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# Violence against women up 6.7pc in 2011

■ SIBGHATULLAH VIRK

ISLAMABAD — Around 8,550 women in the country underwent different kinds of violence in 2011 — 6.7 per cent more than the previous year (2010).

According to an annual report released by the Aurat Foundation, sexual assaults on women witnessed 48.7 per cent increase, acid throwing 37.5 per cent, honour killings 26.6 per cent and domestic violence 25.5 per cent during 2011.

Releasing the report to the media here Tuesday, National Coordinator Policy Data Monitor Rabia Hadi stated that Punjab reported the highest number of cases of violence against women while Balochistan the least.

Explaining the reason, she told journalists the reporting mechanism was one of the main components, which was not the same in all provinces.

According to her, out of total 8,539 cases of violence, 6,188 were reported in Punjab, 1,316 in Sindh, 694 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 198 in Balochistan and 148 in Islamabad.

“Around 2,090 cases were of abduction, 1,575 of murder, 827 of rape or gang-rape, 758 of suicide, 705 of honour killing, 610 of domestic violence, 110 of sexual assault, 29 of burning, 44 of acid throwing and 1,792 of miscellaneous nature,” Rabia Hadi added.

She said the data had represented the incidence of violence in 113 districts of Pakistan — 36 of Punjab, 23 of

Sindh, 26 of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 28 of Balochistan, Islamabad Capital Territory and Federally and Provincially Administered Tribal Areas.

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She added that many of the cases “go unregistered.”

“In many cases, FIRs are not lodged against culprits.”

“Of 8,539 incidents, FIR was regis-

tered in 6,745 cases whereas 911 cases went unregistered while no information was available in 883 cases,” she elaborated.

The biggest number of unregistered cases was witnessed in Sindh where FIRs in 605 cases were not registered while out of 1,316 reported cases information about 75 cases was not available.

Describing the National Commission for Women Bill, 2011 and Criminal Law Amendment, Bill a big achievements, she said it was still to go a long way to protect rights of women in the country.

Arifra Mazhar, Dr Ghulam Mustafa Solangi and Shazia Lashari were also present on the occasion.