

MENA Women's News Brief

March 10, 2015-March 24, 2015

March 11 (Op-Ed) Arab Women in the workforce: An ongoing struggle (Yara al-Wazir)
"Female participation in the workfor

March 17: Egypt honors mother who dressed aman for 43 years to provide for family

Palestinian Territories

March 19: Palestine's first female governor recounts her struggle

"When it came to explaining the secret behind her success, Laila Ghannam gave credit to her family — in particular, her father. A supportive family is necessary for the success of women, she told Al-Monitor. 'In our family, my father supported our decisions and he always used to tell us, 'Anyone who does not make mistakes will not learn.'" (Al-Monitor)

Saudi Arabia

March 18: Saudi woman sentenced to 70 lashes for allegedly insulting man on WhatsApp

"A Saudi Arabian court has sentenced a woman to 70 lashes after she allegedly insulted a man on the messaging service WhatsApp. The 32-year-old, who has not been named, admitted to insulting the man but also refuted the verdict, according to reports on GulfNews.com and other local media. (The Independent)

Syria

March 12: Chemical exposure in Syria tied to miscarriages, birth defects

"Pregnant women exposed to chemical weapons in the August 2013 attack in Syria were much more likely to miscarry or deliver prematurely, new findings show. The study also found a high rate of serious birth defects among babies whose mothers had been exposed to poison gas. (Reuters)

March 19: (Op-Ed) The Women in the Middle of the War by Manal Omar

"Stop by a women's shelter in Syria today, and the inhabitants will tell you just how bleak the future looks. After more than four years of civil war, the pervasive sexual assault that has become a blight on the country, regardless of allegiance, shows no sign of abating. As violence increases, more women are growing convinced that the end of the war is more significant than who emerges as the winner." (Foreign Policy)

March 20: Photo Essay: Syria's women commandos

"A member of a Female Commando Battalion which is part of the Syrian Army, wears her headgear in the government-controlled area of Bab, a suburb of Damascus March 19, 2015. This Battalion consists of several hundred female fighters who have had military training and carry out combat duties. Picture taken during a Syrian Army organized trip. (Reuters)

Yemen

March 18: What a Houthi-controlled Yemen means for women

"Houthis published a circular in Ja