

MEDINE MEMI MEMORIAL FUND

**CRIME OF HONOR!
WHO FAILED TO PROTECT
HER HONOR?**

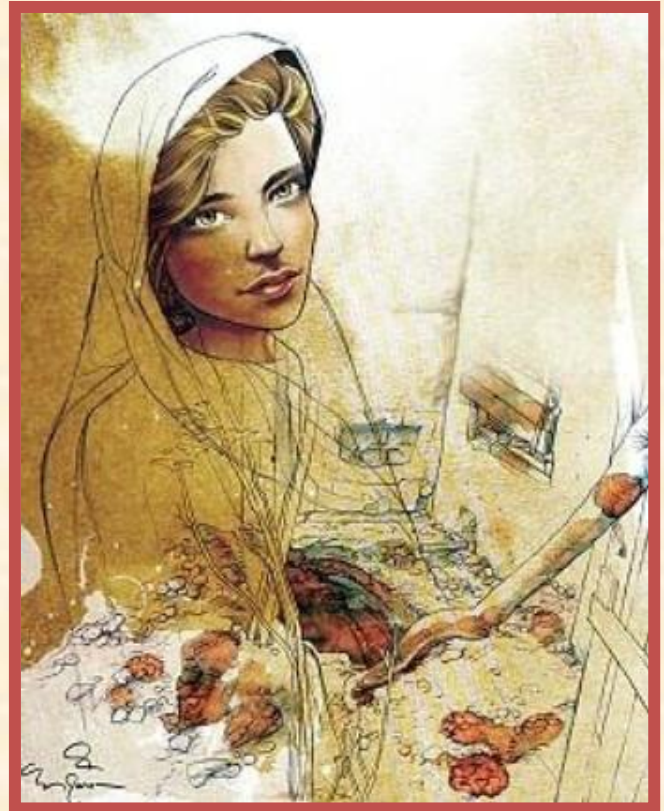
**WE WANT TO RESTORE
MEDINE'S HONOR...**

**WE WANT TO EMPOWER
AND EMBOLDEN RURAL
GIRLS...**

**WE WANT TO PROMOTE
POSITIVE CUSTOMS...**

**WE WANT TO FIGHT
FOR CHANGE...**

Photo Source: Hurriyet



Medine: may you rest in peace... We never knew you, but we will never forget you. Your bravery and beauty will be remembered forever...

JOIN OUR FELLOWSHIP, SUPPORT OUR EFFORTS ...

The disturbing details of the so called "honor killing" of **Medine Memi**, a 16-year-old young woman from the village of Kahta, Adiyaman in southeast Turkey, that was recently reported in the news, highlight the terrible injustice that young women are exposed to across the Middle East, Africa, Asia, Europe, and North America. In the case of Medine Memi, she was buried alive by family members after she reported to local police the conditions that her mother, grandmother, and sisters were experiencing. Medine had endured numerous beatings throughout her young life and never received a formal education. In the end, she was killed in a most horrific manner and her family tried to forget she ever existed.

In a recent report on *Ending Violence against Women and Girls* by UNFPA (the United Nations Population Fund), it was reported that throughout the world, perhaps as many as 5,000 women and girls per year are murdered by members of their own families, many of them for the "dishonor" of having been raped, more often than not by a member of their own extended family. "Honor" killings are on the rise worldwide, according to Asma Jahangir, the United Nations special rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary and arbitrary executions. Ms. Jahangir is working closely with United Nations special investigators on violence against women and on the independence of judges and lawyers to address the issue. This report states that "honor" killings tend to be more prevalent in, but are not limited to, countries with a majority Muslim population. It adds, however, that Islamic leaders have condemned the practice and say it has no religious basis.

Richard G. Wilkinson, the author of the *Impact of Inequality*, states that "Evidence has shown that there is a strong correlation between violence against women, and women's social power and equality; and a baseline of development, associated with access to basic resources, health care, and human capital, such as literacy."

Inspired by the demonstrated belief of "*educate a girl, and you educate a community*" and by Medine's courage, **Bridge to Türkiye Fund (BTF)** is launching a campaign by establishing **a memorial fund to honor Medine's memory** and to provide scholarships for young deserving women from her region. The intent of this special fund is to keep her name alive, continually serve as a reminder of the terrible cost of ignorance, and provide educational opportunities for young women who need financial support. More specifically, in 2010, BTF's goal is to provide scholarships to 20 deserving high school girls in Medine's region. In addition, BTF's hope is that this grassroots initiative will spark interest in developing other similar educational programs.

Please watch for fundraiser events being planned near your areas, some of which are as follows:

- Fundraiser event in Northern Virginia (February 27, 2010)
- Dünya Kadınlar Günü in Lehigh Valley, Pennsylvania (March 19, 2010)
- Facebook Causes - Birthday Fundraiser (March 16, 2010)

We invite you to join us in this important campaign and help invest in the lives of these young women. Please send your **100% tax deductible** checks now with a note in the memo "Medine Memi Memorial Fund" to:

BTF
100 Fox Briar Lane
Cary, NC 27518

Donations can also be paid online at:

<http://apps.facebook.com/causes/15827/1953264> or by clicking on the "**Donate Here**" button on the BTF's homepage: <http://bridgetoturkiye.org/modules/donations>.

Progress on this campaign will be published throughout 2010. BTF will research and determine the number of young Turkish women who will receive financial support based on the funds generated from this campaign.

For more information about this project or if you like to organize a fundraiser event for this cause, please send an e-mail to: medine@bridgetoturkiye.org or contact one of the following individuals in your regions:

- Sevda Küpoglu Aleckson – Orange County, CA
- Iffet Ballak - Raleigh, NC
- Michelle Deniz Droué – London, UK
- Zehra Tuzun Guvener – Seattle, WA
- Sibel Karakus – Leesville, VA
- Necla Sarikaya – Bozeman, MT

We greatly appreciate your support, generosity, and contributions to this worthy cause.

Sincerely,

BTF "Medine Memi Memorial Fund" Team

Invest in Change...
Bridge to Turkiye Fund
<http://www.bridgetoturkiye.org>