

# FEMICIDE IN ALBANIA 2024

In March 2024, the Ombudsperson, in cooperation with the UN Women Office in Albania, established the Observatory on Femicide, positioning Albania as the first country in the Balkans (and among the few in Europe) to adopt this monitoring mechanism for gender-related killings of women and girls. In December 2024, the first monitoring report covering the years 2021–2023 was also published, systematically compiling and analyzing data, identifying gaps in the institutional response to this phenomenon, and presenting a series of recommendations for Albanian institutions.<sup>1</sup>

## OBSERVATORY ON FEMICIDE 2024: EXPANDING THE SCOPE OF MONITORING

The institutional monitoring process of gender-related killings of women and girls continued throughout 2024 and resulted in a report prepared by the Ombudsperson, the main findings of which are presented below.

“Femicide” remains undefined in the Albanian Criminal Code. The classification for the purpose of the Femicide Observatory continues to follow the UNODC–UN Women Statistical Framework for reporting and analytical purposes.<sup>2</sup> While the first report of the Observatory focused mainly femicide, the second expands the analytical scope beyond femicide. The 2024 analyses the following forms of extreme gender-based violence:

- Killings of women and girls (including femicide)
- Attempted killings
- Intentional serious injuries
- Incitement suicide

This expanded monitoring framework enables the earlier identification of risk factors for violence, as well as systemic shortcomings that precede its escalation to fatal consequences.

## METHODOLOGY

The analysis for 2024 is grounded in a comprehensive review of administrative and judicial data obtained from the Police, prosecution offices, courts, municipalities, and health institutions. In addition to desk review of this information, the Observatory conducted systematic monitoring of court hearings and a detailed review of judicial decisions to better understand case handling and judicial reasoning. Data were cross verified across institutions to ensure accuracy and completeness. Each case was examined individually through qualitative analysis, with particular attention to identifying gender-related motives. This structured analytical approach enabled the Observatory to assess both the individual circumstances of each case and the broader institutional response framework.

## KEY FINDINGS

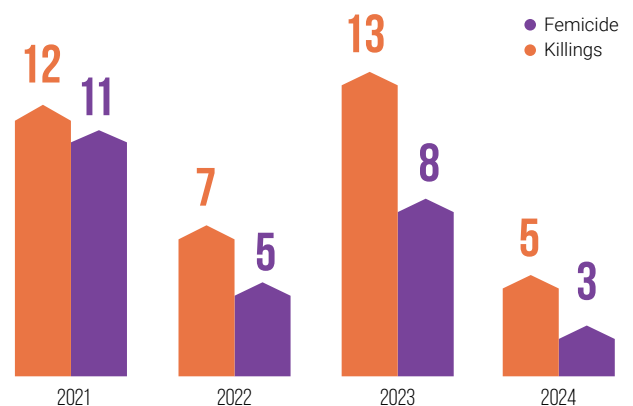
In 2024, **18 cases of extreme violence** against women and girls were analyzed:

### EXTREME VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS



### KILLINGS AND FEMICIDE

Out of the **5 killings** recorded: **3 were classified as femicides** (two of the victims were killed by their husbands, while one case involved a neighbor)



1. See report here <https://www.avokatipopullit.gov.al/media/manager/website/reports/Draft%20Raport%20per%20Femicidin%2004.12.2024.pdf>

2. The analysis of killings of women and girls in Albania and the identification of femicide cases were conducted mainly in accordance with the statistical framework for measuring gender-related killings of women and girls (also known as “femicide/feminicide”), prepared by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women). The document can be accessed at: [https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/statistics/Statistical\\_framework\\_femicide\\_2022.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/statistics/Statistical_framework_femicide_2022.pdf)

Bashkuara mbi Drogën dhe Krimin dhe Entiteti i Kombeve të Bashkuara për Barazimë Gjinore dhe Fuqizimin e Grave (UN Women). Dokumenti mund të gjendet në adresën: [https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/statistics/Statistical\\_framework\\_femicide\\_2022.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/statistics/Statistical_framework_femicide_2022.pdf)

# CIRCUMSTANCES AND CONSEQUENCES OF EXTREME VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

## PRIOR VIOLENCE

In 13 out of 18 cases (72%), victims had previously experienced violence from the perpetrator confirming that lethal violence often represents the escalation of previously known abuse.

In 5 cases, victims had sought assistance from the police. None of the victims were under active protection measures at the time of the crime.

## MOTIVES

Violence was predominantly driven by control, possessiveness, jealousy, revenge, family conflicts, and rooted in entrenched patriarchal norms. Several cases were marked by extreme brutality, involving firearms, knives, blunt objects, flammable substances, and prolonged physical violence. Mental health issues were present in some cases, often combined with insufficient early institutional intervention.

## PERPETRATOR PROFILE

19 perpetrators were identified, 17 of whom were men/boys. Seven had prior criminal records. Four presented mental health issues (three documented before the crime). In three cases, perpetrators died immediately after committing the crime. In 14 cases, courts imposed pre-trial detention.

## IMPACT ON CHILDREN

The victims were mothers of 33 children, including 9 minors. Three minor children lost their lives after being killed by their mother before she died by suicide.

More than half of the cases (56%) occurred in rural areas, highlighting the broader social and intergenerational consequences of extreme violence against women.

# INSTITUTIONAL GAPS

The analysis highlights persistent weaknesses in early risk identification, enforcement and monitoring of protection measures, and coordination between police, prosecution, courts, health, and social services. In several cases, prior violence had been known to institutions, yet no active protection measures were in place at the time of the killing. The absence of explicit legal recognition of femicide continues to limit the formal acknowledgment of gender-related motives within judicial proceedings.

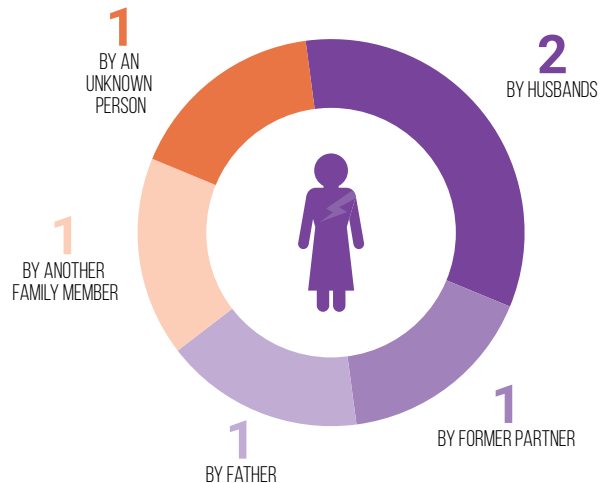
# RECOMMENDATIONS

The findings underline the need for:

- Strengthened early risk assessment and case monitoring.
- Enhanced inter-institutional coordination. Strengthening institutional and operational mechanisms to ensure comprehensive protection and effective support against all forms of violence against women and girls.
- Legal recognition of femicide as a distinct criminal offense.
- Integration of femicide data into official statistics in line with International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCS), developed by UNODC.

## ATTEMPTS AND SERIOUS INJURY

6 attempted killings were recorded:



Three cases of intentional serious injury involved close or known individuals.

These cases demonstrate that lethal risk often escalates within intimate or family relationships.

## INCITEMENT SUICIDE

Four women lost their lives through suicide linked to prolonged abuse by their partners.

All cases of induced suicide revealed a documented history of prior incidents of violence.



# CONCLUSION

Expanding monitoring to include not only killings and femicides, but also **attempted killings, serious injuries, and suicides linked to violence** is essential for the early identification of risks, the prevention of escalation, and the strengthening of institutional responses.