



Briefings: ON WOMEN



Bahrain to Appoint Jewish Woman Ambassador to the United States

In an unusual move for an Arab country, Bahrain about to appoint a Jewish woman Ambassador to the United States. According to Gulf Daily News, last week, *Huda Azar Nunu* was elevated by royal decree to the post of ambassador in preparation for her appointment to the United States, which was leaked by the palace a month ago.

While no formal announcement has yet been made, it is expected shortly and *Nunu* has been quoted saying that her appointment is a great honor. A tiny Jewish community exists in Bahrain and several of its members have gained political posts in government, including the state council. *Nunu* will be the third woman Bahrain has appointed as an ambassador.

Source: Al-Arabiya – Manama - 5/30/2008
<http://www.alarabiya.net/articles/2008/05/30/50713.html>



Kuwait: Unveiled Members of Parliament Create Crisis on Opening Day

Kuwait has recently experienced strong confrontations between its ruler and parliament - today was a case on point. Immediately after the Emir of Kuwait opened the new session of parliament, nine Islamist members withdrew from the session in protest over the fact that two female members – *Nuriyyah Al-Subih*, Minister of Higher Education, and *Moda Al-Hamud*, Minister of Housing and Development – refused to wear veils. The nine Islamists also submitted a petition

requesting the constitutional committee to examine whether the refusal of the two women to comply with the Islamic *Shari'a* constitutes grounds for their dismissal from parliament.

Source: Al-Arabiya June 1st, 2008-06-02
<http://www.alarabiya.net/articles/2008/06/01/50782.html>

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