he finally shot himself. The case in Sharjah involved a husband who stabbed his wife 16 times over a dispute. CCTV footage from a parking lot at the woman’s residence showed the killer attacking the woman in her car. He was later found on a beach and arrested.

But such cases are hardly unique to countries such as Egypt, Jordan or the UAE, or to the wider Middle East. Yet some media outlets, such as Monte Carlo Dotvazzi, formerly known as EMC Muyon-Chentr, a French public radio service, have wrongly described them as a uniquely “Arab problem.”

Ibrahim Al-Zibin, a professor of sociology at Imam Mohammed bin Saud Islamic University in Riyadh, told Arab News that it is a global problem that is not specific to any single region or society. Studies have shown gender-based crimes, especially those against women, are more common in conservative and lower-income communities, he added.

“Violence against women disproportionately affects low and lower-middle-income countries and regions,” he said. “That’s not to say that violence doesn’t occur in other social causes but basically gender-based crimes are most likely to be driven towards violence of any kind, and there’s an associated mental health issue when it comes to committing a murder.”

In what UN Women describes as the “shadow pandemic,” studies have shown that rates of violence against women have increased in recent decades, and that there was a significant rise in cases of domestic violence following the start of COVID-19 pandemic.

UN Women reports that an estimated 756 million women worldwide, which is 30 percent of all women aged 15 or older, have been subjected to physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner, sexual violence by a non-partner, or both, at least once in their lives. Many cases of gender-based violence go unreported, with less than 10 percent of women reporting such crimes or seeking help of any sort.

Violence does not always lead a woman to her death but the consequences of these acts are equally debilitating.

There is an underlying cause that drives one to premeditated murder, it’s not spontaneous,” said Al-Zibin. “The murder has unique characteristics; he added. In many instances, killers believe they have the right circumstances to act but, in reality, a mental illness might be driving their actions.

Violence does not always, or immediately, lead a woman to her death but the consequences of these acts are equally debilitating. The psychological and social effects of violence vary and most murderers will find a way to use that to their advantage,” he added.

Violence is complex, and its causes are multifaceted. Violence can be a result of rejection, often made the news as a result of initial crime reports or social media that attract the attention of authorities. Social media offers unregulated opportunities to raise awareness about violence against women and girls, which in many instances historically has gone unreported. However, advances in technology have made online reporting more accessible to the average person.

Calculating exact figures for crimes of femicide can be challenging and so accurate counts or reliable estimates for this global problem of various forms are difficult to come by. The UN Office on Drugs and Crime estimates that 70,000 women and girls worldwide were killed by an intimate partner or family member in 2020. But attempts to understand the psychology and motives of the man who carry out such crimes raise a number of questions. Are those who kill women just “ordinary people” who suddenly and unexpectedly fall into passion, or as a result of rejection, often make the news as a result of initial crime reports or social media that attract the attention of authorities. Social media offers unregulated opportunities to raise awareness about violence against women and girls, which in many instances historically has gone unreported. However, advances in technology have made online reporting more accessible to the average person.

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