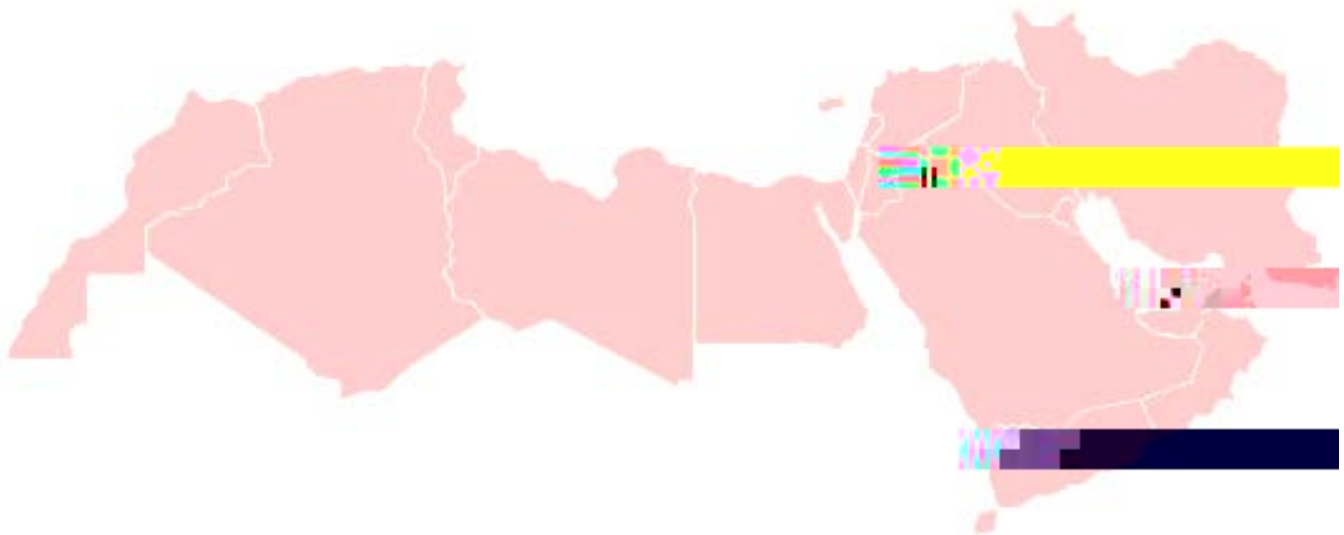


MENA Women's News Brief

March 25-April 7, 2014



March 30: Gingerly, Iran begins to rock out

"Iranian musicians break new ground with women singing on stage and a playlist of Western pop songs sung in English during performances of 'The Last Days of March' in Tehran, Iran. Musicians and actors say that Iran's culture space has opened up noticeably under the centrist President Hassan Rouhani, who was elected last year. [Christian Science Monitor](#)

April 3: Roya Saberi Negad Nobakht Held In Iran For 'Insulting Islam' On Facebook

"Concerns are growing for a British woman imprisoned in Iran after her husband said he feared she was facing execution.. She has been charged with insulting Islamic sanctities a crime that can carry the death penalty, and is being held in the notoriously harsh Evin prison in Tehran. [Iran Telegraph](#)

April 6: Iran's budget setback for women's issues

"A proposed amendment that offered homemakers without a job outside the house health insurance has been omitted in Iran's budget this year. [Al-Monitor](#)

April 7: The rising price of love in Iran

"The rising financial cost of marriage of which *jahaziye* is just one component have caused many young couples to forgo the affair altogether. A 2009 study by the Research Group for Social Ills at Shahid Beheshti University revealed that staggering financial requirements have contributed to a 70% decline in young Iranians' desire to wed. [The Guardian](#)

Israel

March 31: Survey: 42% of employers prefer not to hire Arab men [and 22% prefer not to hire Arab women]

"The poll, which was conducted by the [Israeli] ministry's Equal Employment Opportunities Commission and surveyed 500 people, found that 37% of all employers preferred not hire Haredi men and that 22% felt the same about educated Arab women. [Haaretz](#)

Jordan

April 1: Amman conference focuses on women in conflict zones

"A regional conference aiming to address social and women's issues in conflict areas kick started Tuesday in [in-6(r)3(e)4755.33 0 n(t)-2(22%)3(f)3(e)4(l)2(ng)10(t)-2(o a)4(ddd)3(q28e)4(do 0 Tdp2 r 0 s

April 1: Parliament passes domestic violence law amid controversy

The Lebanese Parliament Tuesday approved a long awaited draft law aimed at protecting women from domestic violence as it tackled several other controversial pieces of legislation amid protests by several groups." [Daily Star Lebanon](#)

April 3: Study says women face long battle for equality in Lebanon

"Lebanon has a long and tough path ahead to ensure gender equality, or even basic legal protection for women, according to a comprehensive study on the situation in the country released Wednesday." ([Star Lebanon](#))

Kuwait

March 27: Kuwait minister in a spot over 'males only' ad

"Kuwait's justice minister has been given one week to pull out a newspaper advertisement to recruit only men for a position within the ministry if he wanted to avoid being questioned." [Gulf News](#)

March 30: Woman MP pledges to quiz justice minister

"A female Kuwaiti lawmaker has vowed to question the justice minister about a decision not to hire



March 31: Calls for more women in Saudi Cabinet

"A high-profile member of Saudi's Shura council has spoken out in favor of more women in Cabinet after Nora bint Abdullah Al Fayez was appointed the country's first deputy education minister, it was reported." [Arabian Business](#)

April 4: Women quit jobs over low wages

"About 42 percent of Saudi women working at female accessory shops in the Kingdom have abandoned their jobs because of low wages, according to labor expert." [Arab News](#)

Syria

March 26: Mobile women's clinic heads to Syria

"A mobile rapid deployment women's clinic is heading to Dara'a in Syria to care for female patients and victims of sexual violence, a visiting emergency response official said." [Gulf News](#)

March 31: Syria's Female Refugee Soccer Stars

"At the Zaatari refugee camp, where families try to piece their lives together after fleeing Syria's civil war, a group of young women are showing that soccer may be the key to bridging violent divides." [Daily Beast](#)

April 4: Syrian survivors give voice to the nation's victims

"Every four minutes a Syrian person is detained. Every ten minutes a Syrian person goes missing. Every 13 minutes a Syrian person is wounded. Every 15 minutes a Syrian person is killed, Rania Kisar, founder of the Syrian Women's Revolution Committee, told the 5th annual Women in the World Summit at the opening panel discussion." [The Daily Beast](#)

UAE

March 25: UAE foreign aid policy to include women empowerment

"Shaikha Lubna Al Qasimi, UAE Minister of International Cooperation and Development said 'critically important'

Muthanna will report to Nabil Habayeb, GE's president and CEO for the Middle East, North Africa and Turkey." ([Gulf Business](#))

April 2: Career women in the Gulf: Changing perceptions and experiences

"Between 2011 to 2013 Cambridge Overseas Trust scholar, Mona Hamade, was given unprecedented access to two national banks in the UAE to conduct research for her Ph.D. on 'Gender and Emiratization in the Workforce of the UAE'. The three year doctoral project focused on national, regional and international labor market settings, with a particular focus on issues related to the promotion of gender equality and diversity within organizations." ([Arab News](#))

April 7: Women put the fire into firefighting

"Since the induction of the first 24 female officers into Abu Dhabi police on April 22, 1978, the number of women on the force has grown to 3,000. There are no training programs for women who want to become firefighters but this could change in the not so distant future." ([The National](#))

Yemen

April 1: Women painters fight unemployment, challenge gender stereotypes

"The 3x6 initiative has introduced painting as a way for youth to generate income. The project considers economic empowerment, particularly for women, to be a vital part of the country's economic recovery." ([Yemen Times](#))



By Samaa Ahmed



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