

MENA Women's News Brief

April 21, 2015 – May 5, 2015

Egypt

April 26: Egyptians confront cyber sexual harassment

“Thanks to the widespread use of mobile devices and social media, sexual harassment is no longer confined to a direct physical encounter between the harasser and the victim. Through a phenomenon called ‘cyber sexual harassment,’ the harasser can now reach potential vi

gyptian mother and a Moroccan father who was born and raised in Kuwait. ‘Verbal
he tir e. Not a day would go by without hearing comments whether from people
ng se al insults at me, criticizing or even cursing me for the way I dress.” (Al-

[Ahrām](#))

April 30: Sexual harassment survivor in Egypt wins case against popular tabloid

“An Egyptian woman has won a landmark court case against one of the country’s most popular tabloid newspapers after it published details of sexual harassment she experienced. The Anti-Harassment Movement launched a case against daily al-Yaum al-Sabie after it published the full name, ID number, age and address of the woman, who was a minor when she was assaulted during an anti-harassment march in the capital last year.” ([Middle East Eye](#))

Iran

April 24: Shirin Neshat in Washington and Baku

“No sooner am I through the door of Shirin Neshat’s New York studio than we are talking politics. She is excited about the fragile diplomatic agreement reached in Geneva at the beginning of this month. ‘It may be my naive reading but I think it’s a very positive thing,’ she says. ‘President Rouhani is a smart but cautious person — and the chief negotiator, Mohammad Javad Zarif, has become a hero embraced by the people.’” ([Financial Times](#))

April 26: Iran to launch women’s social studies center

“A center named ‘scientific association for women’s social studies’ is going to be launched, Ashraf Boroujerdi, deputy director of the Humanities and Cultural Studies Research Center for cultural affairs, told Mehr news agency on Saturday, April 25.” ([Tehran Times](#))

April 28: Interview: Iranian Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Shirin Ebadi on Nuclear Deal, Islamic State, Women’s Rights (Video and Transcript)

“In an extended interview, Democracy Now will speak with 2003 Nobel Peace Prize winner Shirin Ebadi, about the threat posed by the self-proclaimed Islamic State, and the significance of the framework deal agreed to by Iran and world powers including the United States and Israel to curb its nuclear program for at least a decade.” ([Democracy Now](#))

April 29: Iran Hard-Liners' Newest Obsession: Cohabitation (Op-Ed by Haleh Esfandiari)

“The commission that oversees the Iranian press has banned the women’s magazine Zanan-e Emrouz (Today’s Women) over an article on unmarried young men and women living together. Cohabitation, or ‘white marriage,’ as it is known in Iran, is a growing practice in the Islamic Republic. In big cities it is not unusual for young unmarried couples to live together.” ([Wall Street Journal](#))

Iraq

May 4: In Iraqi malls, Syrian women work jobs spurned by locals

“Two years after fleeing from her home in Damascus, 22-year-old Rahaf Abdullah is working at a gleaming mall in Iraq’s Kurdish region, selling sweets to local women who largely refuse to take such jobs. In Iraq’s conservative and relatively well-off Kurdish region the idea of women working is frowned upon. That has created opportunities for some of the tens of thousands of Syrian refugees and displaced Iraqis who have sought refuge here.” ([AP via the Lebanon Daily Star](#))

Israel

May 3: Women likely to be left out of Security Cabinet

“As coalition negotiations wind down, it appears unlikely that any women will be appointed to senior ministerial positions or be members of the Israel’s Security Cabinet, despite the government’s adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 to involve more women in matters of peace and security.”






working hours. If I can get free as early as 2:30 pm, I can be on time to pick up my children from school.” ([Khaleej Times](#))

By **Julia Craig Romano**

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