

MENA Women News Brief

March 15-March 29, 2017

Algeria

March 27: Women in Algeria face 'financial blackmail' as a result of earning an income

"More and more Algerian women are challenging traditional norms by getting jobs, but many see their salaries confiscated by their husbands despite a law against the practice." (Al Bawaba)

Egypt

March 19: Cairo film festival seeks to empower female filmmakers

"An international women's film festival was held in Cairo this month to highlight cinematic work by female filmmakers, empower them and promote their presence and role in the film industry. " (Al Monitor)

March 22: Full women crews pilot two EgyptAir planes in celebration of Egypt's Women's Day

"Egypt's Minister of Civil Aviation Sherif Fathi witnessed the take-off of two EgyptAir planes for the first time fully piloted by women crew members in celebration of the country's Women's Day." (Ahram Online)

March 22: Are women the solution to Egypt's economic problems?

"Efforts and programs calling for the empowerment of women at all levels, especially the economic level, have become an important part of the statements and plans of international organizations and Egyptian institutions." (Al Monitor)

March 27:

"Female Kurdish fighters, who represent less than 1 percent of the roughly 200,000 peshmerga forces, have become the bankable icon of the fight against the Islamic State. But beyond the illusions of a land that supports women's rights, the reality in Iraqi Kurdistan is much less glamorous." (Al Monitor)

March 22: Power, corruption and lies: Iraqi women battle for recognition

"They have one of the best addresses in Baghdad and some of the worst accommodation. An unimpeded view of the slow-moving waters of the Tigris is little compensation for the misery of some 6,000 refugee families from Fallujah who live on the corniche in the northern suburb of Adamiyah." (Middle East Eye)

March 26: Why one Iraqi female MP is calling for law to encourage polygamy

"Iraqi parliamentarian Jamila al-Obeidi called on Sunday, March 12 for a bill that would offer financial support to men who take on more than one wife. She said the measure would be one way to tackle the social problems facing widows and divorced women in Iraq." (Al Monitor)

Lebanon

March 25: Lebanese penal law allows rapists to walk free

"A controversial law protecting rapists in Lebanon is expected to be reconsidered in parliament this week. Article 522 in Lebanese penal law allows men who rape women to avoid prosecution if they marry their victims. The law can also suspend any conviction for a person who has committed rape, kidnapping, or statutory rape. The only stipulation is marrying the victim." (Lebanese Examiner)

March 25: Lebanese women wage painful custody battles

"Every week, young divorcee Rita Choukeir looks forward to the three precious hours she gets with her young son in Lebanon, where child custody is awarded according to religious rulings." (Gulf Times)

March 27: Lebanon: demonstrators call for equal citizenship rights for women

"Scores of people from across Lebanon convened at Ain Al-Mreisse's corniche Sunday, March 26 to protest a law which prevents Lebanese women from passing their nationality to family members." (Al Bawaba)

Libya

March 23: Women and Tribal Leaders Call for "Balanced" Libyan Peace Process

"A delegation of Libyan tribal leaders and women leaders has called on the UN to take a balanced approach to the Libyan peace process. The delegation from the National Movement for Libya (NML) met with UN officials and U.S. government representatives while visiting New York and Washington D.C. to discuss the UN-led peace process in Libya." (IPS)

Morocco

March 15: Moroccan and Spanish Officials Meet to Implement New Family and Women Program

"A Moroccan delegation of Human Rights Council members from Azghenghan traveled to Roquetas de Mar, Spain to learn about women and family training projects that could be implemented in Morocco." (Morocco World News)

March 20: World Bank Organization Launches Morocco's "EmpowerHer" Hackathon

"The World Bank Organization (WBO) launched its EmpowerHer Hackathon initiative for Morocco on March 18, at Technopark in Casablanca. The EmpowerHer Hackathon, already established in other

“In what was termed by many as a revolutionary move, Qatar Youth Hostel (QYH) created a platform for women across Qatar to get inspired to reach heights, with the valuable tips of successful women, through an event titled ‘First Women’s Forum.’ ” (The Peninsula)

Saudi Arabia

March 20: MULVIHILL: Give Saudi women a seat at the table

“Saudi Arabian leaders made headlines last week when they launched the nation’s first Girls Council in Qassim province. When photos of the event were released, Internet users were quick to point out that the photo of the launch of the Qassim Girls Council contained no girls or women.

“In Yemen, discrimination and violence against women are endemic and have destructive consequences. Women’s rights are regularly bounded due to Yemeni tribal practices and a deaf legislature. Yemeni customs have classified women as a low rank in society and made them an easy target for discrimination. ”