

MENA Women News Brief

September 13, 2016-September 26, 2016

Algeria

September 14: Algerian women protest against violence

“Dozens of women took part in a sit-in against violence and disappearances in the Algerian city of Constantine to pay tribute to Amira Merabet who died earlier this month after being set on fire by a man she refused. In the statement read by Amel Hadjadj, one of the organizers of the sit-in, the group condemned the crime and the ‘patriarchal and unjust system suffered by women in Algeria.’” ([Middle East Monitor](#))

Egypt

September 18: Egypt's divorced women demand their fair share of assets

“Sabah, a divorced Egyptian woman in her 40s, like thousands of other divorced women in Egypt, faces significant difficulties due to the Personal Status Law, which requires divorced women wait at least one year from the date of filing for alimony to receive payment. In addition, the court’s procedures to determine the husband’s income often take a long time, and women frequently complain that the court relies on an income less than the actual amount due to efforts by the husband to hide his true earnings.” ([Al-Monitor](#))

September 20: Egypt's communication ministry launches 'ICT for Women' website

“Egypt's communication and information technology ministry launched a website on information and communications technology (ICT) to support and empower women in the field and in other aspects of life. The website, entitled ‘ICT for Women,’ provides various services for women's employment such as online learning of entrepreneurship and advertising of job opportunities, training and ICT events for women in Egypt. Women make up less than a quarter of the country's labour force.” ([Ahram Online](#))

September 21: To get subsidized baby formula, Egyptian women need breast examinations

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countries, which have been closed since 2012. Professor Hoodfar conducts research into the role of women in the Middle East.” ([The News York Times](#))

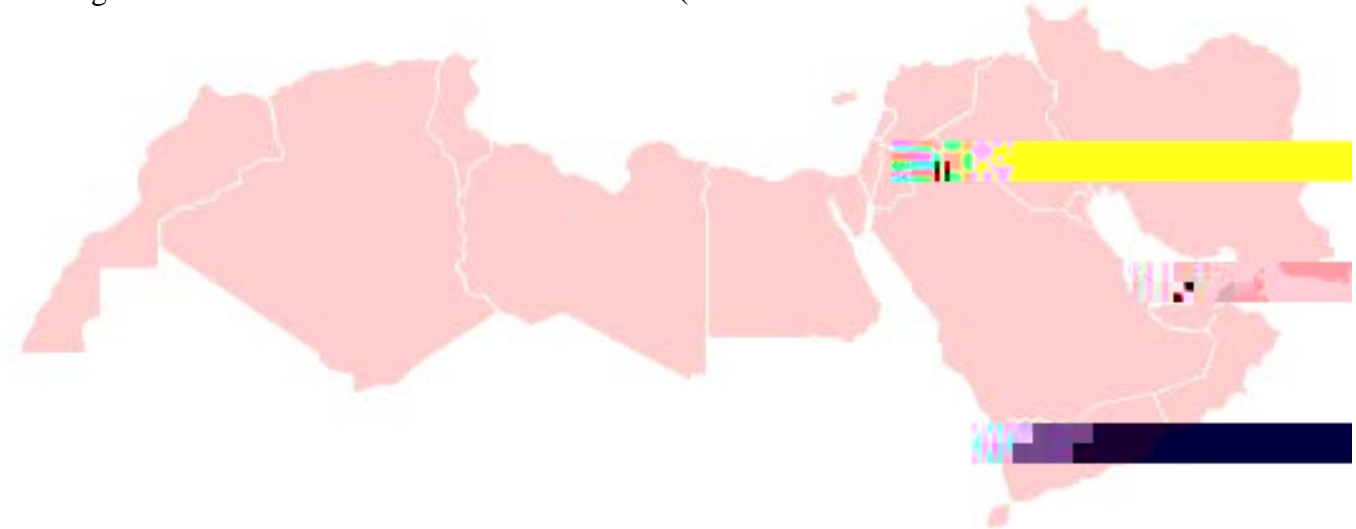
Iraq

September 16: Nadia Murad, Survivor of ISIS Atrocities, Named U.N. Goodwill Ambassador

“Nadia Murad Basee Taha, who survived captivity by ISIS in Iraq to become an activist for her Yazidi people, has been appointed as a Goodwill Ambassador for the United Nations. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) said that Murad’s appointment as an Ambassador for the Dignity of Survivors of Human Trafficking marks the first time that a survivor of atrocities has been awarded this distinction.” ([Time](#))

September 17: Breaking up in Baghdad

“Between 2004 and 2014 there was one divorce for every five Iraqi marriages. This is low by Western standards, but many Iraqis call it a crisis. Cases have been growing steadily since the compilation of proper statistics began in the year after the country’s invasion by American-led forces and the overthrow of Saddam Hussein. Some blame the spread of a stricter Islam over the past decade. Sex outside marriage has become even more taboo than it was.” (



Ajaccio and ‘then continue its journey to Messina, Italy, the final departure point before sailing to the shores of Gaza in late September.’” ([Middle East Monitor](#))

Saudi Arabia

September 15: At the Hajj, Facing Islam’s Inconsistent Embrace of Women

“Each day in Mecca provided powerful reminders of a religion that seems to simultaneously embrace women and push them away. Another day at the Grand Mosque, I met Saraya, a middle-aged woman who is from South Africa but lives in Australia, where I grew up. She had longed to make the hajj for years but was unable because she lacked a mahram, or male guardian—usually a husband, brother, or father—to accompany her; male pilgrims can come alone.” ([New York Times](#))

September 26: Saudi women file petition to end male guardianship system

“A petition signed by more than 14,000 Saudi women calling for an end to the country's male guardianship system is being handed to the government. Women must have the consent of a male guardian to travel abroad, and often need permission to work or study. Support for the first large-scale campaign on the issue grew online in response to a trending Twitter hashtag. Activist Aziza Al-Yousef told the BBC she felt ‘very proud’ of the campaign, but now needed a response.” ([BBC](#))

Syria

September 19: When Women Lead the Revolution

“The Syrian civil war has produced a catalogue of horrors—cities bombed into rubble, the rise of ISIS, refugees fleeing across open seas on makeshift rafts—that have been widely covered in the Western media. During this same time, the dissolution of the Syrian state has opened the doors in one corner of the country for a social revolution that is at odds with the political norms not only of the rest of the Middle East but of the wider world beyond.” ([Independent](#))

Tunisia

September 14: Sufi women break norms by leading sacred song rituals in Tunisia

“Once a week, over the summer, a group of women gather at the Sidi Belhassen Zawiya (shrine) in Tunis to participate in the Hadra, a Sufi ritual that involves the performance of songs accompanied by sacred rhythms. The Tijaniya (female musicians) prepare for the ritual by leaving their drums sitting out in the sunlight for 10 to 15 minutes. In the meantime, one of the caretakers of the shrine walks around carrying an enormous bowl of couscous that is to be eaten by the ritual attendees.” ([Middle East Eye](#))

Turkey

September 20: Turkey arrests man who kicked woman for wearing shorts

“A Turkish court has remanded in custody Abdullah Cakiroglu, who kicked a young woman in the face because she was wearing shorts, after his initial release sparked a furore among activists. In a case which galvanised public opinion, Cakiroglu was first detained but then freed despite confessing to kicking nurse Aysegul Terzi in the face on a public bus. After protests, an Istanbul court placed Cakiroglu, 35, under arrest ahead of trial on charges of ‘inciting hatred and hostility.’” ([Gulf News](#))

General

September 19: We’re Failing to Provide Protection to Female Refugees

“In the current and unprecedented global refugee crisis, women face unique challenges that are often hidden or ignored. Those forced to flee their homes to escape violence often face grim options. Resolving to leave their war-torn homelands, and leaving everything and everyone they know behind, is

hard enough. The prospect of entrusting their lives and that of their loved ones to smugglers or embarking on perilous voyages to strange countries is terrifying.” ([Time](#))

September 22: Mapping FGM: Building A Global Picture Of Female Circumcision

“The practice of female genital mutilation is declining in 14 countries, according to a new report by the Population Council, which offers fresh insights into the way FGM is carried out and provides hope for activists campaigning for the procedure to be banned. At least 200 million women and girls living today around the world have undergone female genital mutilation (FGM), the ritual cutting or removal of female genitalia. And yet, information on the procedure has long been patchy.” ([Huffington Post](#))

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