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Turkish police fire rubber bullets to break up Women's Day rally



Demonstrators run from rubber pellets during a protest ahead of the International Women's Day, in Istanbul, Turkey

Turkish police on Sunday briefly detained at least one woman and fired rubber bullets to disperse a crowd of hundreds of people trying to mark International Women's Day in central Istanbul.

The group, which gathered two days before official Women's Day commemorations on March 8 in order to draw more supporters on a Sunday, had ignored a ban on the march by the Istanbul governor who scrapped this year's rally, citing security concerns.

They were seeking to draw attention to women's issues in Turkey, which ranks 77th out of 138 countries on a United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) index of gender equality.

Read more:

<http://news.trust.org/item/20160306185654-0cii0/>

Kicking their way inside soccer stadiums!

Open stadiums is a nation-wide campaign which has gained international attention through its very public and legitimate defy of the ban. Semanur Karaman interviewed the woman behind the campaign to understand her aspirations for Iran and expectations from the global feminist movement.



Football is a multi billion-dollar industry which is highly politicized across the globe. Take into account the recent FIFA presidential vote, which has sparked up a global debate on how sports can be the instrument to access more power for those responsible for grave human rights abuses. Activists from around the globe, and of those from the Bahraini diaspora, joined in a global call to protest Sheikh Salman bin Ebrahim al-Khalifa's nomination to presidency at FIFA, and asked for greater accountability and transparency from the organization. Football in Iran is a matter of politics too, where since 1982 women are prohibited from attending public sporting events. For example in October 2014, Ghoncheh Ghavami, a 25 woman, was arrested when she tried to attend a volleyball game in Tehran.

Read more:

<http://youngfeministfund.org/2016/03/kicking-their-way-inside-soccer-stadiums/>

International Women's Day 2016 takes on gender parity



March 8 is International Women's Day, celebrated in today's Google Doodle with a video asking women all over the world to finish the sentence, "One day I will..."

The answers run the gamut from personal dreams like "play in the Major Leagues" to more global aspirations like Malala Yousafzai's wish to "see every girl in school." And like International Women's Day itself, the video is both a celebration of women's lives and achievements, and a call to action to make their lives better.

What is International Women's Day?

These days, it's a corporate-sponsored global campaign to raise awareness of women's issues worldwide.

But it has radical origins. The Socialist Party of America organized the first National Women's Day in New York in 1909 to commemorate the 1908 strike of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. (Women garment workers in America in the early 20th century had plenty of reasons to walk off the job, as the 1911 Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire would tragically prove.)

Read more:

<http://www.vox.com/2016/3/8/11175462/international-womens-day-google-doodle>

Lebanese women protest against rape and sexual harassment and demand safe streets

On the occasion of International Women Day (IWD) the AUB Red Oak Club organized this Tuesday a march under the banner 'The Street is Ours Even at Late Night' in clear protest against the continuing sexual harassment of women. The demonstration which took off from Ain Mreiseh coastal corniche towards the Riyadi Sports Club, coincides with and is inspired by the annual feminist night march known as 'Reclaim the Night' to regain the safety of public spaces. Participants hoisted posters that contained answers to questions put to them when they decide to speak up about their disagreeable experiences of harassment. Like for example, 'the question is not what you were wearing', or 'the street has no opening hours', or 'no, it is not ok' and 'to talk dirty to me is not gallant'.

The local police also had their share in a banner that said, 'even security is not secure', pointing out to the alleged harassment of women by security forces. Elaborating on the above march, the Red Oak Club activist, Aya Adra, explained that choosing the coastal corniche had two reasons: first to reclaim public spaces that are being systematically appropriated through privatization schemes, and secondly because the corniche is a typical place for sexual harassment incidents. Adra stressed that "harassment is not the problem of one person; rather it is interconnected with a greater patriarchal male chauvinist system that rips women of their natural right to walk safely in the streets at night."

Read more:

<http://www.weeportal-lb.org/news/lebanese-women-protest-against-rape-and-sexual-harassment-and-demand-safe-streets>

Woman accused of adultery and prostitution is buried up to her neck and stoned to death by Al-Qaeda in Yemen



A woman has been stoned to death in south-east Yemen after being accused of adultery and prostitution by an Al-Qaeda Sharia court. The married woman was reportedly killed in a public execution in the city of Al Mukalla, which has been under the control of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) since April last year. Al-Qaeda militants 'placed the woman in a hole in the middle of the courtyard of a military building and stoned her to death in the presence of dozens of residents', according to an eyewitness report. Scroll down for video

'Justice': The woman was stoned after reportedly 'confessing' to being a prostitute and a pimp, according to a Sharia court set up by Al-Qaeda affiliate Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) 'This was the first time we have seen such a thing,' a witness said.

Read more:

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3383887/Qaeda-Yemen-stones-woman-death-adultery-witnesses.html#ixzz43BpuaNX>

The new threat: ISIS's all-women brigade



Umm Sayaf is America's top female terrorist captive, she is the wife of ISIS's former chief financier, Abu Sayaf who was killed in a targeted raid. During the raid, the troops confiscated his computers, cell phones and other documents which detailed the groups' finances and such. Umm Sayaf's capture was quite an asset along with her in depth knowledge of her husband's activities and ISIS's working style, she also revealed the role of women in ISIS, which was previously thought to be just that of sexual jihad. Umm Sayaf was a commanding force, running ISIS's network of women operatives and fighter, as well as playing enforcer for the men's sex slaves. She revealed the existence of a parallel network of women in ISIS. It does seem ironic that the very group, which claims to be the truest beacon of Islam, and is all about controlling women, repressing them and enforcing radical Islam on the world, is using women widely for their many jobs. The militant group 'Islamic State' or Daesh continues to unleash its reign of terror on Syria and have taken thousands of women captive. So naturally news of an all woman brigade monitoring the streets of Raqqa took everybody by surprise.

Read more:

<http://www.newdelhitimes.com/the-new-threat-isiss-all-women-brigade123/>

Four Catholic nuns among the dead in massacre by gunmen in Yemen



Four nuns from the order founded by Mother Teresa of Calcutta are reportedly among 16 killed by gunmen who attacked a church-run retirement home in Yemen, the latest attack on Christians in the increasingly lawless country.

The women religious, members of the Missionaries of Charity, were killed when four armed men attacked the convent and home for the elderly in the southern city of Aden on Friday (March 4), the Catholic news agency Fides reported.

Two of the nuns were Rwandan, while one was from Kenya and another Indian, Fides said.

There were no immediate claims of responsibility but Yemen, on the southern edge of the Arabian Peninsula, is in the midst of a civil war that is also fueled by the involvement of outside nations.

Read more:

<http://www.religionnews.com/2016/03/04/four-catholic-nuns-among-the-dead-in-isis-massacre-in-yemen/>

Is Egypt doing enough to counter widespread sexual harassment?



An Egyptian TV talk show host who slammed a sexual assault survivor, blaming her for provoking the attack by “dressing immodestly,” has been sentenced to one year in prison.

Reham Saeed’s conviction is a milestone ruling in a country where sexual harassment and assault is so commonplace that it has been described by rights groups as “endemic” and where, for decades, survivors have been stigmatized and blamed for provoking the assaults. Rights activists believe the recent court decision is the result of social media pressure after thousands of activists launched a relentless online campaign using Arabic hashtags that translate to #dieReham and #prosecuteRehamSaeed.

The outcry also prompted an advertising boycott and the subsequent suspension of the show by the management of the privately owned al-Nahar network.

Read more:

<http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2016/03/egypt-sexual-harassment-conviction-hope.html>

How a new website is helping Lebanese women avoid sexual harassment

Cat-calling, men masturbating in public, and being inappropriately touched and insulted are part of daily life for some women in Lebanon. Such is their experience based on testimonies published on HarasserTracker.org, a website launched at the end of February by three young Lebanese entrepreneurs.

Nay el-Rahi and Myra el-Mir in Lebanon, and Sandra Hassan, based in France, have been involved in defending women's rights through professional and personal work with associations such as Kafa, a feminist nongovernmental organization focusing on gender-based violence, and Nasawiya, a feminist collective that ceased operating at the end of 2014. The launch of HarassMap in Egypt in 2010 was the three women's main inspiration for their initiative, the first of its kind in Lebanon.

"The website is a tool to primarily track and document harassment in Lebanon," Rahi, who is in charge of content, explained to Al-Monitor. "We would like to document what's happening in the streets of Lebanon in order to use it as data to lobby certain political entities for some changes, like lighting, the sidewalks, etc., over concern for the general safety of people."

Another goal is to redefine perceptions of sexual harassment and get to the point where it can be discussed in the public sphere without shame. "We hear a lot about people trying to define what is and what isn't, in their opinion, sexual harassment," Rahi said.

Read more:

<http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2016/03/lebanon-sexual-harassment-awareness.html#ixzz43Y9CyT4y>

GENDER & HUMAN RIGHTS

El Khomri project "No to double punishment for women"

Once again, the government forgets Women's rights. The preamble of the draft law said that "the principle of equality applies in the business. Professional equality between women and men must be respected there, ". That's the theory, and it is the minimum given that women still earn on average a quarter less than their male counterparts and that France 132nd class on pay equality in 145 countries. The problem is that this statement of principle is not accompanied by any measure to finally make effective equality.

Most importantly, the bill is based on the inversion of the hierarchy of norms and systematically prevail company agreements on branch agreements or the law. This principle is fundamentally harmful to the struggle for equality in the workplace, which has advanced than imposed by law and under the pressure of feminist struggles. Adding that more women in the SOHO / SME, where there is less union density, and therefore less ability to negotiate and mobilize. Give precedence company agreements therefore lead to lower collective rights and guarantees in female-dominated sectors. In the (long) series of regressions provided for all employees, some will be particularly discriminatory to women.

Read more:

<http://archyworldys.com/el-khomri-project-no-to-double-punishment-for-women/>

Women win big in Iran's parliamentary elections



The Islamic Republic's 10th parliamentary elections have yielded a significant victory not only for Reformists, but also for women pushing for change in Iranian society. While the final nationwide results are not expected until March 1; early numbers show twice the number of female members as in the previous parliament. Though ballots from many districts are still uncounted, it is clear that the number of women will reach at least 22. Thus far, 15 women have won seats in Parliament, and 14 of them are Reformists. These include all eight women on the Reformist-moderate "List of Hope" in Tehran, where the results are set to be finalized on Feb. 29.

"This election is significant because it represents the first time women's rights activists from across the political spectrum inside and outside Iran came together to push for more women to run and fill seats in the [parliament]," Fatemeh Haghighatjoo, a parliament member who famously stood up to hard-liners, said in an interview with Al-Monitor.

Read more:

<http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2016/02/iran-parliamentary-elections-women-elected-double-mps.html>

Tunisia's single mothers still struggle to overcome stigma

The situation of unmarried mothers, faced with a delicate dilemma and deprived of rights, makes a telling allegory for modern Tunisia — a country increasingly liberated but that still promotes conservative values.

On one side, the mere existence of unmarried mothers breaks the great taboo of premarital sex. According to a survey by the Pew Research Center from 2013, 89% of Tunisians say sex outside of marriage is "morally wrong."

On the other side, a growing number of individuals are emancipating themselves from traditional family values. This trend is mainly reflected in delayed marriage. In 2012, the average age of marriage was 28 for women and 33 for men, leading to an increase in premarital sex. According to psychoanalyst Nedra Ben Smail, who authored the book "Vierges? La nouvelle sexualité des Tunisiennes" ("Virgins? The new sexuality of Tunisian women"), only 20% of Tunisian women remain virgins until marriage.

Despite the country's rapidly changing ways, Tunisia struggles to adapt its legislation to its modernizing society. In November 2011, 10 months after Tunisian dictator Zine El Abidine Ben Ali fled the country, Souad Abderrahim, a female representative of the Islamist party Ennahda, called single mothers a "disgrace." Her statement caused significant outrage in the media and on social networks. Articles were published in response on the award-winning collective blog Nawaat, while Tunisian activist Lina Ben Mhenni, a 2011 Nobel Peace Prize nominee, called Abderrahim's declaration "outrageous."

Read more:

<http://www.wluml.org/news/tunisia-single-mothers-still-struggle-overcome-stigma>

Uganda bans maids from working in Saudi Arabia



The Ugandan government has banned Ugandan women from going to work as maids in Saudi Arabia, following reports of employer abuse and poor working conditions. On Tuesday, seven former domestic workers, all victims of human trafficking, were flown home to Uganda.

Women from many countries have been going to work as domestic workers in the Gulf States for a long time. But this particular story starts with some disturbing audio that went viral in Uganda. In the recording, several young Ugandan women talk about being tortured while employed as domestic workers in Saudi Arabia.

This prompted Uganda's Minister for Gender, Labour and Social Development, Mukasa Muruli Wilson, to write a letter calling for the ban of "recruitment and deployment" of women to work in Saudi Arabia.

In July last year, Uganda had actually signed a memo of understanding with the Gulf state allowing young college graduates to seek jobs as domestic workers there.

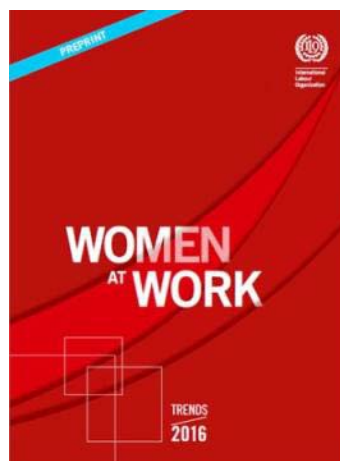
Read more:

<http://en.rfi.fr/africa/20160127-uganda-bans-maids-working-saudi-arabia>

RESOURCES & CALLS BOOKS & REPORTS

Women at Work Trends 2016

The Women at Work report provides the latest ILO data on women's position in labour markets, examines the factors behind these trends and explores the policy drivers for transformative change.



Throughout their working lives, women continue to face significant obstacles in gaining access to decent jobs. Only marginal improvements have been achieved since the Fourth World Conference on Women of Beijing in 1995, leaving large gaps to be covered in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by the United Nations in 2015. Inequality between women and men persists in global labour markets, in respect of opportunities, treatment and outcomes.

Read more:

http://www.ilo.org/gender/Informationresources/Publications/WCMS_457317/lang--en/index.htm

For a direct link to report:

http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/---publ/documents/publication/wcms_457317.pdf

TURKEY – STUDY ON PERCEPTIONS OF GENDER ROLES – CHALLENGES FOR WORK – PATRIARCHAL CULTURE



On March 4, Kadir Has University released the results of “Public perceptions on gender roles and the status of women in Turkey” study. Data gathered from 1,200 people in 26 districts show that for 77.8% of respondents, the most important problem women face in Turkey is violence. Among female participants, other burning issues included “inequality” (41.8%), “lack of education” (34.8%), “peer pressure” (30.7%) and “family pressure” (26.5%).

The study showed that 64.8% of female participants are currently unemployed and 70.2% have never held a job. In one of the most striking findings, 72.2% of women responded negatively to the question “Would you like to work?”

Read more:

<http://www.wunrn.com/2016/03/turkey-study-on-perceptions-of-gender-roles-challenges-for-work-patriarchal-culture/>

Violence against women and girls: Evidence digest March 2016

This evidence digest focuses on how to address violence against women and girls and the latest reports and developments in violence prevention.



Read more:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/violence-against-women-and-girls-evidence-digest-march-2016>

For a direct link to report:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/507819/Evidence-Digest-March-2016.pdf

Women's Participation Rate in Parliaments Slows, Even as More Gain Top Seats – Inter-Parliamentary Union



Female politicians at a meeting of women lawmakers from Arab States and members of the European Parliament in November 2014 in Brussels, Belgium.

Despite an increase in the number of women Speakers of Parliament, the number of female parliamentarians across the world rose by only

0.5 percentage points in 2015, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) today reported, dashing hopes that gender parity in parliament could be achieved within a generation.

Read more:

<http://www.wunrn.com/2016/03/womens-participation-rate-in-parliaments-slows-even-as-more-gain-top-seats-inter-parliamentary-union/>

For a direct link to report:

<http://www.ipu.org/pdf/publications/WIP2015-e.pdf>

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