

Some Saudi men still bristle at women driving

Notes & Cues:	Article: <p>Amid the celebratory end of Saudi Arabia's ban on women driving on Sunday, some men expressed quiet disapproval of a change they fear will undermine the kingdom's deeply conservative Muslim identity.</p> <p>"In Islam, we don't have this. During our fathers' and grandfathers' time, there was none of this women driving, " said Wadih al-Marzouki, a retired government worker in the Red Sea port city of Jeddah. He said he had advised his three son-in-laws not to let their wives drive.</p> <p>One cleric claimed women were not smart enough to drive, while another warned that those who drive risk damaging their ovaries and bearing children with clinical problems.</p> <p>Just nine months after King Salman announced the policy reversal as part of sweeping reforms to overhaul the economy and open up society, such ideas have not simply evaporated. Nearly a quarter of Saudis polled in a recent survey opposed lifting the ban. A third of those said they feared it threatened cultural traditions.</p> <p>Some opponents of women driving seem to be coming to terms with the new reality. Cousins Qais and Abdelaziz al-Qahtan object to the decision on a personal level but dare not oppose a royal decree in this absolute monarchy. "I support it because some families really need to have a female driving, " said Abdelaziz, 26. "But I don't think a woman should drive if she doesn't need to."</p> <p>Government supporters say such measures are necessary as the authorities chart a difficult course between liberalising reforms and traditional society.</p>
Summary:	