

Egypt jails famous belly dancer for immorality

30th June, 2020



A famous Egyptian belly dancer has been put in prison. A court in Cairo, Egypt sentenced Sama el-Masry to three years behind bars. It also fined her 300,000 Egyptian pounds, which is about \$18,500. Ms El-Masry was arrested by the police in Egypt in April. Police charged her with immorality after she posted videos on the video-sharing platform TikTok. The videos showed her performing various belly dances. Egypt has recently decided to crack down on social media posts. Egypt's Public Prosecution office accused Ms El-Masry of posting immoral pictures and videos on her social media accounts. It said she was guilty of breaking Egypt's morals because the videos were "sexually suggestive".

Sama el-Masry is 42 years old. As well as being a belly dancer, she is also an actress and starred in three successful movies. One of the movies was about the unfair treatment of female media workers. It created a lot of debate in Egypt about the rights of women in the workplace. She also got a lot of criticism in the past for posting videos on YouTube about her political views. One of the videos mocked former US President Barack Obama for his policy towards Egypt. A women's rights lawyer in Egypt defended Ms El-Masry. She said: "Our conservative society is struggling with technological changes which have created a completely different environment and mindsets."

Sources: arabnews.com / egypttoday.com / aljazeera.com

Writing

Dancing is an art form and should never be illegal. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

famous / Egyptian / belly / dancer / bars / immorality / TikTok / social media / guilty / actress / successful / movies / unfair treatment / political views / conservative

True / False

- a) A belly dancer has been sent to prison for 10 years. T / F
- b) The belly dancer got a fine of \$300,000 from a court in Cairo. T / F
- c) The police charged the belly dancer with immortality. T / F
- d) The article said Egypt has decided to crack down on social media. T / F
- e) The belly dancer starred in three successful movies. T / F
- f) The belly dancer got a debate going about the rights of women at work. T / F
- g) The belly dancer made a video in which she praised Barack Obama. T / F
- h) A lawyer suggested technology has been a problem for Egypt. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| 1. famous | a. discussion |
| 2. behind bars | b. different |
| 3. posted | c. profitable |
| 4. various | d. in prison |
| 5. accused | e. totally |
| 6. successful | f. blamed |
| 7. debate | g. fighting |
| 8. views | h. well known |
| 9. struggling | i. opinions |
| 10. completely | j. uploaded |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think of belly dancing?
- b) What do you think of Sama being put in prison?
- c) Who decides what is moral or immoral?
- d) Is showing lots of skin while dancing immoral?
- e) Is dancing in a sexy way immoral?
- f) Should citizens follow all rules on morality?
- g) Why is Sama in prison if belly dancing started in Egypt?
- h) Should Egypt be proud of its belly dancing tradition?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. A famous Egyptian belly dancer has | a. changes |
| 2. three years behind | b. with immorality |
| 3. It also fined her 300,000 | c. accounts |
| 4. Police charged her | d. female media workers |
| 5. on her social media | e. bars |
| 6. As well as being | f. criticism in the past |
| 7. the unfair treatment of | g. been put in prison |
| 8. She also got a lot of | h. lawyer |
| 9. A women's rights | i. Egyptian pounds |
| 10. struggling with technological | j. a belly dancer |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What do you know about belly dancing?
- Is Ms El Masry a hero for highlighting women's rights?
- What advice do you have for Ms El Masry?
- What changes has social media made to society?
- Are people too upset about everything these days?
- Should all societies be conservative?
- What questions would you like to ask Ms El-Masry?

Spelling

- sncedeten Sama el-Masry to three years
- Ms El-Masry was eesradtr by the police
- performing vaurois belly dances
- Egypt has ectleryn decided to crack down
- she was uigtly of breaking Egypt's morals
- the videos were "sexually iusveesgtg"
- starred in three sulecsfsuc movies
- the ifranu treatment of female media workers
- She also got a lot of istriicmc
- about her piatilloc views
- Our eacnvoveirst society
- created a lcepmoytel different environment
- sncedeten Sama el-Masry to three years

Answers – Synonym Match

1. h	2. d	3. j	4. b	5. f
6. c	7. a	8. i	9. g	10. e

Role Play

Role A – The Wheel

You think the wheel is the greatest technological change. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their change isn't as great. Also, tell the others which is the least great of these (and why): electricity, the car or the Internet.

Role B – Electricity

You think electricity is the greatest technological change. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their change isn't as great. Also, tell the others which is the least great of these (and why): the wheel, the car or the Internet.

Role C – The Motor Car

You think the car is the greatest technological change. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their change isn't as great. Also, tell the others which is the least great of these (and why): electricity, the wheel or the Internet.

Role D – The Internet

You think the Internet is the greatest technological change. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their change isn't as great. Also, tell the others which is the least great of these (and why): electricity, the car or the wheel.

Speaking – Technology

Rank these with your partner. Put the biggest technological changes at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| • Radio | • The wheel |
| • Computers | • The printing press |
| • The Internet | • Electricity |
| • Mobile phones | • The motor car |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	F	d	T	e	T	f	T	g	F	h	T
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.