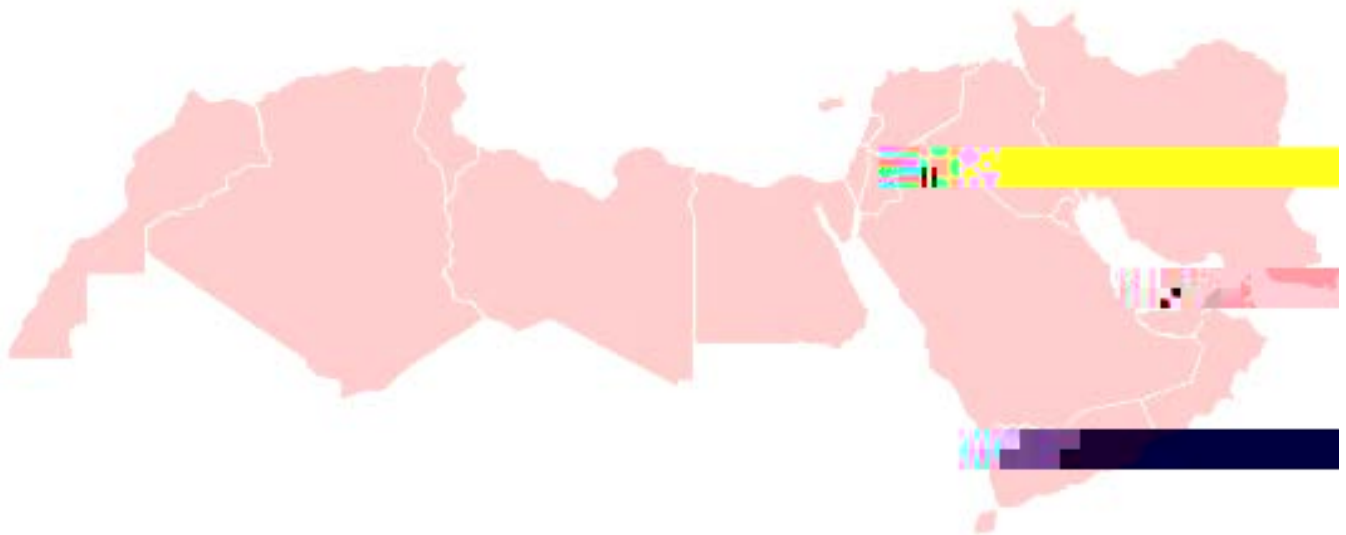


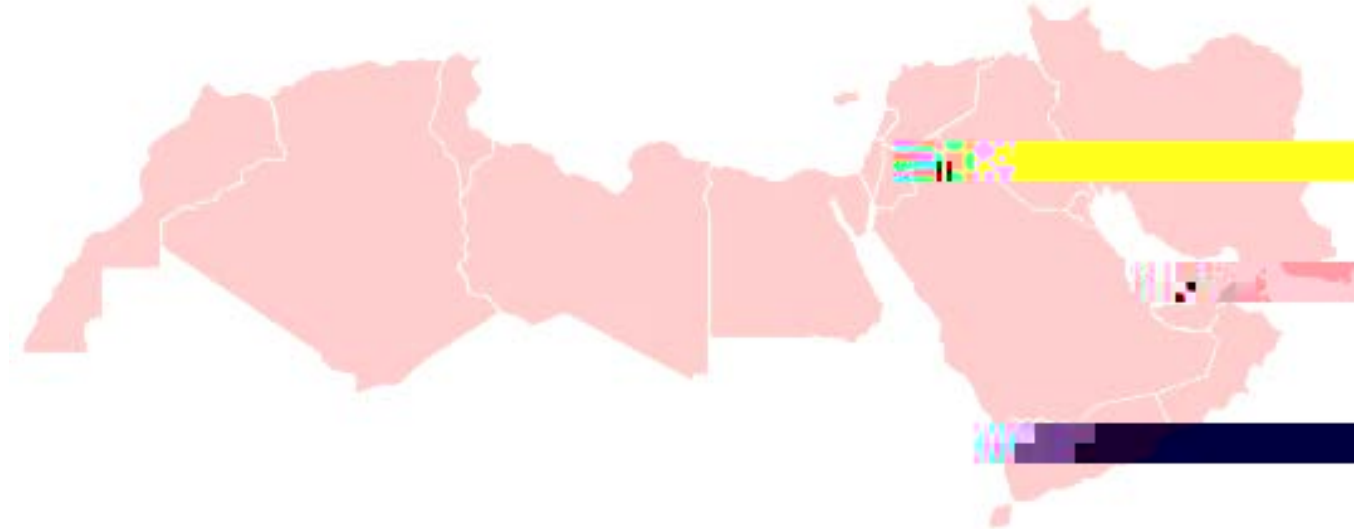
MENA Women News Brief

March 1, 2016-March 15, 2016



March 3: Tricked Into Cheating and Sentenced to Death (Op-Ed by Shirin Ebadi)

“In August 2009, I was betrayed by both my husband and my country. A few months earlier I had left Iran — for good, perhaps, though I did not know it then. The government had harassed me for years for my work as a lawyer and a human-rights activist, and the threats against me had increased in the run-up to the presidential election that June.” ([New York Times](#))



March 8: Ten Ways Israeli and Jewish Women Cracked the Glass Ceiling This Past Year

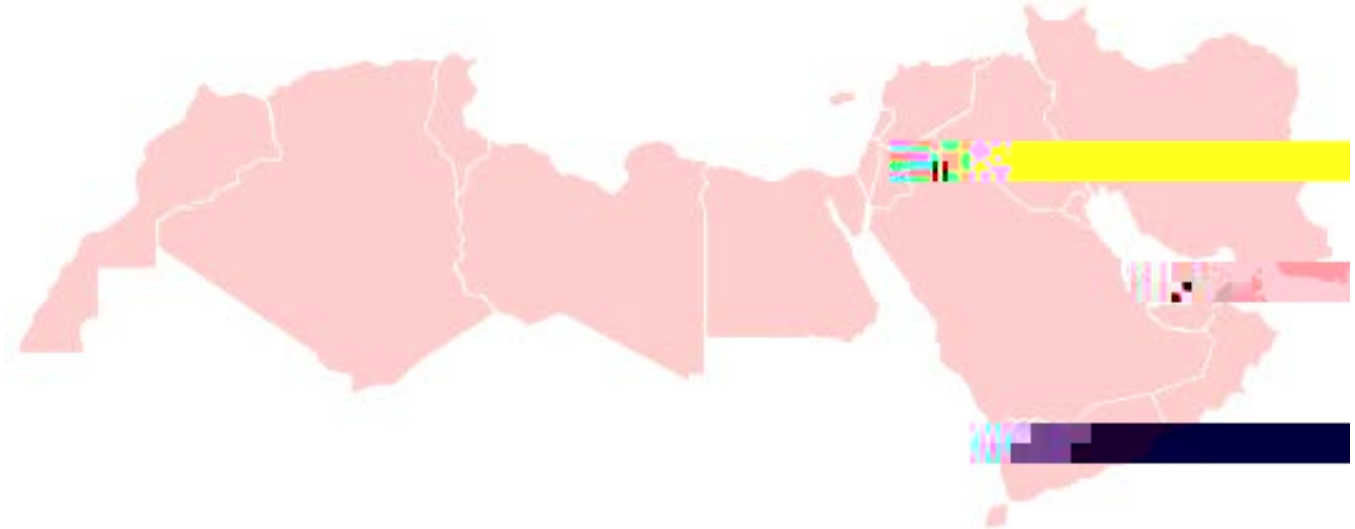
“International Women’s Day provides an opportunity to review some breakthroughs made by Israeli and Jewish women worldwide this past year. From a record number of female Knesset members, to the first Orthodox female rabbi, here are substantial reasons to celebrate International Women's Day.” ([Haaretz](#))

March 13: New combat positions for women in the IDF, same old obstacles (Op-Ed by Judah Ari Gross)

“Women have gone into Gaza and West Bank cities. Female pilots have flown over enemy countries. If a war should again break out in Lebanon, female Israeli soldiers would go there too. But there will probably never be a female commander of the storied Paratroopers Brigade or the roughneck Golani Brigade.” ([Times of Israel](#))

March 14: Is Israeli media changing its tone on sexual harassment?

“Contrary to past cases of famous Israeli figures suspected of -6(o)-n1 en5TgAome-10(y)25Tiasf -n(i)-6(o)3(r)-1(i)-



Palestinian Territories

March 8: The Speed Sisters: Palestine's first female racing team

“In the face of these obstacles, racing gives the Speed Sisters an escape from the restrictions of the occupation: ‘Being behind the wheel of a car that you can control is a great sense of freedom. Then on top of that being able to drive fast, to be able to race and the adrenalin, it’s a huge release for them,’ says Fares.” ([Middle East Monitor](#))

March 8: For Palestinian women, abortion can mean lies, jail, or worse

“For women seeking abortions in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, where Palestinian law strictly limits the procedure, the choice is stark: have the baby or terminate the pregnancy by using ruses, risky back-alley methods or even turning to neighboring Israel, where the laws are far more permissive.” ([Reuters](#))

March 13: Palestinian teacher wins \$1 million Global Teacher Prize

“A Palestinian primary school teacher who grew up in a refugee camp and educates her students about non-violence won a \$1 million prize for teaching excellence on Sunday, March 13 beating out 8,000 other applicants from around the world. Hanan al-Hroub was awarded the second annual Global Teacher Prize during a ceremony in the city of Dubai, United Arab Emirates.” ([Washington Post](#))

Qatar



Syria

March 4: Syria's Trailblazing Kurdish women (video)

“There's an extraordinary social change happening in Syria's Rojava region. Since the Syrian conflict began in 2011, the predominantly Kurdish area has revolutionized society, with the primary beneficiaries being women. There's an all-female militia, female judges alongside male, and co-leadership at all levels of public administration. How did this come about?” ([BBC](#))

March 7: Syrian women bear the burden of displacing conflict

“As the unrest in Syria enters its fifth year, the conflict ravaging the country has dealt a heavy blow to the daily lives of its citizens. Women and children are among those most vulnerable to the conflict, finding relief only in the safe havens in other countries far from the homes where they have lost their families, friends and everything they once owned.” ([Daily Sabah](#))

March 8: Syria's peace talks need more women at the table (Op-Ed by Margot Wallstrom)

“The human suffering in Syria is beyond comprehension. The only long term solution to the Syrian conflict is a political one. It is therefore of the utmost importance that the peace talks resume and continue towards tangible results.” ([The Guardian](#))

March 8: Former extremist says family and social trouble can lead young women to join ISIS

“Yasmin Mulbocus knows how difficult it is to convince young Muslim women in England that buying a plane ticket to Syria and joining ISIS is not the answer to their problems, and is not an honorable way to live their lives. She knows because 20 years ago, Mulbocus was part of an extremist group that propagated hate while making her feel included for the first time.” ([New York Times](#))

March 14: Women secretly film inside ISIS stronghold

“Two Syrian women took a hidden camera through the northern Syrian city of Raqqa to document their life under ISIS rule, knowing they faced execution should they be discovered, according to CNN Swedish affiliate Expressen TV, which commissioned the video.” ([CNN](#))

Tunisia

March 8: Has life got worse for Tunisia's women?

“Tunisia's revolution is seen by some as the only success story of the Arab Spring. But the BBC's Sally Nabil reports from the capital, Tunis, that five years on, life could be getting worse for one group - women.” ([BBC](#))

Turkey

March 1: Syrian woman gathers refugees in Turkey into women's choir to grieve, find strength

“Raja Banout was told by those around her that her idea was crazy: creating a choir of Syrian refugee women to siomen tp rttion al somas cacwcke as thi4(w)r ce(n.)JTJ -0.004 Tc 0.004.08 4.22 0 Tyz H(s)d-8(o)eva.9

March 8: Recep Tayyip Erdogan: ‘A woman is above all else a mother’

“Turkey’s president, Recep Tayyip (U G R ÷ D Q K D V V D W G K H E H O D S E H A M T K E R μ L Q D V S H H F K P D U N L Q J , Q W H U Q D W L R Q D O in R E P A S T O F V I R G I N I A \ (U G R ÷ D Turkish women to have at least three children and for railing against efforts to promote birth control as ‘treason’. Critics have accused his government of trying to impose strict Islamic values on Turkey and curtailing women’s civil liberties.” ([The Guardian](#))

March 9: Why some Turkish women are boycotting women-only taxis

“A number of women have welcomed Turkey’s first women-only cab, but many activists reject the new service as further gender segregation in public life.” ([Al Monitor](#))

March 14: How this Kurdish agency breaks news, taboos

“The journalists of Turkey’s only all-female media outlet, the Kurdish agency JINHA, challenge male dominance in both their society and their profession, braving the harsh realities of a war-torn region. The agenda is hectic with urban clashes between the security forces and Kurdish militants, military operations and round-the-clock curfews resulting in dire humanitarian fallout.” ([Al Monitor](#))

By Elena Scott-Kakures and Nishaat Shaik

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