

July 2014

RENAISSANCE MONTHLY

Your monthly update on The Renaissance Project



LETTER FROM THE FOUNDER

Mohamed Al Qadi



Dear all,

Ramadan Mubarak. This month's newsletter is centered around **women education**.

On page 1, you will find an article that discusses the **importance of women education** and its relation to our scholarship program. On **Page 2**, we highlight the story of **Fatima Al Fihri, an Arab female who created the oldest degree issuing university in the world**.

Finally, on page three, you will find a tribute piece to the Palestinian victims of the latest Israeli massacre in Gaza. It is a list of all the innocent lives that we have lost during the past week. May god protect the people of Palestine.

Why Women Education Matters *Special Feature*

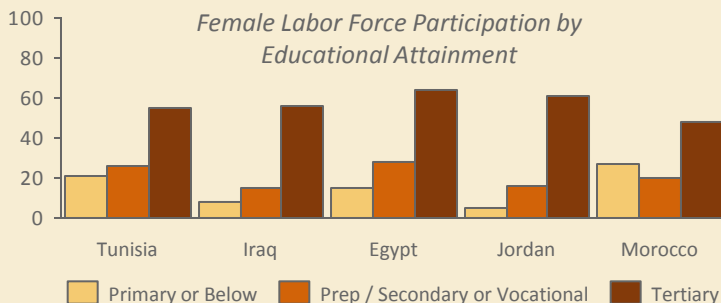


The Renaissance Project **currently sponsors the tertiary education of 8 females** which compromise **three quarters of all our students**. Furthermore, the majority of students interviewed are often women. This has drawn criticism from several observers due to the fact that labor force participation rates among female Arabs are amongst the lowest in the world. The majority of Arab women "stay home" and do not contribute to economic development or scientific advancement. Hence, the argument goes

funding for students should target males who are more likely to work and provide higher returns on their education.

Leaving ideas of equality aside along with ethical considerations, the argument is still severely flawed: **women education does bring large and equal positive returns to the economy and society**.

First, when examining labor force participation rates by gender in the Arab world, it is clear that there is a big difference between participation rates among educated women and non-educated women. **Women who earn a university degree are much more likely to work than women with no education, and labor force participation among educated Arab women is comparable to that of western countries**. In other words, **education seems to encourage women to work** and a majority of educated women do so. Thus, our **program's resources are not "wasted" by focusing on women**



Second, **even if some of our students decide to become housewives, their education is still critically important**. According to Noble Prize Nominee and Economist Angus Deaton, women education has been strongly linked to child survival and success. Studies have shown that **educating mothers increases the chances of a child's survival, future prosperity, and allows children to reach their full potential**.

Finally, our own experience shows that **women are generally more dedicated and more academically accomplished** than their male counterparts. They consistently score higher in our selection process and are keener to secure the scholarship

In conclusion, women education is very important and is key to the region's renaissance; a fact echoed by Islamic principles which stress its value and which played a large role in the life of Fatima Al Fihri (see page 2)

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“The Woman Who Changed the World”– Fatima Al Fihri

Muslim of the Month By Mohamed Al Qadhi



Fatima Al Fihri is perhaps one of the most remarkable women in world history. Described as sharp, strong minded, and hardworking, she spent her life seeking to improve the lives of people in her community. She had an exceptional vision, one that would transform the educational system, and with it, change the world.

Born in Tunisia in 800 AD, Fatima moved to Fes Morocco with her family at a young age. She received a good education and was quick to impress her family members and tutors with her creativity and vision, as well as her keenness for knowledge and learning. She was a hard worker who helped her father run his business successfully over many years. After her father’s passing, Fatima received a sizable inheritance and became one of the wealthiest individuals in Fes.

In 859 AD, the war in Spain had reached its climax and a growing number of refugees sought safety in the cities of Morocco. Fatima set out to provide for the refugees' needs and help integrate them into the community. She also commissioned the building of a mosque to cater for the influx of new refugees, supervising the building of it in person.

More importantly, Fatima commissioned the building of a “madrasa” adjacent to the mosque. The madrasa was an educational institute offering advanced programs in subjects such as classical Arabic, law, and Islamic studies to all people regardless of their age, gender, race or religion (a reflection of tolerance in the region at that time). The university became a learning beacon that attracted scholars from Africa, the Middle East, and Europe.

But what made this university truly different from its predecessors was that **it was the world’s first higher education institute that offered academic degrees**, certified by the university itself. In other words, **Fatima introduced**

the concept of higher education certificates that our entire educational system utilizes to this very day. The impact of her work is nothing short of astronomical:



First, Granting degrees changed the educational system forever as it **helped formalize education** and improve its quality. Second, it provided a **useful framework to assess and rate students**, and also **provide graduates with “proof” to market their newly acquired skills** among employers. And finally, the University of Qarawiyyin, which is the world’s oldest operational academic degree-granting institution of higher education, was **home to some of the best thinkers, scientists, theologians, and politicians of the past thousand years.** Some of its associates include the **legendary ibn Khaldun**, one of the fathers of several social science fields, and **Pope Sylvester II**, who is widely credited for introducing Arabic numerals and the number zero to European countries (a critical piece that will be later used to drive scientist advancement during the renaissance phase).

The new model of higher education and creation of countless programs are owed to Fatima’s lifetime of efforts and implementations towards learning. A true pioneer, Fatima’s value of knowledge furthered the learning of millions of people, bettering the institution of education as well as the world.

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Contact Us

Therenaisanceproj@gmail.com

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Wall of Martyrs

Victims of Israel's Genocide: Tuesday July 8th – Monday July 14th

Tuesday July 8th

Mohammed Sha'aban, 24
Ahmad Sha'aban, 30
Khadir al-Bashiliki, 45
Rashad Yaseen, 27
Riad Mohammed Kawareh, 50
Seraj Ayad Abed al-A'al, 8
Mohammed Ayman Ashour, 15
Bakr Mohammed Joudah, 22
Ammar Mohammed Joudah, 26
Hussein Yousef Kawareh, 13
Mohammed Ibrahim Kawareh, 50
Bassim Salim Kawareh, 10
Mousa Habib, 16
Mohammed Habib, 22
Sakr Aysh al-Ajouri, 22,
Ahmad Na'el Mehdi, 16,
Hafiz Mohammed Hamad, 30,
Ibrahim Mohammed Hamad, 26,
Mehdi Mohammed Hamad, 46
Fawzia Khalil Hamad, 62
Dunia Mehdi Hamad, 16
Suha Hamad, 25
Suleiman Salman Abu Soaween, 22
Saraj Eyad Abdelal, 8

Wednesday, July 9

Abdelhadi Jamaat al-Sufi, 24,
Naifeh Farjallah, 80
Abdelnasser Abu Kweek, 60
Khaled Abu Kweek, 31
Amir Arif, 13,
Mohammed Malaka, 18 months
Amniyeh Malaka, 27
Hatem Abu Salim, 28
Mohammed Khaled al-Nimri, 22
Sahar Hamdan Masri, 40
Ibrahim Masri, 14
Sumoud al-Nawasra
Mohammed Khalaf al-Nawasra, 4
Nidal Khalaf al-Nawasra, a child
Salah Awwad al-Nawasra,
Amal Youssef Abdel Ghafour
Ranim Jawde Abdel Ghafour, 1,
Rafik Al Kafarneh, 30
Hamad Shehab (27)

Thursday 10/7

Salim Qandeel, 27
Amer Al-Fayoumi, 30
Baha Abu al-lail, 35
Abdalla Ramadan Abu Ghazzal, 5
Ismail Hassan Abu Jamah, 19
Aseel Ibrahim AlMasri
Ibrahim Khalil Qanun, 24,

Muhammad Khalil Qanun, 26,
Ibrahim Sawali
Ahmad sawali, 28,
Hamdi Badieh Sawali, 33,
Suleiman Al Astal, 55
Muhammad al-aqad, 24,
Raed Mohammad Abu Shalat, 37,
Raed Alyan Al-zawareh, 33
Yasmine Al-mutawwak 4
Ahmad Salim Al Astal
Mousa Mohammad Al Astal
Child Mohamad Malaka, 3
Najla' mahmoud al- hajj
Asma mahmoud al-hajj
Basmah abdefatah al-hajj, 57
Mahmoud lutfi al-hajj, 58
Tarek sa'ad al-hajj
Sa'ad mahmoud al-hajj
Fatima al-hajj
Omar al-hajj
Mahmoud Wulud (Waloud),
Hazem (hazim) Balousha
Ala'a Abdelnabi
Ibrahim Daoud al-Balawi, 24
Abdelrahman Jamal al-zamili, 22
Ibrahim ahmad Abdeen, 42
Mazen Farj al-Jarbah, 30
Marwan Slim, 27
Mustafa Abu Mor, 20
Khalid Abu Mor, 23
Hani Saleh Hamad, 57,
Ibrahim Hamad, 20,
Salima Hassan Musallim al-Arja, 60,
Maryam Atieh Al-Arja, 11,
Ahmad Zaher Hamdan, 22,
Mohammed kamal al-Kahlout
Muhammad Ihsan Farawneh, 18,

Friday 11/07/2014

Anas Rizk Abu el Kas (Al-Qas), 33,
Mohammed Mounir Ashour (25)
Faisal Al Qadi, from Yabna
Hassan Eid Abu Jame, 75,
Son of hassan Eid Abu Jame 19
Nour Al Najdi (Anajdi), 10
Wissam Abdel Razeq(abdul-Razeq)
Hassan Ghannam (23)
Ghalia Deeb Jaber Ghanem, 7
Mahmoud Abdul Razeq Ghannam (23)
Kifah Shahadeh Deeb Ghannam (20)
Abdellah Abu Mahrouk
Sami Andan Shaldan (25)
Mohammed Kamal Al-Kahlout (38)
Ahmed Zaher Hamdan (22)
Bassam Abdel Rahman Khattab (6)
Jumaa Atiah Shallouf

Noor Rafik Udai Al-Sultan
Shahd AlQarnawi, 5
Sahar Salman Abu Namous, 4,
Abdul-Halim Abdul-Mo'ty Ashra, 52,
Nasser Rabah Sammama, 46,
Hussein Mohammad Al-Mamlouk, 47
Saber Sokkar, 80,
Rami Abu Mosa'ed, 24,
Mohammad Samiri, 24
Salem al-ashhab, 40,
Raed Abu Hani, 50,
Rabea Abu Hmeedan, 65,
Mazen Aslan, Shahrman,

Saturday 12/7/2014

Anas Yousef Qandil, 17
Yousef Mohammad Qandil, 47
Mohammad Abu Sneina, 20
Abdul-Rahman al-Khatib, 38
Husam ar-Razayna, 38
Ibrahim Nabil Hamada
Hasan Ahmad Abu Ghush
Ahmad Mazen al-Bal'awy
Ali Nabil Basal, 32
Hamada al-Halaby, 28.
Mohammad Abu Askar, 20
Mohammad Sweity, 20
Khawla al-Hawajri, 24
Ola Wishahi, 31,
Suha Abu Saade, 38,
Khalwa al-Hawajra, 24.
Rateb Subhi al-Saifi, 22
Azmi Mahmoud Obeid, 51
Nidal Abu al-Malsh, 22
Suleiman Said Obeid, 56
Mustafa Inaya, 58
Ghassan Ahmad al-Masri, 25
Rif'at Amer, 36.
Rif'at Syouti
Nahedh Na'im al-Batsh, 41
Baha' Majed al-Batsh, 28
Qusai Issam al-Batsh, 12
Aziza Yousef al-Batsh, 59
Ahmad No'man al-Batsh, 27
Mohammad Issam al-Batsh, 17
Yahia 'Ala' Al-Batsh, 18
Jalal Majed al-Batsh, 26
Mahmoud Majed al-Batsh, 22,
Majed Sobhi al-Batsh
Marwa Majed al-Batsh, 25
Khaled Majed al-Batsh, 20
Ibrahim Majed al-Batsh, 18
Manar Majed al-Batsh, 13
Amal Hussein al-Batsh, 10
Anas Ala' al-Batsh, 10
Qusai Ala' al-Batsh, 20

Zakariyya Ala' al-Natsh, 20
Mohannad Yousef Dheir, 23
Mohammad Zo'rob, 21
Imad Bassam Zo'rob, 11
Mohannad Yousef Dheir, 23
Mustafa 'Arif, 26, eastern .
Mohammad Ghazi 'Arif, 35
Amir 'Arif, 10
Ghazi Arif
Ahmad Yousef Dalloul, 57
Fadi Ya'coub Sukkar, 25
Qassem Jaber Odah, 16
Mohammad Sharatha, 23

Sunday 13/7/2014

Ezzeddin Bolbol
Rami Abu Shanab, 25
Ramzya Abdul-al, 73
Mo'ayyad al-'Araj, 2
Husam Ibrahim Najjar 14
Hijaziyya al-Hilo, 80
Huwaida abu Harb, 44
Haitham Ashraf Zo'rob, 21
Mo'sab Daher, 22
Laila Hassan al-'Oweidat, 35
Hussein Abdul-Qader Mheisin, 14.
Qassem Talal Hamdan, 23
Maher Thabet Abu Mor (24)
Musa muammar (60)
Saddam Musa Maamar (23)
Hanadi Hamdi Momar
Idham abd al al
Mohammed Ghazi Areef (35)
Fawzeyya Abdelal (73)
Mohamed Salem Abu Briss (65)
Samir Hamdan
Hussein Muhesin 19

Monday 14/07/2014

Adham Abdul-Fattah Abdul-'Aal, 27
Hamid Suleiman Abu al-'Araj, 60
Adham Abdul-Fattah Abdul-'Aal, 27
Hamid Suleiman Abu al-'Araj, 60,
Abdullah Mahmoud Baraka, 24
Tamer Salem Qdeih, 37
Ziad Maher an-Najjar, 17
Ziad Salem ash-Shawy, 25
Mohammad Yasser Hamdan, 24
Mohammad Shakib al-Agha, 22
Mohammad Younis Abu Yousef, 22
Sara Omar Sheikh al-Eid, 4
Omar Ahmad Sheikh al-Eid, 24
Jihad Atef Sheikh al-Eid, 48
Kamal Atef Yousef Abu Taha, 16
Ismael Nabil Ahmad Abu Hatab, 21
Ahmad Younis Abu Yousef, 28