

Press Release
“Cases of violence against women in Pakistan”
Reported in the year 2008
17 February 2009, Islamabad

Islamabad, February 17: Aurat Foundation launched its annual report of 2008 on the “Situation of Violence against Women in Pakistan” at Islamabad Press Club, in a Press Conference. The report is a collection and compilation of statistics on the incidents of violence against women during January to December 2008 under its national programme ‘Policy and Data Monitor on Violence against Women’ for the elimination of violence against women in Pakistan.

Violence against women is becoming an alarming phenomenon world wide affecting the dignity of millions of women. Violence against women as a cause and effect phenomenon is a major source of inequality, discrimination, stigmatization and conflict in private and public domain. Increasingly, it is becoming a central human right issue. The current statistics on violence against women is only the tip of the iceberg, as majority of cases being reported and covered by this report represent the physical nature of violence. Since the overwhelming prevalence of violence in the domestic domain is not reflected in the available data.

The report “Situation of Violence against Women in Pakistan” aims to identify the number of cases of violence against women in Pakistan thus it aims to create a more informed and supportive environment, mobilize social pressure. This data of violence against women would in the long run provide policy and law reform input to federal and provincial governments, political parties and legislators through consultative processes on developing policy framework and institutional mechanisms for ending violence against women.

A total of 7733 cases were reported in the print media all over Pakistan during the year 2008. Out of these 7733 cases (4360 cases reported in Punjab; 1385 in Sindh; 1013 in NWFP; 763 in Balochistan and 212 in Islamabad). Almost all these cases are reported cases. Among them, 5686 cases i.e.73.53% were registered with police, 1476 i.e. 19.09% cases were not registered and there is no evidence found in media regarding the FIR status of remaining 571 i.e.7.38% cases.

Out of the total of 7733 cases of violence against women:

- **1762 cases of abduction:**
(1403 in Punjab; 160 in Sindh; 71 in NWFP; 52 in Balochistan; 76 in Islamabad);
- **1516 cases of murder:**
(690 in Punjab; 288 in Sindh; 404 in NWFP; 115 in Balochistan; 19 in Islamabad);
- **844 cases of hurt and body injury:**
(279 in Punjab; 97 in Sindh; 193 in NWFP; 264 in Balochistan; 11 in Islamabad);
- **579 cases of suicide:**
(349 in Punjab; 144 in Sindh; 60 in NWFP; 18 in Balochistan;8 in Islamabad);

- **472 cases of ‘honour’ killings:**
(91 in Punjab; 220 in Sindh; 32 in NWFP; 127 in Balochistan; 2 in Islamabad);
- **439 cases of rape:**
(316 in Punjab; 80 in Sindh; 28 in NWFP; 10 in Balochistan; 5 in Islamabad);
- **307 cases of gang-rape:**
(248 in Punjab; 50 in Sindh; 1 in NWFP; 3 in Balochistan; 5 in Islamabad);
- **320 cases of domestic violence:**
(67 in Punjab; 98 in Sindh; 113 in NWFP; 34 in Balochistan; 8 in Islamabad);
- **300 cases of torture :**
(273 in Punjab; 3 in NWFP; 8 in Balochistan; 16 in Islamabad);
- **198 cases of attempted suicide:**
(105 in Punjab; 34 in Sindh; 6 in NWFP; 52 in Balochistan; 1 in Islamabad);
- **187 cases of sexual assault :**
(128 in Punjab; 40 in Sindh; 12 in NWFP; 3 in Balochistan; 4 in Islamabad);
- **123 cases of attempt to murder:**
(29 in Punjab; 42 in Sindh; 5 in NWFP; 45 in Balochistan; 2 in Islamabad);
- **117 cases of custodial violence:**
(43 in Punjab; 69 in Sindh; 5 in Islamabad);
- **70 cases of threat to violence:**
(49 in Punjab; 2 in Sindh; 19 in Islamabad);
- **56 cases of burning:**
(31 in Punjab; 11 in Sindh; 1 in NWFP; 12 in Balochistan; 1 in Islamabad);
- **25 case of Vanni/customary practices :**
(15 in Punjab; 7 in Sindh; 3 in NWFP);
- **24 cases of acid throwing:**
(19 in Punjab; 3 in Sindh; 2 in Islamabad);
- **394 cases of violence were of miscellaneous nature in the four provinces and Islamabad.**

The percentage of the cases of abduction/kidnapping of women among all these recorded/reported cases is the highest, i.e. 22.79 %; followed by the murder of women 19.60%; hurt and body injury 10.91%; suicide 7.49 %; honour killing 6.10%; rape 5.68%; domestic violence 4.14%; gang-rape 3.97%; torture 3.88%; attempt to suicide 2.56%; sexual assault 2.42%; attempt to murder 1.59%; custodial violence 1.51%; threat to violence 0.91%; Vanni/customary practices 0.32%; and miscellaneous cases 3.80%.

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