



NEWS & VIEWS

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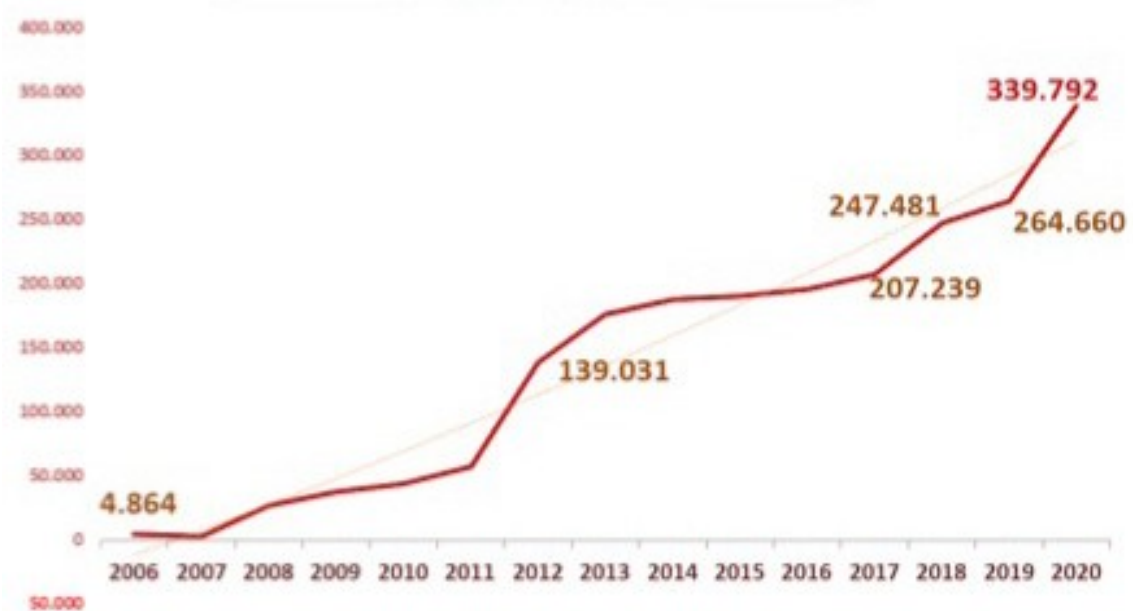
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**VIOLENCE IS LEGITIMIZED
WHILE THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM WATCHES**

INTRODUCTION

The one-man regime withdrew Turkey's signature from the Istanbul Convention, abandoning women and children to their fate in the face of male violence. Even though the Ministry of Interior prepares shiny propaganda banners about a "decreasing trend in violence against women", data points to the contrary and reveals an increasing number of women exposed to **psychological** and **physical** violence.

Restraining Order Requests Examined by Civil Courts



Women try and resist to all sorts of violence, discrimination, alienation and neglect. **Women who claim their rights are subjected to violence for claiming their rights.**

The political will in power searches for loopholes in the Turkish Penal Code, **looking for ways to legitimize violence against women, let alone implement the current laws.** It ignores international conventions.

In this regard, turning a deaf ear to all objections and withdrawing from the Istanbul Convention one night, means the public announcement of the deliberate efforts by the party in power to **"legitimize violence against women"**.

OVERVIEW

In fact, **the view is gruesome in Turkey**. Women are excluded from social, political and economic life. They experience violence at thousands of homes, on hundreds of streets and countless buses.

Violence manifests itself in a different form every day, under different names, in different bodies. The result is always the same: women whose restraining order requests are rejected, or women who are hastily given a piece of paper as a restraining order are added to statistics as “**new deaths**”. Unfortunately, the political will does not see, hear or protect women who shout out “**I want to live**”.

From 2006 to 2020, **2,123,080** women in Turkey requested a **restraining order** from courts on the grounds that they are victim of male violence. **13 per cent** of these requests (**281,293 requests**) **were rejected on grounds of no sufficient evidence**.

ONE-MAN RULE

On the other hand, the “**One-Man Regime**” exacerbated violence. Between 2018 and 2020, the number of women who requested a restraining order from courts was **851,933**.

This figure equals to **40 per cent** of 2,123,080 women who have requested a restraining order since 2006.

While violence has become this widespread, courts have **rejected** for various reasons **1 out of every 8** restraining order requests filed by women under the One-Man Regime.

PANDEMIC

The political will attained its objective by targeting the Istanbul Convention and exacerbating violence.

The policy of impunity that supported male violence and left women helpless was the trademark of this pandemic.

As a result, the number of women whose **restraining order requests were rejected** although they resorted to judicial authorities and law enforcement by the law no. 6248 stating that they had been subjected to violence, increased by **20 per cent** in 2020, as compared to 2019.

RESTRAINING ORDER REQUESTS BOOMED IN 15 YEARS

	Number of Restraining Order Requests
2006	4864
2012	139,031
2018	247,481
2019	264,660
2020	339,792

The trend in the number of women resorting to law enforcement and courts to request a restraining order for experiencing violence under the rule of the Justice and Development Party has revealed the dark face of male dominance. A total of **2,123,080 women requested a restraining order** between **2006 and 2020**. The increase in requests was registered as **6 thousand 886 per cent**.

The number of women who requested a restraining order was 4 thousand 864 in **2006**, while it increased to **139 thousand 31** in **2012** when the law numbered 6284 came into force, and then **to 339 thousand 792** in **2020**. In other words, there has been a **70-fold increase** in the number of women requesting a restraining order for experiencing violence in the past 15 years.

REPEATED IMPUNITY



Impunity increased as much as requests for a restraining order. The number of women who had their restraining order requests rejected was 558 in 2006 and it increased by 8 thousand 767 per cent, to 49 thousand 476 in 2020. Between **2006 and 2020** restraining order requests from a total of 281 thousand 293 women were rejected on the grounds that “**they were not convincing**”. In other words, 13 out of every 100 women that requested restraining orders were abandoned to their fate with their male perpetrators, in the past 15 years.

Number of Restraining Order Requests Rejected	
Since 2006	INCREASED
8767%	
Since 2012	INCREASED
204%	
Under one-man rule	INCREASED
74%	
During pandemic	INCREASED
20%	

64 PER CENT INCREASE UNDER ONE-MAN REGIME

After the elections in June 2018 that saw the one-man regime taking effect, some steps were taken to legitimize violence against women. This effort of the political will was also reflected in statistics. Between **2018 and 2020**, a total of **851 thousand 933** women requested a restraining order. Among these, **724 thousand 597** were granted. Hence, the number of women requesting a restraining order for experiencing violence increased by **64 per cent** in Turkey after the 2017 referendum that led Turkey towards a one-man regime.

2017	207.239	64%
2018	247.481	
2019	264.660	
2020	339.792	

VIOLENCE DURING PANDEMIC

Data rebutted the claims of the party in power that suggested that “violence against women decreased during the pandemic” and withdrew from the Istanbul Convention. In 2019, a total of **264 thousand 660** women requested a restraining order and this figure increased to **339 thousand 792** by the end of 2020. In other words, the number of women requesting a restraining order during the pandemic increased by **28 per cent** at least. **15 per cent** of these requests were rejected. This means that, during the pandemic, **1 out of every 6 women** had to live in the same environment with the men who were violent against them.





VIOLENCE INCREASED BY 69 PER CENT IN THE FIRST 5 MONTHS OF 2021

Even though this report covers the years 2006 to 2020, data of the General Command of Gendarmerie gives us some clues pertaining to 2021.

Incidences of violence observed in neighborhoods under the area of responsibility of the General Command of Gendarmerie help us see the grim picture. According to the Gendarmerie's records, **17 thousand 953** women were victims of violence in the first 5 months of 2021. The number of victims were **2 thousand 840** in January and climbed up to **4 thousand 802** by the end of May, with an increase of **69 per cent**.

On the other hand, the number of women exposed to violence in the territory of the Gendarmerie increased by **15 per cent** only in the first 5 months of 2021, as compared to the previous year. The number of women who suffered from violence was **15 thousand 751** in the Gendarmerie's territory in the first 5 months of 2020.

RESTRAINING ORDERS ALSO INCREASED

On the other hand, **2 thousand 438** women were granted restraining orders in the first 5 months of 2020 and this number rose to **3 thousand 134** with an increase of **25 per cent** in the same period of 2021.



EVALUATION

Having developed a new political agenda related to women rights every day since they came to power in November 2002, the Justice and Development Party defines women's place only inside of a family, rather than seeing them as equal individuals. The efforts towards exerting domination over women based on a "**culture of submissiveness**" have now come to their end stage.

It is not possible to prevent gender-based violence in a country where this conception is in power. However, it must be the **government's main duty to protect everyone** in the country **against violence, without any form of discrimination**.

The triggers of this gruesome trajectory are hidden in the careless attitude of the party in power that is capable of announcing that "Violence against women has decreased" while violence is increasing day by day.

Moreover, the Ministry of Interior is not transparent in sharing incidences of violence in the area of responsibility of the police. A regime that shifts away from the laws and constitution; ignores the international law; and acts on the principle "**I do whatever I want**" has no place among democracies.