

Lead in: This audio documentary is about discovering what is behind the ban of the burkini, or the swimsuit that veiled women wear, including the stories of veiled women facing this issue, the question of the swimming suit's hygiene and the swimming suit's relationship to social class.

*FADE IN: NAT SOUND: Waves (00:00- 00:17 )*

*FADE IN: NAT SOUND: Wind blowing (00:00- 00:17 )*

Waves.

Their sound makes people feel relaxed. Unburdened. Free. But for veiled women this freedom is sometimes is taken away. Why is that? Is it because the burkini is unhygienic? Or is it society's looking down upon covering up?

*FADE IN: Intense Violin Music (00:24- 00:30)*

The burkini is a full body swimsuit similar to a diving suit with an above the knee dress.

*FADE IN: NAT SOUND: Old music station (00:32- 00:45)*

In the 60's, egyptian women did not wear bikinis nor burkinis. Instead, the standard swimsuit was a one piece suit, sometimes had short skirt, sometimes even had short sleeves. Both modest, one judged and the other not.

*FADE IN: Burkini ban in the news (00:50- 00:57)*

A ban on the burkini is infecting several countries like France, and even Egypt a muslim country with 90% of women being veiled according to The New York Times. Now, veiled women are left with a choice: to give in or fight.

*DENA SABEL (DS): "I was very mad." (00:02)*

*FADE IN: Intense Violin Music (01:12- 01:22)*

That was Dena Sabel.

FADE IN: NAT SOUND: Pool Splashing

*DS: "I was swimming in Ain Sokhna and I was wearing a burkini. Then one of the residents actually told the guards that I should not be able to swim. The resident told the guy if we allowed her to swim then the next thing be allowing nannies to swim in the pool." (00:25)*

*FADE IN: Intense Violin Music (01:35- 01:55)*

So veiled means low class and low class are not allowed to socialize with the creme de la creme. The discrimination did not stop there especially after Dena expressed her anger on social media.

*FADE IN: NAT SOUND: Facebook Likes (01:49- 01:53)*

*DS: "So some of the owners actually did see my post and what they were doing is that they tried to harm us in a way that's like cutting off the water in our house. After some investigation we realized that it's actually them. They actually said it's not us and there is a problem." (00:28)*

*FADE IN: NAT SOUND: Faucet turned off (02:03- 02:12)*

Dena's family has finally had enough and all they wanted was a nice, calm and fun holiday at any cost.

*DS: "At the end of the day my family was not really supporting me. My family went and talked with the owner. They decided to settle things and they tried to negotiate." (00:15)*

Dena was not able to hold her stand for long since the buying contract that her parents signed, had a close disclosing the ban of the burkini.

*FADE IN: NAT SOUND: Signing of paper (02:45- 02:47)*

And recently, I was put in Dena's shoes.

*FADE IN: Intense Violin Music (02:48- 02:58)*

*FADE IN: NAT SOUND: Wind and Waves (02:50- 03:05)*

I went to La Vista, the compound in Ain Sokhna, also where Dena faced the incident, after my own family bought a chalet there and I was shocked.

*FADE IN: NAT SOUND: Door slammed (03:04- 03:07)*

Shocked at the unwritten code between residents that hijabis are not welcome.

*FADE IN: NAT SOUND: Crowds (03:12- 03:26)*

Whether it was widened eyes everytime I approached the pool, snarly looks whenever a hijabi walked by or patronizing comments about how my family has enough money to be there. The only difference between me and any one there is simply that I chose to cover my hair. So is it the fact that I am covering my hair or is the burkini non-hygenic.

*Dr. AHMED ABDELATIF (AA): "If the burkini is made from the same material as any other swimming suit then it should not have any effect on the hygiene."*

That was Dr. Ahmed Abdelatif, medical doctor and biology professor at the American University in Cairo .

*FADE IN: Intense Violin Music (04:00- 04:21)*

*FADE IN: NAT SOUND: Pool Splashing (04:21- 04:35)*

*AA: " Actually the wearing of the burkini is more healthy than wearing a regular swimming suit because wearing a regular swimming suit, alot of your skin is exposed so their is a lot of your dead skin and bacteria living on your skin is being shed out and getting in contact with other people."*

*FADE IN: Intense Violin Music (04:35- 04:55)*

Hygienic or not, even when veiled women like myself were no way near the water were hygiene is not a supposed problem, the discrimination did not stop. The unwritten code claimed that veiled women were of low social class whether in the pool or not . Manar Soliman is the founder of a fashionable burkini business that is combating the downward view of the burkini and veiled women in discriminatory places like La Vista.

*FADE IN: NAT SOUND: Sewing (05:00- 05:04)*

*MANAR SOLIMAN (MS): "We use the material of the swimming suit and the outlines we aim to be modest but at the same time colorful. The main concept of the brand is to be covered in style. Unless there is harm to anybody else I have the right to wear whatever I want so why shouldn't I design something stylish and be covered at the same time?" (00:22)*

Dena had a message for veiled women facing the burkini ban.

*DS: "If we broke this rule and we started actually swimming this would make the rule just on paper. we have the power to actually make the rule just on paper." (00:19)*

*FADE IN: NAT SOUND: Tearing of Paper (05:49-05:53)*

Unhygienic. Unfashionable. Low social class. The labels for the burkini and the women who wear it are many but for all veiled women, FIGHT.

*FADE IN: Intense Violin Music (06:02- 06:13)*

*FADE IN: NAT SOUND: Waves (06:03- 06:18 )*

*This audio documentary was produced by Yasmeen Mamdouh, for the Audio Production course taught by Professor Kim Fox in Spring 2018. I would like to thank my guests Dena Sabel, Dr. Ahmed Abdellatif and Manar Soliman.*