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Violence against Women Increases in 2016: AIHRC

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KABUL - The Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) reported Wednesday that 2016 has been the worst year regarding to abuse and violence against women. Latifa Sultani, an AIHRC official, said that the increasing violence indicates a humanitarian crisis and exposes the government's negligence in addressing this scourge. Sultani said that despite the widespread abuse, few incidents reach the courts, since most of the times the aggressor and the victim remain together.

One of the cases reported by the AIHRC was Farkhunda's case, who was killed in March, 2015, a death that caused mass protests across the country.

Recent reports of the organization also highlighted the case of Zahra, 13. Her husband set her on fire. She was pregnant and died five days later in Istiqlal hospital in Kabul. According to AIHRC studies, among the most alarming situations in Afghanistan are included female suicide, social violence and the honor crimes.

Women have poor economic opportunities, poor access to health services and education, and they lack of legal representation.

According to Sultani, after four decades of armed conflict in Afghanistan, insecurity,