

MENA Women News Brief

August 25, 2015September 8, 2015

Egypt

September 1: Egypt appoints female judge as aide to justice minister

“Egypt's Supreme Judicial Council has agreed to assign a female judge as an aide to the justice minister Ahmed El-Zend following a request from the minister himself. Ghada El-Shahawy will be the first woman in Egypt's history to serve as an aide to the justice minister. She will be responsible for women's and children's issues.” ([Ahram Online](#))

September 8: Interior Ministry to investigate video of policemen assaulting 2 women

“The Ministry of Interior will launch an investigation into a video showing two women being assaulted by policemen in a shopping mall in Cairo, said the ministry's Assistant for Media and Public Relations General Abu Bakr Abdel Kareem, Monday, September 7.” ([Egypt Daily News](#))



“President Rohani’s adviser for women and family affairs says more than 40 percent of women with higher education are unemployed. UN reports that on Sunday September 6, Shahndokht Molaverdi gave a speech about women in the workforce, saying Iran’s top economic challenge is unemployment. She added that unemployment is particularly high among university-educated women and single mothers.” ([Radio Zamaneh](#))

Iraq

September 8: Angelina Jolie: ISIS atrocities show need to tackle sexual violence in conflict

“The atrocities and rapes perpetrated by Islamic State clearly demonstrate the need to tackle sexual violence in conflicts around the world, the actor and UN special envoy Angelina Jolie [Pitt](#) [Times](#).w
‘The most important thing is to understand what it’s not: it’s not sexual, it’s a violent, brutal, terrorizing weapon and it is used unfortunately, everywhere,” she told a British parliamentary committee on Tuesday September.7 ([The Guardian](#))

Israel

August 27: Israeli minister pushes for improved gender equality

“Since she was appointed minister of social equality just a few months ago, Gila Gamliel of the Likud Party has appeared before the Committee to Advance the Status of Women no less than three times. This rate is exceptional, considering her busy schedule, and is about more than just her involvement in the struggle for gender equality. It also has to do with the excellent relationship she has nurtured with that committee’s chair, Israeli Arab Knesset member Aida Touval-Simman of the Joint List.” ([Al-Monitor](#))

September 3: Hunger



September 3:Forty-six Saudi women have joined ISIS since 2011, MOI says

“More than 40 Saudi women, some with their children, have joined the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) militant group since 2011, Maj. Gen. Mansour Al Turki, spokesman for the Saudi Ministry of Interior told Al Hayat newspaper([Al Arabiya](#))

September 4:Path to progress proceeds at snail's pace for Saudi Arabian women (Op-ed by Suad Abu-Dayyeh)

“Saudi Arabia’s slow progress towards gender equality continued last week with the first two women in the country registering to vote in advance of December’s elections. According to Al Arabiya, one of Saudi polling stations will be dedicated to female voters.” ([The Guardian](#))

Syria

September 8: Teenage girl accused of trying to join Kurdish forces in Syria on trial in London

“Protesters picketed outside the London courthouse where Shilan Ozcelik, a teenage British girl of Kurdish descent, went on trial for trying to join Kurdish forces fighting the Islamic State group (ISIS) in Syria.” ([Rudaw](#))

Tunisia

September 2: Tunisia's lesbian community mobilises against deep-seated prejudice

“Tunisia’s attitude to its lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community goes beyond the social. Article 230 of Tunisia’s constitution forbids acts of sodomy, with those found guilty facing jail sentences of up to three years. Article 226 is against outrages to public decency, a *cahdaw* often used to target the country’s trans community. Both laws date from 1914 and remain untouched by the 2011 revolution and the subsequent rush to reform.” ([The Guardian](#))

Turkey

August 25: The three most innovative Turkish women of 2015

“Next month’s parliamentary elections in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) will feature 76 female candidates, according to the country’s official electoral commission ([Journal of the Turkish Weekly](#))”

General

August 26: Women-only carriages around the world: do they work?

“Segregated areas on public transport are in use in several countries around the world, mostly those where women face institutional discrimination, severe sexual harassment, or both. The measures have

