

MENA Women News Brief

February 15-February 28, 2017

Egypt

February 16: Egypt gets first woman provincial governor

“Egyptian President Abdul Fattah Al-Sisi on Thursday, February 16, swore in Nadia Abdu as the country’s first female provincial governor in modern times. Abdu, in her sixties, has been appointed as governor of the coastal province of Beheira. Her appointment is part of a reshuffle of provincial governors unveiled on Thursday, February 16. The shake-up included three other newcomers.” [\(Gulf . Tt.7\(u\)5.310 maintenance. Being Egyptian women, s](#)

February 22: Egypt’s Grand Mufti expected to publish document favoring women’s rights

“As Egyptian president Abdel-Fattah Al-Sisi announced that 2017 is the ‘women's year’, al-Azhar will issue a document detailing women's rights that were granted by the Holy Quran and the prophet's teaching to show the people the real, valid Sharia law and refute incorrect only sections of several prominent mosque. This is the first step in activating female participation in will be added in the future.” [\(Al Monitor\)](#)

Iran

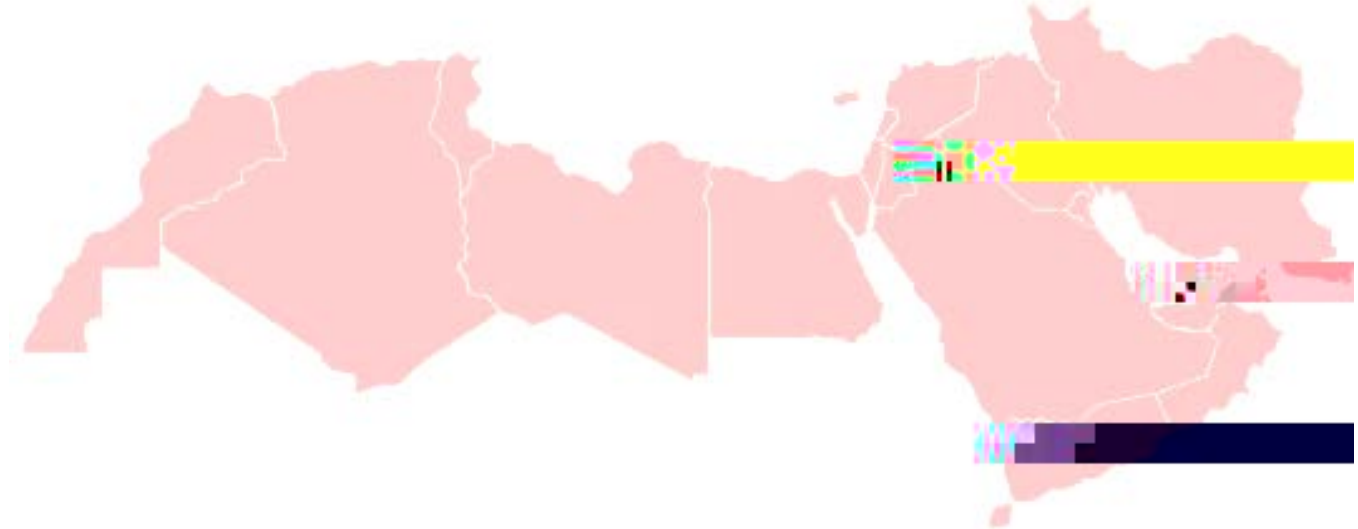
February 15: Iranian women dressed as men barred from football game

“Eight Iranian girls who disguised themselves as boys to attend a football match despite an official ban were prevented from entering the stadium, an official was quoted as saying Tuesday, February 14. Iran argues that its ban on women attending football matches in the same stadiums as men is necessary to protect them from lewd language that might emanate from the terraces.” [\(Your Middle East\)](#)

Revolutionary Guards. The guards had found a short story by Azadeh about two male soldiers who were lovers during the war, after a tip-off from a girl Azadeh says held a personal grudge against her.”
[\(Broadly\)](#)

February 23: Will this woman become Iran’s first female president?

“Iran may see its first female presidential candidate in the May 19 elections. After a period of silence, Marziah Vahid Dastjerdi, the Islamic Republic’s first and only female minister, has in recent days and weeks made headlines once again.”



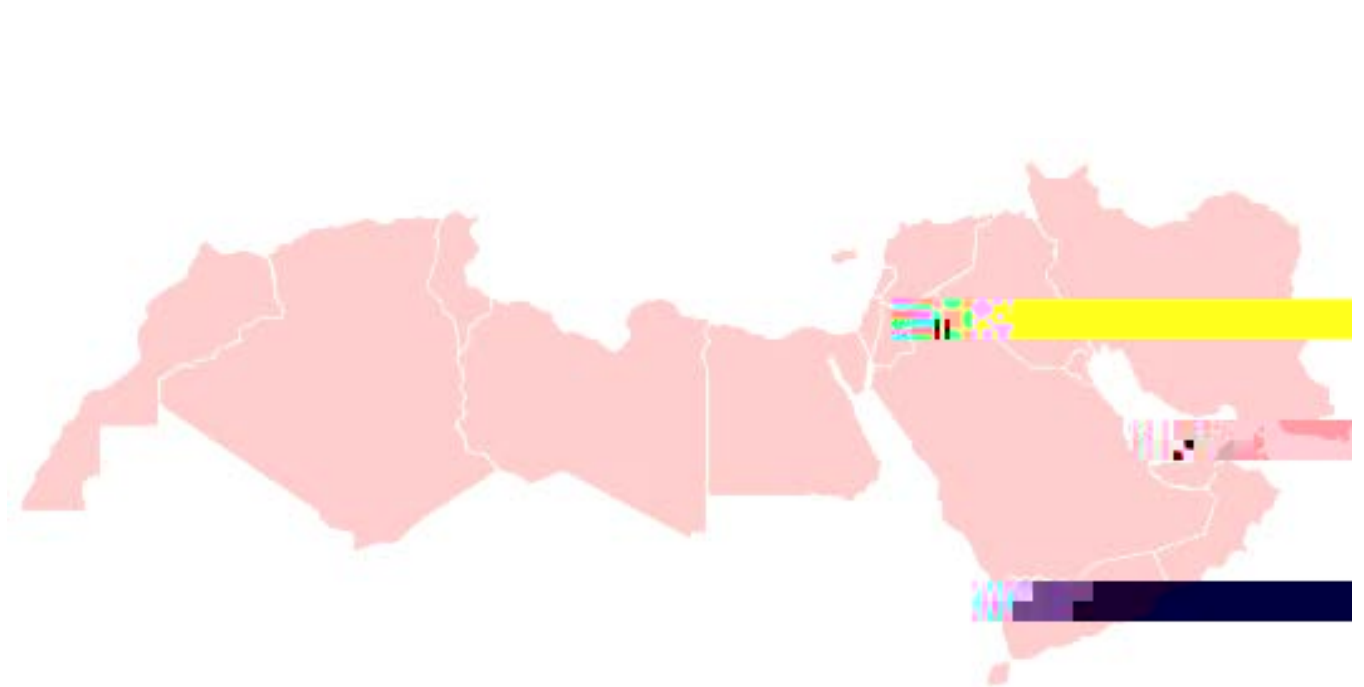
economic and social reforms. Nashar is a board member of Samba's global markets subsidiary and a Pakistani unit, and has nearly 20 years of experience in banking.” [\(Fortune\)](#)

February 20: Saudi Arabia allows licenses for women only gyms

“In its latest set of reforms, the Saudi government has announced that it will begin granting licenses for women only gyms this month. The gyms will solely be used to motivate women to get fit, amid rising obesity among in the Gulf kingdom. They will not be allowed to organize competitive sports programs, such as football and boxing.” [\(Middle East Monitor\)](#)

February 22: Saudi women gaining a foothold in filmmaking

“On the eve of leaving for the US to study animation filmmaking at the University of Missouri for a semester, Bushra Al-Samirani, a professor in Saudi Arabia, told her colleagues that she had been invited to teach animation at the University of Missouri for a semester.” [\(The Arabist\)](#)



Regional

February 16: Gender Pay Gap: Belittling Arab Women’s Efforts Because They Are Not the ‘Breadwinners’

“The gender pay gap is not an issue that is limited to the Arab World; it has its share of debates

