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Media framing of femicide cases in Turkey: A qualitative analysis of Turkish newsarticles regarding femicide

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Citation

Klink, V. van. (2025). *Media framing of femicide cases in Turkey: A qualitative analysis of Turkish newsarticles regarding femicide.*

Version: Not Applicable (or Unknown)

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Downloaded from: <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/4177263>

Note: To cite this publication please use the final published version (if applicable).



Media framing of femicide cases in Turkey

Bachelor thesis BSc Internationale Politiek

Bachelor project: Global Public Goods and Commons

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Word count: 7,545 (excl. abstract, table of contents, and tables)

December 20, 2024

Abstract

Violence against women is a pressing problem in many countries. In 2014, the Istanbul Convention entered into force. The goal of this convention is to prevent all forms of violence against women and girls. Turkey was the first country to sign this convention, and it was also the first country to withdraw from it, despite the exceptionally high numbers of femicide in Turkey. News outlets have an important task in informing the public and influencing the public opinion. They can do this by framing a news item in a certain way. For example, if a femicide case is being framed as an isolating one, the general pattern of violence against women is ignored and policy action can be prevented. This thesis has used discourse analysis to test if the Istanbul Convention has an influence on the media framing of femicide cases in Turkey. The results have found that after Turkey had left the convention, the media started to use more episodic frames than thematic frames to describe femicide cases.

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1. Introduction

Within the years from 2008 to 2015, a total of 1,415 women were murdered in Turkey. All of these women are victims of femicide (Yenilmez & Demir, 2016, p. 14). Femicide represents a structural problem of the subordinate position of women (Boy & Kulczycki, 2008, p. 68). Moreover, it is seen as a societal problem and a violation of human rights (Bodur Ün, 2024, p. 211). On the international level, there was a lack of a comprehensive approach to this problem. Therefore, the Council of Europe created a new international treaty which focuses on combatting and preventing violence against women and girls. This treaty is called the Istanbul Convention, and it entered into force in August of 2014 (Grans, 2018, pp. 133-136).

Turkey was the first country to ratify the Istanbul Convention (Güneş & Ezikoğlu, 2023, p. 14). Scholars say that Turkey signed and ratified the convention to improve the country's image and credibility surrounding femicide and gendered violence (Bodur Ün & Arikan, 2021, p. 952). Despite the remaining high rates of femicide, Turkey was the first country to leave the convention in March of 2021 (Anavatan & Kayacan, 2024, p. 2015; Güneş & Ezikoğlu, 2023, p. 14). The official reason for the withdrawal, according to the Turkish government, is that the convention normalizes and promotes homosexuality, and that it is a threat to traditional family values (Bayar, 2024, p. 33; Bodur Ün & Arikan, 2021, p. 953; Directorate of Communications, 2021). However, the withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention is also said to be a political survival strategy from president Erdoğan's Justice and Development Party (AKP), as the party lost significantly in the 2019 elections (Bayar, 2024, pp. 32-33).

The framing of violence against women and girls in the media can potentially shape and influence public opinion about the issue (Brutger & Strezhnev, 2022, pp. 986-987; Carlo Martinez, 2024, p. 301; Cissel, 2012, p. 69). For example, if a femicide case is portrayed as a general pattern and if the frame takes into account the broader context of the problem, this could lead to policy action to prevent femicide and gendered violence. On the other hand, if a femicide case is framed as an individual and separate case, the broader issue is disregarded and policy action is not likely to happen.

The research question that will guide this thesis is as follows:

What is the influence of the Istanbul Convention on the framing of femicide cases in the Turkish media?

To answer this question, a discourse analysis of English Turkish newspaper articles is conducted. Several timeframes will be examined, as to indicate the potential differences between these time periods.

This thesis starts with a literature review which first focuses on international treaties and human rights in general. Then, the human rights situation in Turkey specifically and the formation and the content of the Istanbul Convention will be discussed. Next, the theoretical framework is reviewed, followed by the research design. Then, the results are presented and discussed. Finally, the limitations of this study, recommendations for future research, and societal recommendations will be discussed.

2. Literature review

International treaties

An international treaty is defined as a formal agreement between sovereign states, usually in written form. They are generally binding and thus create legal obligations for states (Simmons, 2010, p. 274). Two important goals of treaties are to promote international cooperation and to address concerns that transcend state borders (Hoffman et al., 2022, p. 1).

There are several reasons as to why countries sign and ratify treaties. The first says that the signing and ratification of treaties signals to other states and domestic audiences that action on an issue is necessary (Hugh-Jones et al., 2018, p. 15; Simmons, 2009a, p. 59). The signature and ratification of treaties can also be explained by the normative logic of appropriateness. This means that governments sign and ratify treaties in order to represent themselves as a part of the international community, holding the same values as other countries (Heyns & Viljoen, 2001, pp. 491-492; Simmons, 2009a, pp. 61-62).

Human rights treaties

For human rights specifically, the reason of why repressive governments sometimes sign and ratify them, is called the paradox of empty promises. Repressive governments face few negative consequences and receive diplomatic rewards for signing and ratifying human rights treaties, even though they do not meaningfully implement measures that may be opposed to their interests (Hoffman et al., 2022, p. 3).

An important first condition for compliance with treaties, is domestic attention to human rights rulings, for example in the media (Reis & Garz, 2024, p. 2). Moreover, enforcement mechanisms are necessary to increase the effectiveness of the treaty (Hoffman et al., 2022, p. 5). The effects of international human rights treaties are quite unknown. Earlier research has shown that international human rights treaties are not effective to change state behavior (Krommendijk, 2015, pp. 508-509). Other research, however, suggests that the effect depends on the specific human rights treaty (Lupu, 2013, p. 923).

Human rights in Turkey

At the beginning of the 2000s, Turkey had made significant progress in the areas of democratization and protecting human rights and freedoms (Aydin & Avincan, 2020, p. 1127; Balcioglu, 2021, p. 39). However, this changed after the attempted coup on July 15, 2016. The state of emergency was declared as a response to the coup attempt, which stayed in force for

two years. This state of emergency led to systematic violations of human rights (Balcioglu, 2021, p. 39). Examples of these human rights violations are torture and the lack of right to a fair trial (Aydin & Avincan, 2020). Human rights violations continued after the state of emergency was lifted (Aydin & Avincan, 2020, p. 1150).

Women's rights in Turkey

Between 2002 and 2011, Turkey has made a lot of progress in the area of women's rights. This is partially explained by the European Union conditionality, but also by the advocacy for gender equality by women's rights organizations (Bodur Ün & Arikan, 2021, p. 950; Güneş & Ezikoğlu, 2023, p. 15). The Turkish constitution was changed in order to eliminate discrimination between men and women and to increase gender equality. One example is a change in the Turkish Civil Code. This former code from 1962 previously stated that women have a subordinate position in the family, whereas the new civil code defines the family as "a union based on equal partnership." (Güneş & Ezikoğlu, 2023, p. 16). It is argued that when president Erdoğan's Justice and Development Party (AKP) won the elections and came to power in 2002, it increased women's rights and gender equality as a way to improve its reputation and legitimize its rule (Arat, 2022, p. 913). The liberal reforms were a way to promote the new government at the domestic level, and it also showed to the international community that the party had a progressive standpoint on human and women's rights (p. 921).

After 2011, there was a shift from gender equality to gender complementarity as well as more pro-birth or natalist policies (Bodur Ün & Arikan, 2021, p. 951). This correlates with the democratic backsliding in Turkey that started around the same time (Arat, 2022, p. 913). The AKP adopted populist authoritarian discourses and reinforced conservative values, which were reflected in the AKPs anti-gender and pro-family policies (Bodur Ün & Arikan, 2021, p. 950). However, Turkey still signed and ratified the Istanbul Convention, which is contrary to the policies described above. Turkey is said to have signed the convention in order to improve its image and credibility (Bodur Ün & Arikan, 2021, p. 952).

Femicide and the Istanbul Convention

Violence against women, which includes femicide, is recognized as a societal problem and a violation of human rights (Bodur Ün, 2024, p. 211). Femicide cases are not isolated or episodic cases of violence. They represent a structural problem and a social and cultural phenomenon deeply rooted in customs and mindsets. Therefore, it requires a global and integrated response to it (Niemi- Kiesiläinen et al., 2020, pp. 2-3). Moreover, there was a

demand for a regional approach to conceptualize violence against women and girls as a violation of human rights (Tchoukou, 2023, pp. 9-10).

Considering its leading role in human rights protection, the Council of Europe decided it was necessary to set extensive standards to prevent and combat violence against women and domestic violence. In 2008, the Council of Europe set up the Ad Hoc Committee for Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence. This committee prepared and drafted the first version of what later became the Istanbul Convention. The Istanbul Convention complements and expands the standards set by other regional human rights law and organizations (Niemi- Kiesiläinen et al., 2020, pp. 5-6). It is the first international treaty that builds a structural connection between gender (in)equality and violence against women and girls (p. 3). The aim of the Istanbul Convention is to prevent all forms of violence against both women and girls. It also covers domestic violence towards men, but it notes that it affects women disproportionately (Grans, 2018, p. 136). The convention is built on four elements, which are prevention, protection, prosecution and integrated policies. It imposes state responsibilities in these areas. The underlying assumption is that violence against women can not be eliminated by isolated measures, but that a systematic and coordinated approach and programmes are necessary (Niemi- Kiesiläinen et al., 2020, p. 8). The convention requires the adoption of “effective, comprehensive and coordinated policies” to prevent and combat all forms of violence against women (Leye et al., 2021, p. 12).

The convention entered into force on August 1st, 2014 (Grans, 2018, p. 133). A total of 37 countries have ratified the convention, including some members of the Council of Europe and some European Union memberstates (Warin, 2024, p. 96). This women’s rights treaty is one of the few treaties that focuses on gendered violence, which is the reason why this treaty was chosen to use for this thesis (Güneş & Ezikoğlu, 2023, p. 21; Tchoukou, 2023, p. 10).

Turkey and the Istanbul Convention

Gender-based violence, and in particular femicide, is a big problem in Turkey. The annual number of femicides in that country has increased six times from 66 in 2008 to 300 in 2022 (Erükçü Akbaş & Karataş, 2024, p. 55). Within the years from 2008 to 2015, a total of 1,415 women were murdered in Turkey (Yenilmez & Demir, 2016, p. 14). In Turkey, mostly revolt killings are prevalent. This means that women are murdered as a result of their objection and/or rejection, for example when they demanded divorce or separation from their partner.

Such murders are about the conflict between the traditional role of women and the break with this tradition (Cetin, 2015, pp. 353-354).

There are several reasons for the failures in the implementation of protecting women and girls and for the high rates of femicides in Turkey. The first one is that the problem can not be defined correctly, as the Turkish state does not keep official records regarding the rate and extent of femicides. This prevents access to the information on official femicide rates, making it challenging to analyze the extent of the problem (Anavatan & Kayacan, 2024, p. 2026; Erükçü Akbaş & Karataş, 2024, p. 55). Other reasons are the inadequate implementation of protective laws, the perception that potential perpetrators go unpunished, and the failure to implement alternative solution-oriented policies such as the prohibition of individual gun ownership (Erükçü Akbaş & Karataş, 2024, p. 70).

Turkey was the first country to ratify the Istanbul Convention (Güneş & Ezikoğlu, 2023, p. 14). According to the minister of Family and Social Policies, the reason for the ratification is that the convention was seen as ‘‘a solution for one of Turkey’s problems’’ (Eğrikavuk, 2011). Besides this, during the ratification, parliamentary speaker Cemil Çiçek said that ‘‘a society’s treatment of women demonstrates the level of its democracy’’ (Hurriyet Daily News, 2011). However, scholars say that Turkey signed the convention to improve the country’s image and credibility surrounding femicide (Bodur Ün & Arikan, 2021, p. 952). Besides this, there are other possible reasons as to why Turkey signed and ratified the convention. These are for example an underestimation of the probability that Turkey will be pressured to commit to the international treaty and implement measures, and a focus on short term benefits, such as a good image (Simmons, 2009a, pp 77-80).

Turkey was also the first country to leave the convention in March of 2021 (Güneş & Ezikoğlu, 2023). The official reason, as stated by the Turkish government, is that the treaty normalizes and promotes homosexuality, and that it threatens and undermines traditional social and family values (Bayar, 2024, p. 33; Bodur Ün & Arikan, 2021, p. 953; Directorate of Communications, 2021). However, the withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention is also said to be a political survival strategy from the AKP, in order to restore power as the party faced significant electoral loss in 2019 (Bayar, 2024, pp. 32-33).

3. Theoretical framework

Effect of treaties

International treaties are able to influence state policy and practice (Tchoukou, 2023, pp. 9-10). In some cases, a treaty can have domestic effects even before the country has ratified it. The reason for this is because governments want the support of crucial players in foreign ratification debates (Baccini & Urpelainen, 2014, p. 41). Treaties are causally meaningful to the extent that they empower individuals, groups or part of the state with different right preferences that were not empowered to the same extent in the absence of the treaty (Simmons, 2009b, p. 125). For example, treaties have agenda-setting capacities through which they can influence national legislative priorities (pp. 128-129). Earlier research about the impact of United Nations human rights treaties, has suggested that these treaties can lead to legislative reforms and national action plans on human rights (Heyns & Viljoen, 2001, pp. 501-503). A final way in which treaties can have an effect, is that they can influence the probability of mobilization by citizens and they can increase the likelihood of success of these mobilizations. This is a so called bottom-up effect of treaties (Simmons, 2009b, pp. 135-138).

States themselves choose to sign and ratify treaties, which makes the potential causal effect of international treaties on state behavior difficult to measure (Lupu, 2013, p. 912).

The membership of an intergovernmental organization leads to a convergence in states' foreign policy preferences through a socialization process. So, international interactions can not only change the behavior of states, but it can also transform states' identities and interests (Chelotti et al., 2021 p. 2). This happens through a process of socialization or social learning, in which the actors develop new interests and preferences through regular and sustained interactions within broader social contexts and structures (p. 3). The writing and formation processes of international treaties require international interactions as well, which can then also lead to the transformation of the identities and interests of states, and to norm conformation.

Femicide in Turkey

Femicides are gender-based killings or maiming of a woman or girl, most often by an intimate male partner or family member (Basdogan et al., 2021, p. 3089). This is related to honor killings as forms of femicide. These are killings in order to restore a family's reputation and honor, mostly committed by male family members. This personal dimension is directly related to the broader dimension of femicide: honor killings are inscribed in traditions and

cultural systems (Cetin, 2015, pp. 347-348). So, femicide is often related to social constructs of honor and shame as well as to femininity and masculinity (pp. 353-354). This is related to the dominance of patriarchal social structure and the lack of gender equality (Anavatan & Kayacan, 2024, p. 2016).

The news media and framing

The news media mainly has two functions, besides collecting and sharing news. On the one hand, it serves to construct and/or influence public opinion, by applying certain narratives or frames (Carlo Martinez, 2024, p. 301; Cissel, 2012, p. 69). So, the media is an important channel through which individuals can learn about political events. Moreover, the media influences the way in which individuals will evaluate events (Brutger & Strezhnev, 2022, pp. 986-987). The second function of the media is to reflect the prevailing thoughts and opinions in society (Carlo Martinez, 2024, p. 301).

The first function is related to the concept of framing. Framing is the selection of some aspects of a perceived reality and make them more salient in a communicating text, in such a way as to promote a particular definition, causal interpretation, moral evaluation, and/or treatment recommendation for the item described (Bouzerdan & Whitten-Woodring, 2018, p. 215; Entman, 1993, p. 52). Framing involves selection and salience. Here, salience means making a piece of information more noticeable, meaningful or memorable (Entman, 1993, p. 53). Functions of framing are to define problems, diagnose causes, make moral judgements and suggest solutions (p. 52).

Especially the first function of media which is described above, is important in this thesis, as this means that the framing of violence against women could potentially shape and influence public opinion. In addition, the framing of femicide as a human rights violation could lead to policy action in that field. However, this opportunity is often missed. News media generally cover the killings of women and girls as separate incidents rather than as parts of a broader context. This presentation of femicide suggests that the killing is motivated by isolated circumstances rather than as part of a general pattern of violence against women (Bouzerdan & Whitten-Woodring, 2018, p. 213). Framing a specific case as an isolating one, can normalize violence against women and discourages efforts to prevent it. Moreover, this can reinforce sexist beliefs and ascribe responsibility to the victims (Aldrete & Fernández-Ardèvol, 2024, p. 232). Consequently, the framing of femicide in the media can have big impacts, including the ways in which society sees the problem as well as possible solutions and public responsibility (Kirkland Gillespie et al., 2013, p. 223).

In framing literature related to femicide, two sorts of framings are most prevalent. These are episodic and thematic frames. The first type is about reporting on one specific case and the latter is reporting on the wider phenomenon on violence against women (Aldrete & Fernández-Ardèvol, 2024, p. 232). Episodic frames describe the situation or problem from the perspective of an individual, which makes them more vivid than thematic frames. Thematic frames tend to be more valid as they can include general statements and statistics (Brosius & Bathelt, 1994, p. 48). Episodic frames influence judgements about social problems to a greater extent than general statements or statistical information (p. 73). Thematic frames portray certain events as a more structural and systematic problem in a society, whereas episodic frames portray certain events as unconnected incidents (Shah, 2019, p. 55).

Episodic frames are more compelling and more likely to draw the reader into the story, which can be the reason why journalists use those frames (Gross, 2008, p. 171). The media is likely to apply a thematic frame when the problem is better understood by both readers and news producers (Shah, 2019, p. 66). So, increased awareness and knowledge of the issue can lead to the use of more thematic frames instead of episodic frames.

Type of newspapers and framing

Turkey has a polarized media system, which means that there is high media integration into party politics, as well as low media commercialization and low journalistic professionalism (Panayirci et al., 2016, p. 552). Most Turkish newspapers are supportive of the government and are either directly or indirectly under control of the government (Way et al., 2018, pp. 482-484). Earlier research on the relationship between the type of newspaper and framing, has suggested that pro-government newspapers tend to frame news items in such a way that it defends the political party it is connected to (Panayirci et al., 2016, p. 563). This, in turn, means that such a newspaper would try not to discredit the government. So, for example, a pro-government newspaper is not likely to show the broader context of an issue in order to protect the government's image. This would suggest that pro-government newspapers tend to use episodic frames instead of thematic frames to describe certain problems, also when it comes to femicide. In this way, the general pattern of violence against women is not visible and the femicide cases are seen as isolating and separate from each other.

Media coverage of treaties

Human rights generally do not receive a lot of media coverage (Brandle, 2018, p. 190).

Moreover, the media generally pays very little attention specifically to the workings of the treaty system. This can be partially explained by the lack of awareness of the treaties among journalists. However, earlier research has suggested that when there is a human rights treaty in force, human rights issues tend to be covered more in the media (Heyns & Viljoen, 2001, p. 499).

One of the reasons that governments sign and ratify treaties is because they think that action on the treaty subject is important and necessary (Hugh-Jones et al., 2018, p. 15; Simmons, 2009a, p. 59). In addition, before a treaty is signed and ratified, political executives have to persuade domestic (veto) players of the importance of policy action on the certain issue (Hugh-Jones et al., 2018, p. 17). So, this shows that there is already attention for the treaty subject before the treaty is officially signed and ratified.

Theoretical argument

As stated above, thematic frames are used in the media when there is more awareness and knowledge of the issue (Shah, 2019, p. 66). Treaties are a tool for creating more awareness and knowledge of a certain issue or problem. Therefore, the media uses thematic frames when there is a treaty in force to show the broader context of the treaty and its subject. Besides this, since there is already attention for the treaty subject before the treaty is in force, the media also applies thematic frames in the period just before the treaty is signed and ratified. When a country withdraws from a treaty, over time, the awareness and knowledge about the specific issue declines. This leads to the application of more episodic frames in the media to cover news related to the treaty subject. A pro-government newspaper is not likely to show the broader context of a problem in order to protect the government's image. This means that pro-government newspapers tend to use episodic frames instead of thematic frames to describe femicide cases. Accordingly, the following hypotheses are derived:

H1a: Just before the signature and ratification of the Istanbul Convention, the Turkish media used thematic frames instead of episodic frames to cover femicide cases.

H1b: During the period in which the Istanbul Convention was ratified and signed, the Turkish media used thematic frames instead of episodic frames to cover femicide cases.

H2: After Turkey had withdrawn from the Istanbul Convention, the Turkish media started to use more episodic frames instead of thematic frames to cover femicide cases.

H3: Pro-government newspapers tend to use more episodic frames to describe femicide cases than independent newspapers.

4. Research design

Case selection

As stated in the literature review, gender-based violence, and in particular femicide, is an exceptionally big problem in Turkey (Erukçü Akbaş & Karataş, 2024, p. 55). The high number of femicides in Turkey correlates with a traditional and patriarchal culture, and is not in line with the western culture (Douki et al., 2003, p. 170). More than 90% of the Turkish population is Muslim. However, the Turkish legal system does not emerge from the Islamic Sharia, but from secular laws similar to those in western countries (Ekmekci, 2017, p. 893). This makes Turkey unique among Muslim countries. Moreover, the founder of modern Turkey, Atatürk, has established a partial European culture (Çınar, 2018, p. 178). The western elements are still strongly visible in the country, but since 2011, the AKP has aimed at redefining Turkey as a conservative Muslim country (p. 183). So, the number of femicides in Turkey is high compared to other countries, and the Turkish culture is a combination of both islamic and western elements. These two factors make Turkey a deviant case.

A deviant case demonstrates a surprising value by reference to some general understanding of the certain topic (Seawright & Gerring, 2008, p. 302). Deviant cases are cases that do not conform to the predictions made by the theory or theories under investigation (Bennett & Elman, 2007, p. 176).

Method of data analysis

The research question will be answered by applying a discourse analysis. This is a qualitative and systematic way of textual analysis, which focuses on the use of specific words (Vine, 2023, p. 5). Discourses are structures that exist in the background and that are used socially by the entire society or at least by a small group of officials (Milliken, 1999, pp. 231-233). In a discourse analysis, the broad context within the text is produced is important and language is seen as socially constructed (Halperin & Heath, 2017, p. 364-365; Vine, 2023, p. 5). Power is important as well, especially the way in which power relations structure, constrain, and produce systems of meaning (Braumoeller & Herrera, 2004, p. 19). The aim of a discourse analysis is to explore the relationship between discourse and reality in a particular context (Halperin & Heath, 2017, p. 368). The focus on the context of communication makes discourse analysis a good way to examine framing. Moreover, the way in which femicide cases are framed, is likely to depend on the broader context, which is particularly important in a discourse analysis.

Methods of data collection

In order to answer the posed research question, Turkish English written newspaper articles of femicide cases will be analyzed. These articles are found in the following English written Turkish newspapers: Daily Sabah, Hürriyet Daily News, Yeni Safak, Duvar English, and Bianet. Daily Sabah is a pro-AKP national newspaper (Inci et al., 2023, p. 1669; Panayırıcı et al., 2016, p. 557). Hürriyet Daily News is also a pro-government newspaper, which especially became the case after 2018 (Atay, 2021, p. 564). The third newspaper that is used, Yeni Safak, is also pro-government newspaper as well as right-wing Islamic (Kaptan, 2020, p. 3991). Duvar English is an independent newspaper, which therefore might be more critical on government policies on femicide and women's rights (Mohammed, 2024, p. 61). Bianet is a left-wing newspaper which focuses on human rights (Baykal Fide, 2022, p. 2116).

So, both pro-government newspapers as well as newspapers that are critical on the government are included in this research, as to give a complete picture of the media framing of femicide. The included newspapers are not all the existing English written Turkish newspapers, but they are representative of this entire group, as both pro-government and independent newspapers are included as well as the newspapers with the highest circulations in Turkey (Atay, 2021, p. 564; Kaptan, 2020, p. 3991; Panayırıcı et al., 2016, p. 557).

Operationalization

The newspaper articles are chosen to be analyzed if they report a femicide case in Turkey. The articles are found by using the search bar on the websites of the newspapers and searching for the following terms: 'femicide', 'women murdered', 'murdered women', 'women', 'Istanbul Convention', and 'gendered violence.' A total of 105 newspaper articles are analyzed. The list of the analyzed articles can be found in appendix A.

The articles are operationalized and categorized as either embodying an episodic frame, a thematic frame or as a mixture of both.

The newspaper articles are categorized as embodying a thematic frame when they report the issue in an abstract form, for example, by including statistics, policies, laws, authorities' statements and their activity reports, political debates and social movement coverage (Aldrete and Fernández-Ardèvol, 2024, p. 237). Moreover, if the article deals with trends over time or themes related to the public and society, it is also considered as having a thematic theme (Shah, 2019, p. 56). Specifically for the subject of femicide, articles are also categorized as having a thematic frame when they mention the Istanbul Convention and discuss the femicide case in the light of that treaty. So, for example, an article is classified as

having a thematic frame when it briefly mentions a femicide case without presenting details about it, and when it also refers to the broader problem of femicide in Turkey. Articles are categorized as episodic when they report the murders of specific women, including the discovery of the bodies, authorities' actions related to investigations and legal processes of specific crimes, interviews with the victims' families and social movements with claims related to specific cases (Aldrete and Fernández-Ardèvol, 2024, p. 237). They are also classified as having an episodic frame when there is no explanation of the cause or context of the evidence (Shah, 2019, p. 56). The newspaper articles are categorized as embodying a mixture of both thematic and episodic frames when they report a single incident including details about it, and when they also situate that case within a larger context of sexual or gendered violence or femicide (Shah, 2019, p. 56).

Three time periods are analyzed, as to examine the potential differences between these periods. The first time period is before the Turkish ratification of the Istanbul Convention, the second timeframe covers the time in which Turkey had ratified the convention, and the last time period covers the time after Turkey had withdrawn from the convention. The first time period starts on January 1, 2009, and ends on March 11, 2012. The second time period starts at March 13, 2012, and ends on June 30, 2021. The third timeframe starts at July 2, 2021, and ends at October 31, 2024.

For the first timeframe, there is only one newspaper article found due to access limitations. Some newspapers only show the first hits until a few years back and some newspapers only show the first five pages of the hits. For the second time period, 63 newspaper articles are analyzed and for the last timeframe 41 newsarticles.

In order to analyze and interpret the articles in a systematic and clear manner, a coding scheme is created. This coding scheme is based on the operationalization as mentioned in the section above. The outline of the coding scheme and the coding scheme which includes the news articles and quotations, can be found in appendixes B and C.

5. Results

This section will analyze how the Turkish media has framed femicide cases in the three different time periods. The results will be presented per separate timeframe. The amount of newspaper articles per timeframe and the type of frames the news articles have, can be found in the table below. In the next chapter, the results will be interpreted and discussed.

Table 1. Number of news articles collected for the analysis.

	Episodic frame	Thematic frame	Combination of both frames	Total
First timeframe	0	0	1	1
Second timeframe	15	0	48	63
Third timeframe	13	0	28	41
Total	28	1	77	105

First timeframe: January 1st, 2009 – March 11, 2012

The only newspaper article from this time period that was found and analyzed, has a combination of both an episodic and a thematic frame, as shown in the following sentences from the article: “Three relatives suspected in the murder have been arrested for the crime, which took place in Alpaslan village in the central province of Afyonkarahisar shortly after the European Court of Human Rights convicted Turkey of not protecting women from domestic violence.” “According to reports, Tayfun then attempted to rape Gürbunar, but reportedly could not because of the woman’s broken bones. The suspects then hit Gürbunar on the head to keep her silent, then panicked when she collapsed.” (Hürriyet Daily News, 2009, June 12). So, this news article describes both a particular case of femicide and it also refers to the broader context of the issue, as it mentions that Turkey is convicted by the European Court of Human Rights for not protecting women from domestic violence.

This finding implies that there is no complete support found for hypothesis 1a, which argues that Turkish media would use thematic frames instead of episodic frames to cover femicide cases in the years before Turkey joined the Istanbul Convention. The analyzed newsarticle from this period suggest that this is partially true, as it covers both an episodic and a thematic frame. Therefore, the hypothesis can not be fully confirmed nor denied.

Second timeframe: March 13, 2012 – June 30, 2021

This timeframe covers the period in which the Istanbul Convention was signed and ratified by Turkey.

Fifteen articles written and published in this timeframe have an episodic frame, which means that they only cover one or multiple individual femicide cases and do not refer to the broader context of femicide. The following sentence is an example of this frame: ‘‘An 83-year-old Turkish man who confessed to murdering his 74-year-old wife appeared in an Istanbul court on Jan. 21, saying that she had been chatting with other men and threatening to divorce him.’’ (Hürriyet Daily News, 2019, January 22). In this sentence, it shows that the article only describes a separate case of femicide and that it does not cover the broader context of the issue, which makes it a typical example of an episodic frame.

The remaining 48 articles have a combination of an episodic and thematic frame. The news articles report and describe separate femicide incidents, while also referring to the broader situation in Turkey around this topic. The following quotation is an example of this: ‘‘Women around Turkey on July 22 protested the brutal murder of 27-year-old Pınar Gültekin by her ex-boyfriend, the latest in a series of femicides in the country, urging Ankara to not back away from the Istanbul Convention.’’ (Duvar English, 2020, July 22). This sentence does not only mention the specific murder of a woman, but it also refers to the broader context as it notes the Istanbul Convention.

There is no support found for hypothesis 1b, which argues that Turkish media uses thematic frames instead of episodic frames to cover femicide cases in the years that Turkey was member of the Istanbul Convention. The analyzed newsarticles from this period suggest that this is not true, since not one newspaper article has a thematic frame and fifteen articles only have an episodic frame.

Third timeframe: July 2, 2021 – October 31, 2024

Out of the 41 analyzed news articles in this time period, there is not a single article which has a thematic frame. So, there is no article that covers femicide in its broad context. All the articles that were analyzed in this timeframe cover at least one individual case of femicide.

Thirteen news articles have an episodic frame, which means that they only cover one or multiple individual femicide cases and do not refer to the broader context or issue. The following quotation is an example of this: ‘‘Turkey's Constitutional Court has found the state at fault for the first time in a femicide case, citing officials' negligence to take enough measures to protect the killed woman, Deutsche Welle's Turkish service reported on Sept.

30.” (Duvar English, 2021, September 30). This sentence only refers to the specific murder of a woman, and it does not mention the broader context of femicide in Turkey.

The remaining 28 news articles have a combination of an episodic and a thematic frame. This means that in these articles, there is both a description of an individual incident of femicide, as well as a reference to the broader Turkish context. The following quotation is an example of this frame: “The murder of a teenage girl who was stabbed to death by a man in Turkey’s north has triggered a new nationwide wave of anger, while the problem in the country remains rampant and the femicide tally keeps increasing.” (Hürriyet Daily News, 2022, February 18).

The findings suggest that support is found for the second hypothesis, which argues that after Turkey had withdrawn from the Istanbul Convention, Turkish media started to use more episodic frames instead of thematic frames to cover femicide cases. Most analyzed articles have a combination of both an episodic and thematic frame, however, in percentages, the number of episodic frames is higher than in the second time period.

Summary

In the second timeframe, around 75% of the news articles have a combination of both an episodic and a thematic frame. In the third time period, this percentage is somewhat lower, namely around 66%. This indicates that during the time in which the Istanbul Convention was signed and ratified in Turkey, the Turkish media more often used a combination of both frames to address femicide cases than in the time period in which Turkey had left the convention. The proportion of episodic frames in the second timeframe is around 24%, whereas that proportion in the third timeframe is around 30%. This means that during the time in which the Istanbul Convention was signed and ratified in Turkey, the Turkish media used less episodic frames to address femicide cases than in the time period in which Turkey had left the convention.

The small numbers of thematic frames used in all three time periods, indicate that the existence of an international treaty on women’s rights does not have a significant influence on the use of these type of frames. The use of thematic frames remain underused. So even though the media attention rose, it did not results in the expected rise of thematic frames. One reason for this can be that newspapers give priority to a newsitem, in this case femicide, that is more urgent or new than the broader context around it. This can be linked to one of the main functions of the media, namely collecting and spreading news.

6. Discussion

The purpose of this chapter is to discuss the differences between the different newspapers. Other implications that flow out of the results will be discussed as well. The table with the different frames per newspaper can be found below.

Table 2: Number of newspaper articles per newspaper and type of frame.

	Episodic frame	Thematic frame	Combination of both frames	Total
Duvar English	16	0	41	57
Hürriyet	10	0	23	33
Daily Sabah	2	0	11	13
Yeni Safak	0	0	1	1
Bianet	0	0	1	1
Total	28	1	77	105

The different newspapers that have been analyzed, use different frames to describe femicide cases. This is illustrated in the table above. An example of these differences, is that Hürriyet Daily News uses more episodic frames than Duvar English. Moreover, Duvar English uses more combinations of both episodic and thematic frames than Hürriyet Daily News. Hürriyet Daily News is a pro-government newspaper and Duvar English is an independent newspaper (Atay, 2021, p. 564; Mohammed, 2024, p. 61). This could indicate that a pro-government newspaper tends to use more episodic frames than independent newspapers, which would confirm hypothesis four. Moreover, this finding could suggest that independent newspapers are more likely to take the broader perspective and context of femicide into account.

Another example of the use of different frames, is that Daily Sabah, which is a pro-AKP newspaper, more often uses a combination of both episodic and thematic frames compared to both Duvar English and Hürriyet Daily News (Inci et al., 2023, p. 1669; Panayırıcı et al., 2016, p. 557). This would weaken the finding that pro-government newspapers use episodic frames more often than thematic frames.

So, overall, support is found for hypothesis four, which argues that pro-government newspaper tend to use more episodic frames to describe femicide cases than independent newspapers.

The results of this thesis also have other implications. The first one is that the news media do not automatically have an interest in or attention for certain international treaties or conventions. So, they do not automatically mention these in an article that is related to the topic of the treaty or convention. Moreover, women's rights and the violation of those rights as a broad topic and problem do not always get attention in news outlets, also not in progressive or independent newspapers.

7. Conclusion

This thesis answers the following research question: “What is the influence of the Istanbul Convention on the framing of femicide cases in the Turkish media?”. A discourse analysis of Turkish English newspaper articles was used to answer the question.

Femicide is a structural problem and a social and cultural phenomenon, which requires a global and integrated response (Niemi- Kiesiläinen et al., 2020, pp. 2-3). Considering its leading role in human rights protection, the Council of Europe decided it was necessary to set comprehensive standards to prevent and combat violence against women and girls and domestic violence (pp. 5-6). The goal of the convention is to prevent all forms of violence against women and girls (Grans 2018, p. 136). Turkey was the first country to ratify the Istanbul Convention and it was also the first country to withdraw from the convention (Güneş & Ezikoğlu, 2023, p. 14).

The framing of violence against women and femicide could potentially shape and influence public opinion. Moreover, the framing of femicide as a human rights violation and as a persistent pattern could lead to policy action in that field. However, this opportunity is often missed. News media typically cover the killings of women as separate incidents rather than as parts of a broader problem. This framing of femicide suggests that the killing was motivated by isolated circumstances rather than as part of a general pattern of violence against women (Bouzerdan & Whitten-Woodring, 2018, p. 213).

Thematic frames are used in the news media when there is more awareness and knowledge of the issue (Shah, 2019, p. 66). Treaties are a tool for creating more awareness and knowledge of a certain issue or problem. Therefore, the media is likely to use thematic frames when there is a treaty to show the broader context of the treaty and its subject. Besides this, since there is already attention for the treaty subject before the treaty is in force, the media is likely to also apply thematic frames in the period before the treaty is signed and ratified. When a country withdraws from a treaty, over time, the awareness and knowledge of the specific issue declines. This is likely to lead to the application of more episodic frames in the media to cover news related to the treaty subject.

The first expectation was that just before Turkey signed and ratified the Istanbul Convention, the news media would use thematic frames to cover femicide cases. The second hypothesis was that during the period in which the Istanbul Convention was ratified and signed by Turkey, the Turkish media would use thematic frames instead of episodic frames to cover femicide cases. Another expectation was that after Turkey had withdrawn from the

Istanbul Convention, Turkish media would start to use more episodic frames instead of thematic frames to report femicide cases. Finally, it was expected that pro-government newspapers would use episodic frames instead of thematic frames to cover femicide cases, as they do not want to discredit the government's image.

The results partially fit the expectations since only the second and fourth hypotheses are fully confirmed: after Turkey had withdrawn from the Istanbul Convention, the Turkish media started to use more episodic frames instead of thematic frames to cover femicide cases. Moreover, pro-government newspaper tend to use more episodic frames to describe femicide cases than independent newspapers. The answer to the research question is as follows: the Istanbul Convention has influenced the Turkish media framing of femicide cases from using a combination of both episodic and thematic frames in the time in which Turkey had signed and ratified the convention, to the use of episodic frames after Turkey had left the convention.

Two limitations of this study are that it did not include all English Turkish newspapers and that it did not include any Turkish written news sources. Therefore, further research on this topic would do well in including more newspapers as to give a broader picture of the Turkish media framing of femicide cases. Moreover, in this way, the potential differences between Turkish and English written newspapers could be brought to light. This thesis, however, did include a combination of both independent and pro-government newspapers, as well as the newspapers with the highest circulations (Atay, 2021, p. 564; Kaptan, 2020, p. 3991; Panayirci et al., 2016, p. 557). A final limitation of this thesis is that there was only one newspaper article available in the first timeframe. This prevents formulating a definitive answer to the first hypothesis about the most prevalent media frame in the period just before Turkey signed the Istanbul Covention. This limitation shows the existing dependence to the availability of information and is unavoidable.

A societal recommendation that results from this thesis, is that the signature and ratification of the Istanbul Convention is beneficial for countries, as that is likely to lead to the use of more thematic frames in the media portrayal of femicide cases. This, in turn, can make the broader context of the problem more evident, which can lead to more policy action in the field of preventing and combating femicide and violence against women. A second recommendation is that governments should provide information about treaties to newssources, so that the news media can use this information as a framework for their collection of news and opinion making.

Despite the limitations described above, this thesis provides valuable insights into the

influence of the Istanbul Convention on the media framing of femicide cases. It addresses a gap in the academic literature on the relationship between an international treaty or convention and the framing of news outlets about the specific issue. It specifically contributes to the academic work on the relationship between international treaties and the media framing of femicide.

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9. Appendixes

Appendix A: Analyzed newspaper articles

Abated sentence for man who stabbed wife to death in southeast. (2016, January 11). Hürriyet Daily News. Conducted on November 4, 2024 from

<https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/abated-sentence-for-man-who-stabbed-wife-to-death-in-southeast-93694>

Activist lawyer becomes another victim of femicide. (2022, January 13). Hürriyet Daily News. Conducted on October 30, 2024 from

<https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/activist-lawyer-becomes-another-victim-of-femicide-170732>

Afghan man follows ex-wife who escaped from him, kills her in Turkey. (2021, May 27).

Duvar English. Conducted on October 28, 2024 from

<https://www.duvarenglish.com/afghan-man-follows-ex-wife-who-escaped-from-him-kills-her-in-turkey-news-57641>

Alkaç, F. (2014, August 27). *Turkish woman waits to be killed by husband despite security measures*. Hürriyet Daily News. Conducted on October 29, 2024 from

<https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkish-woman-waits-to-be-killed-by-husband-despite-security-measures-70968>

Alkaç, F. (2017, August 27). *Reduced sentence for man who causes wife's death stirs reaction*. Hürriyet Daily News. Conducted on October 29, 2024 from

<https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/reduced-sentence-for-man-who-caused-wifes-death-stirs-reaction-117247>

Another woman killed by violent husband despite restraining order in western Turkey. (2020, December 9). Duvar English. Conducted on October 29, 2024 from

<https://www.duvarenglish.com/another-woman-killed-by-violent-husband-despite-restraining-order-in-western-turkey-news-55402>

Another woman's vicious murder stirs outrage in Turkey. (2020, July 21). Daily Sabah.

Conducted on October 30, 2024 from <https://www.dailysabah.com/turkey/another-womans-vicious-murder-stirs-outrage-in-turkey/news>

Atakan, D. (2021, January 21). *A sad face, a tie and an allegation of provocation are all a women's killer needs to get a lenient sentence in Turkey*. Duvar English. Conducted on

October 28, 2024 from <https://www.duvarenglish.com/a-sad-face-a-tie-and-an>

[allegation-of-provocation-are-all-a-womans-killer-needs-to-get-a-lenient-sentence-in-turkey-news-55959](#)

AKP Istanbul councillor legitimizes killing of woman by boyfriend, says couple ‘was having extramarital life’. (2020, May 25). Duvar English. Conducted on October 28, 2024 from <https://www.duvarenglish.com/domestic/2020/05/25/akp-istanbul-councillor-legitimizes-killing-of-woman-by-boyfriend-says-couple-was-having-extramarital-life>

Bayar, C. (2024, October 7). *Impunity for violence against women in Turkey: Pepper spray sales peak*. Duvar English. Conducted on October 28, 2024 from <https://www.duvarenglish.com/impunity-for-violence-against-women-in-turkey-pepper-spray-sales-peak-news-65058>

Brutal femicide with samurai sword triggers wave of anger. (2011, November 12). Hürriyet Daily News. Conducted on October 30, 2024 from <https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/brutal-femicide-with-samurai-sword-triggers-wave-of-anger-169299>

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Appendix B: Outline of code book

Category	Description	Recording unit
Thematic frame	Reportage of the issue in an abstract and global form. Including for example statistics, laws, policies, authorities' statements, reports and trends or themes over time related to public and society.	Sentences
Episodic frame	Reportage of the murder of specific women. Including for example the discovery of the bodies, investigations, legal processes, interviews with victims' families. No explanation or context included.	Sentences
Combination of thematic frame and episodic frame	Reportage of the issue including reporting a single incident, but also the larger context of sexual or gendered violence or femicide	Sentences

Appendix C: Code book

Category	News articles
	January 1st, 2009 – March 11, 2012
Thematic frame	-
Episodic frame	-
Combination of thematic frame and episodic frame	<p>https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/woman-killed-after-refusing-captors-offer-194511</p> <p>“Three relatives suspected in the murder have been arrested for the crime, which took place in Alpaslan village in the central province of Afyonkarahisar shortly after the European Court of Human Rights convicted Turkey of not protecting women from domestic violence.”</p>
	March 13, 2012 – June 30, 2021
Thematic frame	-
Episodic frame	<p>https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkish-man-kills-estranged-wife-on-childrens-day-19102</p> <p>“A Turkish woman was allegedly murdered by her estranged husband today after the pair’s daughter in April 23 Children’s Day celebrations. Ayşe İnce, 34, had a restraining order issued by a court against her husband two months ago. Her husband, Mehmet İnce, had been detained last week for threatening to kill his wife but was later released by a prosecutor. Mehmet İnce showed up at his daughters' school in Istanbul's Küçükçekmece district despite the restraining order against him. Witnesses said Ayşe İnce started to argue with her husband, who had his pictures taken with his eight-year-old daughter, asking him why he came there. The argument continued after the celebrations at the school and carried on in the street in front of the school. As the quarrel continued, Mehmet İnce produced a knife and allegedly stabbed his wife, who fell to the ground with an injury to her leg.”</p> <p>https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkish-man-strangles-girlfriend-after-learning-of-abortion-24889</p> <p>“A man accused of killing his 19-year-old girlfriend said he committed the crime in a fit of rage after learning that the woman had had their baby aborted.”</p>

<https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/i-am-killing-my-wife-right-now-man-reports-to-police-operator-67481>

“A man in the southeastern province of Diyarbakır called police to inform them that he was murdering his wife, just a day after she gave birth to her second daughter, according to exchanges from a court hearing into the case on June 4.”

“V.T. later told police that he was told by an evil power to kill his wife and that he could not resist it. However, the victim’s family claimed that the husband had planned the murder and wanted to avoid hard time by simulating mental problems, according to daily Hürriyet.”

<https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkish-man-confesses-to-american-wifes-murder-70956>

“A Turkish man has confessed to the murder of his U.S. citizen wife, claiming she ‘provoked’ him during an argument by saying she had an affair.”

<https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkish-woman-waits-to-be-killed-by-husband-despite-security-measures-70968>

“A Turkish woman, who was stabbed 17 times because she wanted to divorce her husband, has said she is waiting to be murdered despite security measures. Sena Ş., 22, told Hürriyet on Aug. 26 she was still receiving death threats from Osman Ş., 28, with whom she was married at an early age after running away from her family home in Istanbul’s Bayrampaşa neighborhood. When she wanted to divorce due to the abuse she faced, she was stabbed by her husband 17 times in April. Since then, a court ruled to mobilize police to protect Sena, who was hospitalized with heavy injuries. Her husband was set free pending trial.”

<https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/15-year-old-girl-killed-by-family-after-being-raped-by-cousins-71499>

“A prosecution into the murder of a 15-year-old girl in Batman two years ago has revealed that she was murdered by her uncles after being raped by her cousins. The body of the girl, identified as Hasret, was found two years ago at a sand quarry near Batman Brook. After leaving her husband, she was raped and killed by her two cousins on the decision of a family council after she got pregnant, daily Sabah reported.”

<https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/puzzle-murder-of-azeri-woman-in-istanbul-solved-74052>

“Tazegül Dadaşova was killed in Istanbul with pieces of her corpse found in various neighborhoods from April 2001 to May 2001. Her son, Salih Dadaşova, applied to police four days after her death. A suspect, identified as Mevlüt S., was detained after Salih Dadaşova told police that he might have killed his mother who wanted to end her relationship with him.”

<https://www.dailysabah.com/turkey/2015/02/15/erdogans-daughters-visit-murdered-turkish-young-woman-ozgecan-aslans-family>

“Özgecan Aslan, who was a psychology student at Çağ University in the southern province of Mersin, was burnt after she was allegedly raped and heinously murdered by the driver of a bus she had boarded to go home. Aslan's murder has caused uproar across the country, with politicians and various organizations protesting the incident and raising awareness about the issue of femicide in Turkey.”

<https://www.dailysabah.com/investigations/2016/04/27/female-murder-victim-shares-the-fate-of-notorious-femicide-victim-namesake>

“A couple, who were living separately due to ongoing problems in their marriage, were murdered by the wife's brother on late Tuesday in Adana province.”

“Bekir Arslan flew from Antalya to Adana on late Monday. While the couple was speaking at Ö.H.'s house, an argument broke out, and D.H. pulled out his gun and shot the couple dead. The assailant tried to escape, but soon was captured by police units.”

<https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/man-caught-driving-with-his-girlfriends-corpse-in-car-in-turkeys-southeast-121049>

“Cuma Pancar, a 38-year-old businessman, met with his girlfriend Arzu Gültekin, 31, at noon on Oct. 17 to have lunch. But a quarrel erupted between the two when the woman said she wanted to break up with him. Pancar then allegedly forced her to get into his car and shot her dead with an unlicensed gun.”

“In his testimony, Pancar confessed to killing the woman and said he did not remember what happened after the murder.”

<https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/femicide-defendant-claims-his-74-year-old-wife-was-chatting-with-men-140691>

“An 83-year-old Turkish man who confessed to murdering his 74-year-old wife appeared in an Istanbul court on Jan. 21, saying that she had been chatting with other men and threatening to divorce him.”

<https://www.duvarenglish.com/women/2019/11/27/man-who-blinded-woman-in-acid-attack-may-be-released>

“A man who threw acid at a young woman's face, blinding her in one and eye and causing burns, may be released in the next hearing of his trial due to prosecutors requesting less serious charges, according to the woman's lawyer. In January in the southern province of Hatay, Ozan Çeltik attacked 19-year-old Berfin Özek with the acid while she was on her way home. The two were formerly a couple and Özek said that they broke up because he was violent and threatening toward her, and had been harassing for a year since the breakup.”

<https://www.duvarenglish.com/women/2020/09/18/mother-of-femicide-suspect-dies-suspiciously-in-ankara-family-blames-tv-host-for-harming-reputation>

“Ümit Can Uygun has been a suspect in the death of his former girlfriend, 21-year-old Aleyna Çakır since he reported to police that he found the young woman dead in his home on June 3.”

<https://www.duvarenglish.com/women/2020/11/03/turkish-man-stages-arson-to-cover-femicide>

“A 31-year-old woman named Fatma Mavi was killed by a former romantic interest who staged an apartment fire to cover up the femicide.”

<https://www.duvarenglish.com/turkish-man-gets-sentence-reduced-for-good-behavior-unjust-provocation-after-stabbing-wife-46-times-news-57615>

“The case concerns the murder of 37-year-old Tuba Erkol by his husband Bekir Erol on Aug. 18, 2019 in the Central Anatolian province of Konya.”

Combination of thematic frame and episodic frame

<https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/domestic-violence-cases-continue-around-turkey-26358>

“Reports of women being murdered or beaten have continued to increase from all parts of the country, detailing various different incidents.”

“A 37-year-old Izmir man kidnapped his 25-year-old ex-wife at gun point and held her hostage for two hours July 24 before wounding her with a knife.”

“Despite an increasing number of domestic violence reports, an article from daily Radikal revealed that women trapped in violent situations or who experience episodes of violence face bureaucratic difficulties when reporting these crimes in Turkey.”

“Meanwhile, a 72-year-old man murdered his 70-year-old wife after suffering a fit of hysteria in the eastern province of Kars on July 24.”

“Uysal Sarıboğa, who was discharged from prison, recently killed his Georgian girlfriend Gülnara Bak for “insulting him in the Georgian language,” according to a Doğan news agency report.”

“In the central Anatolian province of Aksaray, a woman was reportedly beaten by her husband’s family members for ‘coming home 30 minutes late.’”

<https://www.dailysabah.com/turkey/2015/02/14/turkey-unites-reacts-against-the-heinous-murder-of-young-woman>

“The brutal murder of Özgecan Aslan, a 20-year-old university student in the southern Turkish city of Mersin has created an uproar in the country as people from all spectrums of life including celebrities and politicians have expressed their disgust over the incident and called for justice to be served.”

“A demonstration was organized by an organization called Stop the Murder of Women Platform on Saturday, where hundreds of people gathered in Taksim to protest the incident and raise awareness about the issue of femicide in Turkey.”

<https://www.yenisafak.com/en/news/murder-of-young-woman-sparks-hot-debate-over-death-penalty-in-turkey-2083303>

“The arguments have been fueled by the horrific murder of the university student, Özgecan Aslan, after she resisted a minibuss driver’s attempt to rape her. The 20-year-old’s burnt body was discovered in a riverbed in Mersin province on Friday.”

“In Istanbul, women activists of all ages argued that violence against women has increased in Turkey in recent years.”

<https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/18-year-old-turkish-girl-was-raped-after-murder-report-84416>

“The latest victim of femicide in Turkey was raped after she was killed, Turkish media reported June 23, quoting an autopsy report.”

“According to daily Akşam, the autopsy report said that sperm and nail traces found in and on Kaya’s body, belonged to both arrested suspects, identified as N.D. and M.P.Ç. The time difference between the time when Kaya’s neck was bruised and the marks of rape indicated that the murderers sexually assaulted the victim after she was dead, forensics experts reportedly noted.”

“On June 22, about 500 people protested in the Ortaca district of Muğla, marching with placards showing pictures of slain women in Turkey and chanted slogans in the streets. Nilgün Şahin, the Ortaca municipality city council secretary-general, made a statement on behalf of the group, pointing to the increasing number of femicides in the

country. ‘The women who were brutally murdered this year are among us right now. The horrific male violence that sticks words in our throats is still continuing to make our lives miserable without boundaries,’ Şahin said. ‘The male-dominant mentality, which bereaves women of any age, color or language, has murdered a total of 144 sisters since the beginning of 2015. We are aware that those who murdered Cansu want to murder us too,’ she added. Public debate around violence against women flared up in Turkey earlier this year, after the burned body of 20-year-old university student Özgecan Aslan was found in a river bed in the southern province of Mersin on Feb. 11. The driver of the minibus she took to return home confessed to the murder. He was arrested on Feb. 16 with two of his accomplices.”

<https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkish-man-sends-bomb-to-ex-girlfriend-as-wedding-gift-89437>

“A man has been arrested in Turkey’s Aegean town of Aydın for placing a bomb at his ex-girlfriend’s front door as a ‘wedding gift.’ Reports stated that the woman in the Çine district of Aydın married the man, identified only as Mustafa K., shortly after breaking up with her former boyfriend, identified as Baki A. Upon receiving news of the woman’s marriage, the suspect enlisted one of his friends, identified as Ersun B., to help him build a home-made bomb to be detonated in front of the woman’s home.”

“The case could have been the latest femicide in Turkey’s deteriorating record on violence against women. According to data from the ‘We Will Stop Femicide Platform,’ the number of murders of women in Turkey has seen a sharp rise since 2008, when the platform started publishing monthly and annual reports. Some 182 women were murdered in the first eight months of 2015.”

<https://www.dailysabah.com/turkey/2015/11/09/hatice-kacmazs-murderer-gets-reduced-sentenced-for-too-much-love-says-turkish-court>

“Hatice Kaçmaz was killed by Orhan Munis in the capital Ankara after she had been declining non-stop marriage proposals by Munis. On September 17, 2014, Munis confronted Kaçmaz once again in a last desperate attempt to convince her to marry him. But after she refused him, he took her to a park by force, where he stabbed her to death 16 times.”

“Violence against women perpetrated by their spouses/lovers is a major cause of concern, as the public outcry against "femicide" continues to escalate. The government has launched a nationwide campaign to raise awareness of the issue alongside an action plan to tackle the violence. Amid new measures, which will soon be implemented nationwide, is a tracking

system for domestic violence perpetrators and tougher sentences in cases involving violence against women.”

<https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/abated-sentence-for-man-who-stabbed-wife-to-death-in-southeast-93694>

“A Turkish court lessened the penalty of a man who stabbed his wife to death in the southeastern province of Diyarbakır on Feb. 14, 2015, from a life sentence to 20 years in prison on the conviction that the perpetrator would not commit a murder again.”

“The ruling was similar to many previously cases involving violence against women in recent years against women, except for that of 20-year-old college student Özgecan Arslan. In the case concerning the brutal killing of the college girl, which occurred days before Meryem’s murder, all three men involved were sentenced to aggravated life sentences in prison.”

<https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/echr-finds-turkey-guilty-of-violating-right-to-life-in-femicide-case-95570>

“The European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) has found Turkey guilty of violating the right to life in a case regarding a woman murdered by her husband after filing numerous complaints with the police over the man’s death threats and harassment.”

“The press release established the principal facts of the case, explaining that Civek had filed three complaints throughout 2010 over renewed domestic violence, harassment and death threats. Her husband, identified as H.C., was remanded in custody on Oct. 14 of the same year over domestic violence, but was released from custody under judicial supervision on Nov. 12. A month later, on Jan. 14, 2011, H.C. stabbed Civek 22 times, murdering her on a street.”

“Femicide is a growing concern in Turkey, where more than 1,100 women were killed by men over the past five years, according to data collected by a website dedicated to tracking femicide victims called www.kadincinayetleri.org. In 608 cases, the murderers were husbands or ex-husbands of the victims while in 141 cases, the women applied to a public institution demanding protection from assault and/or threats. In 217 cases, there were systematic violent assault and/or verbal threats before the murders took place.”

<https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/posters-of-woman-killed-by-brother-hung-in-streets-in-turkeys-southeast-102621>

“Posters featuring the image a young woman who was killed by her brother have been hung in the streets of the southeastern province of Batman by a group of female activists. Amine Demirtaş, 17, was killed by her brother after being subjected to torture on Aug. 2.”

“Demirtaş was beaten for ‘using a cell phone without the knowledge of her family,’ according to her brother Kasım Demirtaş’s testimony.”

“Saying that violence against women, femicides, suicides and murders made to look as suicides were increasing day-by-day, Berivan Acar, who spoke on behalf of the Women’s Assembly, said that people were learning about these incidents from the media. In the statement, Acar also said that Demirtaş was ‘brutally murdered’ and added that seven femicides had been committed in Batman in the last six months.”

<https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/reduced-sentence-for-man-who-caused-wifes-death-stirs-reaction-117247>

“The reduction of the sentence for a man, Mehmet Çelik, who caused his wife Hatice Çelik, to fall to her death from the balcony of their home after chasing her with a knife, stirred a reaction among the woman’s family as well as her colleagues.”

“Hatice (35), a nurse, who was married with one child, filed for divorce last year in Istanbul due to irreconcilable differences. Just one day after she submitted her divorce petition to the authorities, her husband, Mehmet, came to their home on April 12, 2016, under the pretext of collecting his belongings. After threatening Hatice, he chased her in their home to their balcony, with knife in hand, from where she fell. Hatice lost her life 16 days later. The police then launched an investigation into the incident to determine if Çelik committed suicide or if it was a murder case.”

“While Hatice Çelik was at the hospital struggling for her life, doctors, nurses, and health personnel had undertaken protests in front of the hospital with placards reading “We stand by you,” reacting to male violence against women. ‘Hatice was killed only because she wanted a divorce. The court applied reduction upon reduction [to the sentence]. Due to these reductions, new femicides are taking place. We will follow up on this issue,’ said Fadime Kavak in front of the hospital, a representative of a health union that Hatice was a member of.”

<https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/husband-stabs-wife-to-death-after-restraining-order-is-lifted-in-turkeys-tekirdag-120458>

“northwest Turkey has stabbed his wife to death on the same day as a restraining order on him was lifted. Hasan Yumuşak, 63, killed his wife Fatma Yumuşak, 53, at the address where she was living with her two children in the Marmara province of Tekirdağ’s Süleymanpaşa district on Oct. 5.”

“Violence against women is among Turkey’s bleeding wounds, with reports of the killing of woman – including those officially under state protection - occurring almost every day.”

<https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/mum-dont-die-murder-of-turkish-woman-sparks-outrage-146021>

“The 38-year-old was stabbed to death in a cafe on August 18 by her former husband in the central Anatolian city of Kırıkkale. Bulut, who divorced her killer four years ago, later died in hospital.”

“In the first six months of 2019, 214 women were killed by men, while 440 women were killed last year, according to the women’s rights group We Will Stop Femicide. That was up from 409 women in 2017 and 121 in 2011.”

<https://www.duvarenglish.com/women/2019/10/15/womens-groups-focus-on-murder-trial-for-man-suspected-in-brutal-killing-of-emine-bulut>

“The trial of Fedai Varan, who is facing life imprisonment for the brutal murder of his ex-wife Emine Bulut, began on Wednesday in the province of Kırıkkale. Varan is alleged to have stabbed Bulut to death in front of their 10-year old daughter.”

“The brutal murders of Damar and Bulut are among the most high-profile femicides that have occurred in Turkey this year, creating outrage regarding the surge of violence against women in Turkey.”

<https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/university-student-strangled-and-stabbed-to-death-by-her-ex-boyfriend-148898>

“A 19-year-old university student Güleda Cankel from Isparta University of Applied Sciences (ISUBU) was strangled and stabbed to death by her ex-boyfriend Zafer Pehlivan, in the southern province of Isparta on Nov. 18. Zafer Pehlivan went to the police station and surrendered himself three hours after the murder, according to his testimony given to law enforcement officers.”

“According to figures provided by Kadın Cinayetlerini Durduracağız Platformu (We Will Stop Femicide Platform), which keeps a tally of femicides across the country, some 376 women were killed by men in Turkey in 2019.”

<https://www.duvarenglish.com/women/2019/12/04/murder-of-ballerina-adds-to-outrage-over-increasing-femicides-in-turkey>

“Ceren Özdemir, a 20-year-old university student, was stabbed to death by an unknown assailant in the Black Sea province of Ordu on Dec. 4 - becoming one of the hundreds of women killed by men in the country. Violence against women is in grave levels in Turkey, with at least 430 women killed in the past 11 months, according to the statistics shared by We Will Stop Femicide Platform.”

<https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/murder-triggers-outrage-debate-on-penal-code-149463>

“The suspect in the murder of a 20-year-old university student and ballerina confessed to the crime, authorities said on Dec. 4. The suspect in her murder, identified only as Özgür Arduç, was caught by security forces with the murder weapon in his possession.”

“He said that violence against women continues to increase in the entire world regardless of education level, economic development, cultural level and country. ‘This is not an acknowledgment, but a situation that we must consider seriously. All public institutions, non-governmental organizations, media should be in full mobilization and cooperation in order to eliminate violence against women,’ he said.”

“If Law No. 6284 is not applied, the Istanbul Convention is not applied, many women will be killed in this way, HDP lawmaker Tülay Oruç said.”

<https://www.duvarenglish.com/human-rights/2020/04/22/turkish-man-arrested-over-stabbing-wife-beats-daughter-to-death-upon-being-released-after-short-jail-term>

“A man who was arrested over stabbing his wife has killed his 11-year-old daughter upon being released after serving only five months in jail in the southeastern province of Antep. Müslüm Aslan, who was released on Nov. 4, 2019 after being arrested on May 31 of the same year for stabbing Rukiye Aslan, wanted to see his children on April 16.”

“The incident caused uproar on social media, since the country has been experiencing a surge in the number of violence against women and femicide cases.”

<https://www.duvarenglish.com/domestic/2020/05/25/akp-istanbul-councillor-legitimizes-killing-of-woman-by-boyfriend-says-couple-was-having-extramarital-life>

“The incident concerns the brutal death of Zeynep Şenpınar, 25, at the hands of Turkish boxer Selim Ahmet Kemaloğlu in the Aegean province of Muğla on May 24.

Kemaloğlu was arrested on the same day for stabbing his girlfriend to death in the chest with a kitchen knife during the coronavirus lockdown. The incident occurred during an argument in the flat which the couple were sharing.”

“According to an annual reported by We Will Stop Femicide Platform, at least 474 women were killed in Turkey in 2019. The country has one of the worst records in the world in terms of violence against women, with experts saying that Turkish authorities fail to offer women proper protection.”

<https://www.duvarenglish.com/women/2020/06/19/turkish-woman-shot-by-husband-writes-message-to-parents-in-her-own-blood-to-reveal-her-attacker>

“A woman who was shot by her husband has written a message to her parents in her own blood to reveal her attacker, in the latest incident of violence against women in Turkey. Ragıp Canan shot Nurtaç Canan when she wanted to divorce him over being subjected to violence in Istanbul's Zeytinburnu, daily Hürriyet reported on June 19.”

“Violence against women is a grave problem in Turkey with women getting killed or wounded by men everyday. While there are calls on authorities to impose heavy sentences to deter men from doing so, the judicial system remains to be on the side of men.”

<https://www.duvarenglish.com/women/2020/07/21/turkey-mourns-killing-of-pinar-gultekin-by-ex-boyfriend-as-femicide-toll-continues-to-increase>

“Turkey on July 21 mourned brutal killing of Pınar Gültekin by her ex-boyfriend Cemal Metin Avcı. The burned body of Gültekin was found in a forest area in Muğla. The young woman had been missing since July 16 and her family had sought help from authorities after being unable to reach her.”

“Gültekin is the latest woman to be murdered by men in Turkey. Femicides are a grave problem in the country, where women get killed or beaten every single day.”

<https://www.dailysabah.com/turkey/another-womans-vicious-murder-stirs-outrage-in-turkey/news>

“The body of 27-year-old Pınar Gültekin, a university student living in the southwestern province of Muğla, was discovered on Tuesday after she was reported missing on July 16. The murder renewed online protests against women’s murders.”

“Domestic violence claimed the lives of innocent 932 women between 2016 and 2018.”

<https://www.duvarenglish.com/human-rights/2020/07/22/murder-of-27-year-old-fuels-turkeys-feminist-rebellion-dont-think-about-touching-istanbul-convention>

“Women around Turkey on July 22 protested the brutal murder of 27-year-old Pinar Gültekin by her ex-boyfriend, the latest in a series of femicides in the country, urging Ankara to not back away from the Istanbul Convention.”

“The young woman's body was recovered in a wooded area in the western province of Muğla after she had been missing for five days, sparking outrage in the country where hundreds of women were murdered by men in 2019 and dozens reported domestic violence each day.”

<https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkey-mourns-grusome-killing-of-young-woman-156786>

“The gruesome murder of Pinar Gültekin, a 27-year old university student who was choked to death by a man reported to have been her ex-boyfriend in the Aegean province of Muğla, has triggered nationwide mourning for the young woman and groundswell of outrage against femicides in the country, with fury on social media as women and activists call for an end to the perennial issue.”

“The murder of the woman sparked nationwide outrage when the details of the case appeared in the media, while forcing a renewed reckoning in a country that has long been wrestling with violence against women and mounting femicides in Turkey, where more than 118 women have been killed so far in 2020, according to the We Will Stop Femicides Platform (Kadın Cinayetlerini Durduracağız Platformu).”

<https://www.duvarenglish.com/women/2020/07/28/turkish-court-of-cassation-seeks-reduction-of-sentence-for-perpetrator-in-femicide-case-over-lack-of-loyalty>

“... who killed his wife Sedef Berberoğlu upon seeing her in a car with Abdullah Tekin and Okan Duran on Sept. 13, 2013 in the Aegean province of Muğla. While he also killed Tekin, Duran managed to escape.”

“Femicides and violence against women are grave problems in Turkey, where women get killed or beaten every single day.”

<https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/woman-dies-after-being-set-on-fire-by-man-in-latest-femicide-157320>

“Yet another woman has been murdered in Turkey when she succumbed to severe injuries after being set on fire by a man who she reportedly lived with in the Black Sea province of Ordu’s Fatsa district.”

“Femicides in Turkey have become an epidemic which feminist groups say is not fought against adequately. Women’s rights groups and feminists are demanding the

Istanbul Convention, a Council of Europe treaty that obligates member states to fight violence against women, be fully implemented amid debates that Turkey could withdraw from it. In a country where hundreds of women get killed every year, debates on whether the country should withdraw from the convention are unacceptable, the groups have said.”

<https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/two-more-women-fall-victim-to-femicide-in-turkey-157749>

“Two more women have fallen victim to femicide in the southeastern provinces of Batman and Gaziantep, while another woman in the Central Anatolian province of Çorum has been stabbed by her partner, with her son crying for help beside her from police.”

“At least 245 women were murdered in 2020 so far, according to Anıt Savaş, an online femicide tally. Women’s rights groups and feminists say violence against women and femicides are perennial in the country and demand legal authorities and the government take tangible action.”

<https://www.duvarenglish.com/women/2020/09/23/young-turkish-woman-shot-dead-in-eskisehir-by-coworker-she-turned-down>

“Resident of western Turkey's Bilecik province, 23-year-old Handan Bul was shot dead on Sept. 21 by her coworker Yusuf Uğur after she turned down his repeated romantic offers.”

“Bul's is the latest in an ever-growing list of femicides in Turkey, as the women's movement urges the judiciary to be stricter with enforcing existing laws, and the government contemplates withdrawing from Istanbul Convention, a key piece of legislation that protects citizens against domestic violence.”

<https://www.duvarenglish.com/women/2020/10/12/future-party-istanbul-member-killed-by-husband-in-yet-another-femicide>

“Istanbul resident 28-year-old Gül Gülüm, also a member of former Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu's Future Party, was killed on Oct. 11 by her husband, against whom she had obtained a restraining order.”

“Femicides and violence against women are grave problems in Turkey, where women get killed, sexually abused or beaten every single day. The policies of the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) that protect men via granting them impunity is the main cause behind the situation, women's rights groups say.”

<https://www.duvarenglish.com/women/2020/10/14/turkish-womans-ex-partner-arrested-for-fatal-stabbing-adding-to-list-of-femicides>

“A 23-year-old woman, Gamze Esgicioğlu's ex-boyfriend Hasan Bölüm was arrested after the young woman was found in her apartment with a fatal knife wound to the chest on Oct. 13 in the western province of Isparta, adding to Turkey's ever-growing list of femicides and suspicious women deaths.”

“Turkey's We Will Stop Femicides platform reported some 16 women's murders in September alone, along with 20 suspicious women's deaths.”

<https://www.duvarenglish.com/human-rights/2020/10/15/restraining-order-fails-to-protect-yet-another-woman-from-murder-in-turkey>

“A restraining order failed to protect retired nurse Hatice Tusu from a man named Suat Aksoy who abducted and killed her.”

“Turkey's We Will Stop Femicides platform reported some 16 women's murders in September alone, along with 20 suspicious women's deaths. Considering that many instances of violence against women go unreported, it's safe to say that one woman is killed in Turkey each day in domestic settings, most often by people they know well, like a former spouse or a relative.”

<https://www.duvarenglish.com/women/2020/10/22/woman-who-escaped-from-abusive-boyfriend-killed-by-brother-for-bringing-shame-upon-family-in-diyarbakir>

“A 24-year-old woman named Melek Aslan was shot dead by her brother in the southeastern province of Diyarbakır, news portal Jinnews reported on Oct. 21.”

“Women strive to save themselves despite being surrounded by violence. [Meleks] will continue to be killed as long as the government empowers men, instead of women insisting on staying alive,” tweeted Turkey's We Will Stop Femicides platform.”

<https://www.duvarenglish.com/human-rights/2020/10/28/turkish-man-kills-ex-fiance-her-mother-hours-after-restraining-order-petition>

“A man identified only as Ömer İ. shot and killed his former fiancé and her mother hours after the woman applied for a restraining order against him on Oct. 27 in the Central Anatolian province of Konya.”

“The double femicide regrettably added 27-year-old Büşra Gizem Güzelsoy and her 48-year-old mother Gülya Barutçu to Turkey's ever-growing list of women slain by men.”

<https://www.dailysabah.com/turkey/investigations/trial-begins-on-young-womans-violent-murder-that-shook-turkey>

“A suspect and his brother appeared before a court in the southwestern province of Muğla on Monday over the murder of Pınar Gültekin, a 27-year-old woman who was found dead last July in the province. The murder, the latest in a string of “femicides,” had stirred up public outrage in the country over the deaths of women at the hands of their spouses. The way Gültekin was murdered and the manner in which her body was disposed of presented a grim reminder of Özgecan Aslan, a university student like Gültekin, who was killed when resisting rape in 2015.”

<https://www.duvarenglish.com/turkish-woman-forgives-husband-who-stabbed-and-violently-injured-her-with-a-shotgun-news-55355>

“Twenty-seven-year-old Mutlu Bilvar withdrew criminal complaints filed against her husband, Doğukan Bilvar, after he violently attacked her on two separate occasions: He stabbed her nine times and injured her with a shotgun in the Aegean province of İzmir, the daily Yeni Asır reported on Dec. 7.”

“Meanwhile, 29 women were killed by men in Turkey during the month of November, while 10 died under suspicious circumstances, Turkey's We Will Stop Femicides Platform reported.”

<https://www.duvarenglish.com/another-woman-killed-by-violent-husband-despite-restraining-order-in-western-turkey-news-55402>

“Yet another woman in Turkey was killed by a violent spouse despite the restraining order she had obtained against him in the western district of Fethiye, the daily Cumhuriyet reported on Dec. 9.”

“Some 29 women were killed by men in Turkey during the month of November, while another 10 women died under suspicious circumstances, Turkey's We Will Stop Femicides Platform reported.”

<https://www.duvarenglish.com/man-burns-academic-ex-partner-alive-in-horrific-femicide-in-istanbul-news-55670>

“A man named Kemal Delbe held Dr. Aylin Sözer hostage for two days before burning her alive on Dec. 29 in Istanbul.”

“Turkey is no stranger to femicides, where a woman is killed by someone she knows almost every day. Turkey's We Will Stop Femicides Platform reported 29 femicides and 10 suspicious deaths of women in November alone.”

<https://www.duvarenglish.com/4-femicides-on-same-day-mark-end-of-crushing-year-for-women-in-turkey-news-55687>

“The murder of Aylin Sözer, Selda Taş, Vesile Dönmez and Betül Tuğluk on Dec. 29 marked the end of a devastating year for women in Turkey, plagued by violence against women, impunity of perpetrators, and legal debacles about legislation that sanctions women.”

<https://www.duvarenglish.com/women-in-turkey-start-new-year-with-male-violence-femicides-news-55805>

“Turkey started off the new year amid a series of femicides and suspicious deaths of women, as the Turkish judiciary once again failed to protect women against male violence.”

“Twenty-two-year-old Aleyna Yurtkölesi was strangled to death by a man she had broken up with in the western province of Denizli on Jan. 9, becoming the eighth woman to be killed in a femicide this year as of Jan. 11, according to Turkey's We Will Stop Femicides Platform.”

“Another woman who died under suspicious circumstances was a 36-year-old identified as Selma E, who died after falling off the balcony of her home in Aegean İzmir on Jan. 5.”

“Meanwhile, a woman named Melek İpek was detained after shooting and killing her husband Ramazan İpek in self-defense in their home in Mediterranean Antalya on Jan. 8.”

<https://www.duvarenglish.com/turkish-prosecutors-drop-negligence-charges-against-judge-and-police-in-femicide-case-news-55853>

“Turkish prosecutors have decided not to initiate criminal charges against a judge and police forces to determine if they had a role of negligence in the case of Ayşe Tuba Arslan, who was killed in 2019 by her former husband despite pressing charges against him 23 times, online news portal T24 reported on Jan. 13.” “Çakırözler said that since the murder of Arslan, 324 more women have been killed in Turkey and femicides will not end unless ‘state officials change their mentality.’”

<https://www.duvarenglish.com/a-sad-face-a-tie-and-an-allegation-of-provocation-are-all-a-womans-killer-needs-to-get-a-lenient-sentence-in-turkey-news-55959>

“Nurgül Boz was killed last year in Istanbul by her partner of seven years – brutally stabbed 44 times in front of their six-year-old daughter.”

“She was one of 300 women killed at the hands of men in Turkey last year, according to statistics released by We Will Stop Femicides Platform, a group dedicated to ending violence against women.”

<https://www.duvarenglish.com/turkish-woman-gulistan-saylemez-killed-by-brother-a-day-after-testifying-about-his-violence-against-her-news-56272>

“A woman named Gülistan Şaylemez was killed by her brother in the southeastern province of Diyarbakır on Feb. 15, just a day after she testified about him to the police, Mesopotamia Agency reported on Feb. 16.” “Hundreds of women are killed by men each year in Turkey, including men they know, with some 23 femicides being recorded only in January, according to the We Will Stop Femicides Platform.”

<https://www.duvarenglish.com/woman-killed-in-anonymous-femicide-in-aegean-izmir-news-56326>

“A 40-year-old woman named Meral Şen was fatally stabbed in an anonymous femicide on Feb. 18 in the Aegean province of İzmir.”

“Some 23 women were killed in femicides in Turkey in January, the We Will Stop Femicides Platform reported, while another 14 women died in suspicious incidents in the same month.”

<https://www.duvarenglish.com/turkish-man-says-he-killed-wife-because-she-went-out-without-permission-news-56631>

“A Turkish man who killed his wife on March 14 said that he did so to ‘clean his reputation,’ as his wife had been going out without his ‘permission,’ according to his police testimony.” “Dozens of women in Turkey are killed by men each month, with the We Will Stop Femicides Platform reporting 28 women killed by men in February, and 12 suspicious women's deaths.”

<https://www.duvarenglish.com/burned-body-of-syrian-woman-found-on-roadside-in-southeast-turkey-news-56647>

“Femicides in Turkey have risen to the level of a plague, with dozens of women being slaughtered by men each month, and a dozen more dying under suspicious conditions.”

“Meanwhile, in nearby Mardin, 25-year-old Gülbahar Asabay was fatally shot by her brother in the middle of a street in the Nusaybin district.”

<https://www.duvarenglish.com/four-women-killed-on-the-same-day-in-turkey-amid-istanbul-convention-withdrawal-news-56746>

“All of the women are suspected to have been murdered by their romantic partners, once again displaying the Turkish judiciary's inefficacy in protecting women.”

<https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/woman-stabbed-to-death-by-her-husband-in-denizli-163365>

“A woman has been stabbed to death by her husband in the western province of Denizli.” “As the latest femicide has stirred public anger on social media, tweets condemning the murder and urging authorities to act were shared a number of times by Turkish social media users.”

<https://www.duvarenglish.com/male-violence-rages-on-turkish-man-beats-partner-for-liking-photo-on-social-media-news-56842>

“A man named Berk Öcalan attacked his girlfriend for liking another man's picture on social media on March 23, the daily Hürriyet reported. Meanwhile, two other men slaughtered two women, adding to the tally of the country's devastating femicide plague.”

<https://www.duvarenglish.com/afghan-man-follows-ex-wife-who-escaped-from-him-kills-her-in-turkey-news-57641>

“The 27-year-old femicide victim Elhan Atıfı had escaped her abusive ex-husband by fleeing to Turkey on her way to Europe in 2017...”

July 2, 2012 – October 31, 2024

Thematic frame -

Episodic frame <https://www.duvarenglish.com/turkish-femicide-suspect-released-from-jail-despite-overwhelming-evidence-news-58220>

“Ümitcan Uygun, the prime suspect in the murder of 21-year-old Aleyna Çakır, was released from prison, his lawyer said on July 17.”

“Aleyna Çakır's death on June 3 of last year was also ruled a suicide despite her autopsy report revealing male DNA under her fingernails, bruises around her body and her cause of death as asphyxiation with a bathrobe belt.”

“After Çakır's death, neighbors said that they often heard Uygun, a supporter of the Nationalist Movement Party (MHP), assaulting the young woman and that she could have been killed, but the suspect was once again released from police custody after giving a statement.”

<https://www.duvarenglish.com/turkish-femicide-suspect-detained-once-again-on-suspicion-of-killing-another-woman-news-58400>

“Turkish police on Aug. 5 detained Ümitcan Uygun, the prime suspect in the murder of Aleyna Çakır last year, in relation to another femicide. Uygun was detained in Ankara after 25-year-old Esra Hankulu was found dead in the Mamak district. Police determined that Uygun was the last person that Hankulu met with based on security camera footage and witness testimonies. Uygun, an abusive man who enjoyed impunity for months after Çakır's murder despite sharing videos of himself beating the woman, continued hurling death threats on social media following her death, but no legal action was taken against him until he shared a video of himself using drugs in January.”

<https://www.duvarenglish.com/turkish-mafia-leader-says-femicide-suspect-walked-free-after-minister-soylu-intervened-news-58424>

“Turkish mafia leader Sedat Peker has claimed that a femicide suspect enjoyed impunity due to his father's close ties to Interior Minister Süleyman Soylu. Peker, who had been out of the public eye due to receiving COVID-19 treatment for some time, shared a thread consisting of 50 tweets on Aug. 7, in which he accused the minister of committing serious crimes once again. The mafia boss said that Ümitcan Uygun, who is the main suspect in the murder of Aleyna Çakır last year, wasn't arrested despite overwhelming evidence tying him to the killing because his father, Durak Uygun, is a close friend of Soylu.”

<https://www.duvarenglish.com/top-turkish-court-finds-state-at-fault-in-femicide-case-for-first-time-news-59031>

“Turkey's Constitutional Court has found the state at fault for the first time in a femicide case, citing officials' negligence to take enough measures to protect the killed woman, Deutsche Welle's Turkish service reported on Sept. 30.”

“The case concerns the death of academic Serpil Erfindik, who was killed by her ex-husband Vedat Atik in 2013 in the Aegean province of İzmir. Before her death, Erfindik had filed a lawsuit against Atik on the grounds of him threatening and insulting her.”

<https://www.duvarenglish.com/mass-murderer-of-four-women-in-belgium-set-free-in-turkey-news-60377>

“A murderer of four women in Belgium, including his pregnant sister, was set free in 2020 after being extradited to Turkey, according to reporting by BBC Turkish. Osman Çallı was sentenced to life in prison in Belgium but requested that he serve out the remainder of his sentence in Turkey.”

<https://www.duvarenglish.com/turkish-judge-and-prosecutor-probed-after-releasing-man-who-stabbed-wife-23-times-news-60684>

“The Board of Judges and Prosecutors (HSK) has changed the places of duty of a prosecutor and a judge after they ruled for the release of a man who stabbed his wife 23 times. The judge has been temporarily assigned to the southeastern province of Şırnak and the prosecutor to the eastern province of Bitlis, Demirören News Agency reported on March 21. Samet Ağ on April 1, 2021 stabbed his wife Özlem Ağ 23 times in the northern province of Tokat after she filed for divorce. While Özlem Ağ survived the attack, the judge ruled for the arrest of Samet Ağ.”

<https://www.duvarenglish.com/femicide-suspect-sentenced-to-10-years-in-prison-news-60800>

“A Turkish court has sentenced Ümitcan Uygun to 10 years in prison over "aggravated injury" in the case of Esra Hankulu's death. Uygun was detained in Ankara in August after the 25-year-old Esra Hankulu was found dead in the Mamak district. Police determined that Uygun was the last person that Hankulu met with based on security camera footage and witness testimonies. An indictment prepared by the Ankara Chief Public Prosecutor's Office said Uygun killed Hankulu, and that the other two defendants had tampered with the criminal evidence.”

<https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/court-ruling-in-high-profile-femicide-case-faces-backlash-174749>

“The murderer of university student Pinar Gültekin, Cemal Metin Avcı has been served with a reduced prison sentence of 23 years on the grounds of “unjust provocation” on June 20.”

<https://www.duvarenglish.com/top-turkish-court-reverses-life-sentence-for-femicide-as-murderer-turned-himself-in-news-63670>

“Turkey’s Court of Cassation has ruled to reverse the life sentence given to Ferhat İnce for “deliberately murdering” Canan Çeviren in the Aegean province of Manisa in 2020. The court stated a life sentence was unlawful as İnce had shown remorse by calling the police on himself. The court required a retrial and a discretionary mitigation for İnce’s sentence, revealed recent reporting. On Dec. 11, 2020, İnce shot Çeviren twice with his registered gun after an argument at the real estate office where Çeviren worked. She died at the scene.”

<https://www.duvarenglish.com/friends-of-femicide-victim-anastasia-emelianova-demand-justice-news-64080>

“The Turkish court overseeing the murder of Russian citizen Anastasia Emelianova did not finalize its ruling during the March 26 trial in the eastern province of Erzurum. Emelianova's partner Mohammad Nızar Arnabeh was on trial for murder, with prosecutors asking for a life sentence. Emelianova was found dead on Sept. 21 in her home in Erzurum province. Her death was suspicious, as her partner Arnabeh was in the house before her death. In his first questioning, Arnabeh admitted to the murder but has since given conflicting statements throughout the investigation.”

<https://www.duvarenglish.com/turkish-court-fines-interior-ministry-25m-over-femicide-negligence-news-64477>

“A court in Turkey’s western province of İzmir ruled that the Interior Ministry was at fault and ordered it to pay 2.5 million Turkish Liras (77,200 dollars) in damages in a case involving the murder of Hülya Şellavcı by her estranged husband Kaffar Yeğın, according to June 8 reporting by the daily BirGün. On October 22, 2022, relatives who couldn't reach Hülya Şellavcı found her murdered at her workplace in Bornova. Investigations revealed that she had filed four criminal complaints and obtained restraining orders against Kaffar Yeğın for threats before the murder.”

<https://www.duvarenglish.com/turkish-court-reduces-life-sentence-for-femicide-citing-good-behavior-news-64973>

“The final hearing took place on Sept. 18 in the retrial of Abdullah Melih Barıř, who killed Nurcan Arslan on January 30, 2016, in Istanbul after she attempted to end their relationship.”

<https://www.duvarenglish.com/impunity-for-violence-against-women-in-turkey-pepper-spray-sales-peak-news-65058>

“Pepper spray sales in Turkey surged over the weekend of Oct. 5-6, particularly after the brutal murder of two 19-year-old women by Semih Çelik and the disclosure of numerous Turkish online forums targeting women and children, where the killer had reportedly been active.”

Combination of thematic frame and episodic frame

<https://www.duvarenglish.com/student-brutally-killed-by-real-estate-agent-in-yet-another-femicide-in-turkey-news-58360>

“A 21-year-old university student was brutally murdered by a real estate agent in the Mediterranean province of Antalya, adding to the country's never-ending femicide

plague. Azra Güendam Haytaoğlu had been missing for five days before her mutilated body was found in a suitcase in the forest on Aug. 2. The real estate agent, 48-year-old Mustafa Murat Ayhan, was detained after her remains were found. Reports said that Ayhan sexually assaulted the woman at his home before killing her and dismembering her body.”

“The number of violence against women and femicides in Turkey has been on a steep increase in recent years, mostly due to the policies of the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) that protect men.”

<https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/women-protest-against-murder-of-university-student-166821>

“Haytaoğlu was raped and choked to death, and her body was dismembered into five pieces in the southern province of Antalya by a 48-year-old businessman, Mustafa Murat Ayhan.”

“Women from Kadın Cinayetlerini Durduracağız Platformu (We Will Stop Femicides Platform) and Kadın Meclisleri (Women Councils), organizations defending women’s rights, gathered at a center hall at Kadıköy with a big banner, saying, ‘We will not be silent.’ ‘There is no meaning in mobilizing after a woman is murdered. When women are alive, go missing or face violence, steps should be taken then,’ Fidan Ataselim, the general secretary of the We Will Stop Femicides Platform, said in the protest.”

<https://www.dailysabah.com/turkey/father-calls-for-life-over-turkish-womans-brutal-murder/news>

“A student of journalism and a volunteer at women’s rights organizations, A.G.H. was just 21 years old. The young woman, who had denounced violence targeting women in one of her last social media posts, became one of the latest victims of femicides in Turkey.”

“The university student living and studying in the southern province of Antalya went missing on July 28 and her dismembered body was found five days later. A suspect, a man she allegedly met in a cafe, was arrested and confessed to the murder. Speaking after a funeral for her in the victim’s hometown in Osmaniye province, her father M.H. said any sentence less than life imprisonment without parole for the suspect would be inadequate.”

“The young woman’s murder once again stirred up public outrage against murders of women in the hands of men, either their spouses or strangers, and violence towards women. The latest official figures from 2020 show 385 women fell victim to femicides.”

<https://www.duvarenglish.com/turkish-man-stalks-slaughters-ex-wife-injures-4-year-old-daughter-news-58664>

“A Turkish man identified only as Salih Ö. stalked and shot his ex-wife Ebru Yüksel in the capital Ankara on Aug. 30. The assailant Salih Ö. also injured his four-year-old daughter in the process, although the child was later reported to not be in fatal danger at the Ankara Hospital where she was taken. Salih Ö. also shot a man who was with his ex-wife at the time of the shooting spree, and attempted suicide after the crime.”

“Femicides in Turkey total shocking numbers each month, with the government remaining relatively inactive in response. President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan in March withdrew the country from Istanbul Convention, a critical piece of international legislation protecting women. Some 20 women were slain in femicides in July, while 12 others died suspicious deaths, according to statistics released by the We Will Stop Femicides Platform.”

<https://www.duvarenglish.com/turkish-watchman-who-killed-woman-kept-anonymous-by-police-news-58973>

“The name of a Turkish watchman who killed a woman was kept anonymous by the police department, the daily BirGün reported on Sept. 27. The anonymous watchman slaughtered 35-year-old Nurgül Altıntaş whom he had driven to a park in Istanbul's Gaziosmanpaşa district.”

“Turkey's We Will Stop Femicides Platform reported 181 women were slaughtered by men in the first eight months of 2021, while another 132 died under suspicious conditions.”

<https://www.duvarenglish.com/turkish-man-kills-25-year-old-girlfriend-in-yet-another-femicide-news-59365>

“A Turkish man named Furkan Zıbıncı murdered his 25-year-old girlfriend Şebnem Şirin in her home in the western province of Denizli on Oct. 27.

The two reportedly got in an argument after Şirin told Zıbıncı that she wanted to break up, which was followed by the man killing Şirin by cutting her throat. Zıbıncı fled the scene after the murder.”

“The number of violence against women and femicides in Turkey has been on a steep increase in recent years, mostly due to the policies of the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) that protect men.”

<https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/two-women-murdered-over-breakup-168986>

“Two women have been killed by their partners over wanting a breakup in two different provinces of Turkey, adding to the country’s long list of violence against women.”

“In the Pamukkale district of the Aegean province of Denizli, 25-year-old Şebnem Şirin was found dead in her apartment early on Oct. 27. Furkan Zıbıncı, the man who stabbed the woman in the neck, was nabbed by the police while trying to escape the province. In his first testimony, he confessed to having committed the murder, saying, ‘She wanted to leave me, so we fought.’”

“In another femicide in the northwestern province of Kocaeli, a man named Ali Akbaba shot his 44-year-old partner, Seyhan Gözer, who wanted to end their relationship. When a taxi driver intervened to help Gözer, who was struggling to survive, Akbaba came forward and threatened the driver saying, ‘Let her die.’ The woman eventually succumbed to her injury.”

“Some 82 women were murdered just in the first 81 days of 2021, according to the Kadın Cinayetlerini Durduracağız Platformu (We Will Stop Femicide Platform), a women’s rights organization that monitors violence against women.”

<https://www.duvarenglish.com/man-kills-woman-with-a-samurai-sword-in-istanbul-as-femicides-continue-to-plague-turkey-news-59479>

“A Turkish man has killed a woman with a samurai sword in Istanbul's Ataşehir district. Göktürk B. attacked 28-year-old Başak Cengiz with a samurai sword and heavily injured her late on Nov. 9. The woman was taken to a hospital, but succumbed to her injuries.”

“The number of violence against women and femicides in the country has been on a steep increase in recent years, mostly due to the policies of the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) that protect men. President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan went as far as to withdraw Turkey from the Istanbul Convention, an international treaty that aims to protect women against violence, back in March.”

<https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/brutal-femicide-with-samurai-sword-triggers-wave-of-anger-169299>

“In yet another case of femicide, a woman has been brutally murdered in broad daylight with a samurai sword while she was walking on a street in Istanbul. Başak Cengiz, a 28-year-old woman, was attacked by Can Göktuğ Boz out of nowhere with a

samurai sword while she was walking on a street of a housing estate where she resided in Istanbul's Ataşehir district late on Nov. 9.”

“At least 309 women have been killed so far in 2021 in the country, according to the We Will Stop Femicides Platform (Kadın Cinayetlerini Durduracağız Platformu).”

<https://www.duvarenglish.com/writing-on-the-wall-murdered-songul-sari-wrote-three-names-in-the-well-where-she-died-news-59717>

“Murder victim Songül Sarı wrote the names of three family members on the wall of the well where she died in northern Turkey, authorities reported. Police have taken those three people into custody on suspicion of murder. The 31-year-old Songül Sarı left her house on Nov. 29 around noon and never returned, her family said. Family members reported her missing and on Nov. 30 her body was discovered floating in a well in the Daşboğazı district of Bartın, about a kilometer from her family home.

While investigating the incident, police discovered that Sarı wrote, in pen, the names of three of her family members on the wall of the well before she died, blaming them for her death. The three people have been taken into custody on suspicion of murder. The investigation into Sarı's death is ongoing.”

“Femicide - when women are violently killed - is at a record high in Turkey, and has been on the rise for the past decade. According to the We'll Stop Femicides Platform, a Turkish NGO, 358 women have been murdered in Turkey since the beginning of 2021. In 2020, 410 women were killed. In 2008, when the platform began tracking femicides, that number was 66.”

<https://www.duvarenglish.com/turkish-prosecutor-sought-decrease-of-sentence-over-good-conduct-for-man-who-slit-ex-wifes-throat-news-59755>

“A Turkish prosecutor has sought a decrease of sentence for a man who slit a woman's throat over "good conduct" and "provocation," the daily Hürriyet reported on Dec. 5. The Ankara prosecutor claimed that Fedai Varan, who killed his ex-wife Emine Bulut in a brutal manner in August 2019, was provoked by Bulut.”

“Bulut's murder made headlines for days in Turkey, where hundreds of women get killed, beaten or sexually assaulted every day. The graphic footage of the murder showed Bulut exclaiming that she doesn't want to die in front of her daughter.”

<https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/activist-lawyer-becomes-another-victim-of-femicide-170732>

“In yet another disgraceful incident, a woman has fallen victim to femicide in the Turkish metropolis of Istanbul, adding to a long list of names of women who died at the hands of men. Dilara Yıldız, a 29-year-old lawyer registered with the Istanbul Bar Association, was shot to death by Oktay Dönmez, reported to be her ex-fiancée, at a restaurant in Tuzla district.”

“Struggling with violence against women as a lawyer and an activist, Yıldız has become the seventh victim of femicide so far in 2022.”

<https://www.duvarenglish.com/turkish-female-nurse-omur-erez-killed-at-family-health-center-in-istanbul-news-60188>

“A 33-year-old nurse named Ömür Erez has been murdered at a family health center in the Kartal district of Istanbul on Jan. 20. The incident happened at Kartal No. 10 Family Health Center. The man named Rahmi Uygun came to the center and fired at Erez with a gun. Afterwards, he fled the scene. One of the witnesses said that the assailant had been harassing Erez for a while now. ‘She was my neighbor. This bully was constantly threatening her. He fired five shots. He was constantly harassing her on the phone,’ the witness Mevlüt Koç was quoted as saying by Demirören news agency.”

“Femicides have reached record levels in the past decade. In 2008, the first year that the We Will Stop Femicides Platform began tracking femicides, there were at least 66 women murdered by men in Turkey. Last year, according to the Platform, 280 women were killed and 217 women were found suspiciously dead in the country. Despite this, Turkey has made moves in recent years to lessen protections for women. In July 2021, Turkey formally withdrew from the Istanbul Convention (the Council of Europe’s Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence), a move that advocacy groups say was a major setback for women in the country. Many of those that perpetuate gender-based violence or killing are also let off with light sentences or even allowed to kill again.”

<https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/yet-another-femicide-as-issue-remains-rampant-170939>

“With the femicide problem in the country aggravating and people taking to social media expressing their deep concerns, a new femicide case of a nurse who got shot by a man who stormed into a family health care center in Istanbul has triggered a nationwide wave of anger.”

“Ömür Erez, a 33-year-old nurse working at a family health care center in Istanbul’s Kartal district was killed by Rahmi Uygun, a former convict with a record of more than 20 crimes, including deliberate injury, threat and deprivation of liberty. While Erez died in hospital where she was taken after seriously being injured in the head, Uygun, who fled following the incident, was caught in Istanbul’s Bağcılar, a district approximately 50 kilometers from the crime scene. He reportedly had been harassing the nurse for a while.”

<https://www.dailysabah.com/turkey/teenage-girls-murder-rekindles-outrage-over-femicides-in-turkey/news>

“The murder of a 16-year-old girl in the northern Turkish province of Giresun by her former fiance on Wednesday has stirred up the public reaction with calls for harsh punishment for the killer. The incident also brought the issue of so-called ‘child marriages’ to the spotlight.”

“Femicides have also decreased in recent years but continue to claim dozens of lives every year, despite strict prison terms and more protective measures for women suffering from abuse and assault at the hands of their spouses.”

<https://www.duvarenglish.com/16-year-old-turkish-girl-sila-senturks-brutal-murder-causes-public-outrage-news-60398>

“A Turkish man named Hüseyin Can Gökçek brutally murdered the 16-year-old Sıla Şentürk in the northern province of Giresun on Feb. 16. The police caught Gökçek, who was trying to flee the city.”

“Similar to past instances of femicides, Şentürk’s name became a trending topic on Twitter, with thousands of people calling on authorities to find a solution to the massacre of women, and stating femicide is political.”

Femicides have reached record levels in the past decade. Some 280 women were killed by men in 2021, while another 217 women were found suspiciously dead, according to the We Will Stop Femicides Platform.

<https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/nation-in-anger-once-again-after-brutal-femicide-171603>

“The murder of a teenage girl who was stabbed to death by a man in Turkey’s north has triggered a new nationwide wave of anger, while the problem in the country remains rampant and the femicide tally keeps increasing.”

“Sıla Şentürk, a 16-year-old living in Turkey’s Black Sea province of Giresun, was killed by 21-year-old Hüseyin Can Göçek, to whom the young girl had allegedly been

engaged by the will of her parents even though she was below the legal age of marriage of 18.”

“Many individuals and organizations, including officials, politicians, figures from Turkey’s entertainment world, athletes and sports clubs, published statements regarding the incident, condemning the murder and other femicides.”

<https://www.duvarenglish.com/turkeys-supreme-court-board-finds-reduced-sentence-given-to-murderer-of-woman-reasonable-news-60596>

“A Supreme Court board has found a ruling given to the murderer of a woman, Hatice Kaçmaz, who stabbed her to death in 2014 “reasonable,” a decision that could set a grim precedence for perpetrators of femicide, according to reporting on March 13 by independent news site T24’s columnist Gökçer Tahincioğlu.”

“Male perpetrators in Turkey oftentimes get their sentences reduced when they appear in court wearing a suit and tie, displaying “appropriate behavior” before judges and prosecutors. Women's rights groups have long decried the impunity given to violent men.”

<https://www.dailysabah.com/turkey/investigations/man-faces-life-after-killing-woman-with-samurai-sword-in-istanbul>

“The prosecutor asked for an aggravated life sentence and additional prison terms over the notorious murder of a woman last year in Istanbul by a samurai sword. Başak Cengiz was killed when the defendant attacked the young architect on a street in Istanbul's Ataşehir district on Nov. 9, 2021. The attack was apparently random and the killer, 27-years-old C.G.B., had claimed he suffered from schizophrenia. The incident had stirred up outcry in the country where femicides claim dozens of lives every year.”

<https://www.dailysabah.com/turkey/istanbul/istanbul-murder-suicide-adds-to-femicide-worries>

“Another woman fell victim to male violence on Friday as Turkey struggles to reduce femicides and address concerns on domestic violence. A suspect shot dead his former girlfriend and her flatmate before taking his own life in Istanbul.”

“Police and paramedics rushed to the fourth-floor flat in Istanbul’s Şişli district when gunshots rang out. Inside, they found the bodies of Y.S.B., his ex-girlfriend B.V. and Ö.A., who was living with B.V. at the time of the murder. Media outlets reported that Y.S.B. left behind a suicide note. B.V., 28, had a restraining order against Y.S.B., media outlets also reported, apparently issued after his threats.”

“The latest figures, dating back to March, show some 50 women were killed in femicides between January and March, while authorities say this number is lower compared to the same period last year. Last year, 307 women fell victim to murders in the hands of their current or former spouses, relatives or men whose advances they rejected, according to official figures.”

<https://www.dailysabah.com/turkey/man-handed-lenient-sentence-for-turkish-womans-brutal-murder/news>

“‘I regret it,’ C.M.A. said as he made his final appeal to the court over the murder of Pinar Gültekin, a young university student whose body was found burned in southwestern Turkey two years ago. The case, which shook Turkey regardless of how it is accustomed to femicides, came to a close yesterday with a ruling that will likely draw the public ire.”

<https://www.duvarenglish.com/outrage-in-turkey-over-reduced-sentence-granted-to-pinar-gultekins-murderer-for-unjust-provocation-news-60949>

“A Muğla court on June 20 reduced an aggravated life sentence jail term to 23 years in prison for Cemal Metin Avcı who brutally killed Pinar Gültekin in June 2020.”

“We Will Stop Femicides Platform General Secretary Fidan Ataselim said that this decision will encourage all the men who killed women. ‘This decision gave us an idea of how these cases will proceed after the decision to withdraw from the Istanbul Convention,’ she said.”

<https://www.dailysabah.com/turkey/turkish-prosecutor-appeals-low-sentence-in-high-profile-femicide/news>

“C.M.A., accused of strangling 27-year-old Pinar Gültekin to death, burning and disposing of her body, was sentenced to 23 years in a trial in the province after prosecutors asked for aggravated life imprisonment. The court, citing ‘unjust provocation’ commuted the sentence to 23 years in a controversial ruling. The verdict had renewed a debate whether the ‘unjust provocation’ provision used in such cases should be revised at least for femicides in the country where dozens of women are killed by spouses, ex-spouses or family members every year.”

<https://www.dailysabah.com/turkey/man-kills-wife-2-others-in-northern-turkiye/news>

“A man in the process of a divorce killed his wife and her two relatives on Friday in the northern Turkish province of Giresun. The suspect, identified as N.Ç., visited the house where his wife D.Ç. was staying in Giresun’s Espiye district, allegedly to discuss the divorce proceedings. After a dispute, he started firing at his wife and her female

relatives, before turning the gun to himself. D.Ç. and two other women succumbed to their wounds at the hospital they were taken to, while N.Ç. remains hospitalized.”

“Domestic violence and femicides are two issues plaguing the country and lenient sentences for perpetrators often draw the public's ire. Though laws stipulate severe prison terms for perpetrators of assaults and homicides, the courts sometimes hand down reduced terms if defendants exhibit ‘good conduct,’ namely claiming remorse and ‘behaving well’ during the hearings.

A few months ago, Turkey introduced a new bill that backed harsher sentences for crimes against women. One of the most significant changes the bill brings is limiting the legal interpretations that pave the way for reductions in perpetrators' sentences. The bill also includes stricter sentences for deliberate manslaughter, deliberate injury, threat and torture if the victim is a woman. A total of 181 women were killed in Türkiye in murders stemming from domestic abuse between January and August, the latest available date. The murders of women often target divorced spouses or those seeking a divorce from their husbands and are often a product of a twisted patriarchal mindset, justifying murders as a way to ‘clear their honor’ to prevent their ex-spouses from remarrying.”

<https://www.duvarenglish.com/pinar-gultekins-murderer-sentenced-to-aggravated-life-in-prison-news-62004>

“An Izmir appeal court has sentenced Cemal Metin Avcı to aggravated life in prison who brutally killed Pınar Gültekin back in June 2020.”

“Gültekin's death had made the headlines in 2020 with its gory details. The young woman's ex-boyfriend Avcı initially denied committing the murder but later confessed to the crime as footage showed him near the site of the murder. After brutally killing her, the murderer placed her body in a barrel, set fire to her and then poured concrete in. Avcı was believed to have received the help of his family in these actions.”

“Femicides are a grave problem in Turkey, where women get killed or beaten every single day. Data shared by We Will Stop Femicides Platform reveals the extent of the problem, with at least 334 women were murdered by men in 2022, while 245 women were found dead under suspicious circumstances over the same period.”

<https://www.duvarenglish.com/mother-of-femicide-victim-burns-daughters-wedding-gown-in-protest-news-63983>

“Bayer divorced police officer Yıldır one year ago, after suffering in an abusive marriage. Yıldır on March 6 cut her off in the street and shot her in the head. He later killed himself at the scene.”

“Some 315 women were murdered by men in 2023 in Turkey, while 248 women were found dead under suspicious circumstances over the same period, according to the We Will Stop Femicides Platform. Some 64 percent of them were murdered by the men they were married or partners with, or men they have divorced.”

<https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/3-women-murdered-in-a-single-night-in-turkiye-199556>

“In Istanbul’s Küçükçekmece district, 23-year-old Öznur Akkaya was stabbed in the street by her husband after she announced her intention to divorce. Despite her attempts to flee, she was attacked, then succumbed to her wounds at the hospital. Bystanders at the scene attempted to lynch the assailant while the police apprehended him. In a separate incident in the Bağcılar district, a woman identified only by her initials, K.Ç., was fatally stabbed by her husband, İ.Ç., at their home. The perpetrator subsequently turned himself in to the authorities and was taken into custody. The third instance unfolded in Ankara around the same time, where local media reported that a couple, in the throes of divorce, began arguing inside a vehicle. The man shot the woman with a firearm before turning the weapon on himself. Both died in the incident.”

“A total of 166 women in Türkiye have fallen victim to femicide in the first half of 2024, Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya earlier announced. On Feb. 27, seven women were killed — the highest known number of such killings there on a single day. At least 403 women were killed in Türkiye last year, most of them by current or former spouses and other men close to them, according to the We Will Stop Femicide Platform. Femicide and violence against women in Türkiye are pervasive, particularly at the hands of spouses. Intimate partner violence is one of the most common forms of violence experienced by women worldwide and in Türkiye.”

<https://bianet.org/haber/femicides-are-political-protests-across-turkey-after-murders-of-two-19-year-old-women-300455>

“The killing of two 19-year-old women by a man of the same age on Oct 4 has sparked protests across Turkey. The perpetrator, identified as Semih Çelik, killed İkbâl Uzuner, whom he had reportedly stalked for years, and Ayşenur Çelik, both his schoolmates.”

“In the statement, protesters condemned the state's failure to protect women and criticized the leniency shown to harassers and murderers. Activists emphasized that women in Turkey often turn to social media for justice, as the authorities are seen as encouraging violence with their impunity policies.”

“Protesters also rejected attempts to dismiss male violence with excuses like alcoholism or drug abuse, emphasizing that the root cause is patriarchy and that the perpetrators are men. They warned that trying to divert attention by focusing on the race or refugee status of the attackers would not solve the problem of violence against women, as men from all backgrounds commit such acts. ‘We are facing a government that emboldens perpetrators by withdrawing from the Istanbul Convention, weakening the hard-won gains of women’s rights, and releasing violent men from police stations and courthouses,’ the statement concluded.”

“She called the recent murders not just individual acts but political crimes rooted in patriarchal norms that seek to control women.”