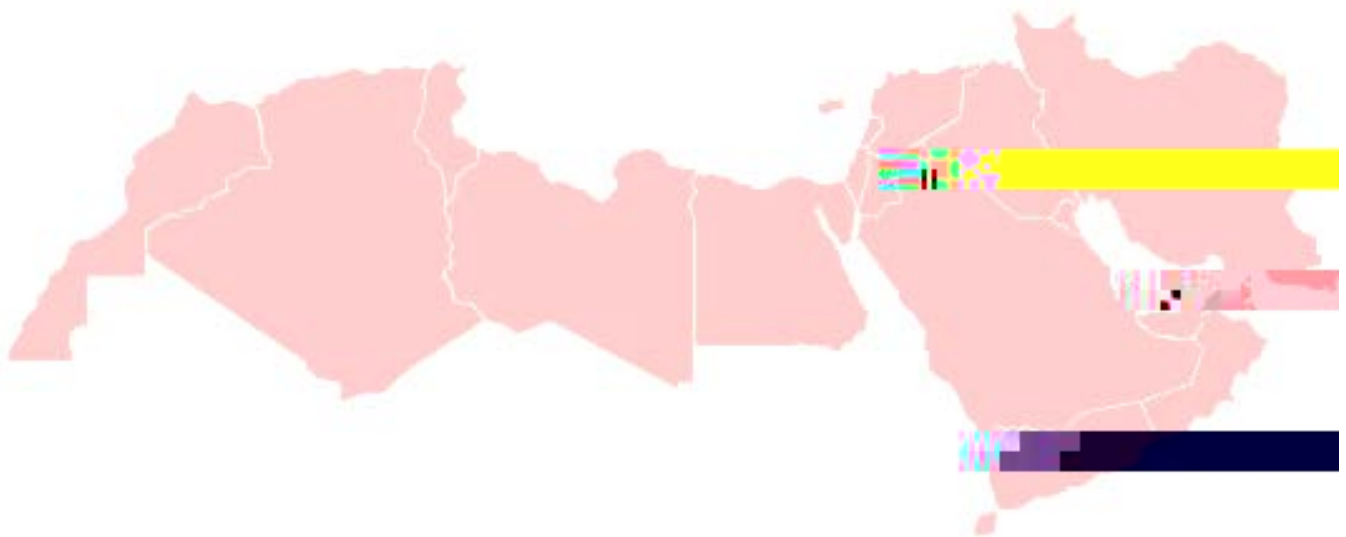


MENA Women's News Brief

May 20-June 2, 2014



Iraq

May 19: 22 women win in the elections without the need for quota

“The Electoral Commission in Iraq announced 22 woman candidates win in the legislative elections without the need to share the quota” in the 328-seat Council of Representatives. ([Independent Press Agency](#))

Iran

May 26: Women in Iran's factories face hardship, discrimination

“Female factory workers in Iran face many challenges in the workplace, and recent laws encouraging reproduction have made their situations even more difficult.” ([Al-Monitor](#))

May 28: Iranian Women's Magazine Zanan Makes Comeback

“Shahla Sherkat, the award-winning journalist and one of the pioneers of the women's rights movement in Iran, is re-launching on May 29 her feminist magazine shut down by hardliners in 2008 after 16 years in operation. The magazine will reopen under the banner Zanan-e Emruz or ‘Today's Women,’ available in print and online.” ([Thomson Reuters](#))

May 30: Government losing control over veiling, says Khamenei adviser

“Gholam-Ali Haddad-Adel, also a member of the Iranian Parliament, believes that the government needs a united front to address the issue of veiling and recommended subsidies for factories that produce veils.” ([Al-Monitor](#))

May 30: Iran's baby boom decree prompts fears for women's rights

“Iran's supreme leader has called for a population increase in an edict likely to restrict access to contraception that critics fear could damage women's rights and public health.” ([The Guardian](#))

Israel

June 2: Arab-Israeli olive oil business promotes peace and cultural understanding

“Sindyanna of Galilee, a female-led fair trade association, is working to encourage understanding between Arabs and Jews in Israel by selling local producers' olive oil worldwide and investing 100% of the profits in educating women, bridging cultural divides and promoting organic farming.” ([The Guardian](#))

Jordan

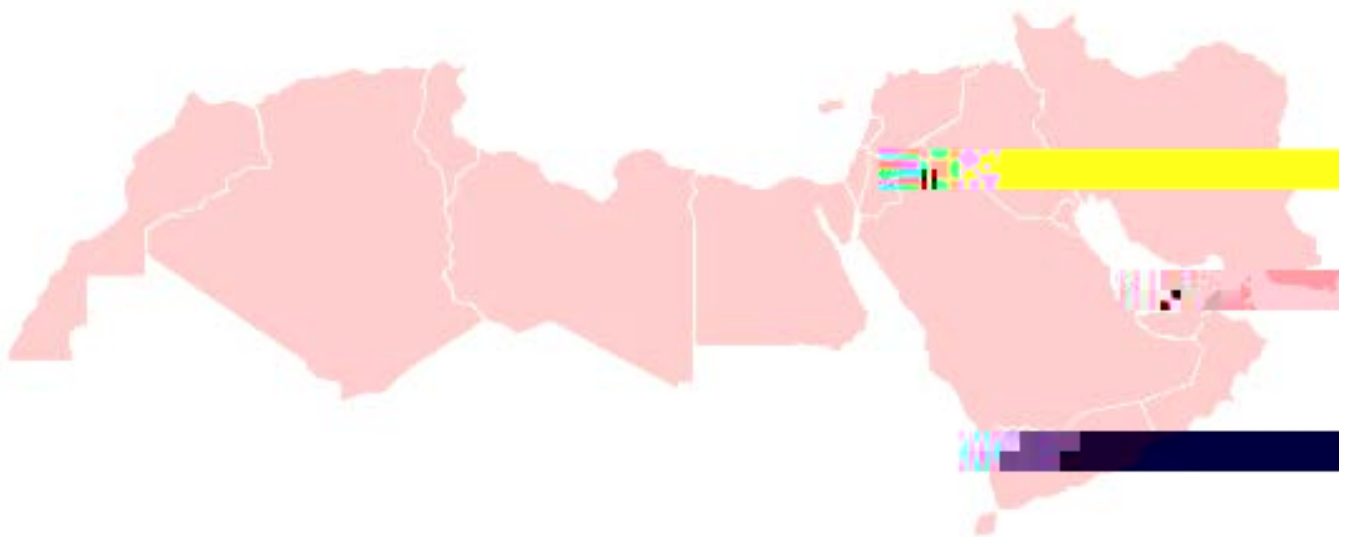
May 23: Jordanian women raise academic bar

“According to UNESCO, overall enrolment of women in Jordanian universities stands at 52% compared to 48% for their male counterparts. The gross enrolment ratio – total enrolment in a specific level of education, regardless of age, expressed as a percentage of the eligible official school-age group for the level or cycle concerned in a given school year – is currently at 41% for women against the men’s 35%.” ([University World News](#))

Morocco

May 28: Western Sahara: Women Together Denounces Moroccan Violations Against Saharawi Women

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UAE

May 20: Women in Leadership (WIL) Economic Forum to highlight gender parity in business

“The forum, which will attract 300 participants, will focus on gender parity in business and the corporate world, and developing economies through the participation of female entrepreneurs... In the Middle East and North Africa, where 95 per cent of private enterprises are small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), 2.5 per cent of women are entrepreneurs.” ([Gulf News](#))

May 26: Eight Emirati women on ‘Top Arab Women’ list

“Eight women from the UAE find their place on the list of top 50 Arab Women of 2014 in a survey conducted by Sayidaty magazine.” ([Emirates 24/7](#))

May 30: UAE supports women in education

“The UAE’s support for women in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) was discussed at a meeting of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women.” ([Gulf News](#))

May 31: Majida Ali Rashid Wins Emirates Women Award

“Assistant Director General of Land Department collects honour for strategic and financial planning.” ([Zawya](#))

June 1: ‘No limits to what UAE women can achieve’: Sheikha Fatima gives wide-ranging interview on female empowerment

“Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak has used a rare interview to salute more than four decades of women’s empowerment and call for an even greater female role in the UAE’s progress.” ([The National](#))

Yemen

June 1: Yemeni women fight back against sexual harassment

“In light of Yemen’s conservative society where women are often removed from the public eye, some