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Honor killing: Afghan man and woman killed in Ghazni

January 16, 2013

According to local authorities in eastern Ghazni province of Afghanistan, an Afghan man was killed in a failed rape attempt along with the victim in Deh-Yak district on Tuesday.

District attorney general chief for Deh-Yak Mohammad confirming the report said the incident took place late Tuesday night in Shaadi Qala village.

He said, "A man was trying to rape a woman while her husband was away from home but the relatives of the woman kill her along with the man after they were informed of the incident."

So-called honor killings of women are common in Afghanistan, and under Afghan law a woman can be jailed for running away from their father or husband.

The Americans and Europeans have put a special emphasis on programs to help Afghan women and raise awareness of their rights. Now, as the Western money and presence are dwindling, women's advocates fear that even the limited gains will erode and a more tribal and Taliban culture will prevail, especially in the south and east of the country, where Pashtun tribal attitudes toward women are strongly held.

Violence against women in Afghanistan continues to rise despite government efforts to implement the law on elimination of violence and the establishment of a High Commission for

the Prevention of Violence against Women, the Deputy Minister for Women's Affairs said earlier this month.

Despite these challenges, the Deputy Minister said that the Ministry of Women's Affairs had made progress, noting in particular that the draft of the Elimination of Violence Against Women (EVAW) law had been formulated three years ago and was now being implemented countrywide. She also highlighted that a High Commission for the Prevention of Violence Against Women had been set up under the chairmanship of the Minister of Women Affairs two years ago and was now functioning in 30 provinces.