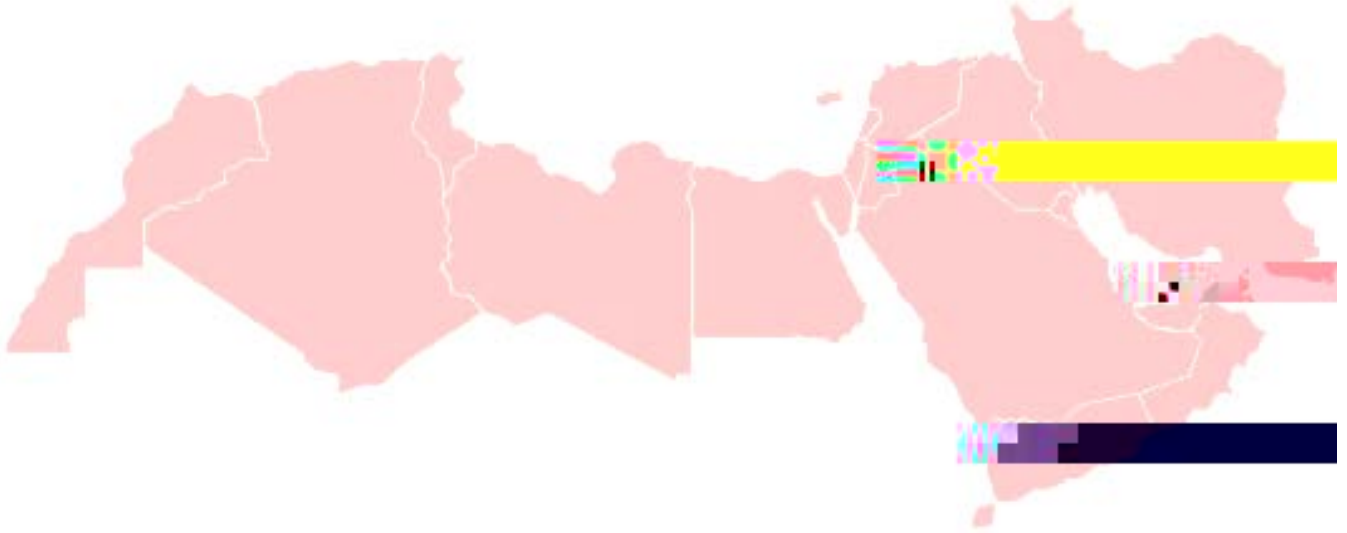


**January 18: Fed-**

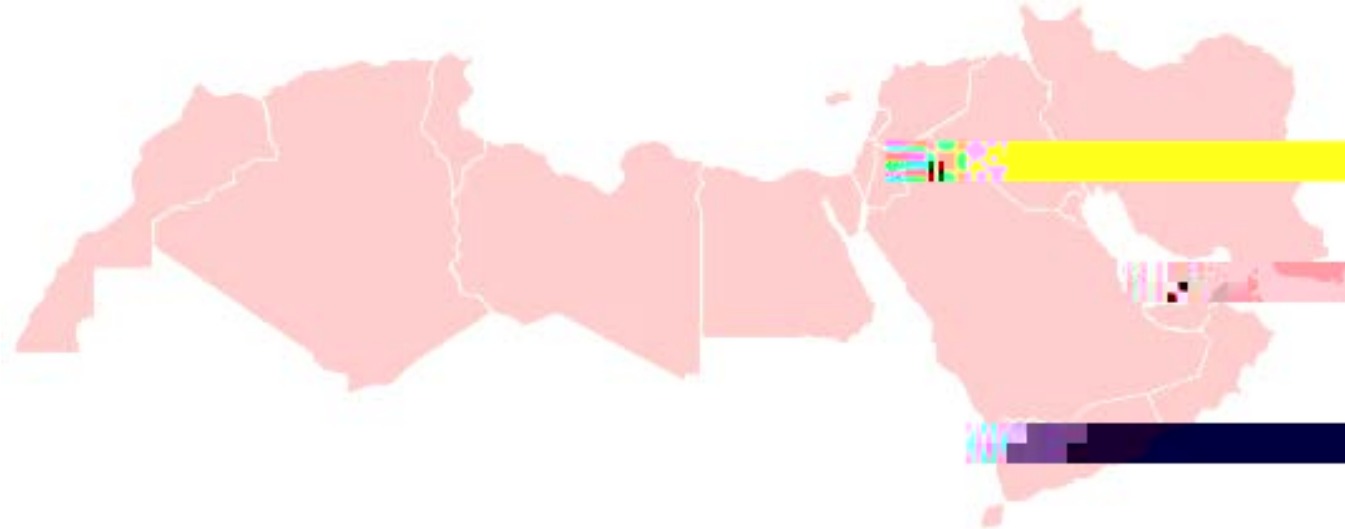


which Palestinians have attacked Israeli soldiers, police officers and civilians, usually using knives, cars and guns as weapons.” ([New York Times](#))

**Morocco**

**January 14: Professionals are taking a stand to stop violence and discrimination against women in Morocco**

“In the region of Meknes, Morocco, 30 professionals including people from women’s rights groups, activists, and lawyers have taken part in human rights training in response to gender-based violence and discrimination against women. Over six days, participants received legal training and advice on how to



ordinary Saudi women, of the legal rights they do have, and an increasing willingness to claim these rights, even by seeking legal redress, if necessary.” ([The New Yorker](#))

### **January 13: Sister of Saudi blogger Raif Badawi briefly detained in same prison**

“Samar Badawi, a prominent Saudi human rights advocate—and the sister of jailed blogger Raif Badawi—has been freed on bail after being arrested and held briefly in the same prison as her brother. According to Ensaf Haidar (Raif Badawi’s wife), Amnesty International, and the Raif Badawi Foundation—a Canadian advocacy group—Samar is believed to have been arrested for posting to a Twitter account used to campaign for the release of her former husband, Waleed Abu al-Khair, and for publishing of photo of him in jail.” ([The Guardian](#))

### **January 17: E-commerce creates more opportunities for Saudi women**

“Many economists stress the importance of electronic markets in Saudi Arabia, their financial megareturns and the availability of jobs for young businesswomen. They have also revealed that Saudi women are strongly present in these markets, and have achieved success, stressing the need to support the work of Saudi women in this electronic sector. Chairperson of Fashion Design in the Jeddah Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Oumayma Azzouz, revealed that the use of electronic technology is a clear indication of the economic success, considering that women’s work in this context is one of the most important opportunities that enhance women’s income sources.” ([Arab News](#))

## **Syria**

### **January 7: Two Sisters’ Escape from Syria (Essay by Sarah A. Topol)**

“In this year’s massive human migration to Europe, some young women have been forced to make the journey alone. Since the beginning of the Syrian civil war, in 2011, more than 4 million refugees have crossed the border to escape the conflict. Two-thirds are men, and most of the women and children who make the journey are traveling with their families.” ([New York Magazine](#))

### **January 13: Syrian Kurdish Female Fighters Expand Ranks Against IS**

“Syrian Kurdish female fighters are expanding their ranks on the frontlines of the fight against Islamic State militants in northeastern Syria. In a remote camp near the Kurdish city of Afrin in northwestern Syria, the leadership of Women’s Protection Units (YPJ) continues to recruit and train young women to prepare them for combat missions against IS.” ([Voice of America](#))

## **Tunisia**

### **January 15: Is Tunisia the beacon of women’s rights it claims to be? (Op-ed by Shiromi Pinto)**

“14 January marks five years since Tunisians successfully ousted President Ben Ali. Alongside calls for freedom, dignity and better living conditions, Tunisia’s uprising came with hopes for stronger rights for Tunisia’s 5.5 million women. Tunisia has a reputation for being a leader on women’s rights in the Arab world. But does that reputation stand up to scrutiny?” ([Amnesty International](#))

## **Turkey**

### **January 7: Women stage sit-in for peace at Turkish parliament**

“Women human rights activists have staged a sit-in at Turkey’s parliament to protest ongoing military operations in the southeast and to call on parliament to ensure peace in the region. During the protest by

Efe, and Ümit Sezer, the group expressed their wish for a free, democratic, equal, just and peaceful country. ‘End the war, talk peace,’ the group of women chanted during the protest.” ([Hurriyet](#))

### **United Arab Emirates**

#### **January 16: How Women in the UAE Lead Successful Businesses (Op-ed by Mohammad Riaz Usman)**

“Women in the UAE are leading entrepreneurship as more females are coming forward to turn their ideas into successful businesses. According to the UAE Ministry of Economy, women in the country contribute to nearly half of the small-and-medium enterprise sector and, interestingly, 48 per cent of female business owners are the sole owners of their firms. The UAE is ranked as a leader in gender equality in the region, according to the World Economic Forum's 2014 Global Gender Gap report.” ([Khaleej Times](#))

### **General**

#### **January 9: OIC appoints four women to top posts**

“The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) has appointed four Arab women to top positions in the 47-year-old organization. Iyad Madani, the OIC’s secretary general, is committed to women’s empowerment, according to a report in a local publication. The new appointees, from Saudi Arabia, Mauritania, Algeria and Yemen, will work at the OIC’s headquarters in Jeddah in the departments of cultural and social affairs, media and information, women and family, and political affairs.” ([Arab News](#))

**By Nishaat Shaik**

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