
Bahrain

September 18: Bahrain's women ministers on Forbes list

“Bahrain’s three female cabinet ministers [Sameera Ebrahim Bin Rajab, Fatima Al Beloushi, Shaikha Mai Bint Mohammad Al Khalifa] have made it to the Forbes list of the most powerful Arab women holding public positions in a new indication of the success of the national drive to empower women in the kingdom.” ([Gulf News](#))

Iran

September 19: Iran's Jila Baniyaghoob on journalism, prison and Rouhani

“Iranian journalist [Jila Baniyaghoob] and activist says freedom of speech and the press have not improved one iota under the new [Iranian] administration.” ([The Guardian](#))

Iraq

September 9: ISIS said to form 2 all-women police brigades

“Brigades are reportedly tasked with spotting disguised male activists and ensuring that women follow modesty rules... One of the brigades, al-Khansaa, operates in Raqqa, the Syrian headquarters city for [Naji Al-Jabara.” ([Saud](#))

Israel

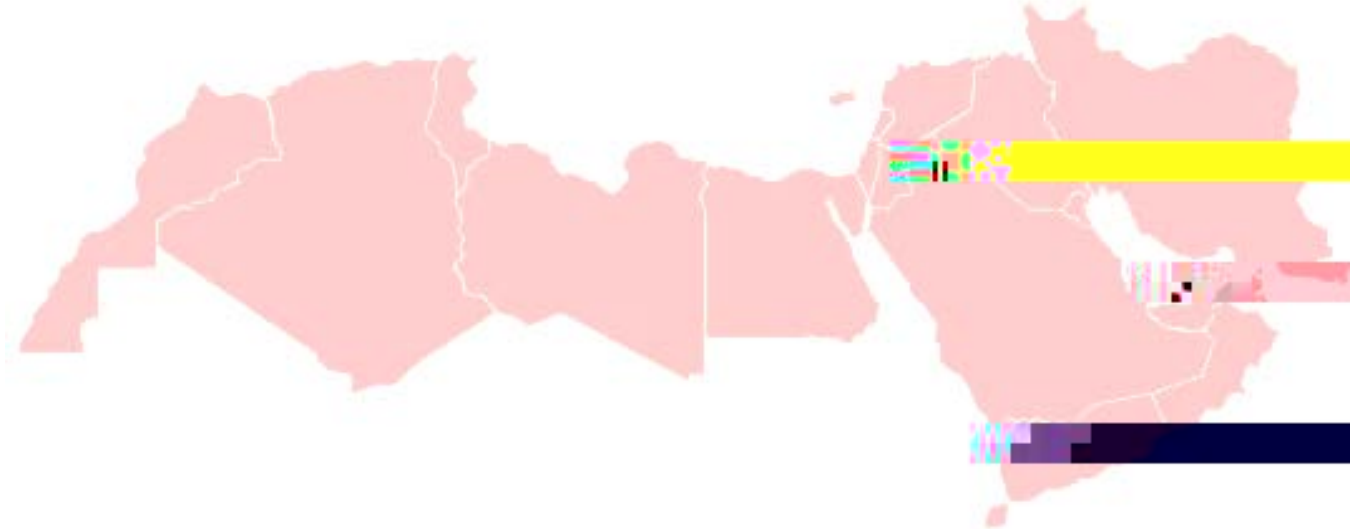
September 15: Israel appoints its first female ambassador to an Arab state

“Einat Shlain [a career diplomat and current head of the international division of the Israeli Foreign Ministry’s diplomatic research center] is

Jordan

September 13: In Jordan, Ever Younger Syrian Brides

“For many Syrians stuck in Jordan’s squalid and sometimes dangerous refugee camps, marrying girls off at younger and younger ages is increasingly being seen as a necessity — a way of easing the financial burden on families with little or no income and allaying fears of rape and sexual harassment in makeshift living spaces where it is harder to enforce the rule of law. As a result, UNICEF says, the



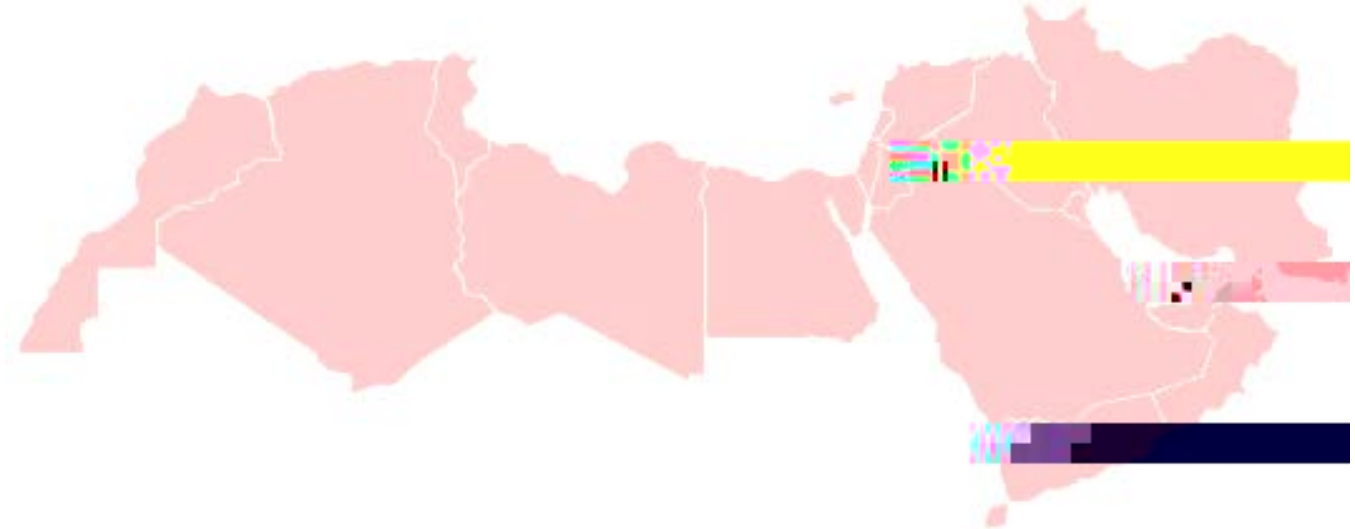
Saudi Arabia

September 14: Small retailers to face Saudi feminization rules for the first time

“Saudi Arabia’s feminization program will be expanded to include some retail stores will fewer than five employees for the first time from October 25. Retailers selling women’s perfumes, maternity wear, abayas, shoes, bags, clothes and fabrics are to be included in what will be the third phase of the government’s plan to increase female employment.” ([Arabian Business](#))

September 18: No Women on Asian Games Team

“Saudi Arabia’s failure to include women on its team to compete in the Asian Games in South Korea.”



September 12: Tunisia's Sister of the Revolution

“Ikram Ben Said [founder of Aswat Nissa — or Voices of Women] took part in the Arab Spring's first successful uprising — and then realized that the struggle for women's rights in Tunisia was just beginning.” ([TIME](#))

September 13: Tunisia now has more women than men

“The population of Tunisia is 10,982,754’ as against 9.9 million in 2004, National Statistics Institute chief Hedi Saidi said [on Friday, September 12]. ‘For the first time, there are more women than men,’ with women making up 50.2 percent of the population, he added.” ([Arab News](#))

UAE

September 8: Meet Dubai Metro's only Emirati woman driver

“When the Dubai Metro was inaugurated six years ago, the other first to its credit was a young Emirati woman driver, Mariam Al Saffar, 30, who has now been moved to the Dubai Tram project as the operation supervisor since December 2013 and expects to be promoted to operations manager once the Tram project open in November.” ([Gulf News](#))

Yemen

September 8: Yemeni Women Fight For Greater Representation

“After years of activism, Amal Basha’s [pro-quota National Dialogue Conference delegate] demands for guarantees of greater representation for women in the political system has finally edged closer to reality.” ([Yemen Times](#))

September 18: Yemeni Women Making A Difference

“Five exemplary Yemeni women from around the country are profiled below. Their work and initiatives constitute valuable contributions to Yemeni society. They have been interviewed as part of a project by the Yemen 21 Forum, a local NGO based in Sana’a.” ([Yemen Times](#))

By Samaa Ahmed

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