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HUMAN RIGHTS ASSOCIATION (IHD)

Eastern and Southeastern Anatolia Regions

25 November 2016 - 25 November 2017
1 (one) Year

REPORT
on Violations Against
Women's Rights

25 November 2017
İHD DİYARBAKIR BRANCH



INITIAL EXPLANATION

The data and the data tables have been compiled from individual applications by victims to our offices and branches, from local sources, and media search (Milliyet, Hürriyet, Sabah, Evrensel, Birgün, Cumhuriyet, Özgürlükçü Demokrasi, Cnnturk, TRTHaber, NTV, Habertürk, Fırat Haber Ajansı, ETHA, DHA, AA, İHA, ANHA, Bianet.org, El Cezire, BBC, Sputnik, T24, Dihaber, Gazetesujin, Rojeva Medya, GazeteDuar, GazeteKarınca, Sendika.org, Mezopotamya Ajansı, JINNEWS)

Some of the data in the report are the claims based on the statements of the witnesses. However, unless there are statements from the concerned persons and institutions that could disprove these claims, they will be considered true and real.

As long as new data about the claims comes out, related sections will be updated accordingly. These claims could remain in the report or be omitted from the report.

Prepared By

**İHD Diyarbakır Branch
Archives and Documentation Unit**



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ASSESSMENT

After visiting their husbands in prison on 25 November 1960, The Mirabal Sisters, who were fighting against the Dictatorship of Trojillo in the Dominican Republic for a better and free world and then became a symbol for resistance in the name of freedom, were abducted by the soldiers of the dictator, abused and then brutally murdered. As a result of the struggle by women, the UN issued a resolution in 1999 and designated 25th of November as the **International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women**

Women are subject to violence just because of their gender all over the world. As a result of women's struggle against inequality, suppression, and violence throughout history, at first, CEDAW was adopted by the UN in order to stop all forms of violence and create gender equality. Then, the İstanbul Convention was signed, which established standards and responsibilities for the contracting countries. Through these agreements, governments are obliged to change their laws to prevent all types of violence and discrimination against women, and remove violence.

Gender inequality is becoming bigger and bigger in Turkey. According to World Economic Forum's (2017) Gender Gap Index, Turkey ranks the 31st among 144 countries in terms of women's involvement in economical and political life and access to education and health. This figure shows that Turkey doesn't fulfil the requirements burdened on it by the international law about gender equality

The Turkish government has been interfering in women's lives in every aspect and trying to take women's gains back. In order to do this, the government tries to play a role on how women lead their lives, their choices, on what they wear, how they get married, how many children they should have, whether they will divorce or not, and how to use their labour power; therefore, wants to pull the woman from social life and lock them in at home recommending them to consent to a lifestyle determined by men.

There has been a rise in violations against women's rights, which shows that current legal regulations have not been put into practice and they cannot protect women sufficiently. We still witness that investigations on sexual abuse and attacks aren't conducted efficiently; many files are retarded, male convicts still benefit from remission of unjust provocation and time off for good behaviour during trials

Also, media, which is supposed to be a strong means of the struggle against violence against women, has been using a sexist language, which feeds the discrimination and sexual objectification and almost justifies violence against women.

The government wants to strike women's right to organize and it does not tolerate their objections. The state of emergency declared after the attempted military coup on 15 July 2016 has caused an increase in the amount of violations. All rights and freedoms have been restricted. By decree laws, thousands of people have been dismissed unjustly; women's organizations and associations have been closed down, which limits women's search for their rights and results in disruption of struggle against violence. Local mayors were also dismissed or imprisoned and government trustees were appointed instead. Breastfeeding and/or pregnant women were taken into custody for long periods; women with children were arrested; torture and ill-treatment became common in prisons. The state of emergency is considered an



opportunity by the government and all types of opposition are suppressed by the long arm of the law. Despite public outcry, conservative-sexist-militarist-monistic laws were passed and in spite of the international law women's rights are tried to be taken back.

Also, the ongoing war of men's hegemony in the Middle East turned women's bodies into a battlefield. During the war, women were subject to systematic torture, rape, slavery, and were considered as a spoil of war, where they were traded in slave markets and repeatedly sold to other countries. Due the conflict hundred thousands of women and children were forced to flee their homelands and became refugees, resulting in a life threatened by all kinds of attacks and abuse.

As human rights defenders, we emphasize that violence against women is a sort of discrimination and violation of human rights. We state that we will decidedly keep struggling until all types of violence and discrimination policies against women come to an end.

HUMAN RIGHTS ASSOCIATION, Diyarbakır Branch, Women's Committee



VIOLATION of WOMEN'S RIGHTS CHART - ANNUAL *(25 November 2016 - 25 November 2017)*

Suicide	
Suicide	11
Attempt	1
Domestic Violence	
Dead	35
Wounded/Physical Violence	26
Non-domestic Violence	
Dead	10
Wounded/Physical Violence	14
Sexual Abuse	6
Forced Prostitution	5