

MENA Women's News Brief

November 4-17, 2014

November 11: What It's Like Being a Female Startup Founder in The Middle East

"A quiet revolution has begun to emerge in the Middle East beyond the headlines of conflict, one that might ultimately do more to change the face of the region. This chapter tells the amazing size and scale of women as leaders in the startup-ecosystem." Business Insider

that I must turn myself in 'for charges,' but there is no further explanation about these charges," said Mohammadi. [International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran](#)

November 18: Iran files charges against Iranian-British woman

"Iran's judiciary said authorities detained an Iranian-British woman because of her links to the opposition, not for attending a volleyball match, [semi-official ISNA news agency](#) reported on Tuesday, November 18. The report quoted a statement by the Tehran prosecutor's office as saying Ghoncheh Ghavami was active in opposition protests against the ruling establishment abroad, and was in contact with foreign satellite channels such as the BBC Farsi service — which is banned by the Iranian government because of its alleged role in fomenting tensions in the country." [Associated Press via the Washington Post](#)

Iraq

November 13: Yazidi families struggle to find and free enslaved daughters

"UN condemns 'barbaric acts' but hits roadblocks releasing thousands of girls still held by ISIL fighters." [Al-Jazeera America](#)

November 14: Yazidi Girls Seized by ISIS Speak Out After Escape

"Five girls and women who recently escaped agreed to be interviewed at the end of October. Four of them were in Khanke, a predominantly Yazidi town in the far north of Iraq, and a fifth in the nearby city of Dohuk. Tens of thousands of Yazidi refugees have sought refuge in the region, in vast tent camps and in relatives' homes, after fleeing their villages around the Sinjar mountains. The five victims consented to speak publicly only on the condition that their names not be revealed for fear that the Islamic State would punish their relatives." [New York Times](#)

November 15: Women in Iraq's Anbar form group to fight ISIS

November 16: Kalthoum Kannou, Tunisia's first female presidential candidate

"A judge in the Court of Cassation, the highest court in the Tunisian judiciary system chiefly responsible for verifying the interpretation of the law, Kannou is Tunisia's first woman to seek a post higher than that of a parliamentarian." [Al-Arabiya](#)

UAE

November 10: Debate continues about women candidates and FNC

"The question of why only one woman was elected in the last Federal National Council race has again come up for debate." [The National](#)

November 10: Doing Business As A Female Entrepreneur In The United Arab Emirates

"Over the past few months, as well as during the event, we reached out to several female business owners in Dubai, both Arab women as well as expatriates, to learn more about their experiences as entrepreneurs in the region starting businesses and what challenges they may have faced." [Forbes](#)

November 11: UAE has near perfect gender equality in education and health

"The UAE was found to have near perfect equality in 'Educational Attainment' and 'Health and Survival', two key categories which contributed to a country's index in the Global Gender Gap Report 2014." [Zawya](#)

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