

War Against Rape(WAR)

Sexual Violence Factsheet Jan-Jun 2011

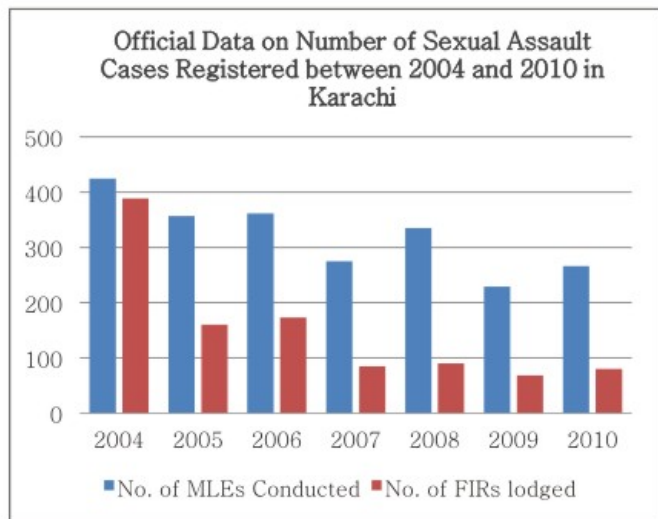


Sexual and gender-based acts of violence are a fundamental violation of human rights. Sadly, violence is a daily reality for many women in every country in the world. International human rights standards oblige states to criminalize rape and other forms of sexual and gender-based violence and to address those crimes.¹ It is the duty of the state to take adequate measures to prevent violence, to investigate cases and prosecute the alleged perpetrators, and to provide reparation to the survivors.

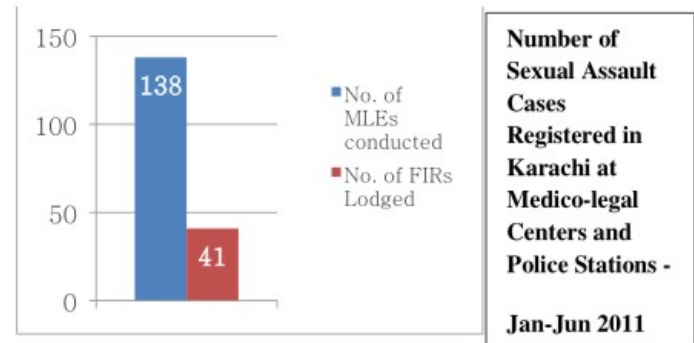
One of WAR's mandates is to highlight statistics on sexual violence in Pakistan and to add urgency to the issue by in-depth analysis of deterrents to reporting abuse. It gathers statistics and case-related information from all 103 police stations in Karachi, including Women Police stations and the three major Government hospitals in Karachi where medico-legal exams are conducted. However, the cases it investigates may be referred from other sources as well, including town offices (over 18 in Karachi), other NGOs, media and directly from courts via public prosecutors and judges.

Reported Sexual Assault Cases Jan-Jun 2011

Official recordsⁱⁱ of the first six months of 2011 show that **41** First Information Reports (FIRs) were registered in Karachi; in cases of sexual assault (this includes Rape, Gang Rape, attempt to Rape and Sodomy). Compared with the 138 medico-legal exams (MLEs) conducted, these numbers reflect the consistent disparity between the numbers of FIRs and MLEs. A comparison of the data obtained from the police and the medico-legal sector from 2004-2010 is depicted below:



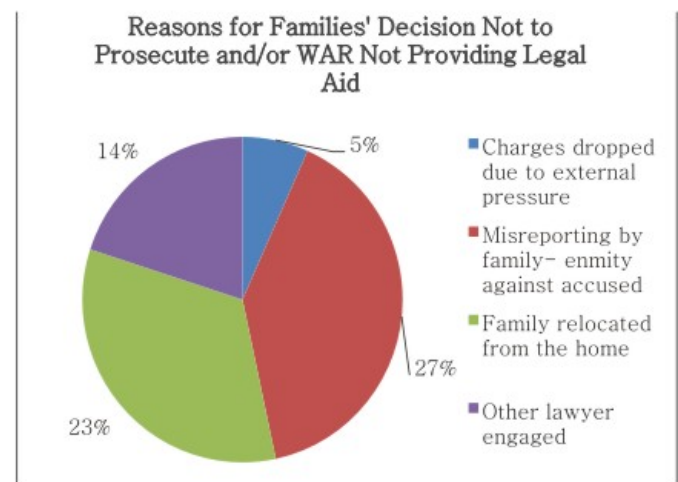
The following chart shows the difference in the FIRs registered and the Medico-legal examinations conducted in the first six months of 2011.



Furthermore, Police records also show that of the 41 FIRs registered between Jan-Jun 2011, *challan* of only 27 (66%) of the cases have been presented in court, and 44% remain under investigation. At the end of June 2011, there were a total of 465 cases of sexual violence (under the categories of rape, gang-rape, custodial rape and incest) pending in courts from previous years, and 23 cases were under investigation. This means that aside from the 21 cases that are under investigation between January and June, 2011, 14 cases from preceding years are still under investigations.

WAR's Investigations

War investigated 22 cases of sexual assault in the first half of 2011. 32% of these cases were taken to court by WAR's legal team. The chart below illustrates the reasons as to why 68% of cases weren't taken on by the WAR team.

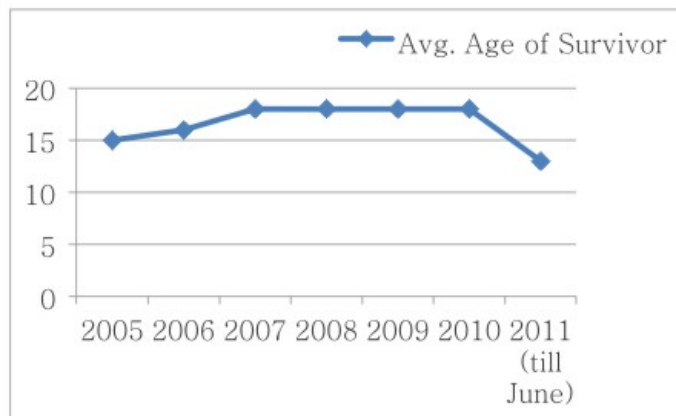


Analysis of cases investigated by WAR in the period Jan – June 2011 highlighted the following facts:

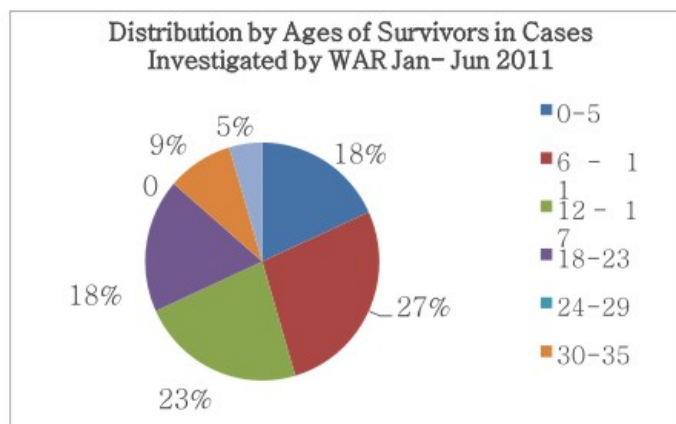
- The age group most vulnerable to sexual violence was 6-11 years (27%), followed by 12-17 years (23%).
- 48% of survivors were children under the age of 12, whilst 67% were under 16 years.
- The average age of a rape survivor is 13 years.
- Majority (86%) of rape survivors were female, while 14% were male.
- Demographically, the highest incidents of sexual violence were recorded in Bin Qasim town (18%), with Orangi town (14%) in second place.
- 23% of the survivors' families shifted from their homes to escape stigma and persecution.

Child Sexual Abuse

In 2010, a reported number of 2,252 children were sexually abused throughout the countryⁱⁱⁱ. About 67% of these cases were from rural areas, whereas 33% were from urban areas. In 2009, the total number of reported cases was 968. The chart below traces the average age of the rape survivor in cases investigated by WAR from 2005 till June 2011.



The following chart illustrates the ages of survivors in the cases investigated from January to June 2011.



This year an alarming 71% of the total cases investigated by WAR involved children under the age of 18; the youngest survivor being only 3 years old. The statistics depict an alarming trend in the decreasing age of sexual violence survivors.

Socio-economic scenarios seem to be the major contributing factor in the middle to lower classes where mothers are often working while the children are at home, leaving them vulnerable. Furthermore, traditionally children are taught to be obedient to adults, and disobedience is punished. This leads children being unwilling to report cases of abuse, as they believe reporting amount to disobedience. Even if the abuse becomes known to the parent or family, the survivors are often quietened for fear of being ostracised.

In cases where the family does gather courage to report the matter, the discouraging behaviour of the police, or medico-legal officers and the lack of an efficient judicial system, act as a restraint. Moreover, Court records show that in 2010, a mere 38 cases of Child Sexual violence resulted in convictions. These factors are responsible for feelings of distrust and lack of confidence in the justice system and prevent people from reporting cases.

Problems in legislation include a very narrow definition of rape, where no special provisions are made for incest and object rape, which are extremely pertinent in cases of Child Sexual Violence. Furthermore there should be harsher punishments in application for convicts in such cases, so that the law may act a deterrent.

ⁱ Checklist on Justice for Violence against women, Amnesty International, 2010

ⁱⁱ As obtained from the Inspector General of Police, (Crime Branch), Karachi

ⁱⁱⁱ Cruel Numbers Report, by Sahil, 2010

War Against Rape (WAR), Karachi
 102, Pearl Crest, 18-C, Lane # 4
 Main Zamzama Boulevard, Phase 5, DHA, Karachi
 Tel: (9221) 3537 3008; Fax: (9221) 3583 0903
 Email: waragainstrape.khi@gmail.com
 URL: <http://www.war.org.pk>



War Against Rape (WAR), Karachi, established in 1989, is working to provide comprehensive services to rape survivors and to advocate just laws and rights-based services for survivors of sexual violence. For more information, please visit our website.

