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Swedish Newspaper to Name Men Guilty of Violence Against Women

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[STOCKHOLM] – A Swedish newspaper announced on Saturday it would break with press custom and in future publish the names and photographs of men found guilty of violence against women.

Norraenska Socialdemokraten, the leading newspaper of the northern region of Norrbotten, made the announcement after a local man killed his ex-wife, a mother of three, with an axe.

“We will in future publish the names of men convicted of violating the integrity of women (the legal definition in Sweden of any form of violence or threat against women), together with photographs if we have these,” wrote editor Lennart Haakansson.

He said there were men who “committed systematic, serious and repeated violence and acts of repression against women, worthy of the worst mafiosi.”

“Very often they use violence against women they have just met,” the editor continued.

He said his newspaper’s action, rare in the Swedish press in such cases, was in the public interest. “We consider it important to let our women readers know the identities of individuals to avoid.” – AFP