

# Honor Killings- Research Paper

## .pdf

*by* Zarka Tahir

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Homicide for the Sake of Honor *interesting title*

*a trend?*  
It has become a trend these days that males murder females in their family for the sake of honor. *"sandwich" all quotes / paraphrases - intro, quote, unpack/explain*  
"Honor killings are not just a Muslim problem, they are the most extreme form of targeted violence against women" (Chesler, *A Family Conspiracy*). *see Seagull for MLA formatting*

This type of trauma violates their rights as human beings. The research done by Phyllis Chesler for the Middle East Quarterly has done revolutionary research regarding this horrible phenomena. Additionally, in the documentary "A Girl in the River: The Price of Forgiveness," a girl wishing to marry her love was attempted to be shot by her brother and thrown in the river, highlighting the trauma that is faced when she ends up surviving the ordeal. For the sake of honor, her father was proud and willing to try to kill her.

*explain a bit more*  
Honor killing is done when somebody does something that the family/community finds dishonorable. *argument should be at very end*  
~~I~~ do not believe that gives people the right to kill someone, especially not without going through a fair hearing which is rare. Often times the "dishonor" is an act of self-protection like escaping an abusive household, or divorcing a partner, ~~etc~~ even situations that are completely out of the victim's control, like being raped, can result in the victim being honor killed. *ok, so no one has right to kill. Because? And? So?*

Stemming from the immense matter of honor killings, research shows that muslim women are dominated by men, 3 out of 4 women are victims of some sort of domestic violence (Chesler, Middle East Quarterly). This violence is most of the time

*save this for body. Intro should serve as road map of you main points leading up to focused argument.*

hitting and beating. In this culture, men are allowed to raise their hand on their wife or daughter because it is simply just “straightening” them out. Many times, this type of abuse is common and some take place as a result of not getting up to get your husband water, the second that he asked. Most of the trauma women face is physical because of the beatings, but it is researched by Chesler that women have to bite their tongue and not even scream during the beating or else the beating will become much more harsh. <sup>cite</sup>

Domestically violating the rights of the women is just a seed for what else the husband can do to harm his wife and/or daughter for the sake of his honor. For this type of beating, the woman has no say. The men of the neighborhood come together and will decide what is right or wrong. Since women are minorities, all decisions of made by the men of the family. This is relatable to Muldoon and Lowe in which is stated that,

“Violence...is most likely to be experienced by disadvantaged and disempowered groups...women” (269, Muldoon and Lowe). This just means that being a women, you <sup>can only use 3rd person</sup> are automatically labeled as being weak which is evident in the countries that participate in traumatizing women as well as taking away their basic human rights. Since the man is comfortable with raising his hand on his wife, he gets too much freedom for what he

*a long para. thinks is okay for him to even go the extreme of taking his daughters life. It is wrong for*  
*data*

the women of the family to live with any type of freedom, even uncovering your face outside of your home can result in severe consequences. <sup>cite</sup> Honor killings take place when something is done that cannot be forgiven for. This may be something as miniscule as drinking from the same cup as your father. Anything that hurts the families honor or brings some sort of shame to the family is shunned. If you want to go outside

of what you have been taught, chances are you will end up dying. Statistics show that “5,000 muslim women are being killed each year in middle eastern countries for the sake of honor and respect, specifically by their brothers (Chesler, Middle East Quarterly). During the killing, the daughter or sister is fully aware of what’s going on because she grew up with a certain cultures and disobeyed them. She has followed a certain set of rules her entire life and knows that she is going outside of the rules set for her cultural, but even so she is punished. *argument?*

*when?*  
Women are first cursed and beaten with sticks before death. This causes emotional trauma being discouraged by their fathers who is the first male role model in *What do you mean?* these girls’ lives. Different cases researched showed that these girls trembled during the beating period trying to beg their father to forgive them. However, much of what the *cite and explain* father said was along the lines of “my honor is more important to me, even if I have to go to prison for the rest of my life, at least people will say I’m an honorable man.” (The Girl in the River Documentary) Being beat up like this shows how weak and frail these fathers think of their daughters, they look at them as a piece of property through which they can do whatever they want done. *argument?*

Honor killings have many different aspects to them. Since they are a gender-dominated act, women have no control over their lives as well as their children’s lives. In a typical act in which honor killing takes place, women are dominated by men and have no say. When they are married to their husband, whatever their husband says, goes. The male of the relationship has a strict mindset of being the “man of the house” through which this authority can form any rules or restrictions. The entire family

will do what the male of the house says and if they disobey him, they will be punished. Most of the time, the daughters of the house are even afraid to speak to their father. There is such a high respect for men that eating in the same room with a female is disrespectful to them. In most cases, things like the meals always being prepared before the man gets to the house so he can eat it right away is also a high demand of the man. Also, these types of situations do not only go for the father but for the honor of the brother as well. Brothers see their sisters as a token of honor, if they do something outside of cultural norms, it is a sign of disrespect. It goes as far as other males in the villages making fun and/or degrading the brother which results in the brother becoming enraged. This rage leads to honor killing. A realistic example is shown in the murder of famous Pakistani model, <sup>3</sup> Qandeel Baloch. “She was known as Pakistan’s Kim Kardashian, a social media star who courted controversy” (The Guardian). She came from poverty as her family lived in a poor village. They struggled to make a living and she didn’t have much growing up. Then, after being forced to get married to an abusive man, she ran away from home and went to a different city to try to make a living. She was left with no choice but to expose herself through modeling. Her modeling wasn’t modest as the other models in Pakistan, but showed too much skin which was highly inappropriate and threatening to her own life. She openly spoke about what she wanted and was not known as a “clean” girl. In other words, she was known as a slut. But, she did get fame and wealth for showing off her body in this way. This helped her make a living after running away from home. After becoming famous, she reconnected with her family and would go back and forth to the village they lived in to spend time with them.

Her mother and father were elderly so didn't know much about what was going on.

Unfortunately, her younger brother did. He was made fun of and degraded because of

how his sister was exposing herself. He said, "it was hard to even go outside without

having people throw rocks at me" (Rolling Stones). The only option he had left was to  
*very long para. break up ideas*

kill her for the honor of himself and his family. One day when she came to visit the

village, her brother went into her room while she was sleeping. Then, he suffocated her

and after she stopped breathing, hung her from the ceiling fan. In interviews, he is very

proud of what he did. He proudly said, "Money is important, but honor is more

important" (Rolling Stones). This is a statement that is disagreeable because there is no

greater value than life itself. There is no reason that someone should be robbing an

individual of the gift of life. Whether it be for honor, there is no reason that women are

kept in jail like systems in which they cannot express themselves. Why is it that only

women are forced to live this type of way even in this day in age as second hand

citizens? This tragedy for the parents was traumatic because she was their only

daughter. They also cried to the press saying, "She was our flower, we do not care if

Waseem [brother of Baloch] gets life in prison" (The Guardian). Being elderly, Qandeel

Baloch worked hard to also give her parents money to survive, they lost a daughter.

They lost someone that was their own flesh and blood and the one who killed her, their

son. This example shows a real example of how the pressure of being honorable can

affect you to kill your own daughter or sister. It also portrays how honor killings are not

just limited to fathers killing their daughter but, also to brothers killings their sisters.

*essay should focus on trauma*

Another way that women's rights are violated is through marriage. Important decisions such as marriage are made by the father of the unmarried coming together with the neighborhood men. They make the decision as to who is most suitable for the daughter also known as arranged marriage. The mother or the daughter herself, have no say in this decision. This highlights how male dominated also known as patriarchy this culture is. However, problems arise because girls end up wanting to choose who they want to marry which is unacceptable. This all contributes to the violation of the rights of women which then results in honor killings if there's any sort of disobedience regarding the decision made. Research was done on honor killings regarding girls who wanted to marry according to their own will. An award winning documentary of a girl named Saba from Pakistan was published. She was attempted to be killed by her father and uncle because she married without their consent. She had been talking to a guy for a while and when her family didn't agree because they supposedly weren't rich enough for them, she went ahead and did a court marriage. This angered her father and uncle. They beat her extremely with sticks. Then, they took her by the river and were going to shoot her. They first put her whole body in a sack so nobody would see her. After this, they were going to shoot her while she was in the sack. When the uncle was about to shoot her on her neck, she moved her head a little and the uncle shot, but missed. However, in their mind they thought she was dead and threw her in the river. She ended up coming out of the water and surviving. She went to live with her husband and his family and got their support. However, this incident did become a case because she was brutally injured as a result of the beatings her uncle and father did. Her father and

*a powerful example  
However, you need to offer*

*some info, say something about it and connect to point of thesis. Then another point with info etc . . . Avoid simply summarizing and piling up info*

uncle were arrested and the father was extremely proud. All he said was that, "I am ready to spend the rest of my life in prison, for the sake of honor." (A Girl In The River: The Price of Forgiveness). The pride and lack of remorse the father of Saba had was so evident, it was almost unreal that a father could be so proud of trying to kill his daughter. Unfortunately, as a result of the pressure of society, Saba was forced to forgive her father and uncle even though she had a lot of hatred towards them. The main reason for this was the society that forced her to "let it go" and understand the point of view of her father. She had to give in. This is one of the main reasons why honor killings are far from being ruled as wrong because it is not wrong in the eyes of society, it is for honor which rises above anything else.

In conclusion, honor killings are horrible acts of torture to women. They are being stripped of their rights as humans and do not have the freedom to live a quality filled life. It is hard to grasp the concept of honor being so merely vital that you commit murder for it. However, it is not only this idea but the idea that women are the targets of these types of cruel acts. Today, in this time of age, women are being treated as animals and are enslaved to their husbands. They are being treated unfairly and even though much improvement has been made in the United States regarding the freedom of women, *Could this be turned into part of your argument?* there is so much more that needs to be done worldwide. This violation and abuse needs to be dealt with because it is torture to a human being who takes on many courageous roles such as a daughter, mother, and wife.

*Zarka, A good beginning. I would like to see you find research regarding the trauma that abused women / women who have escaped or witnessed honor killings have experienced. Yes, you can briefly speak about this being a human rights issue, but that's not the assignment for this class. You need a clear argument and more evidence to substantiate claims. A clearer, more arguable thesis is needed right from the beginning - one that you develop and touch on in body. Also, each paragraph should contain one clear idea. Try writing a topic sentence for each point and then work on developing them one-by-one. ROUGH DRAFT - 75 points / submit to Turnitin by 12pm on Thurs., 3/28 THESIS - 20.5/25 Clear, focused, and bold argument Development of argument in body ORGANIZATION - 14/17 Fully developed paragraphs Clear relationships among points / claims Ideas logically ordered RESEARCH - 27/33 Meets guidelines in terms of types and amount of sources Adequate amount to back up claims Developed newsaver argument effectively integrated Effort to*

## Work(s) Cited

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FINAL GRADE

GENERAL COMMENTS

**Instructor**

62 /75

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PAGE 1

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PAGE 2

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PAGE 3

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