FORUM: Human Rights Council

QUESTION OF: Combating the Practice of Honor Killings in the Middle East

MAIN-SUBMITTER: Ecuador

CO-SUBMITTER: India

THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL,

*Fully aware* that there are lots of countries practicing honor killing in the world such as regions in South Asia, North Africa, the Middle East, Western Europe, and the United States,

*Bearing in mind* that this has been hard to stop as many countries in the Middle East are theocratic states where governments are likely to impose minimal punishment because laws are influenced by religious values,

*Admitting* that there have not been many practical actions against honor killings although some attempts were made to increase international awareness,

*Bearing in mind* that honor killings are most common in cultures that consider women to be property,

*Noting* that many citizens in such nations are in favor of the killing practice as a result of their traditional ideologies,

*Recognizing* the efforts of different organizations and countries to release statistical data of victims and trying to mitigate the severity of the practice,

*Realizing* that many of the honor killings are unreported to the police,

*Estimating* that 5,000 women are victims of honor killings every year,

*Affirming* that this honor killing practice is morally wrong and should be banned in the nations,

1. Calls upon for the funding of the organizations such as the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) to encourage women’s empowerment and gender equality in the Middle east in such ways but not limited to:

1. providing publications such as annual reports that document the occurrence of

honor killings,

1. outlining and emphasizing the rights of women by clearly defining the economic,

social, and educational rights of women and prohibiting any exclusion and restriction

based on gender,

1. supporting an activity that advocates women of the developing world by:
   1. supplying women who are demanding their human rights with technical

assistance,

* 1. assisting those who participate in the protest against honor killings

financially;

2. Calls upon member states to enforce the law about committing honor killing if not

yet accomplished by means such as but not limited to:

1. creating new laws that solely focus on dealing with honor killings,
2. making up-to-date amendments in the law that regards honor killing by taking actions such as but not limited to:
   1. adding more restrictions and strengthening punishments in laws that manage this action,
   2. striking or changing laws that act in favor of honor killing to decrease the possibility of escaping punishment by relying on those laws,
   3. prohibiting reduction of the penalty even when the family asks for leniency,
3. putting harsher punishments on the criminal if the reason was simply honor killing and punishing the people who abet the criminal in the process,
4. allowing the citizens of the nation to be comfortable in writing petitions about how to improve the nation’s law to prosecute such criminals in a more effective way,
5. encouraging all states to ratify the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination of All Forms Against Women (CEDAW) focused on stopping the practice of honor killings with the help of the other member states through means such as but not limited to:
   1. Urging member states outside of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region signing the convention
   2. Encouraging member states that have signed the convention to ratify it
   3. Cooperating with UN women in beginning a global campaign to sign it
6. investigating each case thoroughly on honor killings to prevent these crimes from being disguised as suicide or accident;

3. Further requests member states to educate their students about honor killing and to enhance their knowledge about human rights and morality by adapting acts such as but not limited to:

1. including ethics and morality classes in local public schools which include information about:
   1. basic ideas about moral and immoral behavior,
   2. explanations about honor killing and how it is morally wrong behavior and that it is a violation of human rights,
   3. explaining the negative result of honor killings in families as well as the society and nation as a whole,
   4. emphasizing that following such theological customs can be considered as a crime;
2. holding activities and seminars that explain more deeply about the concept of honor killing including information such as:
   1. the definition of honor killing,
   2. where and why it is mainly happening,
   3. the effects that honor killing will bring when practiced,
   4. how to stand against honor killing;
3. teaching the students how to react when they witness honor killings,
4. increasing student awareness about the cases of honor killings that are happening in some countries around the world through ways such as but not limited to:
   1. social media,
   2. newspapers,
   3. leaflets or brochures,
   4. youtube videos;

4. Encourages all member states to increase the general awareness of the public about this topic to spread information and to fight against honor killing in ways such as but not limited to:

1. providing education to families about how honor killing is morally wrong,
2. having TV programs such as but not limited to documentaries that explain the real current situation of what is happening in the countries with these practices,
3. having organizations online and offline that updates news about the topic and encourages people not to practice this crime,
4. encouraging people to report to the police when they are witnessing an on-going killing or a precursor to honor killing or when they are threatened of honor killing;

5. Suggests member states to help challenge the social ideology about “honor killing” in the specific regions with successive honor killing cases by having actions such as but not limited to:

1. holding yearly conferences among the members of the Arab League and UNOs such as UN Women to evaluate cultural ideologies leading to honor killings and understand the benefits of combating it encouraging those countries to give education to women about the basic rights they have so that they no longer have to face their unfair deaths by means such as:
   1. having influential people and religious people provide speeches and lectures to explain the basic rights that women have,
   2. distributing physical leaflets and online posters that are against honor killings to repeatedly expose women to such a notion,
2. having men who oppose honor killings to step up to spread the notion that there are men that also oppose it and that it is not rightful to kill women just for the sake of “honor”;

6. Urges member states to help improve protection for women in danger within regions likely to have higher rates of honor killings by incorporating actions such as but not limited to:

1. Reinforcing the security of women by cooperating with UNIFEM to establish regional shelters with professionals such as psychologists and lawyers present to provide better reactions when a woman reports that she thinks she is about to be sacrificed in the honor killing
2. checking in regularly to calculate the probability of being victimized and provide instant help when the woman has been threatened or almost put in the situation.