



## ENCYCLOPEDIA OF WOMEN AND ISLAMIC CULTURES

### Women, the Arab Spring, and the Immediate Aftermath: Egypt

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- ❖ Egyptian women were among the first to protest in Tahrir Square, and were amongst the primary organizers, tent guards, and street patrols for security.<sup>1</sup>
- ❖ According to the World Bank, in 2010 under Mubarak, 13 women were members of the Egyptian Parliament, compared to only 2 following his resignation in February of 2011.<sup>2</sup>
- ❖ The Egyptian Organization for Human Rights estimated that women's presence in protests in Egypt in 2011 ranged anywhere from 20% to 50% of the total protest population.<sup>3</sup>
- ❖ According to *Foreign Policy*, the women who took part in the 2011 protests had similar occupational profiles as the men, allowing them to have the resources and autonomy to participate in the uprisings.<sup>4</sup>
- ❖ Prior to Mubarak's resignation in 2011, the military used sexual harassment and violence as a tool of sociopolitical marginalization against women in an attempt to keep them from participating in further protests.<sup>5</sup>
- ❖ According to Amnesty International, during the immediate aftermath of Mubarak's resignation, on March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011, at least 18 women were held taken into custody to a military prison and were forced to take virginity tests, 17 of which were detained for four days.<sup>6</sup>
- ❖ The first parliamentary elections after the 2011 revolution resulted in women holding only 2% of the seats, compared to 12% under Mubarak.<sup>7</sup>
- ❖ During the 2012 drafting of the new constitution, despite the critical role played by women, none were on the 10 person initial re-drafting, none were appointed as governors, and only one was on the cabinet.<sup>8</sup>
- ❖ Five women (10%) comprised the Constituent Assembly during the drafting of the 2014 Constitution, compared to zero on the 2012 drafting committee.<sup>9</sup>
- ❖ After the 2015 parliamentary elections in Egypt, women won 73 seats in Parliament, while another 14 women were appointed by the president, totaling to an unprecedented 87 women holding parliamentary seats (14.59% of parliament).<sup>10</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.nobleworld.biz/images/Shihada7.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SG.GEN.PARL.ZS>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.polisci.wisc.edu/Uploads/Documents/IRC/Sjoberg.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> <http://foreignpolicy.com/2013/04/15/the-anatomy-of-protest-in-egypt-and-tunisia/>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.womenundersiegeproject.org/conflicts/profile/egypt>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2012/03/egypt-year-after-virginity-tests-women-victims-army-violence-still-seek-justice/>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/for-egypt-s-women-the-arab-spring-does-not-spell-freedom-1.424962>

<sup>8</sup> [http://www.peacewomen.org/assets/file/women\\_in\\_the\\_arab\\_spring\\_-\\_overview\\_and\\_fact\\_sheet\\_.pdf](http://www.peacewomen.org/assets/file/women_in_the_arab_spring_-_overview_and_fact_sheet_.pdf)

<sup>9</sup> [http://www.academia.edu/14738019/The\\_2014\\_Egyptian\\_Constitution\\_in\\_Context\\_Perspectives\\_from\\_Egypt\\_D\\_Serodio\\_and\\_C\\_Hulsman](http://www.academia.edu/14738019/The_2014_Egyptian_Constitution_in_Context_Perspectives_from_Egypt_D_Serodio_and_C_Hulsman)

<sup>10</sup> <http://en.aswatmasriya.com/news/view.aspx?id=ee92e8e9-ef2c-49bc-bd99-b01969128f4d>