

MENA Women's News Brief

June 16, 2015 June 30, 2015

Egypt

June 16: A dragged, stripped, blamed victim in Egypt

“ They dragged me, stripped me, beat me up and stepped on me as if I were an insect,”

friends that has committed this small but significant act, is gaining currency among Egyptians. In private conversations — or even sexual encounters —

June 19: Video: Inside Iran: The women in Iran's notorious prisons

Morocco

June 27: Moroccan Women Wear Miniskirts in Protest Against Arrest of Two Women

“Several Moroccan women turned out for the protest against the arrest of two women in Inezgane, a suburb of the southern city of Agadir. The two women were arrested for wearing ‘tight and immoral’ clothes. Women participating in the virtual protest posted pictures of themselves on social media wearing miniskirts to support the two women, hairdressers aged 23 and 29— whose trial has been set for July 16. Three sit-ins are also expected to be held this week in Agadir, Rabat and Casablanca to denounce the trial of the two women.” (Morocco World News)

Qatar

June 16: Qatar Airways found guilty of sexual discrimination by major UN body

“State-owned Qatar Airways is discriminating against its female employees, in breach of international labour laws, according to a ruling by a major UN body. The airline’s policy of reserving the right to terminate the employment of pregnant women and its banning of female employees from being allowed to be picked up or dropped off at the company premises by an unrelated male amounts to sexual discrimination, the International Labor Organization ruled on Tuesday, June 16.” (Arabian Business)

Syria

June 19: Why Three British Sisters Took Their Children to Join Jihadists in Syria

“Zohra Dawood, along with her two sisters, Khadija, 29, and Sarah and their nine children first left the U.K. at the end of May for a pilgrimage to the Saudi city of Medina. They reportedly boarded a flight to Istanbul, Turkey on June 9 instead of flying back to Bradford as planned on June 11. According to a smuggler working for the Islamic State of Iraq and Greater Syria (ISIS) quoted in BBC reports on Friday, June 19 the family of 12 has already crossed into Syria in two separate groups.” (For an article by Deeyah Khan about why women in the United Kingdom move to ISIS controlled territory, read For Isis women, it’s not about ‘jihadi brides’: it’s about escape.)

June 23: British woman held by alNusra Front freed in Syria

“A British woman who was captured in Syria by alNusra militants and held for seven months has been released after alerting lawyers in the UK to her plight by using the messaging service WhatsApp. The 31-year-old from east London was detained in territory controlled by the alNusra Front, a Qaeda’s franchise in Syria. She was freed after negotiations with alNusra, who agreed to let her go because of her history of mental illness, those involved with the negotiations said.” (The Guardian)

June 24: French woman describes her harrowing journey to ISIS

“Nadia (not her real name), a 26-year-old French woman, was recruited earlier this spring by Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) jihadists on Internet chatrooms and then travelled to the militants’ self-declared capital of Raqqa, in Syria. During a tumultuous three months with ISIS in Raqqa, she married and then separated from a jihadist, was twice thrown in jail and then managed to cross into Turkey where she was detained by police.” (AFP via Business Insider)

June 25: IS sells 42 Yazidi women to fighters in Syria: monitor

“The Islamic State group on Thursday, June 25 sold 42 Yazidi women it had abducted from the Yazidi religious minority to its fighters in eastern Syria, a monitor said. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the women were being treated as slaves by the jihadists and were sold for between \$500 (447 euros) and \$2,000 dollars (1,785 euros).” (AFP via Yahoo News)

United Arab Emirates

June 29: UAE sentences Emirati woman to death for killing U.S. teacher

“A United Arab Emirates court on Monday, June 29, sentenced a UAE woman to death for the Islamist inspired killing of an American kindergarten teacher in December, the state news agency WAM said. (Reuters)

By Julia Craig Romano

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