

We refuse to let rape, harassment and homicide go unpunished in this country:

Stop UNJUST “Unjust Provocation Reductions”!

We protest the violation of our sexual and bodily rights through the sentence reductions provided for the perpetrators of crimes against women, homosexuals, transvestites and transsexuals on grounds of “unjust provocation.” Article 29 of the Turkish Penal Code that regulates sentence reductions on grounds of “unjust provocation” is being misused by the courts in favor of men and in order to protect our killers.

Wearing tights or jeans, refusing to have sex, and asking for the time in a “flirtatious manner” are interpreted by the courts as grounds for “unjust provocation”. The killer of Nilgün Şimşek who stabbed her 35 times, of Fatma Dalgakıran who killed the pregnant woman by stabbing her 5 times, of Kezban Ödemiş who killed and decapitated her have all received sentence reductions based on some “unjust provocation” they allegedly suffered. Courts that provided the sentence reductions all accepted the same justification of these murderers: *I was suspecting that my wife was cheating on me.* The same “unjust provocation” reductions were given to the murderers of homosexual Baki Koşar and transvestite Başak Aladağ. Their justification being: *He proposed to have homosexual intercourse with me.*

The courts that have ruled that men are “severely provoked” when a woman is wearing jeans have meanwhile decided that women are “**mildly** provoked” when a man tortures them, and threatens to sell them to the brothel or even when he threatens them with death!

All these unjust “unjust provocation” reductions and the courts’ systematic refusal of women’s organizations’ demands to be party in these murder cases point to one fact: Killing of women is a political act! This judiciary and this state are both “male”! It is the same “male” judiciary that condones hate crimes targeting homosexuals, transvestites and transsexuals through the sentence reductions it provides to the killers.

We call out to the courts that seem to think that our bodies belong to them and accept claims of harm to the so-called “male honor” as grounds for “unjust provocation”: Our bodies belong to ourselves! Injustice is not in the jeans we wear but in your insistence to protect the murderers. **Torture is grounds for SEVERE unjust provocation**, not asking for the time in a “flirtatious manner”.

Today as we protest these unjust sentence reductions in Istanbul, we are joined by tens of organizations and hundreds of activists across 11 countries, who are also participating in the international “One Day One Struggle” campaign organized by the *Coalition for Sexual and Bodily Rights in Muslim Societies (CSBR)*. Together we demand an end to the laws and practices that violate our sexual and bodily rights.

Feminist Collective – LGBTT Human Rights Platform

SUPPORTERS: Women’s Platform for the Reform of the Penal Code– Women Against Sexual Violence Platform – Istanbul LGBTT Civil Society Initiative