

Self Immolation and Murder Cases of Kurdish Women

In a new report produced by the Accident and Emergency department of a hospital in Sulimaniya City, Kurdistan, it has emerged that 245 cases of molestation were reported by women between the ages of 15 to 40, during a 3 month period from 1st January 2007 till 31st March 2007. Of these, 43 cases resulted in the death of the women.

Even more disturbing is the fact that between 2000 and 2007, 3039 such cases were recorded but the likelihood is that many more go unreported as the women concerned are too frightened to do so.

The Hataw Organisation introduced a report on 10th April 2007 on the molestation of women. The following data was represented in the report:

2003	349 cases of molestation
2005	772 cases of molestation
2006	812 cases of molestation

The following is a brief description of some of the reported cases.

1. In Agril, on 7th April 2007, Duuha was stoned to death by her father and other male relatives.
2. The body of a woman was found on 13th April 2007 in the province of Sulimaniya. The authorities suspect she was shot 13 times by her husband as his wedding ring was found next to her body.
3. The police in Kurdistan found the body of a 30 year old woman in April 2007 in Khanaqin. Her brother told the police that her husband had burnt her to death because she did not agree to his request to take a second wife.
4. Amina Haji was killed on 5th May 2007 by her father, who had accused her of having a relationship with the boy next door known only as S. Her father in fact killed her because the sister of S had refused his proposal of marriage on many occasions.
5. The body of a woman found in Goizha on 11th May 2007 could not be identified as she had been shot in the face, totally disfiguring her.
6. After many years taking care of 3 children, 60 sheep and a farm near Sulimaniya, a 34 year old identified as Ha. S set herself alight on 11th May 2007. She was being badly treated by her husband.

7. Shawbo Ali was murdered by her husband, a British citizen living in the UK on 12th May 2007. He returned to Bestana in Kurdistan to kill her upon discovering an unknown number on her mobile phone.
8. A woman identified only as Sh. Ha was murdered on 13th May 2007 by her husband and two of her brother-in-laws. Her body was found in the streets of Koya. The police have not found a motive for her murder.
9. On 15th May 2007, a 60 year old unnamed woman was killed by her family in Ranya because they did not agree to her proposal that her daughter be married to her nephew.
10. On 1st June 2007 a 45 year old woman named Najeba was found dead in the province of Sharawany, in Erbil. Her husband has been arrested on suspicion of murder although the motive has yet to be established
11. 23 year old Laiya set herself on fire on the first day of her marriage on 5th June 2007. She was taken to the Accident and Emergency department of Sulimaniya hospital.
12. On 5th June 2007, 25 year old Najiya Shagr set fire to herself. She died after 3 months in hospital. Her relatives claim she was repeatedly beaten and abused by her husband. He had even imprisoned her in the bathroom.
13. According to eyewitnesses the beheaded body of a 17 year old girl was left lying in the streets of Mosul for 3 days after her murder on 6th June 2007. Her body was left for a further 3 days as food for the gods.
14. In the Shamank province of Erbil, a woman identified as N.K burnt herself to death on 7th June 2007. She was very angry with her husband's abusive behaviour.
15. Khalil Abdulla confessed to the murder of his wife Khayal Ismail which he committed on 8th June 2007.
16. In the Amedi area, a 20 year old woman know only as Sh attempted suicide on 9th June 2007 as she had a social problem.
17. An 8 month pregnant woman identified as A.Q.N was killed in her parents home on 10th June 2007. Having accused her of having a relationship with another man, her husband divorced her then remarried her. However in order to exact his revenge, he then murdered her.
18. 22 year old Awaz was killed by her husband and brother-in-law on 10th June 2007. She had been divorced for 2 months, after 9 years of marriage and was 7 months pregnant. Her unborn baby also died

19. A.Q was killed by her brother on 12th June 2007.
20. Rezan's husband was arrested by police in the Shaqlawa area for murdering her on 12th June 2007 with the help of two others.
21. Nasem Seyamand, 28, died six hours after being burnt by her husband on 19th June 2007 in Badawa. Nasem was badly beaten by her husband suffering 4 broken teeth before he set her alight. Her 3 and 9 year old children had been taken away from her by her in-laws.
22. On 22nd June 2007 a woman identified as S.L.M died shortly after setting herself alight in Mosel. Some say that she had social problems.
23. Prshang Ahmad, 14, was burnt to death in Kasnazan on 22 June 2007
24. Kosar Ahmad was so badly burned by her family that she died on 23rd June 2007 in the Halabja area.
25. A 16 year old girl identified as V.S died after burning herself on 23rd June 2007 because of social problems with her family in the Koran, Ankawa in the city of Erbil
26. On 29th June 2007, 22 year old Halsho Hawez was found severely burnt. The reason behind it is yet unknown.
27. A girl identified as D.J shot herself dead on 3rd July 2007 in Akre, Kurdistan. Police are currently investigating the motive of her death with the help of her family.
28. 18 year old S.H died on 8th July 2007 in Nishtimany, Erbil 3 hours after attempting suicide.
29. In Sulimaniya, Iraq, Shno, 25, was shot dead by her husband on 21st July, 2007. No motive as yet been established and her husband was released without charge. The police are still investigating the matter.
30. The Awena website reported that the body of a woman was found in Ranya on 31st July 2007. She was a divorcee with 3 children but her name, the motive nor have her murderers been established.
31. On 25th September 2007, a girl committed suicide because her step mother had been ill treating her following the divorce of her parents.

32. A woman known only by the initials A.M who was suffering domestic violence at the hands of her husband, set herself on fire. She died six days after the incident and after giving birth to a still born child.
33. Najat was buried alive in 2007 by her father. He made her watch as he dug her grave, forced her into it and refilled the grave.
34. The son of Mayada Abdul Aziz committed suicide after he killed his 48 year old mother in the city of Erbil.
35. Zena Shokr Mohammad Dusky was killed because she was an employee of a newspaper organisation in Mosel. The unidentified group who committed the crime have yet to be found.
36. No reason has yet been given for the attempted molestation on a 17 year old girl in the Dokan province.
37. In the Sharazoo area, an 18 year old girl committed suicide by electrocuting herself.

According to the Kurdish newspaper Rawan, a source from Bzafi Zhiyan reported that from January to July 2007, 70 women were killed just in the Sulimaniya and Erbil provinces. 201 women committed self immolation. Most of the women killed in Erbil were killed in the name of honour. Many of the cases of self immolation occurred in Sulimaniya. The report also states that rape and prostitution are on the increase.