

MENA Women's News Brief

July 28-August 11, 2014

Book release: Moroccan Feminist Discourses by Fatima Sadiqi

Fatima Sadiqi's recent book, Moroccan Feminist Discourses, analyzes the feminist discourses in Morocco following the uprisings in the Middle East and North Africa. Sadiqi is Professor of Linguistics and Gender Studies and Founder of the Center for Studies and Research on Women at Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah University, Morocco. [Palgrave Macmillan](#))

Egypt

July 31: Egypt's Damietta bishop bans women from wearing trousers, makeup in church

"Coptic Orthodox bishop bans his female congregants from wearing trousers, blouses and to take receive communion" ([Al-Ahram](#))

July 31: Woman Activist Calls for Sex Education to Combat Harassment

"A rights activist has called for including sex education in school syllabi to promote awareness among students and educate them on the danger of sexual violence and the need for respecting the female body." ([All Africa](#))

August 6: Egyptian feminists raise awareness of women's cultural and political role

"An Egyptian court sentenced two men to life and another to 20 years in prison on Thursday for sexual assaults on women during public rallies in the city's iconic Tahrir Square, judicial officials said." ([Washington Post](#))

August 7: 'Positive step, but not enough': Women's groups react to Tahrir sexual assault verdict

"Three men received harsh jail terms on Thursday for sexual assault but this is just the beginning, say anti-sexual harassment groups" ([Al-Ahram](#))

Iraq

August 8: Arab and Gulf Countries Must Take the Lead (by Haleh Esfandiari)

"I cannot shake the images of Vian Dakhil, the Iraqi member of Parliament, screaming at her copab-27.85 at the hands of the Islamic State group... The U.S. has confirmed that the Islamic State group has

kidnapped and imprisoned Yazidi women so that they can be sold ~~to~~ off to extremist fighters.”
(Associated Press)

Iran

August 7: Rohani deputy slams Tehran's gender segregation plan

“The presidential deputy for Women and Family Affairs, Shahindokht Molaverdi, says the Rohani administration does not approve of gender segregation in the workplace. This comes after the head of Iran's judiciary commended the mayor of Tehran for implementing a plan to separate male and female public employees in municipal offices.”
Al-Monitor

Morocco

July 30: Moroccan women reject image in Arab media

“Female politicians, artists and journalists met last week in Casablanca to discuss what they consider the negative and prejudiced portrayal of Moroccan women in Arab television.”

August 3: Saudi women with master's degrees complain of unemployment

"A number of Saudi women who hold master's degrees have spoken out against the unemployment they have faced for the past several years and the lack of appreciation for their degrees and social circumstances." (Al-Arabiya)

August 4: Why are Saudi nurses still tackling stereotypes?

"A number of young Saudi women nurses are facing problems and obstacles in their work environment that hinder them from performing their duties properly." (Al-Arabiya)

August 8: Feminization of shops creates 65,000 jobs

"The third phase of the feminization of shops involves counting all women's shops at malls, and forces the owners to employ only Saudi women." (Arab News)

August 10: Social media help Abha women to market their products

"The success Saudi women have achieved in marketing and international businesses was apparent through their participation in the shopping festival in Abha, where they have registered an impressive presence through their capabilities and potential." (Arab News)

August 10: Saudi matchmakers flourishing on social media

"There has been a surge in matchmakers on Twitter and other social networking websites who offer their services to the thousands of Saudis who are seeking marriage." (Al-Arabiya)

Syria

July 29: Islamic State militants open office for potential wives: Monitor

"Islamic State insurgents have opened an office in northern Syria where single women and widows can register to marry fighters from the radical al Qaeda offshoot, a monitoring group said on Monday." (Ahrām)

July 30: ISIS is Using an All-Women Brigade to Enforce Sharia Law in Syria

"In the city of Raqqa, where last week ISIS ambushed and killed more than 50 Syrian soldiers, the Sunni militant group has established an all-female unit tasked with policing other women under ISIS's rigid interpretation of Sharia law." (Newsweek)

August 4: Prostitution On The Rise Among Desperate Syrian Women Refugees

"Syrian women and girls are growing more vulnerable to exploitation in Lebanon as their exile drags out and poverty increases, relief workers say. Some women are driven into outright prostitution. Others like Samar engage in what relief workers call survival sex, striking up sexual relationships with men who can provide rent or food." (Huffington Post)

August 9: Combatting gender

