



## Digital Tools for Newsgathering and Reporting Across Cultures Training Participant Bios

### **AYA ABDULLAH, *Almasry Al-Youm*, Egypt**

Abdullah is a social media manager at *Almasry Al-Youm* newspaper in Egypt. Her role includes updating the newspapers' social media channels on Facebook, Twitter and Google+. Abdullah also works to promote human rights and social justice through circulating information via twitter—she believes that citizen journalists are proving to have as important an impact on the public sphere as the traditional media does.

### **TURKI ALI AL BALUSHI, *Al Balad*, Oman**

Al Balushi is an independent journalist from Oman. He recently started an online independent newspaper called *Al Balad*, where he works to build a new culture of online journalism. Al Balushi is trying to make journalism more interactive and involved with societal issues through the use of new tools. Prior to founding *Al Balad*, he worked for several daily newspapers and magazines. Al Balushi studied journalism and electronic publishing in Sultan Qaboos University.

### **AHMED ALNEUHI, *اليمن*, Yemen**

Alnuehi is a Yemen based journalist currently working for a news website. He has participated in multiple trainings about electronic gadgets in public service and in the press from the International Center for Journalists. He has also attended a training given by the Danish Institute and the Yemini Journalists Syndicate, about the art of free press. He speaks Arabic fluently and a little English.

### **SULAFAH AL SHAMI, *7iber.com*, Jordan**

Al Shami graduated from the American University in Cairo in 2010 and went on to work at the Washington Post Cairo Bureau as news assistant, covering protests, military rule in Egypt and the period leading up to the parliamentary elections. She wrote for AUC's student produced newspaper, the *Caravan*, and was eventually appointed its editor-in-chief for two semesters. She joined the website *7iber.com* in July 2012 in Jordan as a reporter/researcher, producing video and audio content on various political, social-economic issues while also doing research for infographics.

### **AMMOON ALSHEIKH, *Zamn Press*, Palestine**

Alsheikh is a news editor for *Zamn Press* news agency and is responsible for creating content on the agency's Facebook page and Twitter account. Previous experience includes work at two local radio stations and at a local TV channel. Alsheikh was also a reporter for the satellite Palestinian Channel

called Alfalstiniah. She got her degree in Media Radio Broadcasting and Television from Birzeit University. She is listed as one of 25 Female Palestinian Bloggers from the West Bank and Gaza in CFI's Blog "Annatha. She has participated in several online media training courses with BBC, CFI and Women Media and Development.

**ABUL-RAZZAQ AL-AZAZI, Yemen Fox, Yemen**

Al-Azazi is a reporter for *Yemen Fox* newspaper and a news editor for the site FREEDOM-YE.COM. He has worked and volunteered with a number of NGOs as a press and communications officer. Al Azazi published a newspaper called "*Shbaba Talk*" for his graduation thesis at Sana's College of Media press department, discussing the issue of "Sexuality in Yemen."

**NEHAL EL SHERIF, German Press Agency, Egypt**

El Sherif is a Cairo-based journalist, currently working as a Middle East Correspondent at the German Press Agency dpa. She has covered the political and social changes across the Middle East during the past 7 years and increasingly uses online tools in her coverage. In 2012, El Sherif worked as a Citizen Journalism Trainer in a 4-month project to train young Egyptians to use social media to report on events and verify information published on these networks.

**NASHWA FAROUK, Egypt**

Biography TBD

**NADA FARHAT, Al Arabiya, United Arab Emirates**

Farhat is currently working for Al Arabiya News Channel as planning producer and field producer. Before joining Al Arabiya in 2006, Nada worked for CNN, starting in 2003, in Atlanta as an assignment editor at the International Desk. Her previous experience includes writing for a wire service and for newspapers in the US. She was born and raised mostly in Lebanon and moved to the US for part of high school and undergraduate and graduate studies. She currently lives in Dubai.

**DAHLIA FERRER DELRIO, Ahram Online, Egypt**

Ferrer del Rio is a copy editor at Ahram Online and head of the lifestyle section. She edits on a variety of topics with a priority on politics. Previous experience includes creating news clips with voiceovers in Spanish, for the MSN website. Ferrer del Rio is a graduate from San Diego State University, with a BA in International Security and Conflict Resolution. She is Puerto Rican-American and has been living in Egypt for six years.

**ROBERT GEMAYEL, Future TV, Lebanon**

Gemayel is a journalist and social activist. He currently works at Future TV as an online social media news editor and is also a producer for a political show. In addition, Gemayel teaches media courses in an academy. He is a member and administrator of Social Media Club in Lebanon on Facebook ([www.smclb.com](http://www.smclb.com)). As a social activist, Gemayel uses the power of media to promote peace in Lebanon and the Middle East. He volunteers with NGOs and youth groups focused on conflict transformation, capacity building of youth and interfaith dialogue.

**TOUFIC HADDAD, Author and Activist, Jordan**

Haddad is a Palestinian American writer and activist. He is the author of two books on Palestinian affairs, and has published in *The National*, *Al Akhbar*, *Jadaliyya*, *Al Jazeera* on-line, *Z-net*, *Monthly Review*, and *Journal of Palestine Studies* among others. He is a frequent commentator on Palestinian

affairs, has a Masters in Journalism from New York University, and is currently completing his PhD in Development studies from the School of ORiental and African Studies (SOAS) in London, focusing on the political economy of Palestinian state formation.

**HANAN, Blogger, Libya**

Biography TBD

**YAACOB KADDORY, *Al Watan*, Bahrain**

Kaddory is a Syrian online journalist with almost nine years of experience, working in Bahrain. In 2010 Kaddory became the editing manager of the online news, social media and news service for Bahrain's *Al-Watan* newspaper. He studied media and journalism in University of Damascus, starting his career in 2005 as an editor, and later a producer, editing supervisor and editing manager, at the Damascus-based online news website, Syria News.com. After taking part in a training with BBC, he began teaching novice journalists about professional standards in journalism and news story writing.

**SAED KARZOUN, Communications Consultant for EU, Palestine**

Karzoun is a media and communications consultant for the EU. He is a specialized trainer in social media and blogs, having trained more than 2000 trainers and 300 journalists from organizations like the World Bank, AMIDEAST and various Palestinian Universities. Karzoun coordinated the First Social Media Conference in Palestine and has participated in various cultural management workshops and media project building programs. At the end of 2012 Al Jazeera screened a short film about Karzoun's work.

**MADONNA KHAF AJA, IJNET Arabic, Lebanon**

Khafaja manages the IJNet Arabic website and produces documentaries for the BBC. She previously worked as a radio reporter and as a print and online journalist in Lebanon. Khafaja has a B.A. in communication arts from the Lebanese American University and is finalizing her masters in media studies from Notre Dame University, in the USA. She also conducts trainings on video shooting techniques and editing with the International Center for Journalists in the MENA region. She speaks Arabic, English and French.

**ZIA KHAN, *Gulf Times*, Qatar**

Khan is currently working with the *Gulf Times*, a daily English language newspaper in Qatar. Before moving to Qatar last December, Khan, originally from Pakistan, worked with *The Express Tribune*, the publishing partner of the *International Herald Tribune*. He holds a master's degree in journalism from Pakistan and a diploma in economic reporting from Germany. He specializes in reporting on terrorism, sectarianism and politics.

**ADEL MABKHOT, صنعاء - الغربى السنين - معين - الخبير حارة, Yemen**

Biography TBD

**NOHA MAHMOUD, Yahoo!, Egypt**

Mahmoud is a news editor at Yahoo! and a blogger. She has worked as a staff reporter at *Al-Hayat International* Edition, *Al-Youm Al-Sabe'* newspaper and digital edition, *Al-Ahram*, *El-Badil* and *Nahdet Masr* newspapers. In 2011 Mahmoud attended a journalism program on Investigative Journalism in the US, visiting several US media outlets. Born, raised and educated in Egypt, Mahmoud received her

undergraduate mass communications degree in Cairo. There, she was editor-in-chief of the student magazine *Al-Waqe'a*, which was distributed by the American University in Cairo.

**MOHAMMAD RAHIM, *Voices of Iraq*, Iraq**

Rahim began his career at *Khaleej Times* newspaper in Baghdad in 2004. He has also worked for *Voices of Iraq* and Kurdistan Islamic Union, as well as *Wasti*, a university newspaper, and the magazine *Al Bayareq*. He holds a diploma and a bachelor's degree in law. Rahim, with a vested interest in human rights and the nature of legislation in Iraq, is certified by the Institute of War and Peace as a coach for the press on human rights in Iraq. He focuses his work on electronic media because it allows him to continuously publish news to which readers in Iraq and in other parts of the world can always have access.

**AYMAN SALAH, *Hackhackers*, Egypt**

Salah is a freelance journalist from Egypt, working for newspapers and magazines that mostly target youngsters. He reports on the subject of gaming, gadgets and software. Salah helped found the Hackhackers chapters in Egypt, Jordan and Tunisia. Prior to this, he worked in IT for more fifteen years developing software designing solutions and implementing projects. Salah also teaches media in the Egyptian universities in Egypt.

**NAREEN SHAMMO, *Rudaw Channel and Rudaw Newspaper*, Iraq**

Shammo is a currently a senior producer and anchor for Rudaw channel, as well as a writer and editor for Rudaw Newspaper. Her previous work includes being a correspondent and anchor for the Musoliya channel, a correspondent for Alsharqiya channel and an anchor for Korek TV. She was also a writer and editor for *Zahrat Nisan* newspaper, Origin Kurds, Lalish Voice and Alhaqiqa. Shammo often attends courses on topics in the media and workshops or trainings to improve her skills.

**ASSAAD THEBIAN, *Aljadeed TV*, Lebanon**

Thebian is a communication and digital media strategist and trainer. He currently works as a communication consultant to the Lebanese Association for Democracy of Elections (LADE), Civil Campaign for Electoral Reform (CCER) and Arab Thought Foundation (ATF). Thebian is also the communication officer for SAROL project with the EU Delegation in Beirut. In addition to the trainings, he runs his own blog ([www.beirutiyat.wordpress.com](http://www.beirutiyat.wordpress.com)) as well as doing freelance journalistic work for EMAJ Magazine, Demotix.com and others. Previous experience includes three years with *Annahar*, *Assafir* and *Al-Akhbar* newspapers.

**HAMZEH WESHAH, *Jordan Radio and Television Corporation*, Jordan**

Weshah is the Senior International Relations Coordinator for Jordan Radio and Television Corporation. He began his career with JRTV in 1998 after receiving a bachelor's degree in Business. Weshah also holds a master's degree in urban and regional planning. He has attended multiple journalism trainings hosted by various outlets and organizations including BBC, Arab Reporters for Investigative Journalism, and UNESCO.