**The International Alliance for Peace and Development**

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**Report on Femicide - To inform the Special Rapporteur’s report on Femicide to be presented at the 76th session of the General Assembly**

**[Summary]:** Femicide is the most extreme form of violence against women and girls all over the world and minority-groups’ women are facing this issue adding this to the issue of how some governments around the world treating minority groups from discrimination. This report focuses on women in Turkey, especially Kurdish women and what they face from violence and femicide inside Turkey and outside Turkey borders in Syria and Iraq. Second, it focuses on what Yazidi women face in Iraq and Syria and finally, the suffering of Uighur women in china.

In Turkey, women are facing the issue of femicide. Nevertheless, while cases of femicide often go unreported, it is clear that the problem is escalating. In 2019, 474 women were murdered in Turkey, mostly by their partners and relatives. Moreover, in 2020, 300 women were murdered and since the start of this year, 2021, Turkey’s opposition Democracy and Progress Party (DEVA) has revealed that 27 women were killed by men in Turkey in the one month since President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan pulled the country out “the Istanbul Convention”.

To make matters worse, Turkey withdraw from The Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, better known as “the Istanbul Convention”, by a Presidential Decree published on 20 March, 2021. This decision met with protest from Turkish women and demonstrations were planned.

Such violence against women which led in many cases to murder has been a consistent theme in Turkish culture. There is a clear division between what the law states in Turkey and what the government carries out in practice. Kurdish women, who are minority in Turkey, suffer from violence and femicide too. That is why the Kurdish Women’s Movement in Europe (Tevgera Jinên Kurd li Ewropayê, TJK-E), launched a campaign called “100 reasons to condemn the dictator.” They believe that there are 100 reasons to prosecute Erdoğan and his regime for his “femicidal and misogyny policies”. The start of this campaign was on November 25, 2020. The aim of the campaign is to collect 100,000 signatures to bring to the fore the reasons for opposing abuses of power, violence and Turkish injustice.

The campaign believes that Femicides are linked to the wars around the world. They are linked to basic structures, such as patriarchy. They also believe that numerous massacres have been committed against women in the last decade, for example in Syria. They added saying that the Turkish government is a supporter and accomplice as well as other indirect supporters have been guilty of the biggest crimes against humanity against women in the 21st century.

Actually, many Kurdish women, activists and organizations believe that the president of Turkey systematically targets Kurdish women with hischauvanist, fascist and racist mentality. Kurdish women activists believe that the explosion of feminicides and violence against women is not a coincidence, nor is it disconnected from state policies. According to them, in regions under Turkish state occupation, women are kidnapped, raped, sold, and massacred. Supporters of the campaign believe that nothing has led to more catastrophes through history against minorities and indigenous peoples, than dictatorial regimes and there are already massacres happening to Kurds. There are many examples of femicide on the official website of the campaign.

One of these Kurdish women who was murdered is Hevrin Khalaf, she was a Kurdish- Syrian politician and human rights activist. After she joined political work with the beginning of the Syrian crisis and was active in human rights and humanitarian institutions. She was elected as Secretary General for the Future Syria Party after its formation in March 2018. She was Executed by [Turkish-backed](https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-d&sxsrf=ALeKk02rLvDdLAaWvzSsTQAZmstuRZa_-w:1619716278638&q=Turkish-backed&stick=H4sIAAAAAAAAAONgVuLVT9c3NEw2K8owK0hOWsTKF1JalJ1ZnKGblJicnZoCAHxlblgiAAAA&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjy7LKr-aPwAhWB3oUKHT69DJMQmxMoATAjegQIJhAD) [Ahrar al-Sharqiya](https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-d&sxsrf=ALeKk02rLvDdLAaWvzSsTQAZmstuRZa_-w:1619716278638&q=Ahrar+al-Sharqiya&stick=H4sIAAAAAAAAAONgVuLVT9c3NEw3LMwwSiusWsQq6JhRlFikkJijG5yRWFSYWZkIABO-AR0lAAAA&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjy7LKr-aPwAhWB3oUKHT69DJMQmxMoAjAjegQIJhAE) militants on October 12, 2019, [in Rojava, Syria](https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-d&sxsrf=ALeKk02rLvDdLAaWvzSsTQAZmstuRZa_-w:1619716278638&q=Rojava&stick=H4sIAAAAAAAAAOPgE-LVT9c3NMwyMCyPN04vUOLSz9U3yDM1NjE301LPTrbSL0jNL8hJ1U9JTU5NLE5NiS9ILSrOz7NKLC4Gosy8xJLUlEWsbEH5WYlliTtYGQHoFTHMUgAAAA&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjy7LKr-aPwAhWB3oUKHT69DJMQmxMoATAkegQIJxAD).

Another crime took place on April, 15, 2020, in Maxmur refugee camp, Northern Iraq. On this day unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) of the occupying Turkish state targeted and murdered three young women by the names of Hewa, Ezîme and Eyşê, who were looking after sheep. Hewa and Ezîme were both killed on the spot, but Eyşê was injured and was found by the people of the camp who came out shouting in order to find her. Because ambulance services were restricted to leave the camp, she was treated at the camp’s hospital with various procedures, but the doctors were not able to save her and she lost her life. Until today accountability for these crimes against humanity has not been achieved.

Moreover, women in Turkey have been affected in a severe way by the Covid-19 pandemic. According to “We Will Stop Femicide”, 21 killings were reported in Turkey from March 11 to 31. Actually, many countries that have introduced lockdown measures have seen a marked rise in domestic violence and turkey is one of these countries. That is because Stay-at-home measures have led to the increased isolation of women and girls who are already living with the risk of Gender-based violence.

The Yazidi women are still facing the impacts of violence and femicide that happened in Syria and Iraq. Mainly elderly Yazidi women are those who faced femicide. Back in time, ISIS found elderly Yazidi women too old to be sold as sex slaves or used for physical labor and hence, they killed them and buried in mass graves. Actually, the crimes against Yazidis have not stopped, even after the defeat of ISIS. The Yazidi community is still under constant attack by extremist groups supported mainly by Turkey. Also, there is a lack of political will to grant the Yazidi community their legitimate rights. The Yazidi Community now wants the support of the international community to have their rights as equal citizens in Iraq and Syria, not only to be treated as victims. They must be included in the decision-making process, especially the Yazidi women, so they can speak on behalf of themselves and to ensure accountability and prosecution of those responsible for what happened to them and their fellows in previous years.

Uighur women in China also face serious problems. The main issue with the Uighur minority in China is the difficulty to hear from Uighurs because speaking to journalists can get them imprisoned. Uighur women in the Chinese camps, which are like prisons, known by the Chinese government as “re-education centers,” in the Xinjiang region, are facing many problems, and one of these problems is forced sterilisation, abortion and implanting contraceptive devices. Also, they face problems of rape, violence and torture. Uighur women are the main victims of the Chinese government.

**Recommendations:**

1. To monitor the human rights situation in Turkey following the grave violations against women, the most recent of which is Turkey’s withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention.
2. To urge the prosecution of the perpetrators and supporters of femicide committed against Yazidi women, especially Turkey and ISIS.
3. To urge China to allow international journalists, activists and International Commissions of Inquiry and Fact-Finding missions to enter the camps in Xinjiang.
4. To monitor discrimination against Uighur women, especially the policies of forced sterilisation, abortion and implanting contraceptive devices.