

## Press Briefing

# Incidents of Violence against Women in Pakistan during January-December 2010

**24 February 2011 - Islamabad#**

#

A brief report highlighting the situation of violence against women in Pakistan in 2010, is being released by the Aurat Foundation and Violence against Women watch Group, Islamabad, at a press conference today. The summary of the report presents a grim picture of the overall state of affairs regarding violence against women in the country.

Titled the “3rd Annual Statistics of Violence against Women”, the report splits of offences reported from all over Pakistan and highlights the variance of statistics. There is general consensus that the more vulnerable citizens in the country were greatly exploited and made victim of violence.

According to the figures in the detailed report which will be released in March 2011, there were 8000 incidents of violence against women in the country in 2010. Based on the reported cases in a majority of newspapers of Pakistan, no FIR was registered in a large number of incidents, reflecting the citizens’ lack of confidence in police.

Out of a total 8000 incidents, as many as 5492 cases of violence were reported from Punjab; 1652 from Sindh; 650 from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 79 from Baluchistan and 127 from Islamabad. The figures of Islamabad are alarming given the smaller population and high security maintained in the capital.

*Table-I*

*Total Number & Percentage of Cases by Province/ICT and bi-annual of Year (2010))*

Province	1 <sup>st</sup> Bi-Annual (Jan – June 2010)	2 <sup>nd</sup> Bi-Annual (July - Dec 2010)	Total Numbers and % age	
<b>Punjab</b>	2690	2802	<b>5492</b>	<b>68.65%</b>
<b>Sindh</b>	940	712	<b>1652</b>	<b>20.65%</b>
<b>KPK</b>	342	308	<b>650</b>	<b>8.12%</b>
<b>Baluchistan</b>	56	23	<b>79</b>	<b>0.98%</b>
<b>ICT</b>	41	86	<b>127</b>	<b>1.58%</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>4069</b>	<b>3931</b>	<b>8000</b>	<b>100%</b>

Of the total incidents, 2236 women were abducted; 1436 women were murdered and 557 were killed in the name of ‘honour’ killing; 928 women were raped; 633 women committed suicide; 32 women were made victim of acid attacks and 38 women were target of stove burning.

This is a grim reminder that evil social practices persist, such as the fact that several women were exchanged like cattle to settle disputes adjudicated by illegal jirgas, or hundreds were killed on the pretext of so-called ‘honour’.

**Table- II**  
**Number & Percentages of Cases of VAW in Pakistan during 2008-2010**

Number of Cases of VAW in Pakistan during January to December 2009 to January to December 2010					
Categories of Crime	Year 2008	Year 2009	Year 2010	Grand Total	Percentage increase/decrease in VAW cases between 2009-2010
<b>Abduction/Kidnapping</b>	1,784	1,987	2236	6,007	12.53%
<b>Murder</b>	1,422	1,384	1436	4,242	3.76%
<b>Domestic Violence</b>	281	608	486	1375	-20.06%
<b>Suicide</b>	599	683	633	1915	-7.32%
<b>Honor Killing</b>	475	604	557	1636	-7.78 %
<b>Rape/Gang Rape</b>	778	928	928	2634	0%
<b>Sexual Assault</b>	172	274	74	520	-72%
<b>Acid Throwing</b>	29	53	32	114	-39.62%
<b>Burning</b>	61	50	38	149	-24.00%
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	1,970	1,977	1580	5,527	-20.08%
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,571</b>	<b>8,548</b>	<b>8000</b>	<b>24119</b>	<b>-6.41%</b>

If we compare the statistics mentioned in Table-II, it is clear from the data of 2009 that there has been 13 % increase in the violence against women over the proceeding year in 2008. But the data analysis of 2010 reflects a decrease of 6% over the proceeding year

2009. The decrease in figures is due to the fact that the recent natural catastrophe in the country not only damaged the main infrastructure of most of the flood affected districts but also led to the loss of valuable official, judicial and crime records. Moreover, as the media’s focus was also shifted in highlighting the relief activities throughout the country, the women related issues were less reported.

The collected data represents the reported incidence of violence against women from 113 Districts of Pakistan i.e.36 districts of Punjab; 23 of Sindh ; 26 of KPK; 28 of Baluchistan, Islamabad Capital Territory and federally and Provincially Administered Areas.

The FIR status of the gathered data reveals that 3650 cases reported were registered while 1118 cases were not registered. The remaining 430 cases have no information about whether or not the cases been registered or not.

Following is the break down of the compiled **8000** cases reported in 2010 on regional basis:

- **2236 cases of abduction/kidnapping:**

- (1890 in Punjab; 246 in Sindh; 77 in KPK; 2 in Balochistan; 21 in Islamabad);
- **1436 cases of murder:**  
(758 in Punjab; 309 in Sindh; 328 in KPK; 15 in Balochistan; 27 in Islamabad);
- **928 cases of rape/gang-rape:**  
(741 in Punjab; 157 in Sindh; 5 in KPK; 6 in Balochistan; 19 in Islamabad);
- **633 cases of suicide:**  
(424 in Punjab; 164 in Sindh; 54 in KPK; 8 in Balochistan; 7 in Islamabad);
- **557 cases of ‘honor’ killing:**  
(233 in Punjab; 266 in Sindh; 22 in KPK; 36 in Balochistan; 0 in Islamabad);
- **486 cases of domestic violence:**  
(246 in Punjab; 136 in Sindh; 89 in KPK; 4 in Balochistan; 11 in Islamabad);
- **74 cases of sexual assault:**  
(39 in Punjab; 34 in Sindh; 0 in KPK; 0 in Balochistan; 1 in Islamabad);
- **38 cases of burning:**  
(33 in Punjab; 0 in Sindh; 3 in KPK; 1 in Balochistan; 1 in Islamabad);
- **32 cases of acid throwing:**  
(20 in Punjab; 3 in Sindh; 0 in KPK; 5 in Balochistan; 3 in Islamabad);
- **1579 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.

Unfortunately, the number and percentage of the cases of abduction/kidnapping are 2236 with a very high proportion of 27.95%. Murder combined with ‘honor’ killings total to another ugly figure of 1193, constituting 14.9% of total crimes against women, with 1436 murders of women (17.95%) and 557 ‘honor’ killing of women (6.96%).

There were 928 shameful incidents of rape and gang-rape in 2010 with 11.6%. There were 633 incidents of suicide by women (7.9%) in 2010. There were 74 cases of sexual assault (0.925%); 70 burning & acid throwing incidents in each category (0.875%); and offences of miscellaneous nature were around (19.75%) with a total of 1580 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 5492 incidents of violence against women occurred in 36 districts of Punjab, between January to December 2010. Of these 5492 cases, there were:

- 758 cases of murder:
- 233 cases of ‘honor’ killing:
- 1890 cases of abduction/kidnapping:
- 246 cases of domestic violence:
- 424 cases of suicide:
- 741 cases of rape/gang-rape:
- 39 cases of sexual assault:
- 33 cases of stove burning:

- 20 cases of acid throwing;
- 1108 cases of violence were of miscellaneous nature

Out of the total of 5492 incidents, there were 1890 cases of abduction/ kidnapping; 758 cases of murder; 246 of domestic violence; 233 of 'honor' killing; 741 of rape/gang-rape; 424 incidents of suicide; 39 cases of sexual assault; 33 of stove burning; 20 of acid throwing; and 1108 cases of miscellaneous nature of violence against women occurred in different parts of the province. 4804 cases were registered; 177 cases were no registered while the status of remaining 511 cases is unknown.

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

A total number of 1652 incidents of violence against women were recorded in 23 districts of Sindh during January- December, 2010. Out of a total of these, there were:

- 309 cases of murder
- 266 cases of 'honour' killing
- 246 cases of abduction/kidnapping
- 136 cases of domestic violence
- 140 cases of suicide
- 157 cases of rape/gang-rape
- 34 cases of sexual assault
- 3 cases of acid throwing
- 361 cases of miscellaneous in nature

Of the total of 1652 incidents, there were 266 cases of 'honor' killing; 308 cases of murder; 246 of abduction/ kidnapping; 140 incidents of suicide; 157 cases of rape and gang-rape; 136 cases of domestic violence; 34 of sexual assault; 3 of acid throwing; and 362 cases of miscellaneous nature occurred in different parts of the province respectively. 653 cases are registered, 937 are not while 62 have no information.

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

A total number of 650 incidents of violence against women occurred in 26 districts of KPK during January- December, 2010. Out of a total of 650 cases of violence against women in KPK, there were:

- 328 cases of murder
- 22 cases of 'honor' killing
- 77 cases of abduction/kidnapping
- 89 cases of domestic violence
- 54 cases of suicide
- 5 cases of rape/gang-rape
- 1 case of acid throwing
- 3 cases of burning
- 71 cases of miscellaneous nature.

Of the total of 650 incidents, there were 328 cases of murder; 54 incidents of suicide; 89 cases of domestic violence; 77 of abduction/ kidnapping; 22 of 'honor' killing; 5 cases of rape/gang rape, acid Throwing 1 and burning 3 cases respectively and; 71 cases of miscellaneous nature were reported. 495 cases of VAW were registered, 71 cases were not registered and 84 cases had no information about FIR status.

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

The study has shown that a total number of 79 incidents of violence against women occurred in 28 districts of Baluchistan between during the year 2010. Out of the mentioned 79 cases, there were:

- 15 cases of murder:
- 36 cases of 'honor' killing:
- 2 cases of abduction/kidnapping:
- 4 cases of domestic violence:
- 8 cases of suicide:
- 6 cases of rape/gang-rape:
- 1 case of burning:
- 5 cases of Acid Throwing
- 2 cases of miscellaneous in nature

Of the total of 79 incidents, there were 36 cases of 'honor' killing; 15 cases of murder; 6 cases of rape/gang-rape; 8 incidents of suicide; 1 case of burning; 5 cases of Acid Throwing; 4 cases of domestic violence; and 2 cases were of miscellaneous nature. 76 cases of violence reported were registered while 3 cases were not registered.

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

There were a total of 127 incidents of violence reported in Islamabad during 2010. Out of 127 cases of violence in Islamabad, there were:

- 27 cases of murder
- 21 cases of abduction/kidnapping
- 11 cases of domestic violence
- 7 cases of suicide
- 19 cases of rape/gang-rape
- 1 case of sexual assault
- 3 cases of Acid Throwing
- 1 case of Burning
- 37 cases of miscellaneous nature

Of the total of 127 incidents, there were 27 cases of murder; 21 of abduction/ kidnapping; 11 cases of domestic violence; 19 of rape/gang rape; 1 of sexual assault; 7 incidents of suicide; 3 case of Acid Throwing; 3 cases of Burning and 37 cases of miscellaneous nature. Out of 127 cases of VAW, 77 were registered, 21 were not registered while 29 cases have no information.

Following is the status of crime in 15 top districts of Pakistan. It is observed that once again, Lahore tops the chart with maximum number of cases, followed by Faisalabad and Sargodha.

*Top 15 districts for VAW Crime*

*Table-III*

Sr. No.	District Names	Abduction/Kidnapping	Acid Throwing	Domestic Violence	Rape/Gang rape	Honors Killing	Murder	Sexual Assault	Suicide	Stove Burning	Miscellaneous	Grand Total
1	Lahore	521	2	28	110	19	109	7	76	3	214	1089
2	Faisalabad	343	3	25	128	22	82	8	41	5	130	787
3	Sargodha	146	1	21	49	18	36	2	15	2	84	374
4	Sheikhupura	132	1	8	51	8	46	22	14	0	41	323
5	Rawalpindi	114	0	25	21	2	52	8	21	16	30	289
6	Peshawar	54	0	61	1	4	87	0	10	1	27	245
7	Kasur	75	0	5	47	14	42	3	18	3	20	227
8	Okara	69	1	5	35	11	24	10	12	0	41	208
9	Multan	50	1	16	21	6	13	0	4	2	66	179
10	Sialkot	54	1	7	23	5	26	4	8	0	45	173
11	Khairpur	40	1	6	10	19	29	2	16	0	48	171
12	Gujranwala	17	1	7	33	9	38	0	22	0	19	156
13	Chakwal	32	1	14	9	0	20	5	40	9	24	154
14	Sahiwal	34	0	2	10	17	27	1	33	0	26	150
15	Toba tek singh	13	3	5	23	11	23	6	14	1	43	142

Since by now, our media partners are aware of the pattern on which we present the statistics of VAW, we would like to share one of our major concerns once again which we have been stressing upon from the beginning of the process of data compilation that we started. The more the details of the cases reported, the more a clear picture of VAW we could present. We therefore request our media reporters to give maximum, in-depth coverage of cases and include information like marital status of victims/survivors, age and weapons used in an offence. Such information helps in later follow-up of the cases.

We, however, can never deny the support of friends in media as our data compilation largely depends on cases that are reported in print media. About 70% our statistics depend on those cases that are reported in newspapers. We thank them for their support and cooperation.

The objective behind this briefing on annual report on “Situation of Violence against Women in Pakistan” is not only identification of the number of violence cases but also to create a more informed and supportive environment. It also aims at mobilizing the social pressure on decision-makers, independent judiciary, legal fraternity and media so that all individuals raise their voice to have i.e. ***“Zero tolerance against all sorts of violence in Pakistan”***.

**Violence against Women Watch Group, Islamabad**  
**AURAT FOUNDATION – ISLAMABAD**

#