

**May 7: Riot Erupts in Iran’s Kurdish Capital Over Woman’s Death**

“Furious over the unexplained death of Farinaz Khosravi, a chambermaid, ethnic Kurds in an Iranian provincial capital rioted on Thursday, May 7 apparently setting the fire that roared through the hotel where she had worked. Police officers used tear gas to disperse the crowds, according to news accounts, witnesses, and images posted on social media. Protesters suspected foul play in Ms. Khosravi’s death” ([The New York Times](#))

**May 15: Women Living Alone: A Threat to Society? (Op-ed by Mansoureh Farahani)**

“Mitra, a 41-year-old divorcee from Tehran, is quick to point out the hardships of living alone. ‘As a woman, you face a lot of problems in society, including not being able to find a home easily. Most landlords don’t rent their properties to single women. The majority of estate agents reject you from the outset.’ Mitra separated from her husband nine years ago. But, after two years of living on her own, she found that society’s disapproval was too much for her to handle” ([IranWire](#))

**Iraq**

**May 8: Woman pleads for death to escape 30 times rape**

“In a harrowing interview with BBC World Service, Compassion4Kurdistan activists raising awareness of IS’ persecution of women revealed that Kurdish fighters took a phone call from the unidentified woman. The peshmerga told the British-based activists that the woman was pleading as she described her plight and debilitating injuries on the phone. ‘you know where we are please bomb us... There is no

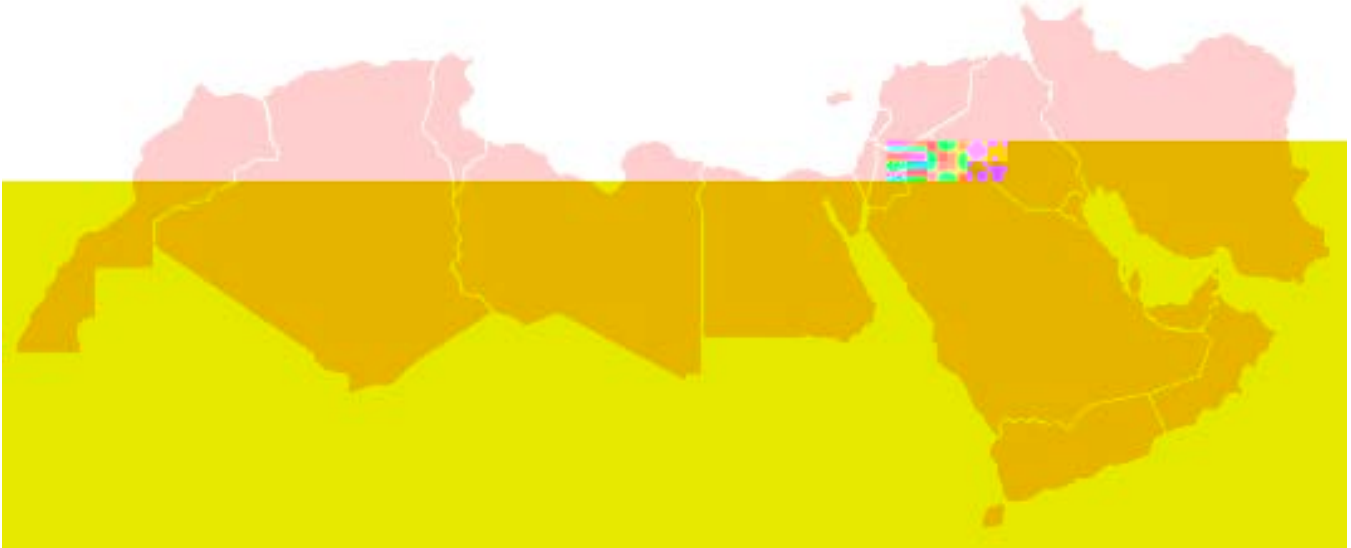


## Lebanon

### May 6: The rise of female entrepreneurs in Lebanon

“The line between social and commercial entrepreneurship is blurring, Hala Fadel, a Lebanese entrepreneur, says, as everyone wants to create jobs. But with inadequate governments (Lebanon has been deadlocked without a president for almost a year), startups are stepping into the breach to address issues from recycling to traffic jams” ([Financial Times](#))

## Morocco



**May 11: Saudi courts continue to deal with violent crimes involving women**

“The Saudi Arabian Ministry of Justice reported the rate of violent crimes perpetrated by women has sustained over 2015 so far in comparison to 2014. Hayat reported The courts reported a total of 278 Saudi women and 82 non-Saudi women were involved in cases of physical assault in 2015 in comparison to 564 in 2014. [Al Arabiya](#))

**Syria**

**May 9: Syria conflict: With the men away fighting, women take the mantle of community leaders in Lebanon's refugee camps**

“Across Lebanon and largely out of sight, thousands of Syrian women are taking up the mantle left behind by men who are fighting, have been killed or simply can't find any work of their own. Out of necessity, the women have become leaders and protectors of their families, their communities and of other women.” [The Independent](#)

**Tunisia**

**May 19: Tunisia's female politicians prepare to seize their chance in local polls**

“At a hotel in the desert city of Tozeur, 26-year-old pharmacist Mariem Bouattois is preparing to share

