



F11 Female Murder Victims in Turkey

Güzide Sara Berber, BS, Üsküdar University, Altunizade mah. Haluk Türksoy sok. No:14 Üsküdar, İstanbul 34662, TURKEY; and Sevil Atasoy, PhD, Uskudar University, Institute of Addiction and Forensic Science, Haluk Türksoy sok. 14, Uskudar, İstanbul 34662, TURKEY*

After attending this presentation, attendees will understand the ways in which the murders of women in Turkey are handled.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by providing statistics regarding female victimization and the murders of women in Turkey.

Violence against women is a common problem that many women face, both around the world and in Turkey, consisting of urban dweller and villager, educated and uneducated, rich and poor, young and old, housewife and working woman.

Violence against women is a human rights violation, with femicide at the peak of the violence. In recent years, there has been an increase in the terrifying dimensions of internal physical violence, which has caused severe injuries and deaths in Turkey. This has become one of the main issues for governments in charge of ensuring the safety of individuals and the peace of society.

Among those who are exposed to physical violence are women and children who cannot defend or protect themselves. The most common types of physical violence against women are sexual assault, kicking, slapping, punching, rough beatings, and torture conducted with hurtful instruments and objects seized at that moment. Additionally, there is verbal and psychological violence, such as severe insults, humiliation, underrating, deprivation of fundamental rights, taking precious savings and money, underestimation, mocking, exclusion, intimidation, and threats, all of which make life unacceptable for women. In severe conflicts, the wife is often seen as an opponent and enemy, the consequence of many mismatches and financial difficulties. Some bursts of anger go beyond beating and lead to killing.

Unless violence against women and the problems of violence within the family are solved, it will not be possible to provide equality between men and women and close the gap in private and public life between women and men. Otherwise, the murder of women will not be prevented. Despite legal regulations, according to results of 2015–17 statistics in Turkey, the number of female murders is increasing every year. Violence against women is a multidimensional problem. The matter has social, cultural, familial, and individual dimensions and the factors leading to the violence have different structures; however, in general, these women remain alone in terms of the violence with which they are confronted and do not have sufficient knowledge, support, and awareness to protect their rights. Because of this, it is important to “Strengthen the Women” to fight against this violence.

Today, violence against women is deemed a violation of human rights, and violence prevention laws are in effect; however, the existence of these laws is insufficient as it takes time for society to adopt legal regulations. Forming bureaucratic mechanisms to facilitate the application of effective laws is necessary. Because of this, without waiting for laws to reflect society, a social awareness against femicide must be developed. In addition to the legal regulations preventing discrimination against women and stopping femicide, regulations have to be effected to strengthen the economic power of women in society. Women are subjected to many types of violence before they are murdered, and the subjects of the violence are not only women — children are also included. Additionally, children who have been witness to violence and murder are left with irreversible psychological damage. For these reasons, it is necessary to take strict measures to prevent both this violence and femicide. These protective measures should not derive from a single source; rather, effective solutions can be determined with state and local administrations and non-governmental organizations.

As a result, although Turkey should be evaluated as a country “forming the assurance of human rights, democracy, superiority of the law, and social justice in the region and paying regard to spread them on a large area,” it is obvious that Turkey does not sufficiently prevent violence against women and femicide.

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