assault:
- 16 cases of stove burning:
- 17 cases of acid throwing:
- 643 cases of violence were of miscellaneous nature

Out of the total of 3035 incidents, there were 986 cases of abduction/ kidnapping; 405 cases of murder; 181 of domestic violence; 148 of 'honour' killing; 343 of rape/gang-rape; 271 incidents of suicide; 25 cases of sexual assault; 16 of stove burning; 17 of acid throwing; and 643 cases of miscellaneous nature of violence against women occurred in different parts of the province.

**Overall Cases of Violence against Women in Sindh:**

In Sindh province, during the reporting period i.e. January to June 2011, 819 incidents of violence against women were recorded in 23 districts of Sindh. Of the total of 819 incidents, there were 155 cases of 'honor' killing; 160 cases of murder; 101 of abduction/kidnapping; 76 incidents of suicide; 43 cases of rape and gang-rape; 85 cases of domestic violence; 29 of sexual assault; 3 of acid throwing; and 167 cases of miscellaneous type of violence were reported in the province. The category-wise breakdown of these cases is as under:

- 160 cases of murder
- 155 cases of 'honour' killing
- 101 cases of abduction/kidnapping
- 85 cases of domestic violence
- 76 cases of suicide
- 43 cases of rape/gang-rape
- 29 cases of sexual assault
- 3 cases of acid throwing
- 167 cases of miscellaneous in nature

**Overall Cases of Violence against Women in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa:**

A total number of 389 incidents of violence against women were reported in 23 districts of KP during January- June, 2011. The expansion of the offences in KP is shown as under:

- 179 cases of murder
- 14 cases of 'honour' killing
- 28 cases of abduction/kidnapping
- 81 cases of domestic violence
- 41 cases of suicide
- 3 cases of rape/gang-rape
- 43 cases of miscellaneous nature.

It is clearly shown that the number of incidents of murder were the highest in KP reaching to 179 cases, followed by domestic violence incidents i.e. 81 cases. Around 14 cases of 'honour' killing, 28 incidents of abduction/kidnapping, 41 incidents of suicide, 3 cases of rape/gang rape, and 43 cases of miscellaneous nature occurred in the first half of the year 2011.

### **Overall Cases of Violence against Women in Balochistan:**

A total of 133 cases were reported in the 1<sup>st</sup> six months of the year 2011. These cases were reported from 28 districts of Balochistan which is presented in detail as under:

- 40 cases of murder:
- 64 cases of ‘honour’ killing:
- 09 cases of abduction/kidnapping:
- 11 cases of suicide:
- 4 cases of rape/gang-rape:
- 5 cases of miscellaneous in nature

Of the total of 133 incidents, there were 64 cases of ‘honor’ killing; 40 cases of murder; 4 cases of rape/gang-rape; 9 cases of abduction/ kidnapping; 11 incidents of suicide; and 5 cases were of miscellaneous in nature.

### **Overall Cases of Violence against Women in Islamabad:**

There were a total of 72 incidents of violence against women in Islamabad from January to June 2010. Out of a total of 72 cases of violence in Islamabad, there were:

- 15 cases of murder
- 13 cases of abduction/kidnapping
- 9 cases of domestic violence
- 3 cases of suicide
- 3 cases of rape/gang-rape
- 3 cases of sexual assault
- 2 cases of Acid Throwing
- 24 cases of miscellaneous nature

Of the total of 72 incidents, there were 15 cases of murder; 13 of abduction/ kidnapping; 9 cases of domestic violence; 3 of rape/gang rape; 3 of sexual assault; 3 incidents of suicide; 2 of acid throwing and 24 cases of miscellaneous nature of offences against women were recorded .

We owe great gratitude to our media partners for their support and help as it is due to their reports that we are able to gather and compile such an in depth data on a nationwide scale. We however cannot forget to thank newspapers like Jung, Express and Dawn news as they have improved their reporting and use gender sensitive language in their reports. This positive collaboration between us and the media will surely bring fruitful results in future and we hope and expect all our media partners to support us like this so that together we work for attaining “Zero Tolerance against VAW” mission.

### **Violence against Women Watch Group, Islamabad**

**AURAT FOUNDATION – ISLAMABAD**

