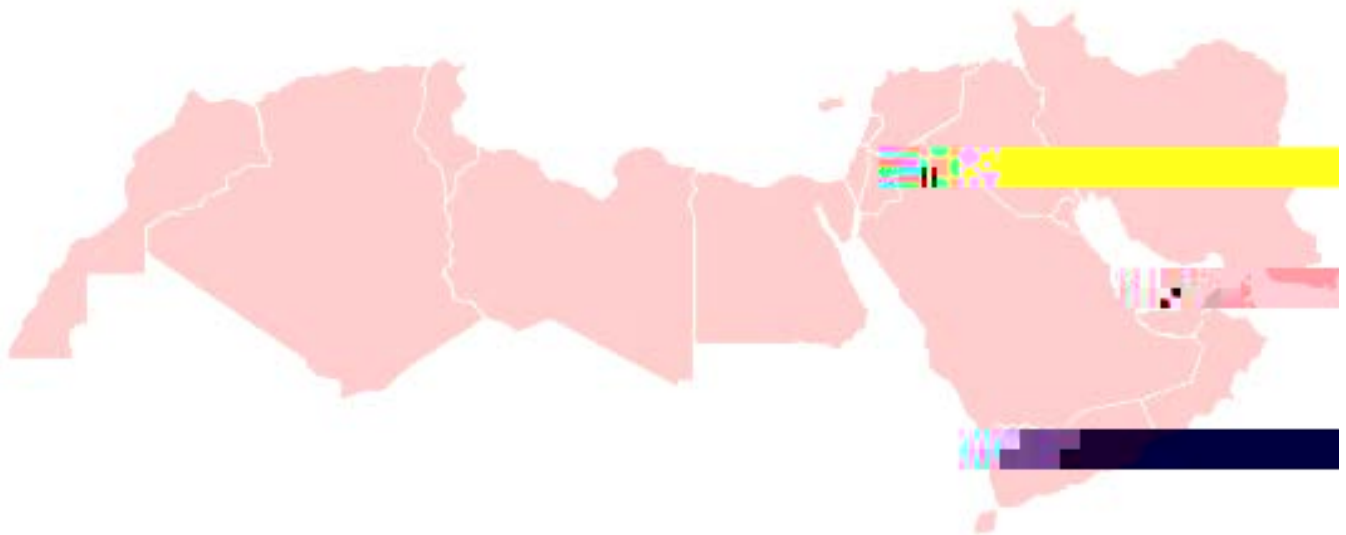


MENA Women News Brief

September 26



arrest in 2015 and conviction a year later were severe blows to Iran's small and embattled community of women's rights activists, highlighting the severe pressures they face." ([New York Times](#))

September 30: Boycott of world chess championship 'would hurt women in Iran'

"One of Iran's most respected chess players, Mitra Hejazipour, has hit back at calls to boycott next year's women's world championship in Tehran over rules about the wearing of the hijab. A number of chess players, including the US women's champion, Nazi Paikidze, have called for a boycott of the February 2017 games over concerns about the Islamic republic's compulsory headscarf law. But Hejazipour, who won the 2015 Asian continental women's championship, said that a boycott could undermine hard-fought efforts to promote female sport in Iran." ([The Guardian](#))

October 6: Iranian judges sentence writer to jail for story about stoning to death

"Iranian judges have ordered a young female writer and activist to serve a six-year jail term for writing an unpublished fictional story about stoning to death in her country. Golrokh Ebrahimi Iraee received a phone call on Tuesday, October 4 from judicial officials ordering her to Evin prison in Tehran, where her husband, Arash Sadeghi, a prominent student activist, is serving a 19-year sentence. Stoning to death is one of Iran's most controversial punishments, often used against women accused of having an illicit relationship outside marriage." ([The Guardian](#))

October 11: Iran hanging: Fears for child bride Zeinab Sekaanvand

"Human rights activists say Zeinab Sekaanvand, a 22-year-old woman whose execution was delayed while she was pregnant, could be hanged within days in Iran. Sekaanvand was convicted of killing her husband, whom she says beat her for months. Her execution was postponed after she remarried in prison and conceived a child. Last month she gave birth to a stillborn baby, putting her at risk of death by hanging as soon as Thursday, October 13." ([BBC](#))

Iraq

September 29: Iraqi activist Yanar Mohammed wins Norway rights prize

"Norway's Rafto Prize for human rights was awarded to Yanar Mohammed of Iraq for her efforts to help minorities and women subjected to sexual abuse in the war-torn country, the jury said. Mohammed, 55, a journalist and feminist fighting for democratic principles and human rights, is the co-founder and head of the Organisation of Women's Freedom in Iraq, which provides protection to women victims of violence." ([Daily Star](#))

October 10: Nadia Murad, Yazidi Woman Who Survived ISIS Captivity, Wins Human Rights Prize

"Fighters for ISIS abducted a young Yazidi woman named Nadia Murad, her siblings and their mother from their village in northern Iraq more than two years ago. Barely in her 20s, Ms. Murad was separated from her family, beaten and sexually assaulted. Compared with thousands of other Yazidis, followers of

Israel

September 28: How activists are confronting contract killings of Israeli Arab women

“Another Israeli Arab woman was murdered in Israel Friday, September 23. A total of 13 women have been murdered in Israel since the beginning of 2016. Five of those women are Arabs. All five are suspected of being murdered by a relative or a contract killer hired by a family member. Salame leads a series of protest activities and demonstrations of women and men who have two goals: to raise public awareness and provoke a change of attitude of the issue within Arab society, and to spur the Israeli police to take firm action against the rising violence in Arab society.” ([Al-Monitor](#))

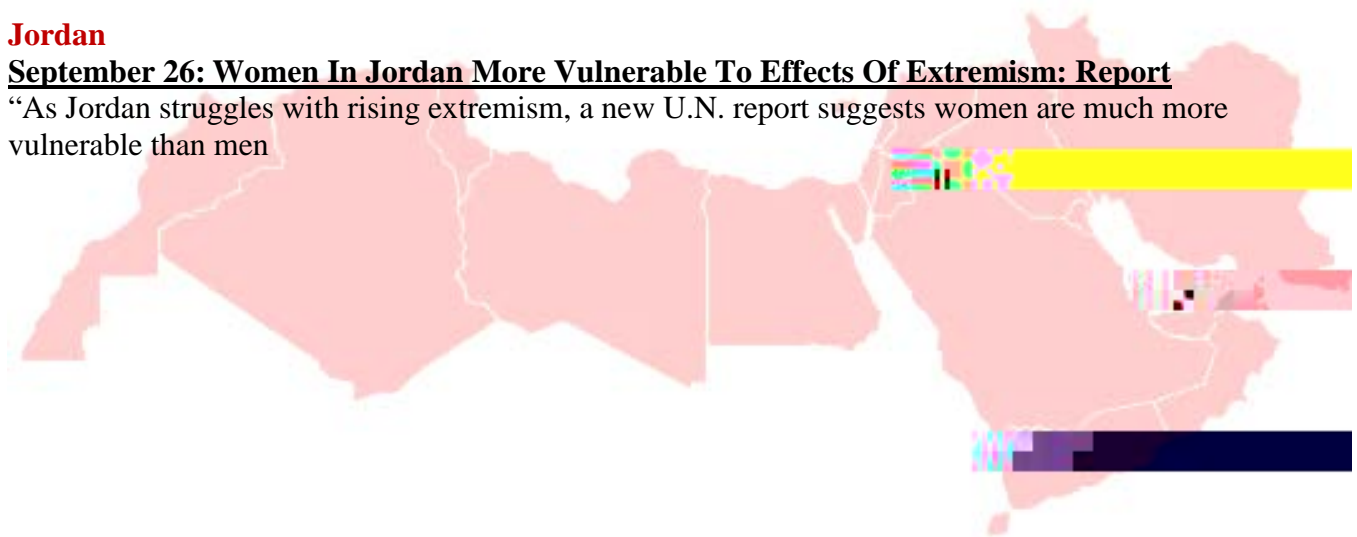
October 5: Hundreds of women march on Jerusalem for peace

“By the light of flaming torches, hundreds of women set off Tuesday, October 4 on a 200-kilometer march from the north of the country to Jerusalem, where they will assemble outside the Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s and President Reuven Rivlin’s residences during the upcoming Sukkot festival to demand a negotiated end to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Liberian activist and Nobel Peace Prize winner Leymah Roberta Gbowee will join the March of Hope when it reaches the outskirts of the capital in two weeks’ time.” ([Times of Israel](#))

Jordan

September 26: Women In Jordan More Vulnerable To Effects Of Extremism: Report

“As Jordan struggles with rising extremism, a new U.N. report suggests women are much more vulnerable than men



Oman

September 30: National Museum honours Omani women with special showcase

“Oman’s National Museum has created a special showcase to spotlight some of the varied achievements of Omani women. According to Her Highness Sayyida Nada Al Said, head of External Relations and curator at the museum, the idea behind the showcase is to show the representation of Omani female personalities that have played a key role in the progress and development of Oman’s history.

‘All these women have changed Omani history by being the firsts of many—an ambassador, author, first to receive a PhD and many more.’” ([Times of Oman](#))

Qatar

October 9: Qatar women launch fundraising appeal for modest sportswear line

“Tired of searching for functional but modest sportswear, two women in Qatar are working to design their own collection. And this morning, they have launched a crowd-funding campaign to support their work. Oola Sports is one of Qatar’s first homegrown companies to specialize in clothing for women who want to cover up while working out. It is the brainchild Haya Al Ghanim and Amina Ahmadi, who grew frustrated with finding the proper sports attire.” ([Doha News](#))

Syria

October 6: The Women Leading a Social Revolution in Syria’s Rojava

“Details have emerged of how women in towns and villages across northern Syria have defied the fierce oppression of President Bashar Al-Assad’s Ba’ath regime to come together and create a women’s movement. The Committee of Diplomacy of Kongreya Star—a confederation of women’s organizations in Rojava, Syria—has released a 33-page report explaining how the Rojava Revolution has developed since it was founded (under the name Yekîtiya Star) in 2005.” ([Newsweek](#))

Tunisia

October 9: Women in Tunisia fighting to preserve their rights by becoming skilled politicians

“Tunisia’s 2011 revolution ended a 22-year dictatorship and kicked off a wave of popular uprisings throughout the Middle East that became known as the Arab Spring. Within Tunisia, the overthrow of President Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali spurred a jubilant sense of unity. But for women, that jubilation was soon replaced by a sense of dread over what might happen to their civil rights as a post-revolution Islamist conservatism began to take hold.” ([CBC](#))

UAE

October 12: Women take centrestage as UAE maternity leave law comes under review

“The changes in the new human resources law issued recently in Abu Dhabi, was commended by Sheikha Manal bint Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, President of the UAE Gender Balance Council, President of Dubai Women Establishment and wife of Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Presidential Affairs. The amended law allows working women to take three months of fully-paid maternity leave instead of two.” ([Emirates 24/7](#))

General

September 30: Finding new ways to fight gender-based violence in the Arab world (Op-Ed by Lina Abirafeh)

“It should now be beyond dispute that gender-based violence is a critical human rights issue – possibly the most important human rights ma

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