

# MENA Women s News Brief

May 19, 2015 June 2, 2015

## Egypt

### May 27: Egypt sees drop in female genital mutilation

The occurrence of female genital mutilation (FGM) in Egypt has decreased by 13 percent since the population of girls aged 15 years old, according to the Egypt Demographic Health Survey of 2014. ([Al Arabiya](#))

### May 29: Acquittal of Ms. Azza Soliman

Azza Soliman, human rights lawyer and founder of the Centre for Egyptian Women Legal Aid (CEWLA) has been acquitted of charges of unauthorised protesting and breach of security and public order. Ms. Soliman was charged after she went to the police to provide a testimony on the violence and repression by the police of a protest commemorating the January 25 Revolution, which led to the death of Ms. Shaimaa El Sabbagh, political activist and rights defender. ([FIDH](#))

## Iran

May 25: Video: [Iran against the killing of Yemeni people in Saudi airstrikes. Protesters held banners against the Saudi government and its allies. They call on the UN to take concrete measures to stop the bloodshed in Yemen.](#) ([Press TV](#))

### May 26: Shirin Neshat: Facing History Review

The Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden is having a distinctly historic moment. In the first with Facing History in the title, the new solo show dedicated to Shirin Neshat, the renowned Iran-born female artist, is riddled with history: hers and ours, as it were, when the U.S. and Iran are locked in delicate, potentially [opening](#) negotiations over nuclear power.

surgery people would take a break from work or go on a trip, and would only return when the of the surgery was no longer visible. Gradually, this attitude changed and most people any problem with demonstrating that they have gone through [Alphocedor](#).

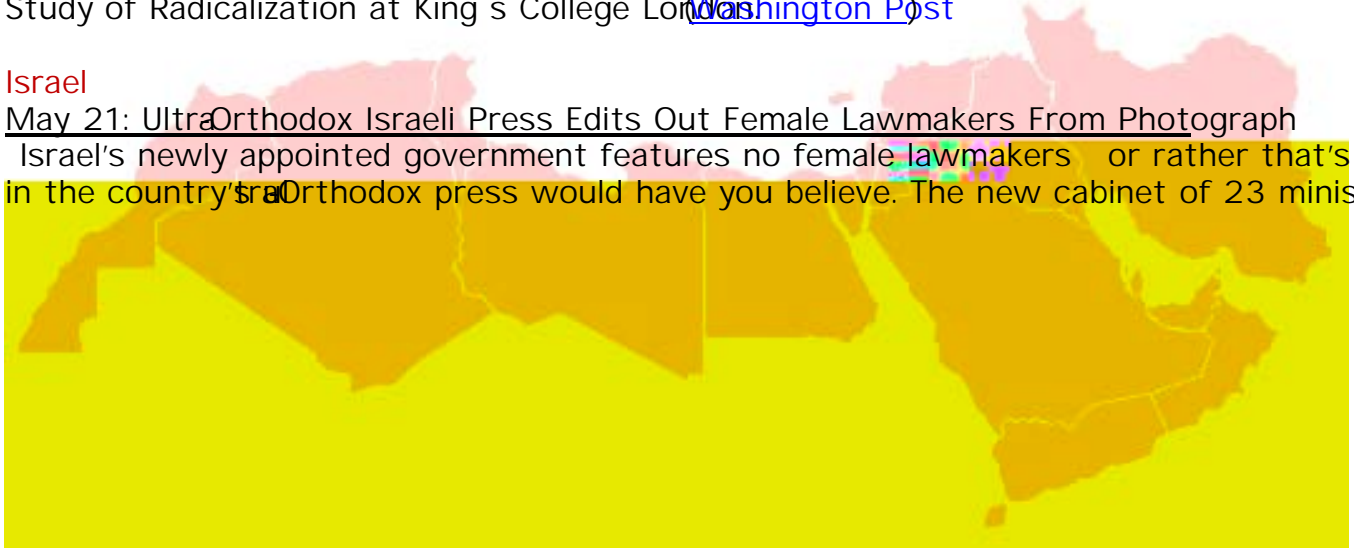
June 1: Iranian artist Farghadani, who drew parliament as animals, sentenced to 12 years  
AtenaFarghadani28yearold Iranian artist and activist, has been sentenced to 12 years and nine months in an Iranian prison, according to the International Campaign for Human Rights and the Northern Virginia-based Cartoonists Rights Network International (CRNI). His crimes include insulting members of parliament through paintings and spreading propaganda against the system, according to Amnesty International. [Washington Post](#)

### Iraq

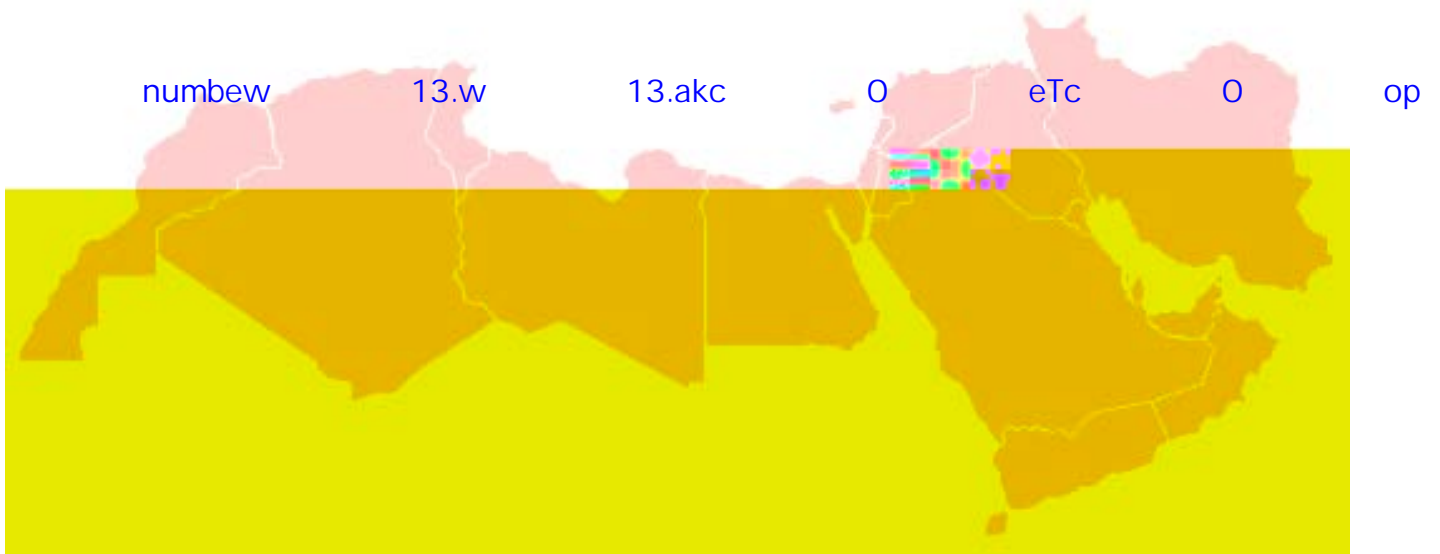
May 28: Report: Western women are attracted to Islamic State for complex reasons  
Western women in the Islamic State are playing a crucial role in disseminating propaganda and simply flocking to the region to be brides, according to a new British research report published Thursday May 28 by the Institute for Strategic Dialogue and the International Center for Study of Radicalization at King's College London. [Washington Post](#)

### Israel

May 21: UltraOrthodox Israeli Press Edits Out Female Lawmakers From Photograph  
Israel's newly appointed government features no female lawmakers or rather that's what ph in the country's Orthodox press would have you believe. The new cabinet of 23 ministers, headed



May 27: This artist mapped the strange phenomenon of women dying on Saudi Arabian highways  
In 2009, Saudi Arabia was named the most dangerous place in the world to drive by the World  
Organization. And even though there is a ban on women driving in the country, a disproportionate  
number of the road fatalities are female. Last year, Saudi Arabia's highest rate  
artist Manal Dewayan created Crash (2014), a visualization of the ongoing tragedy told through  
data. (Quartz)



## General

May 20: Op-Ed: Islam v feminism? (Huda Jawad, communities and equalities activist)

I watch with a mix of utter fascination and revulsion at the apparently continuous trickle of young women from Britain making the journey to ISIS-controlled territory in Iraq and Syria. Why would intelligent, seemingly well integrated daughters with bright futures ahead of them, enjoying the freedoms granted by modern democracy, want to travel back in time to the darkest of dark ages?

[BBC Magazine](#)

May 26: French Muslims Say Veil Bans Give Cover to Bias

More than 10 years after France passed its first laws restricting young girls from wearing veils in public schools, the head coverings of observant Muslim women, from colorful silk scarves to black chadors, have become one of the most potent flash points in the nation's tense relations with its and growing Muslim population. [The New York Times](#)

May 26: The World's 100 Most Powerful Women List

Three women from the Middle East were cited on Forbes Magazine's 2015 World's Most Powerful Women List. Sheikha Lubna Al Qasimi, Minister of International Affairs in the United Arab Emirates.

