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U.N. IN ACTION

BAHRAINI WOMEN: MAKING HISTORY

VIDEO

INAUGURAL OF GA
PRESIDENT AL HAYA

BADRIA AT WORK

BADRIA ON CAMERA

AERIAL OF BAHRAIN

CAR RACING

WOMEN IN SCHOOL

AUDIO

NARRATION

In 2006, Shaikha Haya Rashed al-Khalifa of Bahrain became the first Arab Muslim woman to hold the post of president of the United Nations General Assembly. (10")

Women in Bahrain like Badria Al Muslimani are proud of her. (4")

BADRIA: (ARABIC)

"She brings credit not only to Bahraini women, but to all women in the Gulf countries." (6")

NARRATION:

Bahrain is located in the Persian Gulf off the coast of Saudi Arabia. It's an island nation with a population of about 700,000. (9")

In 1932, it was the first Gulf state to discover oil, and it has rapidly modernized over the last seventy years. (8")

The first girls' school in the Gulf region was established here in 1928. (5")

GRADUATION	Today, there are more women graduates than men at the University of Bahrain. (4.5")
WOMEN AT WORK	Women make up over a quarter of the nation's workforce, some of them in senior positions. (5")
BADRIA WITH FAMILY	Badria, who's married with a son under two years of age, holds a university degree in chemical engineering. (6")
BADRID DRIVING CAR/GULF AIR SIGN/BADRIA AT OFFICE	She works at Gulf Air, the national airline, as a Compensation Benefit Analyst - a job that traditionally favors men. But she has always wanted to become a political leader. (10")
BADRIA WITH HUSBAND	Anwar Al Hindi is her husband. (2")
AL HINDI ON CAMERA	<p><u>AL HINDI:</u> (ENGLISH)</p> <p><i>"She's smart, she knows what to do and she can compromise when it's needed. I think she'll be excellent to serve."</i> (8")</p>
BADRIA IN WORKSHOP	<p><u>NARRATION:</u></p> <p>Since 2005, Badria has participated in a program that trains women to run for political office. The workshops are sponsored by the United Nations and the Supreme Council for Women, a group run by the government. (12")</p>
ARCHIVAL FOOTAGE OF 2002 ELECTION	Bahraini women were the first in the Gulf region to get the rights to vote and run for office in 2002, after the nation declared itself a

constitutional monarchy. (9”)

More than thirty women candidates participated, although none was elected. (4”)

ARCHIVAL FOOTAGE OF
WOMEN MINISTERS WITH
KING SWEARING IN
CEREMONY

The disappointing outcome has prompted King Hamad to appoint women to high-level political positions. Among them are: Dr. Nada Haffadh as Health Minister in 2004; and Dr. Fatima Al-Balooshi, Minister of Social Development in 2005. (18”)

DR HAFFADH IN OFFICE / ON
CAMERA

They are the first woman ministers in the country. They have attracted attention and their work has gained recognition. (6”)

DR FATIMA ON TOUR / AT
WORK

HAFFADH: (ENGLISH)

“When I go to public places, some school girls come around to me, I like that by the way. They say, well, Miss Minister, we like to be like you when we grow up.” (8”)

DR FATIMA ON CAMERA

FATIMA: (ENGLISH)

“Once I was in one of the [town] visits and a man stood up in the crowd and said ‘before I did not trust women’ and said ‘I would not vote for women in the parliament. But after what we saw from you ministers, if women are like you then now you have changed our opinion.” (17”)

WOMEN CAMPAIGNING / 2006
ELECTION FOOTAGE

NARRATION:

But when Bahrainis went to the polls in 2006, little seemed changed. Only one woman candidate, Lateefa Al Gaood, succeeded in

FIRST WOMAN
PARLIAMENTARIAN

gaining office. And she was not elected; she was the only running candidate in her constituency and won her seat by default. (16")

BADRIA WITH FAMILY

Badria did not win, but she is not giving up. (3")

BADRIA ON CAMERA

BADRIA: (ENGLISH)

"Maybe one day I will get into the ministry, to handle one of the ministries." (7")

WOMAN MINISTER VOTING

NARRATION:

Despite the setback, Bahrain succeeded in electing the first woman parliamentarian in the Gulf region. (6")

WOMEN MINISTERS / GA
PRESIDENT

These women leaders have set historical precedents and have paved the way forward for women's political rights in the region - the beginning of a long uphill struggle. (9")

GA PRESIDENT ON CAMERA

SHAIKHA HAYA: (ENGLISH)

"If I can say something to all the women who are looking at me as an example: there is no elevator to success; you have to take the stairs. It's a matter of building trust and confidence of society in women. And it takes time." (18')

GA PRESIDENT GOING UP TO
PODIUM

NARRATION:

As President of the UN General Assembly, Shaikha Haya is an inspiration for not only women in the Gulf, but also for women worldwide. (8')

UN LOGO

This report was prepared by Patricia Chan for the United Nations.