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Iran

May 12: She Won a Seat in Iran’s Parliament, but Hard-Liners Had Other Plans

“Minoo Khaleghi easily won a seat in the Iranian Parliament in February, part of a wave of inde



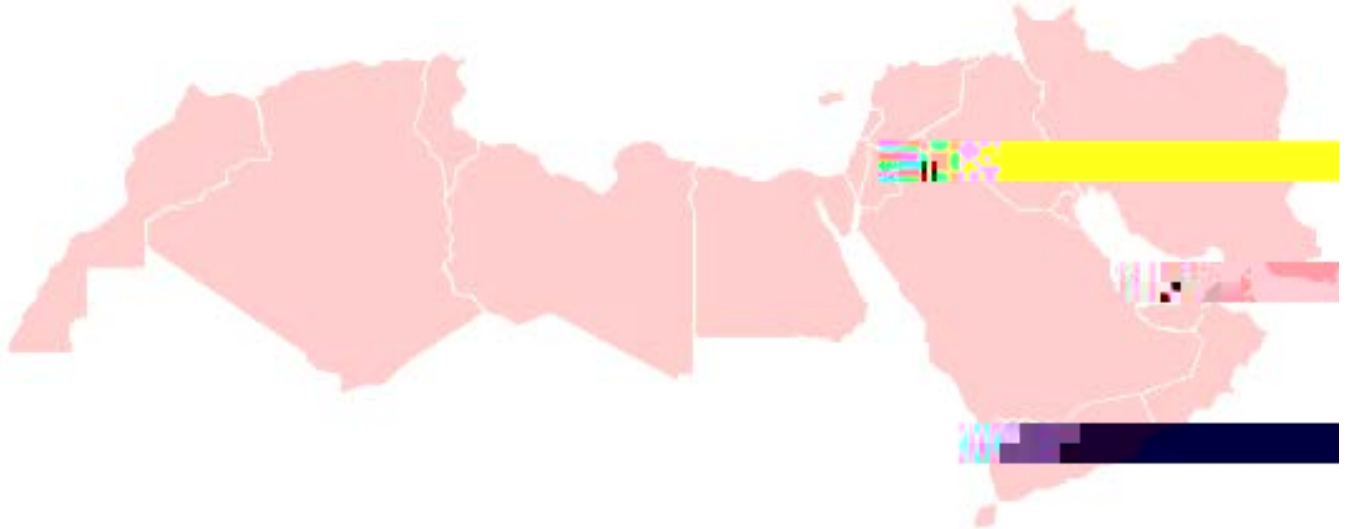
policies. Currently, Iran is facing changes in maternal age pattern, having a growth to over 30s, said Molaverdi, adding that 40 percent of births in the first 9 months of the previous Iranian calendar year 1394 (started March 2015) has been related to mothers over 30.” ([Tehran Times](#))

Iraq

May 11: Yazidi women tell their stories through photography

“In August 2014, Khawla was one of over 400,000 Yazidis who fled their homes as Islamic State swept through northern Iraq... Khawla managed to escape to a refugee camp near Duhok in northern Iraq’s Kurdistan region. After spending her first few months in the camp trying to finish her final year of studies”





May 16: The women risking it all to flee Syria for a new start in Europe

“Maha is a 28-year-old doctor from Raqqa with a bright smile and a dark story of life in Syria. Travelling on her own to escape her home city, which is now so-called Islamic State's (IS) capital, she crawled through mud along the Turkish border to make it to safety. ‘Death was my companion at every step,’ she told me at the Kara Tepe camp on the Greek island of Lesbos.” [\(BBC\)](#)

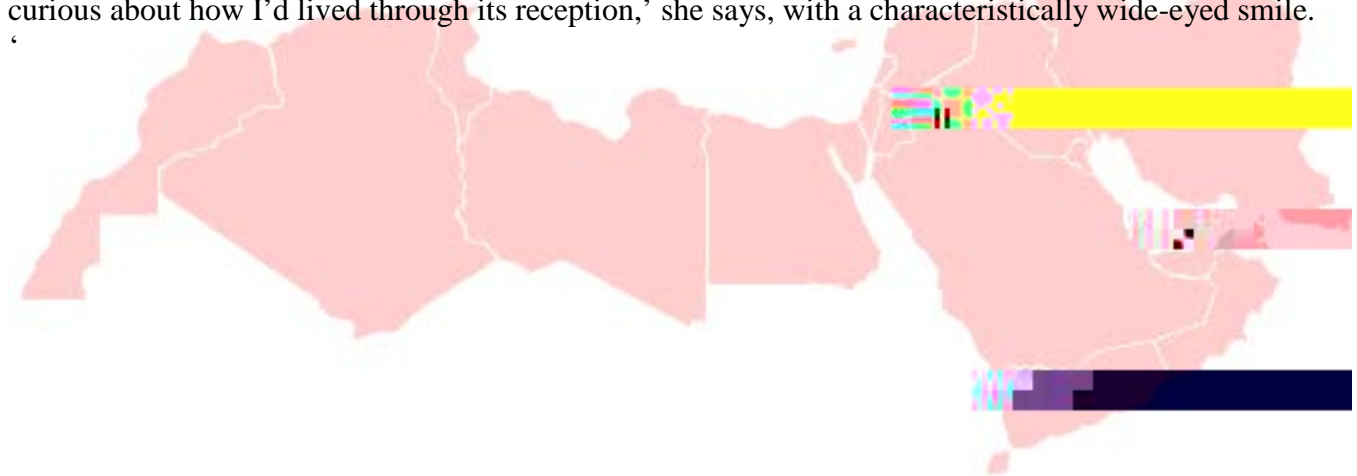
May 19: Syrian Women Are Disclosing Domestic Abuse Regularly: Agency

“The Syrian man showed up at the Arab Community Centre of Toronto after 10 days in jail. He told refugee settlement workers he'd come home to find his wife and two children missing. He thought she'd just taken them to school and so waited until the end of the day. But when they didn't return, he went to the police, where he was promptly arrested: his wife had accused him of abuse... On average, at least one Syrian woman a week is disclosing to them they are a victim of domestic violence.” [\(Huffington Post Canada\)](#)

Turkey

May 15: Deniz Gamze Ergüven: ‘For women in Turkey it’s like the middle ages’

“Not too long after the film ‘Mustang’ was released in Turkey last October, its director and co-writer, Deniz Gamze Ergüven, was interviewed by the Nobel prize-winning writer Orhan Pamuk. ‘He was curious about how I’d lived through its reception,’ she says, with a characteristically wide-eyed smile.



company, and function actually earn 2 percent more than their male counterparts. In 2014, 13 percent of the women participate in the workforce in the UAE, according to the report.” ([Khaleej Times](#))

Yemen

May 16: For lasting peace in Yemen, bring women to the table (Op-Ed by Rasha Jarhum)

“For a decade now, Yemen has held the last position in the Gender Gap Index. This index shows that Yemen has the widest gap in gender equality among other countries across the continent. This poor performance is reflected in our high rates of maternal mortality and lack of educational opportunities for women, but this underdevelopment has been exacerbated by a lack of women political participation. In this moment of unrest in my country, we are at a crossroads. We must include women in the peace talks or risk perpetuating the poverty, inequality, and violence that have caused havoc in our country for years.” ([The London School of Economics Middle East Centre Blog](#))

By Elena Scott-

