

# MENA Women News Brief

October 7, 2015~~October 20, 2015~~

## Egypt

October 7: Egypt's Cairo University Niqab Ban Backlash: Lawsuit Planned By Nearly 80 Women For Controversial Policy Forbidding Face Covering

“Seventyseven Egyptian women are prepared to file a lawsuit against the president of Cairo University over a recent decision to ban faculty members from covering their faces for religious purposes. The university's controversial announcement has sparked a debate over the last week, as rights activists argued women should have the right to choose their dress in the ~~Majority~~ **majority** country.”

(International Business Times)

October 11: Nawal El Saadawi: ‘Do you feel you are liberated? I feel I am not’

“Nawal El Saadawi’s story has an epic quality, as if it were one of her own novels or one of those old and overblown Egyptian films. The formidable Nawal El Saadawi, medical doctor, author, campaigner against female genital mutilation and for 45 years the voice of Egyptian feminism, is as combative as ever at age 83.”(The Guardian)

October 17: Spread of violent extremism threatens women's rights

“Speaking at UN Security Council session on women, peace and security, Iran Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations Gholamreza Beighani stressed how the spread of violent extremism is threatening the lives of women in the region. He added that the perilous ideology of violent extremism will not be limited to the Middle East and will also threaten other countries across the world.” (Mehr News)

Iraq

October 7: Yazidi Woman Testifies an American ISIS Fighter Held Her as a Sex Slave

“In emotional testimony to a U.N. panel on ISIS's treatment of women hosted by the UN Women for Peace Association, a 26-year-old Yazidi woman who went by the pseudonym Bazi describor

Libya

October 14: What if Libya becomes stable with women in leading role?

“Libyan women activists pondered last week in Tunisia over their contribution to peace and security in war-torn Libya after political haggle between men has divided the country. The women sent a strong message to the Dialogue process protagonists urging them to recognize women as key partners in the

October 11: In remote Saudi village, women are giving birth in cars  
"Harsh

Emirati women are doing well, especially compared with similar courses in the West, where women make up only about 10 per cent of students.”(The National)

October 15: Women grab 66 percent of UAE government jobs

“UAE is setting a precedent in gender balance and women’s empowerment at the workplace as women now account for more than 66 percent of jobs in the public sector workforce and key decision making positions.”(Gulf News)

Yemen

October 18: Women of Taiz take up arms against Yemen’s rebels

“Nosaiba Abdullah’s seven-year-old-son Ahmed was killed when Houthi rebels shelled Taiz’s Al Roudha district. Now, Kalashnikov in hand, she is ready to take on the rebels for the popular resistance. Nosaiba is among the first batch of 26 women recruits trained by the government forces to join battle against the rebels. Young and intrepid, many of them have lost loved ones in the fight for control of the city, which has been surrounded by the rebels.”(The National)

General

October 9: Women and girls crucial in fight against Islamic State ideology, experts say

“Though extremist groups have