

# **MENA Women's News Brief**

**June 30, 2015-July 14, 2015**

## **Egypt**

### **July 14: Egypt: Country of remarkable, yet jailed, women (Op-Ed by Semanur Karaman and Sara Katrine Brandt)**

“No country in the world is safe for women human rights defenders, yet Egypt is particularly dangerous for women who want to contribute to democracy and assert their presence in the public-political sphere. This article profiles a few examples of defenders who have been punished, attacked, who have experienced others attempting to silence them, and threatened for merely being socially conscious women.” ([Daily News Egypt](#))

## **Iran**

### **July 1: Zarif's Wife Adds a New Twist to the Talks**

“As this week's final nuclear talks got underway, there was one uninvited guest: Maryam Imanieh, the wife of Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif. Imanieh chairs the Iranian Association of Women Diplomats of the Foreign Ministry, which organizes charity events to raise money for disadvantaged groups in Iran and plans entertainment and tours for visiting wives of foreign diplomats living in the country. The post is routinely held by foreign ministers' wives. In the past, Zahra Rad and Zohreh Nazari, the wives of former foreign ministers Ali Akbar Salehi and Manuchehr Mottaki respectively, held similar positions in the foreign ministry.” ([Iran Wire](#))

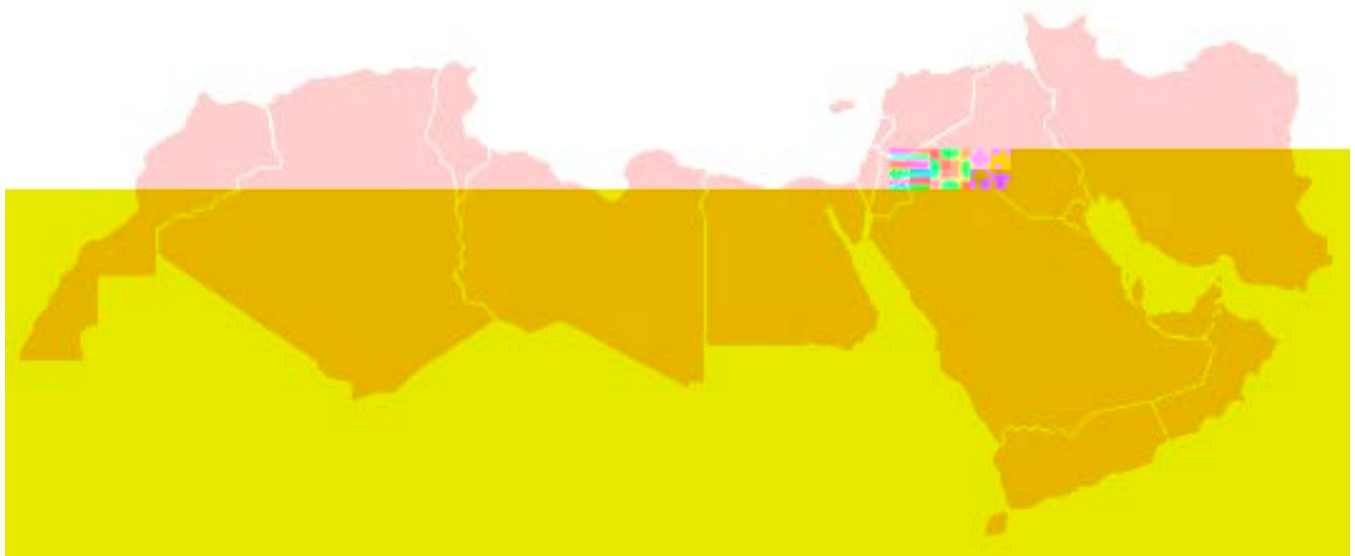
### **July 12: Women now comprise one-third of homeless**

“The Iranian president's advisor for Women and Family Affairs Shahindokht Molaverdi says one third of Iran's homeless are women. Molaverdi called on the 13 government organizations that could address the problem of homeless women to 'speed up' their efforts to remedy the situation. She added that her office is making every effort to coordinate the action of those 13 government bodies.” ([Radio Zamaneh](#))

## **Iraq**

### **July 5: The Women Who Secretly Keep ISIS Running**

“U.S. military personnel captured Umm Sayyaf during a May raid targeting her husband, who was also ISIS's chief financier who went by the nom de guerre Abu Sayyaf. Umm Sayyaf is now the top female



important element is the focus within this structure on the separate spaces for men and women.” ([Arab News](#))

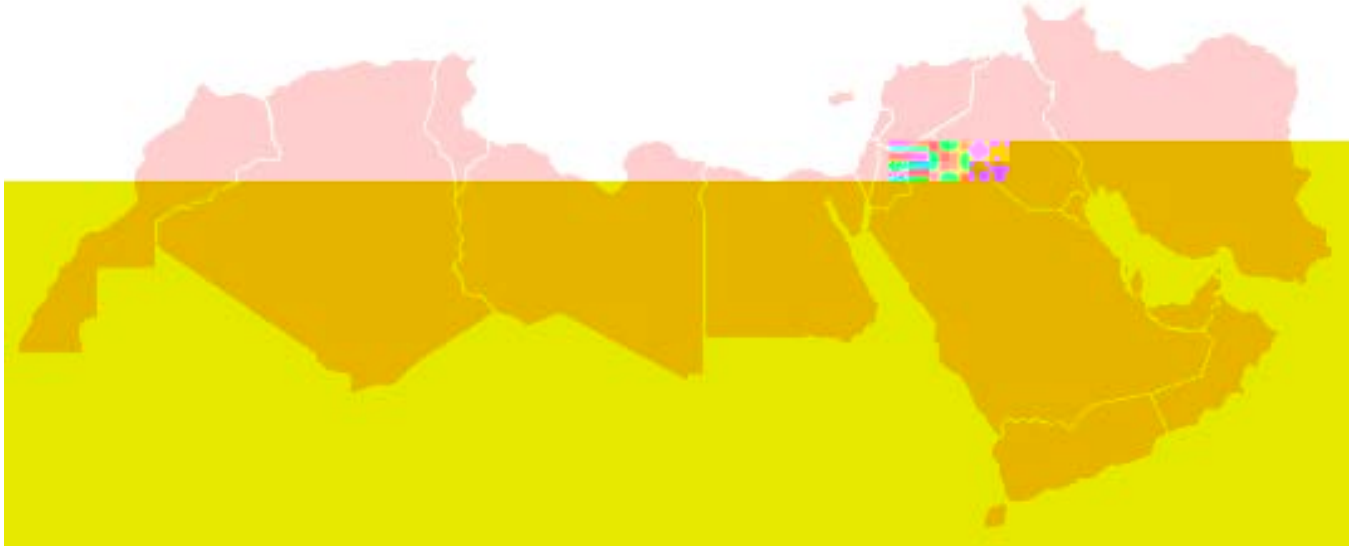
## **Syria**

### **June 30: ISIL 'beheads women for the first time in Syria'**

“The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) has beheaded two women and their husbands in eastern Syria's Deir Ezzor province, a monitoring group said. The UK-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said on Tuesday, June 30, that ISIL beheaded the couples after accusing them of using ‘magic for medicine.’ It is not known what non-traditional health remedy the two couples had sought. ‘It is the first time that the beheading of women, by the use of sword in public, has taken place in Syria,’ the Observatory's chief, Rami Abdel Rahman, told [Al Jazeera](#).” ([Al Jazeera](#))

### **July 7: Spanish Woman Arrested for Recruiting Girls, Teens for IS**

“Spanish police on Tuesday, July 7, arrested a woman suspected of recruiting pre-teen girls and teenagers to send to areas controlled by the Islamic State armed group in Syria.” (



## **United Arab Emirates**

### **July 11: Women of the UAE: A trailblazer who loves challenge**

“As far as impressive women are concerned, Dr Eman Al Jaber is right up there. The lieutenant colonel – the first woman to receive this rank – started her career as a police investigator and was the first female investigator at Abu Dhabi Police. She then became the first female instructor at the Police College before turning her hand to being a lawyer. ‘I took the theoretical approach while teaching law and now the practical as a lawyer,’ says Dr Al Jaber.” ([The National](#))

### **July 13: UAE woman executed over killing of American teacher in Abu Dhabi**

“The United Arab Emirates has executed a UAE woman convicted of terrorism after the militant-inspired killing of an American kindergarten teacher in December 2014, the state news agency WAM has reported. Ala’a Badr Abdullah al-Hashemi was also convicted of setting up a social media account to spread militant ideology with the intention of undermining the government and of giving money to militant organisations for attacks, WAM reported.” ([The Guardian](#))

## **General**

### **July 8: Breaking Through Western Media’s Monolithic Image of Female Kurdish Fighters (op-ed by Alvina Hoffman)**

“Many of the articles about these women fighters have, however, reflected distorted, Western biases about Middle Eastern women. While there is nothing wrong with standing in solidarity with the Kurds in their struggle against ISIS, it is important to critically reflect upon the monolithic and reductionist images of female Kurdish fighters found in the Western press, and the ways these depictions distort how

