MENA Women's News Brief

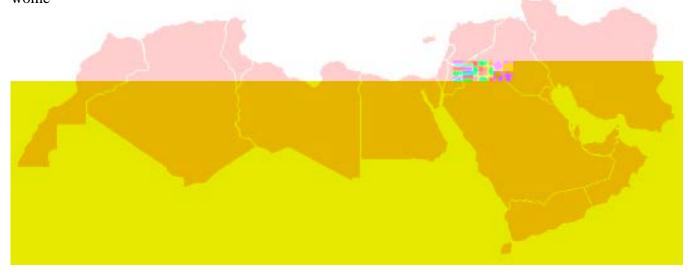
February 25-March 10, 2014

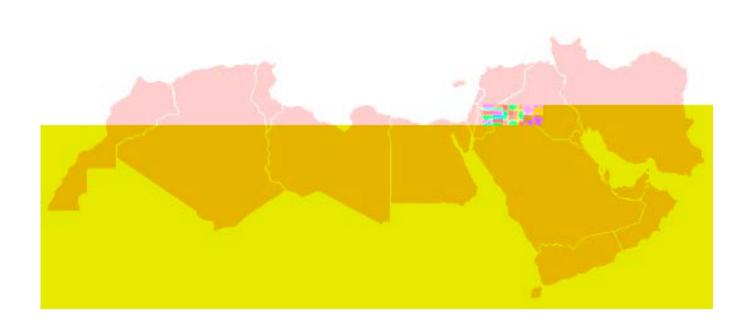
Gender parity in parliament possible within 20 years, new trends show

"The [IPU's Women in Parliament] year in review noted that although the Americas maintained its lead as the region with the highest average of women MPs at 25.2 per cent, it was the Arab world that witnessed the biggest regional jump of the year. The historic appointment of 30 women to Saudi Arabia's Shura Council in January 2013 for the first time ever and the election of an unprecedented 18 women to the Jordanian parliament thanks to quotas in both countries helped the Arab region's average rise from 13.2 per cent to 16 per cent." (IPU)

March 3: 'Arab Women Rising' compiles untold anecdotes of Arab women changing societies

"Arab Women Rising", a new book released by Knowledge@Wharton, shatters stereotypes by revealing wome





Palestinian Territories

<u>March 3: Honor killings rise in Palestinian territories, sparking backlash</u>
"Twenty-seven women are thought to have been killed last year in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip by family members claiming reasons of 'honor'—more than double the 13 cases documented in 2012. The age-old rationale can serve as a cover for domestic abuse, inheritance disputes, rape, incest or the desire to punish female independence, according to Maha Abu-Dayyeh, the general director of the Women's Center for Legal Aid and Counseling, a Palestinian human rights group that tracks the killings." (Washington Post)

<u>March 8: Palestinian women join West Bank anti-riot police</u>
"Only three percent of the Palestinian police force's 8,000 members are women, but other branches of the security forces are making tentative steps to boost women's numbers in their ranks. This week, a group of 23 women finished their training to join the presidential guard, which protects key figures and carries out special operations." (Times of Israel)

Saudi Arabia

March 10: Saudi marks Women's Day by driving

"A Saudi businesswoman has celebrated Women's International Day by driving iviti1(om)pehhiinakibir tr tfuJe f*

