

MENA Women's News Brief

September 23-October 6, 2014

September 24: What world gets wrong about Arab women (Zainab Salbi)

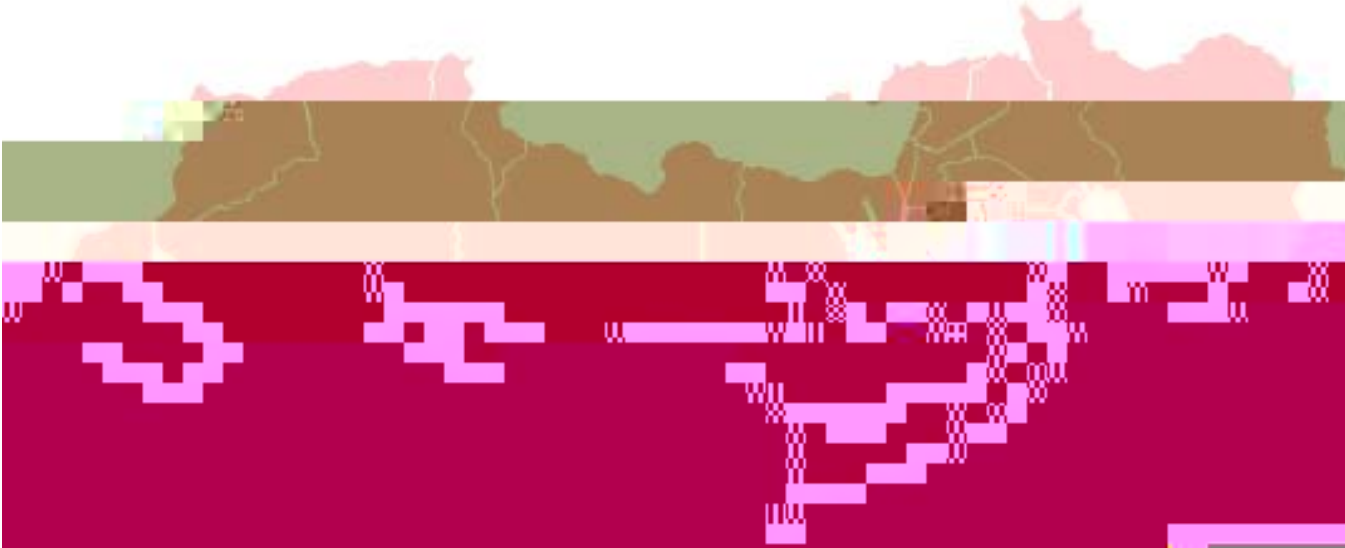
“Today, as the world grapples with this challenging and tumultuous moment in the region, it is important to pay close attention to the voices of Arab women. But rather than confining the story of women to an issue of religion or culture, it is important that the world uses what is happening to them as a barometer of the trajectory that individual societies are on. After all, how a country or a region treats its women in many ways tells the story of the future political direction of that country.” ([CNN](#))

September 30: 16 Women Entrepreneurs Who Are Changing the Way Business Is Done In The Arab World

“Authors Nafeesa Syeed and Rahilla Zafar roamed the Middle East and North Africa in search of



October 5: Less sexual harassment over Eid does



Israel

September 22: Israeli Arab women: Stuck in economic purgatory, without a paddle

“Arab Israeli women have been hampered by a society that has accorded Arabs and women, much less Arab women, second-class status.” ([Fortune](#))

September 23: Women’s sections in shul: separate, unequal

“A new photographic exhibition of Israeli synagogues can be an opportunity to examine the architecture of segregation.” ([Haaretz](#))

September 30: Israeli airline urged to stop ‘bullying’ of women by ultra-orthodox passengers

“Petition organizer says airline should find way to accommodate religious requirements without breaching other people’s rights.” ([The Guardian](#))

Jordan

October 3: Jordan's Brotherhood appoints 1st spokeswoman

“The Jordanian Muslim Brotherhood’s Islamic Action Front Party on Thursday appointed a woman as its media spokesperson for the first time since its establishment in 1992.” ([World Bulletin](#))

Kuwait

September 26: Arab Parliament to formulate Arab draft document on women's rights

“The Committee of Experts in charge of preparing the draft document for Arab women's rights convenes in Kuwait a meeting on Saturday, September 27. The committee of the Arab document experts for women's rights is made up of seven senior Arab experts in the field of legal and legislative drafting and the rights of women from Egypt, Morocco, Sudan, Tunisia, Jordan and the Arab League.” ([Kuwait News Agency](#))

Lebanon

October 1: Social Affairs Ministry launches protection program for Lebanese women and children

“A new 'National Plan to Safeguard Children and Women in Lebanon,' was launched, following a memorandum of understanding between Social Affairs Minister Rashid Derbas and UNICEF Representative in Lebanon Ms. Annamaria Laurini.” ([Daily Star](#))

October 1: Lebanese women conquer abroad, suffer at home

“Successful Lebanese women abroad are making international headlines, but Lebanese women at home continue to face legal and social discrimination, impeding them from similar success.” ([Al-Monitor](#))

Morocco

September 29: Morocco: Moroccan Opposition Women Confront Discrimination

“Opposition activists with Morocco's Socialist Union of Popular Forces (USFP) gathered in Casablanca recently to focus on women's rights.” ([All Africa](#))

Oman

September 29: Oman rejects hijab ban at Asian Games

“Oman has urged all Islamic countries to join hands and call on international authorities to revise the rules that ban Muslim players from wearing the hijab in global competitions.” ([Times of Oman](#))

Qatar

September 25: Qatar out of women's basketball over hijab row

“Qatar pulled out of the women's basketball competition at the Asian Games after refusing to abide by international regulations preventing them from wearing hijabs, while organizers said they were powerless to do anything about it.” ([Reuters](#))

Saudi Arabia

September 27: Education ministry gives boost to Saudi women

“The [Saudi education] ministry last week reportedly reached an agreement with representatives from the Saudi board of chambers to grant professional permits to women, who will be allowed to work from home, working on the design of education programmes.” ([Gulf News](#))

Syria

September 18: Sexual and Ethnic Violence and the Construction of the Islamic State

“Rather than the hallmarks of savagery and barbarity, as senior U.N. officials described the assault on the Yezidis, Shi'is, Christians, and other groups deemed heretical or apostate, the repertoires of sexual and ethnic violence are better seen as part of ISIS's strategy to enact a particular vision of an Islamic state.” ([Political Violence At A Glance](#))

September 26: Are We Listening to Syria's Women and Girls?

“Despite legislation meant to help women and girls in conflict zones, much more must be done to ensure rapid action on the ground—especially in Syria.” ([The Daily Beast](#))

October 1: ISIS behead captured Kurds in Syria

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said Wednesday that ISIS militants beheaded nine Kurdish fighters, including three women, captured during fighting over the northern Syrian town of Kobani, also known as Ayn Arab. ([Lebanon Daily Star](#))

Tunisia

September 29: 47 Percent of Candidates in Legislative Elections Are Women, 12 Percent Among Them Are Heads of List

“Secretary of State for Women and Family Affairs Neila Chaabane said women's participation in political life is still modest and should be strengthened to ensure full gender equality, particularly, regarding access to decision-making positions.” ([All Africa](#))

October 1: Tunisian women take a 'step backwards'

“At a time when many women in the Arab world are fighting hard to promote their political rights, Tunisian women have them explicitly entrenched in their laws.” ([BBC News](#))

October 2: Essebsi: 'What Can I Say, She is a Woman' Comment Draws Anger

“Nidaa Tounes President Beji Caid Essebsi angered many internet users after he refused to reply to statement by NCA [National Constituent Assembly] deputy speaker Mehrzia Labidi, saying, “What can I say? She is a woman.” ([Tunisia Live](#))

UAE

“Thirty-seven of the 53 films to be screened at the Abu Dhabi Film Festival’s competition next month have been directed by women, including Emiratis.” ([The National](#))

September 28: Mariam al-Mansouri on becoming UAE's first female fighter pilot - video

“Major Mariam al-Mansouri, the UAE's first female fighter pilot, says it is a dream to serve her country in the air force. Al-Mansouri is among the coalition forces taking part in US-led airstrikes against Islamic State (Isis) militant targets in Iraq. She says men and women should be free to work in whatever field they choose.” ([The Guardian](#))

September 30: Women and war: Fighting misconceptions of sex

“Fighter pilot Major Mariam Al Mansouri, who led airstrikes against ISIL militants in Syria, is a role model for the new generation of Emirati women who are advancing in all walks of life.” ([The National](#))

October 3: Shaikha Fatima named personality of the year by Forbes Middle East

“Forbes Middle East made the announcement at a ceremony held to honor the most prominent women who contributed to the development of their countries.” ([Khaleej Times](#))

October 5: Family taxis in Abu Dhabi available to women and couples, too

“Elsa Fortuna, a driver of a family taxi operated by Emirates Taxi, said there is a need to let Abu Dhabi residents know family taxis are available.” ([The National](#))

Yemen

October 2: YSP’s Top Choice for Prime Minister

“The Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) nominated Amat Al-Alim Alsoswa, a Yemeni woman politician and diplomat, for the position of prime minister.” ([Yemen Times](#))

By Samaa Ahmed

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