# Honour Crimes Watch





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#### Dear Readers,

Greetings from CAMP's first six monthly 'Honour Crimes Watch' Editorial Team!

Elimination of discriminatory customary practices that divest women in Pakistan from their Fundamental Human Rights, has been a part of Rule of Programming in Pakistan RLPP project's agenda since its inception in 2010. During the fourth phase of the project a new component has been introduced which aims to implement an evidenced based advocacy and sensitisation campaign on 'Honour Crimes' in Pakistan.

Honour Crimes are a variety of manifestations of violence against women, including honour killings, physical and mental assault, confinement or imprisonment, and interference with choice in marriage, where the crime is justified by the social order/local customs that require the preservation of a concept of 'Honour' which is vested in male control over women. Although there are several other organisations that are addressing this issue, CAMP aims to build on its past research on the *Jirga* and link the issue of Honour Crimes with informal justice mechanisms in Pakistan. All the activities under this component are designed to produce 'quick impact', particularly the awareness and advocacy activities.

CAMP aims to compile a comprehensive national level research by mapping perceptions of local stakeholders regarding different forms of Honour Crimes and the role of informal justice systems in addressing these crimes in Pakistan, through qualitative and quantitative data utilising various research tools. Four advocacy sessions will also be held in Pakistan's major cities, covering all provinces. CAMP will also engage a theatre group to sensitise and educate the masses regarding Honour Crimes and fundamental rights of women in Pakistan. Further, two bi-annual newsletters titled 'Honour Crimes Watch' will be published to circulate data on honour related crimes across Pakistan.

In this first publication of the six monthly newsletters, an analysis of the Honour Crime data in Pakistan from January to June 2013, is presented to highlight the occurrences of these crimes in each province according to the nature of the crime, and the gender of the victim. This newsletter also covers some case studies to underscore the impact of the Honour Crimes and the role of media and local police authorities in each case.

It is also pertinent to mention the work of Human Rights activists that have been working tirelessly to eliminate Honour Crimes in Pakistan and to provide justice to defenceless victims of these crimes. Thus, we have included an interview with Valerie Khan, the Director of Acid Survivors Foundation Pakistan.

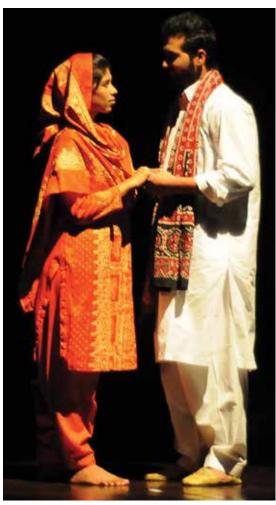
We hope that you find our first publication of Honour Crimes Watch informative and educational and we look forward to your feedback. However it should be kept in mind that our data does not represent the full picture of the extent and number of crimes committed in the name of honour, as only 60 per cent cases of violence against women are reported and even of the reported cases only 40 per cent are registered with the police ('Situation of Violence against Women in Pakistan' Aurat Foundation 2012).

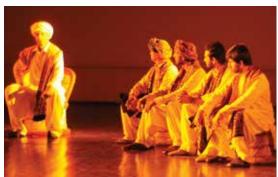
Wishing all our readers a blessed 2013.

#### Neha Gauhar

Lead Reasearcher and Advocacy Coordinator, CAMP









# **Activities conducted under RLPP Honour Crimes Component**



# Training of Enumerators for the nationwide survey

In June 2013, CAMP began compiling a comprehensive national level research by mapping the perceptions of local stakeholders regarding types of Honour Crimes and the role of justice systems (formal/informal) in addressing these crimes in Pakistan.

This study is based on both qualitative and quantitative data and will provide an excellent base to generate policy dialogues aimed towards the goals of minimising 'Honour Crimes' in Pakistan.

In this connection, three trainings of two days were conducted in three different cities and provinces; at Laraib Inn Islamabad, Hotel One Lahore and Strengthening Participatory Organisation Quetta dated, 30-31st May 2013, 6-7th June 2013 & 12-13th June 2013 respectively. In these trainings, our experts Mr. Riaz-Ul-Haq (Senior Manager Research, CAMP) and Mr. Umar Hashmi (Independent Consultant) trained surveyors, explained research methodology and elaborated Honour Crimes questionnaire in detail. Mock Interviews were conducted followed by pretesting in both Rural and Urban areas by the teams. Nine teams lead by nine supervisors and 33 surveyors from different cities attended these trainings. These surveyors later conducted a perception survey of 2,200 respondents belonging to different villages and cities of Pakistan for the research study on Honour Crimes.



# **'KARI'** A Theatre Play on Honour Crimes in Pakistan

A theatre play based on Honour Crimes and unjust customs against women titled 'KARI' was staged on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2013 at Islamabad, in collaboration with Ajoka Theatre and Pakistan National Council of Arts (PNCA).

'KARI' revolved around a fictional account of a Panchayat of men sitting in judgment on their own women, who are suspected of violating the tribal code of honour. Stories of other forms of honour crimes were also woven into the play including the customary practices of 'Swara' or 'Vani' (giving a girl away as compensation for a crime) and 'Xagh' (laying claim on a girl), as well as honour killings.

A number of leading experts and representatives of civil society including I/NGOs, lawyers, human rights activists, government officials, donors, students and policy makers attended the performance at PNCA. This theatre play is a manifestation of CAMP and Ajoka's commitment to the fight for justice for women and other vulnerable groups of society as well as raising awareness about such unjust practices and customs.



# Data Analysis of Honour Crimes in Pakistan

January - June 2013

The following data represents findings on Honour Crimes that was collected over the past six months, from January till June 2013 by the Project team. This data was gathered by secondary sources from all over Pakistan, including the following Newspapers: Daily Dawn, Daily Nation, Daily The News, Daily The Express Tribune, Daily Business Recorder, Daily Jang, Daily Mashriq, Daily Pakistan, Daily Azadi, Daily Kainaat, Daily Shamal, TV Channels including; Geo News, and Dawn Metro, and internet searches (online editions of The Express Tribune, Dawn, The News, Geo and others).

Figure 1 shows the ratio of male to female victims of Honour Crimes from all over the country. 64% of victims are female while the remaining 36% are male; this clearly demonstrates that women are more affected than men.

Figure 2 divides the number of Honour Crimes into six different sections showing gender based Honour Crimes violence in different provinces/areas of Pakistan. The first section shows that there were a total of 191 crimes reported in Punjab, out of which 49 are male and 142 are female victims.

The second section shows that there were 87 crimes reported in Sindh with 42 male victims and 45 female victims. The third section shows that 95 honour based crimes were reported in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa where the ratio of male victims is 44 and female victims are 51.

The fourth section shows that there was a total of 6 honour based crimes reported in Balochistan with an equal ratio of males and females that is three victims each.

The fifth section shows that there were five honour based crimes reported in Gilgit Baltistan and all victims were women.

The sixth section shows that there were 13 honour based crimes reported in the Federal Territory showing three male and 10 female victims.

Figure 3 is divided into six sections showing the type of crimes reported in provinces and other areas of Pakistan. In Punjab, out of

#### **Gender-wise Honour Crimes in Pakistan**

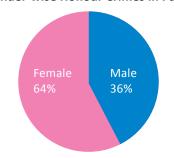


Figure 1: Percentage of male and female victims of Honour Crimes in Pakistan

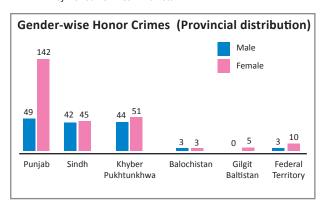


Figure 2: Province & Gender wise number of Honour Crimes in Pakistan

191 crimes reported, 51 were Honour killings; 10 were abduction/kidnapping; 73 were cases of domestic violence/revenge; 26 were rapes; five were sexual assaults; nine stove burnings; 17 acid burnings, while there were no reported cases of Sawara/ Vanni.

In Sindh, 46 were Honour killings; 6 were abduction/kid-napping; 23 were domestic violence/revenge; one rape; two stove burnings; nine acid burnings out of a total of 87 crimes reported while there are no reported cases of *Sawara/ Vanni* or sexual assault.

In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), there were 95 crimes reported out of which 31 were Honour killings; one case of abduction/kidnapping; 59 incidents of domestic violence/revenge; four rape cases and no reported cases of sexual assault, stove burnings, or acid burning cases, and *Sawara/Vani*.

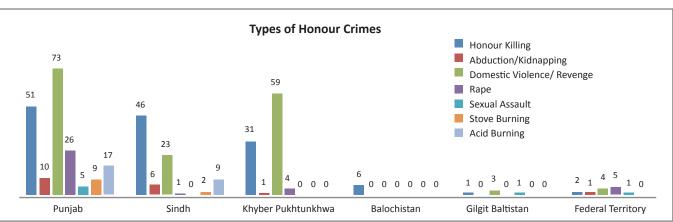


Figure 3: Province-wise Nature of Honour Crimes in Pakistan



Very few cases were reported in Balochistan – only a total of six and all of them were honour killings. There were no cases of domestic violence/revenge, abduction/kidnapping, rape, sexual assault, stove burning, acid burning, or *Sawara/ Vani*.

The lowest number of cases was reported in Gilgit Baltistan, that is, five out of which one was honour killing, three domestic violence/revenge cases, and one incident of sexual assault. There were no cases of abduction/kidnapping, rape, stove burning, acid burning, and *Sawara/Vani*.

In the Federal Territory, there were a total of 13 crimes reported, out of which two were honour killings, one abduction/kidnapping, four domestic violence/revenge cases, five rapes, and one sexual assault. There were no cases of stove burnings, acid burnings, and *Sawara/Vani*.

Figure 4 shows the total number of deaths, injuries and attempts resulting from Honour Crimes. Almost 133 people died, 29 were injured and 29 were attempts in the name of Honour in Punjab; these digits illustrate the intensity of Honour Crimes which resulted in a very significant number of deaths. Meanwhile, 67 people died, 11 were attempts and nine people were injured due to Honour Crimes in Sindh.

In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 85 people died, five were attempts, and five got injured in the name of Honour. In

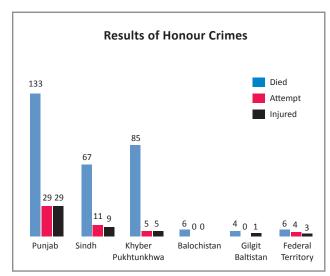


Figure 4: Honour Crimes Attempts, Injuries and Deaths in Percentage all over Pakistan

Balochistan 6 people died for Honour and there were no survivors. Four people died in Gligit Baltistan, one was injured and there were no attempts. Meanwhile in Federal Territory Islamabad, six people died, four were attempts and three were injured in the name of Honour.

# **Developing Linkages and Projecting Positivity:**

An Interview with Valerie Khan



Valerie Khan is the Director of Acid Survivors Foundation and has been working for acid burn victims in Pakistan. Acid Survivors Foundation (ASF) is a Pakistani, non-profit organisation working since 2006 to eradicate acid violence from Pakistan, and to promote the human rights of acid burn and other burn survivors, through a peaceful democratic process.

Recently Neha Gauhar, Lead Researcher and Advocacy Coordinator and Ameer Hamza, Project and Media Officer from CAMP interviewed her to know her opinion on the dimensions of Honour Crimes in Pakistan. Below some the excerpts from the interview:

### CAMP: What is your understanding of Honour Crimes and why do you think Honour Crimes occur in Pakistan?

Valerie Khan (VK): An Honour Crime is a rampant form of gender based violence; it is the most unaddressed type of violence under Pakistani Law. It is a major violation of the Constitution of Pakistan and the international conven-

tions signed by the country. In context of Pakistan, we need to refer to what we call the intersection of social divisions and its variation from province to province. There are various forms of discrimination which promote Honour Crimes in Pakistan; these include feudalism, discrimination at the socio economical level, education and geographical violence.

It is basically a power struggle; violence like Honour Crimes occur when norms and values formed by powerful people are trespassed or threatened by common people who reinforce the abuse of power.

#### CAMP: How can we prevent Honour Crimes from happening?

VK: We can counter them but we cannot eradicate them entirely. We are talking about the intersection of social divisions; if we attempt to eradicate them it will result in a total revolution. The first step is to use 'development' as a key tool; develop systems at the constitutional, legal, political and economical levels which give access to the State for resolving disputes and issues at the grassroots level.

At present, there is neither any accountability nor law enforcement. We need to change the policy at local, provincial, national and regional levels which will address the legal framework, education, budget resources and allocation, human resources, and economical system which must be reformed. Feudalism is also fueling the occurrence of Honour Crimes.



#### **Honour Crimes Watch**

#### CAMP: How big of a problem do you see acid burnings to be as part of Honour Crimes in Pakistan?

VK: When a male is rejected as being an inappropriate match by a girl's family, it becomes more of a personal affront; if this situation results in a crime, then it is purely legal in nature and not an Honour Crime. Honour means that there is a norm accepted by society and when someone infringes that norm, which contradicts the male ego. It can result in a conflict with a certain definition of Honour. This is one of the significant reasons behind the promotion of Honour Crimes in Pakistan today.

## CAMP: Are you and/or your organisation working on eliminating Honour Crimes in Pakistan?

VK: My organisation does not focus on Honour Crimes specifically, instead we focus on acid burn violence which is a form of Honour Crime and secondly, any form of violence against women is potentially fueling further gender based violence that is part of Honour Crimes in general. Acid violence is a disruptive pathway of a pre-existing form of violence. These taboos, discrimination, and prejudices need to be eradicated for preserving law and order as well as preventing violence.

#### CAMP: Can you please share a recent case of an Honour Crime?

VK: In February, a girl from Azad Kashmir was suspected by her parents of talking to a boy and her parents considered this act as dishonourable to their family; as a result they made her drink acid and she died. It was the first occurrence of acid related Honour Crime in Kashmir. The parents were arrested but were bailed out later and the case could not be pursued further.

There was another case of an Honour Crime in Rahim Yar Khan, where a girl was convicted of conversing with a boy. The person who had witnessed her interaction came forward and reported it to her family, and they burned the girl alive which resulted in her tragic death. The case was taken to the court and the accused were arrested under Section 302 under the Code of Criminal Procedure 1898 for murder.

#### CAMP: Are Honour Crimes addressed by Pakistani law?

VK: There is no punishable offence as such known as an Honour Crime. But there are different forms of offences which are addressed by the law such as *Vani*, *Swara*, and *Xagh* which are crimes under the law. The average conviction rate of Honour Crimes in Pakistan is 10% which is highly unsatisfactory. Many lawyers are reluctant to take such cases to court due to the influence of perpetrators who are usually powerful parties.

# CAMP: According to your research what is considered to be honourable and dishonourable in our society?

VK: To some extent patriarchy is dishonourable; it does

not mean that men are bound to defining honour. 'Dishonourable' is perceived as something that would oppose patriarchy and challenge feudalism, as well as extremely conservative interpretations of rights and duties. For example, mobility of women, trespassing feudal laws, going against male authority or will, and a daughter challenging her parents in the matter of marriage or in choosing a man of her own will are all considered to be dishonourable. It is almost impossible to define the terms 'honourable' and 'dishonourable' exactly because our definition would change if we go from one province to another or from one community to another. Using a common definition will result in objections due to differences in cultural practices and traditions.

# CAMP: How far is the informal justice system (Jirga/Panchayat) relevant in supporting or prohibiting Honour Crimes in Pakistan?

VK: Interestingly enough, the initial reason for setting up these informal justice systems was to protect honour. A majority of decisions are always contributing to Honour Crimes because an informal justice system does not deal with crimes; it is predominantly a system to resolve disputes. The problem we have today is that the law has not defined the difference between a dispute and a crime.

#### CAMP: Are Honour Crimes only restricted to females?

VK: The vast majority is female, and in my opinion it is mainly a form of gender based violence but there are many men who have also died in the name of honour. In acid burning cases we have found that 70% of victims are female while 30% are male; it has been observed that in most cases, male are targeted when there is either a land or business dispute.

#### CAMP: Do you have any recommendations which would help curb Honour Crimes in Pakistan?

VK: On acid burning in particular, there should be a link between elected representatives and their constituency by organising interfaces. We need to take the following actions: develop a legal framework which will communicate that the State does not accept these crimes and the discriminatory decisions of informal justice systems any more, and for this we need sensitisation of communities at the grassroots level; in particular, through the *Charpai* (traditional bed made out of woven fabric) methodology: a traditional way to solve disputes and issues, which involves having a discussion sitting around a 'charpai' (Cot).

A three step legislation process should be followed to empower the National Commission on Women's Rights, the National Commission of Human Rights, and the National Commission of Child Rights. These commissions need to be established at the provincial level with local linkages in order to improve the system.

#### **Honour Crime Reporting** in Pakistani Media

There is no denying the fact that Pakistani media is one of the major platforms for highlighting Honour Crimes in various parts of the country. Over the years media has brought forward many cases and forced the concerned authorities to take notice of the issue, which is also why it is considered an authentic source of Honour Crimes detain Pakistan. The data we have presented in this issue of Honour Crimes Watch is also compiled from the print and electronic media reports.

Nonetheless, while collecting data, CAMP team observed that reporting of Honour Crime cases is done in a very casual manner as if Honour Crimes are frivolous cases and do not need to be investigated before they are reported. Another element that came forward is that Honour Crime stories are usually treated as fillers, consisting of four or five lines. The most disturbing revelation is that pseudonyms for protecting the identities of Honour Crimes victims are not used, which shows the insensitivity of the media.

Research by CAMP also highlighted the sensational headlines covering stories of Honour Crimes such as;"Runaway couple shot dead"," Man kills married sister for honour", "Honour", "Mother killed over 'honour'", "Assault: Woman maimed for threatening to prosecute", "Man kills widowed sister-in-law for honour"," 'Honour", Couple murdered for 'honour'.

And the headlines in Urdu Press were more sensational. Just to quote few headlines;

شادی سے اٹکار پر عاشق نے محبوبہ کوز ریقیمر عمارت میں بلا کرفتل کردیا On refusal to get married, lover killed beloved after calling her to a) building under construction)

پیند کی شادی کرنے والے جوڑ کے قبل کر دیا گیا (Couple murdered for entering into love marriage)

going to her parents' house)

Sajan Kalan)

And in one particular instance when sensationalism could

not be covered in the main lead, it continued in the second lead;

(Allegedly there was an affair between Zahid and Anzar's daughter; boy was caught while dating girl, Jirga was called to set him free)

A Washington based Pakistani Journalist Ishrat Saleem while commenting on the state of Honour Crime reporting in Pakistan stated;

"Media's reporting on incidents of violence against women, such as honour killings, murder, acid throwing, sexual violence, and even marrying a person of their own choice, reflects the deep biases against women existing in society. Reports covering these topics focus on details to suggest that women are somehow responsible for whatever happened to them. Usually, women's contact with unrelated men is played up in such reports. An example of this bias is the use of scandalous words such as 'mashooga' or 'mehbooba' (beloved) for women and 'ashiq' (paramour) for men, which have the effect of blaming the victim and absolving the perpetrator of this crime. The situation is no better in cases of honour crimes.

Although it is well known that monetary and other disputes are involved in many cases of honour killings, journalists rarely make an effort to uncover the real motives. With the boom of electronic media in Pakistan, sensationalism in reporting of crimes against women, especially rape has increased. There are examples of media persons flocking the scene in urban areas and revealing names of victims in an effort to cater to the audience's appetite for gossip. One such example was the reporting of rape case that happened in DHA, Karachi in 2010. In this case, not only the survivor's name was revealed, the media went haywire with details of her lifestyle and the fact that she was partying the night this happened. This forced the already traumatised victim to withdraw her case. This trend is more prevalent in vernacular press and TV. It is unfortunate that most media outlets do not have a code of ethics to report incidents of violence against women nor do they sensitise their reporters to handle these cases with utmost caution".

To conclude, Honour Crime cases require careful and sensitive reporting by media. While it is not alone the responsibility of the media to bring an end to the culture of Honour Crimes, it certainly is the media's role to report facts, and do so responsibly.

# **NEWS REPORTS ON HONOUR CRIMES**

#### Honour Killing: Girl gunned down, boy stoned in Hangu

HANGU - Upon a final decision of tribal elders, a boy was stoned to death while the girl was gunned down for allegedly having illicit relations.

The incident came to light in Parachinar, when a close relative alleged that a boy Noor-ud Din and a girl, Intizar Bibi had illicit relations and presented them in front of a tribal elder.

The Jirga later announced gunning down the girl and stoning the boy to death.

http://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2013/03/13/news/national/honour-killing-girl-gunned-down-boy-stoned-in-hangu/#sthash.FvdxKzG g.dpuf



## **Honour Crimes Watch**

#### Honour killing?: Teenage couple shot dead

**MARDAN:** A girl and boy were gunned down in Dagar, Mardan on Tuesday, allegedly over 'honour'.

Zaman Khan, a man in his 50s, registered an FIR with the Toru police stating his 18-year-old niece, Razama, and her 20-year-old cousin, Ismail Khan, were allegedly gunned down by his nephews, Habib Syed and Nouran Syed.

Toru police official Alamgir Khan told The Express Tribune that locals informed him early Tuesday morning about two bullet-riddled bodies lying in a field in Dagar. Alamgir said he visited the site with other officers and discovered the dead teenage girl and boy. "We shifted the bodies to the police station and then to the Mardan Medical Complex for autopsies."

According to Alamgir, initial investigations revealed Ismail and Razama were in love with each other and wanted to get married, but the girl's family opposed the decision. At their behest, Razama was engaged to another man in her family, after which both Ismail and Razama decided to elope.

The couple ran away from the area a week ago and started living together secretly, but according to the police officer they had not yet gotten married.

Alamgir added Habib and Nooran, Razama's brothers, had been trying to hunt them down and were successful Monday night when they found the couple. The brothers took them back to their area and allegedly shot them.

"A case was filed, but both the accused managed to escape," said the police official, adding post-mortem reports indicated the couple was shot multiple times with AK-47 assault rifles. "We also recovered multiple bullet shells from the crime scene."

Published in The Express Tribune, March 20th, 2013

 $\label{limit} http://tribune.com.pk/story/523377/honour-killing-teenage-couple-shot-dead/$ 

# Parallel justice: Newly wed couple sentenced to death by Pannu Aqil Jirga

**SUKKUR:** A freewill marriage couple was declared karo and kari, which makes them liable to be killed by a Jirga held in Bakshoo Seelro village near Pannu Aqil on Friday.

The *Jirga* was presided over by Abdul Hakeem and Noor Ahmed from the Seelro clan. Aneela, daughter of Nisar Ahmed and a resident of Bakshoo Seelro, and Faisal Shah, son of Qadeer Ahmed Shah and a resident of Ghotki, eloped and got married around 10 days ago in District and Sessions Court, Ghotki.

The marriage outraged the Seelros' and Aneela's father registered an FIR against Faisal for kidnapping his daughter. The couple is currently living in Faisal's house in Ghotki. When the police was contacted for information, Dadlo police station Head Constable Imdad Bhutto confirmed that a case has been registered against Faisal Shah but denied receiving any reports on the *Jirga* other than what the media reported.

Later, Faisal Shah told The Express Tribune that they decided to get married after talking for some time over the phone. He also stated that they went to court on March 21st and Aneela stated before the court that she wanted to marry him. The court allowed us to live together, he added. He further said that Aneela's family has been hurling threats over the phone and by sending messages. The police, he

said, were not providing them with any protection and his rivals have threatened to kidnap his sisters to settle the score. He appealed to the Chief Justice of Pakistan to take suo motu notice and order the police to provide protection to him and his family.

Published in The Express Tribune, April 7th, 2013

http://tribune.com.pk/story/532110/parallel-justice-new-ly-wed-couple-sentenced-to-death-by-pannu-aqil-jirga/

#### **Exchange marriages: Woman burnt with acid dies**

**MULTAN:** A woman, attacked with acid by her in-laws on Tuesday, succumbed to her injuries at a hospital on Wednesday.

Her brother-in-law, the prime suspect, was arrested shortly after her death. Her husband and mother-in-law have been in police custody since the incident.

A case was registered against the woman's brother-in-law, Din Muhammad, on the complaint of her parents.

Police quoted the complainants as saying that Shamim Bibi, 20, a resident of Jalalpur Pirwala, married Muhammad Yar, 23, in 2012. They said at the time of their marriage, her parents had promised to get their son married to Muhammad Yar's sister. However, after a few months, they backed out of the commitment saying they were not happy with the way their daughter was treated.

They said Muhammad Yar's parents had started pressing her to convince her parents for the marriage.

They said Shamim Bibi's mother-in-law and her brother-in-law had beaten her several times due to which she returned to her parents' house.

On Tuesday, police said, Din Muhammad and his mother visited her parents' house to take her back.

There, they said, an argument started between the two families after Shamim Bibi's parents complained about the way their daughter was treated at her in-laws' house and refused to let her go.

Din Muhammad and his mother had left at that time, but he returned an hour later with a plastic jar in his hands. He asked for Shamin Bibi and threw acid at her as soon as she stepped out to talk to him.

She was rushed to Nishtar Hospital, where she remained in intensive care before she passed away on Wednesday. Doctors treating her had said she had lost her vision and had 80 per cent burns.

Shamim Bibi's husband and mother-in-law were arrested shortly after the incident. Din Muhammad was missing, police said.

City Police Officer (CPO) Ghulam Muhammad Dogar had ordered the police to arrest Din Muhammad in 24 hours. Police said he was arrested while trying to escape towards Sindh. The CPO said a murder charge had been added to the FIR registered on Tuesday.

The body was handed over to the parents after a post-mortem examination.

Published in The Express Tribune, June 27th, 2013

 $\label{lem:http://tribune.com.pk/story/568874/exchange-marriages-woman-burnt-with-acid-dies/$