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## **Ladies of the Palaces And Their Role In Public Life of Egypt During Fatimid Period (360-567 A.H./972-1171 A.D.)**

**Nahla AbdulBaqi\*, Alayan al-Jaludi \*\***

### **ABSTRACT**

It has been observed by scholars that Fatimid ladies of the palace had assumed a high-status in Egyptian society during the Fatimid era, and a few ladies among them had played part in political and public life, and they had influenced on the evaluation of the palace course of events of the Fatimid state. So that, the present study is devoted to clarify role of those ladies, taking into consideration, mainly, the participation of two prominent ladies of the palace and their impact on Fatimid state. The first was called *Sitt Almulk*, the caliph *Al-Hakim bi Amr al-Lāh's* sister, and the second one was called *Rasad*, the caliph *al-Mustansir Billah's* mother. The study revealed that ladies of the Palace had played an obvious role in Fatimid state via its periods of unrest, weakness, and political chaos. It, also demonstrated that the role of some ladies, such as *Sitt Amulk*, contributed positively in protecting the state from the dangers surrounding it. In contrast, the study showed that few ladies of the Palace played a negative role in the Fatimid state, such as *Rasad*, whose interference was a factor in weakening, failure, and accelerating the collapse of the Fatimid state later.

**KEYWORDS:** Fatimid Era, Ladies of the palace, *sitt Almulk*, *Rāsād*, *Al-Hakim bi Amr al-Lāh's*, *al-Mustansir Billah's*.

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