Twitter Thread by Mona Eltahawy



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It is a fuck-this-shit moment for Egyptian women. And the rage and reckoning are the fuel of revolution. Not a cis-gender heterosexual dick-swinging revolution. We already had one of those almost 10 years ago.
A feminist revolution.

The revolutions that began 10 years ago in the Middle East and North Africa might have been started by a man. They will be completed by women and queer people too often marginalized and ignored and subjected to violence by the State, Street and Home.

I wrote this in 2012. And I turned it into my first book Headscarves and Hymens: Why the Middle East Needs a Sexual Revolution to say that unless the rage shifts from the presidential palace to the Street and Home, the revolution has not started https://t.co/8nsVFo4g95

Over the coming weeks, I will be writing more about the #Egyptian revolution 10 years on https://t.co/pU0bc3Wkpp

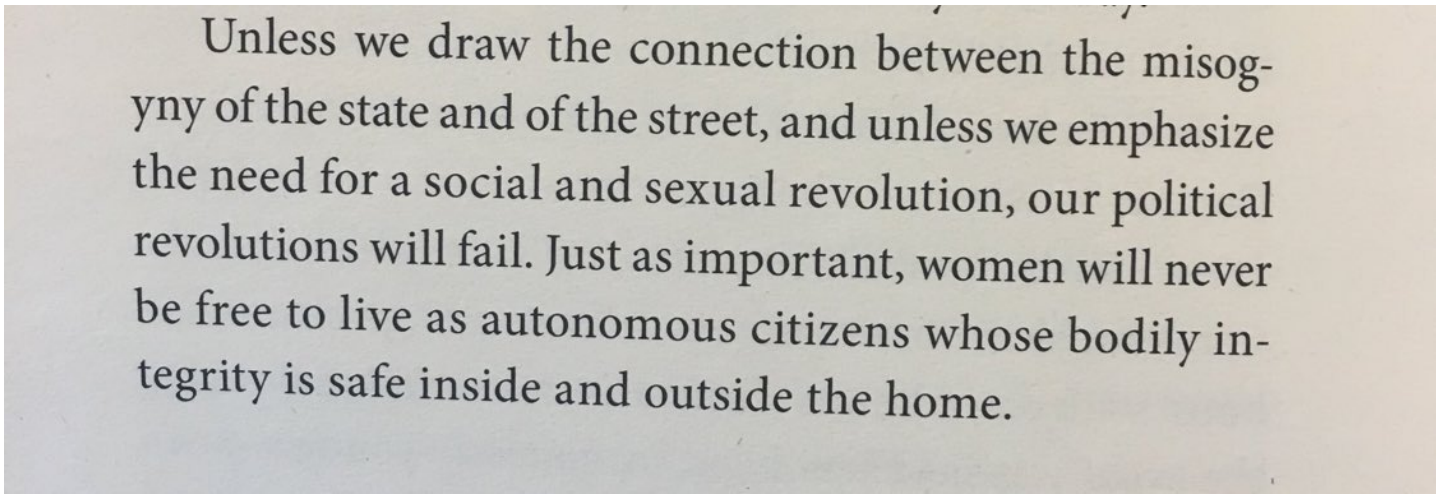
“Until the rage shifts from the oppressors in our presidential palaces to the oppressors on our street corners and in our homes, our revolution has not even begun.”

I call that the Trifecta of Misogyny: State, Street, Home. I wrote about it in my 2015 book #HeadscarvesAndHymens

The battles over women's bodies can be won only by a revolution of the mind. Too often women are scolded for daring to bring up "identity politics," and are urged to lay aside "women's rights" for the larger goal of solidarity or fidelity to the revolution. This is a mistake. Huge swaths of the Arab world are being remade now, with far-reaching and unguessed-at repercussions, and women and men both have an unprecedented opportunity to confront, and root out, the systemic hatred of women that reduces us to little more than our headscarves and our hymens.

We might have removed Hosni Mubarak in Egypt, Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali in Tunisia, Muammar al-Qaddafi in Libya, and Ali Abdullah Saleh in Yemen, but until the rage shifts from the oppressors in our presidential palaces to the oppressors on our streets and in our homes—unless we topple the Mubaraks in our mind, in our bedrooms, and on our street corners—our revolution has not even begun.

While the battle in #Egypt between Islamists & military rulers gets the most coverage, it's not the fiercest battle. The battle that will determine our true freedom is the one against vs all forms of patriarchy. Unless women are free, no one is free #HeadscarvesAndHymens


Unless we draw the connection between the misogyny of the state and of the street, and unless we emphasize the need for a social and sexual revolution, our political revolutions will fail. Just as important, women will never be free to live as autonomous citizens whose bodily integrity is safe inside and outside the home.

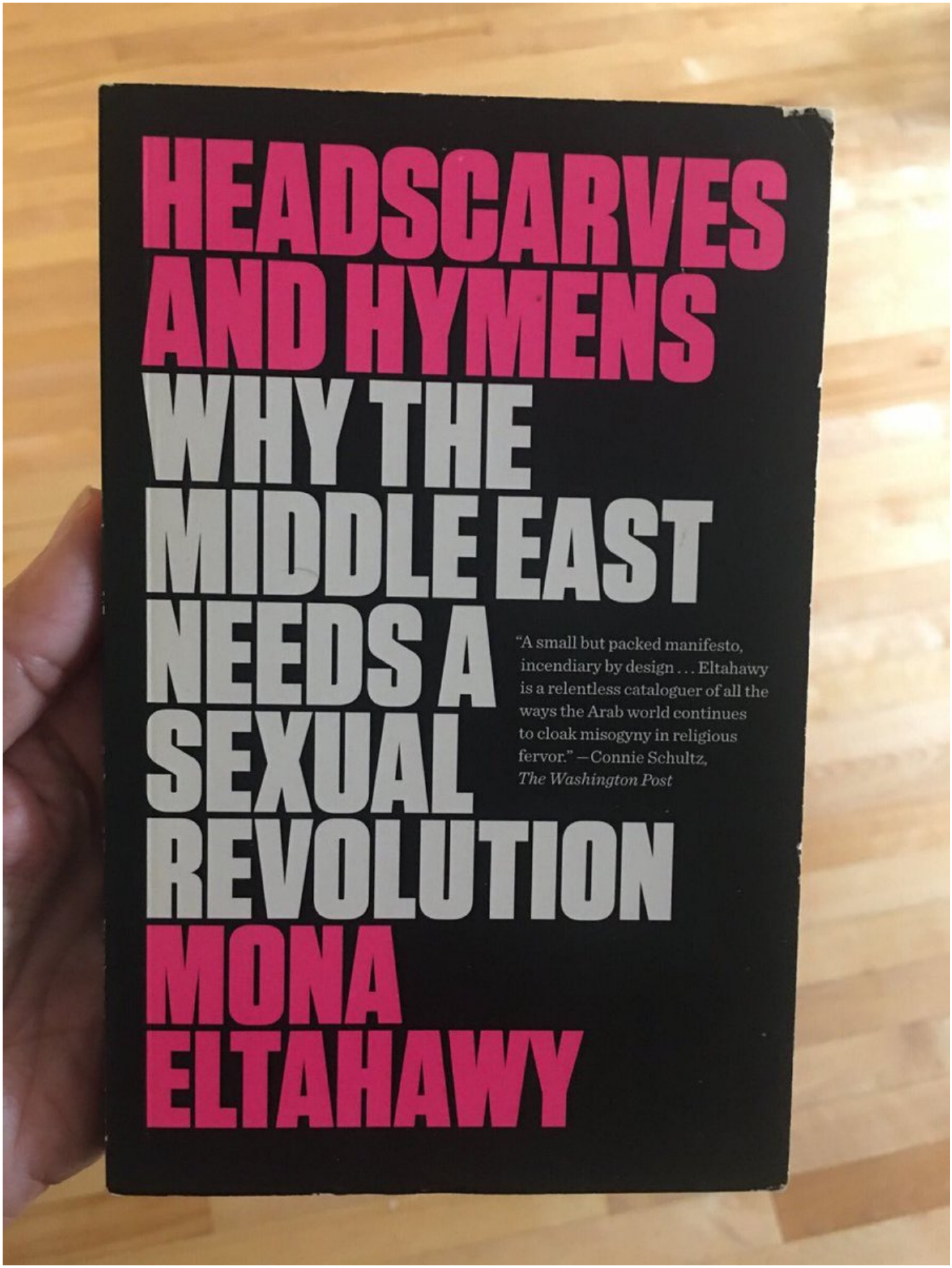
In 2012, I told the BBC that women will complete the revolutions that began 10 years ago https://t.co/U6cNIzbLGs



In 2020, I told the BBC that will women will complete the revolutions https://t.co/ZZ9TeEjmjz

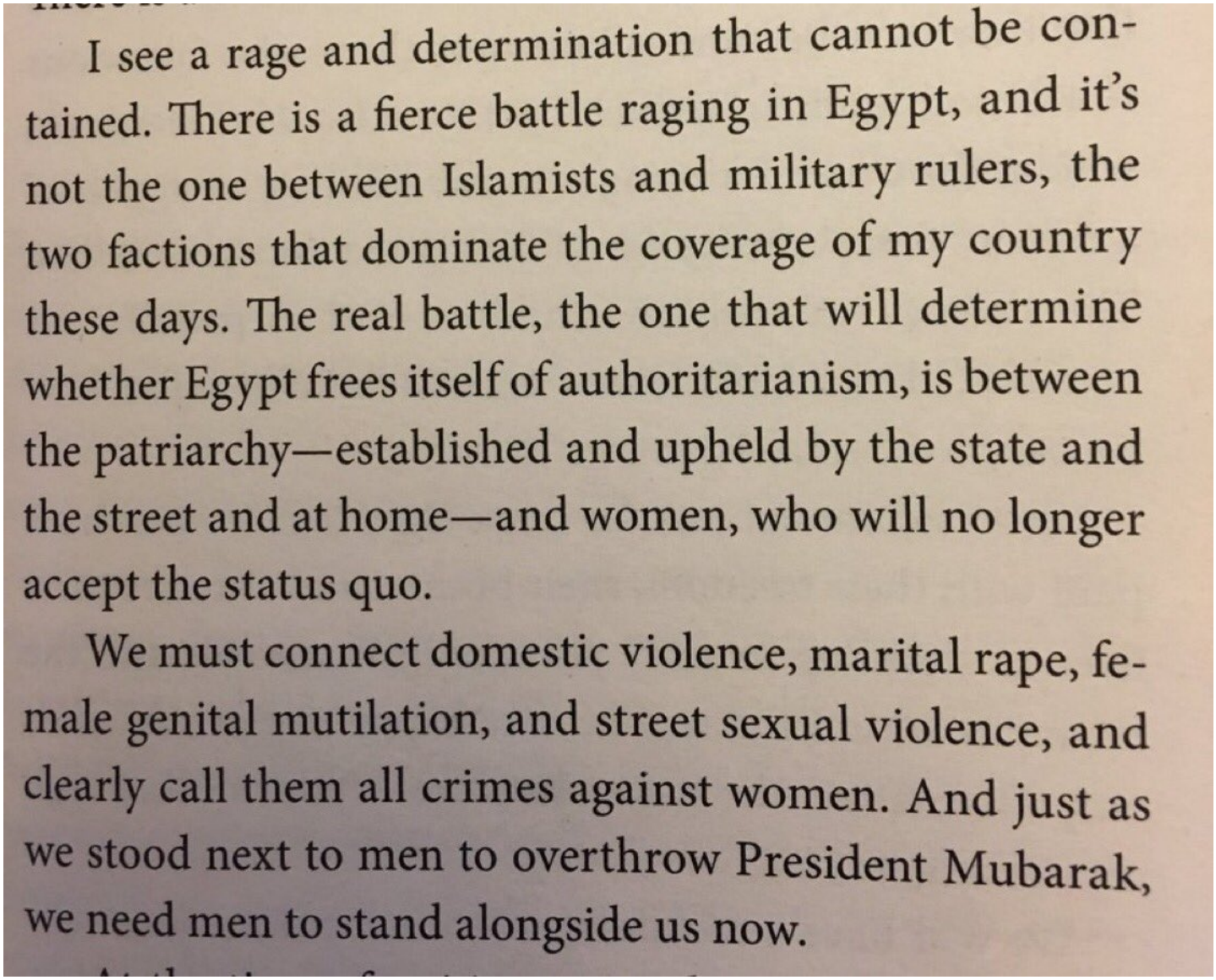
And in 2014 I made a BBC radio documentary with Gemma Newby on women & revolution with interviews with women from Tunisia, Egypt, Libya and Jordan. This is part one https://t.co/eqMNaOPBXb

My book Headscarves and Hymens: Why the Middle East Needs a Sexual Revolution was published in 2015. It has been published in 12 languages, just came out in Turkish, and is banned in Saudi Arabia, UAE, Kuwait, and Qatar.



"The real battle, the one that determines whether #Egypt frees itself of authoritarianism, is between patriarchy - established and upheld by the state and the street and at home - and women, who will no longer accept the status quo."

#HeadscarvesAndHymens



I see a rage and determination that cannot be contained. There is a fierce battle raging in Egypt, and it's not the one between Islamists and military rulers, the two factions that dominate the coverage of my country these days. The real battle, the one that will determine whether Egypt frees itself of authoritarianism, is between the patriarchy—established and upheld by the state and the street and at home—and women, who will no longer accept the status quo.

We must connect domestic violence, marital rape, female genital mutilation, and street sexual violence, and clearly call them all crimes against women. And just as we stood next to men to overthrow President Mubarak, we need men to stand alongside us now.

I will be gathering all the above and publishing more here in the coming weeks.

Sign up here https://t.co/ejwBXXCQE9