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## Turkey Chronicle 1 – Violence against women in Turkey

by hCa

Istanbul, April 2013

“As if there is war waged upon women” said Fatma Şahin, the Minister of Family and Social Policy of Turkey while answering a parliamentary question about the latest domestic violence figures in the country, not more than a week ago.<sup>1</sup> Within the same week of her statement, news in the press were merely verifying the Minister’s depressing comment:

***An estranged husband with restraining order shot her wife to death in front of the eyes of their 4 children in Ankara. (March 25, 2013)***

***A nurse in Edirne was shot and killed by her policeman husband in the hospital she was working in for insisting on filing for divorce. (March 26, 2013)***

***In Şanlıurfa, a 27 years old newlywed woman H.G. was murdered by his husband who pumped 10 bullets into her head. (March 27, 2013)***

***The young woman who was found shot by a gun in her home in in Yozgat, is still being treated in the intensive care unit at the hospital. (March 28, 2013)***

The widely referred data by the advocates of women rights movements in Turkey is the table used by the former Minister of Justice Sadullah Ergin to answer a parliamentary question involving violence against women on November 3, 2009. This table suddenly became very significant for the reason that it unambiguously demonstrated how violence against women had become an issue of human security for Turkey that called for urgent prioritization.

### Women Murdered in Turkey between 2002-2009

Years	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009(*)
No. of murders	66	83	164	317	663	1011	806	953

Source: *The Turkish Grand National Assembly Minutes Archive*

(\*) Between the dates 01.01.2009-13.07.2009

With a very basic calculation these statistics show that female homicide figures had increased nearly 1400 percent in 7 years, an immense rise of alarming nature with no apparent catastrophic stressor whatsoever. In other words, during the first 7 months of the 2009, almost 5 women were murdered daily.

When we compare the number of female homicide victims to the total homicide figures in the same period, the alarming nature of the issue becomes more apparent. According to Eurostat statistics, in 2002 the number of total homicide cases in Turkey is 5.394. This number falls to 2690 in 2009.<sup>2</sup> Thus, female homicide figures which had constituted only %1,2 percent of the total homicides for both sexes in 2002, increased enormously, up to %35.4 in 7 years. We used UNECE Statistical Database to extract the female homicide victims in 2010 and 2011 which are 596 and 531 respectively. 2012 homicide figures looks slightly “better” and yet physical abuse figures are highly disturbing. According to the statement made by Fatma Şahin, between January-September 2012, 30,254 women were subjected to physical abuse while 125 women lost their lives due to domestic violence. One should keep in mind that the latter figure do not include the women murdered by lovers, fiancés, stalkers, neighbors, ex-husbands, perverts etc... Just a very elementary calculation made by adding up the homicide and attempted murder stories in the mass media shows that victims of homicide is much

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.sabah.com.tr/Yasam/2013/03/28/kadina-sanki-savas-acilmis>

<sup>2</sup> <http://tinyurl.com/n4kf9k7>

higher as far as both married and unmarried women are concerned. According to the data gathered from the news by "Call for Action Against Femicides" Platform, the number of female killings is 211 in 2012.<sup>3</sup>

www.gunes.com HALKIN CESUR SESI

# GÜNEŞ

Veriis Bulmaca üç gazete 40 KURUŞ

15 Aralık 2011 Perşembe Fiyat: 40 Kuruş (KKTC 1 Lira)

## ERKEK TERÖRÜ

Kadına şiddet, kürsülerde atılan pembe nutuklara rağmen bütün hızı ile sürüyor. İşte dünün kahreden bilançosu

### Sen misin dava açan

ZONGULDAK'ın Alaplı ilçesinde Sibel Y. isimli 24 yaşındaki kadın, eski sevgilisi mimibus şoförü Anıl T. tarafından adliye kapısında tabanca ile vurularak öldürüldü. Sibel'in kendisini tehdit eden Anıl'a dava açtığı adliyeye duruşma için geldiği öğrenildi. Saldırım ardından kaçan Anıl T. yakalandı.

### Çocukların önünde kesti

TRABZON'da Aslan Ş. şüphelendiği sevgilisini rambo biçiminde 7 yerinden bıcaqlayarak öldürdü. Aslan Ş. genç kadının 2 çocuğu önünde işlediği cinayetten sonra karakola giderek teslim oldu. Annelerinin cesedi başında ağlarırken bulunan iki kardeşse psikolog desteği verilmeye başlandı.

### Oyuncudan eşe işkence

SİNEMA oyuncusu Ferhat Gündoğdu'nun eşi Zeynep, evi terk edip Adana'ya gitti. 3 adamıyla Adana'ya giden Ferhat eşini, feci şekilde dövdükten sonra elini bağını bağlayıp, cipinin bagajına attı. İstanbul'a dönerken yolda polisleri gören Zeynep'in "İmdat" çığlıklarını üzerine Ferhat gözetilene alındı.

### Yüz bulamadı kezzap attı

BALIKESİR'in Bandırma İlçesi'nde 51 yaşındaki evli ve 3 çocuk babası Yüksel K. aşkına karışık veremeyen 42 yaşındaki Merve Ç.'yi vücuduna kezzap dökerek hastanelik etti. Olaydan sonra kaçan Yüksel K. polis tarafından yakalandı. Vücudunda asit yangını olan Merve Ç. hastaneye kaldırıldı.

Adalet Sarayı önünde öldürüldü

Sibel, bir süre önce ayrıldığı sevgilisi Anıl'dan sürekli tehdit alıyordu. Beladan kurtulmak için her mekânı insan rühi adaletle benu arı. Ama di maras için çektiği sefide Anıl'ın öldürdü.

Cinnet günü 4'te

**THE MALE TERROR: Violence against women goes on at full speed despite the fanciful series of speeches made from benches (the headlines include; "Stabbed in front of her children"; "Who are you to file a divorce"; "The actor tortured her wife"; "Got rejected so threw acid in her face"; "She trusted in Justice, got killed in front of the courthouse"**

### Domestic violence

In a nationwide survey conducted by the Family Research Institution in 1995, approximately 30% of women had stated that "their husbands had beat them" while 34% of men had stated that they had beat their wives<sup>4</sup>. Two other nationwide surveys, those of Altınay and Arat and Directorate General on the Status of Women (DGSW) conducted in the second half of the 2000s came up with similar results.<sup>5</sup> According to the findings of Altınay and Arat's study, around 35% of married women in Turkey have been subjected to physical violence by their husbands at least once in their lives and 14% of them had been forced into sexual relations against their will at least once. According to DGSW's research 39 percent of women in Turkey have been exposed to certain acts of physical violence by their husbands or intimate partners at any time in their lives. The sexual violence experience of women within marriage is given as 15 percent in this study. Obviously, for comprehensible reasons, it is more difficult for women to disclose experiences of sexual abuses compared to those of physical ones. Therefore these figures are expected to be much higher than stated since majority of domestic sexual abuse cases are not brought before the courts.

Unfortunately, since such surveys and studies have not been repeated on a regular basis or developed further, the amount of information produced about a fundamental violation affecting the lives of six to eight million women in Turkey remains very inadequate.

### Zeynep Şarlak

<sup>3</sup> <http://kadinincinayetleriniidurducegiz.net/veriler/All>

<sup>4</sup> *Aile İçi Şiddetin Sebep ve Sonuçları*, 1995

<sup>5</sup> Ayşe Gül Altınay & Yeşim Arat, *Violence against Women in Turkey: A Nationwide Survey*, Punto, İstanbul 2009; *National Research on Domestic Violence Against Women in Turkey 2008*. For the full text of the documents see [http://www.kadinayonelihsiddet.org/KYS\\_ENG.pdf](http://www.kadinayonelihsiddet.org/KYS_ENG.pdf) and <http://www.hips.hacettepe.edu.tr/eng/violence.shtml>