

MENA Women's News Brief

June 17-30, 2014

June 21: Women's education in Arab region discussed

"The Geneva Centre for Human Rights Advancement and Global Dialogue hosted a panel discussion on 'Opportunities and Challenges for Women's Education in the Arab World', on the sidelines of the 26th session of the Human Rights Council, to discuss the ways in which enhanced education opportunities will benefit women, families, economies and societies in the MENA region, while providing an opportunity to address ongoing concerns." ([Gulf Today](#))

Bahrain

June 23: Bahrain's Gulf Air names first woman captain

"Bahrain's Gulf Air recently announced the promotion of Yasmeen Fraidoun to the rank of captain, making her the first Bahraini woman with that rank to fly a commercial aircraft." ([Al-Shorfa](#))

Egypt

June 17: Not enough women in Egypt's new cabinet: NWC

"Having just four women in the new cabinet goes against President El-Sisi's claims that more women should hold important posts, says National Women's Council (NWC)." ([Al-Ahram](#))

June 17: Egypt woman plans to open school for female taxi drivers

"Female taxi drivers are a rare sight in Egypt, but one woman in Cairo wants that to change. Nour Gaber plans to open a school to teach women to drive a taxi like her." ([The Guardian](#))

June 29: Egypt Resumes Trial of 12 Tahrir Sexual Offenders

"A law introduced by former interim President Adli Mansour stated that sexual harassers shall face imprisonment for at least one year and a fine of at least 3,000 Egyptian pounds (419 US Dollars)." ([All Africa](#))

Iran

June 23: Iran bans female fans from volleyball games

"Female fans and even women journalists will not be allowed to attend a World League volleyball match between Iran and Italy in Tehran Sunday." ([Al Arabiya](#))

June 24: Iran Parliament says leggings are not pants

"With photos of women in leggings as evidence, the Iranian Parliament has taken Interior Minister Abdolreza Rahmani Fazli to task for failing to enforce Islamic dress codes." ([Al-Monitor](#))

June 26: World Cup ban? Iran's women just don't care

"Iranian women aren't allowed to enter national stadiums or gather with men to watch sport in public. But many have defied the authorities during the World Cup, cheering on their team in local restaurants." ([The Telegraph](#))

Iraq

June 24: Iraqi female politician killed fighting ISIS

“A prominent female political figure [Umayyah Naji Jabara] has been killed while personally leading the fight against the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham in the north of the country, according to the Iraqi authorities.” ([The Telegraph](#))

June 26: Iraq's women: 'It's only us who understand each other's reality'

“Our society has been ripped to shreds and as in most societies its [*sic*] the women who are carrying the burden. Women are sacrificing their lives to hold families together. They’ve regressed more than 50 years in the past decade.” ([The Guardian](#))

Israel

June 19: Israeli women more educated than men, but earn 34% less

“Underrepresentation of women in high-paying fields such as engineering is major reason behind salary gaps, study finds.” ([Haaretz](#))

June 24: Law to boost female representation in municipalities passes

“The bill gives an additional 15 percent in campaign funding to municipal party lists that are at least one-third female. That benefit would only be given eight months after the election, so parties can’t just put women on their lists for the extra money and make the women quit after the vote.” ([Jerusalem Post](#))

June 25: Haredi colleges discriminate against women, say experts

“Gender separation in ultra-Orthodox colleges has increasingly come to mean blatant discrimination against ultra-Orthodox women, a trio of researchers told Israeli justice, education and employment officials.” ([Haaretz](#))

June 26: Ultra-Orthodox women fight for their right to higher education

“The religious ruling of Rabbi Shalom Cohen against higher education for women shook the Sephardic ultra-Orthodox party Shas, at a moment when its political leaders are trying to regain traditional constituents and secular support.” ([Al-Monitor](#))

Lebanon

June 25: Activists protest Lebanese citizenship law

“Lebanese women’s rights activists organized a sit-in Wednesday to protest a presidential decree granting citizenship to more than 600 people, arguing that children of Lebanese women should be a priority.” ([Daily Star](#))

June 27: Lebanese women lead the social media wave

“Lebanon is in the top five most active Arab countries across social media networks and achieves the highest rate of female social network users in the region, according to ‘The Arab Social Media Report.’” ([Daily Star](#))

Libya

June 26: Prominent female activist killed in Libya

“The slaying of Salwa Bugaighis stunned residents of her home city, politicians, activists and diplomats, among whom she was well known. Bugaighis, a lawyer and rights activist, was at the forefront in the 2011 uprising against dictator Moammar Gadhafi.” ([Washington Post](#))

Morocco

June 25: Moroccan women tell prime minister: 'I'm not a chandelier'

“Morocco's [Prime Minister] Abdelilah Benkirane has angered women's rights advocates by criticizing women who work outside the home.” ([Al-Jazeera](#))

Palestinian Territories

June 14: Women in physics in the Palestinian Territories

“In the Palestinian territories, more women than men study physics, yet women faculty members remain a very small minority.” ([Sci Dev Net](#))

June 24: A startup sisterhood in Gaza

“Abultewi, 25, is the first woman to have a startup funded in Gaza, where more women like her are beginning to start tech businesses they hope will generate incomes for them and their families in this cash-strapped society. For the most part, the women are young — some as young as Sofiya Mosalem, 16, whom Abultewi was mentoring during the fourth annual Gaza Startup Weekend June 19-21.” ([Al-Jazeera](#))

Qatar

June 22: Number of Qatari women lawyers on the rise: Ministry

“Qatari women working as lawyers represented about 85 percent of total females working as lawyers [in Qatar] and 14.2 percent of total lawyers in 2012, according to a report ‘Qatar-Social Statistics 2003-2012’ released recently by the Ministry of Development Planning and Statistics.” ([The Peninsula](#))

June 26: National service 'optional' for Qatari women

“Qatar is mulling making it optional for its women to attend a national service program, which is mandatory for men. The national service, spanning a few months of camp stay for young men, includes training in the use of weapons, self-defense, and discipline.” ([The Peninsula](#))

June 26: Qatari women outnumber men in cultural specialization

“Qatari women outnumber Qatari men by three times in their pursuit for specialization in cultural programs, a ministry report reveals.” ([Gulf Times](#))

Syria

June 29: Syrian women refugees suffer in Jordan

“The violence and abuse suffered by Syrian refugee women in Jordan exacerbates the wider problem of violence against women in the country.” ([Al-Monitor](#))

UAE

June 17: Captain Al Hamili awarded for pioneering in aviation and diplomacy

“Capt. Al Hamili currently heads the UAE Permanent Diplomatic Mission to ICAO. When she was appointed in 2009, she was the youngest-ever Permanent Representative accredited to the ICAO and the first Arab female, and the only female on the council. Her career started with a dream of becoming a pilot, and she became the First UAE female pilot when she obtained her Private Pilot License (PPL) in 1998 at the age of 16.” ([Arabian Aerospace](#))

June 18: Ladies beach instant hit with women in Abu Dhabi

“The ladies-only beach that has opened in Al Bateen has become an instant hit with women in Abu Dhabi.” ([Gulf News](#))

June 21: Abu Dhabi bank launches talent platform for Emirati women

“The new platform, named Tamooha, will provide job opportunities that suit women's social norms and family responsibilities by enabling them to choose to work from, or near, their own home or in ADCB's dedicated women-only operations center in Al Ain.” ([Arabian Business](#))

June 25: Abu Dhabi chamber candidate seeks more public-private contact

“Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce and Industry board candidate Reed Hamad Al Dhaheri has promised to focus on building bridges between businesses and the government on issues relating to the ease of doing business, a more conducive investment climate, and job creation.” ([Khaleej Times](#))

June 26: Abu Dhabi's first private hospital dedicated to women set to open

“The emirate's first private hospital dedicated to women is set to open as early as next week. NMC Healthcare will open its US\$30 million (Dh110m) BrightPoint Maternity Hospital with 100 beds in the first phase.” ([The National](#))

Yemen


June 25: New video from Yemen explores women's role in the security sector

“Women have an essential role to play in linking the security forces with communities, helping the security sector become more gender-sensitive and ensuring that internal police procedures promote equality and fairness. Yet social norms and traditional prejudices are challenging women's capacity to work within the sector, particularly as police and prison officers.” ([National Yemen](#))

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