



29th Session of Human Rights Council (15 June - 3 July 2015)

Item 6 (Universal Periodic Reviews - Turkey)

Mr. President,

The Journalists and Writers Foundation welcomes the adoption of UPR outcomes of Turkey which reflected many important recommendations to address women`s rights concerns in the country. We take note Turkey`s commitment to improve women`s rights and to bring national laws in compliance with the international human rights` standards. It is also promising that Turkey is the first country to sign and ratify Istanbul Convention. However, to our grave concern, the increase in the violence against women and femicides in recent years in Turkey indicates that these are not individual random acts, but the signs of a structural problem.

According to the media reports¹, at least 1134 women were murdered over the past five years. Let alone deterrent punishments, the murderers of women usually enjoy reduction in sentence based on various excuses. Besides, 735 women were raped, 986 women were harassed and 1395 women were violently injured during the last five years. In addition, these alarming figures significantly lower the quality of life of all women in the country, as they feel increasingly disturbed and insecure.

In this regard, keeping in mind that “violence against women” is defined as a violation of human rights and a form of discrimination against women, Journalists and Writers Foundation calls Turkey to take necessary steps according to following principals:

- Gender-sensitive education must be considered as a vital instrument to eliminate the male dominant elements evident in cultural codes.
- Media should avoid using a discriminatory language that objectifies women and justifies violence.
- Senior State officials should refrain from discriminating public discourse against women.
- The current laws and international conventions ratified by the government must be decisively implemented.
- Reduction in sentence must be avoided for femicides and violence against women.

Thank you Mr. President.

¹ Male violence, 2014 chart,` bianet.org, 16 January 2015