

TH – MAY 24TH, 2018

EGYPT

May 17: How #MeToo and #TimesUp Are Helping Egyptian Women Break the Silence around Sexual Violence

How Movements like Me Too and Hija Yegid



May 24: 'I don't Fear Death' Pioneering Egyptian Feminist Defies Threats
Her writing and political activism have made her many enemies over the intervening eight decades, upsetting governments, religious authorities and extremist groups alike. She has received countless death threats. Sacked from the health ministry in the 1970s, she was jailed in 1981 after criticizing President Anwar Sadat and spent nearly two decades in exile during President Hosni Mubarak's rule. She has said she is "more dangerous than if I find a girl who is a virgin." Saadawi told the Thomson Reuters Foundation in an interview in Cairo.

IRAN

May 12:



May 20: Nadine Labaki Makes Cannes History as First Female Arab Filmmaker to Win Major Prize
Nadine Labaki made history at Cannes last night as the first female Arab filmmaker to win a major prize in competition. She picked up the Jury Prize for her moving child refugee drama *Where Do We Live*, which received a 15-minute standing ovation at its premiere screening earlier in the week. [\(The National\)](#)

OMAN

May 13: Omantel Hosts First Omani Woman to Ski North Pole
A 34 years old enthusiast has made history by becoming the first Omani woman to ski the Geographic North Pole. Khatunah Al-Falasi made history by becoming the first Omani woman to ski the Geographic North Pole. She spent over 80km on the treacherous terrain at the top of the world and reached the North Pole in 8 days. [\(Times of Oman\)](#)

SAUDI ARABIA

May 15: Riyadh Hosts First Women's Car Exhibition
Dubbed 'The Three-Day Drive', the three-day exhibition allowed women to see the high-end cars on display, interact with dealers and insurance company representatives, and learn about special offers. Organizers reported women enthusiastically discussed with their relatives and companions what cars would suit them best as they spent time on simulators to get a feel for the experience they expect to have starting June 24, when they will be allowed to drive. Riyadh hosts first women's car exhibition. [\(Gulf News\)](#)

May 17: Saudi Women Troll Men Telling Them 'You Won't Drive'
It is a matter of weeks until the ban on women driving in Saudi Arabia will be lifted. Some men have taken to social media to vent their dissatisfaction with the change in the law, using an Arabic hashtag that translates as: 'You won't drive'. However, the hashtag went viral when Saudi women began hitting back at the sexist remarks. 'You won't drive' has been used on Twitter over 65,000 times since Monday. Lots of women posted funny pictures and videos to accompany their response to the hashtag. [\(BBC\)](#)

May 17: Dina Shihabi: The Actress Blazing a Trail for Saudi Women
After officially reintroducing movie theaters last month, and establishing an opera house and national orchestra, along with the now frequent staging of musical and sporting events, Saudi Arabia is in the midst of an entertainment overhaul. But long before any of these reforms began taking place in the Kingdom, a young Saudi actress by the name of Dina Shihabi was already blazing a trail for Saudi women in cinema as she began her own film journey in the face of regional and cultural obstacles. She was motivated to pursue an acting career and persist despite the challenges she faced along the way, and is now delighted to be witnessing the incredible, rapid changes for women, and the film industry, in Saudi Arabia. [\(Arab News\)](#)

May 23 Saudi Arabia Widens Crackdown on Women's Rights Activist
Saudi Arabia has reportedly arrested three more women's rights activists in a crackdown launched just weeks before a ban on women driving will be lifted. Human rights groups said at least 11 people, most of them women who had long campaigned for the right to drive, had now been detained since last week. Officials have said they are suspected of "suspicious contact with foreign parties" and undermining "stability". Other activists have said the crackdown is "unprecedented" and "shocking". The US has expressed concern about the detentions and said it is "keeping a close eye" on the progress of reforms in the Gulf state, which is a key regional ally. [\(BBC\)](#)



TUNISIA

May 12: 'I Can Finally Dream': Tunisia Expands Protection for Battered Women

In 2016, 60 percent of Tunisian women were victims of domestic violence, according to the Ministry of Women, Family and Children, with studies from nongovernmental groups suggesting the figure may even be higher. And 50 percent of women said they had experienced aggression in a public area at least once in their lives. Legislation expanding the number of shelters and the new law and the shelters that opened at the recommendation of the legislation.

[\(The New York Times\)](#)

May 23: Tunisian Women Win at Polls but Long Road Remains

Abdel Rahim told Al-Arabia: We hope a woman can fill the position of president or prime minister for the first time in the election, while saying that the patriarchal view that still prevails is preventing her from becoming the first woman to head the Tunis municipality. She also condemned violence against women and attacks on female candidates for either wearing the veil or not wearing one. In a May 8 interview with privately owned M Tunisia TV, Nidaa Tunis leader Fuad Bouslama ruled out the possibility of reaching a consensus with Ennahda for Rahim to head the Tunisian government. The central committee in a May 9 statement, which said the government does not represent the Tunisian people.

TURKEY

May 16: Turkey Launches Mobile App to Respond Faster to Cases of Violence against Women

The app, developed by the Ministry of Family, Social Policies and Gender Equality (KADES) for victims of violence with the joint cooperation of the Family and Social Policies Ministry and Interior Ministry. The application seeks to ensure women reach our police forces and receive help when under any threat, with the Interior Minister Süleyman Soylu said on May 16 during a meeting to promote the application.

OPINION/ANALYSIS

May 15: Palestinian Women's Struggle Hasn't Translated to Political Power

Palestinian women have been in the forefront of Palestinian national activism and sacrifice since the spark of the Palestinian revolution. Despite this well-documented fact, Palestinian men in political power, like men in society itself, will not easily give up power. The change will only occur as a result of consistent and united efforts by both Palestinian women and men.

May 17: Arab Cinema Back with a Bang; Bringing Lepers, Lust and Class Conflict to Cannes

A boy who takes his parents to court for having him is one of a wave of Arab films making people sit up and take notice at the Cannes film festival. Not since 1970 have two Arab films been in the running for the Golden Palm. Lebanese film 'The Axe to Grind' about a 12-year-old boy with an axe to grind about being born into a miserable, loveless existence has racked up a string of distribution deals ahead of its premiere late Thursday.



May 23: Why I Can't Go Back to Saudi Arabia to Drive for the First Time with My Son

It's the first time since the lifting of the ban on women driving that I will be driving in Saudi Arabia next month.

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