

Voice

Special report volume 3 issue 1

Next Century Foundation
Media Credibility Index
2011



Advancing Arab-British Relations



Since 1967, Caabu has worked to build a better relationship between the UK and the Arab World. We base our work on our five core principles:

Support for international law: That all states are bound by international law, that all peoples are protected by it, and that it is vital that transgressions are addressed regardless of political circumstance.

Commitment to democracy: No region of the world or peoples should be viewed as unsuited to democracy, nor do we believe that democracy can or should be imposed by external powers.

A firm belief in universal human rights: The belief that everyone is entitled to the same rights and freedoms, regardless of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status is also central to our approach.

The Arab world remains misunderstood: The Middle East and North Africa remain grossly misperceived in the UK and anti-Arab sentiment is also on the rise. Tackling prejudice and combating confusion is central to our work.

Britain's role in the region needs to change fundamentally: Britain's role - its arms sales, participation in the invasion of Iraq, association with the US project for coercively reforming the region and its position on the Middle East 'peace process' - has had a deeply negative impact on the region and ignored the lessons of past experience. Britain's relations with the Middle East and North Africa require essential re-evaluation.

For over forty years, we have continued our work in education, advocacy and the media. To find out how you can support our efforts, or for more information on any of the areas that we work in, please go to

www.caabu.org

Voice

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Statement of Policy

"Voice" was established in 1972 by Claud Morris. Its sole aim throughout the past 39 years has been to bridge the gap of information between the Arab world and the West. Behind this effort has been the conviction that understanding between individuals, particularly opinion formers in politics, business and the media is the first step towards better Middle East and, indeed, better world understanding.

We have two objectives:

- 1 To inform the opinion formers - that is diplomats, parliamentarians, businessmen, editors, writers and academics who in turn influence world opinion.
- 2 To work for the promotion of understanding between nations.

In our 39 years of work we have monitored the attitudes of media in dealing with controversial issues. We have organised media seminars bringing together the Arab states and the West. We have trained journalists. We have set up and established six major publications, including "Voice". We have cooperated with individuals as well as institutions in building a new attitude towards the Middle East.

It has long been clear from the number of enquiries we receive that our subscribers, readers and contacts both in the Middle East and the West require accurate background information.

Voice brings you essential intelligence regarding known and unknown facts.

It also endeavours to give a clear unbiased picture of what is being said and thought in the West about the Middle East.

©

Voice
of
The Arab World

Volume 3 Issue 1

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Introduction

These are changing times in the Arab World. As we watch uprisings catch fire across the region - dubbed by some as the Arab Spring - we rely heavily on the international media to explain to us what is happening, not just in daily sound bites reporting on the latest burst of gunfire, but in depth explaining the history behind these events and looking at the potential outcome for the region.

This special issue of voice focuses on the media reporting of the region. In an opinion piece Chris Doyle, the Director of the Council for Advancement of Arab British Understanding, and a diligent analyst and commentator on the media gives an overview of press coverage of the last three extraordinary months in the Arab world. His findings and criticisms are perhaps not surprising and can often be ultimately put down to lack of funding of international coverage.

And we are also delighted to be publishing the Next Century Foundation's new media index. This index aims to gauge the state of the media in relation to its coverage of the Middle East. It has been put together by NCF's International Council for Press and Broadcasting, under the direction of William Morris. Launched at the NCF's 2011 Media Awards, it celebrates best practice amongst British and Middle East journalists from the print and broadcast media as well as highlighting bias, inaccuracy, sensitivity and freedom of the press.

Although we live in an increasingly small world where we can see the minutiae of protests and wars being raged across the world - whether its an outraged protester banner waving in Tahrir Square or a Libyan rebel in casual T-shirt and jeans shooting at Gaddafi's suited and booted army - it is a sad truth that there is little or no interest from the media about how these crises have brewed to boiling point or any real interest in how they will eventually be resolved. In six months time when (hopefully) much of the violence blazing across our screens has ceased, how interested will the Western media be in the outcome and its effect on the lives of the people of the Arab world? And yet surely that is the question we should be asking. Not how are we reporting the present crises but who will form those future governments, how will they be formed and what will their effect on ordinary people be?

Watching the Arab Spring, I wonder whether it is at all likely that it will – as many Western commentators seem to hope - resolve into a new modern Westernised demographic with Western democratic ideals leading it forward. The history of the Arab world is very different from that of the West today and has resulted in a very tribal and different community. Priorities in the Arab world are not always the same as the priorities that the West holds most dear. For instance loyalty, family and faith are of prime importance in the Arab world but are regarded far more casually in the West.

Again and again I hear Arab friends here, particularly from the Gulf, express frustration and anger at what they see as the West's inability to listen. The West innately thinks it knows best.

It is not that these friends don't wish their societies to move forward to change and develop and find a comfortable way to fit into the puzzle that is the international community. It is just that we seem to want to force the Arab puzzle pieces into place, rather than let them shape themselves or help them to shape themselves as their history demands.

Their history is very different from ours – we should support and press for their cultural evolution. But should we join the push for more desperate revolution at the cost of man's most precious resource – his life and his blood.

The press: six reasons for failure

Chris Doyle *Director, Council for Advancement of Arab-British Understanding (CAABU) analyses coverage of uprisings across the Arab world in the past three months.*

Most people in the West, analysts and experts included, were stunned and amazed at the revolts which spread across the Arab World that started in Tunisia in January. At least, they were surprised at the speed, the scale and the breadth of the popular movements and that they were largely non-violent and non-sectarian. Few were surprised that they were met with violence. This sadly seems to have been the default setting of too many of the region's regimes.

It has been an extraordinary media event as well, with 24-hour news stations devoting huge resources to covering the *Arab Spring*, creating mesmerising images, especially during the 18 days that shook Egypt.

Yet the reality was all the ingredients for such uprisings were present and well known. Events in Tunisia had been bubbling for some time, with Kasserine and Sidi Bouzid at the centre of socio-economic discontent. Egypt too had been in turmoil with increased workers' strikes and opposition action. In most Arab states, there is a dangerous combination of high unemployment, high food prices and corruption together with a lack of political freedom and abuse of human rights. Perhaps the more pertinent question is why such uprisings had not happened before?

It begs the question as to why the media were part of a collective failure: how come there was no sense in the press of this impending tempest that has swept away two Presidents, four Prime Ministers, and has shaken every regime from Morocco to Iran?

There are several key reasons.

A pack mentality

First, the media hunt in packs with international correspondents centred on a few selected global hubs. For the Middle East this has been Jerusalem. The city provides a comfortable centre for journalists, where they can live in comfort with first world luxuries but just a few kilometres from a war zone and occupied territory. There has been a huge focus on Israel-Palestine which, whilst a major issue, is far from the only one (and even then the coverage quality is poor). However,

it is not the most logical place to cover the rest of the Arab World. From Jerusalem it would be difficult to sense the changing currents and trends across the Arab world, and there is the danger of seeing the region solely through an Israeli lens.

Journalists have admitted to me that they had missed all the tensions in Lebanon prior to the assassination of Rafiq Hariri in 2005. More recently there has been a noticeable lack of coverage by media outlets of the food riots that have been taking place in various Arab states over the last few years, even though, in some ways, this is one of the most major stories in terms of affecting the greatest number of people. In short, for most of the last decade there have been three key media stories: Israel-Palestine, Iraq and Al Qa'ida. In most other cases, journalists have had no choice but to play catch up with unfolding disasters. How many of the phalanx of reporters who covered the last hours of Ben Ali had ever filed a report from Tunis? I have repeatedly advised BBC editors for ten years to broaden their coverage. Now they know why.

Lack of funding

Second, the lack of funding in media has constrained coverage. The current wave of simultaneous, dramatic and historic uprisings have presented one of the greatest challenges to international news gathering. But financial issues also restrict innovative, independent and investigative approaches to coverage. There are so few decent, in depth documentaries being made. As yet I am still waiting to see just one documentary in the British media on these events of any quality.

Investigative journalism is costly. Look at how many stories of massive corruption have been unearthed during these Arab uprisings. However, I can hardly remember one mention of the Trabelsi family prior to Wikileaks in any western media outlet. The family of the former First Lady of Tunisia was notorious amongst Tunisians who did not need to be told by Julian Assange just how corrupt she and her relatives were.

International overload

Third, the media can only cover one major international story at a time. During the Libya crisis, Gaddafi got some breathing space because of the earthquake in Japan. How many more journalists might have been in Bahrain and Yemen if it were not for Libya? The Bahraini forces demolished the Pearl Roundabout in Manama just after the United Nations Security Council voted through Resolution 1973 authorising the No Fly Zones over Libya, an event only partially covered in the media.

Absence of Arab voices

Fourth, there has been an historic absence of Arab voices in the western media. It is almost a shock to find one. So often on BBC Newsnight we have grandees of UK foreign policy, and the US think tank circus. Yet the sheer scale and breadth of the *Arab Spring* has forced news outlets to unearth other voices, not least young Arab spokespeople who had been invisible on our screens before. Similarly opponents to regimes had rarely been given a chance. Few non-Arab journalists speak Arabic, a vital tool to understand these fast evolving events. Watching al Jazeera English and the better Arabic news channels is far more informative than most of our domestic British output. Indeed Al Jazeera has been hugely significant in inspiring these uprisings and reinstilling a sense of Arabness once again, as North Africa has been brought to the sitting rooms of the Levant and the Gulf. Here a news station has not just covered events but shaped them.

Love of sensationalism

Fifth, much of our media still loves to sensationalise. The best way to do this is through rampant scare mongering. Commentators raise the threat of al Qaida or the Muslim Brotherhood regardless of their involvement. Ironically, Qaddafi, Mubarak and Ben Ali also played this tune. If the current Libyan regime goes, there will be many editors who will mourn his departure. As one veteran hack told me Gaddafi stories are always known to sell papers. The Daily Star could not resist a pointless crass front page story of Gaddafi taking refuge with his bodyguard of 40 female virgins on a day when the Tripoli tyrant

was pummelling three of his cities. And here again, as in every conflict, there is excessive focus on the tools of war, with endless shots of opposition fighters firing guns into the sky.

Plea for more haste less speed

Sixth, much media coverage is either lazy or rushed. The most high profile case was CNN and Reuters being accused by Fox News of acting as human shields for Gaddafi in Tripoli. Nic Robertson of CNN accused Fox reporters of not even bothering to try to get out of the hotel to find out what was going on. But the worst case of this is by columnists sitting in London, writing about countries they have never visited, and people they barely know. Michael Gove, our present Secretary of State for Education, when he was a columnist at the Times, regularly wrote articles supporting Israel but had to admit recently he had never even visited the country.

So many commentators were quick to praise the impact of Facebook or Twitter as the driving forces behind many of these uprisings, even when a proper analysis of the situation showed that demonstrations were taking place in places where Internet access was minimal or non-existent. One witness told me that many of those in Tahrir square in Cairo did not have mobile phones or Internet access. Yemeni protests took place even though it has the lowest Internet penetration in the entire region.

This is symptomatic of a widespread failure to give real meaningful context to unfolding events. For example, when discussing the lack of Arab support for intervention in Libya, beyond the recent disaster of Iraq, there is precious little reference to all the other myriad of British and American actions and inactions that have shaped the region.

There are many commendable reporters who have illuminated our understanding. Those reporting on the ground have typically shown remarkable courage and bravery to feed our 24/7 hunger for constant updates. They have risked life and limb, with many being arrested in Libya, and some have even been sexually assaulted. Yet as one looks back over the last three incredible months, one cannot help feeling that the extraordinary images have yet to be matched by extraordinary analysis.

Special Report

The Next Century Foundation

Media Credibility Index 2011

The concept of Peace Through Media was an idea originally put forward by Claud Morris, the publisher and editor of Voice Newspapers and founder of The Next Century Foundation. A journalist, editor and publisher, his career began when he left Cornwall at the age of fifteen. In 1970 through circumstances entirely beyond his control he found himself involved in the Middle East. As a consequence of which he produced a string of Mid East related books and publications, most notable of which were Middle East International and this publication, Voice of the Arab World, which was originally published in newspaper format.

Claud Morris believed that the world's media had a grave responsibility as opinion formers. On the one hand, the quality of the information and analysis by the press could reduce misunderstanding and as a direct consequence, promote peace. Equally, the editorial stance taken by editors, owners, columnists and commentators, could promote rapprochement between nations or foster hatred.

The Peace Through Media programme of the Next Century Foundation led, in due course, to the establishment of the independent body the International Council for Press and Broadcasting under the auspices of which the International Media Awards are held.

This Media Credibility Index is a natural next step for the International Council for Press and Broadcasting. Our intention, if the response is positive, is to produce this index every year and develop it to cover a wider range of publications. We are especially grateful to Voice of the Arab World for their willingness to partner us in this venture.

The purpose of the Index is to foster good journalism, responsible editing, balanced broadcasting and more responsible treatment of media professionals. As is natural, we start with a particular focus on our old stomping ground, the Anglo-American arena on the one hand and the Middle East and South Asia on the other. We hope you find it of interest.

This index is not designed to gauge the overall quality or value of specific media but to gauge credibility of outlets across the globe. In producing our index we would like to acknowledge The Index on Censorship which we found an invaluable resource.

We hope you find this first Media Credibility Index both interesting and valuable.

William Morris

How the Media Credibility Index Works

This index is of publications, not countries.

Disinformation and xenophobia are worldwide phenomena hindering the genuine dissemination of news, and hampering the development of better journalistic practice. Journalists attending a Next Century Foundation conference on Broadcasting to the Middle East concluded that an audience-driven Media Credibility Index might facilitate the development and implementation of better practice.

It is on this basis that we have attempted to put this index together. We have assessed media outlets in terms of the following subjects:

- **Press Freedom**
- **Accuracy** – use of facts, data, and well-sourced material
- **Incitement** – unnecessarily provocative reporting
- **Bias** – balance
- **Sensitivity** – consideration of women's rights, civil rights, children's rights (with regard to exposure to violent imagery)
- **Transparency** – no hidden agenda

Plus points are awarded for accurate reporting regardless of intimidation or censorship; minus points are awarded for reporting that, we believe, are cause for concern. We have **only** awarded points based on items reported to the International Council for Press and Broadcasting that have been posted on our media blogs and which can be found on our website www.nextcenturyfoundation.org.

We have also highlighted organisations that have received prizes in recent years from the International Council for Press and Broadcasting (prizes are deferred when the recipient has not been allowed out of his/her country).

It was originally suggested that we also evaluate levels of "desensitising", i.e. the way that some broadcasters sometimes show excessive "blood and gore" thus desensitising the use of violence. This is an issue we have failed this time to address successfully, largely because we did not have sufficient specific complaints on this subject and general complaints such as "Al Jazeera has too much graphic violence" are impossible to quantify. We hope, with your help, to do better next time around.

Help to make this Index work

This index is new. It is designed to gauge the credibility of media outlets across the globe but we are limited in assessing only those publications reported to us and so you will note that there are only 60 media outlets listed in this initial index and a huge number of highly influential publications writing on or from the Arab World have no listing at all – from the Washington Post to Arab News, Le Monde and Sky News. We need your help to make our list more complete and more informative.

Our intention is to update and bring out a new index every year, building up its credibility. Our hope is that it becomes a valuable tool that will not only help to foster both more responsible media but also more responsible treatment of media professionals.

If you have a comment – positive or negative about an article you have read or something you have listened to or watched on the broadcast media please do get in touch through our website www.nextcenturyfoundation.org or email us at ncfpeace@aol.com

We need you to help us make this Media Credibility Index work.

The Media Credibility Index 2011

Best Practice – Worst Practice

We have not divided the sixty about whom issues have been raised with the International Media Council of the Next Century Foundation into categories, however we have attempted to highlight best practice. In this regard, examples of best practice are:

Exemplary:

- Jazeera (Al Jazeera) +8
- BBC Television +4
- Guardian (The Guardian) +4
- Independent (The Independent) +4
- AFP (Agence France-Presse) +3
- Asharq al-Awsat +3
- Channel 2 (Israel) +3
- Haaretz Newspaper (Israel) +3
- Hayat (Al Hayat) Newspaper +3
- Reuters +3

These are of course in some degree arbitrary assessments at this early stage of our work on this index. Al Jazeera does exceptionally well, largely because it has so many plus points on Press Freedom issues. We thought it important to highlight press freedom as a criteria, but it is of itself a controversial factor to take into consideration. For instance there are those that would claim Al Jazeera places its journalists in harm's way and does not deserve credit in this regard. We feel Al Jazeera deserves its exemplary score. Indeed had the very latest incidents been taken into consideration, such as the awful killing of Al Jazeera cameraman Ali Hassan al-Jaber in Libya, Al Jazeera would have had an even higher score. So too with the BBC, whose BBC Arabic team were subjected to intimidation and abuse recently in Libya. We had to have a cut off point for this first index and these latest deeply disturbing incidents will be factored into next year's index.

Some of the higher scoring publications were granted plus points for the number of awards they had garnered from our own International Council for Press and Broadcasting. These include: BBC, 5; Al-Sharq al-Awsat, 4; The Guardian, 4; Haaretz Newspaper, 4; Hayat (AlHayat) Newspaper, 3; Channel 2 (Israel), 3.

Complaints we received on issues such as bias, accuracy and incitement, brought scores down. Only one publication scored outstandingly poorly on this count, and that was Palestine's Al Aqsa TV which had a score of -8, largely on account of incitement issues. However it should be noted that though Al Aqsa TV had the only extremely poor score, there are others, such as Israel's Jerusalem Post, which are most certainly cause for concern, though the index is as yet not sufficiently extensive to draw clear conclusions in this respect.

Our principal objective is not just to criticise. The intention is to encourage best practice and, indirectly, to help to engender a climate of hope, in a region beset with too much distrust.

Publications listed in this index

1. AFP (Agence France-Presse)
2. Ahram (Al Ahram), Egyptian Government Daily
3. All for Peace Radio (Israel)
4. ANB Satellite Television
5. Aqsa (Al Aqsa) TV (Palestine)
6. Arab News Network Satellite TV (ANN)
7. Arabiya (Al Arabiya)
8. Asharq al-Awsat
9. Badil (Al Badil) (Egypt)
10. Baghdadia TV (Al Baghdadia)
11. BBC Television
12. Business Monitor International
13. Channel 10 (Israel)
14. Channel 2 (Israel)
15. CNN
16. Daily Mail
17. Daily Star (UK)
18. Demotix
19. Dustour (Al Dustour) (Egypt)
20. Economist (The Economist)
21. Fajr (Al Fajr) (Egypt)
22. Fateh (Al Fateh) (Beirut)
23. Financial Times (The Financial Times)
24. France 2 TV
25. France 24
26. Friendship Magazine (Iraq)
27. Guardian (The Guardian)
28. Guido Fawkes (blog) (UK)
29. Haaretz Newspaper (Israel)
30. Hayat (Al Hayat) Newspaper
31. Hespress (Morocco)
32. Hurra (Al Hurra)
33. Independent (The Independent)
34. *Istithmar Al Arabia*
35. Jazeerah (Al Jazeerah)
36. *Jerusalem Post*
37. Jewish Chronicle (UK)
38. Karama (Al Karama) (Egypt)
39. Khaleej Times, UAE
40. Ma'an News Agency (Palestine)
41. Maariv, Israel
42. Mail on Sunday
43. Miami Herald (The Miami Herald and McClatchy Newspapers)
44. Nas (Al Nas TV) Egypt
45. NBC Television
46. Nile TV (Egypt)
47. Observer (The Observer)
48. Quds (Al Quds) TV (Palestine)
49. Rahma (Al Rhama TV) Egypt
50. Reuters
51. RT (Russia Today)
52. Sawt Al-Umma Wael
53. Sharqiya (Al Sharqiya) Satellite TV (Iraq)
54. Slugger O'Toole (UK)
55. Sunday Times
56. Ta'akhi (Al Ta'akhi Iraq)
57. Telegraph (The Telegraph)
58. Times (The Times)
59. Tolo Media, Afghanistan
60. Watan (Al Watan), Saudi Arabia

The Media Credibility Index 2011

AFP (Agence France-Presse) +3

ICPB AWARDS:

11 May 2009: Adel Zanoon, Gaza correspondent, AFP and ANN, awarded prize for an outstanding contribution to broadcasting whilst working in a war zone. This prize was deferred.

PRESS FREEDOM:

10 April 2010: AFP cameraman Hazem Bader was arrested by Israel's security forces after refusing to stop filming a protest against land confiscation in Biet Safa village, Hebron.

4 September 2007: During the first Fatah protest rally at Friday Prayer in Gaza, a number of Palestinian journalists trying to cover the event were beaten by the police force. Some journalists were arrested and their cameras seized, prompting complaints from the Gaza branch of the Palestinian Journalists Syndicate. The next night, at about 10 p.m., police officers entered Sakher Abu El Oun's courtyard, preparing to arrest him. Mr. Abu El Oun, a reporter for Agence France-Presse and head of the union, telephoned a colleague. "I called one journalist who sent out an SMS," he said, referring to a text message, "and within minutes, about 70 journalists and some human rights activists came to my house and prevented them from taking me away. My kids were crying. It was a very ugly picture."

Breakdown of the score for this media outlet:

ICPB Awards +1 Press freedom +2

Ahram (Al Ahram, Egypt) 0

INCITEMENT:

7 August 2006: Egyptian Mufti Sheikh Dr. Ali Gum'a was quoted as expressing his support for the resistance in Lebanon and stated that the lies of the "Hebrew entity" expose "the true and hideous face of the blood-suckers . . . who prepare [Passover] matzos from human blood".

PRESS FREEDOM:

20 January 2009: Khalid Amayeh, Al Ahram correspondent in the West Bank was arrested by Palestinian Authority security services after an interview in which he criticised the Palestinian Authority for preventing pro-Gaza demonstrations in the West Bank.

Breakdown of the score for this media outlet:

Press freedom +1 Incitement -1

All For Peace Radio (Israel) +2

ICPB AWARDS:

8 May 2010: Mossi Raz and Maysa Siniora, hosts of a joint Israeli-Arab radio station were awarded the Outstanding Contribution to Peace Award 2010.

Breakdown of the score for this media outlet:

ICPB Awards + 2

ANB Satellite Television +2

ICPB AWARDS:

7 May 2008: Zeina Fayadh, programme editor and presenter was awarded Special Award for an outstanding contribution to broadcasting.

PRESS FREEDOM:

5 February 2008: Shaima Jafer, an Iraqi anchorwoman working for ANB, was abusively and intrusively searched by Ugandan mercenaries working as guards on behalf of the US Marines at Camp Fallujah.

Breakdown of the score for this media outlet:

ICPB Awards +1 Press freedom +1

Aqsa (Al Aqsa) TV - 8

MEDIA FREEDOM ISSUES:

17 January 2009: Omar Silawi, an Al Aqsa TV cameraman, killed in Jeballia Refugee Camp, Gaza, by an air strike. He was deliberately targeted whilst working as a cameraman.

INCITEMENT:

6 March 2007: Interview aired with father of suicide bomber Tareq Hamid is considered incitement.

8 March 2007: Complaint received that an interview with children of suicide bomber Rim Al-Riyashi that was broadcast on Al-Aqsa TV was an incitement to violence.

20 March 2007: Al Asqa TV aired an interview with the father of Palestinian suicide bomber Rim Al-Riyashi which was considered incitement.

13 May 2007: Complaint received that Mickey Mouse cartoon clone "Farfur" continued to be used as a medium for incitement to racial hatred.

13 July 2007: A children's cartoon character, the bee called Nahool, was introduced to replace "Farfur" and continues the indoctrination of Palestinian children by [taking] "revenge upon the enemies of Allah, the murderers of the prophets..."

21 August 2007: PLC Speaker Ahmed Bahr referred to the Jews as "Brothers of Apes and Pigs", whilst giving a racist public address broadcast on Al-Aqsa TV.

11 April 2008: Yunus Al-Astal, Hamas MP, and cleric promoted incitement using Al-Aqsa TV as a vehicle by saying that Rome would soon be conquered by Islam and would become an advance post for Islamic conquests which will spread through Europe in its entirety, "and then will turn to the two Americas, and even Eastern Europe."

3 April 2009: Al-Aqsa TV broadcast a racist Friday sermon based on the Protocols of the Elders of Zion, stating: "Allah Willing, The Moment Will Come When... Not a Single Jew Or Zionist is Left on the Face of the Earth".

Breakdown of the score for this media outlet:

Press freedom +1 Incitement -9

ANN (Arab News Network Satellite TV) +2

PRESS FREEDOM:

21 May 2009: ANN was subject to jamming while on Egyptian owned Nilesat communications satellites forcing it to switch to hotbird. Then it was jammed on hotbird forcing it to go off air.

ICPB AWARDS:

11 May 2009: Adel Zanoon, Gaza correspondent, AFP and ANN, awarded prize for an outstanding contribution to broadcasting whilst working in a war zone. This prize was deferred (2009)

Breakdown of the score for this media outlet:

ICPB Awards +1 Press freedom +1

Arabiya (Al Arabiya) +2

ICPB AWARDS:

19 April 2005: Abdul Rahman al Rashed, Head of Al Arabia Satellite News TV was awarded The Peace Through Media Prize.

9 March 2006: Mohamed Chebaro was awarded The Cutting Edge Prize.

MEDIA FREEDOM ISSUES:

3 September 2008: The Head of the Tehran Bureau of Al-Arabia was told to leave Iran by Iranian officials.

29 October 2009: American journalist Courtney C. Radsch was forced to leave Dubai after being fired from Al Arabiya when she published a story on safety concerns with Emirates Airlines.

Breakdown of the score for this media outlet:

ICPB Awards +2 Press freedom +1 & -1

Asharq al-Awsat +3

ICPB AWARDS:

9 March 2006: Mona Eltahawy, journalist and columnist for Asharq al-Awsat was awarded The Cutting Edge Prize.

7 May 2008: Mina al Oraibi, Asharq al-Awsat journalist awarded The Cutting Edge Prize.

11 May 2009: Faisal Abbas awarded Cutting Edge Prize.

11 May 2009: Khalid Kashtainy awarded Lifetime Achievement Award.

BIAS:

20 June 2006: Mona Eltahawy complains of being suspended from a weekly column on the opinion pages of Asharq al-Awsat "A column I wrote tearing into the Egyptian regime for allowing its security forces to beat peaceful protesters and to sexually assault female journalists and demonstrators was spiked from the Arabic newspaper and Web site but appeared in its entirety on the English Web site".

Breakdown of the score for this media outlet:

ICPB Awards +4 Bias -1

Badil (Al Badil) (Egypt) +1

PRESS FREEDOM:

23 November 2010: An Al Badil journalist and human rights activist was arrested over trumped-up drugs charges in Alexandria. He was arrested whilst photographing a policeman beating participants in a protest, in advance of parliamentary elections.

Breakdown of the score for this media outlet:

Press freedom +1

Baghdadia TV (Al Baghdadia) +2

PRESS FREEDOM:

31 October 2010: Government forces take over the offices of Al Baghdadia and arrest two of its employees for "terrorist activities" during their broadcast. The arrests appear to be linked to the fact that an insurgent gunman had contacted the station on a hotline expressing willingness to negotiate.

31 May 2009: Sports correspondent, Alaa Abdel-Wahab was killed by a car bomb placed under his car when reporting from Mosul.

Breakdown of the score for this media outlet:

Press freedom +2

The Media Credibility Index 2011

BBC Television +3

ICPB AWARDS:

9 March 2006: Martin Asser, BBC News Website Correspondent, was awarded The Cutting Edge Prize.

9 March 2006: Caroline Hawley awarded Main International Media Council Prize.

6 March 2007: Louisa Brooke awarded The Cutting Edge Prize.

11 May 2009: Mark Urban, Diplomatic Editor, Newsnight, awarded Peace Through Media Prize.

8 May 2010: Jim Muir, Middle East correspondent was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Prize.

BIAS:

1 February 2011: BBC commended for the sensitivity of its facto-fiction series "The Promise".

6 March 2009: Supporters of the secular pro-democracy movement in Iran staged a demonstration outside the BBC headquarters in Iran to protest against the lack of coverage of recent events at Tehran Polytechnic. The previous week, there had been serious disturbances at Tehran Polytechnic. Security forces had entered the university campus and clashed with Iran's pro-democracy students. Nearly one hundred Iranian pro-democracy students from the Polytechnic had been arrested and sent to Evin prison. Twenty were in hospital as a result of their beatings and seven were in critical condition. The BBC did not report the news.

17 January 2007: A complaint was received that the Middle East Editor of the BBC had circulated a memo to staff containing a passage in which Jeremy Bowen wrote "the way that Palestinian society, which used to draw strength from resistance to the occupation, is now fragmenting. The reason is the death of hope, caused by a cocktail of Israel's military activities, land expropriation and settlement building — and the financial sanctions imposed on the Hamas-led Government which are destroying Palestinian institutions that were anyway flawed and fragile." This was certainly one explanation of the reason why members of Fatah and Hamas were killing each other. No one can object that this argument is put before the BBC's audience. But for the BBC's Middle East editor to believe that it constitutes the sole explanation and to offer it up alone to his colleagues may be a different matter.

3 May 2006: An independent panel looked into the coverage of Israeli-Palestinian reporting by the BBC. It claimed that greater coverage is given to Israel's fatalities and spokespeople.

PRESS FREEDOM:

12 March 2007: BBC reporter, Alan Johnston, abducted in Gaza.

6 March 2009: Iran voiced its "dismay" at the launching of the new BBC Persian service by claiming that it was "detrimental" to Iranian national security. Information Minister Gholam-Hossein Mohseni Ejeie told reporters that the launching of the BBC Persian would not be good for national security and Tehran would take "necessary measures" to thwart the plan. The Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance, Mohammad-Hossein Safar-Harandi, went one step further by branding the activity of the BBC Persian channel as "illegal" in Iran. Mohammad Karim Abedi, a member of the Foreign Policy and National Security Committee of the Iranian Parliament, added that the BBC was intent on setting up an intelligence network under the cover of journalistic activities to create potential "spies".

11 February 2011: Index on Censorship reported that the BBC's Persian Television service was jammed by Iran due to its coverage of political unrest in Egypt. The jamming was triggered by extensive coverage of the Egyptian protests.

INCITEMENT:

12 September 2009: Complaints received over BBC decision to allow BNP leader Nick Griffin a platform on Question Time. Subsequently further complaints received as to the poor and unbalanced handling of the broadcast, creating sympathy for Mr Griffin.

TRANSPARENCY:

26 March 2007: The BBC has been accused of "shameful hypocrisy" over its decision to spend £200,000 blocking a freedom of information request about its reporting in the Middle East. The corporation, which has itself made extensive use of FOI requests in its journalism, is refusing to release papers about an internal inquiry into whether its reporting has been biased towards Palestine. BBC chiefs have been accused of wasting thousands of pounds of licence fee payers money trying to cover-up the findings of the so called Balen Report into its journalism in the region, despite the fact that the corporation is funded by the British public.

ACCURACY:

24 November 2006: Melanie Phillips complains that there has been an anti-Semitic attack in Paris after a football game in which the Israeli team Hapoel Tel Aviv beat Paris-Saint Germain. A black plainclothes police officer came to the defence of a French Jewish Hapoel supporter after he was attacked by PSG fans. The officer shot dead one PSG fan and wounded another.

Melanie's complaint was that in contrast to other news organisations like AFP or Associated Press, the BBC had excised all references to the anti-black and anti-Semitic nature of the attack, all references to the far right and all references to the racist pedigree of the PSG fans. Wrongly identifying the Hapoel supporter as an Israeli rather than a French Jew, it gave the impression that this was merely a fight between rival supporters of two nations' football teams.

Breakdown of the score for this media outlet:

ICPB Awards +5 Press Freedom +3
Accuracy -1 Incitement -1
Bias +1 & -3 Transparency -1

Business Monitor International +1

ICPB AWARDS:

9 March 2006: Jane Kinninmont, Middle East editor was awarded The Cutting Edge Prize.

Breakdown of the score for this media outlet:

ICPB Awards +1

Channel 10 (Israel) +2

ICPB AWARDS:

11 May 2009: Shlomo Eldar awarded Cutting Edge Award 2009.

8 May 2010: Moeen Al Hilou, Gaza's producer for the channel was awarded Cutting Edge Award 2010.

Breakdown of the score for this media outlet:

ICPB Awards +2

Channel 2 (Israel) +3

ICPB AWARDS:

6 March 2007: Rafik Halabi awarded the International Media Council Prize.

7 May 2008: Yehuda Litani, editor was awarded Peace Through Media Award.

8 May 2010: Itai Anghel, senior correspondent was awarded The Cutting Edge Award

Breakdown of the score for this media outlet:

ICPB Awards +3

CNN 0

ICPB AWARDS:

8 May 2010: Ben Wedeman, senior international correspondent was awarded Outstanding Contribution to Broadcasting Award.

PRESS FREEDOM:

7 July 2010: Octavio Nasr, CNN's Middle East Editor was removed from her position (having worked for CNN for twenty years) after expressing admiration for late Lebanese Cleric Grand Ayatollah Mohammed Hussein Fadlallah on the occasion of his passing via the website twitter (complaint raised with NCF by Colin Bickler of City University School of Journalism).

Breakdown of the score for this media outlet:

ICPB Awards +1 Press Freedom -1

Daily Mail +1

ICPB AWARDS:

7 May 2008: Adel Darwish, columnist was awarded The Cutting Edge Award.

SENSITIVITY:

16 October 2009: The *Daily Mail* receives the highest number of complaints ever given to the UK's Press Complaints Commission over an article by columnist Jan Moir concerning the death of pop star Stephen Gately. The article was widely considered insensitive and homophobic.

23 October 2006: Arab Media Watch and the Council for Arab-British Understanding commended the Guardian, the Independent and the Daily Mail for their extensive coverage of the Lancet's report of 655,000 Iraqi dead since the 2003 invasion, given the relative lack of coverage in the other national newspapers.

Breakdown of the score for this media outlet:

ICPB Awards +1 Sensitivity +1 & -1

Daily Star (UK) -1

BIAS:

9 February 2011: The paper roused controversy when it published a front page story on the far right anti-Muslim group, the English Defence League and its ambitions to become a mainstream political party. In the same issue, the paper also published a poll revealing 98% support for the party among its readers and ran a story about illegal immigrants heading to Britain from Egypt in the wake of political unrest. The English Defence League has been criticised from all sides of the political spectrum for its propagation of Islamophobia, links to neo-fascism and hooliganism.

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After an announcement from owner Richard Desmond that he was unaware of the Daily Star's attitude to the EDL, the paper subsequently distanced itself from the organisation.

Breakdown of the score for this media outlet:

Bias -1

Demotix (citizen journalist website) +1

ICPB AWARDS:

11 May 2009: Eman Mohammed, a photo text blogger was awarded a special prize as a photojournalist working in a war zone. This prize was deferred.

Breakdown of the score for this media outlet:

ICPB Awards +1

Dustour (Al-Dustour) (Egypt) +0

PRESS FREEDOM:

13 September 2007: Four editors of Egypt's opposition press were sentenced to one year's imprisonment after they were found guilty of spreading false information and of reviling senior government officials, among them Gamal Mubarak and then Prime Minister Ahmad Nazif, with intent to sabotage state security. The convicted editors included editor of the daily *Al-Dustour* Ibrahim 'Issa. They were sentenced to forced labour and fined 20,000 Egyptian pounds.

Subsequently on 20th March 2008 the sentence was commuted to two months suspended.

6 October 2010: Ibrahim 'Issa, Editor-in-chief was sacked after his open criticism of the Egyptian administration. This took place hours after a decision to publish an article by opposition leader Mohammed El Baradei.

Breakdown of the score for this media outlet:

Press Freedom +1 & -1

Economist (The Economist) +2

ICPB AWARDS:

9 March 2006: Peter David, Foreign Editor was awarded Main International Media Council Prize.

PRESS FREEDOM:

15 June 2006: The Economist was banned by the government of Iran, after the printing of a map labelling the Persian Gulf "the Gulf".

Breakdown of the score for this media outlet:

ICPB Awards +1 Press Freedom +1

Fajr (Al Fajr) (Egypt) +1

PRESS FREEDOM:

13 September 2007: Four editors of Egypt's opposition press were sentenced to one year's imprisonment after they were found guilty of spreading false information and of reviling senior government officials, among them Gamal Mubarak and Prime Minister Ahmad Nazif, with intent to sabotage state security. The convicted editors included the editor of the weekly *Al-Fajr* 'Adel Hammouda. They were sentenced to forced labour and fined 20,000 Egyptian pounds.

Breakdown of the score for this media outlet:

Press Freedom +1

Fateh (Al-Fateh) (Beirut) -1

INCITMENT:

14 October 2009: The on-line Arabic children's magazine run by Fateh sympathisers glorified martyrdom and attempted to convince Palestinian children to engage in suicide bombing.

Breakdown of the score for this media outlet:

Incitement -1

Financial Times (The Financial Times) +2

ICPB AWARDS:

6 March 2007: David Gardner awarded the International Media Council Prize.

7 May 2008 Roula Khalaf awarded Peace Through Media Prize.

Breakdown of the score for this media outlet:

ICPB Awards +2

France 2 TV -1

ACCURACY:

30 June 2008: A French court ruled against the state-owned "France 2" TV network in the long-running libel case regarding the alleged shooting to death of a Palestinian child, Mohammed al-Dura, in the Gaza Strip in 2000. The death-footage of al-Dura on 30 September 2000, two days after Ariel Sharon, then the leader of Israel's opposition Likud Party, went for a walk on Temple Mount, became a cause célèbre in the Muslim world. The ruling showed there were serious doubts about France 2's version of events.

Breakdown of the score for this media outlet:

Accuracy -1

France 24 +1

ICPB AWARDS:

7 May 2008: Damien Charton was given a Special Award for an Outstanding Contribution to Broadcasting for his coverage of the fighting in Gaza in 2007.

Breakdown of the score for this media outlet:

ICPB Awards +1

Friendship Magazine (Iraq) +1

ICPB AWARDS:

7 May 2008: Wijdan Mahdi Ali Alsalih, columnist was awarded The Breakaway Award.

Breakdown of the score for this media outlet:

ICPB Awards +1

Guardian (The Guardian) +4

ICPB AWARDS:

7 May 2008: Guardian columnist Sharif Nashashibi awarded The Breakaway Award.

11 May 2009: Sami Abdul Shafi, Guardian Gaza correspondent, was awarded a special Cutting Edge prize for working in a war zone. This prize was deferred (2009).

8 May 2010: Ian Black, Middle East editor was awarded Peace Through Media Award.

8 May 2010: Ranj Alaaldin, Middle East political and security risk analyst was awarded The Breakaway Award.

SENSITIVITY:

5 January 2007: The Guardian published graphic and grotesque pictures of hanged, broken-necked men. Complaints on grounds of taste.

23 October 2006: Arab Media Watch and the Council for Arab-British Understanding commend the Guardian, the Independent and the Daily Mail for their extensive coverage of the Lancet's report of 655,000 Iraqi dead since the 2003 invasion, given the relative lack of coverage in the other national newspapers.

20 July 2006: A cartoon by Martin Rowson, was published in The Guardian depicting a leprous Israeli fist striking a Palestinian child. It offended many members of the Jewish community. It was a racist slur, aimed at insulting Jews worldwide defaming their religious symbol and iconography.

Breakdown of the score for this media outlet:

ICPB Awards +4 Sensitivity +1 & -2

Guido Fawkes (blog) (UK) +1

ICPB AWARDS:

11 May 2009: Paul Staines, blogger, was awarded Peace Through Media Award.

Breakdown of the score for this media outlet:

ICPB Awards +1

Haaretz Newspaper +3

ICPB AWARDS:

9 March 2006: Danny Levi Rubinstein awarded Main International Media Council Prize.

9 March 2006: Yoav Stern, columnist on Palestinian affairs was awarded The Cutting Edge Prize.

8 May 2010: Akiva Eldar, Chief Political Columnist was awarded Peace Through Media Award.

8 May 2010: Benny Ziffer, literary editor was awarded Outstanding Contribution to New Media.

ACCURACY:

13 April 2010: Haaretz published a story quoting Al Rai Al Aam Kuwait, which had an unnamed U.S. source that alleged the Syrian government had sanctioned the transfer of "truckloads of Scud missiles from Syria to Hizbollah." The report was widely re-reported in Israel but appears to have been based on little more than Washington gossip. Syrians who viewed the report acknowledged that Syria supplies missiles to Hezbollah but wondered whether the journalists concerned had ever seen a Scud missile and wondered "Why would Hezbollah, generously funded by Iran, actually need, Cold War fossils?"

29 October 2010: Further concern over unquestioning use of intelligence agency sources. Haaretz provocatively reported information from anonymous Israeli defence sources quoting anonymous Nigerian sources that Nigeria's secret service had intercepted 13 containers of weapons from Iran. Analysis provided by intelligence agencies also not questioned when they state this to be part of a new smuggling route from Iran to Hamas in Gaza. The Haaretz article stated that this channel would replace the existing channel that supplies "Iranian weapons" via Khartoum (Gaza weapons supplied to date via Khartoum are all of Chinese manufacture).

PRESS FREEDOM:

27 May 2010: The journalist Anat Kamm is under house arrest for her role in exposing a secret assassination plot by leaking government documents to Ha'aretz. She faces the possibility of life in prison. Uri Blau, a reporter for Ha'aretz who covered the covert plot, fled to London, fearing for his safety and

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freedom. Dov Alfon, the editor-in-chief of Ha'aretz, acknowledged his paper is challenging the gag order and standing by their reporter, telling the UK Guardian that, "Israel is still a democracy and therefore we intend to continue to publish whatever public interest demands and our reporters can reveal."

Breakdown of the score for this media outlet:

ICPB Awards +4 Press Freedom +1 Accuracy -2

Hayat (Al Hayat) Newspaper +3

ICPB AWARDS:

9 March 2006: Jihad al Khazen, Al Hayat editor at large, was awarded Main International Media Council Prize.

11 May 2009: Kamran Karadaghi awarded Lifetime Achievement Award.

11 May 2009: Jaafar al Ahmar awarded Cutting Edge Prize.

Breakdown of the score for this media outlet:

ICPB Awards +3

Hespress (Moroccan online newspaper) +1

PRESS FREEDOM:

12 September 2008: Mohamed Eraji, a blogger who accused Morocco's monarchy of encouraging a culture of dependency where loyalty is rewarded with favours, was jailed for showing disrespect to the King.

Breakdown of the score for this media outlet:

Press Freedom +1

Hurra (Al Hurra) +1

BIAS:

24 June 2008: A commendation was received to the effect that Al Hurra promoted moderate programming. Under the leadership of Mouafac Harb and now Daniel Nassif, Al Hurra has promoted balanced programming that includes many appearances by human rights activists and moderate Muslims; furthermore, and most importantly, it has promoted an agenda of tolerance and fairness.

Breakdown of the score for this media outlet:

Bias +1

Independent (The Independent) +4

ICPB AWARDS:

11 May 2009: Sami Abdul Shafi, Gaza correspondent, was awarded a special Cutting Edge prize for working in a war zone. This prize was deferred (2009).

8 May 2010: Patrick Cockburn, foreign correspondent was awarded Peace Through Media Award.

SENSITIVITY:

14 November 2009: Independent journalist Matthew Teller made a unique effort to "avoid the urban flummery" of the UAE and seek the reality of its hinterland, wandering from the camel market in Al Ain to the Liwa and beyond into the desert to meet an old camel farmer on the edge of the Empty Quarter. He concluded that Emirati culture is alive and well in the sands.

23 October 2006: Arab Media Watch and the Council for Arab-British Understanding commend the Guardian, the Independent and the Daily Mail for their extensive coverage of the Lancet's report of 655,000 Iraqi dead since the 2003 invasion, given the relative lack of coverage in the other national newspapers.

Breakdown of the score for this media outlet:

ICPB Awards +2 Sensitivity +2

Istithmar Al Arabia +1

ICPB Awards:

9 March 2006: Mr Saleh Ali Sindi, Editor in Chief was awarded a Media Council Prize.

Breakdown of the score for this media outlet:

ICPB Awards + 1

Jazeera (Al Jazeera) +8

PRESS FREEDOM:

22 July 2006: Al Jazeera are allowed to resume operations in Iran 14 months after being banned for allegedly fuelling ethnic tensions.

19 October 2006: Al Jazeera demanded an explanation from Britain's then Home Secretary regarding what Al Jazeera perceived as "irresponsible and dangerous" comments by a former British minister on a 2003 US air strike on its Baghdad office in which one of its journalists was killed. Former UK Home Secretary David Blunkett commented on the incident in an interview with Britain's Channel Four television. "I don't think for a minute in previous wars we'd have thought twice about ensuring that a propaganda mechanism on the soil of the country you were invading would actually continue being able to propagandise against you," he said.

26 October 2006: Tunisia closed its embassy in Doha in protest at what it called a "hostile campaign". "Tunisia has decided to end its diplomatic representation in Qatar and close its embassy in Doha, despite the esteem and respect in which it holds this brother country," the ministry said.

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10 March 2009: Index on Censorship reports that staff at the Al Jazeera bureau in Gaza were threatened and a bomb was left outside their office. The office received a warning call and staff were immediately evacuated. The Palestinian police were able to defuse the device and no one was injured.

16 July 2009: Abu Mazin banned Al Jazeera on the West Bank because they claimed that he (Abu Mazin) collaborated with Israel to kill Yasser Arafat. The ban was reported as being lifted on 21 June 2010. A Palestinian official says the decision was taken by President Mahmoud Abbas who was outraged by an al-Jazeera talk show, that dealt with harsh accusations against the Palestinian Authority (PA) leader by a long-time rival in his Fatah movement. The rival, Farouk Kaddoumi, claimed - without presenting evidence - that Abbas had a role in the 2004 death of his predecessor, Yasser Arafat.

7 August 2009: Al Jazeera correspondent in Tunisia, Lutfi Haji, has his internet cut and restrictions placed on his movements as punishment for Al Jazeera coverage of a congress held by Tunisian exiles in Geneva.

19 May 2010: Index for Censorship report that Bahrain has suspended Al Jazeera from broadcasting and has not allowed its film crew to enter the country. The government said the news channel was "flouting the laws regulating the press and publishing" in the country and did not comply with "professional norms."

5 December 2010: Al Jazeera's English TV's entire team in Gaza including their cameraman, correspondent and producer are arrested when they tried to cover a sit in at the Fatah affiliated Shariq Foundation.

14 December 2010, Index for Censorship reports that Al Jazeera's Kuwait city office was closed as a response to reports by the channel of police brutality against members of the Kuwaiti opposition. The reports showed police beating activists, and aired interviews with members of the Kuwait opposition. Four Kuwaiti members of parliament and a dozen citizens were injured in the incident. The official reason given for the closure of Al Jazeera was "the latest developments and your interference in Kuwait's internal affairs".

24 January 2011: Due to Al Jazeera releasing the "Palestine Papers" about 250 Abbas loyalists rallied in support of the President in front of the building housing the local Al-Jazeera office on the seventh and eighth floors. They did succeed in shattering security cameras, glass door panels and station logos. The protesters also sprayed graffiti on the wall, declaring "Al-Jazeera are spies" and "Al-Jazeera equals Israel". They set fire to an Israeli flag with "Al Jazeera" written on it, witnesses said.

2 February 2011: US cable distributor LINK TV has temporarily provided Al Jazeera English with its "free packages" in the wake of the protests in Egypt and Tunisia. Al Jazeera has been receiving praise from American journalists for its in depth coverage in the region, however, many of the USA's satellite and cable providers have been reluctant to provide Al Jazeera in their systems. In spite of 55% of web traffic to Al Jazeera's website coming from the USA and Canada, American cable providers fear a potential backlash from the right if they were to carry the channel. Former NBC Universal Chief Executive Jeff Zucker suggested that right-leaning media in the USA would campaign against providers who would issue Al Jazeera. The hostility is a hangover from the days of the Bush administration, when Al Jazeera was repeatedly criticised by the US government for its coverage of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

4 February 2011: Egypt's Secret Police ransack Al Jazeera offices in Cairo.

INCITMENT:

31 October 2006: An interview is aired stating that the Nobel Peace Prize is racist and an outcome of the Protocols of the Elders of Zion as the prize has been awarded to 167 Jews and only 4 Arabs. Samir 'Ubeid, an Iraqi researcher living in Europe, used Al-Jazeera TV to disseminate his views.

ACCURACY:

20 September 2007: Al Jazeera gave a platform to Dr Hussan Al-Audha (Sudanese Muslim Brotherhood). Dr Hussan's comments were provocative, but also inaccurate, e.g. he stated that: "Former U.S. president Carter declared some two years ago: 'We wanted the oil of Sudan to be used for the pleasure of the American people after 2005.'"

BIAS:

12 June 2007: In a column titled "Al-Jazeera to The Rescue of Fatah al-Islam," in the London daily Al-Sharq Al-Awsat, Egyptian columnist Diana Muqallid harshly criticized the Al-Jazeera network's coverage of the clashes between the Lebanese army and Fatah al-Islam for its lack of objectivity, and for its disregard of the latter's aggressive actions. She wrote that Al-Jazeera was playing the same role it had played in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Palestine - that of spokesman for fundamentalist groups.

30 January 2008: Al Jazeera is recognised by the Arab Polling Agency, the Knowledge World Centre For Polls, as the most respected news broadcaster in the Middle East. Over 98% of Political Science and Media professors in the region claimed to watch at least 3 hours of Al Jazeera per day.

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9 March 2011: The Libya Freedom and Democracy group complains that Al Jazeera gives too much air time to “bearded Islamists” whom they misleadingly portray as representing the Libyan opposition whereas representatives of the liberal opposition that comprises the National Transitional Council are available.

SENSITIVITY:

16 July 2007: Al Jazeera gives airtime to a conference in honour of the Egyptian preacher Yousef Al-Qaradhawi. Hamas leader Khaled Mash'al is given airtime to praise Sheikh Yousef Al-Qaradhawi for his support of suicide operations. He also stated the holocaust is exaggerated. In the broadcast he stated with regard to Qaradhawi: “One of the most notable manifestations of this support was when we relied – after Allah – on his support of martyrdom operations. He never hesitated to issue rulings in support of these operations, and there were times when we were in dire need of these rulings ... This is because some of the nation's religious scholars – and we do not underestimate them, for they are good people ... But due to a certain confusion, they had dissenting views on the martyrdom operations, and this caused us great embarrassment. However, in his unequivocal *fatwa*, the sheikh, may Allah reward him, considered martyrdom operations to be the most noble level of jihad.”

Breakdown of the score for this media outlet:

Press freedom +12 Accuracy -1 Incitement -1
Bias +1 & -2 Sensitivity -1

Jerusalem Post -3

INCITEMENT:

19 January 2007: An article was published stating that Europe is headed towards a Muslim dominated population, and one must travel to European cities sooner rather than later to ensure experiencing Western culture. “Western Europe will be transformed into a branch of the Muslim world, which is sure to make it an even less welcoming place for Americans, Israelis and for Jews. That, at least, is the unpleasant, yet entirely unavoidable conclusion to be drawn from Europe's headlong demographic drive toward oblivion . . .”

PRESS FREEDOM:

7 February 2010: David Horovitz, Jerusalem Post Editor caved in to pressure from a small right wing group and sacked Ms Naomi Chazen - a columnist at the Jerusalem Post and the former head of the New Israel Fund. Ms Chazen was outspoken about the Gaza war issue.

ACCURACY:

19 June 2006: It was suggested that new legislation in Iran required Jews and other religious minorities to wear distinctive colour badges. The spurious article by a

frequent contributor to the Wall Street Journal, Iranian-American Amir Taheri, was initially published in Friday's edition of Canada's National Post, which ran alongside the story a 1935 photograph of a Jewish businessman in Berlin with a yellow, six-pointed star sewn on his overcoat, as required by Nazi legislation. The Post subsequently issued a retraction. Taheri's story, however, was picked up by the Jerusalem Post, which also featured a photo of a yellow star from the Nazi era over a photo of Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

Breakdown of the score for this media outlet:

Press Freedom -1 Accuracy -1 Incitement -1

Jewish Chronicle (UK) +0

ICPB AWARDS:

7 May 2008: Bernard Josephs, political editor was awarded The Lifetime Achievement Award.

3 October 2008: The Jewish Chronicle reported that Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed al Nahyan was the UAE's current ruler. He was then the Foreign Minister and Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed was and is the UAE's current ruler. The Jewish Chronicle also reported that the Zayed International Centre for Coordination had sponsored lectures and publications claiming that Zionists were responsible for the holocaust and that US military had carried out the September 11th attacks in 2001. They did not add that when Sheikh Zayed learned of this, he closed the centre. There were further uncorrected errors regarding Sheikh Zayed in the article.

Breakdown of the score for this media outlet:

ICPB Awards +1 Accuracy -1

Karama (Al Karama) (Egypt) +1

PRESS FREEDOM:

15 October 2007: Four editors of Egypt's opposition press were sentenced to one year's imprisonment after they were found guilty of spreading false information and of reviling senior government officials, among them Gamal Mubarak and Prime Minister Ahmad Nazif, with intent to sabotage state security. The convicted editors included editor of *Al-Karama* 'Abd Al-Halim Qandil – they were sentenced to forced labour and fined 20,000 Egyptian Pounds.

Breakdown of the score for this media outlet:

Press Freedom +1

Khaleej Times (UAE) +1

PRESS FREEDOM:

26 September 2007: The Prime Minister of the UAE ruled that journalists should not be jailed over their work after

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two journalists, an Indian and an Egyptian working for the English-language daily "Khaleej Times", were convicted of libel and sentenced to two months in jail.

Breakdown of the score for this media outlet:
Press Freedom +1

Ma'an News Agency (Palestine) +2

PRESS FREEDOM:

13 January 2010: The Chief Editor of Ma'an, Jared Malsen, an American citizen, was detained on arrival at the airport in Tel Aviv and subsequently deported on the grounds of security issues. Documents in the case imply that he was "critical of the State of Israel".

7 July 2007: The agency was pressured in a mobile phone call from a Hamas spokesperson threatening to "embark on a campaign of defamation against our news agency, and accuse it of reporting false news and of antagonizing the Hamas movement" if Ma'an did not cease to publish unfavourable stories on Hamas.

Breakdown of the score for this media outlet:
Press Freedom +2

Maariv, Israel +1

ICPB AWARDS:

6 March 2007: Jack Hugi awarded The Cutting Edge Prize.

Breakdown of the score for this media outlet:
ICPB Awards +1

Mail on Sunday -1

ACCURACY:

15 March 2009: The Mail on Sunday falsely reported that Inayat Bunglawala, a British government advisor, was a supporter of al-Qaeda and radical Palestinian-Jordanian cleric Abu Qatada. London's High Court heard the newspaper accepted all allegations were false. The Mail on Sunday was made to pay substantial damages and print an apology.

Breakdown of the score for this media outlet:
Accuracy -1

Miami Herald (The Miami Herald and McClatchy Newspapers) +1

ACCURACY:

26 February 2008: Well over 124 journalists were reported as having been killed since the start of the Iraq war, of whom 102 have been Iraqis. In the months leading up to the Iraq war, when most news organizations were dutifully relaying the Bush

administration's claims about the threat posed by Iraq, The Miami Herald and other McClatchy owned dailies including *The Sacramento Bee*, *The Kansas City Star*, and *The Charlotte Observer* ran several stories questioning their accuracy. They are commended by NCF for their excellent Iraqi staffed Baghdad Bureau.

Breakdown of the score for this media outlet:
Accuracy +1

Nas (Al Nas) TV (Egypt) -2

INCITEMENT:

13 March 2008: Al Nas TV alleged that the West spreads pornography deliberately in order to undermine Islam. In an extensive analysis, broadcaster Sa'id Tawfiq states: "The number one goal in spreading pornographic films is to destroy the identity of the Islamic nation. That is the goal of the West and the Jews . . . It destroys our connection with God, our fear of Him. Then, they come and occupy our country."

21 June 2006: Al Nas provided a platform for Egyptian Cleric Sheik Muhammad Sharaf Al-Din who makes racist comments on a Children Show, i.e. "The Jews are the people of treachery, betrayal and vileness".

Breakdown of the score for this media outlet:
Incitement -2

NBC Television +1

TRANSPARENCY:

30 November 2006: NBC stated it would refer to the Iraq conflict as a "civil war" despite President Bush's insistence that it should be referred to as "sectarian violence".

Breakdown of the score for this media outlet:
Transparency +1

Nile TV -1

BIAS:

11 February 2011: Nile TV anchorwoman Shahira Amin resigned today in protest at the state run channel's coverage of the Egyptian uprising. She spoke to Al Jazeera about the reasons behind her decision. Amin claimed that Nile TV was showing footage of President Mubarak's supporters only, and not footage of protests and violence in Tahrir Square.

Breakdown of the score for this media outlet: Bias -1

Observer (The Observer) +0

ICPB AWARDS:

7 May 2008: Robert Tait, Iran correspondent was awarded The Cutting Edge Award 2008.

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SENSITIVITY:

28 May 2006: An extremely offensive article under the provocative "Londinistan" banner by Melanie Phillips was published in the Observer. In complaining, Chris Doyle of Caabu writes: "She may be right about the radicalising impact of The Satanic Verses and the Bosnian war on many Muslims, but her continued penchant for blaming the religion of Islam and depicting all Muslims as extremist murderers is a disgrace. Imagine her horror if someone wrote that Judaism had become fused with murder. It is naked incitement to argue that Islam and all Muslims in Britain are intent on killing when this only applies to a very small, albeit very extreme, minority."

Breakdown of the score for this media outlet:

ICPB Nominations +1 Sensitivity -1

Quds TV (Al Quds) (Palestine) +1

PRESS FREEDOM:

7 February 2011: Members of the Preventive Security Service prevented Quds TV correspondent Mamdouh Hamamrah from covering a teachers' sit-in in front of the Education Directorate in the city of Bethlehem and transported him to their headquarters. Hamamrah went to the Directorate of Education, when a force of Preventive Security personnel approached him and his colleague cameraman, and took them to their headquarters in Bethlehem.

Hamamrah commented: "They made me sign a pledge that I will not violate the administrative system, I will respect Palestinian law, and will not work for the illegal formal channel in the West Bank - referring to Quds TV." The security service's continued harassment of Quds TV employees, which they deem illegal, is a violation of Item 3 of Article 27 in the Palestinian Basic Law, which states: "Censorship on media shall be prohibited. No warning, suspension, confiscation, cancellation, or restrictions shall be imposed on media except by law, and in accordance with a judicial order."

Breakdown of the score for this media outlet:

Press Freedom +1

Rahma (Al Rahma) TV (Egypt) -1

PRESS FREEDOM:

13 February 2009: This satellite channel featured anti-Jewish messages. Children were taught to memorize and then recite racist messages in broadcasts in January and February 2009.

Breakdown of the score for this media outlet:

Incitement -1

Reuters +3

ICPB AWARDS:

8 May 2010: Samia Nakhoul, Reuters Middle East Editor awarded Peace Through Media Award 2010.

PRESS FREEDOM:

16 April 2008: Fadil Shama'a, a 23 year old Reuters cameraman was killed by a tank shell in the South East of Gaza City.

6 October 2006: Emad Mohammad Bornat, video photographer for Reuters and documentary film maker, was arrested on Friday October 6th, 2006 by an Israeli Border Police unit that entered the village, firing rubber bullets and sound grenades. Emad is being held in Israeli military custody. After he was interrogated, the police refused to view the tapes that Emad filmed. Emad is accused of "assault on an officer" and of stone throwing and was sent to the Etzion prison.

Breakdown of the score for this media outlet:

ICPB Awards +1 Press Freedom +2

RT (formerly Russia Today) 0

BIAS:

1 February 2011: RT identified a story of an attempted terrorist attack in the US by a white American citizen on a Mosque. The story was given minimal to nonexistent coverage in other media outlets.

12 August 2008: RT reporter William Dunbar resigned from the station, citing gross editorial bias in coverage of the 2008 South Ossetian war.

PRESS FREEDOM:

24 November 2010: Two RT reporters, Kaelyn Forde and Jon Conway, both US Nationals were arrested after covering a protest outside Benning Air Force base in Columbus, Georgia.

TRANSPARANCY:

20 November 2007: Russia Today is heavily criticised by *Reporters Without Borders* for what is termed "pro-Kremlin propaganda" and attempts to rehabilitate Stalin's image in the west. RT is funded by the Russian government.

Breakdown of the score for this media outlet:

Press freedom +1 Bias +1 & -1

Transparency -1

Sawt Al-Umma Wael (Egypt) +1

PRESS FREEDOM:

15 October 2007: On September 13, four editors of Egypt's opposition press were sentenced to one year's imprisonment after they were found guilty of

spreading false information and of reviling senior government officials, among them Gamal Mubarak and Prime Minister Ahmad Nazif, with intent to sabotage state security. Editor of the weekly Sawt Al-Umma Wael Al-Abrashi was convicted and also sentenced to forced labor and fined 20,000 Egyptian pounds.

Breakdown of the score for this media outlet:
Press Freedom +1

Sharqiya (Al Sharqiya) Satellite TV (Iraq) +2

ICPB AWARDS:

11 May 2009: Abdulrahman Abdulla awarded Breakaway Award for most promising new broadcaster.

PRESS FREEDOM:

15 September 2008: Four employees of Al Sharqiya were murdered on the northern Iraqi city of Mosul. Three of those murdered were journalists, namely Musab al Azawi, Ahmed Salem and Ihab Maad, and the fourth was their driver, Qaidar Suleiman. The men were kidnapped by gunmen whilst filming a programme about Ramadan in the Mosul district of Al Zenjili.

Breakdown of the score for this media outlet:
ICPB Awards +1 Press freedom +1

Sluggo O'Toole (blog) (UK) +1

ICPB AWARDS:

11 May 2009: Mike Fealty, editor and writer was awarded Peace Through Media Award.

Breakdown of the score for this media outlet:
ICPB Awards +1

Sunday Times +1

PRESS FREEDOM:

1 Dec 2009: Circulation of the Sunday Times was blocked in the United Arab Emirates after unfavourable coverage of Dubai's debt crisis appeared in the paper. The authorities in Dubai were also upset by the accompanying cartoon which depicted Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum of Dubai in a satirical fashion disappearing under a sea of debt.

Breakdown of the score for this media outlet:
Press freedom +1

Ta'akhi (Al Ta'akhi) (Iraq) +1

ICPB AWARDS:

11 May 2009: Dr Badrakhan Al Sindi awarded Peace Through Media Award.

Breakdown of the score for this media outlet:
ICPB Awards +1

Telegraph (The Daily Telegraph) -1

SENSITIVITY:

21 December 2010: The Daily Telegraph is accused by Media Week of horrendously amoral standards of journalism following a "sting" operation to entrap UK government minister Vince Cable. Leading media industry figures state this raised "serious issues of journalism ethics." Original complaint by Ivor Gaber, Professor of Political Journalism, City University.

Breakdown of the score for this media outlet:
Sensitivity -1

Times (The Times) +2

ICPB AWARDS:

19 April 2005: Richard Beeston, diplomatic editor was awarded Peace Through Media Prize

6 March 2007: Michael Binyon, editorial writer, awarded the International Media Council Prize

Breakdown of the score for this media outlet:
ICPB Awards +2

Tolo Media, Afghanistan +2

ICPB AWARDS:

11 May 2009: Saad Mohseni awarded The Peace Through Media prize for working in a war zone. This prize was deferred (2009).

PRESS FREEDOM:

1 January 2011: Commended for the popular satirical TV show, "Alarm Bell", which pokes fun at the Taliban and the government alike (at the expense of risking the lives of its presenters) and is at the cutting edge, keeping alive the concept of a free press, in a working environment in today's Afghanistan that is increasingly restrictive.

Breakdown of the score for this media outlet:
ICPB Awards +1 Press Freedom +1

Watan (Al Watan) (Saudi Arabia) 0

PRESS FREEDOM:

15 May 2010: Editor Jamal Kashoggi forced to resign from the paper after running opinion pieces critical of Salafism in a move to appease religious hardliners in Saudi Arabia.

30 August 2007: Saudi columnist Sa'ud Al-Balawi courageously criticizes attempts by the Saudi religious establishment to sabotage the country's annual cultural events, thereby transforming Saudi Arabia into a "Taliban society, isolated from the rest of the world". Al-Watan reported that eight extremists had threatened to disrupt vocal concerts organized as part of the annual Jeddah festival, after trying to persuade the public not to enter the concert hall. Having failed, [the extremists] began to shout, threatening to stop the festivities by any possible means.

Breakdown of the score for this media outlet:

Press freedom +1 & -1



INSIDE FALLUJAH

The Unembedded Story

By Ahmed Mansour Published by Arris Books ISBN 978-1-84437-082-5

In 2004 the United States wages one of the bloodiest battles of the Iraq war in the city of Fallujah, west of Baghdad. It was a battle that symbolised resistance to the US occupation and one that has become a byword for the worst excesses of the Iraq war.

Only one television station – Al Jazeera – stayed in Fallujah to report on the battles and the horrifying heartbreaking images that shocked the world came from Ahmed Mansour and cameraman Laith Mushtaq.

Their reports outraged all who saw them with the result that the US military went to extraordinary lengths to make Mansour's exit from Fallujah the first condition for ceasefire. Donald Rumsfeld labelled Mansour's reporting as 'vicious and inaccurate' arguing that the Al Jazeera crew were propagandists. Here told in English for the first time is Mansour's own view of what happened inside Fallujah.

Ahmed Mansour is a journalist and host of Al-Jazeera's talk show Without Limits. He is the author of 18 books

PALESTINE INSIDE OUT

An Everyday Occupation

By Saree Makdisi Published by W.W. Norton & Company ISBN 978-0-393-33844-7

This new edition of Makdisi's highly praised portrait of Palestinian life under occupation has a new forward by renowned author Alice Walker who pays tribute to Makdisi's as a 'warrior of compassion' writing about the Palestinian condition.

Palestine Inside Out sheds light on the most important – but also the least visible – aspects of life under occupation: the permits, passes, curfews, closures, "sterile roads", and "seam zones" that have isolates Palestinian communities from their lands, their livelihoods and each other. Through eye-opening statistics and day-by-day reports, Makdisi reveals how the peace process has institutionalized Palestinians' loss of control over their lives and explains why a one-state solution may be the most viable option.

"This book needs to be required reading for all who seek a peaceful future for these two long-tormented peoples." *Richard Falk, UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights Situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.*

Saree Makdisi is a professor of English and comparative literature at UCLA and has written on the Middle East for the Los Angeles Times, The Nation, The London Review of Books and Al-Akhbar. www.sareemakdisi.net

BETWEEN TERROR AND DEMOCRACY

Algeria since 1989

By James D. Le Sueur Published by Zed Books ISBN 978-1-84277-725-1

This the latest book in the Global History of the Present series, in which historians address the upheavals in world history since 1989.

Algeria's democratic experiment is seminal in post-Cold War history. The first Muslim nation to attempt the transition from an authoritarian system to democratic pluralism, it became a test case for reform in Africa, the Arab world and beyond. Yet when the country looked certain to become the world's first elected Islamic republic, a military coup brought the democratic process sharply to a halt. Islamists declared jihad on the state and hundreds of thousands of civilians were killed in the ensuing decade of state repression.

Le Sueur shows that Algeria is at the very heart of contemporary debates about Islam and secular democracy, arguing that the stability of Algeria is crucial for the security of the wider Middle East. Algeria since 1989 is a lively examination of how the fate of one country is entwined with much greater global issues.

James D Le Sueur is professor of history at the University of Nebraska. He is a leading authority on Algerian and French history and is the author of several books including 'Uncivil War: Intellectuals and Identity Politics during the Decolonization of Algeria'.



IBN SAUD – THE DESERT WARRIOR AND HIS LEGACY

By Michael Darlow and Barbara Bray Published by Quartet ISBN 978-07043-7181-1

This is a dramatic retelling of the story of Ibn Saud founder of the modern Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. It follows him from his earliest days in the desert to life in Kuwait and his long battle to reunite the Kingdom and in the final chapter looks at his legacy and the Kingdom today.

The story of Ibn Saudi shows how one man can inspire a nation and its growth and development.

Michael Darlow is a writer and award winning television producer and director. Barbara Bray was a university lecturer in Egypt before joining the BBC Radio Drama Department. She died in February 2010.

IN THE LAND OF INVISIBLE WOMEN

A female doctor's journey in the Saudi Kingdom

By Qanta A Ahmed, MD Published by Sourcebooks, Inc. ISBN 978-1-4022-1087-7

Unexpectedly denied a visa to remain in the United States, Qanta Ahmed, a young British Muslim doctor, becomes an outcast in motion. On a whim, she accepts an exciting position in Saudi Arabia. This is not just a new job; this is a chance at adventure in an exotic land she thinks she understands, a place she hopes she will belong.

What she discovers is vastly different. The Kingdom is a world apart, a land of unparalleled contrast. She finds rejection and scorn in the places she believed would most embrace her, but she also finds humour, honesty, loyalty and love. And for Qanta more than anything, it is a land of opportunity.

Dr Qanta Ahmed is a Muslim. She spent her childhood in England where she attended the University of Nottingham Medical School. She currently practices in South Carolina.

TABLET & PEN

Literary landscapes from the Modern Middle East

Edited by Reza Aslan Published by W.W. Norton & Company ISBN 978-0-393-06585-5

The aim of this book is to provide a different, more authentic perception of this rich and complex region, an image not fashioned by the descriptions of the invaders but rather one that arises from the diverse literatures of its most acclaimed poets and writers.

This is a groundbreaking collection of 20th century Middle Eastern literature from 1910 and the twilight of the colonialism to the Iranian Revolution and 'War on Terror'. It features literature from countries as diverse as Morocco and Iran, works written in Arabic, Persian, Turkish and Urdu originally and now translated into English. The collection is interspersed with historical references to put each story in context.

Reza Aslan lives in Los Angeles and teaches creative writing at the University of California.

THE HASHEMITES: THE DREAM OF ARABIA

By Robert McNamara Published by Haus Histories ISBN 978-1-905791-66-8

One of a series of Haus books entitled Makers of the Modern World, which describe the personalities, events and circumstances surrounding the countries that were remade after the Paris Treaties. Each examines the standpoint of key players from different countries.

Whether the Hashemites were victims of the machinations of Britain and France for territory in the Middle East, or uneasy victors as kings in countries where their presence suited the Great Powers has long been debated. The Paris Peace Treaties created five major entities and a series of independent states in the Middle East. The present borders of many Arab countries are the legacy of the Paris Peace and San Remo conferences. McNamara describes both the sense of betrayal felt by Arab nationalists after the conference and shows how the countries of this region continue to shape the history of a region that is at the centre of world affairs.

Robert McNamara lectures in International History at the University of Ulster. He is a specialist in the 20th century history of the Middle East.



INSIDE THE KINGDOM

Kings, Clerics, Modernists, Terrorist and the struggle for Saudi Arabia

By Robert Lacey Published by Hutchinson ISBN 978-0-091-93124-7

A follow up to his best selling book 'The Kingdom' about the reunification of Saudi Arabia by Ibn Saud, this book follows the rule of his sons and the changes in the Kingdom brought about by the events of 9/11. Lacey recounts the dramatic and controversial recent history of the Kingdom in the voice of individual Saudis he has met and talked to from all walks of life. He paints a vivid picture of this complex society and government and by making his home once again in the Kingdom is able to write an insightful and intimate portrait of Saudi Arabia today, its traditions and its remorseless march towards modernity.

Robert Lacey is a distinguished author, journalist, biographer and historian. www.robertlacey.com

IN THE LION'S DEN

Inside America's Cold War with Asad's Syria

By Andrew Tabler Published by IB Taurus ISBN 978 1 84885 147 4

Vast inscrutable unpredictable, Syria has traditionally been the toughest nut to crack in the Middle East peace process. After 9/11 and Damascus' opposition to the War in Iraq, Washington decided it had had enough and began a quiet campaign against Asad's regimes. There were no Western journalists based in Damascus during this period except for Andrew Tabler. 'In the Lion's Den' tells the unique story of the war no one knew about as seen from the inside.

Andrew Tabler is Next Generation Fellow, Washington Institute for Near East Policy, Former Fellow, Institute of Current World Affairs.

THE NEW ARAB JOURNALIST

Mission and Identity in a Time of Change

By Jeremy Ginges and Laurence Pintak Published by IB Taurus ISBN 978 1 840885 098 6

The Arab media is in the midst of a revolution that will inform questions of war and peace in the Middle East, political and social reform, and relations between the West and the Arab World. Drawing on the first broad cross-border survey of Arab journalists, first person interviews with scores of reporters and editors and his three decades experience reporting from the Middle East, Laurence Pintak examines how Arab journalists see themselves and their mission at this critical time in the evolution of the Arab media. He explores how, in a diverse Arab media landscape expressing myriad opinions, journalists are still under siege as governments fight a rear guard action to manage the message.

Laurence Pintak is Founding Dean of the Murrow College of Communication at Washington State University. Previously Director of the Kamal Adham Center for Journalism Training and Research at The American University in Cairo, and a former CBS News Middle East correspondent, his books include 'Reflections in a Bloodshot Lens: America, Islam & the War of Ideas' (2006).

BEYOND ISLAM

A New Understanding of the Middle East

By Samia Zubaida Published by IB Taurus ISBN 978 1 84885 070 5

In this magisterial work, Sami Zubaida draws on a distinguished career's worth of experience trying to understand the region to address the fundamental question in Middle East studies: what is the Middle East? He argues, controversially, that to see it through the prism of Islam, as it is conventionally viewed, is to completely misunderstand it. Many of what we think of as the 'Islamic' characteristics of the region are products of culture and society, not religion. Zubaida offers an alternative view of the region, its historic cosmopolitanism, its religious and cultural diversity, its rapid adoption of new media cultures, which reveals a multi-faceted and complex region teeming with multiple identities.

Sami Zubaida is an Emeritus Professor of Politics and Sociology at Birkbeck, University of London



PALESTINE ONLINE

Transnationalism, Communications and the Reinvention of Identity

By Miriyam Aouragh Published by IB Taurus ISBN 978 1 84885 364 5

For Palestine's Diaspora and exiled communities, the internet has become an important medium for the formation of Palestinian national and transnational identity. Miriyam Aouragh looks at the internet as both a space and an instrument for linking Palestinian diasporas in Palestine, Jordan and Lebanon. She closely examines the uses and limits of internet technology under conditions of war, along with the ways in which virtual participation enables the generation of new ideals for political reconciliation and self-determination.

Miriyam Aouragh, is Post-Doctoral Rubicon Fellow at the Oxford Internet Institute, University of Oxford. She holds a PhD from the University of Amsterdam.

ENVOYS OF THE ARAB WORLD Volume II

The MECAS Memoirs

Edited by Paul Tempest

Editorial Panel: James Craig, Donald Maitland, Paul Tempest

Published by Stacey International ISBN 9781905299973

This second book of accounts of life after study at the Middle East Centre for Arab Studies (MECAS) looks at the stories of fifty ambassadors, administrators, journalists, doctors, businessmen and military men and covers a span of 65 years in the region. It tells the stories of some thirty ambassadors to the Middle East including Sir Alan Munro and Sir James Craig as well as of businessmen like Hugh Norton, the former Chief Executive of BP Exploration and novelist and lawyer Fail Frey Borden.

Summing up the memoirs, Sir James Craig says that the reflections are honest rather than 'crazed with the spell of Arabia' but at the same time 'respect and affection' for the Middle East shine through.

PROCONSUL TO THE MIDDLE EAST

Sir Percy Cox and the End of the Empire

By John Townsend Published by I.B. Taurus ISBN 978-1-84885 134 4

Britain's 'Moment in the Middle East': was it an imperial triumph or a decisive staging post in the end-of-empire story? Sir Percy Cox (1864-1937) was a vital figure in the history of the British Empire in the Middle East, part of the pantheon of legends such as TE Lawrence and Gertrude Bell.

Townsend paints a convincing picture of Britain's global empire and brings Cox to life as an archetypal patrician proconsul. This is the first major biography of Cox. It illustrates the troubled contemporary history of Iraq and the modern Middle East.

John Townsend is a writer and historian who has spent a life-time in the Middle East. He began his career as economic consultant to the Sultan of Muscat and later served in a similar capacity in Oman, Iraq, Abu Dhabi and Iran. Later he studied history and politics at Oxford Brookes University for his first degree and PhD.

Voice contacts directory

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People's Democratic Republic of Algeria
54 Holland Park, London W11 3RS
Tel: 020 7221 7800
info@algerianembassy.org.uk
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Embassy of the Kingdom of Bahrain
30 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8QB
Tel: 020 7201 9170
www.bahrainembassy.co.uk
information@bahrainembassy.co.uk
Ambassador: HE Shaikh Khalifa bin Ali bin Rashid Al-Khalifa

EGYPT

Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt
26 South Street, London W1K 1DW
020 7499 3304/2401
eg.emb_london@mfa.gov.eg
Ambassador: HE Mr Hatem Seif El Nasr

JORDAN

Embassy of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
6 Upper Phillimore Gardens, London W8 7HA
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KUWAIT

Embassy of the State of Kuwait
2 Albert Gate, London SW1X 7JU
Tel 020 7590 3400/3406/3407
www.kuwaitculturaluk.com
Ambassador: HE Khaled Al-Duwaisan GCVO

LEBANON

Embassy of Lebanon
21 Kensington Palace Gardens, London W8 4RA
Tel: 020 7727 6696/7229
Emb.leb@btinternet.com
Ambassador: HE Mrs Inaam Osseiran

LIBYA

The People's Bureau of The Great Socialist People's
Libyan Arab Janahiriya
15 Knightsbridge, London SW1 X 7LY
Tel: 020 7201 8289
Ambassador: HE Mr Omar R Jelban

MOROCCO

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49 Queen's Gate Gardens, London SW7 5NE
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ambalondres@maec.gov.ma
www.morocanembassylondon.org.uk
Ambassador: HH Princess Lalla Joulala Alaoui

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Embassy of the Sultanate of Oman
167 Queens Gate, London SW7 5HE
Tel: 020 7225 0001
Ambassador: HE Mr Abdul Aziz Al Hinai

QATAR

Embassy of the State of Qatar
1 South Audley Street, London W1K 1NB
Tel: 020 7493 2200
Ambassador: HE Mr Khalid Rashid Al-Hamoudi Al-Mansouri

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Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia
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www.saudiembassy.org.uk
Ambassador: HRH Prince Mohamed bin Nawaf bin Abdulaziz

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admin@sudanembassy.co.uk
www.sudanembassy.co.uk

SYRIA

Embassy of the Syrian Arab Republic
8 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PH
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www.syrianembassy.org.uk
Ambassador: HE Dr Sami Khiyami

TUNISIA

Embassy of Tunisia
29 Prince's Gate, London SW7 1QG
Tel: 020 7584 3205
London@tunisianembassy.co.uk
Ambassador: HE Mr Hatem Atallah

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Embassy of the United Arab Emirates
30 Princes Gate, London SW7 1PT
Tel: 020 7581 1281
www.uae-embassy.ae
Ambassador: HE Mr Abdulrahman Ghanem A Almutaiwee

YEMEN

Embassy of the Republic of Yemen
57 Cromwell Road, London SW7 2ED
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Yemen.embassy@btconnect.com
Ambassador: HE Mr Abdulla Ali Al Radhi

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106 Gloucester Place, London W1Y 6HU

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Head of office: Dr Adel Babsail

press@arableague.org.uk

PALESTINIAN MISSION

5 Galena Road, London W6 0LT

Tel: 020 8563 0008

Head of Mission: HE Manuel Sarkis Hassassian

www.palestineembassyuk.com

MIDDLE EAST INTEREST GROUPS

THE ARAB BRITISH CENTRE

The Arab-British Centre was founded in 1975 and registered as a charity in 1989 with the aim of promoting the development of friendship, understanding and cooperation between Britain and the Arab world and advancing the education of the public. It does this by providing and maintaining a centre for the dissemination of information in English regarding the culture, art, science, religion, economy and contemporary history of the Arab world.

Chairman of the Board of Trustees: Nick St Aubyn

Executive Director: Noreen Abu Oun

Projects Manager: Imogen Ware

1 Gough Square London EC4A 3DE

Tel: 020 7832 1310

www.arabbritishcentre.org.uk

info@arabbritishcentre.org.uk

BRITISH SOCIETY FOR MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES (BRISMES)

Established in 1973, this society encourages and promotes the study of the Middle East in the United Kingdom. It brings together teachers, researchers, students, diplomats, journalists and others who deal professionally with the Middle East. Membership is open to all the above regardless of nationality.

President: Mr Alasdair Newton

Vice President: Professor Tim Niblock

Executive Director: Dr James Dickens

BRISMES Administrative offices,

Institute for Middle Eastern & Islamic Studies

University of Durham, Elvet Hill Road, Durham DH1 3TU

Tel: 0191 33 45179

www.brismes.ac.uk

a.l.haysey@dur.ac.uk

COUNCIL FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF ARAB-BRITISH UNDERSTANDING (CAABU)

An all-party organisation designed to foster UK-Arab relations, principally at a political level.

Director: Chris Doyle

1 Gough Square, London EC4A 3DE

Tel: 020 7832 1321

www.caabu.org

info@caabu.org

CONSERVATIVE MIDDLE EAST COUNCIL

Membership limited to MPs and peers.

President: The Hon Nicholas Soames, MP

Chairman: The Baroness Morris of Bolton

Director: Leo Docherty

Tel: 020 3159 4380

www.cmec.org.uk

ARAB BRITISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Founded in 1975, the Arab British Chamber of Commerce is dedicated to the promotion of Arab-British trade and economic cooperation. It offers a wide range of services to companies trading or planning to trade with the Arab world. The Chamber works in close cooperation with Arab business and official organisations, British chambers of commerce and the Department of Trade and Industry.

Secretary General: Dr. Afnan Al-Shuaiby

Chairman: The Rt. Hon Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean

43 Upper Grosvenor Street, London W1K 2NJ

Tel: 020 7235 4363

www.abcc.org.uk

info@abcc.org.uk

EGYPTIAN EXPLORATION SOCIETY

The Egypt Exploration Society is the leading UK organisation carrying out archaeological fieldwork and research in Egypt today. The Society's current research strategy focuses on landscape development, environmental change and human interaction in the Nile Delta and Valley, including the Sudan. The current fieldwork projects range from excavation at major Delta sites and surveying the ancient capital of Memphis, to mapping the changing river course at ancient Thebes. The Society works closely with the Egyptian Ministry of Antiquities and is currently engaging with international partners to support and fund excavations and surveys at many other sites.

President: Sir Julian Horn-Smith

Director: Dr. Patricia Spencer

3 Doughty Mews, London WC1N 2PG

Tel: 020 7242 1880

www.ees.ac.uk

MIDDLE EAST ASSOCIATION

A private and independent organisation established in 1961 to promote trade between the UK and the Middle East. It provides its members with a wide range of services, designed to help trade with the Middle East.

Director General: Charles Hollis

33 Bury Street, London SW1Y 6AX

Tel: 020 7839 2137

www.the-mea.co.uk

mail@the-mea.co.uk

THE NEXT CENTURY FOUNDATION

Established in 1990, the Foundation is a charity devoted to conflict resolution and works at a second track level to support peace initiatives across the Middle East.

Secretary General: William Morris

4 Vincent Square, London SW1P 2LX

Tel: 020 7821 6566

www.ncfpeace.org

ncfpeace@aol.com

Voice contacts directory

OFFSCREEN

Offscreen promotes cross-cultural understanding amongst young people focussing on educational, film and other creative projects. It is a not-for-profit initiative specialising in building creative bridges between the UK, Middle East and wider Islamic World.
Founder: Stephen Stapleton
1 Gough Square, London EC4 3DE
Tel: 020 7832 1331
www.offscreen.org.uk info@offscreened.com

FRIENDSHIP SOCIETIES

ANGLO-JORDANIAN SOCIETY

An active friendship society under the patronage of HRH Prince Hassan bin Talal and HRH the Duke of Kent. It organises social, cultural and educational events and operates in close cooperation with the Jordanian Embassy.
Chair: Noel Brehony CMG
Secretary: Emma Bodossian
P.O. Box 840, Richmond, Surrey TW9 9AN
Tel: 020 8940 0474 www.a-j-s.org.uk

ANGLO-OMANI SOCIETY

The Society is open to Omani and British subjects who have lived in Oman. The society holds a series of social and cultural meetings.
Chair: Richard Muir CMG
34 Sackville Street, London W1S 3ED
Tel: 020 7851 7539

BAHRAIN SOCIETY

The Society's object is to foster and maintain good relations between the UK and Bahrain. Most of its members have worked in Bahrain or are Bahrainis who spend time in the UK.
Chair: Brig. Peter Sincock MBE
Hon Sec. Vic Whittington
Tel: 01684 772 293 www.bahrainsociety.com

BRITISH IRAQI FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY (BIFS)

Established in 2007 to inform the British public on all aspects of Iraqi life. Membership is open to anyone interested in learning about Iraq and its association with Britain.
Chairman: Dr Sala Al-Shaihly
Vice-Chairman: Sir Terence Clark KBE, CMG, CVO
Joint Secretaries: Ann Thomson, Laura Curtis
Address: PO Box 572, London KT17 9GQ
www.britishiraqi.co.uk info@britishiraqi.co.uk

BRITISH LEBANESE ASSOCIATION

Established in 1984 to encourage friendship between Lebanon and Britain and encourage cultural development.
Address: 1 Hyde Park Gate, London SW7 5EW
www.britishlebanese.org mail@britishlebanese.org

BRITISH MOROCCAN SOCIETY

The aim of this society is to raise awareness of Morocco in the UK and to foster economic and cultural links and to support Moroccan charities.
Chairman: Anthony Layden CMG
Hon. Sec: Mrs Benedicte Clarkson
Dartmouth House, Dartmouth Place, London W4 2RH
Tel: 07831 261 830
www.british-morrocansoc.org
admin@british-moroccansoc.org

BRITISH SYRIAN SOCIETY

Founded in 2003 to strengthen relationships at all levels between the UK and Syria.
Patron: HE The First Lady of Syria Asma al-Assad
Co-chairmen: Ghayth Armanazi, Dr Fawaz Akhas
Bury House, Bury Street, London SW1Y 6AX
Tel: 020 7839 1637
www.britishsyriansociety.org
britishsyriansociety@btconnect.com

BRITISH TUNISIAN SOCIETY

This society is committed to building bridges at all levels and is a focal point for those interested in promoting friendship and understanding between the UK and Tunisia.
Chair: Stephen Day
britishtunisiansociety@googlemail.com

BRITISH YEMENI SOCIETY

The objectives of this society are to promote friendship and understanding between the peoples of the two countries and to advance public knowledge about the Republic of Yemen, its history, geography, economy and culture. The society holds regular meetings and has been involved in sponsoring visits of Yemeni musicians to Britain and the recruitment of British teachers to work in Yemen.
Honorary Presidents: HE Abdulla Mohamed Ali Al-Radhi, Yemeni Ambassador in London. HE Jonathan Wilks, British Ambassador in Sana'a
Chairman: Noel Brehony
Hon Sec. Rebecca Johnson,
2 Lisgar Terrace, London W14 8SJ
Tel: 020 7603 8895 www.al-bab.com/bys

FRIENDS OF BIRZEIT UNIVERSITY (FoBZO)

Founded in 1978 in response to the Israeli closures of Birzeit University, and the travel restrictions imposed as part of the Israeli military occupation which made it difficult for young Palestinians to study at universities in other Arab countries. FoBZI seeks to support education at Birzeit University and to uphold its right to academic freedom.
Development Director: Jocelyn Hurdall
1 Gough Square, London EC4A 3DE
Tel: 020 7832 1340
www.fobzu.org bobzu@fobzu.org

Voice contacts directory

FRIENDS OF HADHRAMAUT

This society is a registered charity and promotes links between the people of Hadhramaut in the Yemen and those overseas, aiming to raise living standards and to improve education and medical links with the area.

Chairman: Saleh bin Ghalib Al-Qu-aiti

Hon Sec: Brian A. Fyfield Shayler

48 Richmond Park Road, London SW14 8JT

Tel: 020 8392 9823

www.hadhramaut.co.uk

hadhramaut@lionrampant.co.uk

LIBERAL DEMOCRAT FRIENDS OF PALESTINE

This society exists to fight the rights of Palestinian people through the Liberal Democratic Party.

Chairman: John McHugo

Tel: 07736 882641

info@ldfp.eu

SAUDI BRITISH SOCIETY

A cultural friendship society whose principal purpose is to advance understanding of and interest in Saudi Arabia. Membership is open to anyone interested in Saudi Arabia. Social, educational and cultural events.

Chair: Sir Alan Munro

Hon. Sec: Ionnis Thompson

1 Gough Square, London EC4A 3DE

Tel: 01372 842788

www.saudibritishsociety.org.uk

secretary@saudibritishsociety.org.uk

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RESOLVING CONFLICT IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND BEYOND

The Next Century Foundation

The Foundation is a charity devoted to conflict resolution and works at a second track level to support peace initiatives across the Middle East. The Foundation works to:

Encourage dialogue between opinion formers in areas where a climate of conflict or open hostility has made progress towards reconciliation and peace difficult - and to do so from a non-judgemental perspective.

Search for and encourage solutions to conflict situations

Encourage links between those who have a role to play in tackling the root causes of violence and who see the necessity of mobilising the forces of reason.

The NCF celebrates the twentieth anniversary of its establishment this year. With offices in London, Tel Aviv, Baghdad and the USA, the NCF works on several regional conflicts but its principle focus is on projects in the Middle East relating to the State of Israel, the Palestinian Authority and the comprehensive Middle East Peace Process. We also run projects on Syria, Iraq, Iran, Sudan, the former Yugoslavia, Kashmir, Afghanistan and on the concept of Peace through Media.

Time for a change

The members of the Next Century Foundation believe it is vital to work to build a climate of order and security to enable the pursuit of peace and reconciliation. We do not criticise. We are not a "friendship group". We do not seek to condemn. We do care for people and their different views. As a "forum" we talk through situations, tackling controversial issues in a spirit of reconciliation and bridge-building. We bring together in a quiet, friendly atmosphere many "opposites" who might otherwise never meet.

It is said that "one of the side of good is a majority". This is also our belief. Our members share a common commitment: The feel is now time for a peace and reconciliation, time for a change.

مؤسسة القرن المقبل

هذه المؤسسة هي مؤسسة خيرية مختصة بحل الصراعات، كما أننا تلعب دور آخر (أو تسلك مسار آخر) من أجل دعم مبادرات السلام في منطقة الشرق الأوسط.

تعمل هذه المؤسسة من أجل:

تشجيع الحوار بين صانعي القرار في المناطق التي يعمها مناخ من الصراع والعداء المفتوح والتي أحرزت تقدماً باتجاه حل الخلافات المعقدة، وأن تفعل ذلك بنظرة محايدة غير متحيزة لأي طرف.

التشجيع والبحث عن حلول في حالات حدوث الصراعات.

دعم الصلات بين هؤلاء الذين لهم دور في علاج أصل وأسباب العنف والذين يرون ضرورة تحريك وتفعيل قوى المسببات.

تحتفل مؤسسة القرن المقبل هذا العام بالذكرى العشرين من تأسيسها. تعمل هذه المؤسسة بحكم وجود مكاتبها في كل من لندن وتل أبيب وبغداد والولايات المتحدة الأمريكية على حل عدة صراعات إقليمية. ولكن تركز بالدرجة الأولى على مشاريع الشرف الأوسط المرتبطة بدولة إسرائيل وبالسلطة الفلسطينية وعملية السلام الشامل في هذه المنطقة.

كما تدير هذه المنظمة مشاريع في سورية والعراق وإيران والسودان ويوغسلافيا السابقة وكشمير أفغانستان بناءً على مبدأ تحقيق السلام من خلال الإعلام.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATE £115 / \$190 To become a member of the Next Century Foundation or to assist us with a donation, send a cheque or international mailing order to:

UK: 4 Vincent Square, London SW1P 2LX. Phone: +44 207 821 6566

USA: 190 Longhill Street, City of Springfield, MA 01108

At the Next Century Foundation we are impressed by the distinction Thomas Aquinas drew between peace and concord, pointing out that concord is possible between murderers and thieves but real peace is based on genuine love - an understanding of differences and an appreciation of difficulties.

Voice

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