

MENA Women's News Brief

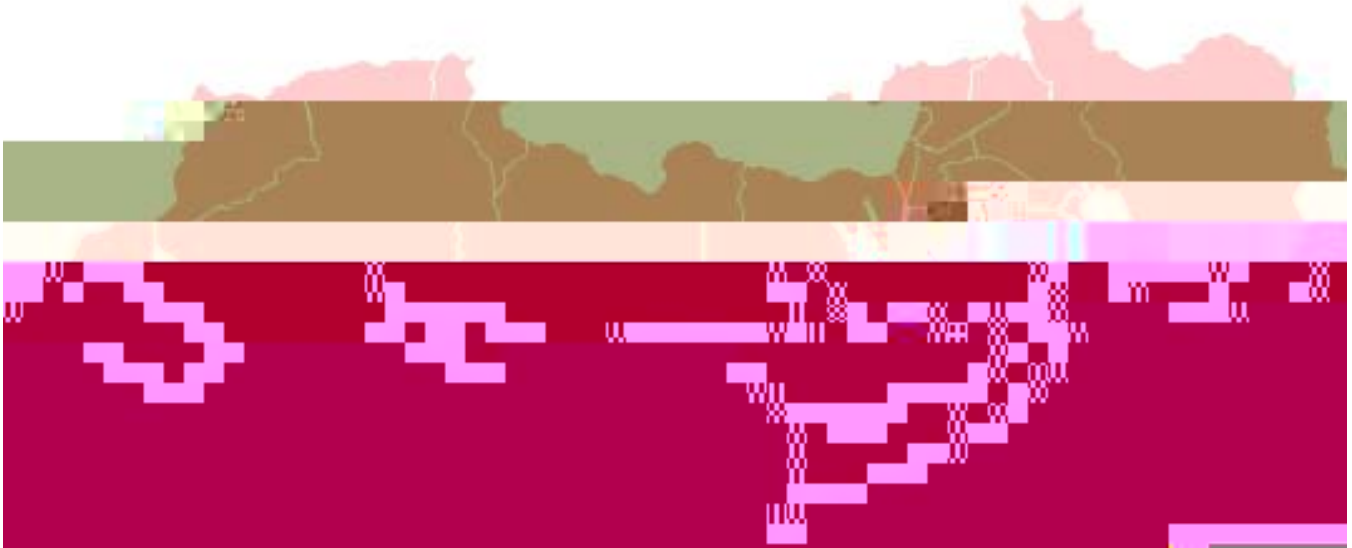
March 24, 2015-April 7, 2015

April 1: Istanbul authorities kill a bomb-wielding woman near police HQ

“In a second evening of violence in Istanbul, police on Wednesday, April 1 killed a woman carrying a bomb near the city's main police headquarters, a Turkish official said. Istanbul Governor Vasip Şahin also said that a second person escaped and that a policeman was slightly injured. It wasn't immediately clear who was behind the attack.” ([Al Jazeera America](#))

April 2: Two Women Arrested in New York for ISIS-Inspired Terror Plot

“Two women and self-declared citizens of the Islamic State’ were arrested Thursday, April 2 in connection to a plot to detonate



April 6: Fatima: Voices of Civil Society in Iraq (Video)

“Fatima tells the story of Fatima Al Bahadly, an Iraqi activist who provides alternatives to a challenging reality in the southern city of Basra. Despite numerous death threats, she is determined to work with



Israel

April 6: Israel to detain female Palestinian lawmaker for 6 months

“The Israeli military has placed a female Palestinian legislator under detention for six months without trial, a lawyer for the lawmaker said Monday, April 6. Khalida Jarrar, a senior political leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a left-wing Palestinian militant group, is being held for alleged activities in a hostile organization, lawyer Mahmoud Hassan said.” ([Washington Post](#))

Kuwait

April 2: Women from Sierra Leone 'sold like slaves' into domestic work in Kuwait

“Women from Sierra Leone formerly employed as domestic workers in private Kuwaiti households said they had been ‘sold like slaves’ by recruitment agents to families in the Kuwaiti capital and then resold multiple times. Each said that they had paid about \$1,480 to recruitment agents in Sierra Leone on the promise of jobs as nurses in hospitals or in the hotel industry, only to find on arrival that they were to be offered to families as housemaids and expected to work for up to 22 hours a day.” ([The Guardian](#))

Libya

April 2: Female Parliamentarians Urge Washington To Return Attention To Libya

“Several female members of Libya's Parliament visited Washington, D.C. recently. They were here to draw attention to the erosion of women's rights in their home country. When revolution swept across Libya in 2011, many women were among those pushing for change. The United States was there, too. It led bombing raids that helped topple Libya's longtime ruler. But as NPR's Michele Kelemen reports, the female parliamentarians say that now Washington has turned away.” ([NPR](#))

Morocco

March 31: Morocco confronts abortion taboo with proposed reform

“An estimated 600 to 800 abortions are performed every day in Morocco, where the operation is illegal except in cases of threat to the mother's health. Although the procedure is widely practiced underground, the subject has long been taboo. Years of activism, however, have culminated this month in a new official move to reform the law to stem the tide of illegal abortions by making operations more accessible.” ([Daily Star Lebanon](#))

Palestinian Territories

March 24: Growing mushrooms in Gaza

“Growing mushrooms is one of the very few options women in Gaza have to face poverty and unemployment that has been prevalent ever since the imposition of the Israeli siege on Gaza in 2007. Doing such work to earn a living does not require much capital, and the production cycle is short, which contributes to a faster profit, according to economic expert Samir Hamattu. In addition, mushrooms are easy to plant and sell.” ([Al-Monitor](#))

Syria

March 25: Syria's women are part of the battles against rebels (Photos)

“They are known as the Commandos Battalion for Females, part of the Syrian Republican Guards. The battalion, which was created nearly a year ago, consists of 800 female soldiers who are positioned in the suburbs of the Syrian capital. The battalion monitors and secures the front lines with snipers, rockets and machine guns.” ([Washington Post](#))

March 29: With men out of work, Syrian women become sole providers

“Four years into the Syrian conflict, Jordan has become host to more than 620,000 refugees, of whom almost 80 percent are women and children. Single women head one in four of all Syrian refugee households. Many suffer psychological trauma, social marginalization, ongoing gender-based violence and little access to protection or information. Those who survive do so one day at a time, relying on female social networks for support. Women must reach out to one another, they say, because no one can survive this crisis alone.” ([Al-Monitor](#))

April 6: Syrian Islamists exchange 25 women and children prisoners for commander

“Islamist militants and fighters loyal to the Syrian government have made a rare prisoner swap, with insurgents releasing 25 women and children in exchange for one of their commanders the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said on Monday, April 6.” ([Reuters](#))

Tunisia

March 30: Rural women in Tunisia: ‘We have been silent for too long’

