



Fe-Male's

**#إسمها
جريمة**

Reactive Campaign

STOP Killing Women and Girls

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Three domestic violence crimes committed against three women in only one week in Lebanon!

Women and girls in Lebanon live under the rule of a patriarchal system that fails to protect them every time. Despite the passing of the Domestic Violence Law (293) in 2014, the number of women and girls who have been murdered by a family member, mostly an intimate partner, is in increase. Since the year 2019, the percentage of domestic violence committed against women and girls has been surging, where it has reached 96.5% in the year 2021 according to statistics from the Lebanese Internal Security Forces-ISF. From February 2020 until February 2021, 1468 complaints of domestic violence cases have been recorded at the ISF's hotline (1745), with 116 reported in January 2021 alone, and 7 crimes recorded in the same month, three of them in one week only¹.

This huge number in reported cases is just the figure reported from ISF, whereby women led and women's rights organizations like Kafa (enough) Violence and Exploitation, ABAAD, and RDFL also receive hundreds of call on their hotlines. "938. This is the number of calls Kafa received during the month of May. It is almost double the number of calls received in April and twice as many as during the month of March. These calls were divided between follow-ups with women who had already come to the support center and new callers contacting Kafa for the first time after experiencing direct violence, as well as reports from neighbors and family (father, sister), inquiries, and requests for shelter²."

With the strike of COVID-19 pandemic, and the non-gendered responses of the Lebanese Government, numbers of crimes against women and girls escalated, to reach twenty-seven crimes in the year 2020, as opposed to 13 in 2019. This called for an immediate call to action from women's rights organizations and activists: "We want to stop the justification of killing women. These women were simply murdered, and these incidents must be regarded as crimes in which the killer must essentially be punished by the law."

¹ <https://www.nidaalwatan.com/article/39869-ارتفاع-معدل-العنف-الأسري-بنسبة-965-تحت-مظلة-القانون-اسمها-جرعة>

² <https://kafa.org.lb/en/node/415>

³ If you'd like to receive the content of the campaign, please contact Fe-Male's Digital Media Coordinator, Sara Majdalani on: smajdalani@fe-male.org

Why “It’s Called A Crime” Campaign?

On February 12, 2021, a few days after Zeina Kanjo’s murder, the straw that broke the camel’s back, Fe-Male, alongside a group of feminist activists, organizations, and groups, launched “إسمها جريمة” campaign, to raise the voice on behalf of all the murdered women. The main purpose of the campaign was to clearly state that the killing of women is a crime like all other crimes, sanctioned to punishment by the law, as per article 547 of the Lebanese Penal Code No. 340 dated 3/1/1943 which stipulated that whoever intentionally kills a person shall be imprisoned with hard labor from 15 to 20 years, and the article 549 which states that the death penalty must be carried out for intentional murder if it was committed intentionally. The campaign aimed at emphasizing to the public that it is unacceptable to justify crimes against women and girls for any reason, whereby the activists called for the amendment of the Article 252 of the Penal Code that allows the criminal to benefit from a mitigating punishment should he commit a crime under an anger tantrum. The main content³ of the campaign and tweets were around the following:

- “Don’t forget their names”. Each time this message was tweeted, it was followed by the story of the murdering of a victim, with the total of 12 stories;
- Zeina Kanjo is not the first woman to be murdered, nor the last victim of domestic violence, but this brutal crime was definitely the one to stir up women’s rights activists and organizations, and a reminder of all women who were killed, and at many times forgotten;
- Domestic violence and femicide are not private or individual cases, but rather a series of daily crimes committed by the patriarchal system against women;
- It is necessary for media to be keen on responsible handling of cases of femicide and to refrain from opening the air to the killer to justify his crime. Murderers have no right to justify their crimes from their hiding places, and they are undeserving of any kind of empathy following the committing of an intentional crime. By this act, media outlets are just allowing for further justification of the crime, and the questioning of its eligibility;
- Achieving justice and protection of women can only be done through the speeding up of trials and intensifying the penalties in cases of domestic violence and the killing of women;
- Emphasizing the significant role that the ISF play in responsibly handling the cases of GBV received to their hotline, and thus encouraging more women and girls to report.

#إسمها_جريمة The Trending Hashtag

During the first fifteen minutes of the launching of the campaign, the hashtag #إسمها_جريمة went viral and became the number one trending hashtag on Twitter with 8 444 tweets reached by the end of the day! Women, girls, feminists, human rights activists, journalists, influencers, and bloggers, not only in Lebanon, but also in the region, all shared the messages of the campaign. There was a massive wave of solidarity among the feminists in Lebanon and the region to urge people to stop justifying the killing of women and to act against the slow procedures in punishing the killers. This was carried out through massive tweeting and retweeting of the messages of the campaign.

To better serve the campaign's purpose, several posters and one video (in black and red color) were designed and shared on all social media platforms in order to remind the public of the crimes and to remember the brutality of the criminals and how they justify to themselves the reason behind their murder.

Recommendations and/or impact:

- Urge the Lebanese authorities to apply the law of punishing the murderer. No crime should go unpunished or given justification or excuse. Women and girls' victims of GBV are not just numbers or names, they were citizens with equal rights to a decent life, regardless of how the perpetrator justifies his crime;
- Media outlets must refrain from giving spaces to murderers to speak about their crime, just like the case of Manal Assi's or Zeina Kanjo's murderers, where the first was interviewed on screen, and the latter was given the air, over the phone, from Turkey, the country he fled away to running from his murder;
- Crimes committed against women and girls should not go under any title except "a crime". Words like "honor killing", "anger tantrum", "mental health" issues, ... should be banned from being used when reporting such crimes;



The campaign in numbers: (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram)

Total tweets: 8 444

Total Impressions on our platforms: 118 200

Media coverages of the campaign:

General about the campaign

<https://arabic.rt.com/rton-line/live/-/حملة-لبنانية-بعنوان-اسمها-جريمة-للتنديد-بجرائم-العنف-الأسري/>
<https://jinhaagency.com/news-1/content/view/3142>
<https://thelevantnews.com/2021/02/الحملة-شعبية-ضد-تفاقم-الجرائم-في-لبنان-بسبب-جرائم-العنف-الأسري/>
<https://www.akhbaralaan.net/trend-ing/2021/02/13/تريدينغ-الآن-13-فبراير-نساء-لبنان-ينتفضن-ويطلقن-وسم-اسمها-جريمة-للتنديد-بجرائم-العنف-الأسري/>
<https://www.loubnaniyoun.org/women-violence-7/>
<https://www.alhurra.com/lebanon/2021/02/13/الحملة-في-لبنان-ضد-جرائم-قتل-الزوجات-بسبب-جرائم-العنف-الأسري/>
<https://www.beirutobserver.com/2021/02/2399071/>

Mentions:

<https://www.vdlnews.com/news/81697>
<https://www.nidaalwatan.com/article/39869--965> إرتفاع-معدل-العنف-الأسري-بنسبة
 تحت-مظلة-القانون-اسمها-جريمة
<https://ka-taeb.org/> ارتكبوا-جرائم-بحق-نسائهم-ثم-برروا-اسمها-جريمة-يجتاح/2021/02/12/مجتمع/أخبار
<https://twitter.com/AlMayadeenNews/status/1360632724046950401?s=08>
<https://www.facebook.com/AlarabyTelevision/videos/439468597468214/>
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ji1UueXtO-Y&feature=emb_logo
<https://twitter.com/Nashratkom/status/1360302653973008386?s=09>
<https://www.annahar.com/arabic/section/77-12022021051755245/> مجتمع
<https://www.lebanonfiles.com/articles/> مقالات-مختارة/تحت-مظلة-القانون-اسمها-جريمة
<https://www.alaraby.com/news/> -7203 منوعات-ميديا
<https://www.hawarnews.com/ar/haber/22asmha-jrymh22da-wat-mn-nashtat-ila-mhasbh-qatly-alsaa-fy-lbnan-h46203.html>
<https://www.mtv.com.lb/News/>
 -محليات/1152824/تحت-مظلة-القانون-اسمها--جريمة
<https://www.diasporaon.com/news/46481>
<https://www.lebanonon.com/news/61172&p=971>