



Kosovo Women's Network

Serving, Protecting and Promoting the Rights of Women and Girls

Press Release

KWN Invites Citizens to Demand Justice for Zejnepe

[#JusticeForZejnepe](#)

On Friday, Aug. 4, starting from 10:00, the Kosovo Women's Network (KWN) invites activists, representatives of civil society organizations and citizens to peacefully protest in front of the Palace of Justice, demanding the maximum sentence for Nebih Berisha, who murdered his wife, Zejnepe Berisha, in an act of domestic violence.

Since justice institutions did not respond appropriately, following [numerous reactions](#), KWN engaged lawyer Fehmira Gashi Bytyqi to represent Zejnepe's family. As a result, following her appeal on behalf of Zejnepe's family, the Appeals Court in Pristina has decided to hold a hearing on Friday at 10:00.

On Apr. 12, the Basic Court of Prizren sentenced Mr. Berisha, the murder, to only 12 years in prison. The Criminal Code of the Republic of Kosovo, in Article 179 on Serious Murder states that "A punishment of not less than ten (10) years of imprisonment or life imprisonment shall be punishable by a person who: ... 1.3. Deprives a family member of life". Considering the circumstances of the murder, the weight of the offense and the systematic violence that the victim had experienced leading up to her murder, KWN still considers that this decision was not appropriate for the crime committed.

KWN recalls that, in the past, the responsible institutions have stated that there should be "zero tolerance" in domestic violence cases. However, such minimal sentences do not convey this message. Rather, through such sentencing, institutions give the false impression that such macabre crimes will not receive the deserved punishment.

Therefore, KWN hopes that in this hearing the Court of Appeals will issue the decision that he deserves. KWN believes that with fair decisions, justice can influence a reduction in violence. Indeed, domestic violence is a crime!

Meanwhile, KWN and the Balkan Investigative Reporting Network (BIRN) are cooperating in monitoring relevant institutions regarding gender-based violence cases, including cases of domestic violence. This cooperation aims to increase institutional responsibility while dealing with gender-based violence, and to increase reporting on these cases by ensuring justice, protection and rehabilitation for cases of gender-based violence. The engagement of Mrs. Gashi Bytyqi, as well as KWN and BIRN's monitoring efforts are receiving support from the Austrian Development Agency.

Facebook event: [#DrejtësiPerZejnepen](#)