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AN OVERVIEW OF HONOR KILLINGS IN AFGHANISTAN AN UNSEEN CRIME

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AN UNSEEN CRIME

In a country that has been embroiled in civil war for more than forty years. Killing people is a recurring and accepted practice. In war, people are usually killed by groups and individuals who are opposed, but in Afghanistan this is not the only case, there are people who are killed by family members and relatives, whose number is reported in the hundreds every year. Honor killings are phenomenon that occurs almost everywhere in the world, but it is a common practice in Afghanistan and Afghanistan's traditional and tribal society, which has its own culture, of which the issue of honor and integrity is one of the main elements. In this article we want to address the causes and the contexts of honor killings in Afghanistan.

Dignity is mentioned in dictionaries to mean dignity, honor, homeland, right, modesty and also as the women of a male-dominated family. The term honor killings is murder in which the victims is killed with the motive of maintaining honor by relatives and himself for having an affair with a man, committing adultery, being raped, running away from home, or even refusing a forced marriage. Or another form of honor killing is the killing of girls and women at the hands of husbands, fathers, brothers or other male members of the family under the pretext of preserving honor and dignity. The most important indicator of honor killing is that, it is done to protect honor. According to the prevailing culture in Afghanistan, the main manifestations of honor are the wife, mother, sister daughter and women in the male family. Therefore, honor is specific to men, which does not apply to women. Article 547-546 of the Afghan penal code [1] provide for honor killings as a clear example of premeditated murder, but due to non-compliance with the law in these prestigious cases fewer perpetrators are punished.

According to reports from domestic and international organizations, honor killings have not only decreased in recent years, but have also increased. The years 1392-1391 (406), The first six months of 1394 (190), in the 1695 with an 8.6 percent increase in violence and according to the united nations in year 2017, 280 Afghan Women were killed under the pretext of the word "honor". This year, too, we are witnessing reports of dozens of honor killings in various parts of Afghanistan. Therefore the problem of honor killings is one of the most important issues in our society that must be addressed radically and accurately.

THE PERPETRATORS OF HONOR KILLINGS IN AFGHANISTAN:

The honor killings, like other social phenomena, have socio-cultural-psychological-political factors. Strong rule of patriarchal culture: The culture patriarchy is not unique to Afghan society. There are many other communities in varying proportions. But in relation to cultural backwardness, the existence of extensive tribal relations, economic remorse, and old social structures, patriarchal culture is more violent and dominant that we will mention its manifestations in several cases:

THE CULTURE OF PATRIARCHY:

In the macro-cultural sphere of the regions which includes the countries around Afghanistan, women as weak human beings have less innate abilities than men. And they should be subjected to men they are. This kind of view can be clearly seen historically in the poems and savings of great people such as Saadi, ferdawsi, Naser khosraw and others. This negative attitude is still widespread among the people, especially in suburban and tribal areas; society's view of women is sexual. They are treated as sexual objects that should be in the possession and property of the men of the family. Men as decision makers and family heads, give themselves the right to take care of women in the family as their right and honor. Any relationship with other man without the permission of the men of the family is considered infidelity, which is punishable by death.

NERVOUSNESS (ETHNIC, TRIBAL AND RELIGIOUS):

The cultural and social structures in most parts of Afghanistan are tribal and religious. Religious tribes, who are often confronted with each other and have strong prejudices against each other show evidence those communities with more nervousness, have higher rates of honor killings. According to research, 80% of Afghan families are large and live mostly within their own tribe and clan. Large tribes and families have a single identity of which all members are a part and are obliged to maintain it. In Afghanistan's tribal structure, several generation of a family and even tribal structures, several

generations of a family and even tribe live together, they kill honor killings. Accordingly in many cases honor killings occur without being reported externally.

NON-COMPLIANCE WITH THE LAW AND THE EXISTENCE OF INFORMAL JUSTICE:

Despite the fact that some unsolved murders are reported, some of them will be investigated according to the law. Due to the weak state rule and the lack of compliance with the law by official-state institutions, in most suburban areas, tribal capitals punish local criminals according to their own customs and traditions. According to an investigation by the independent human rights commission, more than a third of honor killings are the result of informal justice covered up by tribal elders.

DISGRACE:

The phenomenon of disgrace is considered to be the cause of honor killings. In this situation, women do not have an individual identity, but the rights and dignity of family and tribes, which must be maintained and controlled. Whenever a women member of the family commits a crime against the family, it means that the honor of that family or tribe has been tarnished and has caused their disgrace. In this case, the men of the family, to prove their zeal and honor, give themselves the right to kill the perpetrators of dishonesty.

Disgraceful acts such as having an extramarital affair between other men and women can be interpreted as dishonoring, even in the context of commuting or starting a relationship, falling in love, or opposing forced marriage. People who commit honor killings are often proud and referred to as family or tribal heroes. It is not only men who commit honor killings, but also women families also take responsibility and take part in it which complicates matters. The more traditional and closed families are, the more restrictions are placed on women and the more honor killings are provided. All honor killings are, in fact, tied to this cause and justified.

SEX OUTSIDE OF MARRIAGE:

Most of the infamous murders in Afghanistan happen to having sex with an alien man. In Afghanistan, because of the culture of Islam, sexual interaction outside of marriage is considered to be permissible. In such cases, men have many escape routes that are rarely punished severely, but women are very likely to be sentenced to death. Otherwise they will be the main pry for honor killings. According to research, about 50 percent of the honor killings in Afghanistan are due to this factor.

ECONOMIC POVERTY:

According to a report published by the independent human rights commission of Afghanistan on unsolved murders in year 2013, 58% of the victims of honor killings were from poor families. The perpetrators of rape and honor killings are in most cases low-income and even unemployed people. The heavy costs of marriage, women's lack of inheritance rights, and women's economic insecurity cause delays in marriage and lead to extramarital affairs, which in turn increase honor killings.

THE PRESENCE OF EXTREMIST ARMED FORCES OPPOSED TO THE GOVERNMENT:

In many parts of the countryside and outside the cities, the government, due to the presence of armed dissidents, is in control of the situation. We see several months of these types of trials, often stoning or execution, on social media. Rukhshana stoning incident in Ghor province that happened in 2015 or the last case of it in the recent year 2010 stoning of mother and daughter in Ghazni province for having an extramarital affair[2]. These are concrete examples.

FORCED MARRIAGES AND FLEEING AWAY FROM HOME:

In the report about 15.4 percent of honor killings in the areas where due to women fleeing their families and running away from home is often done for refusing to marry or marrying against the wishes of the family. The victims of this type of murder are often committed by husband's family if they are married and by close relatives of the paternal family if they are not married. It was on June 1st year, 2020 that Afsaana, 20-years old girl from Heart province of Afghanistan was killed by her brother against her family's wishes for marrying her boyfriend and fleeing to the city.

CONCLUSION:

The criminalization of honor killings in law, the increasing activity of women rights activists, has made honor killings more and more in the public eye over the world, especially in Afghanistan. Murder of honor is a clear example of the intensity of misogyny and objectification of women, and even the slightest transgression can be an excuse to destroy them. Afghanistan's penal code does not specifically define honor killings and does not provide for punishment, but Islamic law and tribal culture in Afghanistan place a special authority on honor to the extent that it is permissible to kill women for honor reasons it counts.

Honor killings are mostly non-individual in Afghanistan and are perpetrated by several family members, including women themselves. In fact, honor killings are family conspiracy not perpetrated by one person alone. This adds to the complexity of the killer trail process. In Afghanistan, with the formation of a new government, free media and the widespread presence of the international community over time we are witnessing more reports of honor killings.

The confrontation between modernity and tradition is another factor in the escalation of violence against women the presence of women in government structures and the creation of awareness and resistance among women are other factors that force women to protest and disobey anti-feminist tribal and family constraints, which are often supposed due to the dominance of patriarchy culture and women victims are killed. Despite advances in various sectors for women and men, yes honor killings, unseen crime and it's continue. End.

[1] Penal code (penal code), published in 1936 by the Ministry of Justice of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

[2] the original of this news is available in the following link <https://www.etilaatroz.com/29272/>

The published of this article in Persian can be found at below link:

<https://openasia.org/item/>

<https://www.iran-emrooz.net/index.php/social/more/85374/>