CORONAVIRUS: containment measures, gender and domestic violence
INDEX

Abstract  page 3
Spy crimes  page 4
The victims of spy crimes  page 5
Other family crimes  page 7
The murders  page 8
The epidemiological emergency from COVID-19 that is involving our country has determined, from the last decade of February 2020, the adoption of a series of urgent measures by the Government aimed at containing the epidemic, which led to a gradual but significant limitation of the movement of citizens on the national territory.

These exceptional measures, which are further integrated by Law Decree 25 March 2020, n. 19, containing "Urgent measures to face the epidemiological emergency from COVID 19", have consequently led to a forced and prolonged coexistence of the family members, which could adversely affect the most problematic contexts, being able to favor, in some extreme cases, the possible commission of acts of gender and family violence.

The limitation imposed on the movement of natural persons could, in fact, accentuate pre-existing conflict situations, causing a flood of violence and mistreatment, also in relation to the difficulty of being able to easily contact the Police Forces and anti-violence centers in order to report situations of hardship or violence or more simply to ask for information.

The intelligence report examines the data on the voluntary murders present in the record of the Central Directorate of the Criminal Police - Criminal Analysis Service and those extrapolated from the interforces database. In particular, the so-called spy crimes were analyzed relating to gender violence and crimes potentially attributable to family disputes with specific regard to those consumed at home, in the period 1 March - 31 March 2020, comparing them with those of the analogue period of 2019; an analysis of the data referring to the individual weeks was also prepared within the time horizons considered.

These are absolutely operational data which, however, allow us to grasp the trend of the phenomenon in relation to the evolution of the epidemiological crisis, to the consequent gradual expansion of the restrictive measures adopted by the Government and the extension of coexistence in the homes.

The analysis of “spy crimes” shows a general decrease in March 2020 compared to the same period of 2019, highlighting, however, a slight increase in mistreatment of family members and partners in the period 22-31 March 2020; limitations to freedom of movement are a factor in reducing the crime of persecutory acts, while, at the distance, seem to lead to an increase in the number of mistreatments committed against family members and cohabitants.

Despite the overall decrease in the number of sexual violence, however, there is a constant increase in the incidence of female victims (with figures that exceed the 90% ).

The general figure of the murders in March 2020 is confirmed in decline (11 compared to 38) compared to the same period of 2019, while female victims, however, maintain significant values both in general (7 compared to 12) and in the family / affective context (6 compared to 8).

The murders committed by partners or ex-partners decrease (3 compared to 7).

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1 Persecutory acts (art. 612 bis of the italian criminal code – CP-), mistreatment of family members and cohabitants (art. 572 of the criminal code) and sexual violence (art. 609 bis/ter of the criminal code).

2 Threats (art. 612 of the italian criminal code – CP-), personal injury (art. 582 of the criminal code) and beatings (art. 581 of the criminal code).
The analysis developed starts from an overview that takes into consideration the overall of the criminal offenses attributable to the so-called spy crimes of gender-based violence: persecutory acts (art. 612 bis of the Italian Criminal Code), mistreatment of family members and partners (art. 572 of the Italian Criminal Code) and sexual violence (art. 609 bis and ter. of the criminal code).

The graphical representation that follows shows that in the period 2020 the absolute values, although lower than in 2019, they show a progressive decrease in the first three weeks, ed a slight increase in the fourth week (289) compared to the third (278).

The graph on the left poses distinctly compared the trend of the three crimes under consideration, highlighting a trend basically similar of the different cases.

However, while the crime of persecutory acts show itself in constant decline in the 2020 period, that of mistreatment versus family members and cohabitants in the same period suffers, after an initial decrease, an increase in the period 22-31 March 2020.

The sexual violence are significantly reduced in the comparison between the period 2019 and 2020 period.
In the following paragraph the analysis activity takes into consideration the victims of crime.

With respect to the spy crimes of gender violence, we want to highlight both the incidence of female victims and the total number of crimes committed.

In particular, we can see how, for the crime of persecutory acts, the incidence of the victims women record a peak in the period 1-7 March 2020 (78.65%), always remaining on high values, slightly down in the last week (67.74%).

The percentage of women victims of mistreatment versus family members and cohabitants has, in the period 2020, values always above 75%, while that of sexual violence always attests over 90%, up to get to the last two weeks of March 2020 to 100%.

In the following table and graph we compare the number of crimes committed with the percentage incidence of female as victims in the two timeframes under examination.
As regards the *persecutory acts*, the crimes decrease significantly reaching the lowest numerical value (59) in the last week of March 2020.

The crime of *sexual violence* also suffered a significant decrease in the 2020 period, reaching 13 crimes in the last week.

The crime of *mistreatment of family members and cohabitants* shows a fairly good trend constant both for the significant number of crimes committed (slightly increasing in the last week of March 2020 with 217 crimes) and for the incidence of female victims with an average always higher than 75%
The analysis below provides an overview of those crimes committed in the family area, may prove to be a thermometer of the so-called family quarrels.

In particular, threats (art. 612 criminal code) personal injury (art. 582 of the Italian Criminal Code) and beatings (art. 581 of the Italian Criminal Code), in order to highlight those behaviors, criminally relevant, which could be connected to a “forced” stay in the family.

Analyzing the crime cases in question, it emerges how crimes as a whole have an important decrease in 2020, while the incidence of those committed in the family environment does record an increasing trend.

In summary, family crimes in the 2020 period amount to between 12% and 20% of the total, with a peak of 19.93% in the last week, higher percentage than to 2019 where the incidence had remained around 12%.
Analysis of voluntary murders shown in the table below provides a focus also on the so said femicides.

The general figure of the murders in March 2020 is confirmed in decline (11 compared to 38) compared to the same period of 2019, while female victims, however, maintain significant values both in general (7 compared to 12) and in the family/affective context (6 compared to 8).

The murders committed by partners or ex-partners decrease (3 compared to 7).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1 – 31 march 2019</th>
<th>1 – 31 march 2020</th>
<th>Variation %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Murder committed in total</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>- 71.05 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number with female victims</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>- 41.67 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number in family environment</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>- 46.15 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number with female victims</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>- 25.00 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(committed by partner/ex partner)</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>- 57.14 %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3 DCPC Data Source Criminal Analysis Service.