



# SIGNIFICANT MOMENTS FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN 2011

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# JANUARY



The "Arab Spring" uprisings start in the Middle East and North Africa with women playing a key role in organizing and participating in protests.

Photo credit: <http://sigi.org>

# FEBRUARY



Egyptian uprising topples Hosni Mubarak's 29 year presidency.  
Women's presence at Tahrir Square was very visible and well  
reported by the media

Photo credit: Al Jazeera



February: Demonstrations in Libya calling for political change are met with violence.

Photo credit: Wikimedia



February: Women march at the World Social Forum in Senegal, Dakar.  
Photo credit: AWID

# MARCH



Cote d'Ivoire: Post election crisis leads to economic crisis and aggravates violence against women.

Photo credit: FRHDP\_solidaires



March: Côte d'Ivoire- Hundreds of women march on International Women's Day in Abidjan to protest against the killing of 7 women by security forces during the post election crisis.

Photo credit: Associated Press



March: Earthquake and tsunami devastate parts of Japan, causing tens of thousands of deaths, injuries and displacements. Women were engaged in relief efforts but few women were involved in decision making and managing evacuation centres

Photo credits: Al Jazeera, Wikimedia

# APRIL



Kosovo elects first woman President, Atifete Jahjaga

Photo credit: Captain Tulu



April: Liberia - International aid organizations call on the international community to pay greater attention to the worsening refugee crisis in Ivory Coast and the region.

Photo credit: Caroline Gluck/Oxfam



April: New electoral law in Tunisia prescribes gender parity in  
Constituent Assembly elections.

Photo credit: Wassim Ben Rhouma

# MAY



Young women play a leading role in the student protests in Chile  
(Camila Vallejo pictured)

Photo credit: Agencia Brasil



May: The Supremo Tribunal Federal of Brazil rules that civil unions are legal.

Photo credit: Asociación Vox

# JUNE



ILO Convention 189 on Decent Work for Domestic Workers is passed.

Photo credits: Independent Media Center and Wikimedia



June: Women2Drive campaign starts in Saudi Arabia. Activist Manal al-Sharif is detained for driving and later convicted and sentenced.

Photo credit: saudiwave and Wikipedia



June: UN passes resolution on sexual orientation and gender identity - The first UN resolution ever to bring specific focus to human rights violations based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Photo credit: UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe



June: UN takes measures to define relationship between Internet rights and human rights - an important step forward in recognizing the significance of the Internet as a space that enables citizens to enjoy their human rights and especially for women human rights defenders (WHRDs) for whom ICTs are integral to their work and safety.

Photo credit: UN News Centre



June: First International Widows Day celebrated on June 23.

Photo credit: UN

# JULY



Thailand elects first woman Prime Minister, Yingluck Shinawatra.

Photo credit: PTP



July: New penal code in Mexico includes femicide as a crime for the first time.

Photo credit: NHRC.org



July: South Sudan becomes 54<sup>th</sup> African State bringing hope to women in the region who have long experienced violence, marginalisation and discrimination.

Photo credits: Unmultimedia.org and Sudanwildlife.com



July: UN Human Rights Council elects Laura Dupuy Lasserre, from Uruguay, as its first female President.

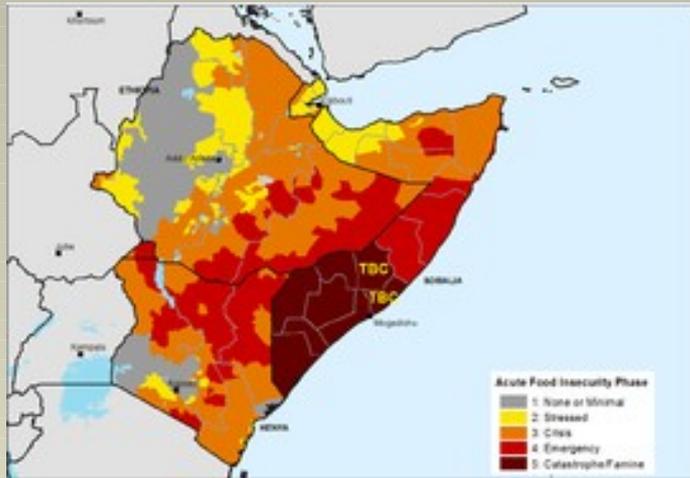
Photo credit: UNHRC



July: Singer Susana Baca becomes first Afro-Peruvian woman appointed to Cabinet as Minister of Culture.

Photo credit: Monocityjim

# AUGUST



Drought and famine in Somalia leave thousands displaced, mostly women and children.

Photo credit: wikipedia and Oxfam



August: A new law is passed in Algeria to increase female candidates on electoral lists.

Photo credit: World News

# SEPTEMBER



Social movements including “Occupy Wall Street” across the United States and the “indignados” mobilizations across Europe and similarly inspired protests around the world see people demonstrating against the failure of the dominant economic system to respect human rights.

Photo credit: Wikimedia



September: Wangari Maathai, environmentalist and first African woman to win Nobel Prize dies.

Photo credit: efeverde



September: Saudi women granted the right to vote and contest in municipal elections in 2015.

Photo credit: <http://amnestyusa.org>

# OCTOBER



Liberian President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, Yemeni opposition leader Tawakkul Karman and Liberian activist Leymah Gbowee share the Nobel Peace Prize.

Photo credit: [Itenetwork.blogspot.com](http://Itenetwork.blogspot.com)



October: Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi killed. Concerns raised about introduction of sharia laws by new regime.

Photo credit : Evan Hill/Al Jazeera



October: Cristina Fernández, first woman elected president in Argentina, was re-elected by 54% of the vote, for a second period.

Photo: [elsiglo.com](http://elsiglo.com).



October: Filipino baby girl is marked world's 7 billionth person.

Photo credit: All voices



October: Buthaina Kamel becomes first woman in Egypt to campaign for the highest political office.

Photo credit: IPS

# NOVEMBER



Pakistan passes new bill to protect women's rights.

Photo credit: EPA/<http://rferl.org>



November: 12th Latin American and Caribbean Feminist Gathering (EFLAC) takes place in Bogotá, Colombia. The gathering marked a historical moment, as the 30th anniversary of the first *Encuentro* that also took place in Colombia

Photo credit: Gabriela De Cicco



November: All political and civil society actors in Democratic Republic of Congo, including the 11 presidential candidates sign a declaration for the elimination of sexual violence in DRC.

Photo credit: Le Congo

# DECEMBER



Gambian Lawyer Fatou Bensouda is appointed as first woman and first African Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court.

Photo credit: unmultimedia.org



December: 1st Asia Pacific Feminist Forum takes place in Chang  
Mai Thailand.

Photo credit: APWLD



December: Portia Simpson-Miller re-elected Prime Minister of Jamaica. She served a term in the office from 30 March 2006 to 11 September 2007, as the first woman in that role.

Photo credit: Office of the Prime Minister of Jamaica



December: United Nations declared October 11 as ‘International Day of the Girl Child’, following an extensive campaign by civil society organizations working on girls’ rights.

Photo credit: Plan



The ongoing debt crisis in Europe saw growing unemployment, dwindling pensions, increasing taxes, domestic violence and a possible reinforcing of “traditional values” as just a few of the challenges facing women.

Photo credit: AP Photo/Virginia Mayo



## Violence against women human rights defenders (WHRDs) continued unabated and with impunity.

Mexican journalists Ana María Marcela Yarce Viveros and Rocío González Trápaga are murdered in August and Norma Andrade, WHRD, was attacked and shot in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico in December.

Photo credit: Notimex and Amnesty International