



ENCYCLOPEDIA OF WOMEN AND ISLAMIC CULTURES

Military: Women's Participation: Muslim World

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EWIC Staff: Datasheet

- ❖ Pakistan, with the 7th largest military in the world¹, mostly employs women in administrative and medical roles, but has recruited 21 female fighter pilots since 2002, the first being Aviation Cadet Saira Amin.²
- ❖ In 2007, the Afghanistan National Army graduated its first class of female soldiers from Camp Zafar.³
- ❖ In September of 2014, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) announced that a female fighter pilot led the United Arab Emirates Air Force (UAEAF) in a bombing campaign against ISIS strongholds in Syria.⁴
- ❖ As of 2015, Algeria has the most high-ranking female officers in the Arab World with 4 female Generals.⁵
- ❖ As of August 2015, Bangladesh contributes approximately 22 percent of all individual female police units to the United Nations, contributing 184 of the total 832 total individual police units.⁶
- ❖ Bangladesh is the highest total contributing country to the United Nations in terms of female peacekeeping force contribution,⁷ including 215 female peacekeepers and an all-female peacekeeping force in Haiti totaling 140.
- ❖ Bangladesh is largely considered the top performer specifically in female police force contributions to the United Nations totaling 184 individual units.⁸
- ❖ Among the Kurdish military forces, the Women's Defense Units (YPJ) is an all-female force of Iraqi and Syrian Kurds currently leading the fight against ISIL.⁹
- ❖ Pakistan currently contributes 22 female peacekeepers to the United Nations.¹⁰
- ❖ In Malaysia, women are able to serve in noncombatant positions in the military, and are subject to mandatory conscription at the age of 18.¹¹

¹ <http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/active-force.htm>

² <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/06/09/opinion/bina-shah-high-can-pakistans-air-force-women-fly.html>

³ http://www.al.com/opinion/index.ssf/2013/03/women_beginning_to_fill_new_ro.html

⁴ <http://www.globalresearch.ca/war-propaganda-and-womens-rights-the-arab-emirates-uae-exploit-first-woman-pilot-to-lead-the-bombing-campaign-against-isis/5404893>

⁵ <http://bigthink.com/ideafeed/algeria-female-generals>

⁶ <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/contributors/gender/2015gender/aug15.pdf>

⁷ <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/resources/statistics/contributors.shtml>

⁸ <http://www.providingforpeacekeeping.org/2014/04/03/contributor-profile-bangladesh/>

⁹ <http://thekurdishproject.org/history-and-cultur/kurdish-women/ypj/>

¹⁰ <http://www.providingforpeacekeeping.org/2014/04/03/contributor-profile-pakistan/>

¹¹ http://factsanddetails.com/southeast-asia/Malaysia/sub5_4d/entry-3679.html