

# MENA Women's News Brief

March 11-24, 2014

## Egypt

March 14: Egypt launches first prosecution for female genital mutilation after girl dies

"A doctor will stand trial for the first time in Egypt on charges of female genital mutilation (FGM), after a 13-year-old girl died following an alleged operation in his clinic last year. In a landmark case, Dr. Raslan Fadl is the first doctor to be prosecuted for FGM in Egypt, where the practice was banned in 2008, but is still widely accepted and carried out by many doctors in private." [\(The Guardian\)](#)

March 17: Cairo university student sexually harassed by mob on campus

"University head says incident is first ever on campus, a claim refuted by anti-harassment campaigners, who say dozens of women have been harassed at Cairo University." [Aljazeera \(Online\)](#)

March 20: AP Interview: Egyptian fights for women's equality

"A year ago, Egyptian politician and women's rights activist Mervat Tally was defied the Muslim Brotherhood to spearhead the adoption of a U.N. blueprint to combat violence against women. Now she's back campaigning against conservatives to ensure that equality for women remains at the top of the U.N. agenda." [Washington Post](#)

## Iran

March 18: Iran says woman sentenced to stoning given "leave" from prison

"An Iranian woman sentenced to die by stoning for adultery and later given a 10-year jail term instead has been allowed to leave prison, the judiciary said, in a new twist to a case that has triggered years of criticism of Iran's rights record." [Daily Star Lebanon](#)

## Israel

March 12: Plight of Jewish 'chained women' trapped in broken marriage

"In Jewish society, there are estimated to be thousands of women in broken marriages where their husbands refuse to give them the necessary religious document enabling a divorce. In some cases, the wife can remain trapped in the situation for years, unable to remarry or move." [BBC News](#)

## Lebanon

March 11: Lebanese women still face discrimination

"While Lebanese society considers itself developed — in terms of women's status and rights — compared to other societies, the truth reveals that there is a large gender pay gap in many sectors. In the industrial sector this gap hits 23%, while it is 21% in the agricultural sector, 10% in the trade sector, and nearly 38% in the transport sector and the postal and telecommunications services sector. However, the pay gap falls to 6% in the financial and brokerage services and insurance sectors. To sum up, according to the Survey of the Household Living Conditions 2007, which was issued by the Central Administration of Statistics, the gender pay gap in all sectors is 6%." [Al-Monitor](#)

### March 16: Lebanese fisherwomen fight to stay afloat

“Despite the challenges of working in a male-dominated profession, along with lawsuits aimed at evicting them from their seaside homes, Lebanon’s fisherwomen remain resilient.” [The Monitor](#)

## Libya

### March 11: ‘Libyan women should have the same rights as men’

“Samira Massoudi, the President of the Libyan Women’s Union in Tripoli, spearheaded the campaign for a women’s quota in recent elections to the Constitutional Assembly but says there are still further challenges to face in the fight for women’s rights.” [Saudi Gazette](#)

### March 19: Libyan Women Speak Up For Constitutional Rights

“During the 2011 Libyan revolution the world witnessed women from all backgrounds taking to the streets in towns and cities across the country, as well as the flourishing of thousands of women-led non-governmental organizations (NGOs). However, the armed clashes between rival militias, crime and kidnappings, bombings and assassinations that have become almost routine in post-revolution Libya, territory, women have been forced to take a step backward.” [Independent European Daily Press](#)

## Morocco

### March 16: Gender Inequality in Morocco Continues, Despite Amendments to Family Law

“A decade ago, Morocco adopted a family code hailed by women’s rights groups as a big step forward. Three years ago, the country passed a new constitution guaranteeing gender equality. Even so, Moroccan women say that equality is still a long way off, and much of the old order remains untouched, including the inheritance law section of the family code. That law, laid down in the Quran, states that male relatives receive double the inheritance of women.” [NY Times](#)

## Oman

### March 16: Women play greater role in Oman public and private sector

“Statistics show that women’s numbers in the public sector has jumped from 29,218 in 2003 to 68,200 in 2012. In the private sector 35,248 women were employed in 2012 against 13,383 in 2003.” [Middle East Online](#)

### March 23: Oman's Dr. Fawzia elected to top InterParliamentary Union post

“Dr Fawzia Al Farsiyah was elected as the deputy chair of the Coordination Committee of Women Parliamentarians in the InterParliamentary Union (IPU) in Geneva.” [Times of Oman](#)

## Palestinian Territories

### March 12: Palestinian activists press Abbas to outlaw honor crimes

“Palestinian women marked International Women’s Day with a protest in front of the presidential headquarters in Ramallah. They also presented a memorandum to President Mahmoud Abbas calling for the adoption of a law that would outlaw honor crimes.” [Middle East Online](#)

the marginalization of the development role of women in a country is one of the most important impediments to progress. (Gulf News)



expected that a nurseries bill that is about to be passed to the FNC would actually force Government bodies to open crèches.[The Nation](#)

