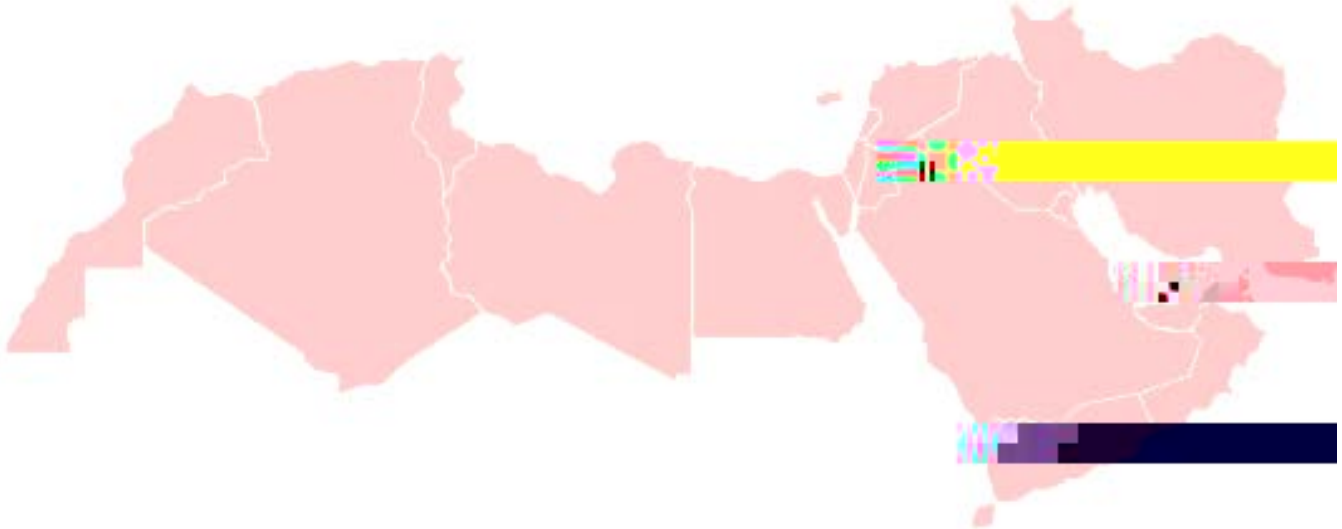


MENA Women News Brief

August 2, 2016 August 16, 2016

-General Raed Mohammed Bin Shams recently announced endeavors to help Bahraini women develop tools to grow into positions of leadership, a strategy that falls in line with the goals of the Reform and His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa of Bahrain. ([Gulf News Journal](#))



August 8: Anti-Pollution Initiative Stymied by Ban on Women Riding Bicycles in Public

“Women’s rights activists and environmentalists joined forces in the city of Marivan, in Iran’s Kurdistan Province, after a local anti-pollution initiative encouraging people to ride bikes or walk instead of using their cars ran aground when security agents objected to women riding bicycles in public.” [International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran](#)

August 9: Rio 2016: Iranian woman expresses her joy after watching volleyball for first time

“Iranian volleyball fan Sajedeh Norouzi could barely contain her delight at the Maracanazinho arena as she watched her husband’s men’s team take on Argentina, a match she would have been banned from attending in Tehran.” [Independent](#)

August 10: Amnesty: Women activists seen as ‘enemies of the state’ in Iran crackdown

“Iranian authorities have intensified their repression of women’s rights activists in the country during the first half of this year, an Amnesty International report has revealed. In a statement released on Wednesday, August 10, the rights watchdog said that the country is carrying out a series of harsh interrogations and increasingly likening any collective initiative relating to women’s rights to criminal activity.” [Al Arabiya](#)

August 11: The detention of Homa Hoodfar is unjust and un-Islamic. Iran should release her. (Op-Ed by Tariq Ramadan)

“As a Muslim scholar, I am deeply troubled by the unlawful and unjust detention of Professor Homa Hoodfar, an Iranian-Canadian scholar who was detained in March while visiting friends and family in Iran. Members of the Revolutionary Guard raided her home, confiscated her personal belongings and passports, summoned her for interrogations, and finally imprisoned her in Tehran’s Evin prison without access to her family or a lawyer.” [The Guardian](#)

August 13: Olympic security asks female Iranian fan to drop sign

“Olympic security personnel questioned a female Iranian volleyball fan Saturday when she showed up for a match holding a large sign that read ‘Iranian Women Enter Their Stadiums Wearing a White T-shirt with those same words.’” [USA Today](#)

Iraq

August 6: Yazidi survivor Nadia Murad: We want a Muslim stand against ISIS

“Nadia Murad, an Iraqi Yazidi woman who escaped a gruesome ordeal after she was kidnapped by ISIS to be a sex slave like thousands of other women from her minority ethnic group, tells Al Arabiya News Channel in an interview”

United Nations human rights panel has determined that the ongoing campaign of violence against the Yazidis amounts to genocide. [United Nations Population Fund](#)

Israel

August 11: Battle over women praying at Jerusalem's Western Wall continues as compromise stalls

"Clutching smuggled Torah scrolls, dozens of feminist activists approached the Western Wall, wrapping themselves in colorful prayer shawls and chanting passages from the Jewish Bible. Their display of piety was met by ultrareligious hecklers who denounced them as heretics and prostitutes. 'You can't change the Torah!' one shouted. 'Get out of here!' Another ripped up a prayer book used by the feminist group, Women of the Wall." [Los Angeles Times](#)

Palestinian Territories

August 4: 'I Had to Be the Voice of Women': The First Female Hijacker Shares Her Story

"On August 29, 1969, 25-year-old Leila Khaled made her way into the cockpit of TWA Flight 870 and commandeered the plane on behalf of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. After that, she became known equally as an icon and a terrorist." [VICE](#)

August 6: Over forty Palestinian women including 12 minors are being held in HaSharon prison

"Several dozen Palestinian women, including 12 minors, are currently being held in Israel's HaSharon prison, according to a statement released Thursday, August 4, by the Palestinian Committee of Prisoners' Affairs." [Al Bawaba](#)

Saudi Arabia

August 2: Saudi appoints first female commercial judge

"The Administrative Appeals Court in Saudi Arabia's Eastern province has reportedly appointed the first female arbitrator in a commercial case. Arab News reports that Shaimaa Sadeq Al-Aran's appointment came despite the objections of one of the parties in the case because she is a woman." [Women's Business](#)

August 3: How Saudi women have boosted the kingdom's sporting spirit (Op -Ed by Lina K. Almaeena)

"As we rejoice in the news that Princess Rima bint Bandar bin Sultan has become the first Saudi woman to have been appointed the president's undersecretary for the women's section at the General Authority for Sports, it is important to discuss the history of Saudi women's involvement in sports." [Arabiya](#)

August 4: Saudi Arabia: Women Are "Changing the Game"

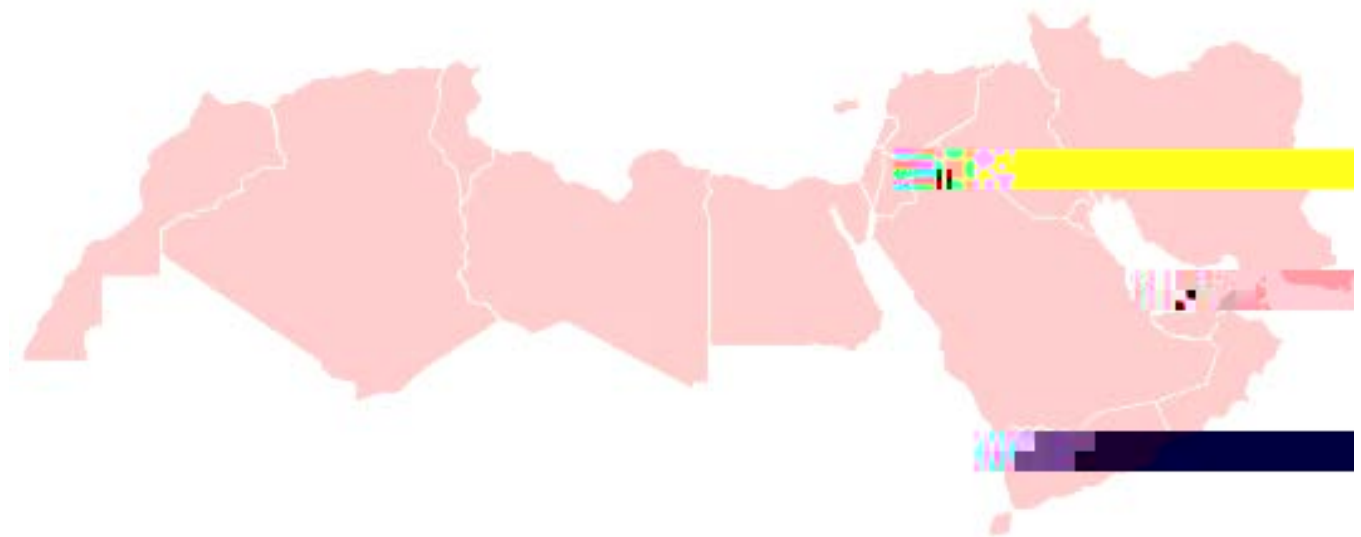
"Women in Saudi Arabia have made some progress in participating in sports for health, competition and professional opportunities but serious barriers remain. On the eve of the Rio Olympics, the Saudi government, including the new women's section of the Saudi sports authority, should remove the remaining barriers to sports in schools, businesses, federations, and team sports." [Sports Rights Watch](#)

August 8: Saudi gets its first female pilot

"Despite a ban on women driving in Saudi Arabia, Hanadi Zakaria Hanadi has become the first woman in the kingdom to become an air pilot. Hanadi, who received her pilot's license in 2014, said women have the same ability to work in all professions as men." [Middle East Monitor](#)

August 10: Guardians of the Gender Gap (OpEd by Hala Aldosari)

“For a Saudiwoman, personal choice is a luxury. Her decisions must conform to her male guardian’s. Only women with agreeable guardians can control their lives. The rest must live with who(e)4(g)v(r)3(m)

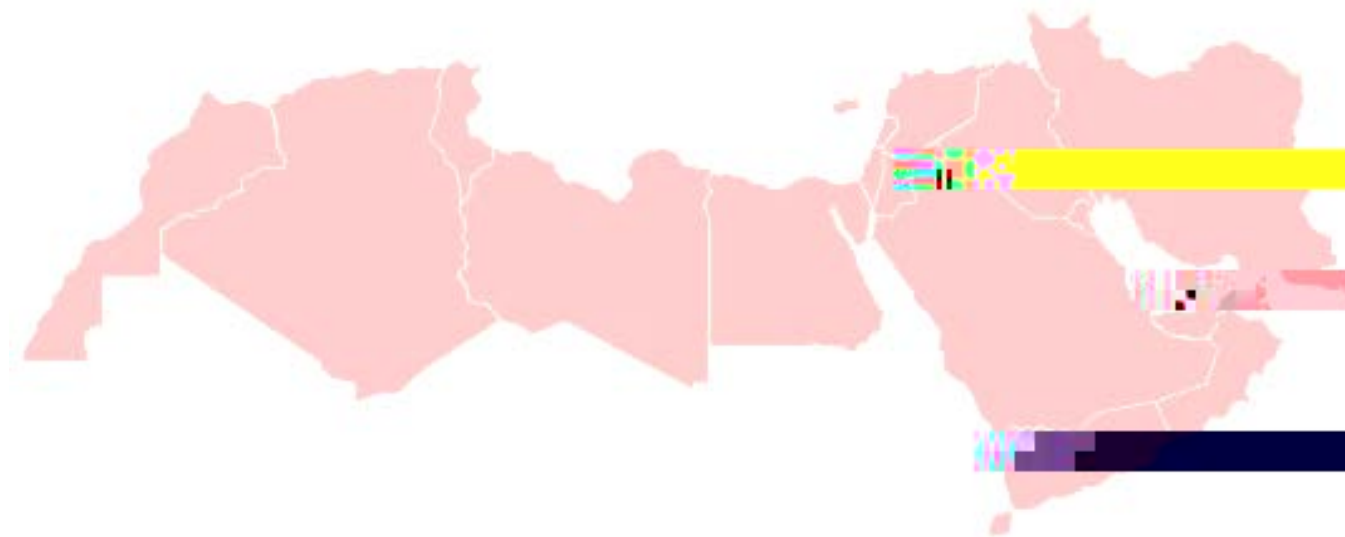


August 11: Can new Tunisian bill help counter violence against women? (Op-Ed by Ahmed Nadhif)

“The Tunisian draft law on the elimination of all forms of violence against women has tightened sanctions against abusers, but it remains to be seen whether this law will be passed in parliament with or without amendments.” [Al Monitor](#)

August 11: Tunisian fencer dedicates historic medal to Arab women

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Yemen

August 10: A day in the life of a community midwife in Yemen

“In the early morning hours of an otherwise ordinary day in Yemen’s Bani Hushaysh District, the sounds of bombs suddenly pierced the air. Residents of the community were frightened, and Ms. KawkabAbdu Mohammed is the only community health worker who came to work that day. In a health system that is deteriorating because of the ongoing conflict, midwives like Ms. Abdu are a lifeline for Yemen’s mothers and children.[UNICEF](#))

