

MENA Women's News Brief

August 12-26, 2014

MEP Publication: "Barbarians: ISIS's Mortal Threat to Women"

The Middle East Program would like to share with you the 60th edition of our [Viewpoints](#) series, "[Barbarians: ISIS's Mortal Threat to Women](#)" by numerous contributors from the Middle East and the United States. For this issue of Viewpoints, MEP reached out to a number of its regular contributors and



(Op-Ed) August 22: Can Women in Iran be Equal?

“Two recent statements by Iranian leaders show the constant tension defining life in Iran. Elected in 2013, President Hassan Rouhani made campaign pledges of increased social freedoms. Not long ago he said, ‘Women should enjoy equal opportunities, security, and social rights.’ Yet, after one year in office, there has been zero movement for the women of Iran, because pulling in the opposite direction is Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who has claimed that gender equality is ‘one of the biggest mistakes of Western thought.’” ([Daily Beast](#))

Iraq

August 12: Meet the female peshmerga forces fighting ISIS

“Kurdish female peshmerga fighters are joining the battle against the Islamic State (IS) to thwart any possible attack against Kurdish areas.” ([Al-Monitor](#))

August 15: Who will condemn the sexual enslavement of Iraq’s minority women?

“Slavery and rape are being used as weapons of war by ISIS against Yazidi and Christian women, yet rights activists are silent.” ([The Guardian](#))

(Op-Ed) August 21: The Women of ISIS: Understanding and Combating Female Extremism

“Reports that women have formed their own brigade within the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS) have confounded experts -- and worried them. For many, the idea of women as violent extremists seems paradoxical. After all, why should women want to join a political struggle that so blatantly oppresses them?” ([Foreign Affairs](#))

August 22: Iraq Minister: Hundreds of Yezidi, Shiite Women Held Captive by IS

“Iraq’s human rights minister said that hundreds of Yezidi and Shiite women were held captive by the Islamic State (IS/ISIS) armies, amid reports they are being sexually abused and sold as slaves.” ([Rudaw](#))

Jordan

August 12: Granting service-related privileges to children with non-Jordanian fathers ‘a matter of time’ — Kalaldeh

“Granting several services and privileges to children of Jordanian women married to foreigners to ease some of the restraints they face in their daily lives ‘is a matter of time’, Minister of Political and Parliamentary Affairs Khaled Kalaldeh said.” ([Jordan Times](#))

(Op-Ed) August 20: Microfinance in Jordan isn’t helping to empower women

“Foreign donors need to reconsider how their money is being used, as profits are taking precedence over sustainability.” ([The Guardian](#))

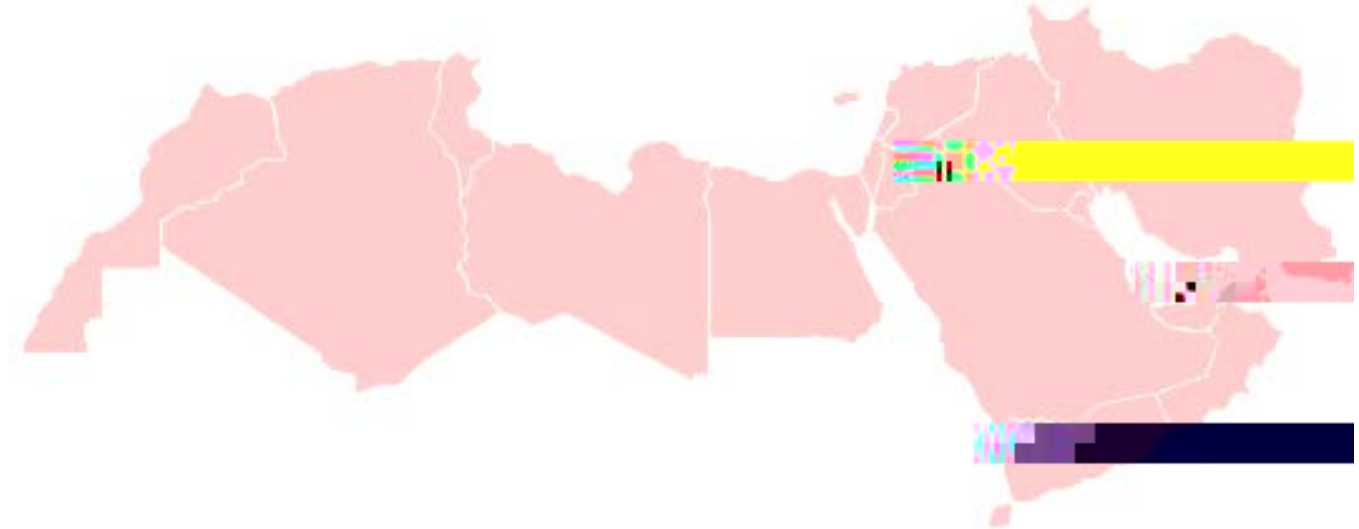
Saudi Arabia

August 12: New ban on marriage to foreigners stirs controversy

“In a recent report published by Makkah daily newspaper in Saudi Arabia, a new law bans Saudi men from marrying women from Pakistan, Bangladesh, Chad and Burma. Social media forums like Twitter and Facebook reacted with both humor and horror over the new ruling.” ([Saudi Gazette](#))

August 12: Work begins on women’s industrial city

“Work on the first women’s industrial city in the Kingdom is well under way. The city, poised to cost SR111 million according to data made available to Arab News, will span an area of 500,000 square meters and is located east of Al-Ahsa International Airport.” ([Arab News](#))



this law reflected the content of Article 46 of the constitution, which outlined that the state should take the necessary measures to eradicate violence against women.” ([Al-Monitor](#))

August 15: Full Gender Parity Yet to be Achieved in Electoral Lists

“As Tunisia awaits the legislative elections scheduled for October 26, several civil society organizations are pushing for integral parity in electoral lists.” ([Tunisia Live](#))

August 23: Police kill two women in tense region of Tunisia

“Police killed two young women in a tense region of Tunisia [Kasserine, in central-western Tunisia] early Saturday, mistaking them for members of an armed group, the interior ministry and a relative said.” ([Daily Star](#))

Turkey

August 19:)

