

Hugh Miles

Consultant | Journalist | Author | Producer | Expert Witness

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Professional Profile

Founder and Director of **Al Shafie Miles** and **Arab Digest** with extensive expertise in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. A multi-award-winning journalist, author, and producer with deep experience in business intelligence, media training, and legal expert witness services.

Business & Consultancy Experience

Al Shafie Miles | Founder / Director

2011 – Ongoing

- Lead a boutique business intelligence consultancy specialising in the MENA region, established in 2010.
- Utilise a network of expert consultants to help clients develop strategic and commercial interests in the Arab world.
- Provide consultancy and due diligence services to companies, governments, and multilateral organisations, including the United Nations.

Arab Digest | Founder / Director

2015 – Ongoing

- Founded an online private members' club for business leaders and Middle East experts to share analysis.
- Manage a membership base that includes the FCDO, Prime Minister's Office, Cabinet Office, UN, Houses of Parliament, leading global universities (Oxford, Cambridge, Princeton), and major corporations like Chevron and Barclays.

Expert Witness & Advisory Roles

- **Expert Witness:** Provided testimony and authenticated Arabic documents in over 450 UK, US, and European legal proceedings (commercial, family, and immigration), including cross-examination.
- **FCDO Trainer:** Regular trainer for the Foreign and Commonwealth Development Office on the MENA media environment and organized crime.
- **UNHCR Consultant (2005):** Served as an independent expert consultant for the UN High Commission for Refugees in Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Mauritania, and Morocco.
- **Global Organised Crime Index:** Contributor to the 2021, 2023, and 2025 editions.

Media & Journalism

Freelance Journalist & Commentator

2003 – Ongoing

- Covering the Arab world, specifically Egypt, Libya, the GCC, Saudi internal affairs, and Arab media.
- **Print:** Front-page articles for the *Telegraph*, *Guardian*, *New York Times*, and *Independent*. Regular contributor to *Foreign Policy*, *Time Out*, *LRB*, and major UK dailies.
- **Commentary:** Frequent commentator on Arab affairs in French, Arabic, and English media.
- **Editorial:** Contributing Editor of the *Arab Media and Society Journal* (since 2005).

Broadcast Production (BBC & Al Jazeera)

- **BBC Newsnight / World / Arabic:** Writer, Presenter, and Producer. Notable works include *Saudi Crown Prince on Trial* (2018) and *House of Saud: Family at War* (2018).
- **BBC Radio 4:** Presenter for documentaries including *Libya's Islamic Capitalists* (2011) and *The Most Famous Man in Birmingham* (2008).
- **Al Jazeera English:** Producer for *The Green Mountain, Libya* (2008) and *Street Gangs of Cairo* (2007).

Publications

- **Books:**
 - *Al Jazeera - How Arab TV News Challenged the World* (2005)
 - *Playing Cards in Cairo* (2008)
- **Selected Contributions:** *Revolution in the Arab World* (#1 Kindle Bestseller), *Al Manakh 2: Export Gulf*, and *National Broadcasting and State Policy in Arab Countries*.
- **Editor:** *The Future of the Middle East* (Global Policy Journal e-book, 2017).

Awards & Recognition

- **Honourable Mention, Young Stationers' Prize (2014):** Awarded for achievement and promise in journalism and publishing.
- **Winner, Grand Prix du Livre Des Dirigeants (2006):** First prize in the Investigative Book category.
- **Keynote Speaker (2005):** Swedish National Journalism Award ceremony.
- **First Prize, Times / Sky News Young Journalist of the Year (2000):** Multi-media internship in Belfast and London.

Early Career History

- **Sky News (2003)**: News logger; monitored Arabic TV coverage of the Iraq war.
- **Lighthouse Productions, CA (2000–2002)**: Director of Development/Development Officer for Oscar-winning producer Michael Phillips.
- **Irish News of The World (1999–2000)**: Editorial Assistant.
- **Time Out Paris (1998–1999)**: Nightlife and Rock/Roots/Jazz Editor.

Education

- **Trinity College Dublin (1997–2001)**: 2.1 MA in English Literature.
- **Sorbonne University, Paris (1998–1999)**: Socrates Exchange Program.
- **Yemen Language Center, Sana'a (1996–1997)**: Arabic language studies.
- **Pembroke College, Oxford University (1995–1996)**: Arabic Language and Literature.
- **Doverbroeck's College, Oxford**: 4 A-Levels (English, Biology, Chemistry, French).
- **Eton College, Windsor**: 9 GCSEs, 2 AO Levels.

Charity & Voluntary Work

- **Maadi Egyptian British Cultural Society (2012–2020)**: Board member, Deputy Chairman, and Head of Safeguarding for the NGO overseeing the Maadi British International School.
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