



## ENCYCLOPEDIA OF WOMEN AND ISLAMIC CULTURES

### Muslim Women in the Olympic Games

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#### EWIC Staff: Datasheet

- ❖ In 2008, at the age of 19, Mehboba Ahdyar was the only female athlete to represent Afghanistan in the 2008 Beijing Olympics. After receiving various death threats, she sought political asylum in Europe due to the fear of reprisals.<sup>1</sup>
- ❖ From the United Arab Emirates, Khadija Mohammed, 17, will be the first female lifter from the Gulf in the Olympics, and was the first Emirati to qualify “outright” for the Olympics.<sup>2</sup>
- ❖ At the age of 25, Neda Shahsavari was the first woman from the Islamic Republic of Iran to compete in Olympic table tennis, and is one of 8 women from Iran that competed in the 2012 Olympics.<sup>3</sup>
- ❖ Yemen’s Fatima Al-Dahman<sup>4</sup> and Oman’s Shinoona Al-Habsi<sup>5</sup> competed in the 2012 Olympic games in the 100 meter event of track and field.
- ❖ In 2012, Judoka Ali Seraj Abdulrahim Shahrkhanini became the first Saudi woman to compete in the Olympics.<sup>6</sup>
- ❖ Sarah Attar, 19, was the first woman from Saudi Arabia to compete in track and field in the 2012 London Olympic games.<sup>7</sup>
- ❖ Woroud Sawalha was one of two female athletes sent by Palestine to the 2012 London Olympics.<sup>8</sup>
- ❖ At the age of 18, swimmer Sabine Hazboun represented the Olympic delegation from Palestine in the women’s 50 meter freestyle.<sup>9</sup>
- ❖ Noor Hussain Al-Malki became the first Qatari woman to compete in track in field at the 2012 Olympics as a 100 meter sprinter.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.spiegel.de/international/world/running-for-her-life-afghan-athlete-seeks-asylum-in-europe-a-565713.html>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.nydailynews.com/news/world/female-weightlifter-khadija-mohammed-uae-qualify-olympics-article-1.1114981>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.egyptindependent.com//news/iran-s-neda-shahsavari-says-she-thrilled-compete-olympics>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.yementimes.com/en/1602/report/1302/Women-athletes-strive-to-make-it.htm>

<sup>5</sup> <http://howold.co/shinoona-al-habsi>

<sup>6</sup> [http://espn.go.com/olympics/summer/2012/judo/story/\\_/id/8228912/2012-london-olympics-saudi-arabia-first-female-judoka-loses-bout](http://espn.go.com/olympics/summer/2012/judo/story/_/id/8228912/2012-london-olympics-saudi-arabia-first-female-judoka-loses-bout)

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.theguardian.com/sport/2012/aug/08/sarah-attar-saudi-arabia-olympics>

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.cnn.com/2012/05/17/sport/olympics-palestinian-london-2012/>

<sup>9</sup> <http://imeu.org/article/sabine-hazboun-olympic-swimmer>

<sup>10</sup> [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/08/03/noor-hussain-al-malki-qatar-runner\\_n\\_1738005.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/08/03/noor-hussain-al-malki-qatar-runner_n_1738005.html)