

MENA Women's News Brief

December 16 -December 29, 2014

“More than 60 per cent of women in the GCC region found it hard to get good jobs, a new survey has revealed. The survey also found out that 46 per cent of women complained of lack of opportunities to improve their professional skills and 38 per cent spoke of not having enough opportunities to relax or socialize as challenges in their life. Thirty-two per cent of women considered it hard to lead a healthy lifestyle and 30 per cent of women did not feel connected enough within their industry, says 'The Bayt.com Status of Working Women in the Middle East' survey, which was recently conducted by Bayt.com, the career site in the Middle East, and YouGov, a research and consulting organization.”
([Times of Oman](#))

Egypt

December 16: (Op-Ed) Six October for staging a peaceful protest near the presidential palace to call on President Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi to abolish a law that severely restricts the right to stage protests. The defendants include Sanaa Seif, who hails from a well-known activist family. Yara Sallam, a prominent women's rights activist, was also among the defendants whose sentences were reduced. (ABC News)



Iran

December 18: (Op-Ed) Women Continue Struggle for Rights Despite Barriers

“On December 10, 1950 the UN General Assembly proclaimed the day as Human Rights Day to bring the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to the attention of people across the world as the common standard for all peoples and nations. Sixty four years forward and unfortunately human rights violations in different forms continue to take place in all human societies. Unlike the efforts of those who fight for human rights and follow the Declaration's goals, the implementation of the principles of the declaration is not realized particularly in the countries of the Global South. The focus of this presentation is on the


December 21: Morocco's workplace gender gap widens

“In its second report on gender equality in the workplace, the Economic, Social and Environmental Council (ESEC) described the employment situation of Moroccan women as alarming. In its 2012 report, ESEC made clear recommendations to the government to fight discrimination against women. In the new report, released on Nov. 27, 2014, ESEC focuses on the realities of female employment and the "ineffective" laws working against women. The female employment rate in Morocco (ratio between the number of people employed and the total number of



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