

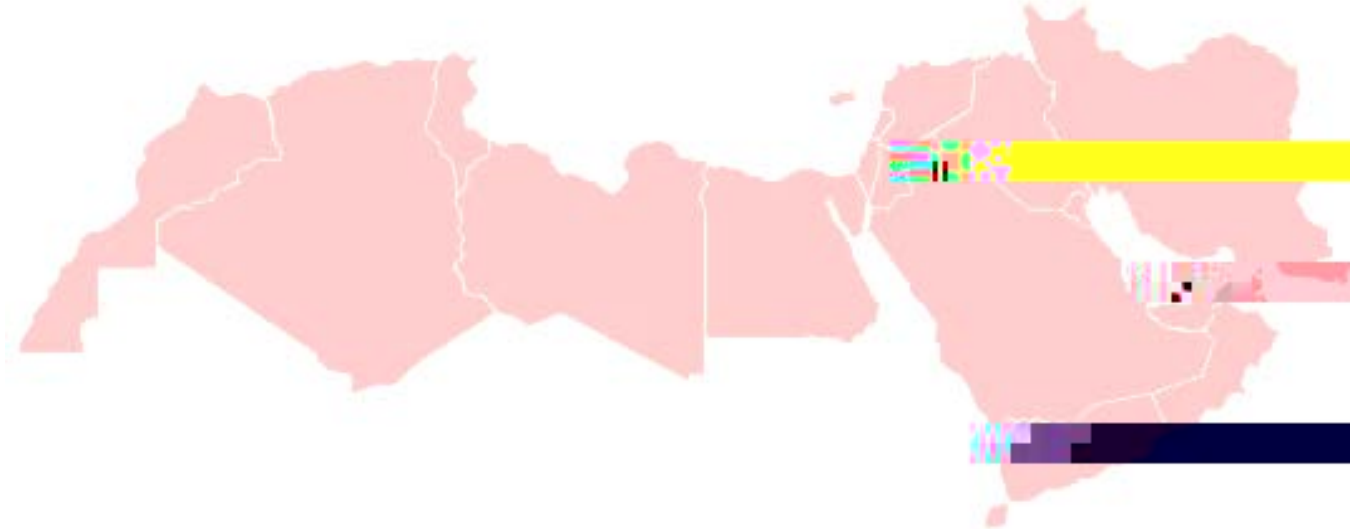
# MENA Women News Brief

December 5 –December 20, 2016

## Algeria

December 10: Algeria praised for its inclusion of women in politics

“Algerian female participation in the political field was hailed during the Fifth Annual Arab -American Day in Washington this week. Organised by the Chamber of Arab -American Commerce and the Council of the Arab Ambassadors, the conference was on Arab women and the enhancement of



December 6: In Iran, Women's Basij Leader Demands Persecution Of Gender-Rights Activism

“The woman who leads female volunteers in Iran's hard-line conservative militia, the Basij, has identified a new foe. Minu Aslani has reportedly called the promotion of gender equality illegal and demanded that the country's powerful judiciary take action against people who speak out against such state-sponsored discrimination. ‘These activities are in fact against our laws and the judiciary should take action,’ the semiofficial Mehr news agency quoted Aslani as telling reporters on December 2.”

([Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty](#))

**Iraq**

December 12: For Women Under ISIS, a Tyranny of Dress Code and Punishment

“By the time the jihadists had finished, not even a woman's eyes were legal. Showing them was a punishable offense. The dress code imposed on the women of Mosul started soon after the Islamic State overran the city more than two years ago. It was carried out gradually, until every part of the female body was erased, starting with the face, then the rest of the body — including the hands, which had to be covered with gloves, as well as the feet, which had to be hidden by socks. It ended with an announcement blared over loudspeakers, telling women to wear a film of black cloth over their eyes.”

([New York Times](#))

**Israel**

December 9: After Brouhaha Over Women in Tanks , Israeli Army Wants Women in Warships Too

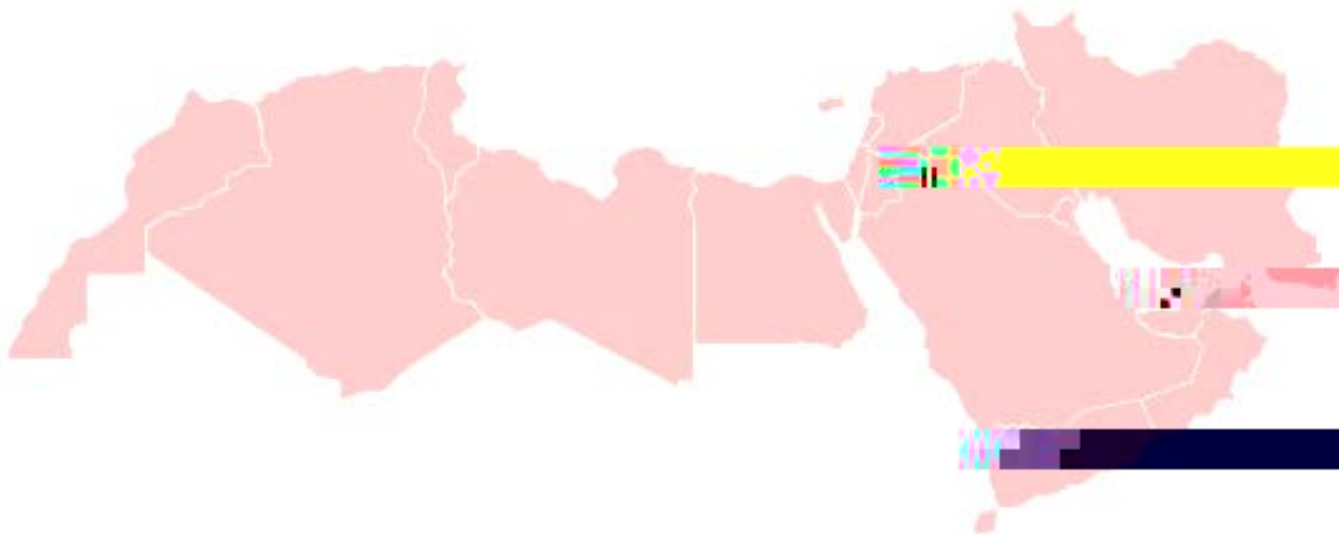
“The Israel Defense Forces is considering opening additional combat positions to women, including possibly placing women on the Sa'ar 6 warships currently being built in Germany that are to be deployed to protect Israel's offshore natural gas rigs in the Mediterranean. The proposed integration of women in combat positions, including the Armored Corps and the Air Force's search and rescue unit, has sparked opposition among some Orthodox rabbis, particularly over women serving in tank units. ”

([Haaretz](#))

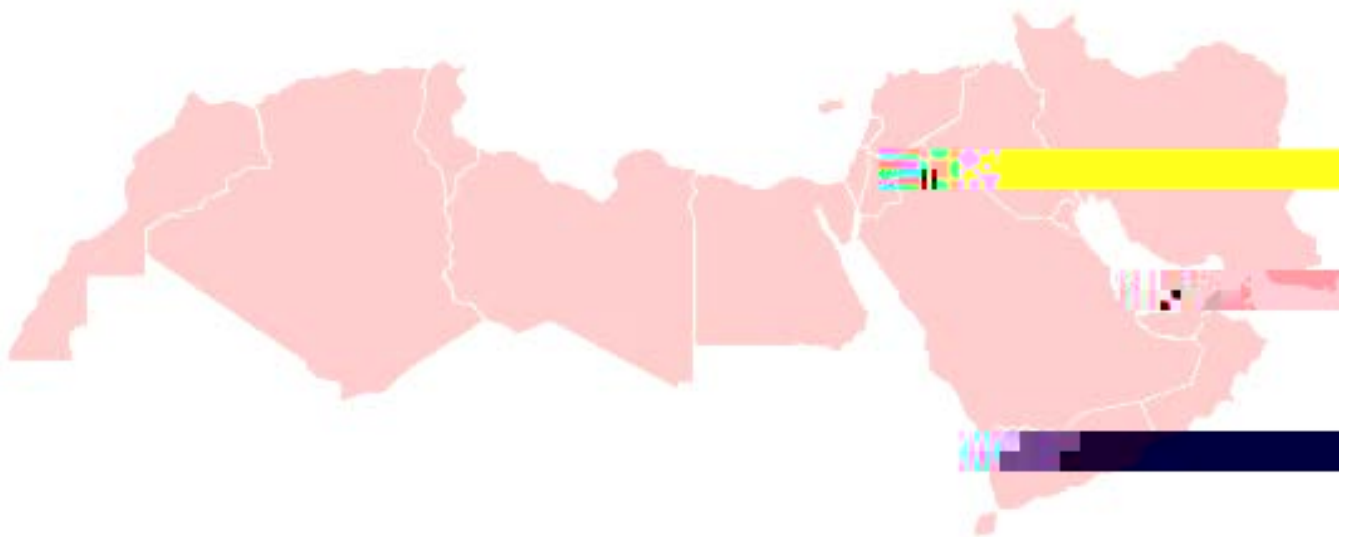
December 11: Israel Chief Rabbi: Women Shouldn't Go to the Army

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any regret. In its Sunday decision, the IPS said it had granted Katsav's request for parole as he has since expressed remorse for his actions.”(



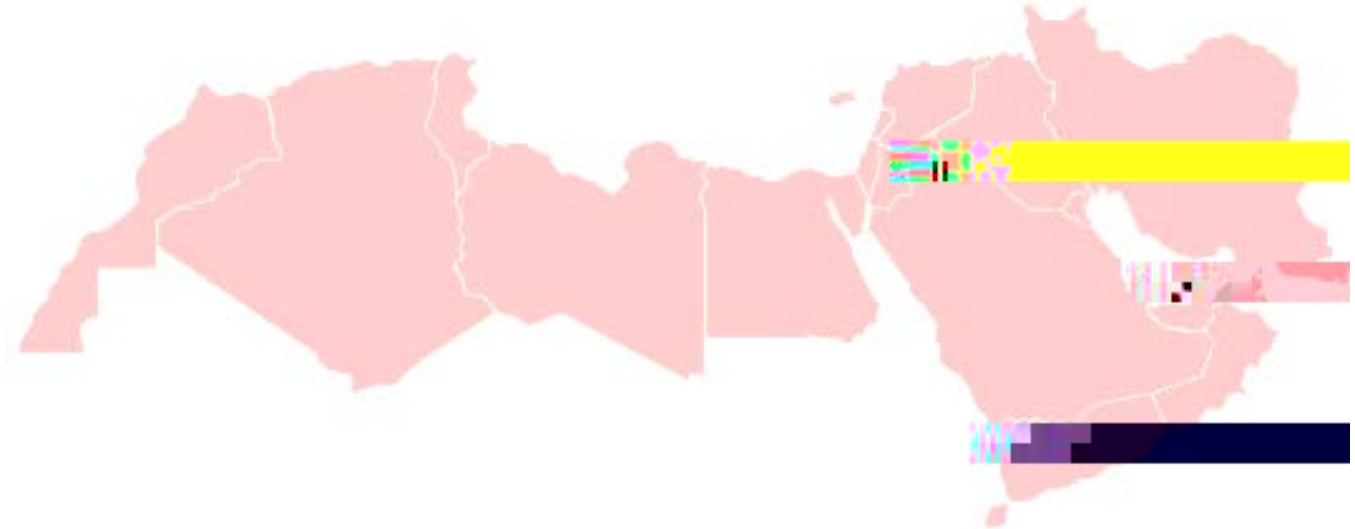
## Palestinian Territories



## Syria

### December 11: Why some Egyptians prefer Syrian wives

“For as long as the Syrian war has raged, there have been stories throughout the Middle East about Syrian refugee women being in demand for marriage — sometimes willingly, sometimes not. Egypt is no exception. Umm Ammar, who is in her 30s, became a widow when her husband died in an accident. As a now ‘single’ refugee, she is one of many Syrian women sought out by Egyptian men who consider them the perfect partners — often for reasons far from flattering, such as low dowries. This phenomenon



United Arab Emirates

December 11: Sheikha Fatima: Global Summit of Women Speakers of Parliament reflects UAE's unity

