

Yemeni women's status low, report says

by UPI

SANAA, Yemen -- Yemeni women are plagued by poor health conditions, high rates of illiteracy and a lack of awareness of their rights, a Yemeni women's advocacy group says. The National Women Committee says in a draft report that more than half of all school-age girls didn't enroll in elementary schools and face a variety of gender discrimination issues, the United Nations' Integrated Regional Information Networks reported Monday. The group links the school issue to a disproportionate number of female teachers in Yemeni schools. Just more than 23 percent of the teachers in Yemen are women, the report says. Illiteracy remains high at 60 percent among Yemeni women. Meanwhile, the head of the women's group, Rashida al-Hamdani, says roughly 15 percent of women are aware of their political rights and 229 women hold senior government posts compared to more than 7,000 men. The situation in Parliament is worse, with only one woman holding a seat in the 301-seat legislative body. On the maternal front, the report says 83 percent of all live births in rural areas take place at the woman's home. Yemen continues to rank near the bottom globally regarding the status of women, the report says.

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