

**COUNSELING CENTRES NATIONAL NETWORK  
ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**



**VIOLENCES AGAINST WOMEN  
IN ALGERIA  
SECOND RESULTS**

**SEPTEMBER 2010**



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## ROUTE OF THE VICTIMS

*Married woman, mother of 2 children, Work as administrative agent. Her husband is a security agent. He works in the same institution. She is always offended by her husband who beats her. several times. The husband does not meet the needs of his family. Depressed woman, put under stress and tired of this burden.*

*Married woman mistreated and expelled from the marital home with her two daughters by her husband. Her parents died and her brothers refuse to assume responsibility. She appeared at the police station to lodge a complaint against her husband; she was asked her to come back in the afternoon. She was taken at Nedjma House by a to be accommodated.*

*Single woman without employment, is often beaten by her father who does not earn a living. She ran away three times from home. She seeks legal information on her rights against her father.*

*The husband lodges a complaint against his ex wife and accuses her of money robbery before the divorce.*

*44-year-old, married woman, mother of 2 children, secretary; Her husband is a senior executive in a big company. She is mistreated by her husband, undergoes threats of death. These last years she was expelled from the marital home. She asks for the steps to follow to divorce and looks for a psychological support because she is put under stress.*

*Single woman without employment, is often beaten by her father who does not earn a living. She ran away three times from home. She seeks legal information on her rights against her father.*

*Married woman, mother of 2 children. She is often beaten by her husband. She seeks a way to stop her husband from beating her, because she doesn't want to divorce but to reason him.*



*Married woman, mother of three children, suffers from physical and verbal violence by her unemployed husband, who takes drugs.*

.....

*Battered woman, mother of a child, is expelled from the marital home with her one-year-old son, asks for legal advice.*

.....

*49-year-old, separated woman, mother of 5 children, often mistreated, beaten by her husband who wants to remarry and who does not meet the needs of his family.*

.....

*Married woman, and mother of a child. She is beaten and expelled from the marital home by her retired husband and father of 7 children from previous marriages, asks for legal advice on the steps to be followed to divorce.*

.....

*Married woman, and mother of three children. She is beaten and expelled from the marital home, leaving her children behind. Her husband, who wants to divorce, accuses her of mental illness.*

.....

*This woman is tired and put under stress. She wishes to return home with her children. She is victim of physical, sexual, psychological and socioeconomic violence since the beginning of the married life.*

.....

*Her husband is physically violent and tortures her psychologically, he wants to destroy her and is vulgar he had never respected his wife.*

.....

*Woman harassed by her ex husband in the workplace and at home. She undergoes physical violence from her husband.*

.....

*29-year-old woman suffers from physical and moral Violence by the spouse, feels humiliated, under estimated. She has a 20-month-old child and is afraid of going out alone and meeting her husband.*

.....

*The victim moved to live with her parents in law and her brother in law after the death of her husband. This latter threatens her to chase her away from the house and harasses her on her workplace, he also lodged a*

*complaint against the victim for a theft of a bookshop.*

*The victim lodged a complaint against her husband for defect of maintenance allowance without divorce, as a result all the family is threatening her of eviction*

*She has been too patient, living a conflict and difficult situation with her family (2 married brothers who are influenced by their wives); the small brother raised his hand on her and his mom and offended them.*

*Engaged during 5 years, further to it she abandoned her studies. Verbally aggressed by her fiancé for different reasons, he harasses her until creating her problems with her family.*

*The victim and her 7 children suffer violence from her husband since 19 years of marriage. This violence is physical, sexual and psychological.*

*Divorced 40-year-old woman, lives with her four children in a room at her ex husband apartment.*

*She is often threatened with eviction from this room. Besides, he does not pay the food pension. Without resources she is looking for a job.*

*Battered woman by her husband, expelled from the place of residence. The 56-year-old husband divorced twice, this woman is his third wife, married for nine years, she wants to divorce and asks for legal advice.*

*Daily quarrels in the couple which lead to the violence, the victim is a woman who is 11-years older than her husband. Relational problem with the husband because of the mother in law, feels over-exploited, eats badly, sleeps badly, and works badly; she takes painkiller. The husband does not want to divorce. The mother-in-law uses the emotional blackmail with her sons.*

*The woman said she was betrayed by her husband with his best friend several times and is charged with theft.*

*Having divorced, her husband refused to give her her rights,*



*thus he decided to remarry her, she has no right to leave. To take his revenge, he forbade her to go out, to work and utter insults.*

.....

*Since the first week of her marriage, she undergone physical and psychological violence on behalf of her husband and it lasts for 6 years. she went to see a professional for the first time to be heard; 6 years of Calvary, suffering, she got married at the age of 39 to a widower who had 5 very young children, she had to take care of everything and overnight she took the responsibility of a house and 5 kids, but the worst, is that she had to manage a violent husband, violent towards her and his children also. She tried to see more clearly, she does not speak to him but can not take a firm decision.*

.....

*Amel is a victim of violence from the part of her fiancé: slaps from time to time and all sorts of insults and belittlements are becoming more frequent.*

.....

*Divorced since 5 years, after 20 years of marriage. She had the*

*custody of 9 children among whom Triplets, her ex husband waits that they are major to take back the apartment.*

.....

*Desertion of the marital home. Woman of 55 years, married with 8 children, her husband left the marital home and let her without money.*

.....

*Khadidja is a woman physically and psychologically assaulted by her husband; The physical violence is like assaults and battery with different objects as a belt, a telephone or dishes; but most of the time he uses his hands. Concerning the psychological violence, it can be insults and especially belittlement and threats.*

.....

*Woman often beaten by her husband, offended because she is older than him. He threatens her of divorce or pushes her to ask for a divorce so that she loses all her rights. But she was more intelligent, she has not give up to his threats, insults and attacks until the day where he left the marital home, knowing well that it is woman who pays the rent.*

*Battered woman, threatened with death, offended and expelled of the marital home by her husband. Her parents take care of her and her two children. She asks for a legal advice, so that her husband stops beating her.*

*Victim of psychological and physical violence on behalf of her husband for 19 years; he forbids her to have a social contacts, she only takes care of her children and of the household.*

*Woman often beaten by her husband mentally ill, asks for a psychological support for her and her children and also legal advice on the steps to follow to divorce. But she wonders where will she go after the divorce without any resources and without accommodation.*

*Stress following Verbal attacks from young people of the neighborhood.*

*Married, 30-year-old woman and mother of two children. She has a university degree and works as librarian. She is beaten and offended by her*

*husband. Asks for legal information on her Rights.*

*Married for 26 years, suspects her husband of infidelity. Husband humbles her verbally and morally, the victim in front of her 4 old children between 18 and 25 years.*

*Divorced for 12 years, the victim lives at her parent's house with her daughter. No payment of maintenance allowance, physical and psychological aggression when she asks for her rights.*

*The victim, 23 years old, undergoes legal violence because the father of her daughter does not want to recognize her.*

*39-year-old woman, married and mother of two children. She is nursing and her husband Director of Wilaya. She is often beaten with her both children by her husband. She has undergone this fate for 12 years. She wants to know the advantages and inconveniences of he divorce by Kohl.*

*59-year-old woman victim of one excessive divorce. After*



*a marriage which lasted 36 years, she may find her self in the street with her children, because her ex husband asks for her eviction from the marital home.*

.....

*Woman abandoned by her husband with her 4 children since more than 2 years, she does not find of what to feed her children.*

.....

*It is about a 19-year-old girl, married with act with her cousin but the marriage is planned In 2 years, In time she discovered that he dos not work and that he has no diploma Contrary to what he said to her. At this time, he started to blackmail her, he divorces her or she must stop her studies and if he divorces her, she has to give him the sum of DA 70.000.*

.....

*Mother of two young children-victim of violence by her changeable husband. Repeated Infidelities, refusal to meet the needs of the family, and salary extortion.*

.....

*Girl victim of violence on behalf of her brother who prevents her*

*to go out and to continue her studies. Verbal and physical violence.*

.....

*Housewife (8 children), victim of violence (knocks and frequent bullying) from her husband who is mentally ill. Very Worried about the well being of her children, witnesses of big scenes of violence and weakened by this situation.*

.....

*27-year-old girl, her young brother beats her every day, insults her and accuses her of debauchery, he stabbed her.*

*28-year-old girl perpetually depreciated by her Fiancé: humiliation, extreme and repeated verbal violence.*

.....

*Young woman beaten to death regularly and systematically dispossessed of her salary.*

.....

*Woman assaulted by her spouse and thrown in the street with her children.*

## To ASSAULTED WOMEN

**To THE LISTENERS: FOR THEIR ASSISTANCE TO VICTIMS  
AND APPRECIABLE WORK OF SUFFERANCE DENUNCIATION**



## INTRODUCTION

UIn 2008, a network of listening centres coming under the NGO's has been constituted for studying and treating together the recorded cases of assaulted women. Initiated by the CIDDEF and financed by UNIFEM, the project becomes a material and financial assistance to the listening centres, especially in terms of training listeners and developing their work made with those assaulted women.

Its main purpose is to collect the cases of violence against women, make them publically known and set up a sound plea to the public authorities on measures likely to reduce violence phenomenon and other measures bringing the necessary help and assistance to assaulted women.

In June 2009, data analysis first results have been published and publically presented. They didn't represent the first studies carried out on violence against women. The latter has been subjected to many studies carried out by associations first and then by institutional bodies.

Though, the society tends to minimise the problem or reflect an image which is very far from truth. "Danger is outside, in the street"; "be careful to strangers". Reality is much different and all studies say the same. Current analysis and network analysis results will prove it.■

## CREATION AND FUNCTIONING OF THE LISTENING CENTRES NETWORK

The purposes targeted by the project initiated by CIDDEF are informing and increasing awareness of society and public authorities on violence against women, with the concern of anticipating these cases and assisting victims. This needs the sound work of the listening centres and gathering the collected data. For reaching the targeted purposes, a series of actions has been undertaken:

- Networking of the associative listening centres;
- Elaboration of a database and training listeners for its use;
- Coordination of the network;
- Specific training of the listeners working with assaulted women;
- Analysis of the collected violence cases and publication of results.

### 1-NETWORK SETTING UP

The listening centres brought together at the beginning of 2008, on the initiative of the CIDDEF, have decided to embark on a project of networking the centres. Once

the necessary financing obtained from the UNIFEM, the network work has begun by a common elaboration of the listening scheme.

A draft of the listening report - similar for the centres ensuring anonymous telephone listening as well as for those having a reception counter- has been discussed. Once tested and partially modified, the scheme has been adopted by the centres. It has been proved to be globally satisfying even if the data systematic exploitation made for June 2009 highlighted the necessity of reformulating some items for ensuring a uniform interpretation and limiting as possible difficulties of filling the scheme.

The listening report allows to note the victim and attacker characteristics, precise the nature of the suffered violence and its effects on the victim and her children, identify –in the victim surrounding- persons who support or those condemning her and finally, note the victim expectations. This account, necessary to a good apprehension of data, has been the subject of a deep reflection work during the network meetings.

## 2- DATABASE SETTING-UP

Technically, networking of the listening centres has been established through the creation and settlement of a database, hosted on a server and accessible via internet. It regroups information from all the listening centres, collected via a normalised scheme, working as a data entry form.

It has been decided of a settlement of decentralised organisation and online tools on the internet network. The realisation of a web application permits to all centres to enter the listening reports, exploit results and allow the CIDDEF to manage the whole database administration tasks (statistics, data export, users' management password...).

The most recent technological tools have been selected, among others: Customer database/ «MYSQL» server.

- The «HTML» language, Script PHP, javascript and Java script.

Each one of the listening centres has been equipped with a computer, printer, internet connexion and a financial support. The network listeners have been trained to keyboarding for making easy the database use.

## 3- CENTRES INVOLVED ON THE NETWORK

At the project beginning, 8 listening centres have joined the network and have chosen to name it "BALSAM", a solace for the victims. Today, the network regroups 13 listening centres for women victims of violence.

Actually, concerning the institutional listening centres, the Ministry in charge of Family and Women Position has established a database of the cases of violence against women.

The BALSAM centres are spread out from East to West (Tébessa, Annaba, Constantine, Tizi-Ouzou, Algiers and Oran) on the whole country except South. Since June 2009, five listening centres have joined the network:



Means of communication: radio – Internet- press-TV	113	21
Friend	69	13
A centre beneficiary	62	11
Acquaintance	35	6
A relative	31	6
A member of the family	28	5
Hospital	33	6
Police station	15	3
Court	7	1
National Gendarmerie	1	0
Associations	27	5
Other answer	6	1
No answer	119	22

Centres location	Number of Listening reports	Rates
Algiers	247	45
Tizi-Ouzou	100	18
Constantine	89	16
Oran	51	9
Tébessa	33	6
Annaba	26	5

The centres concentration in some wilayate generates a selection bias: Thus, 45% of the reported violence cases come from the Algiers listening centres. Nevertheless, the centres influence goes beyond the framework of the wilaya they're settled in. Thus, the women going to those centres come from different 33 wilayate.

Residence Wilaya of the victim	Number	Rates (out of no answer)
Algiers	155	31%
Tizi-Ouzou	90	18%
Constantine	85	17%
Oran	47	10%
Tébessa	27	5%
Blida	17	3%
Annaba	15	3%
Boumerdès	11	2%
Béjaïa	7	1%
Chlef	3	1%

Sétif	3	1%
Saida	3	1%
Médéa	3	1%
Tipaza	3	1%
Adrar	2	0%
Djelfa	2	0%
Skikda	2	0%
Sidi-Bel-Abbès	2	0%
Guelma	2	0%
Ouargla	2	0%
Souk-Ahras	2	0%
Aïn-Defla	2	0%
Naâma	2	0%
Batna	1	0%
Bouira	1	0%
Tiaret	1	0%
Jijel	1	0%
Bordj-Bou-Argeridj	1	0%
El-Taref	1	0%
Mila	1	0%
No answer	51	

## 1. INTRODUCTION OF ASSAULTED WOMEN

### 1.1. Matrimonial situation of the victims

Family status	Number	Percentage
Married and registered	317	58%
Married with Fatha only (marriage is not registered but only religious)	19	3%
Separated	22	4%
Single	126	23%
Cohabitation	2	0%
Divorced	52	10%
Widow	7	1%
No answer	1	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>546</b>	<b>100%</b>



Among the assaulted women who contacted the listening centres, the greatest majority (65%) are married. The seconds are single in 23% of cases. The divorced women represent 10% of the whole and widows only 1%.

Finally, a case couldn't be classified by the listeners: a woman who is judicially married but didn't conclude the religious marriage (the Fatiha) and didn't cele-

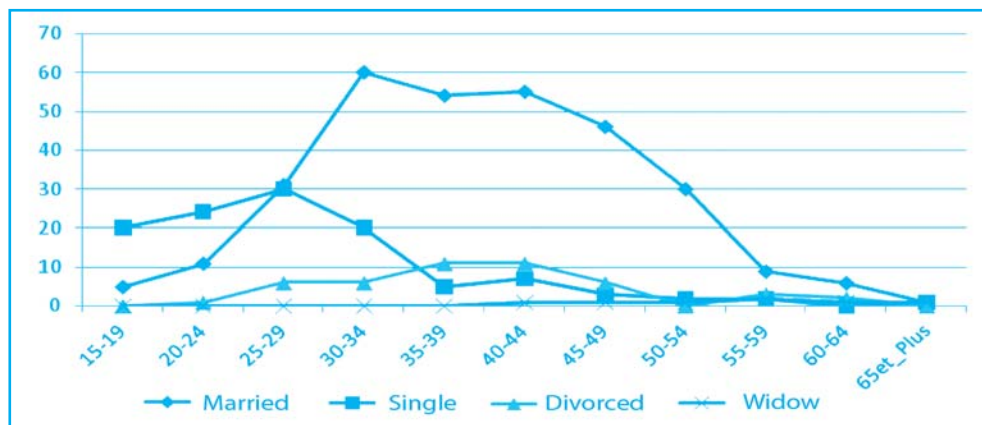
brate the wedding. It is a frequent phenomenon where the civil marriage has been concluded but the woman still "socially" unmarried. The situation becomes more complicated when she is pregnant or "legally talking", when the husband postpones the marriage with no reason or when he completely disappears. Thus, the woman is compelled to ask for divorce without being really married.

### 1.2. Age of assaulted women

Status	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65 et+	Non-declared	Total
<b>Married</b>	5	11	31	60	54	55	46	30	9	6	1	50	358
<b>Single</b>	20	24	30	20	5	7	3	2	2	0	1	12	126
<b>Divorced</b>	0	1	6	6	11	11	6	0	3	2	0	6	52
<b>Widow</b>	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	2	1	1	0	7
<b>Cohabitation</b>	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
<b>No answer</b>	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	25	36	69	86	70	74	56	33	16	9	3	69	546
<b>Total in %</b>	5%	7%	13%	16%	13%	14%	10%	6%	3%	2%	1%	13%	100%
<b>% out of non declared</b>	5%	8%	14%	18%	15%	16%	12%	7%	3%	2%	1%		

Women victims of violence who had recourse to listening centres of the network are predominantly aged between 25-44 (63% of cases where age is declared), with a majority from 30 and 34 years. Obviously, single women are younger than the married, 82% are between 15 and 34 and the most represented age group is the 25-29 years. Divorced women are more and more between 35 and 44 years (48% of the cases).

#### DISTRIBUTION ACCORDING TO THE AGE AND MARITAL STATUS OF THE ASSAULTED WOMEN



### 1.3. Particular characteristics of victims according to their matrimonial status

#### 1.3.1. Married women

Among the 546 violence cases collected by the listening centres, the majority of assaulted women -358- that is to say 65%, are married.

➤ **Type of union :**

Majority of marriages have been registered but 19 women have concluded the religious marriage only, it means that their marriage has not been registered at the registry office.

For those women whose marriage is only religious, this situation, even being socially recognised, is a genuine problem. Indeed, children born of this marriage are considered as illegitimate. Additionally, in case of divorce, woman can't benefit of any protection. That's why the current regulation forbids any Fatiha before the civil marriage: the religious marriage should be celebrated after the civil marriage only. To be noted that the regularisation of the only religious marriages is also planned by the means of a judgment of recognition (art. 22 of the Code of Family). In any case, we consider that for assaulted women, an exclusively religious marriage constitutes an additional fragility.

➤ **Duration of the union :**

If the majority of assaulted women are married since less than 5 years, 27% of them are married since more than 5 years. A non negligible number of women are even married since more than 18 years.

#### CURRENT MARRIAGE DURATION ACCORDING TO THE FAMILY STATUS

Duration	Registered marriage	Religious marriage	Cohabitation	Separated	Total
0 à 5 years	226	15	2	20	263
6 à 11 years	29	2	0	2	33
12 à 17 years	17	1	0	0	18
18 à 23 years	27	1	0	0	28
24 years and more	18	0	0	0	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>360</b>



Duration of marriage in years	0 à 5	6 à 11	12 à 17	18 à 23	+ 24 years	Total
Number of women	260	33	18	28	18	357
Rate %	73%	9%	5%	8%	5%	100%

14 women who are only religiously married are married since less than 6 years. 4 of them are married since more than 6 years of which 2 are married since more than 12 years. 13 of them have children.

➤ **Number of children of religiously married women**

**NUMBER OF CHILDREN OF RELIGIOUSLY MARRIED WOMEN**

Number of children	0	1	2	3	4	5 years & more	Total children
Number of women	5	3	4	5	1	0	30

32 women were separated when have contacted the listening centre. The separation is frequently a consecutive result of violence but the fact of having left or having been chased away from the marital home makes them more exposed to violence situations.

➤ **Previous unions**

16 of the married women declare having been previously married. Generally, the previous marriage was short (less than 5 years)

**1.3.2. Divorced women**

52 women, that is to say 10% of those who have contacted a listening centre are divorced. The divorced women constitute a vulnerable sphere at the social plan as well as at the economic and juridical ones.

➤ **Children of divorced women**

**NUMBER OF CHILDREN OF DIVORCED WOMEN**

Number of children	0	1	2	3	4	5 years & more	Total children	Total victims
Divorced women	13	14	9	4	8	2	110	53

70% of assaulted divorced women have at least one child; ten of them have got 4 and more.

### 1.3.3. Single women

The single women constitute 23% of the women having recourse to a listening centre. These women are subjected to a bit different violence than the one suffered by married or divorced women.

### 1.3.4. Widow women

They are very few (7 in total) having contacted the listening centre. This small number can be explained by respect that generally surrounds widows and old women. This can also be explained by the fact that this sphere cannot easily join the listening centres in case of violence.

### 1.4. Level of education of the assaulted women

If we don't consider the 41 cases (8% in total) where information regarding the level of education of the victim women has not been given, the assaulted women have declared the following level:

Non educated	Primary	Middle school	Secondary	University	Religious
10%	15%	20%	30%	24%	0%
51	77	99	153	123	2

Thus, 24% of the victims have a university level while 50% have a secondary or Middle school level and 25% are non-educated. This over-representation of the academic women is the sign of an important bias which is also found at the level of occupation. Despite this bias, this reveals two things:

- Violence does not spare educated women.
- The most educated women (secondary and university level) have probably a lower violence tolerance level than those who are less educated and/or a better acknowledgement of the possible recourses.

### 1.5. Activity of assaulted women

#### NUMBER OF ASSAULTED WOMEN PER TYPE OF ACTIVITY AND MATRIMONIAL STATUS

	Regular work	Informal work	Housewife	Jobless	Student or pupil	Retired	No answer	Total
Married with act	49	9	77	6	1	4	171	317
Religiously married	4	4	5	2	0	0	4	19
Cohabitation	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2



Separated	3	2	4	0	1	0	12	22
Single	11	4	3	8	15	0	73	114
Engaged	2	0	2	2	2	0	3	11
Divorced	6	5	13	6	0	1	22	53
Widow	0	2	0	1	0	0	4	7
No answer	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>291</b>	<b>546</b>

	Regular work	Informal work	Housewife	Jobless	Student or pupil	Retired	No answer	Total
Married with act	15%	3%	24%	2%	0%	1%	54%	100%
Religiously married	21%	21%	26%	11%	0%	0%	21%	100%
Separated	14%	9%	18%	0%	5%	0%	55%	100%
Single	10%	4%	3%	7%	13%	0%	64%	100%
Divorced	11%	9%	25%	11%	0%	2%	42%	100%
Widow	0%	29%	0%	14%	0%	0%	57%	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>100%</b>

For more than half of the cases, the victims’ profession is unknown. In such case, the most probable is that the victim if a housewife.

Nevertheless, thing which strikes and poses problem in the reported violence cases is the percentage of the working women: 14% have got a regular job and 5% of them have an informal one. It is more than the national level of women occupation. Indeed, the statistics of labour published by the ONS indicates that only 17% of 15 and + women work.

Can we conclude that working women are more exposed to violence than the others? The question needs to be deeply studied. It means that Algeria is an exceptional case. Indeed, the international data, in particular the French data, show –on the contrary- that housewives are more exposed to violence.

- A more determining answer element would be the bias of the selection of victims who contact the listening centres. A bias that has been already signalled concerning the education level: the working women who are generally graduated and have an easier access to listening centres and/or are less resigned to violence than housewives.
- A last explanation can also be given; among the married working women, the attacker is often a jobless husband, twice more important than for housewives. We can easily imagine the frustration of a man who doesn't work and, moreover, depends of his wife for his subsistence and that of his children, in a society where a man is considered as the natural protector of girls and women of the family!

## 1.6. Residence location of the victims

### DISTRIBUTION OF THE ASSAULTED WOMEN ACCORDING TO THEIR RESIDENCE LOCATION

	Big towns	Average and small towns	villages	Secluded villages and Isolated houses	No answer
Number of cases	296	82	94	7	67
According to the place of residence	54%	15%	17%	1%	12%
% Out of no answer	62%	17%	20%	1%	

The majority of cases received by the listening centres are coming from the big towns: 62% if we exclude those who didn't answer. This result is probably accentuated by the fact that the totality of listening centres are located in the big towns, except one centre which has recently joined the network. However, it is probable that it reflects a bigger urban violence and a lesser tolerance of urban women to violence.

Village comes at the second place before the average and small towns. Even being few represented, secluded villages and isolated houses are also considered as areas of violence.

### CASES OF VIOLENCE ACCORDING TO THE VICTIM PLACE OF RESIDENCE AND MATRIMONIAL STATUS

	Big Towns	Average and small towns	Villages	Secluded villages and Isolated houses	No answer	Total
Mariée avec acte	178	45	51	3	40	317



The insecure housing is markedly over-represented (8%, homeless included), comparing to the general situation of housing in Algeria.

Generally, it concerns women having fled their houses because of violence. Several reports show that the fact of being homeless exposes women to a higher risk

of serious violence. The insufficiency of accommodating structures for the assaulted women is a heavy shortcoming with seriously bad effects.

Proportionately, in our sample, the village singles are particularly numerous to be assaulted.

### 1.7 Type of victims' house

**CASE OF VIOLENCE ACCORDING TO THE VICTIM HOUSE TYPE**

Housing nature	Number of cases	%
Flat	227	42%
Traditional	90	16%
Villa	48	9%
Modern	36	7%
Insecure housing (flimsy constructions)	18	3%
Illicit construction	14	3%
Shanty town	14	3%
Homeless	9	2%
Hotel room	1	0%
No answer	89	16%
<b>Total</b>	<b>546</b>	

The insecure housing is markedly over-represented (8%, homeless included), comparing to the general situation of housing in Algeria.

Generally, it concerns women having fled their houses because of violence. Several reports show that the fact of being homeless exposes women to a higher risk of serious violence. The insufficiency of accommodating structures for the assaulted women is a heavy shortcoming with seriously bad effects.

## 1-8 Wilaya of residence of the victims

The wilaya of residence is mentioned for 91% of the victims. They are from 30 different wilayate. However, 90% live in 8 wilayate:

Wilaya	Victims	%	Accumulation
Algiers	155	31%	31%
Tizi-Ouzou	90	18%	50%
Constantine	85	17%	67%
Oran	47	10%	76%
Tébessa	27	5%	82%
Blida	17	3%	85%
Annaba	15	3%	88%
Boumerdès	11	2%	90%

## 1.9. Particular vulnerability of victims

### PARTICULAR VULNERABILITY OF VICTIMS

	Single	Married with act	Religiously married	separated	divorced
Pregnant	5	7	1		
unmarried mother	5				
Lactating mother		8	3	1	1
Handicapped			2	1	2
Chronic diseased	9	46		2	5
Child of the social service or adopted		1		1	
Orphan			2		

Characteristics of the attacker are less known than those of the victim.

## 2. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE ATTACKER

### 2.1. Gender of the attacker and relationship with the victim

Among the 546 of reported cases, the first cited attacker is a man in 520 cases, that is to say 95%, a woman in 25 cases (5%) and finally not precise when the victim has been deserted by the parents when being a child.

Woman attacker	
Mother	6
Adoptive mother	1
Sister	7
Stepmother	4
Stepdaughter	2
Colleague	1
Department head	1
Gynaecologist	1
other	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>

Man attacker	
Husband	305
Ex-husband	70
Boy friend and ex	19
Fiancé	8
Father	45
Brother	23
Stepfather	5
Son	2
Other relative	7
Victim boss/colleague	10
Neighbour	5
Acquaintance	4
None	4
Other	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>520</b>



Among the women attackers, sister and mother are firstly cited. We are surprised to see the stepmother cited after and not first. The first cited conflict opposes the victim to her husband or ex-husband, as indicated on the table of men attackers.

In total, 74% of attacks in our sample are the fact of the one that the international organisations call « lover », the husband, ex-husband, boyfriend or fiancé. At the contrary, very few attacks are related to persons who have no relationship with the victim.

## 2.2. attacker's other characteristics

### 2.2.1. Age

Age of attacker	Number	Rate
15-19 years	1	0
20-24	12	2
25-29	26	5
30-34	37	7
35-39	57	10
40-44	66	12
45-49	72	13
50-54	54	10
55-59	31	6
60-64	25	5
65 and above	21	4
Unknown	144	26

### 2.2.2. Matrimonial situation of the attacker

Number	Rate	Number
Married	386	71
Married without act	13	2
Single	60	11
Divorced	33	6
Widower	6	1
No answer	48	9

### 2.2.3. Level of education of the attacker

Education level of the attacker	Number	Rate
Non educated	48	9
Primary	76	14
Middle school	121	22
Secondary	101	18
University	88	16
No answer	112	21

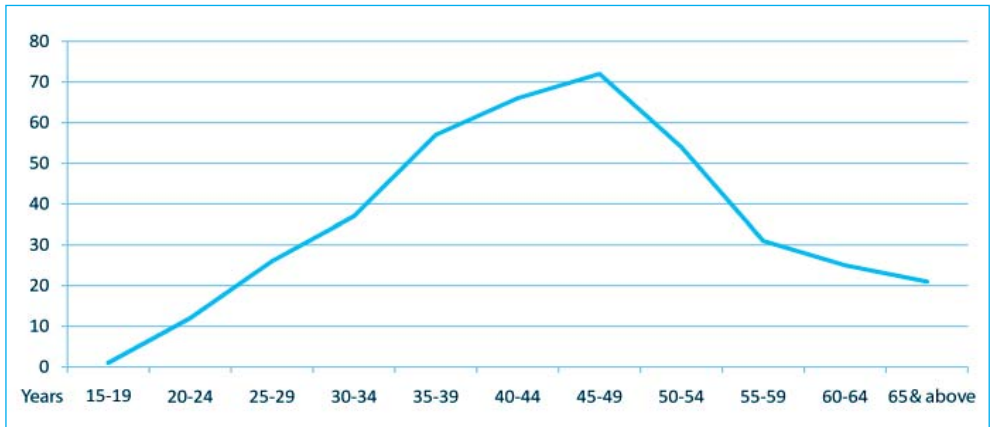
We notice that victims are proportionally more numerous than attackers, as far as high education level is concerned (secondary or high).

### 2.2.4. Activity of the attacker

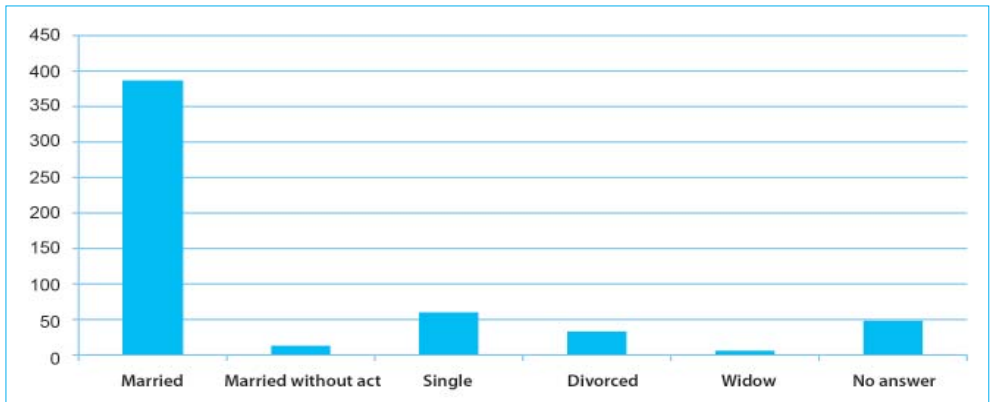
Activity of the attacker	Number	Rate	Rate out of no answer
Regular job	168	31	49%
Informal job	54	10	16%
Jobless	87	16	25%
Student/pupil	16	3	5%
Retired	20	4	6%
No answer	153	28	

A quarter of attackers of which activity is unknown are jobless. Thus, there is an over-representation of jobless in this kind of situation in Algeria. Unemployment appears as being a factor of risk in terms of violence.

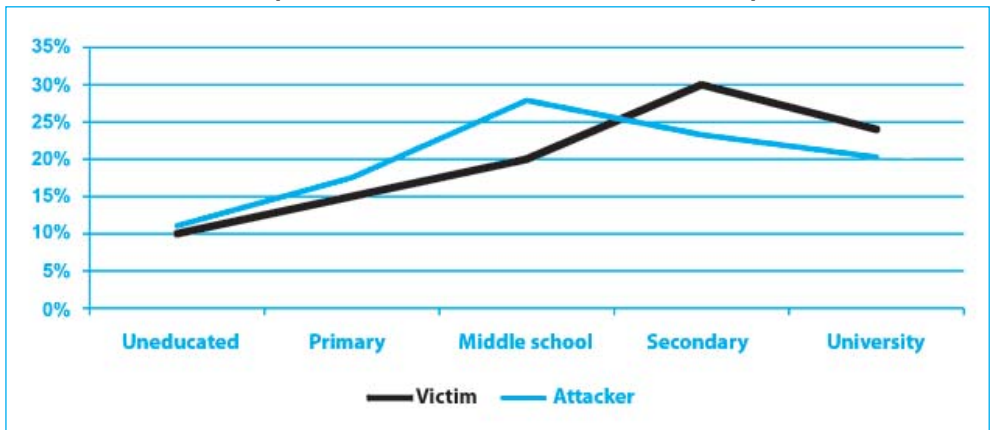
## ATTACKER'S AGE



## ATTACKER'S MATRIMONIAL SITUATION



## % OF VICTIMS AND ATTACKERS ACCORDING TO THEIR EDUCATION LEVEL (OUT OF THOSE WHO HAVEN'T DECLARE)





### 2.2.5. Occupation of the attacker

Attacker occupation	Number	Rate
Senior executive	26	5
Free marketer	16	3
Middle ranking executive	19	3
Employee	67	12
Worker	9	2
Shopkeeper	28	5
small farmer	4	1
Craftsman	8	1
Serviceman	2	0
No answer	367	67

The proportion of attackers of which occupation is too weak for having significant ratio is high. Yet, we note relatively high number of senior executives.

### 2.2.6. Factor aggravating the attacker violence

Aggravating factor	Number
Drug and drug addiction	63
Alcoholism	36
Mental illness	18
Delinquency	7
Unemployment	9

In 63 cases, victims talk about a drug addiction problem in the attacker that is to say in 12% of cases. Alcoholism, often associated to drug is less cited (35 cases). The number of violent « mentally ill persons » is relatively high.

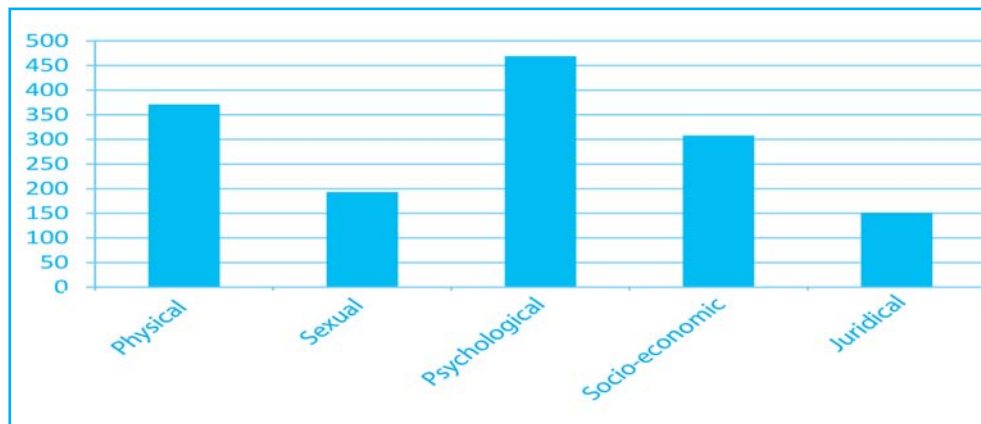
We wonder whether the victim considers that her attacker is violent because of being mentally ill or is mentally ill because he is violent without reason. We also notice that unemployment though very widespread is only cited 9 times as factor aggravating violence.

## 3. VIOLENCE CHARACTERISTICS

### 3.1. Type of violence

Type of violence	Number of victims	% on the total of victims
Physical	371	68%
Sexual	193	35%
Psychological	469	86%
Socio- economic	308	56%
Juridical	151	28%

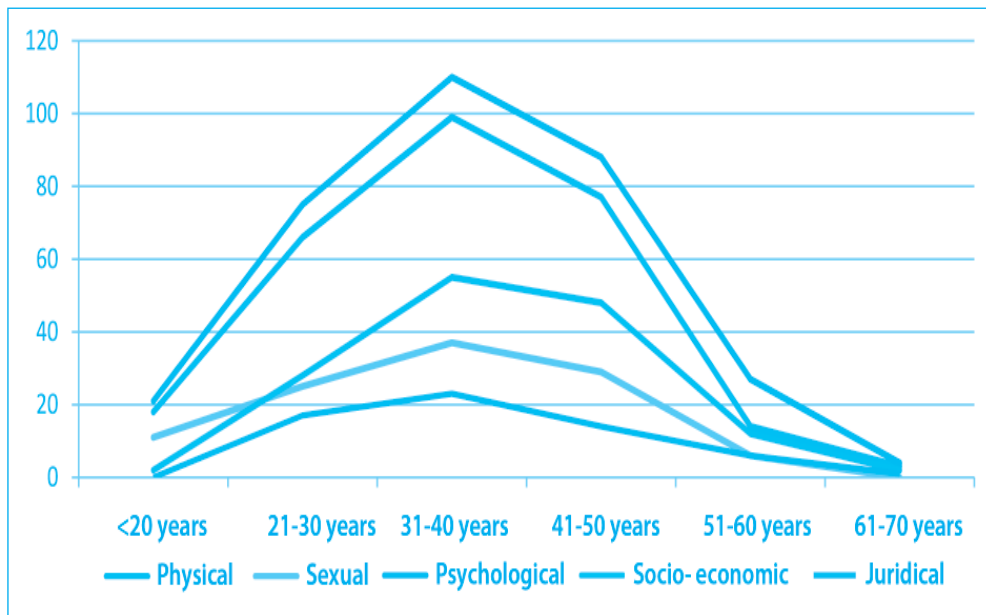
Emotional abuse is the most widespread. It reaches 86% of victims.



They are often related to other types of violence; physical for 68% of victims, socio-economic for 56% of them. More than 1/3 of victims suffer of sexual violence and 28% of judicial violence.

On average, each victim suffers of three types of violence

Age section	Physical	sexual attack	Psychological	Socio-économical	Juridical	Total
11-20 years	6%	10%	6%	1%	0%	6%
21-30 years	24%	23%	23%	19%	28%	23%
31-40 years	36%	34%	34%	37%	38%	35%
41-50 years	28%	27%	27%	32%	23%	28%
51-60 years	5%	6%	8%	8%	10%	7%
61-70 years	1%	0%	1%	1%	2%	1%
71-90 years	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>





Related to the victim age, sexual attacks substantially concern young victims while economic and judicial attacks are directed towards the oldest.

### 3.2. Relationship of the victim and attacker

In this analysis, only one attacker has been taken into consideration because –except for group attack- different attackers apply different violence types.

Attacker/victim relationship	%
Husband	55.7
Ex husband	13.2
Father	8.2
Brother	4.2
Boyfriend, lover, friend	3.1
fiancé	1.5
Mother	1.5
Victim boss	1.5
Sister	1.3
Neighbour	0.9
No relationship	0.9
Stepmother	0.7
Stepfather	0.4
Son	0.4
Colleague	0.4
Education or administration representative	0.4
Daughter	0.0
Other	5.1

Husband and ex husband are obviously the top attackers, followed by the father, brother, boyfriend, friend of fiancé. Less than 1% of attackers have no relationship with the victim.

#### 3.2.1. Married women Victim/ attacker relationship

	Married With Act	Religiously Married	Separated	Total Married	Total
Husband	385	17	19	321	89%
Father	5	0	0	5	1%
Mother	3	0	0	3	1%
Stepmother	3	0	1	4	1%
Son	2	0	0	2	1%
Brother	1	1	1	3	1%
Sister	2	0	1	3	1%
Neighbour	4	0	0	4	1%
Victim boss	2	0	0	2	1%
Other	7	0	0	8	2%
Husband friend	1	0	0	1	0%
No answer	2	0	0	2	1%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>100%</b>

89% of married women are attacked by their husbands. The percentage is the same than when marriage is either religious, with act or when husband and wife are separated. Other attackers are generally members of the family: father, mother, stepmother... in 4 cases, the attacker is a neighbour and in 2 cases, the victim boss.

### 3.2.2. Divorced women victim/ attacker relationship

For the divorced women, the ex husband appears as being the almost exclusive attacker: 51 divorced women on the 53 are victims of their ex husbands.

### 3.2.3. Single women victims/ attacker relationship

As far as single women are concerned, the attacker type varies a lot. The father dominates with 31% of cases. In total, boyfriends, fiancés and ex boyfriends totalise 20% together. Then, the brother is the attacker in 16% of cases.

The work relationship: colleagues, boss, school representatives totalise 9% of attackers.

Neighbour	0	1	0	0	1	1%
Colleague	0	1	1	0	2	2%
Victim boss	0	6	0	0	6	5%
School or administration representative	0	1	1	0	2	2%
No relationship	0	5	0	0	5	4%
Other	0	16	2	0	18	14%
No answer	0	2	0	0	2	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>100%</b>

### 3.3. Place of attack

	Cohabitation	Single	engaged	No answer	Total	Rate
Ex boyfriend	0	5	0	0	5	4%
Fiancé	0	1	4	0	5	4%
Boyfriend	1	8	0	0	9	7%
Lover	1	2	0	0	3	2%
Friend	0	4	0	0	4	3%
Father	0	37	2	1	40	31%
Mother	0	2	0	0	2	2%
Stepfather	0	1	0	0	1	1%
Brother	0	19	1	0	20	16%
Sister	0	3	0	0	3	2%

Place of attack	Rate
Marital home	58%
Victim house	12%
In family house	11%
Attacker house	7%
Street	5%
Work/ studying place	5%
Public area	3%

The marital home and house of the victim are the main places where attack takes part. We have seen that 68% of victims are subjected to physical violence. However, this proportion varies according to the victim characteristics.

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## 4- PHYSICAL VIOLENCE

We have seen that 68% of victims are subjected to physical violence. However, this proportion varies according to the victim characteristics.

### 4.1. Prévalence de la violence physique selon les caractéristiques de la victime

#### 4.1.1. Situation familiale

**% DE FEMMES VIOLENTÉES PHYSIQUEMENT SELON LA SITUATION FAMILIALE**

Situation familiale	Nbre	Total	Taux
Mariée avec acte	234	317	74%
Mariée par fatiha	17	19	89%
Séparée	16	22	73%
Célibataire	70	125	56%
Divorcée	29	53	56%
Veuve	4	7	57%
Concubinage	1	2	50%
No answer		1	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>371</b>	<b>546</b>	<b>68%</b>

### 4.1. Prevalence of physical violence according to the victim characteristics

#### 4.1.1. Family status

**% OF WOMEN ARE PHYSICALLY ATTACKED ACCORDING TO THE FAMILY STATUS**

Family status	Nber	Total	Rate
Married with act	234	317	74%
Religiously married	17	19	89%
Separated	16	22	73%
Single	70	125	56%
Divorced	29	53	56%
Widow	4	7	57%
Cohabitation	1	2	50%
No answer		1	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>371</b>	<b>546</b>	<b>68%</b>

Married women are more than others victims of physical violence: 75% are subjected to physical violence. In our sample, the religiously married women are more attacked than others. For single, divorced or widows, the percentage of assaulted women is 56%.

#### 4.1.2. Age and level of education

Age is also an important element. The percentage of physically attacked women decreases as women get older. The same is for the education level. Those women with a primary education level are more attacked than those with a higher level. However, academics are 58% being subjected to physical violence that is to say proportionally a bit more than women of secondary level.

## % OF PHYSICALLY ATTACKED WOMEN ACCORDING TO LEVEL OF EDUCATION

Level of education	Total of victims	Included physically assaulted victims	Rate
Uneducated	51	29	57%
Primary	77	54	70%
Middle school	99	54	55%
Secondary	153	81	53%
University	123	71	58%
religious	2	1	50%

Married women are more than others victims of physical violence: 75% are subjected to physical violence. In our sample, the religiously married women are more attacked than others. For single, divorced or widows, the percentage of assaulted women is 56%.

### 4.2. Nature of the victim physical attack

Nature of the physical violence	Number of cases	Rate (of the 546 victims)
Assault and battery	352	64
Sequestration	70	13
Multi traumatisms	63	12
Fractures	61	11

Strangulation	59	11
Torture	56	10
Murder attempt	51	9
Burnings	35	6
Kidnapping	23	4
Forced consumption of drug	10	2
Other physical violence	27	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>371</b>	<b>68</b>

Assault and battery are at the top of the table of physical violence. This assault is violent enough for resulting on multi traumatisms in 63 cases and on fractures on 61 Cases of sequestration concern 71 victims. Finally, 51 of them are victims of murder attempts.

Concerning blows dealt to victims, slaps, punches and kicks are three most regular types of blows. However, the attacker also uses knives, sticks, brooms or any other house tools. In one case, the attacker has used a firearm.

Attacker instrument	Number
Hands	267
Foot	233
Punch	90
Weapon With Blade	26
Stick	11
House Tool	5
Tooth	3
Firearm	1



### 4.3. Place of the physical attack

PHYSICAL ATTACK ACCORDING TO PLACE OF ATTACK

Place	Number	Rate
Marital home	219	62%
Family home	37	11%
Victim's home	36	10%
Attacker's home	19	5%
Street	17	5%
Public area	13	4%
Workplace/Place of studying	11	3%

## 5- EMOTIONAL ABUSE

Emotional abuse is an «ordinary violence» that a lot of women accept. Almost, none contacts a listening centre for only this reason but only in case of another type of violence. Almost all of them are subjected to this type of violence which is not innocent but poisons life of a lot of women.

### 5.1. Prevalence of the emotional abuse according to the victim characteristics

86% of women who contacted listening centres are victims of emotional abuse. This rate does not depend of the family status, even if we notice a bit higher level for the married women and notably those who are religiously married.

% OF EMOTIONAL ABUSE VICTIMS ACCORDING TO THEIR FAMILY STATUS

Family status	Total victims	Emotional abuse cases	Rate
Married with act	316	280	89%
Religiously married	19	18	94%
Separated	22	19	87%
Single	125	108	86%
Divorced	52	36	70%
Widow	7	6	86%
Other	3	2	67%
No answer	546	469	86%

### 5.2. Nature des violences Psychologiques

Nature of the emotional abuse	Number	Rate (of the 546 cases)
Insults and libel	393	72
Threat	286	52
Depreciation	244	45
Threats of blows	234	43
Abuse of power(Moral harassment)	226	41
Provocation	186	34

Threat of expulsion from the marital home	168	31
Threat of death	158	29
No going out	134	25
Threat of divorce	129	24
Deprivation of family and social relationship	126	23
Blackmail	113	21
Accusation of madness	96	18
Accusation of debauchery	81	15
Infidelity	73	13
Threat of stop working	70	13
Threat of burning	61	11
Threat of children kidnapping	56	10
Accusation of theft	43	8
Forcible entry	38	7
Accusation of infidelity	28	5
Ban from having children	26	5
Children kidnapping	22	4
Attempt of forced marriage	15	3
Forced marriage	9	2

The emotional abuse has got many forms and each victim is subjected to several forms. The most frequent violence is the insult, slander and depreciation, in addition to a variety of threats (of blows, death, eviction from house, divorce, children kidnapping and ban from working), accusation of debauchery, of theft and blackmail. We also find bans from going out and deprivation from contacts with family and society. Finally, children kidnapping, attempts which succeed sometimes, attempts of forced marriage and forcible entry.

### 5.3. Place of attack

Place of the psychological attack	Number	Rate
Marital home	214	52%
Family house	57	14%
Victim house	52	13%
Street	25	6%
Work/ studying place	24	6%
Attacker house	24	6%
Public area	15	4%

## 6. SEXUAL VIOLENCE

193 of women having contacted the network are victims of sexual violence, that is to say 35% of them.

### 6.1. Prevalence of sexual violence according to the victim characteristics

#### 6.1.1. Prevalence of sexual violence according to the family status

Oddly, married and single women register the same proportion of sexual violence. However, types of violence submitted to each group are not the same. Indeed, as far as married women, are concerned, violence is often inside the couple: « spousal rape », « violence during the sexual relation » or, on the contrary « non-sharing of bed ». For single, rape, rape attempt, incest, and sexual harassment are the predominant types.



Family status	Total victims	Cases of sexual violence	Rate
Married with act	316	115	36%
Religiously married	19	14	73%
Separated	22	7	32%
Single	125	43	34%
Divorced	52	13	25%
Widow	7	0	0%
other	3	1	33%
<b>Total</b>	<b>546</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>35%</b>

### 6.1.2. Prevalence of sexual violence according to the level of education

Level of victim instruction	Number of victims	Cases of sexual abuse	Rate
Uneducated	51	7	14%
Primary	77	12	16%
Middle school	99	22	22%
Secondary school	153	37	24%
University	123	31	25%
religious	2	0	0%

Percentage of sexual violence cases among women who have contacted the listening centre increases with the level of education. It is probable that the less educated women don't dare to denounce a sexual abuse they have been subjected to, especially when the attacker is the husband.

### 6.2. Nature of sexual violence

Half of the reported sexual abuse concerns marital violence. The importance of this rate shows how women refuse to have undesired sex. On contrary, it shows how men consider that their spouses should yield to their sexual urge, even forced.

Type of the sexual abuse	Number	Rate
Non-sharing of bed since more than 4 months	69	19%
Violence during sex	65	18%
Spousal rape	61	17%
Sexual harassment	40	11%
Interfering	34	9%
Rape attempt	23	6%
Rape	20	5%
Incest	13	4%
Incitement to debauchery	18	5%
Deliberate contamination to STD	5	1%
Other sexual abuse	19	5%
Procuring	2	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>100%</b>

Sexual abuse, unanimously considered as the worst, as it includes rape, incest and procuring affects 6% of the victims,

that is to say a total of 35 cases. Sometimes, facts have occurred only once, notably rapes by unknown persons and the same is for incest case but they can reoccur when the attacker applies blackmail on the victim. Rape victims are single in 14 cases, divorced in 5 and married in only one case.

The rapist is the fiancé or boyfriend in 6 cases ; the ex husband in three cases, a family friend in two cases, a neighbour in two cases, a relative, a colleague (line supervisor), a male nurse during hospitalization, a shopkeeper, a policeman in the police station in one case each one. In our victim's sample, rape by one or several unknown persons is cited twice.

In such case, it is probable that the victim contacts authorities rather than a listening centre.

Rapist	Number
Boyfriend, Ex Boyfriend, Fiancé	6
Ex Husband	3
Unknown Person	2
Neighbour	2
Son Of Family Friend	1
Friend Of The Husband	1
1male Nurse	1
Line Supervisor	1
Shopkeeper	1
Policeman	1
Brother Of The Sister In Law	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>

The denounced incest cases have occurred a long time before the victim decides to contact a listening centre: some cases go back to the victim adolescence but the weight of the pain and shame caused by this abuse remains present.

The incest victims are single at the moment when it occurred, but one of the victims talks about after her marriage which has been followed by divorce when the husband has been informed by the incest.

Incest perpetrator	Number
Father	8
Brother	2
Uncle	2
Grand father	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>

Many incest cases are hidden by the victims. When the mother is informed, she tries in some cases to protect her daughter from the incestuous father, but not always.

Some victims denounce vehemently the refusal of mother to believe: they are called as liar and debauched. To be noted for the procuring case cited here that the husband himself forces his wife to prostitute.

### 6.3. Place of the sexual abuse

Place of sexual abuse	Nber	Rate
Marital home	71	61%
Work/ studying place	7	6%
Street	6	5%
Family house	3	3%
Public area	3	3%
Victim's house	11	9%
Attacker' house	16	14%



## 7. SOCIO-ECONOMIC VIOLENCE

### 7.1. Prevalence of the socio-economic violence among assaulted women according to the victim characteristics

56% of women who contacted a listening centre say that they have been victims of socioeconomic violence

#### 7.1.1. Matrimonial situation

Women with religiously marriage or separated women are the most affected. Singles and widows are not really concerned.

Family status	Total victims	Socioeconomic victims	Rate%
Married with act	316	191	60%
Religiously married	19	17	89%
Separated	22	16	73%
Single	125	49	39%
Divorced	52	32	62%
Widow	7	2	29%
Other	3	0	0%
No answer	546	307	56%

#### 7.1.2. Level of education

Victim level of education	Total assaulted victims	Socioeconomic victims	%
Uneducated	51	16	31%
Primary	77	23	30%
Middle school	99	36	36%

Secondary	153	49	32%
University	123	35	28%
Religious	2	0	0%

As predictable, women with university level are, less than others victim of socioeconomic violence.

### 7.2. Nature of the socioeconomic violence

Nature of the socio-economic violence	Nber	Rate
Deprivation from means of existence	161	17%
Refusal of alimony payment	130	14%
Eviction from the marital home	116	13%
Desertion	100	11%
Hoarding of private property	81	9%
Ban from health care	69	7%
Hoarding of properties	63	7%
Extortion of salary	54	6%
Non independent house	53	6%
Ban from studying	38	4%
Refusal of children education	30	3%
Other socioeconomic violence	31	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>926</b>	<b>100%</b>

Deprivation from means of existence and non payment of the alimony are at the top of the table. Eviction from the marital home of which effects are terrible for women as well as for children (especially in the more and more frequent cases where the father refuses to put up them) concerns 116 women.

Hoarding of properties and salary is a frequently met problem. Finally, the fact of not having an independent house is considered by 53 women as being a violence from which other conflicts are generally generated.

## 8. JUDICIAL VIOLENCE

### 8.1. Prevalence of the judicial violence among assaulted women in function of the victim's characteristics

56% of women who have contacted a listening centre are victim of judicial violence. The religiously married women, divorced and widows are obviously more concerned by judicial violence, more than married women.

Family status	Total victims	Judicial violence victims	%
Married with act	316	71	22%
Religiously married	19	15	79%
Separated	22	3	14%
Single	125	33	26%
Divorced	52	22	42%
Widow	7	5	71%
Other	3	2	67%
<b>Total</b>	<b>546</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>56%</b>

However, the level of education of victims is not very differential

Level of education of the victim	Total assaulted women	Judicial victims	Rate%
Uneducated	51	4	8%
Primary	77	10	13%
Middle	99	18	18%
Secondary	153	17	11%
University	123	17	14%
religious	2	1	50%

### 8.2. Nature of the judicial violence

Nature of judicial violence	Nber	Rate
Ban from working	51	15%
Theft of identity documents	44	13%
Ban from integrating the marital home	32	9%
Forced divorce	31	9%
Documents falsification	31	9%
Ban from marriage	20	6%
Non registration of marriage	19	5%
Non registration of children	15	4%
Ban from children custody	15	4%
Ban from integrating the family home	14	4%



Refusal of recognising extramarital paternity	9	3%
Non proved marriage	8	2%
Polygamy	7	2%
Unfair lay-off	7	2%
Obligation of reintegrating the marital home	4	1%
Obligation of reintegrating the family home	3	1%
Marriage with a girl under 18	2	1%
Other judicial violence	25	7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>100%</b>

This table of judicial violence calls for the following comments :

- Ban from working represents a violence suffered by 51 women, that is to say 10% of the victims.
- Theft of identity documents (44 cases) constitutes a serious violence because the victims fall at the mercy of the attacker who forbids her to travel.
- Non registration of the marriage (19 cases) as well as the non proved marriage (8 cases) in addition to the non registration of children (15 cases) is one of the biggest problem of the women being religiously married.
- Women with extramarital children and who have decided to keep them instead of abandoning them after birth are facing the problem of paternity recognition refusal because the victim can't have any recourse.

Possibility of resourcing to the DNA test for confirming (or not) the paternity if re-

fused by the judge only if the complainant proves that a religious marriage has been made with witnesses.

- Divorced women contact listening centres for contesting an abusive divorce (Abusive divorce for 31 cases), or for complaining about the custody right that has not been given to them (15 cases).
- Although polygamy is lawful, women consider it as violence.

### 9. VIOLENCE WITNESSES

Violence witnesses	Number of cases	%	out of no answer
Child of the victim	171	31%	39%
Victim relative	86	16%	19%
Attacker relative	54	10%	12%
Neighbour	35	6%	8%
Someone the victim knows	12	2%	3%
Colleague	10	2%	2%
Friend	10	2%	2%
No witness	64	12%	4%
No answer	104	19%	
<b>Total</b>	<b>546</b>	<b>100%</b>	

Information regarding witnesses is not revealed by listeners in nearly 20% of cases. The most frequent witnesses of violence against their mothers are children. Other witnesses are members of the victim or of the attacker family and finally neighbours. In 14% of cases, no witness is declared.

## 10. EFFECT OF VIOLENCE ON THE VICTIM

### 10.1. Physical effect

313 victims have physical effects, more or less severe, as result of the violence they have been subjected to. 65 victims signal only one effect, 248 victims talk about two effects and three effects for 136 of them.

Effect of the physical violence	Number
Amputation	1
Abortion	2
Miscarriage	6
Pregnancy	10
Handicap	11
Burn	12
Loss of virginity	12
Bleeding	14
Chronic disease	18
Fracture	24
Scratches	33
Injures	140
Traumatism	180
Pains	234

Among these effects, some are probably the result of physical violence:

One case of amputation, 24 fractures, 12 burns, 11 handicaps, in addition to cases of miscarriage (6).

Others are the consequence of sexual abuse: loss of virginity (12), pregnancy (10), and abortion (2)

### 10.2. Psychological effects

For 453 victims, psychological effects have been revealed: two effects cited in 414 cases and three in 326. The list of the reported troubles is the following:

Psychological effect of physical violence on victims	Nber
Suicide attempt	12
Loss of sleep	19
Aggressively	31
Withdrawal from social life	33
Hysteria	36
Loss of reference points	46
Loss of will	47
Feeling of shame and guilt	62
Loss of self-esteem	93
Loss of appetite	98
Depression	183
Fear	216
Stress	317

Stress, fear and depression are the most often effects declared by the victims. Feeling of shame and guilt and the loss of self- esteem are also very frequently cited. Some victims seem to be completely lost: they have lost all their bearings and will; they refuse social life, loose appetite and sleep. Other reacts conversely by an increase of aggressively. Finally, suicide attempts are not rare.

### 10.3. Socioeconomic effects

Three parameters measure the socioeconomic effects of violence against victims, of which two concerns the working women.



We know that in our population of victims, 75 have a regular job and 27 are informal workers. Among all of them, 48 have been forced to stop working for sometimes very long periods but mainly 23, that is to say approximately a quarter, have lost their job.

The other effect, which is particularly serious in Algeria because of the lack of

housing structuresn housing shortage and high costs, is the loss of houses. This situation concerns 48 victims.

### 11. EFFECTS OF VIOLENCE ON CHILDREN

Kids are the first witnesses of violence against their mothers. Additionally to the fact of being witnesses, they also can be victims.

**NUMBER OF VICTIMS ACCORDING TO THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN**

Number of children	0	1	2	3	4	5 and +	women	children
Number of women	242	78	78	65	36	18	546	874

304 of victims have one or several children. In total, victims have 874 children. In 241 cases, negative effects of violence against children of the assaulted women are reported. In 129 cases, at least two bad effects are reported and 03 in 72 cases.

The physical health of the child is also affected because of malnutrition and because of being also victim of violence.

### 12. STRATEGY OF VICTIMS' DEFENCE

The majority of victims have got a strategy of violence avoidance. Some victims, not many, confront and even give back blows. A third group adopts an intermediate strategy.

Effects on children	Nber	Rate
Handicap	4	1.7%
Decline	7	2.9%
Wandering	17	7.1%
Truancy	27	11.2%
Malnutrition	29	12.0%
Violence	54	22.4%
Schooling problems	81	33.6%
Psychological effects	223	92.5%

Avoidance strategy	Number
Avoidance of any starting situation	242
Submission	159
Mutism	142
<b>Total</b>	<b>543</b>

The table above shows that violence against women affects seriously their children. Child schooling is disrupted: 1/3 of children suffer of schooling problems, 18% of truancy or wandering. The psychological health is widely disrupted and children become violent in 22% of cases, 7% fall in decline.

The greatest number of victims adopts an avoidance strategy, or even a silent submission to violence.

Intermediate strategy	Number
Protect children	83
Hide the documents	33
Dialog	141
<b>Total</b>	<b>257</b>

Protect children and hide documents then try to dialog with the attacker are the strategies used by some victims.

Offensive strategies	Number
Confront	89
Attack	47
<b>Total</b>	<b>136</b>

The victims who confront their attacker are clearly the fewest.

### 13. REQUESTS MADE BY VICTIMS

Type of request	Number
Legal advice	296
Guidance	278
Psychological support	273
Housing	48
Sue the husband	26
Medical aid	20
Financial aid	19
Social assistance	18
Reconciliation	17
Mediation	15
Talking group	8
Reintegration	4

Requests expressed by the victims illustrate the paradox, actually frequent in the sanitary and social spheres where the offer creates the demand and not the opposite. The legal advices, guidance and the psychological support represent services offered by the listening centres.

The housing requests are at the fourth position. We notice that they are firstly addressed to associations having a residential centre, that is to say SOS femmes en détresse and Rachda both in Algiers. However, 24 requests, half of them, are listed in wilayate where there is no listening centre neither association devoted to assaulted women housing.

Obviously, needs of housing centres for assaulted women are much more important than those reported by the listening centres : the prove is the great number of assaulted women who have been evicted from the marital home and don't find any housing centre.

Yet, currently, there are only 4 housing centres for assaulted women in Algeria. Two of them are in Algiers and belong to associations. Let's remind that associative centres don't receive any grant in spite of their obvious public utility nature.

They are often forced to limit the number of persons or even close at some periods. Other than the associative centres, there are only two public organization devoted for assaulted women in Bou Ismaïl and Tlemcen. In case of emergency, assaulted women are directed towards centres called.

«Diar er rahma» (Houses of Mercy), or towards centres of elderly people which don't have the necessary structures of self-reconstruction or social reintegration.



**HOUSING REQUEST ACCORDING TO THE LISTENING CENTRE**

Centre	Location	Housing request
SOS Femmes en Détresse	Algiers	17
Kahina (Rachda Association)	Algiers	7
Maion Nedjma (Rachda Association)	Constantine	7
AFEPEC	Oran	4
SOS Nour	Annaba	4
B'Net el Kahina	Tebessa	4
LPSJE	Tizi-Ouzou	3
FARD	Oran	2
<b>Total</b>		<b>48</b>

Many women ask for an aid for suing the husband (26 cases), a few number try to find a mediation. 4 to 5% of women ask for medical aid, financial aid or social assistance. The violence analyse shows that the main type of violence is the marital one. Widely, we must talk about violence in the couple; either they are married, divorced, engaged or living in cohabitation. Inside of this group of violence, we should signal the situation of great fragility of religiously married women:

They not only face judicial problems related to this type of union (non proved marriage and non registration of children) but are also –frequently more than others- victims of all sorts of violence (physical, psychological, sexual and socioeconomic). It is probable that resorting to such marriage is more frequent in case of great fragility of the woman.

In other words, those who accept a religious marriage have different reasons and are not able to defend their rights.

Thus, some women are divorced with children, another has got a dark past (previous prostitute); another is married to an already married man, father of 5 children and who forces her to prostitute...

As authorised by the cases reported by the listening centres, it is possible (even if the questionnaire does not systematically reveal the pertinent elements) to have a premonition about some factors which are risk factors. Thus, among assaulted women:

- An important number has been subjected to traumatism during childhood : assaulted children, deserted children...

- Several of them signal physical handicaps
- Several victims have studied longer than their attackers
- Several working women have got an unemployed husband or father for the single ones.
- The NFA women are highly exposed to risks of violence
- Numerous remarried women have accepted difficult remarriage

A rapid comparison of violence against women as it appears in the cases reported by the network and studies made in other countries show common points and some differences

Common points are:

- Prevailing place for the marital violence made by the husband, ex husband, fiancé and boyfriend on all types of violence
- Frustration of the attacker:

: Unemployment, husband with a lesser level than his wife.....

Differences are:

- Easiness of the Algerian women to leave the violent husband or fiancé, for –among others- economic reasons: non working women, difficulty to find housing, social reasons: position of the married woman who is socially valorised
- In the very hard situation in Algeria of the women having extramarital children

Finally, if in Europe, women living in cohabitation are more exposed to violence than the married ones, in Algeria; religiously married women are those presenting the highest risk factors.

Ainsi, parmi les femmes victimes de violence :

- un nombre important a subi des traumatismes dans l'enfance : victimes de violence, enfant abandonné,
- plusieurs signalent un handicap physique
- plusieurs ont fait des études plus longues que leur agresseur
- plusieurs femmes travailleuses ont un mari, ou un père pour les célibataires, au chômage
- les femmes SDF sont à très haut risque de violence
- nombre des femmes remariées ont dû accepter un mariage à problème

Une comparaison rapide des violences contre les femmes telles qu'elles apparaissent dans les cas reportés par le réseau et des études faites dans d'autres pays montre des points communs et quelques différences.

**Les points communs sont :**

- Place dominante des violences conjugales, de la part du mari, de l'ex-mari : du fiancé et du petit ami, sur l'ensemble des violences.



## EXTRACT OF THE ASSESSMENT REPORT

### SUPPORTING PROJECT OF LAWS, POLICIES AND ACTION PLANS IN FORCE IMPLEMENTATION, RELATED TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

DR NADIA BELLAL, CONSULTANTE

#### EVALUATION

##### Pertinence

Since its formulation in 2007, the project remains very pertinent and still corresponds to a genuine need of information on Violence against Women (VCF),

The specific purpose is to implement a reliable tool for making visible violence against women and targeting the most frequent types of violence and then plead to the public authorities and society and make them undertake actions and programs for a better undertaking of the assaulted women and supporting actively the implementation of the National Strategy of Fight against Violence Against Women (SNLCVCF).

Three results are expected: they are clear, definite and coherent:

✓ Result 1: a database and an its analysis are made on violence against women, from the main listening/ housing centres, directed by 12 NGOs of several towns and regions of the country.

✓ Result2: a network of the listening centres has been implemented from this database

✓ Result 3: Members of the listening centres have got their reinforced abilities in terms of listening and production of reliable data

They really support the specific purpose and integrate totally for contributing to the

support of implementing laws, rules and plans of action in force, related to violence subjected to women. In addition, the project is a part of the SNLCVCF policies and programs.

The involved parts which here are the NGOs/ listening centres are well identified and their needs in terms of capacity reinforcement has been expressed through a participative approach (Minutes of the different coordination meetings)

##### Efficiency

The budget management is totally carried out by the CIDDEF. Budgetary allocation transfers are made from an activity to another for a better adaptation of the budget to the project activities.

This flexibility of management permitted to particularly reinforce result 3 of the project.

##### Effectiveness

The project expected results have all been achieved: the database exists and is functional. The network has been set up and the involved parts abilities have been reinforced.

##### Durability

The after-project is based on the assets appropriation by the institutional partner, who will have the necessary tools and means for fulfilling the future missions.

The project has permitted to achieve extremely interesting results, thanks to the database made by the efforts of the CIDDEF and the Balsam Network. These results interest the associative movement but also greatly the Ministry of Family and Women Position, promoter of the SNLCVCF.

This suggests a support of the government, thus permitting to the Balsam network to grow up and last for a long time.

The damper concerning the Balsam network permanence and the youth of the listening centres who technically have undertaken the project are not able yet to ensure the network functioning and even less financing

Reinforcement of abilities in terms of resources mobilisation should be planned.

## Impact (indications)

It is yet difficult to talk about impact on a so short project. However, it seems obvious that the recorded 571 cases of the database will be shortly published in the second booklet of results and will serve of example and basis for other information systems on VAW, such as those of the legal system, police, health and Ministry of Family and Woman Position

CIDDEF is nowadays considered as an actor that must be addressed in struggle against violence against women, by NGOs as well as by institutions, led by the above-mentioned ministry.

The database is a scientific achievement, however being already perfectible but presents a sound advance in the field of information systems as far as violence against women is concerned.



LES CENTRES D'ÉCOUTE, DU RÉSEAU NATIONAL BALSAM, OFFRENT UN CADRE DE PAROLE AUX FEMMES EN DIFFICULTÉ. LEUR MISSION EST DE SOUTENIR ET AIDER LES FEMMES VICTIMES DE TOUT TYPE DE VIOLENCE.

Les Centres d'écoute assurent :

- L'écoute et l'orientation par téléphone.
- Un soutien et un suivi psychologique.
- Des conseils juridiques.

Les centres d'écoute soutiennent les femmes en détresse avec des conseils sur le plan administratif et judiciaire : travail, études, divorce, héritage, etc...

Les centres d'écoute téléphonique permettent une aide à distance de n'importe quel point du territoire, ce moyen garantit l'anonymat absolu et la liberté des appelantes. Certains centres prennent en charge l'accueil, en consultation directe des femmes qui s'y adressent.

Les psychologues des Centres d'écoute aident les femmes à verbaliser et à avoir une image plus construite d'elles mêmes et à rejeter la violence comme une fatalité.

Les juristes des Centres d'écoute guident les femmes dans le domaine juridique et les informent de leurs droits. Elles assurent la rédaction des requêtes et le suivi de la procédure.

LA VIOLENCE ENVERS LES FEMMES N'A PAS UNIQUEMENT DES CONSÉQUENCES PSYCHOLOGIQUES, PHYSIQUES, ET SOCIALES TRÈS DRAMATIQUES POUR LES FEMMES, ELLE ENTRAÎNE DES EFFETS TRÈS SÉRIEUX ET DÉSTABILISANTS DANS LA SOCIÉTÉ ENTIÈRE.

TOUTE FORME DE VIOLENCE ENVERS LES FEMMES EST INACCEPTABLE !



## RECOMMENDATION

### JUDICIAL :

- PENALIZE THE MARITAL VIOLENCE.
- FORBID RELIGIOUS MARRIAGE WITHOUT A PREVIOUS REGISTRATION IN THE CIVIL STATUS SERVICES
- REINFORCE THE RIGHT TO HOUSING IN CASE OF DIVORCE OR SEPARATION
- UNDERTAKE LEGAL MEASURES PERMITTING TO KEEP THE ATTACKER HUSBAND AWAY FROM HIS WIFE, FOR HER PROTECTION AND THAT OF THE CHILDREN
- INSTITUTE, IN COORDINATION WITH RELIABLE ASSOCIATIONS, RULES PERMITTING TO CONFER TO AN ASSOCIATION THE CHARACTER OF PUBLIC BENEFIT
- PLAN -FOR THE DECLARED PUBLIC BENEFIT ASSOCIATIONS- A REGULAR FINANCING WITH A STATE BUDGET OR BUDGET FROM THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES.
- EXTEND THE PAYING GUARD OF THE CHILDREN IN CHARGE BEYOND 18 (TILL THEY GET A JOB OR GET MARRIED).

### SOCIAL :

- ENCOURAGE THE CREATION OF HOUSING CENTRES FOR THE ASSAULTED WOMEN, EITHER ASSOCIATIVE OR PUBLIC
- ESTABLISH FREEPHONE NUMBERS AND FREELY PROVIDE THE LISTENING CENTRES WITH.
- ORGANISE -AT A LOCAL LEVEL- PERIODIC DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN ALL THE ACTORS, EITHER PUBLIC OR PRIVATE, CONCERNED BY UNDERTAKING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN: POLICE, ASSOCIATION, LOCAL AUTHORITIES, SOCIAL ACTION DEPARTMENT, HEALTH SERVICES AND PROFESSIONALS WITH THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES:

→ ASSESS THE CASES EXTENT BY SHARING THE DATA COLLECTED BY THE DIFFERENT CONTRIBUTORS

→ HIGHLIGHT THE PROBLEMS RELATED TO THE VICTIMS UNDERTAKING

→ ALLOCATE MATERIAL, REGULATORY AND/ OR ORGANISATIONAL MEANS NECESSARY FOR THE SITUATION IMPROVEMENT

### EDUCATIONAL

→ DON'T BURDEN BOYS WITH THE OBLIGATORY PROTECTION OF GIRLS

→ SHOW THEM HOW TO MANAGE THEIR FRUSTRATIONS (FOR EXAMPLE, NOT TO GIVE IN TO ALL THEIR DESIRES).

→ EXPLAIN TO GIRLS THAT THEY HAVE RIGHTS AND THEY MUST MAKE OTHERS RESPECT THEM

### TRAINING OF PROFESSIONALS:

→ GENERAL MEDICINE :

- DETECTION AND IDENTIFICATION OF THE PHYSICAL AND SEXUAL ABUSE ON WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

→ PSYCHOLOGY:

TRAIN PSYCHOLOGICAL TO LISTENING AND HELP PEOPLE GOING BEYOND THE SOCIAL TABOOS

# ANNEXE

## REVIEW OF THE FIRST REPORT PRESENTATION ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN BALSAM NETWORK

After she welcomes and thanked participants for their presence, Maître Nadia Aït Zaï has exposed the « BALSAM » network database project, held in partnership with the UNIFEM:

«L'UNIFEM accompanies us in constituting a database on assaulted women, a database constructed by the listening centres. Within the project, the CIDDEF is a service provider. The base has been developed by a computer scientist, according to a network common questionnaire.

Through questionnaires, the base is supplied by the listening centres and is centralised at the CIDDEF level.

These questionnaires, one exploited, result on analysis of the first results given in the preliminary report. This work has been carried out in five months of the questionnaire supply.

Up to date, we have reached three hundred questionnaires, we already have nine listening centres and we'll be shortly ten centres, working and undertaking every aspect of violence

.This reproduction of the first results is the work to the already functioning centres: this is their work and I think that Marie France Grangaud will say it better than me».

### MME GRANGAUD

In charge of organizing the network and exploiting the results, the adventure has started by setting up a common listing scheme for all the listening centres. This setting up knew several stages. The initial scheme has been made in 2008 and, for achieving it , we have been inspired from the Moroccan experience, which proceeded us in this field.

We have used the ANAZUR scheme as a starting point after having adjusted it to the Algerian situation. We have tested it, and then re-discussed its content.

Modifications requested by the listening centres have never concerned the questionnaire size which has got 5 pages. However, they have asked to clarify and precise its content. There was a problem of terminology as in all the schemes; it can only be discovered once used.

After modification, we have met again to refine the scheme content. We have carried on thinking about its improvement. For example, the jurists tend to keep only the judicial aspects of violence and yet it is not the scheme purpose.



It's right that any report is a single interpretation, but this last should be faithfully made according to how the victims express their problems.

We have really been helped, for the questionnaires exploitation, by the small insert used by the listeners for talking freely and telling the story of the victim.

I have to say that these life stories we have used in the document are very important to understand and enter into the stories of women, much more than the questionnaire itself.

We could, thus, have an echo of suffering and personal experience of each one. The technical work has been carried out by a computer scientist who has changed the questionnaire into a database.

Concerning the way the data have been collected, it should be mentioned that the listeners

«Listen» but don't use of any interrogation ; they remember the treated questions, they take notes and then write them of the database scheme. They can do it directly on computer because the answers are pull down. For the technical aspect of the work, listeners have been trained and several training sessions have been held. We have constituted the network, asking each centre to send us a delegate in order to have someone who can be our correspondent and who can report all this to the other possible listeners. The training work has been very stimulating. The network building has highlighted the work made by the centres' listeners and has also multiplied experiences exchange, with the intention of a better surrounding of violence types in space and in time.

Diffusing these data will allow having a plea basis, aiming to reduce violence, prevent them and find a way to help the victims.

The listening centres listed in the booklet are varied : there are those which like SOS Nour offer listening for any person in trouble, others are dedicated to women and children or only to women. Other centres offer anonymous phone listening for women in trouble. In other listening centres, assaulted women are received to the counter or listened in phone. It works this way in the Oran centre, three persons are in charge of the phone listening while others receive women at the counter. The functioning, recruitment and training forms of the listeners is different from a centre to another.

All these details are cited in the documents that you hold. The importance of listening centres diversity is permitting to have very interesting exchanges, precisely because they are from different horizons. The report has been made from 147 cases of violence, concerning the exploited period, but today, we have counted more than 300 cases.

It's true that 147 cases is not enormous

... For the moment, we have obtained interesting results however we cannot say that they can be considered as a significant representation of violence.

Anyway, the work we undertake is not a prevalence enquiry. Anyway, in the listening centres network, we neither cite names nor addresses of the victims who remain anonymous.

This element is interesting, because the listening centres permit to women saying things that they have never said before; the anonymous listening allow them to talk about anonymously about incredible

cases of violence : I think that this violence if genuinely expressed in the listening centres. You will also find analysis of the victims, attackers and aggressions characteristics and effects of the different types of violence.

## This is a brief summary of the results:

Victims are between 25 and 44; most of them are educated. This shows that everybody is exposed to violence even those with university level. But those who come to talk are those who can find words: women with a certain level of education dare to talk and can talk. Thus, these figures destruct the image of the assaulted woman.

2/3 of assaulted women are married, 12% are divorced and 23% are single. That's what you will find in our listening sample.

77% of the assaulted women don't work, including academics. This is one of the problems we often meet. The assaulted women always have one or several children, from one to nine years, that what's stand out from ours ample. It's important to know it because these children are also victims of violence.

Intra-marital violence are the most frequent. Thus, children are witnesses of violence and can also be involved in violence and be submitted to. The presence of children forces mothers to remain in the marital home and suffer in silence because if children were not, they would leave husband.

Very few centres can receive these women if they decide to leave the marital home. There are only two or three in Algiers. This is a typical table including the most frequent cases:

The victim is a housewife. She is married and has got two children. She is 32 and has a secondary level of education. She does not work. She lives in a flat in a big town. The victim is battered, insulted, terrorized by her husband since many years.

Big towns are largely represented in ours ample because listening centres are principally situated there.

But violence also exists outside of big towns.

Thanks to the listening centre of Tizi-Ouzou

Where the listeners undertake activities outside the town, we have noticed that violence is everywhere.

After all, we meet violence everywhere. In big towns, small villages and even in isolated houses. I think that more the listening will be wider, more we will realize than no woman is spared.

There are several types of attackers. There is the husband and the ex husband who are the first attacker as far as marital violence is concerned in 95% of the cases. Then, the brother and father are those coming after with 10% of attacks each one. There are also other attackers from the family: cousin, uncle. Then

members of the family in law. Among the 147 cases, there are only three foreign attackers who have no relationship with the victim.

Nothing is original in our statistics: these are the same results in almost all the studies. It is rather reassuring. It means that our sample is very representative of the ordinary violence in Algeria.

The typical attacker is a married man, 45 years, with a middle level of education and is employed. The most important



thing we have discovered is that men here represented in our sample have a level of education which is lower than that of women in general and case by case.

It is one of the questions we ask: How, in such society, girls succeed in studies better than boys but finally they fall in unmanageable situations ?

As far as violence is concerned, we have identified five types of violence in our scheme:

Physical, sexual, psychological, socio-economic and judicial.

From the definition point of view, the physical violence is at the top of the list. They are the most frequent and the easiest to identify. Injuries are visible. Some blows are given with instruments like sticks and knives...

This physical violence is not harmless with fractures in 13 cases and traumas in 8. We don't have information concerning cases of death. Some violence cases are very severe and have gone on for longer than a year in 2/3 of cases.

Physical violence is often accompanied by psychological violence. This violence, if I may say so, is often considered as ordinary.

Insults, different kinds of threats: death, children kidnapping, expulsion, belittling remarks, blackmail and varied accusations: infidelity, theft. And then, bans : ban from going out, ban from meeting the family and friends.

The number of bans is impressive. Listeners have cited bans that we couldn't imagine. These bans are detailed in 32 pages.

The ordinary violence does not exclude

other forms of physical violence. Sexual violence cases are fewer. We only have 69 cases however these cases are extremely violent. It's surprising that in such small sample, we have a so large number of severe sexual abuses.

In 150 cases, we have 6 rapes and 7 rape attempts and 7 cases of incest. In two incestuous cases, the father is the attacker, in two others; the attacker has been the uncle and is in one case the grandfather, in two cases, the brother...

These incest cases are those that have affected me the most. The family is supposed to protect but in some cases, it is the one who attacks and attacks severely.

We know that incest is the most unforgettable abuse which leaves embedded after-effects. It is perhaps not representative but we have recorded a case of a woman who has said « I leaved home; I leaved my husband because he has sexually abused my disabled small daughter and also my stepdaughter». The interesting thing is to see women talking while they were expected to keep the incest secret silently.

Maybe less serious, but even significant, cases of sexual attacks reported by married women. This means something: women don't stand anymore being victims of marital rape or any type of violence during sexual relations. This result is to be studied.

Judicial violence regroup cases where women cannot obtain the application of the judicial laws or in some other cases; law does not protect them.

For example, in the judicial violence, there are many cases where it becomes difficult to apply the divorce clauses: the non payment of alimony, a very frequent

case, problems of custody which are frequent and problems of housing.

Women consider violence polygamy which is tolerated by the law, as well as abusive divorce. I have a small problem with the socioeconomic violence. For example, a woman living with the in-laws or with family and doesn't have means of support: is it violence or simply factors encouraging violence?

Sometimes, the husband is unable to house or feed his family. Other cases are characterised violence cases because they are totally deliberate: abandonment, eviction from the marital or parents home. Some attackers hoard things belonging to the victims like salary, jewels...etc.

For the battered women, effects of this violence are injuries, pains and diverse traumatism. Almost all the victims suffer of stress, anxiety or depression which sometimes lead to suicide.

They also often express a feeling of shame. Some women live far from any social life.

We have met traumatized children. Some of them have a serious school failure while they are studious. Some others miss school while others become violent: a consequence of the violence they have been submitted to.

Facing violence, women try to make themselves inconspicuous and avoid causing the husband anger. This is the case of the majority and I can understand them. Though, in many cases, women defend actively themselves: they shelter children, hide the documents and their personal belongings.

Sometimes, women try to dialog as they say « it is better than saying nothing ».

Some women, thanks to the listening work, take decisions –the listening centres don't take decisions instead of the victims- but just listen to them recounting their unbearable stories. I remember the terrible case of a woman that has been several times raped by colleagues of her husband, with his consent: this story is just horrible...

She has contacted an anonymous listening centre: the listeners have kept contact with her and at the end; she has taken the decision to flee from the situation.

## DEBATE

### MAÎTRE NADIA AÏT ZAÏ OPEN THE DEBATE

You have had an outline on the first results. We have forgotten to tell you that listeners have chosen to call the network «BALSAM» which means solace, a solace for wounds and injuries.

The BALSAM network has originated these first results. This was the work of listeners that

Mrs Grangaud has just introduced to you.

This presentation can be a debate subject. I let you know speak and ask questions for enriching the debate.

We are working withing a network. We have got professionals among us. Associations working in this field can bring a significant help, thus they can join us and take part in the network because it is opened to everybody.

We are here to improve the work and denounce a violence which is often hidden. This violence will remain a taboo if we don't take it out from the private sphere, even if the public areas become violent towards women. I let you talk and discuss.



**So this is the participants' reaction :**

**MAÎTRE SADDAT SPEAKS**

Thank you Mrs Grangaud for the brilliant exposé that you have made:

First remark: the facts presented in the exposé show us what to do to apprehend the violence phenomenon: I understood that the judicial aspect has got no importance though, at the contrary, for apprehending the violence system, the judicial qualification is extremely important.

**Why important?**

If we have to bring a support to the assaulted women, we necessarily should advise them to have recourse to law. The judicial qualification is extremely important. The Algerian law-maker has set up a classification of offences. Some of them are called simple fines with an examination submitted to the simple police judge and thus sentence is minimal. Others are called offences: offences are submitted to the magistrate court judge and the sentence is thus a bit more severe.

There are, in addition, cases of violence, of physical abuse and ill-treatment that can be undertaken by a criminal judge and here, sentences are very severe.

That's why I feel that the judicial qualification is very important to apprehend violence; however, we should add the support of a medical examiner.

Personally, I undertook a case which may appear minor or extremely simple.

It is the story of a man who has been slapped by a woman; between brackets women also can be attackers....when he has been slapped, it was like if he has been a victim of a murder attempt. For a simple slap, he gets 5 days of unfortu-

ness to work but unfortunately for him, the file has been treated by a simple police judge, the woman had a simple fine and this man couldn't accept this harm !!! That's why I've said that qualification is extremely important.

**CHÉRIFA KEDDAR,  
DJAZAIROUNA ASSOCIATION**

I would like to talk about an experience we had in a listening centre. Mrs Grangaud has talked about judicial violence. I feel that some cases of violence are also institutional: Among cases we have recorded in our centre, women are often assaulted by their husbands and when they come to us, they say that they find difficulties for registering their complaints.

They insist, they go several times to police office but there, none accept to register their complaints except if they are with a man. Otherwise, police agents who receive them advise them to go back home and avoid rising problems: they try to minimise tragedy.

Generally, women ask their brothers or fathers to go with them to lodge complaints.

They have been submitted to more than ten years of violence because men of their families have refused to accompany them to police stations till the day where they have notices visible injuries: broken jaw and nose that everybody has seen!!! Then, they accept to do it.

**A UNION WOMAN**

I have noticed that you speak about the judicial violence. I would like to draw your attention on the fact of what is called judicial violence. The judicial violence is about types of violence sanctioned by the law,

I mean institutionalised violence, either polygamy, abusive divorce, documents theft and else...

If we apply to change things, we have firstly to intervene for changing laws. The judge is entitled to pronounce an abusive divorce if the husband wants to use his unilateral will of dissolving the marriage. The same applies for polygamy which is judicially consanated in the Code of Family under some conditions.

Violence already exists in the law itself, not to say within the political system which is founded on violence.

A last remark: Women often meet difficulties to register their complaints in police stations. This is true. However, we have to increase their awareness and show them that there are other means for going to court. For example, they can directly register their complaints before the state prosecutor and sometimes before the examining magistrate: There, there are neither obstacles nor restraints.

### OTHER SPEAKER

I understand the thinking mode animating this kind of measures: a mode sacred by all our past as women. In the past, when women were angry, they were going back to their parents' homes for taking some rest, heal their injuries and give the husbands time to calm down. I feel that this behaviour is unfair and insane. The institutional violence types that you have cited are varied and numerous. It includes things happening in hospitals and institutions which are supposed to treat and take care of women.

Most of time, medical examiners dissuade them from lodging complaints. When women have been submitted to secondary violence, they go to police stations

medical centres where, once more, they are advised not to lodge complaints.

We have to undertake a work of plea, identify any anomaly, any violence originated by these services and institutions who are supposed to support women. For the rural environment, it is true that work should be common. For the moment, listening centres are urban, reception counters are in towns, hence the necessity to invest in the rural areas.

Violence is also present in the housing centres. We know it today. In the capital, it happened in the emergency medical services. Some housing centres look like prisons. Women put up there are submitted to violence. This violence should be identified.

### MME BAYAZITOUN-ANFEDR ASSOCIATION

I would like to talk about the socioeconomic violence that should be seen apart from things that are not violence and which are only results of poverty. In situations of poverty, we cannot talk about « violence » however, there are socioeconomic problems. For example, when a woman owns a farming land which is exploited by husband, brother, stepbrother or even son-in-law, etc. but she gets nothing from it!!

Worse; there are producer women. They produce a certain number of craft things but cannot go to market for selling their production. Marketing is made by someone else and these women are often exploited.

There is also another problem which concerns the listening centres that don't exist in rural areas. Even if there were listening centres in villages...it is yet difficult for women to contact a listening centre in town: how would it be in a village?



A speaker before me has said « we should undertake an awareness rising work for the socioeconomic violence victims » but as you know, women are submitted to many forms of violence. That's why I totally agree with you. In the framework of this network, there is a work we can do together: that's what we're working towards.

**MAÎTRE RAHMANI, UNION MEMBER**

I would like to congratulate the excellent work of Mrs Grangaud. However, I have some remarks. I would like to say that, in the attackers list, you have forgotten to talk about the professional environment. The attacker can be other than the husband, father or brother. He can be the administrative superior, manager or any man having power in the professional environment. I would also like to talk about the institutional violence. It's true that when a woman would like to lodge a complaint, she often meet several obstacles in our professional environment, the circuit is totally different because it firstly concerns the union institution of the company, the federal authority and all other vertical and horizontal authorities.

These are upper authorities. The, we have got a great ally which is the Labour Inspectorate. Even there, if we want to talk about violence, we should firstly have proves and witnesses, otherwise everything becomes obsolete.

We have got institutions in charge of lifting violence because we have our own means of treating it.

Generally, when we feel difficult to collect proves and evidences, we intervene as union members for requesting a transfer, I mean, we move the victim away from the violence area and it often works.

You would say that this is not the best way of treating violence but, this way, the victim stops being submitted to violence.

**M-F GRANGAUD**

For the question of judicial qualification, This work is undoubtedly necessary. However, in the listening centres, we need to listen to women voices.

About the question of harassment, I would like to tell an anecdote: When I was working out the Plan, with my colleagues, we have organised an informal group of women which was very active. We have made a work on the Family Code; we were very active in the professional environment. We received women who were cleaning ladies who were submitted to a right of way for keeping their job. As far as the professional environment is concerned, in our report, we have got four cases where the attackers are the employers. I think that if the listening centre of the General Union of Algerian Workers join us, we would discover greater cases of violence in the professional sphere.

There was another woman who was playing the madam and who was obliging the cleaning ladies to acting out as required by the boss. They were generally divorced women with at least one child. Thus, they are enable to lodge complaints because they really need to work. Those who refused have been expelled.

Once, I went to talk with the responsible and he answered: « If you don't have proves and if they don't lodge complaints; we can do nothing »

Then we had an idea: go there early in the morning because things were happening at that time before arrival of employees. We made sure to have two or three persons who came before time, one after one, just to disturb this activity. We had, after that, a memo saying that we were disturbing and we have been asked to come at time of work and not before.

Obtaining a transfer would be, not a solution, but a *minore vil*.

### DR FADÉLA CHITOUR, WASSILA NETWORK

In Wassila network, we have been horrified by the frequency of incest cases to such an extent that we have created a training workshop with psychiatrists and psychologists colleagues for trying to understand the reason of so many cases. You have to know that when we are listeners or victims' coaches, we are destabilised, submerged by emotions particularly when the victim has been submitted to incest: I wanted to highlight this point.

In the questionnaire, there is no section for the single mothers. It has surprised me because in the Wassila network, single women represent a significant number of cases. I feel that they are the most concerned by the cited types of violence.

### WIDWIFE PARTICIPANT:

I would like to signal an anomaly in ABRT registration, death in utero and premature deliveries caused by marital violence and rapes. We receive and register deaths.

There is a program for this purpose but we ignore everything about the mortality causes which affects numerous women and children. You know that they are AVRT, non registered death in utero : this is bad and inhuman!

So how to be human if we don't record this rate which is continuously increasing and which reduce the maternal and infant mortality rate?

We should not forget that hypertension due to a argument or a forbidden sexual relation during a threatened pregnancy can provoke the mother death.

Sometimes, these women don't have any medical support for cares or an emergent D and C. for the single women who contact the network and talk to widwives, we sometimes even don't know if they are registered or not. Sometimes, we know nothing!

There are sometimes irreparable physical and psychological consequences. As far as death rate is concerned, numbers are astounding!

We, widwives, would like to know how to undertake these unfortunate women.

### REACTION OF ANOTHER PARTICIPANT

At the beginning, listening centres opened everywhere in Algeria had financings and benefits. These financing has been interrupted and associations are obliged to look for other financings. Yet, these listening centres are indispensable: they really can help assaulted women.

Public and national institutions should consider the listening centres and encourage NGOs in this difficult mission of women protection.

### MME GRANGAUD

I would like to have temporized before launching the questionnaire because I have got more questions than answers,

But Nadia has said «we will put it into practice and then we'll see».



She was right. Now that the questionnaire is launched, we surround in a better way problems and how do they raise, things missed and how should we work to develop it!

We have set up a small group of study with sociologists and other persons of the CRAAP.

I think that now, we can get to the bottom of things with this listening trainings. If you read the document, you will feel that we have tried to see the way of working of each one. For example, the SOS NOUR centre only works with volunteers. This centre is unable to pay the listeners. Though, it has got a structure which trains listeners who are extremely efficient. That is to say that volunteers can be listeners without being psychologists or academics.

One judged able to perform listening, they have a six months training. Once the training made, they are recruited. At the beginning, they are assisted for two or three months par an experienced listener until they can perfectly do their work. The centre works since more than ten years and I feel that this centre is exemplary because its listeners have a very good experience. Thus, this centre will be our support for training other listeners.

We should get ahead with the work. We should make a better conceptualisation of the questionnaire. We should propose a better training to listeners and develop and improve the centres' structures for being more satisfactory.

The listening job is not easy: I really admire them! Working with them was a wonderful experience for me: their work is difficult and passioning in the same time.

For the time being, the network is essentially constituted of listening centres and professionals.

**DR FADILA CHITOUR , RÉSEAU WASILA**

I feel that, under the effects of the cited violence types, we have to talk about guilt feelings and also shame. Guilt is the origin of perpetration of the infernal couple : victime/attacker.

Additionally, for the violence types listing, I say that unfortunately women still don't know how to identify the sexual violence inside the couple because they accept any form of sexual relations and thus we 'll have difficulties to make them talk about the intramarital sexual violence.

Physical violence is as important as the sexual or psychological one.

It is an assembly, sedimentation, an interpenetration of violence types.

**MRS HADJII, SOCIOLOGIST, CREAD**

When we read in sections the definition of violence and the way to classify its types, questions we ask remain unanswered.

For example and concerning suicide, an eminent French sociologist has worked on the topic and according to his findings, women are those who suicide the most. Why?

These sections need to be reviewed and reworked to let us act because at present, our hands are tied. I work in family and woman advice and there is a policy to struggle against violence. Is this policy known? Is it enough known to be used and be efficient? We don't have to target only police stations; there are also magistrates, an institution which is more and more feminine.

I have supervised a student work about violence in the public areas. My girls' students were insane enough to say that it was normal « to be attacked in street » they told me « Hva you seen how they are dressed, how provocativeare they? It is normal to be attacked! »

I think that a rigorous work should be made to collect data, with quality in listening and quality in interpretation.

We need a whole and fine methodology for meeting the demand.

I would like to ask about a small precision: I would like to know if the questin « How did you know the listening centre » appears on the questionnaire. We also need to work on this space proximity which is the telephone. It helps women to talk.

### MME KEBBAS, LEAGUE OF PREVENTION

Our centre is a part of the Balsam network. I would like to talk on the work of the listening centres. The greatest majority of centres have got telephone lines and receive anonymous calls. In our league, we do more than this. We also do a fieldwork.

We go in villages, in the remotest villages of Kabylia for holding awareness campaigns and talk groups.

At the end of each campaign and in each talk group, a listening is imposed. Some of our listeners attend to the fieldwork for collecting the women victims' stories, a thing that cannot be done by phone.

We have noticed that the majority of the calling women are educated. Women in villages can't do the same because of a lack of means.

We should go to them to talk with them about their problems, about violence and make them know how to identify it. Women of villages ask to talk and be listened separately.

We work in partnership with a gynaecologist. She has treated an incest case. A father who has raped his three daughters. When he has touched the youngest, the two elder have decided to lodge a complaint against him. We have heard about this story from the gynaecologist and not from the three victims.

We also hd another case. An employee who was working with the League. She has got three daughters and a hard life with her husband. She has asked for divorce. Her husband came to the league and asked us to get her dismissed and not to help her.

Certainly, we didn't listen to him. We have supported his wife. Now, the whole league is threatened. We receive hundreds of message each week. Message of death threats. The president is threatened. The General Secretary also. We are threatened because we have supported the lady. It means that violence moves in some cases, from the framework of the victim to her environment.

### AN ACTIVIST OF THE GENERAL UNION OF ALGERIAN WORKERS SPEAKS

As you may have noticed, the GUAW listening centre has not been cited in the listening centres' network because our centre does not work since 2007, for financing reasons. An excellent work has been done by the GUAW listening centre. It has given results that everybody uses today. Article 341 bis punishes the harasser in the working environment.



During our campaign, we have also asked to have freefone numbers.

Thanks god, there are listeners at the level of the Ministry of Solidarity and our own listeners in the GUAW listening centres that we have made available for the ministry. The centre does not work anymore but we remain activists against violence and we'll remain always here.

### **MAÏTRE AÏTZAI**

In the framework of our project, we can finance you and undertake one of your listeners. Once more, the network is opened to listening centres. We have recently added FARD and we'll shortly receive Tébessa.

The GUAW Committee has got a predominant position and I think that you have been the first to whom we have proposed to join the network.

We'll study what we can do in the future, notably in one of the recommendations. It will be about training listeners from listening centres for having better abilities. We have embarked on these formulations all along the year and we are thinking about a training program with the same team of experts.

### **MRS BENAYAD CHERIF, RACHDA/TÉBESSA**

I would like to know if, in your study, you plan to work with prostitutes. In Tébessa, we have created a housing centre for children victims of violence. Thus, we have identified single women and prostitutes who come and put their children in our nursery because we are the only one establishment receiving this kind of children, I mean those who don't have identity documents.

Often, these women are submitted to search operations. Two days ago, there was a prostitute research in Tébessa.

They have been imprisoned. Six of their children stayed in our services. These women were distraught because their kids were in a nursery.

Normally, we would not keep them but we were afraid to give them to the Social Action Department because it would be interpreted as a definitive desertion. I would like to work with you on the question of prostitutes who are men slaves. They also are victims of an institutional violence when being submitted to research operations.

Generally, prostitution is not tolerated. These women, are researched. They are very young. They are born between

1982 and 1984. They have had unwanted children. They really are socially disadvantaged persons. They prostitute because they don't find work, because they don't have any qualification. Their families and the entire society refuse them. That's why it's important to work on this purpose ■



