



ARIJ

MEDIA IN A RADICALIZED WORLD

#ARIJ19

12th Annual Forum

22-24 Nov, 2019
Amman , Jordan



#ARIJ19
TION

Table of Content

A Note from the ARIJ Team	7
About ARIJ19	8
ARIJ19 in Numbers	10
Opening Ceremony	13
ARIJ Movie Night	14
Highlighted Speakers	15
Plenaries	22
On the sidelines...	26
At the Forum...	30
ARIJ Awards	36
Partners & Sponsors	49
Evaluation and Outlook	51
Survey Feedback	52





“

We grow due to the support of dozens of donors and supporters with strong hearts, who believe in supporting the investigative press without fear of its consequences.

RANA SABBAGH,
2019 ARIJ Opening Ceremony







A NOTE FROM THE

ARIJ Team...

Dear partners, sponsors and donors,

On behalf of the ARIJ board of directors and the ARIJ team, we would like to express our sincerest gratitude for the vital role you played in our 12th Annual Forum of 2019.

We truly appreciate your support. The Forum set new records this year, attracting over 600 participants to celebrate and learn more about investigative journalism, accountability, the disruption of technology and the battle for truth in a radicalized world.

The sessions were of the highest quality and provided an opportunity for multiple stakeholders to take an active part. We truly hope that the rich exchange of ideas will contribute to raising public awareness on the role of free and independent investigative journalism. Your contribution will dramatically help us to develop and succeed in our future endeavours.

Next year, we would like to continue to grow our relationship and our Forum, and we hope that we can count on your unwavering support.

All this would not be possible without your continued generosity, and for that, we are truly grateful.

We look forward to collaborating with you in the future!

ARIJ TEAM



MEDIA IN A RADICALIZED WORLD

#ARIJ19

12th Annual Forum

22-24 Nov, 2019

Kempinski Hotel, **Amman**, Jordan

The Forum was ARIJ's biggest yet, hosting 652 delegates, including the ARIJ team and Forum organizers, from 37 nationalities, of which, 16 Arab countries were represented. Participants benefited from 60 sessions, 10 training workshops and six partner meetings.

About the 2019 Forum

In 2019, the Arab region continues to be the most challenging and dangerous for journalists worldwide. Media professionals in the region, while coping with regressing civil and political rights, censorship of expression and failing business models, now grapple with compounding risks brought on by new technological advances. Globally, technology and radicalization have grown together — media platforms that dominate the landscape as large distributors of news stifle independent media and now utilize digital tools to undermine local citizenry.

The impact of radicalization are unprecedented and visible in the reports of arbitrary arrest, imprisonment and murder of journalists in the MENA region. Just last year, ARIJ honored those who had lost their lives in the pursuit of their stories: including Jamal Khashoggi, Saudi journalist murdered at his country's embassy in Istanbul.

This year, ARIJ continued to highlight the reality of risk for Arab journalists while engaging new themes of radicalization and digital advancement in its 2019 Forum titled, “Media in a Radicalized World”. Plenary sessions, like “Media Narratives, Internet Trolling and Digital Protection in a Changing Arab World” and “The Future of Muckraking in Arab Conflict Zones” addressed pressing questions for regional journalists about the changing media situation in their respective countries. Additionally, ARIJ hosted Carole Cadwalladr, journalist for The Guardian and investigator of the Facebook-Cambridge Analytica data scandal in early 2018, as a keynote speaker.

Attendees of ARIJ's 2019 Annual Forum benefitted from over 40 training sessions and workshops covering a range of topics including data journalism, open-source investigations, investigative podcasting, digital safety and tools for research and news verification.

ARIJ19 in Numbers

A quick overview from ARIJ's 12th annual forum

652

Participants attended ARIJ19

533

Participants from Arab Countries



55%

45%



76

Workshop and meetings



91

Speakers and lecturer



ARIJ19 ON SOCIAL MEDIA



34

Video Posts



126

Total Posts



9.5m

Posts Reach



276k

Posts Engagement



646k

Video Views



22

UNITED KINGDOM

14

GERMANY

12

DENMARK

12

FRANCE



76

Participants attended from Europe

211

JORDAN

64

YEMEN

56

PALESTINE

35

LEBANON

17

IRAQ



421

Participants attended from Asia

123

Participants attended from Africa



59

EGYPT

23

TUNISIA

15

MOROCCO

6

SUDAN
First Participation



5

Participants attended from Australia



#ARIJ19

Top tag in Jordan



16

Video Posts



164

Total Posts



354k

Posts Reach



18k

Posts Engagement



20k

Video Views



“

I leave ARIJ with a satisfied conscience about these accomplishments, and everyone who worked with me to raise the profile of investigative journalism

RANA SABBAGH,
2019 ARIJ Opening Ceremony

Opening Ceremony

The opening ceremony began with a welcome from ARIJ Executive Director Rana Sabbagh, who held a moment of silence for journalists imprisoned, oppressed and murdered this year for telling their stories. “Sunset does not prevent a new sunrise,” she began, as she told the story of the ever-growing ARIJ movement.

“ARIJ has evolved into a movement of investigative journalists fostering the traditions of a free and accountable professional culture [...] ARIJJeans refuse to sit in the warm embrace of the authorities.”

Sabbagh reflected on ARIJ’s past 14 years, with over 600 investigations attesting to the commitment of ARIJJeans’ drive to “rise up against injustice”. This success stands in contrast to ARIJ’s humble beginnings in only three Arab countries: Jordan, Syria and Lebanon — and with only one donor. Today, ARIJ works in 16 Arab countries, with an annual budget of over a million and a half dollars.

As Sabbagh said: “We grow due to the support of dozens of donors and supporters with strong hearts, who believe in supporting the investigative press without fear of its consequences.”

After recounting the story of ARIJ’s growth, Sabbagh announced to the over 650 delegates in attendance, that 2019 is the last year she will be representing ARIJ as its Executive Director.

“I leave ARIJ with a satisfied conscience about these accomplishments, and everyone who worked with me to raise the profile of investigative journalism.”

Dr Yasmine Dabbous then took the stage to announce Ms. Rawan Damen, who has

20 years of experience in documentary, film making, and coaching investigations, as ARIJ’s new Executive Director starting 2020.

The ARIJ team presented an emotional video to bid farewell to Sabbagh, who will move to Sarajevo to lead an investigative team for the MENA region as part of OCCRP team.

Veteran journalist Riyad Kobeissi also spoke as head of the investigative reporting unit at Al Jadeed TV and collaborator with ARIJ on a number of investigative reports. He recounted his own experience with media radicalization, telling the gathering that his privacy was violated when his personal information was hacked on Facebook.

“My colleagues are also facing systematic digital defamation and misleading campaigns in an effort to thwart their efforts in raising public awareness,” Kobaissi said.

Finally, Director of Media Partnerships for Facebook and Instagram in the Middle East, Africa and Turkey, Fares Akkad, led participants into the forum’s first plenary by bringing attention to the importance of social media outlets in “dealing closely with the media establishments and journalists who are working in the field, in order to develop mechanisms that would help them avoid mistakes and secure their personal safety and security”.

Following Akkad’s speech, Rasha Qandeel, moderator of the first plenary, was joined onstage by Amine Abou Yehya, Mohamad Najem and Rami Ruhayem to continue the discussion of “Media narratives and Internet trolling in a changing Arab world”.



ARIJ Movie Night

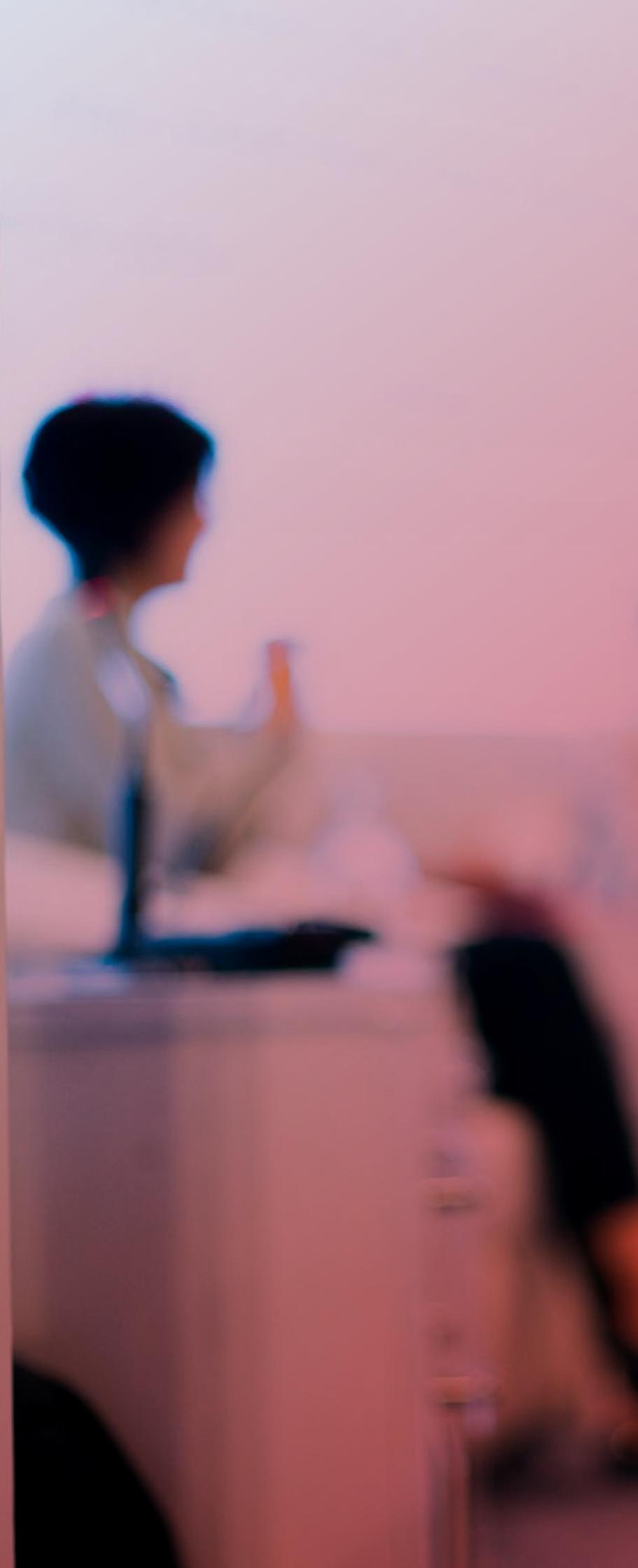
After the opening ceremony, first plenary and dinner, participants gathered for a screening of “Warmongers”, an ARIJ-produced investigative documentary that tells the shocking story of illegal organ trading in Egypt.

Featuring interviews with key figures in every step of the process, reporters Sameh Laboudi (Syria), Aseel Sarieh (Yemen) and Saadeh Abdulqader (Egypt) — all ARIJJeans — exposed human traffickers in Egypt who had been exploiting vulnerable Yemeni and Syrian refugees by convincing them to sell their kidneys. The reporters take the audience on a rigorous journey, unveiling in detail the process whereby organ traders forged documents to circumvent Egyptian law.



Highlighted Speakers

This year, ARIJ welcomed again some of the most distinguished journalists and experts from the Arab world and internationally, with a total of 91 speakers, 52% of which were women. Twenty-four countries were represented in total, including 11 Arab countries.





CAROLE CADWALLADR

Reporter and Feature Writer, The Guardian and The Observer

Carole Cadwalladr is an award-winning British freelance investigative journalist for the Guardian and Observer who exposed the Facebook-Cambridge Analytica data scandal. Cadwalladr uncovered how the UK-based political consulting firm used Facebook as a means for “political voter surveillance” through the collection of user data points taken in record data breach. The scandal exposed the dark side of social media and its influence in political elections worldwide, including the USA presidential vote in 2016 and the UK’s Brexit referendum. Her articles triggered numerous investigations and were partly responsible for hauling Mark Zuckerberg in front of Congress, resulting in a several billion dollar fine for Facebook. She has won over a dozen awards and was named a finalist for a Pulitzer Prize in 2019 for her work. Cadwalladr has had to deal with the wrath of the forces she exposed, but her work has been a vital demonstration of the power of journalism.



RASHA QANDEEL

Journalist and Lead Presenter, BBC Arabic

Rasha Qandeel is a journalist and the BBC Arabic Bilingual Lead Presenter of Arabic NewsNight and HardTalk. Having worked for BBC Arabic and English since early 2003, she has contributed to BBC World Service between 2005-2007 and has presented BBC World special seasons such as 100 Women, Arab Revolutions and Gaza War in 2008. She also moderated the Anna Lindh Foundation awards nights for the BBC in 2013. Rasha has worked on big stories and special coverages such as the 2003 Iraq War, the trial of Saddam Hussein, the death of Arafat, and the Bin Laden operation. Specializing in Egyptian issues, she has covered Arab revolutions in the Middle East and has hosted Egyptian and international debates for Front Line Club, LSE and SOAS. She currently works in flagship programs such as News Hour and Hard Talk, and is a regular commentator for Outside Source, Radio 4 and Fifth Floor.

MARINA WALKER GUEVARA

Director of Strategic Initiatives and Network, ICIJ

Marina Walker Guevara is ICIJ's director of strategic initiatives and network. She managed the two largest collaborations of reporters in journalism history: the Panama Papers and the Paradise Papers, involving the usage of technology by hundreds of journalists to unravel stories of public interest from terabytes of leaked financial data. She has been instrumental in developing the science behind ICIJ's model of large-scale media collaboration, persuading reporters who used to compete with one another to work together, share resources and amplify their impact.



MARTHA MENDOZA

National Writer, Associated Press

A two-time Pulitzer Prize winner and one-time finalist, Martha Mendoza is an advocate for accurate journalism, government transparency and the public's right to know. Her reports have prompted new legislation, Congressional hearings, Pentagon investigations, and White House responses. Her work has helped expose a mass shooting of civilians by the US Army during the Korean War, and she was previously part of a team whose investigations into slavery in the Thai seafood sector resulted in the freedom of over 2,000 men. During her Associated Press career, she has worked in Mexico City, Bangkok, Silicon Valley, New York, and New Mexico. Her current investigations focus on immigration and clergy abuse.



HANNAH STORM

Director and CEO, Ethical Journalism Network

Hannah Storm is the Director and CEO of the Ethical Journalism Network (EJN), a media consultant specialising in gender-based violence and gender-sensitive reporting, and the former director of the International News Safety Institute (INSI). She has also worked as a freelance media consultant for different UN agencies with a specific focus on gender and media. In her freelance capacity, she is currently developing a curriculum for the Poynter Institute in Florida in partnership with the Press Forward to counter sexual harassment in the newsroom.





STEPHEN GREY

Reporter, Reuters

Stephen Grey is special correspondent on the global investigative team at Reuters. He has previously worked as a foreign correspondent and head of investigations at the Sunday Times in London, and has reported and made both films and broadcasts for the New York Times, Guardian, BBC, Channel 4 and American public TV. He has reported widely across the Middle East, particularly in Iraq and Egypt. He is the author of three books: Ghost Plane (about his revelations on the CIA's secret rendition programme), Operation Snakebite, about the war in Afghanistan, and the New Spymasters, about modern espionage.



FARES AKKAD

Director of Media Partnerships, MENA, Facebook

Fares Akkad is the director of Media Partnerships for Facebook and Instagram in the Middle East, Africa & Turkey. Fares and his team work closely with strategic partners supporting them to leverage the Facebook tools to maximize mutually beneficial objectives. Prior to joining Facebook, Fares was the head of Distribution and Digital Business Development at MBC group. Before that, Fares was a management consultant with Booz & Co, where he led several projects for the firm across Media, Technology, and Telecommunication. Fares holds an undergraduate degree in Biotechnology (Cum Laude), a Masters degree in Information Systems (Cum Laude) and an MBA with an emphasis in entrepreneurship and Finance (Highest Distinction).



SAMYA AYISH

Google News Initiative Teaching Fellow, Google

Samya Ayish is a Google News Initiative teaching fellow specializing in programs in the MENA region. Before joining Google, Samya worked as an online video and social media producer at CNN Arabic in Dubai, covering entertainment and cinema, and specializing in the Arab film industry. Samya focuses on visual storytelling in her work, creating ways to promote news stories across different digital platforms. With her current role, Samya aims to change the way in which journalists share their stories every day using a variety of digital tools.

DR. SHOURIDEH MOLAVI

Researcher, Forensic Architecture

Dr. Shourideh Molavi is the dedicated Israel-Palestine researcher for Forensic Architecture, linking their investigations to the work and research of civil society groups and organizers in the field. She is a scholar in political science, specializing in critical international relations and political theory, with a background in International Humanitarian Law.



CAROLINE LANGSTON

Development Director, Global Investigative Journalism Network (GIJN)

Caroline Jarboe is the first director of strategy and planning for foundation relations at The Atlantic, where she steered fundraising for its first multi-platform initiatives, including a global religion beat and the annual Race + Justice: An Atlantic Summit live event. She was previously director of foundations at The Center for Public Integrity. began her development career with eight years at NPR, where her fundraising focused on international reporting and new institutional initiatives. She is an MFA graduate of the University of Houston Creative Writing Program and Tulane University, where she was elected to Phi Beta Kappa.



SUSANNE REBER

Executive Producer, Podcasts, E.W Scripps

Susanne Reber is a media executive and three-time Peabody Award winner. She is presently leading Podcasting at E.W Scripps based in Washington D.C and is the co-founder of Reveal, the first investigative radio program and podcast in the US. Susanne Reber is multilingual and a frequent international speaker and trainer on innovation, leadership and storytelling.





ALEXANDER PAPACHRISTOU

Executive Director, Vance Center

Alexander Papachristou joined the Vance Center as Executive Director in January 2012. He directs the organization's overall operations and focuses on its programmatic and institutional initiatives, as well as fundraising. He provides legal advice to both international and local media organizations, as well as digital rights and transparency advocates. Previously, Mr. Papachristou was the president of the Near East Foundation, a participatory, community-based economic and social development organization working in Arab and African countries.



KHALED NASSER

Lecturer, Family Wellness and Communication Center

Khaled Nasser, Ph.D., is a family communication consultant who specializes in trauma management, parenting and couples therapy. Nasser practices at his private clinic in Beirut, where he also administers neurofeedback training. He also provides trauma therapy and training sessions to refugee communities and journalists exposed to toxic stress and conflicts in the Middle East. Nasser is a lecturer in communication at the Lebanese American University (AUB) and the American University of Beirut (LAU). His current research focuses on conflict and trauma - as reflected in family drawings of Syrian refugees - and mapping the impact of war on Arab journalists covering tensions in the Middle East.



Plenaries





1ST PLENARY

Media Narratives, Internet Trolling and Digital Protection in a Changing Arab World

Following the opening ceremony, BBC Presenter Rasha Qandeel moderated the Forum's first plenary, addressing the interference of digital media into journalism's traditional narrative, and speaking on issues of global governmental attempts to invade the privacy of journalists.

Mohamad Najem, Executive Director of the Beirut-based digital rights organisation SMEX (SMEX.org), said that media laws in the Arab world are drafted to «meet the authorities' interests and not to serve the public». Najem also touched upon the Palestinian people's suffering «who pay the price of double legislation under Israeli occupation».

Meanwhile, Social Media Specialist Amine Abou Yehya said that «the explosion of the digital media forums came as a saviour for the extremist groups who use it to instigate hate speech». Abou Yehya called for the introduction of media education to high schools, to «alert the new generations of the dangers of social media.»

Lebanese Producer and Reporter Rami Ruhayem, who is currently a BBC correspondent in London, spoke about the misleading media mechanisms that attempt to locate certain facts or past events, «and then fabricate news about it».



2ND PLENARY

Q&A with Carole Cadwalladr: A journalist on the frontline protecting an open society

On day two of the Forum, ARIJ hosted Carole Cadwalladr, award-winning British journalist for the Guardian and Observer who exposed the Facebook-Cambridge Analytica data scandal for a conversation on protecting open societies amidst unprecedented technological advancement.

“The same technologies that liberated us and gave us access to new information are now being weaponized against us,” she said, revealing the unsettling truth that Silicon Valley platforms regularly manipulate the public. Speaking regionally, she pointed to the fact that evidence of corruption and power abuse in MENA countries is locked inside the servers of powerful social media giants. These disturbing realities carry an incentive for journalists to keep communicating the wrongdoings of major online platforms, she said.

Cadwalladr has faced backlash and numerous online attacks in response to her work on the Facebook-Cambridge Analytica data scandal. However, in her talk, she acknowledged the oppressive conditions of journalists everywhere—especially in the MENA region. “Solidarity is key,” she said, and especially between women journalists.

Discussing the aim and importance of her work in data rights, Cadwalladr brought the audience to a conclusion: That data is increasingly being used to “survey, manipulate and eventually oppress us”. Thus, as she put it, “the struggle for data rights is a struggle for human rights”.



3RD PLENARY

The Future of Muckraking in Arab Conflict Zones - Rawan Damen, Ahmad Haj Hamdo, Ilyas Hallas, Jalal Othman, Ahmed Alwasey

The third plenary, moderated by new Executive Director of ARIJ, Rawan Damen, examined the future of investigative journalism in Arab conflict zones through the lens of a cross-border panel. Ahmad Haj Hamdo (Syria), Ilyas Hallas (Algeria), Jalal Othman (Libya) and Ahmed Al-Waseai (Yemen) discussed the current media climate in their respective countries and potential ways forward.

Nearly all panel members pointed to security risks as one of the greatest barriers to effectively working as journalists in their countries. Haj Hamdo said of Syria, which since 2011 has seen 2,000 journalists dead and around 550 missing: “We have to be objective while covering the four territories. All political parties in conflict consider us traitors if we narrow our focus.”

This was a sentiment echoed by other journalists, especially Alwasey, who spoke of the near impossibility of establishing himself as an independent journalist in Yemen. “To say you are a journalist is to say you are suicidal,” he said.

A different voice in the panel was Hallas from Algeria. While corruption and social unrest are daily realities for Algerians, the media’s main challenges arise from a lack of will to incorporate investigative journalism into existing media institutions. “We do have our space, our freedom,” Hallas said. “The fact is that we don’t have sufficient training. There has been no investment in human capital.”

The session concluded with a Q&A in which audience members asked further questions on security, discourses in Arab media systems, support for journalists in conflict zones and new strategies for journalists to continue producing important work.



On the sidelines...

One of the biggest appeals of the ARIJ Annual Forum is the support the Forum team offers for partner organizations and sponsors to plan and hold their own events on the sidelines of the ARIJ Annual Forum, making the Forum one of the most elaborate journalism events in the region. This year, more than 16 partners have planned and held their own meetings, workshops and focus groups, in which over 160 journalists and media professionals were trained on new skills.

In addition to workshops focused on a variety of topics like human rights, mobile journalism and fact-checking, there were also multiple meetings held by ARIJ's partners on the sidelines of the ARIJ Annual Forum, including, but not limited to: IMS-ARIJ regional partners' meeting, IMS Jordan training, IWMF Focus Group addressing threats to female journalists, ICFJ fellowship bootcamp, EJNI's launch of a hate speech glossary for Palestinian media and gender analysis of the media landscape, and ARIJ-ICIJ meeting.

Workshops, Sessions and Roundtables

INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM BASICS WITH A FOCUS ON HUMAN RIGHTS WORKSHOP

20-22 November, 2019

In partnership with FNF

ARIJ trained 13 workshop participants in developing compelling investigations focusing on issues of Human Rights through sharing the latest skills and knowledge to adapt to a changing media landscape in the region.

OPEN SOURCE INVESTIGATIONS

19-22 November, 2019

In partnership with FNF

This four-day workshop included sessions and collaborative exercises for 12 journalists to understand how to collect, verify, analyze and preserve user-generated content in order to use it for reporting and investigations.

FACT-CHECKING & VERIFICATION

20-22 November, 2019

Supported by SKUP

Facilitated by Charlotte Alfred, this three-day workshop was designed to equip 12 participants with the required tools to bulletproof investigations prior to publication/broadcast through cutting-edge fact checking techniques that ensure accurate, professional and independent journalism.

TV STORYTELLING

21-22 November, 2019

Hosted by Norwegian Institute for Journalism

In this workshop, facilitators Torben Schou and Frode Rekve offered tools to 11 participants aimed at enhancing their digital storytelling skills. Both narrative and technical elements of storytelling were taught. Over the course of the workshop, attendees were led through various exercises focused on designing, scripting and storyboarding their work.

MOBILE JOURNALISM (MOJO)

25-27 November, 2019

Hosted by 7iber with the support of the Dutch Embassy in Amman

This MOJO workshop, designed to supplement existing skills with digital literacies and mobile tools training, taught participants how to plan, develop, shoot, edit and publish stories from any location using just a smartphone.

NEW APPROACHES TO TEACHING INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM IN ARAB UNIVERSITIES

20-22 November, 2019

Supported by FNF

Based on the ARIJ University Curriculum published by ARIJ in January 2019 with support from FNF, this workshop, with the participation of 11 regional professors, examined the curriculum's key themes including, but not limited to: the main characteristics of investigative reporting; the importance of investigative journalism for journalists, society and the media house, and open and closed sources.

SEMINAR: HUMANITARIAN MEDIA COVERAGE IN YEMEN

20-22 November, 2019

Hosted by CFI

Over 40 Yemeni journalists and representatives of humanitarian organizations gathered for this workshop organized under the EU-funded Yemen Media Emergency Response (YMER+) project, implemented jointly by CFI and ARIJ. Aimed at advancing dependable and conflict-informed media in Yemen that supports humanitarian efforts, de-escalation and the peace process, the seminar concluded with the creation of a code of conduct that was adopted and signed by all participants.



“

It is beautiful that the ARIJ Annual Forum brings different topics in the world of journalism ... the different participants each year enrich the forum by sharing their experiences and knowledge.

MIRA ABDULLAH, IWMF

At the Forum...

Each year, ARIJ aims to reflect the priorities of the Forum theme in sessions and workshops. In 2019, in line with the theme “Media in a Radicalized World”, ARIJ focused on digital literacy and security, gender and trauma-informed media, data journalism, audio storytelling and cross-border collaboration among other topics relevant to the current global media climate.



Highlighted sessions

DIGITAL SECURITY BEST PRACTICES FOR JOURNALISTS

Hosted by Facebook

Journalists are often at risk of having their accounts compromised on social media platforms. In this session led by Shahed Al Hindi, Public Policy Manager at Facebook, participants were taught about security, privacy, reporting and online harassment. Al Hindi demonstrated how to report accounts, posts and comments, emphasizing that every piece of content on Facebook can be reported. Her main takeaways were to think before friending, use two-factor authentication, use privacy settings and report any issues that arise.

CROSS-BORDER COLLABORATIVE INVESTIGATIONS IS THE FUTURE

Rawan Damen, new Executive Director of ARIJ, facilitated this session on how investigative networks are built. “The process of a cross-border investigation is not linear,” she said. “These investigations are cycles that bring us back to the starting point — networking.” Damen highlighted the act of building stable cross-border connections as crucial to a future that utilizes a changing media landscape and new digital tools for better investigations.

CAN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE HELP INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISTS?

Artificial intelligence, no matter how advanced, cannot replace the work of an investigative journalist. This was the message of hope Marina Walker Guevara of ICIJ delivered to her audience in this session discussing the benefits and challenges of AI for journalism. In ICIJ’s work, they have learned key lessons about AI’s interactions with the field of journalism: namely, that human cooperation is essential. Guevara encouraged participants to make machine learning a collaborative process, to write about it, and to be aware of biases and false positives along the way.

INVESTIGATIVE PODCASTING AND THE POWER OF AUDIO STORYTELLING

In recent years, investigative podcasting has taken listeners on crime journeys they had never been exposed to before. Investigative podcasting, according to Susanne Reber of E.W. Scripps, is a way to get people thinking about complex stories that involve criminality and wrongdoing. In her session about the power of audio storytelling, Reber emphasized to participants the importance of journalist-audience connection. She highlighted the important task of making complex aspects of investigative journalism comprehensible for audiences. Reber believes that the “intimacy of podcasting” could bridge the gap between investigative journalists and their audiences.

“

This is my first ARIJ conference ... it is very well organized.

JOHN BONES, MANAGING DIRECTOR, SKUP



TRAUMA PREVENTION FOR JOURNALISTS

Hosted by DW Akademie

Attendees at Yasmina Al-Gannabi and Khaled Nasser's session on trauma prevention for journalists were both physically present and digitally present through DW Akademie's Facebook livestream as part of the online-training project "Media Heroes". The session connected a regional community of Arabic-speaking journalists and media makers from conflict areas (especially Libya, Yemen and Syria) and the audience at the ARIJ forum for a session on self-care and trauma prevention. Nasser discussed the difference between anxiety and psychological trauma and treatment of the respective conditions.

PRIVATE MESSAGING APPS: THE BEST PRACTICES FOR NEWSROOMS

Messaging apps have as many users as social media. Why not utilize them for news distribution? Tom Trewinnard, founder and COO at Fathm, addressed this question in his session on the use of private messaging apps in newsrooms. People engage with messaging apps in a different way than they do with social media, often feeling more comfortable to be themselves. Messaging apps could create new connections between journalists and their audiences, Trewinnard said. He offered attendees tips on how to arrange workflows around these new media platforms in newsrooms, how to market them and how to visually embellish their content for new audiences.

INVESTIGATING HUMAN RIGHTS

Martha Mendoza, Associated Press journalist and Pulitzer prize winner, spoke to participants about her extensive and esteemed career in investigating human rights abuses. Covering a span of categories like slavery, war crimes, climate change and migration, Mendoza provided case studies from her own investigations to walk the audience through her methodologies and insights. When asked why she works on exposing human rights abuses when nothing seems to change, Mendoza noted that change happens more slowly than we think. "I do think it makes a difference," she said. "And I think it's our calling."

INVESTIGATING CORRUPTION

One of the most relevant injustices affecting citizens today is corruption within powerful entities. Stephen Grey, special correspondent for the global investigative team at Reuters, gave participants a comprehensive set of tools to begin investigating corruption in their own political and social contexts. Ultimately, Grey advised his audience to be prepared to accept whatever outcome may result from the investigation — even if the outcome is nothing — and finally, to investigate without guilt. As Grey advised, "Half guilt creates half stories."

A photograph of an audience seated in a conference room. In the foreground, a woman wearing a white hijab and a dark jacket is focused on her laptop. To her right, another woman in a black and white patterned top is also looking at her laptop. The audience extends into the background, with people of various ages and ethnicities. A woman in a black hijab is standing in the background, holding a camera. The room has large windows with light-colored curtains and recessed ceiling lights.

“

The lesson I will remember most is that given by Will Fitzgibbon from ICIJ: ‘the greatest partners in a collaboration are not necessarily the most prestigious.

SANDRINE RIGAUD, FORBIDDEN STORIES

FORBIDDEN STORIES

Forbidden Stories continues the stories and work of journalists who are unable to. Sandrine Rigaud, Editor in chief at Forbidden Stories, spoke to session participants about the work of using journalism to defend journalism as it is constantly threatened by the murders of journalists globally. In Forbidden Stories' pilot project — The Daphne Project — the team investigated Maltese journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia's murder in 2017 while continuing her investigative work in exposing the web of corruption in Malta. Rigaud told the audience that collaboration in strengthening the messages of murdered journalists sends a clear signal — that even if a journalist is killed, the story cannot be.

BUILDING RESILIENCE TO ONLINE VIOLENCE

Hosted by IWMF

Hosted by the International Women's Media Foundation, this session was conducted by Ela Stapley, Myra Abdallah and Nadine Hoffman on how to prevent and confront online, and often gendered, attacks against journalists. Online attacks can keep women out of the industry, limiting their vital presence online and contributing to an already-inequitable gender situation in media. "They want us to shut up — to stop tweeting and posting," Abdallah said. "When we stay online, we win."



ARIJ Awards

The 12th ARIJ Annual Awards honored journalists who endure criticism, pursue reluctant sources and risk retaliation in order to inform citizens about injustice and corruption in their societies. These investigative reporters carve paths for future generations to walk, modeling the integrity, dedication and unfettered truth-telling necessary to producing quality investigations. The awards are nonpartisan and independent of any external influences beyond the investigative reports themselves.

This was the third year in which the ARIJ awards were not restricted to ARIJJeans — those who have produced investigations in cooperation with ARIJ. The awards honored journalists from all over the region, and finalists in three categories were presented honorary plaques at the ceremony in front of the award-winning journalists, distinguished leaders in the field, and representatives of investigative organizations from around the world.

Randa Karadsheh, master of ceremonies, introduced the members of the jury while explaining the impact of opening the awards to non-ARIJJeans, which allows the competition to benefit everyone who is committed to spreading pluralism, combating corruption and contributing to the spirit of change that has infused the region for the past six years.

Louay Ismail, head of the Awards Jury, commended the nominees on their bravery in shedding light on exploited populations. “In each of the nominated films, there are people like you — but these people have suffered at the hands of the powerful,” he said. “If you are suffering, this night proves that there is someone who hears you.”

Of the 71 submissions for awards, 27 finalists were sent to the awards jury for review. The jury met on November 21 to take final decisions.

Award winners were presented with trophies during the ceremony. The ARIJ board of directors also chose to honor two ARIJ staff members for their work: Yazan Ali, affectionately called the “engine of ARIJ”, and Lina Sharaiha, who worked with “precision and energy” in securing visas for participants.

Following the awards ceremony, guests were invited to a gala dinner and farewell party to celebrate the end of the Forum and fortify lasting connections.

For more information about ARIJ Awards, please visit award.arij.net.

ARAB

أفضل تحقيق
متعدد الوسائط - فئة الأريجين

ARAB

أفضل تحقيق
فئة الأفلام القصيرة



LOUAY ISMAIL

Head of Jury

Louay Ismail is the Head of Programmes at BBC Arabic. He has worked alongside a number of creative journalists and filmmakers to produce a number of award-winning documentaries, including *Broadcasting Hate*, *Saudi's Secret Uprising*, *Starving Yemen*, and *Goodbye Aleppo*. Some have won an Emmy and an AIB Media Award. Louay has launched TV programmes aiming to challenge stereotypes and the status quo, such as *BBC Xtra TV*, *Into the Frame* and *Sportswoman*. His work brings attention to communities and uncovers societal aspects that are otherwise neglected or underrepresented. He believes that journalists and filmmakers are the most effective people for bringing about change.



PROFESSOR. ABDULRAHMAN AL-SHAMI, PHD

Jury Member

Abdulrahman Al-Shami is the editor of the *Journal of Middle East Media*, Arabic edition, Editor-in-Chief of *Ansaq Journal*, board member of The Arab-U.S. Association of Communication Educators (AUSACE), member of the editorial board of the *Journal of Middle East Media (JMEM)*, a committee member of ARIJ Prize for investigative reporting in Jordan and founding member of the Arab European Association for Communication Professors and Researchers. His areas of research include new media and social change, satellite channels, media credibility and ethics.



HODA OSMAN

Jury Member

NY-based journalist Hoda Osman is the President of the Arab and Middle Eastern Journalist Association (AMEJA). She has worked at the ABC News Investigative Unit, with CBS News Investigative Unit, as a correspondent for France24, with PBS, the Associated Press, and other international media outlets. Hoda has taught investigative journalism extensively in the Arab World and beyond, and has experience in teaching online courses.

FATMA SHERIF

Jury Member

Fatma Sherif began her career as a documentary filmmaker at the Al Femis Institute in France, where she directed her first documentary, "Bint Al Dar", followed by, "Is there a Spring for Feminists?" in 2011. In 2013, at the request of TV5 channel, she directed a film regarding the issues around the departure of Jewish communities from Tunisia. She is currently working on a film in the form of a visual political diary.



WALEED BATRAWI

Jury Member

Waleed Batrawi is a Palestinian media practitioner and Chairman of the ARIJ Jury Prize in both 2014 and 2015. He was a member of the ARIJ Board of Directors network for four years. Batrawi has 28 years of experience in written and audiovisual media, including overseeing ARIJ investigations, training media professionals in various Arab and foreign countries, and working with the BBC and Al-Jazeera International.



Best Multimedia Piece

ARIJeans

FINALISTS

CLEOPATRA, MADE OUTSIDE EGYPT

Fellow reporter Ahmad Al-Shami revealed the involvement of an organized network of businessmen and politicians from different nationalities in protecting foreign companies that manufactured and smuggled Cleopatra cigarettes packets, labeled «made in Egypt», to be sold in Egypt and other countries; however, they were made outside of Egypt.

MADE IN PRISON

Fellow reporter Mahmoud Al-Waqea tracked the story of the conversion of four young men to the Jihadist ideology at an Egyptian prison. These prisons have become fertile for extremist ideologies, and act as recruitment centers to join the ranks of Jihadi groups.

THE LAW OF THE JUNGLE

Fellow reporter Viola Fahmi revealed that dozens of Egyptian Christian families were harmed by unjust and non-appealable verdicts by marital councils, biased to the strong party of conflict in case of religious conflicts incidents.





“

WINNER

CLEOPATRA, MADE OUTSIDE EGYPT

This was one of the most difficult investigations I have undertaken. I was not able to do it without my team...

AHMAD AL-SHAMI



Best Television Piece

Category 7-15 minutes

FINALISTS

FORCED RETIREMENT

Fellow reporter Ahmad Asser investigated the case of Egyptian sports commissions' evasion of paying the expenses of player injuries within individual sports that took place while participating or preparing for tournaments under the name of the Egyptian team, which is contrary to local laws and international regulations. This urges the injured players to retire, as they cannot afford the treatment.

ILLUSIONAL CONTRACTS

Fellow reporter Al-Salek Zaid revealed legal and executive gaps, assisting mediators in Mauritania to exploit domestic workers exported to the Gulf countries, which consequently results in the latter losing their rights.

THE CONFLICT OVER SOCOTRA

Fellow reporters Asil Sarya and Ahmad Al-Wasea'l documented illegal UAE activities at Socotra Island without the permission of the Yemeni authorities, which threatens Yemen's sovereignty over the Island.



“

WINNER
FORCED RETIREMENT

I'm extremely happy, and I would like to give this award to all journalists who are digging deep into the ground to come up with a respectable product.

AHMAD ASSER



Best Multimedia Investigative Piece in the Arab World

OPEN TO ARIJ AND NON-ARIJ JOURNALISTS

FINALISTS

CORRUPT RELIEF UNDER UN SUPERVISION

Fellow reporter Asil Sariah uncovered that large quantities of non-conforming humanitarian aid which arrived in Yemen via international organizations lead to fatal health complications in light of the deteriorating health system in the country.

ENDLESS WAR

Fellow reporter Maizar Kamal documented the effect of the use of depleted Uranium weapons on Iraqi generations between 1991 and 2018, revealing increased numbers of cancer diseases and congenital disorders.

DEATH CAUSED BY THE REMNANTS OF LIFE

Fellow reporter Abbas Ali Mousa documented the infection of the workers of Syrian medical hospitals and centers with chronic and fatal diseases due to unsafe contact with medical waste, in light of the lack of precautionary measures while dealing with medical waste.

“

WINNER

CORRUPT RELIEF UNDER UN SUPERVISION

I am also awarding this award to all the Yemenis that are suffering in the dire circumstances in Yemen. I award this to them, as well as the other Yemeni journalists that work under dire circumstances.

ASIL SARIAH



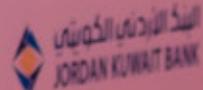


ARIJ 12th Annual Forum ملتقى أريج السنوي الثاني عشر

MEDIA IN A RADICALIZED WORLD الإعلام في زمن التطرف



book
nalism
ect



Partners & Sponsors



Sida



Norad



Danish-Arab
Partnership Programme



OPEN SOCIETY
FOUNDATIONS



MEDIA
DEVELOPMENT



facebook
Journalism
Project



EMBASSY OF SWEDEN



FRIEDRICH NAUMANN
STIFTUNG Für die Freiheit.

Google
News Initiative



INSTITUTE FOR
JOURNALISTIK



البنك الأردني الكويتي
JORDAN KUWAIT BANK

SI. Supported by
Swedish
Institute



SKUP
Stiftelsen for en Kritisk og Undersøkende Presse



OCCRP
ORGANIZED CRIME AND CORRUPTION
REPORTING PROJECT



Ethical
Journalism
Network



Kingdom of the Netherlands



marie colvin
journalists' network



DW Akademie



التعاون
الألماني
DEUTSCHE ZUSAMMENARBEITUNG



INTERNATIONAL
WOMEN'S MEDIA
FOUNDATION



ICFJ
International
Center for
Journalists



Global Investigative
Journalism Network



المملكة الأردنية الهاشمية
ROYAL JORDANIAN



W
WORKSHOP IN NEWS



CENTER FOR
INTERNATIONAL POLICY



SECURITY
ASSISTANCE
MONITOR



بالعربية



Liberté • Égalité • Fraternité
RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE
AMBASSADE DE FRANCE EN JORDANIE
السفارة الفرنسية في الأردن



RORY PECK
TRUST



FRONTLINE
FREELANCE
REGISTER



giz Deutsche Gesellschaft
für Internationale
Eisenwerkstoffe (GIZ) GmbH



CREATIVE
CONTACT M&C



“

What the ARIJ Network provides in its Annual Forum enriches the Arab journalistic scene, and contributes to developing the skills of participating journalists.

MAJDI TALL, JORDAN NEWS AGENCY

Evaluation and Outlook

The 12th Annual Forum was ARIJ's most successful to date, with an unprecedented number of attendees and sessions, far-reaching media coverage and, for the first time, more female than male speakers.

ARIJ celebrates the addition of over 150 participants and 25 sessions, meetings and workshops to the 2019 Forum from last year.

While the number of speakers from 2018 to 2019 has remained the same, 2018 saw only 40% representation in female speakers—2019 flipped the ratio, with 52% of Forum speakers being women.

Of 652 participants, 82% hailed from Arab countries, while 18% joined from countries beyond the Arab world. For over half of the participants, the 2019 Annual Forum was their first ARIJ Forum.

Jordanians and Yemenis were the most represented guests from Arab countries, while attendees from the U.S. and U.K. were most represented from all foreign countries.

Affirming a key insight from last year, it is clear from this year's participation survey that skills-related workshops, like data journalism, fact-checking and online research are favored over thematic workshops. Positively, this reflects ARIJ's priority in providing quality skills training for journalists in the region. However, it is notable that participants have favored skills trainings over thematic sessions for two years now.

Survey Feedback

Every participant was invited to take part in a survey about their experience at the Forum. Of the 652 participants in the Forum, over 25% completed and submitted the survey. The results indicated a high level of satisfaction in terms of knowledge gained at the Forum as well as organization and logistics.



97% agreed that the Forum was worthwhile

63% OF WHICH rated **extremely** worthwhile



99% agreed that it is likely they will use newly acquired skills from the Forum in their future work

53% OF WHICH rated **extremely** likely

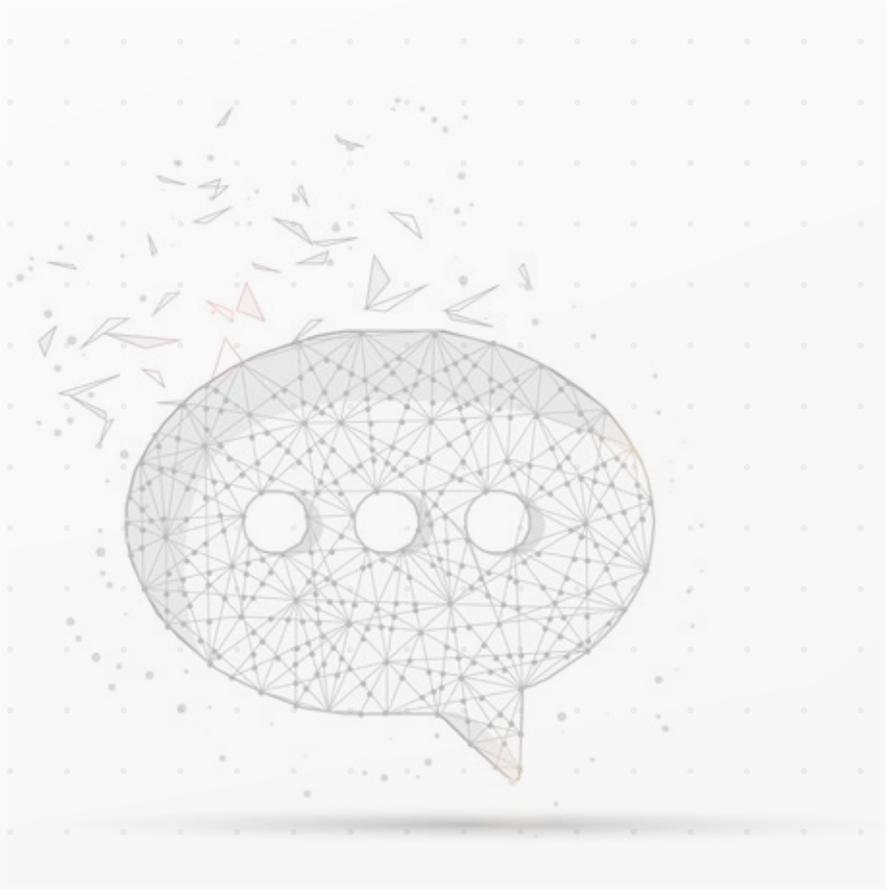


98% indicated their interest in attending ARIJ upcoming events and workshops

77% OF WHICH rated **extremely** likely







SUPPORT #ARIJ20!

To continue promoting investigative journalism in the MENA region, please email at info@arij.net or forum@arij.net

