

Report of the Israel Observatory on Femicide for 2022

In 2022, 24 women were murdered because they were women. 2022 saw 24 cases of femicide, compared with 16 in 2021 (2 per month in 2022 compared to 1.3 in 2021)—a rise of 50%. Half of the women killed in 2022 were from the Arab/Palestinian sector, which makes up 21% of the total population in Israel. 12 murderers confessed or were found guilty; in the other cases, the killer's identity has not yet been decided. In 58% of the cases, the suspect or murderer was the victim's partner or ex-partner, and in the majority of cases the killer was a family member. For the first time, two Jewish women were killed by men from the Arab sector, but not for nationalistic reasons. There were four cases of matricide, the killing of a mother by a son.

The Israel Observatory on Femicide (IOF) aims to be Israel's official body providing qualitative and quantitative data in an objective manner on femicide from the beginning of the year until the end. For the first time, the report is being distributed in English, Hebrew and Arabic.

Femicide is defined as the intentional killing of women because they are female. Accordingly, the numbers of women murdered for other reasons, such as accidental murder or involvement in crime, were omitted. Some femicide cases are under investigation and others have a restraining order in effect.

Data Collection: The data gathered by the IOF comes from local and national media, internet reports, Google alerts, interviews and reports from women's organizations. It is cross checked with other databases from different NGOs, parliamentary reports, and does not rely solely on official police data. This year the murder of a 14 year old killed together with her mother was included in the number of femicide cases. It is important to note that the identity of the murderer in the femicide cases is still unknown or unproven in several cases.

Ethnicity: Half of all femicide victims were Jewish, and half were Israeli Arabs/Palestinians, (including Druze, Bedouin and Christian Arabs and Muslims). Israeli Arabs constitute 21.1% of the total population in Israel. This rise may be associated with the general increase in violence in the Arab sector. According to the Abraham Initiatives, c.120 people were murdered in Israel in 2022; of these 12% were women. 12 of the 14 women were murdered by their partners or family members, while two women were killed by stray bullets. It should be pointed out that far less murder cases of Arab women are solved by the Israeli Police than femicides of Jewish Israeli victims. For the first time, two femicides were carried out across ethnic lines (Arab- Jewish), but not for nationalistic reasons.

Relation of Victim and Perpetrator: In 79% of the cases, the victim knew the murderer/suspect. 58% of the cases were intimate partner femicides, instigated by jealousy or a 'honour killing'. In four cases, a son killed his mother.

Age: The victim's age was 38.1. The youngest victim was 14, and the oldest 68. The average age of the suspect/murderer suspects is 39; the youngest is 19 and the oldest is 65.

Weapon: 38% of the victims were stabbed to death, and 25% were shot with gunfire. The rest of the cases involved the use of an explosive device and drowning, and in some as yet unsolved cases, hanging and the use of substances.

Recourse to authorities: In a third of the cases, the suspect was known to the police welfare authorities from previous violent incidents, or due to economic circumstances. In other cases, the murderer was known to have a criminal or psychiatric record.

Suicide: In two cases, the murderer committed suicide, and in five additional cases, the suspect or murderer attempted suicide.

Presence of Family Member: In 36% of cases, at least one child of the victim witnessed the murder.