



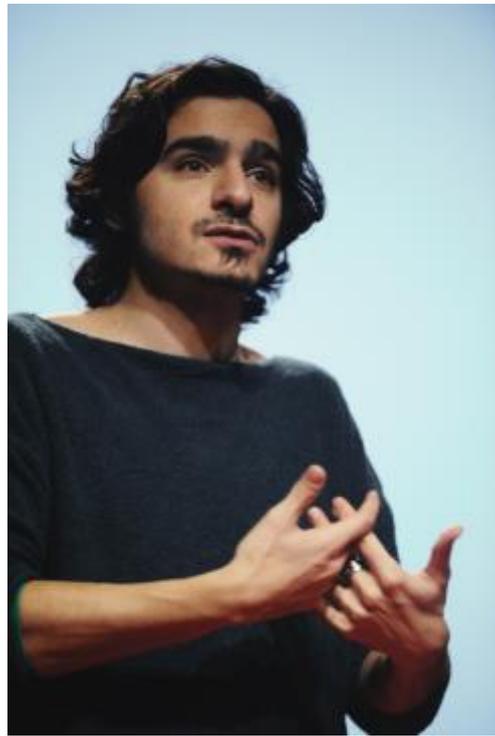
**Aaron Sharockman**

Aaron Sharockman is the executive director of PolitiFact, the largest fact-checking organization in the United States. Aaron leads the growth and development of PolitiFact, manages its outreach and news partnerships, and oversees new initiatives and product development. Aaron has been with PolitiFact since 2010 and served most recently as the editor of PunditFact, a website dedicated to checking claims by pundits, columnists, bloggers and the hosts and guests of talk shows. Aaron was a 2016-17 Reynolds Fellow at the University of Missouri and taught a class on political fact-checking at the University of Missouri School of Journalism.



## **Ahmad Harbia**

An accomplished journalist and television producer, with an eleven-year track record of producing high-quality print, television, and online reports. He worked for Albadeel, and Al Masry Al Youm, the largest independent daily newspaper in Egypt, and two of the well-known daily talk shows "Fil Midan" and "Akher al-Nahar" with anchor Mahmoud Saad on Al Tahrir TV, and Al Nahar TV. With Extensive knowledge of Middle East politics and current affairs, his coverage includes groundbreaking stories and in-depth investigative features concerning the Egyptian revolution and its aftermath, government and corporate corruption, and conflicts in Egypt. Ahmed held several managerial positions in different media outlets. Started with being the head of features department at Al Masry Al Youm, then the managing editor of the same newspaper. Now, Ahmed is the Editor in chief of the pan arab website Manshoor.com."



## **Albert Mkheiber**

Albert Moukheiber is a researcher in neuroscience and clinical psychologist and co-founder of Chiasma, a structure that is interested in how our brain reconstructs reality to confirm our prior beliefs and how to promote mental flexibility.



## **Alia Ibrahim**

Ibrahim is co-founder of Daraj.com, an independent digital media platform that was launched in November 2017. Since 2016, she has been an instructor of Journalism at the Lebanese American University. Until March 2016, Ibrahim was a Senior Correspondent at Al-Arabiya News Channel. Since 2015, Ibrahim produced 22 minutes reportages for Special Mission, a prime time investigative reporting show. Ibrahim joined Al-Arabiya in 2008 as a senior news correspondent. Her assignments took her to a number of countries including Tunisia, Yemen, Libya, Bahrain, Turkey and Syria. Ibrahim's opinion and news stories appear in a number of publications including Al-Hayat newspaper, Al-Arabiya net, and until 2011 The Washington Post where she had been a contributing reporter since 2005. Ibrahim started her career in 1996 as a general news reporter at The Daily Star in Beirut. She became managing editor of the newspaper in 2004. After that, Ibrahim shifted broadcast and became Dubai TV's Beirut based correspondent. She was also the Beirut based correspondent for the New York based Womenenews. She is a mother of two girls Yasma 12, and Mia 10.



## **Ana Paula Valacco**

Ana Paula Valacco. Political scientist and journalist, is responsible for Institutional Development and Communications at Chequeado, the leading fact-checking organization in Argentina and Latin America, where she leads the fundraising initiatives and strategic communication plan. She has previously worked as a Growth Marketer at Google for the South American online market and at other NGOs as a facilitator both for entrepreneurs and school students on civic education. She is part of the Buenos Aires hub of Global Shapers (an initiative of the World Economic Forum) and Council Member of the South American Business Forum.



## **Carole Kerbage**

Carole Kerbage is the head of the MENA Data Desk at ARIJ. She holds two Master degrees in political science from Saint Joseph University and Paris 1 University, Pantheon-Sorbonne; and in labour and social movements from SOAS, University of London. She worked as a freelance journalist for more than five years in different Arab spoken newspapers (Al-Hayat, Annahar and Al-Akhbar) and as a reporter for Assafir Newspaper (2012-2014). She also has extensive experience as a research consultant at the International Labour Organization – Regional Office for the Arab States (2009-2016) and as an academic researcher at Issam Fares Institute at the American University of Beirut (2015-2016).



## **Christian Gesellmann**

Christian Gesellmann is 33 years old and lives in Jena, Germany. He worked for Süddeutsche Zeitung, Zeit and Tagesspiegel in Germany and for independent media in different European countries. He is an editor for the independent magazine Krautreporter which was crowd-funded in 2014.

Favorite topics: Underdogs, War on Drugs, Feminism, European Integration.



## **Cristina Tardáguila**

Cristina Tardáguila was born in Brazil. She is 37 years old and lives in Rio de Janeiro. Cris has been a journalist since 2002, when she graduated from the Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro. In 2004, she got a master's degree in Journalism from the Universidad Rey Juan Carlos in Madrid, and in 2017 a MBA degree at Fundação Getulio Vargas. Her focus is on digital marketing.

Since 2014, Cris has been working as a fact-checker and a member of IFCN. She was the founder and editor of Preto no Branco, Brazil's first fact-checking platform, at O Globo newspaper. And in November 2015, she founded Agência Lupa, a newswire service exclusively dedicated to fact-checking. She coordinates a team of 15 people and has given two TEDx speech on fake news.



## **Dima Nassif**

Dima Nassif received a diploma in drama studies from the Higher Institute of Arts in Damascus in 2003 and began her career as an assistant director in a number of theatrical performances. In parallel, she pursued trainings in the art of radio and television broadcasting, news editing, and military and political TV correspondence. She began her journalism career as an accredited correspondent for Russia Today in Syria, and then moved to Al-Mayadeen in 2011. She currently heads the channel's office in Syria. In addition to the war coverage since the beginning of the in Syria, she covered the Syrian dialogue conferences between Geneva, Astana and Moscow. Nassif is also a lecturer in the Faculty of Information at Damascus University



**Dima Tarhini**

Dima is a lead anchor on DW's Arabic news service in Berlin, and a certified media trainer. She is a senior editor and the host of the daily political talk show "Massaeya".

Dima was the first Arab female anchor to present Arabic news from the heart of Europe.

In addition to her 21 years of experience in journalism, Dima received her Master's Degree in International Relations from Frei Universität in Berlin.



## Hardy Prothmann

Hardy Prothmann (51) is a German freelance journalist since 1991, he worked for print, TV, and digital platforms.

In 2011 he founded the regional news platform [rheinneckarblog.de](https://rheinneckarblog.de), where he serves as an investigative reporter and editor in chief. He is also a founding member of "Netzwerk Recherche".



## **Hany Bahgat**

Hany Bahgat, The founder of Da Begad ? ده بجد Dabegad?-Is it real? - is an voluntary initiative that started in 2013 , our main goal is to expose the social media hoaxes ,lies and misleading information, that negatively impact on public awareness and trends, we now have more than one Million follower on Facebook and 13,000 on twitter.



## **Hassan El-Haf**

Lebanese Journalist, Head of Al Araby TV office in Beirut. He worked for numerous media platform, such as Assafir, Al Modon, Al Jazeera, among others.



**Jean-Marc Mojon**

Jean-Marc Mojon is a dual French-British national who was born in Paris in 1977. He studied in France and in the UK and started his journalism career more than 20 years ago as a freelance text and radio reporter. After working in Boston, Burkina Faso and Ivory Coast, he joined Agence France-Presse on its Middle East desk in Nicosia. His subsequent career took him to a number of different countries, covering mostly -- but only -- conflicts, in the region and in Africa. Before moving to Beirut to head AFP's Lebanon / Syria office, he spent three years as Baghdad bureau chief.



## **Lo'ai Hazem**

Content manager of Alhudood, the Middle East's leading satirical news website, He is also a writer, caricaturist, illustrator, graphic designer, having published his works on several media platforms, newspapers, and a number of books.



## **Madonna Khafaja**

Madonna Khafaja, ICFJ MENA Lead and co-founder for Tabayoon for business development and digital solutions. She Has a Masters degree in Media studies and advertising. Khafaja worked before as a documentary Maker for the BBC and as a journalist and digital producer for various digital media outlets in MENA and Lebanon...



## **Layal Bahnam**

Layal Bahnam is a program manager at Maharat Foundation. Bahnam is a journalist by profession. She has been working as a reporter, producer, and presenter in many television outlets. Her educational background includes a major in law. Bahnam's work in Maharat also involves resource production and regular training workshops for young and professional journalists in areas such as inclusive journalism and communication strategies, as well as leading advocacy actions for media law reforms and internet freedom.



## **Martin Vogl**

Martin Vogl, a freelance journalist and media development expert, is a project manager at DW Akademie. As a media development expert, he has worked on DW Akademie projects from Libya to Ethiopia. As a journalist, he has worked extensively for the BBC, The Associated Press and DW among many others.



## **Mikko Salo**

Mikko is the founder of Faktabaari (FactBar). He is chair of a Finnish transparency NGO and EU Advisor at LUT University. In 2014 Mikko founded a multi award winning (Bonnier, Europcom) fact-checking service bringing accuracy to the European election debate. Since then, he has worked with journalism schools, media educators, scientists and the general public on fact-checking and the debate around new media concepts. He has a versatile experience on EU Affairs both at member state and on EU-level, including work with four EU institutions. He has master's degree in Political Sciences from University of Helsinki and MA in interdisciplinary European Studies from the College of Europe. Mikko is a member of the EU's High-Level Expert Group (HLGE) on Fake News and online disinformation that issued a report "Multi-dimensional approach to online disinformation". His current fact-checking, verification, media and information literacy work is linked to the forthcoming European elections.



## **Mohamed Najem**

Mohamad Najem is co-founder and executive director of the Beirut, Lebanon–based SMEX ([smex.org](http://smex.org)), the Middle East and North Africa’s leading digital rights research and policy advocacy organization. His work includes local and regional advocacy campaigns, research on privacy, data protection, and freedom of expression.



**Nadim Kobeissi**

Nadim is an applied cryptography researcher at the Institut National de Recherche en Informatique et Automatique (INRIA) in Paris, with peer-reviewed publications focusing on applied cryptography, privacy, and automated protocol verification. Nadim is also the founder and director of Symbolic Software, an applied cryptography research office which works on authoring, auditing and designing cryptographic and privacy-enhancing technologies.



## **Nizar Saghieh**

Lawyer Nizar Saghieh is co-founder and executive director of The Legal Agenda since 2011 as well as the editor of its publication of record. He has researched and written extensively on a wide-range of legal topics including war memories, freedom of expression, and vulnerable groups. He has also pursued strategic litigation in relation to complex social issues such as arbitrary detention of refugees and the disappeared in Lebanon's civil war.



## **Nour Samaha**

Nour Samaha is a freelance journalist based in Beirut. She has been covering the region for over a decade and has reported from Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, Gaza, Egypt and the Gulf. Her work can be found in publications including The Intercept, Al Monitor, Foreign Policy, The Atlantic, Al Jazeera, The Century Foundation and Newsweek Middle East.



## Omar Said

Omar Said began his career as a trainee in Al-Ahali newspaper in Cairo in 2004. He then moved to work as part of the investigation team in the independent newspaper Al-Dustour, one of the first private newspapers in Egypt. He joined Al-Badeel as editor of the Social Movement Unit in 2007, and became responsible of it for a year later, it before taking the lead as mangig editor of the newspapers website. In 2010, he worked as a journalist in the Arab and international section of As-Safir Lebanese newspaper, alternating between its main office in Beirut and Cairo. In 2013, he became manager of As-Safir website in Beirut. He returned to Cairo in 2014 and has since worked for “Mada Masr” as a journalist specializing in foreign affairs, jihadist movements and armed violent groups.



## Patricia Torres Burd

Patricia Torres-Burd is a market and media development consultant working across multiple platforms both in the US and internationally. She serves as VP and CCO of UBC International providing an array of services for current projects in South America, Central & Eastern Europe and the US. Her experience includes multi-cultural, launch, relaunch, campaign strategies and media training for newsrooms and journalists both in traditional and high-risk environments. Patricia spent many years in both in news departments and head of programming/content serving more than 30 markets on a national level and international level. She currently assists clients with business, market and revenue models; having held leadership positions in a variety of fields relating to **content creation, audience engagement and the business of sustainable growth. She is also** president of the SembraMedia.org advisory board an organization with the aim to assist digital media and entrepreneurs in sustainable models in Spanish in Mexico, Central and South America and Spain. Patricia is also on the board of the Jack J. Valenti School of Communications for the University of Houston.



## **Rabie Barakat**

Rabie Barakat is the Journalism and Communication Training Program coordinator and a lecturer in Media Studies at the American University of Beirut. He holds a Bachelors degree in law from the Lebanese University, a Masters in International Affairs from the Lebanese American University and a PhD in Media and Politics from the University of Edinburgh. Barakat has worked in the field of print and visual media since 2004 in Lebanese and Arab outlets as an editor, field reporter, bulletin producer, news presenter and talkshow anchor.



## **Rami Rhayem**

Rami is a Lebanese journalist who joined BBC Arabic in London in 2005. He has worked for the BBC ever since, as a producer and a correspondent for online, radio and Television, in English and Arabic. Currently based in Beirut, Rami has covered events in Iraq, Syria, Turkey, Lebanon, and Jordan, among others. Rami has also written a paper on media coverage of Iraq and Syria for the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism at the University of Oxford, and a paper on US policy in Syria for the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington DC.



## **Ranjan Roy**

Ranjan Roy is Founder and CEO of The Edge.Group, a NYC-based content strategy firm who specializes in newsletters, works with leading media companies, consulting firms, and corporate clients. He has spent the past decade working at the forefront of journalism products and business models, first running an emerging-market subscription service at the Financial Times, and then building a personalized news-app startup, Informerly. His career began as an emerging-markets trader at Bank of America, and after years in front of a Bloomberg terminal, he received an MBA from INSEAD and began applying his experience as a consumer of business information into building sustainable news businesses.



## **Roula Mikhael**

Roula Mikhael is executive director of Maharat foundation and a journalist with 17 years' experience at Annahar, one of Lebanon's leading newspapers. Mikhael has an MA in journalism from Paris II University and a Master 2 degree in information and communications science from the Lebanese University. Mikhael is a consultant and trainer working in building the capacity of journalists and activists and contributed in developing many publications about media, freedom of the internet, and effective communication. She worked on founding Maharat News website that serves as a new model of non-partisan journalism. Mikhael is IFEX Council convener for the mandate 2017-2019.



**Saloua Ghazouani Oueslati**

Director of ARTICLE 19 MENA – (Tunisia), she has 15 years of experience working in non-governmental and multilateral organizations, including the UNDP in Tunisia and the Center of Arab Women for Training and Research (CAWTAR). Saloua holds an MSc in Information and Communication by the Institute of Press and Information Sciences in Tunisia.



## **Sandra van Edig**

Sandra Van Edig is Lebanon Country Manager in DW Akademie. She has been working as a freelance radio and print journalist for various German-speaking media since 1997. Since 2010, she has been working as a trainer and project manager for DW Akademie. Her specialty is conflict sensitive reporting, since May 2016 she has been a country manager for the Lebanon program in the Middle East/ North Africa team. She has a master degree in social anthropology.



## **Sayed Torky**

After his graduation in 2005, Sayed Torky joined Al-Dustour weekly newspaper as a reporter on syndicates, and then he joined the investigative section in the paper, before becoming an editor.

In 2010, he became an editor in Al—Masry ELYoum newspaper, where he also served as a deputy for the head of investigations section, then head of the same section. He worked as a producer to “Akher Kalam” show, with Yousri Foudam then a managing editor for the show in its last season (2012-2014), and a correspondent for Assafir Newspaper in Cairo. After working for AlHurra Bureau for a year, he joined Al Menassa as an Executive Editor In Chief. Al Menassa is a citizen journalism platform, with focus on fact checking.



## **Sylvie Coudray**

Sylvie Coudray has been working at UNESCO for almost twenty-five years. She is the Chief of Section for Freedom of Expression in the Division of Freedom of Expression and Media Development. She is the woman behind organizing World Press Freedom Day and the UNESCO World Press Freedom Prize, as well as the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of journalists and the Issue of Impunity.

She has a M.Ssc. in History (Sorbonne) and a M.Ssc in media and communication (Institut Français de Presse). She has edited several various publications in various media related fields such as media and new communication technologies, media and terrorism and media in conflict areas.



## **Tony Mikhael**

Tony Mikhael is a Lawyer at the Bar Association of Beirut and has a Master's degree in International Law from Sagesse University of Lebanon.

Mikhael is an expert in Media Law and a Member of the International Media Law Association (IMLA) based in Oxford University of London.

Mikhael drafted the new media law proposal registered in the parliament in 2010 and participated in the parliamentary committees discussions of many law proposals specifically the access to information and whistleblower protection law proposals.

He is a trainer and advisor in legal defense and good practices for journalists.

Mikhael is currently the director of the Media Monitoring Unit and the legal expert at Maharat Foundation.



## **Wael Abdel-Fattah**

Wael Abdel Fattah is a poet, writer and journalist born in Egypt (1965). He received a BA in Science in 1989 and lives in Cairo. He recently founded “Medina” website after a long journey in the press, in which he wrote in the fields of culture, art, literature and politics, in publications such as “Rose Al Yousef”, “Akhbar Al Adab”, “Al Fajr”, “Sawt Al Omma” and “Al Badil” from Cairo... He was also a correspondent and director of the Cairo team in some leading Lebanese newspapers such As-Safir, Al -Akhbar and Al-Mustaqbal. He had a daily column in Al-Dustour and Al-Tahrir and a weekly page under the title of “Cairo Stories” in As-Safir and Al- Akhbar.

He co-founded and managed more than one newspaper between Cairo and Beirut, and ran a number of television programs, and wrote some documentaries.



## **Walid Al Saqaf**

Dr. Walid Al-Saqaf is a Yemeni Researcher, who currently works as a senior Lecturer in Journalism & Media Technology, in Södertörn University - Stockholm, Sweden. He is also a board member of Internet Society, and leads the strategic action group for the Middle East in ICANN. Al-Saqaf has a BA in computer engineering, a Masters and PHD in media and communications. He was The Editor in Chief of “Yemen Times”, and after that he launched “Yemen Portal” as the first search engine in Yemen. Al-Saqaf collaborated in founding the Yemeni Internet Society in 2012, and supported the efforts of internet governance in the Arab World through his membership in the Arab Internet Governance Forum, for many years. He works in many domains, especially in internet and digital media studies, mega data and blockchain. Among his interests is supporting development through technology, by the expansion and strengthening of Internet networks, fighting against blocking sites, and raising awareness on the importance of the Internet in economics and development.



## **Walid Mejri**

Walid Mejri is a founding member and investigative journalist at Inkyfada, and editor of the weekly “Akher Khabar” in Tunisia. In addition to his journalistic work, Mejri is a trainer in digital and data journalism. He wrote a book entitled "The Storytelling: How to Tell an Interactive Story in a Multimedia Narrative World."

He is Secretary General of the AlKhatt Association, and member of the World Network of Investigative Journalism. He serves as media and communication consultant to the Tunisian General Union of Labor, the Center for Media Development, Friedrich Naumann Foundation, and the « Centre Africain de Perfectionnement des Journalistes et Communicateurs ». He won numerous prizes, among them the award of creative journalist (Tunisian Journalists Syndicate, 2015), Best Journalist Investigative Award (Anti-Corruption Commission, Tunisia, 2017), and the International Pulitzer Prize for International Investigation on Panama Papers.