Press Briefing

Incidents of Violence against Women in Pakistan
Reported during 2011

Islamabad:
As part of its continuous efforts to highlight the issue of violence against women and its
different manifestations in Pakistani society, the Aurat Foundation (AF) is launching the
fourth Annual Statistics of Violence against Women.

The research gives an overall glimpse of the situation of violence against women in the
country in 2011. Based on media reports, the compiled data not only gives the split of
offences reported from all over the country but also provides a comparative analysis of
different provinces with respect to VAW incidents.

The fourth annual report shows that 8539 women became victims of violence in 2011 and
there was an overall 6.74 % increase in reported cases of VAW in the country as
compared to year 2010. The figure was 8000 in 2010; in 2009, the incidents of violence
against women 8548 and; in 2008, these incidents were 7571. This shows that by and
large the incidents of violence against women in the last four years were in the same
range with some increase and decrease and; the society has not witnessed any radical
departure in its trends in the unfortunate commission of crimes against women. This
reflect a kind of a status quo, also indicating that neither State is doing to eliminate this
violence nor society is responding to curb uncivilized behavior.

In some forms of violence there has been notable increase, for instance, sexual assault
increased by 48.65%, acid throwing increased by 37.5%, ‘honour’ killings by 26.57%,
and domestic violence increased by 25.51%.

AF considers this number as the ‘tip of the iceberg’ as the data collected by our staff is
based on cases reported in media. It is an open fact that majority of violence against
women incidents are not reported in the media.

The report shows that in large number of incidents, the FIRs were not lodged which
reflects lack of confidence among citizens to approach police in case of such incidents.
Among the total 8539 incidents, FIR was registered in 6745 cases whereas no FIR was
registered in 911 cases and there was no information available in 883 cases. The biggest
number of unregistered cases was noted in Sindh province where FIRs were not
registered in 605 cases and no information was available in 75 incidents among the total
1316 reported cases.

In the process of collecting data, the AF staff has observed some emerging trends that, if
allowed to continue, will further aggravate the situation of violence against women in the
country. One such trend was noticed in Balochistan where, in most of the cases of Siah
Kari (honour killing), the women were killed on the orders of Jirga but the same Jirga let the men live after the exchange of heavy amount in terms of compensation.

The table below reflects the comparative data on violence against women in the last four years with percentages of increase or decrease in their incidence.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Categories of Crime</th>
<th>Year 2008</th>
<th>Year 2009</th>
<th>Year 2010</th>
<th>Year 2011</th>
<th>Grand Total</th>
<th>Percentage increase/decrease in VAW cases between 2010-2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abduction/Kidnapping</td>
<td>1,784</td>
<td>1,987</td>
<td>2236</td>
<td>2089</td>
<td>8096</td>
<td>-6.57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Murder</td>
<td>1,422</td>
<td>1,384</td>
<td>1436</td>
<td>1575</td>
<td>5817</td>
<td>9.68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic Violence</td>
<td>281</td>
<td>608</td>
<td>486</td>
<td>610</td>
<td>1985</td>
<td>25.51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suicide</td>
<td>599</td>
<td>683</td>
<td>633</td>
<td>758</td>
<td>2673</td>
<td>19.75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honor Killing</td>
<td>475</td>
<td>604</td>
<td>557</td>
<td>705</td>
<td>2341</td>
<td>26.57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rape/Gang Rape</td>
<td>778</td>
<td>928</td>
<td>928</td>
<td>827</td>
<td>3461</td>
<td>-10.88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual Assault</td>
<td>172</td>
<td>274</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>630</td>
<td>48.65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acid Throwing</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>37.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burning</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>178</td>
<td>-23.68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>1,970</td>
<td>1,977</td>
<td>1580</td>
<td>1792</td>
<td>7319</td>
<td>13.42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td><strong>7,571</strong></td>
<td><strong>8,548</strong></td>
<td><strong>8000</strong></td>
<td><strong>8539</strong></td>
<td><strong>32658</strong></td>
<td><strong>6.74%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Number of FIRs registered Province-wise

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FIR Status</th>
<th>No. of FIR registered province wise</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>% of the total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Registered</td>
<td>Punjab 5290 Sindh 636 KP 495 Baluchistan 193 ICT 131</td>
<td>6745</td>
<td>78.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Registered</td>
<td>Punjab 193 Sindh 605 KP 100 Baluchistan - ICT 13</td>
<td>911</td>
<td>10.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. Information</td>
<td>Punjab 705 Sindh 75 KP 99 Baluchistan - ICT 4</td>
<td>883</td>
<td>10.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Punjab 6188 Sindh 1316 KP 694 Baluchistan 193 ICT 148</td>
<td>8539</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It was sad to note that most of the perpetrators of violence against women were found to be the relatives of the survivor or the victim such as husband, brother, cousin, father, uncle, father and mother in law, brother in law, son or step son. Honor killing was almost always committed by male family members against female family members who are accused to have brought dishonor upon the family.

At the same time, it is heartening to note that 2011 witnessed some landmark women-related legislations being unopposed in the National Assembly and Senate. The AF believes that the establishment of an independent and autonomous National Commission on Women (NCW) and the passage of Anti-Women Practices (Criminal Law Amendment) Bill from the Parliament are some of the big achievements of the present
government and will go a long way in protecting women from violence and
discrimination in future.

Along with this positive note, the AF reiterates its demand for effective implementation
of these legislations and reveals 2011 statistics on violence against women as a reminder
of the fact that women, as vulnerable segment of the society, continue to be victimized in
the name of honour, dispute settlement and personal motives/gains throughout the year.

The annual statistics are also a grim reminder to the policy-makers, legislators and
general public that thousands of women were killed, tortured, abducted and exchanged
like cattle in the name of marriage and dispute settlements despite historic legislation
approved in the Parliament during the same year.

Out of total 8539 cases of violence, 6188 incidents were reported in Punjab, 1316 in
Sindh, 694 in KPK, 198 in Balochistan, and 148 in Islamabad.

*Total Number & Percentage of Cases by Province/ICT and bi-annual of Year (2011)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Province</th>
<th>1st Bi-Annual (Jan – June 2011)</th>
<th>2nd Bi-Annual (July - Dec 2011)</th>
<th>Total Numbers and % age</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Punjab</td>
<td>3035</td>
<td>3153</td>
<td>6188 3.89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sindh</td>
<td>819</td>
<td>497</td>
<td>1316 -64.79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KPK</td>
<td>389</td>
<td>305</td>
<td>694 -21.59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baluchistan</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>198 -54.88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICT</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>148 5.56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td>4448</td>
<td>4091</td>
<td>8539 -8.03%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If compared, the statistics mentioned in Table 1 show decrease in the reported cases of
VAW in Sindh and Balochistan in the second half of the year whereas the figure
remained almost the same in other parts of the country.

The analysis by AF team shows that the decrease in reporting was a result of depleting
law and order situation in these two provinces. Increase in the cases of target killings and
kidnapping for ransom in Sindh and Balochistan attracted the attention of media which
led to more media reporting on overall violent situation.

Another reason for less reporting in Sindh was due to the damage done by unexpected
floods in July 2011. The floods not only damaged the main infrastructure but also led to
the loss of official judicial and crime record. The natural catastrophe greatly disturbed the
reporting mechanism of VAW cases in the province.

However, with an overall 6.74% increase in violence cases from 2010 to 2011, the
number of incidents decreased 8.03% from the first half to the second half of 2011.
The collected data represents the reported incidence of violence against women from 113 districts of Pakistan (Punjab; 36, Sindh; 23, Khyber Pukhtoonkhwa; 26, Balochistan; 28), Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) and Federally and Provincially Administered Areas.

Following is the breakdown of the compiled 8539 cases reported in 2011 on regional basis:

- **2089 cases of abduction/kidnapping:**
  - (1846 in Punjab; 152 in Sindh; 47 in KP; 17 in Balochistan; 27 in Islamabad);
- **1575 cases of murder:**
  - (897 in Punjab; 255 in Sindh; 341 in KP; 48 in Balochistan; 34 in Islamabad);
- **827 cases of rape/gang-rape:**
  - (734 in Punjab; 68 in Sindh; 7 in KP; 10 in Balochistan; 8 in Islamabad);
- **758 cases of suicide:**
  - (533 in Punjab; 117 in Sindh; 83 in KP; 16 in Balochistan; 9 in Islamabad);
- **705 cases of ‘honour’ killing:**
  - (322 in Punjab; 266 in Sindh; 30 in KP; 86 in Balochistan; 1 in Islamabad);
- **610 cases of domestic violence:**
  - (348 in Punjab; 137 in Sindh; 104 in KP; 0 in Balochistan; 21 in Islamabad);
- **110 cases of sexual assault:**
  - (64 in Punjab; 41 in Sindh; 0 in KP; 0 in Balochistan; 5 in Islamabad);
- **29 cases of burning:**
  - (28 in Punjab; 1 in Sindh; 0 in KP; 0 in Balochistan; 0 in Islamabad);
- **44 cases of acid throwing:**
  - (32 in Punjab; 6 in Sindh; 0 in KP; 4 in Balochistan; 2 in Islamabad);
- **1792 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, attempted cases of suicide & rape) in the four provinces and in Islamabad.

The number and percentage of the cases of abduction/kidnapping tops the list with 2089 such cases reported in 2011 with a very high proportion of 24.46%. Murder combined with ‘honour’ killings total to another ugly figure of 2280, constituting 26.70% of total crimes against women, with 1575 murders of women (18.44%) and 705 ‘Honor’ killing of women (8.25%).

There were 827 shameful incidents of rape and gang-rape in 2011 with 9.68%. There were 758 cases of suicide by women (8.87%) in 2011. There were 110 cases of sexual assault (1.28%); 29 burning & acid throwing incidents in each category (0.33%); and offences of miscellaneous nature were 20.98% of total with a figure of 1792 cases of violence in four provincial regions and Islamabad.

**Overall Cases of Violence against Women in Punjab:**
The report has shown that a total number of 6188 incidents of violence against women occurred in 36 districts of Punjab, between January to December 2011. Of these 6188 cases, there were:

- 897 cases of murder:
- 322 cases of ‘honour’ killing:
- 1846 cases of abduction/kidnapping:
- 348 cases of domestic violence:
- 533 cases of suicide:
- 734 cases of rape/gang-rape:
- 64 cases of sexual assault:
- 28 cases of stove burning:
- 32 cases of acid throwing:
- 1384 cases of violence were of miscellaneous nature

Out of the total of 6188 incidents, there were 1846 cases of abduction/ kidnapping; 897 cases of murder; 348 of domestic violence; 322 of ‘honour’ killing; 734 of rape/gang-rape; 533 incidents of suicide; 64 cases of sexual assault; 28 of stove burning; 32 of acid throwing; and 1384 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 1316 incidents of violence against women were recorded in 23 districts of Sindh during January- December, 2011. Out of a total of these, there were:

- 255 cases of murder
- 266 cases of ‘honour’ killing
- 152 cases of abduction/kidnapping
- 137 cases of domestic violence
- 117 cases of suicide
- 68 cases of rape/gang-rape
• 41 cases of sexual assault
• 6 cases of acid throwing
• 1 case of burning
• 273 cases of miscellaneous in nature

Of the total of 1316 incidents, there were 266 cases of ‘honour’ killing; 255 cases of murder; 152 of abduction/kidnapping; 117 incidents of suicide; 68 cases of rape and gang-rape; 137 cases of domestic violence; 41 cases of sexual assault; 6 of acid throwing; and 273 cases of miscellaneous nature occurred in different parts of the province respectively.

**Overall Cases of Violence against Women in Khyber Pukhtunkhwa:**
A total number of 694 incidents of violence against women occurred in 26 districts of KPK during January-December, 2011. Out of a total of 694 cases of violence against women in KP, there were:

• 341 cases of murder
• 30 cases of ‘honour’ killing
• 47 cases of abduction/kidnapping
• 104 cases of domestic violence
• 83 cases of suicide
• 7 cases of rape/gang-rape
• 0 cases of sexual assault
• 0 cases of acid throwing
• 0 cases of burning
• 50 cases of miscellaneous nature.

Of the total of 694 incidents, there were 341 cases of murder; 83 incidents of suicide; 104 cases of domestic violence; 47 cases of abduction/kidnapping; 30 of ‘honour’ killing; 7 cases of rape/gang rape and 70 cases of miscellaneous nature were reported.

**Overall Cases of Violence against Women in Balochistan:**
The study has shown that a total number of 193 incidents of violence against women occurred in 28 districts of Balochistan between during the year 2011. Out of the mentioned 193 cases, there were:

• 48 cases of murder:
• 86 cases of ‘honour’ killing:
• 17 cases of abduction/kidnapping:
• 0 cases of domestic violence:
• 16 cases of suicide:
• 10 cases of rape/gang-rape:
• 0 case of burning:
• 4 cases of acid throwing
• 12 cases of miscellaneous in nature
Of the total of 193 incidents, there were 86 cases of ‘honour’ killing; 48 cases of murder; 10 cases of rape/gang-rape; 16 incidents of suicide; 4 cases of acid throwing; and 12 cases were of miscellaneous nature.

**Overall Cases of Violence against Women in Islamabad:**
There were a total of 148 incidents of violence reported in Islamabad during 2011. Out of 148 cases of violence in Islamabad, there were:

- 34 cases of murder
- 27 cases of abduction/kidnapping
- 21 cases of domestic violence
- 9 cases of suicide
- 8 cases of rape/gang-rape
- 5 cases of sexual assault
- 2 cases of acid throwing
- 0 case of burning
- 42 cases of miscellaneous nature

Of the total of 148 incidents, there were 34 cases of murder; 27 of abduction/kidnapping; 21 cases of domestic violence; 8 of rape/gang rape; 5 cases of sexual assault; 9 incidents of suicide; 2 case of acid throwing and 42 cases of miscellaneous nature.

It will be unjust if the contribution of media in highlighting VAW case is not appreciated and acknowledged here. Such cases were given ample importance in both print and electronic media during the year 2011. We are thankful to our media partners as their everyday reports helped us to compile annual statistical data of these incidents.

However, the civil society has also pointed out certain gaps in the reporting style of such incidents in past. We think it is important to share these recommendations with media as it may be helpful for us in gathering in-depth data in future.

Our monitors have observed that in most of the cases, the incident is not covered from all the aspects. For example the marital status of victim, her age, weapons used in offences etc are not mentioned. Complete detail of the survivor or about the victim helps in the follow up as well as compilation of cases.

In most of the cases, correct information is not given by the media regarding a certain case. The follow up of the stories is found lacking in many cases. We request them to verify the status of a case in more detail.

The objective behind this briefing on “Situation of Violence against Women in Pakistan” is not only identification of the number of violence cases against women in Pakistan but also to create a more informed and supportive environment and mobilization of social pressure to eliminate violence against from Pakistan.

**Violence against Women Watch Group, Islamabad**

AURAT FOUNDATION – ISLAMABAD