

MENA Women News Brief

July 18, 2016 August 2, 2016

Bahrain

July 26: Bahrain's uprising and its movement for radical change (Op-Ed by Abdulnabi Alekry)

"Women and youth were at the forefront of Bahrain's uprising in February 2011, and are at the heart of the ensuing movement for radical change. Women have traditionally been marginalised in Bahraini society. This holds true even within the ranks of oppositional progressive organisations whether Islamist or secular". ([Open Democracy](#))

Egypt

July 20: Egyptian women activists criticize Nawal Saadawi for her call to legalise prostitution

"A group of Egyptian female activists have attacked Egyptian feminist writer Nawal Saadawi for calls she made for legalising prostitution in the country instead of denying its existence. Saadawi also claimed that Islam does not oppose abortion". ([Middle East Monitor](#))

July 24: New ad campaign seeks to empower Egyptian women (Op by Reham Mokbel)

"Egypt's National Council for Women launched last month the *Ala* campaign under the slogan *Ala*. The Taa' Marbouta is your strength". Arabic, a language where words have grammatical gender, the taa' marbouta is a letter coming at the end of a word to denote femininity. ([Al Monitor](#))

July 29: Arrest of Egypt FGM doctor Raslan Fadl welcomed

"Campaigners have welcomed the arrest of Egypt's first doctor to have been convicted of carrying out female genital mutilation (FGM). Raslan Fadl was sentenced in January 2015 over the death of Souheir al-Bataa, a 13-year-old girl who was subjected to the legal procedure. However, he avoided arrest and was said to have carried on working as a doctor". ([BBC](#))

protest by using the #meninhijab hashtag and post the photos of themselves wearing headscarves. [The New York Times](#)

August 2: Iran's Rouhani shelves civil service exam over female discrimination

"Iranian President Hassan Rouhani has postponed the annual civil service entry exam because of concerns it discriminates against women. Rouhani ordered a review of all 3,000 jobs on offer, and a rethink if they were found to be biased to men. [BBC](#)

Iraq

July 19: In Mosul, 12 Women Who Stood against ISIS Executed

"For the first time since ISIS took control over Mosul (June 2014), it witnessed on Monday (July 18) a women demonstration against ISIS practices. Saeed Mamozini, the head of the Kurdistan Democratic Party's branch 14 in Mosul, told Asharq Al-Awsat that the protest was aggressively blocked with 12 women shot and others arrested. [Asharq Al-Awsat](#)

Israel

July 19: Israel sentences female Palestinian journalist over incitement claims

"The Israeli Magistrate's Court in Jerusalem sentenced female Palestinian journalist Samah Dweik to six months in prison on Monday July 18 on Facebook incitement charges, Quds Press reported. The Israeli forces arrested Dweik from her house in Ra'at Arab suburb in the Jerusalem neighbourhood of Silwan on 10 April. She is now in HaSharon Prison. [Middle East Monitor](#)

July 24: Female Victims of Domestic Violence in Israel to Get More State Help

"According to new bill before Ministerial Committee for Legislation, the state will grant women a package of benefits, including occupational training and subsidized day care, and will also nearly double the 'halfway housing' available. [Haaretz](#)

August 2: More Israeli Arab Women Out of Work Despite Government Funding

"Despite government plans of the past six years to encourage employment for Israeli Arabs, most Arab women still are unemployed, according to statistics released on Monday August 1 by the Knesset's research institute. The government has spent some 3.7 billion shekels (\$971 million) during this period. [Haaretz](#)

“Friday night's (July 15) attempted coup shocked Turkey, a country that has seen four governments toppled by the military since 1960. Thousands of soldiers, police officials have been detained or sacked. Turkey's Western allies have expressed concern and urged President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan respond in a measured way. We spoke to women about the mood in the country (BBC).

July 21: The women of Turkey's anticoup protests

“When Serife Boz, 50, heard a coup was seeking to overthrow the Turkish government she jumped inside her truck and drove as many people as possible to the squares across Istanbul to protest the violent putsch. I can drive the truck. I felt that was going to war. I chanted [the whole night and the next day,’ said Serife. Me and my children and grandchildren took to [the streets of] Taksim Square,’ added.” [Andalou Agency](#)

July 23: Violence against women increases in postcoup Turkey

“The ‘male-dominated, militarist mentality dominating Turkish politics is causing a cycle of violence, leaving women with little hope for democracy in the country,’ declared the women of the Peoples’ Democratic Party (HDP) in a statement published Saturday July 23. HDP’s Women’s Parliament G



