

## **Honor killings move to cities through migration**

A report on honor killings released by the Prime Ministry Human Rights Directorate has shown that honor killings are most frequent in Central Anatolia and the Marmara and Aegean regions, which receive the bulk of Turkey's westward internal migration.

According to the report, a total of 294 honor killings took place in the Marmara region between 2003 and 2007. This was followed by 219 incidents in Central Anatolia and 217 in the Aegean region.

Most of the perpetrators of these killings are individuals who migrated to from eastern and southeastern Anatolia, where a patriarchal social structure is dominant.

Ercan Tatlıdil, a sociologist from Aegean University, said people take their traditions and culture wherever they move.

Stressing that the values of the migrants' original region and those of the area they migrate to generally clash, Tatlıdil said this can even lead to murders.

"The tendency toward violence is generally directed toward young people and women. These people are unable to resort to state institutions to resolve their conflicts. When there is a dispute, they prefer to ask for help from their relatives instead of going to the police. They have a tendency to take care of their own business. When they settle in a new region, they prefer places where their fellow townsmen have already settled. Because of this, they cannot adapt to the city's structure and benefit from the opportunities it presents," he said.

He stressed that honor killings, which are among the biggest problems in the East and Southeast, are carried to big cities through migration.

Tatlıdil suggested that migrants should be given social and economic assistance to help them adapt to city life. Hüseyin Keleş İstanbul

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