## Course: Contemporary world Media

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## Al Arabiya ([Arabic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabic_language): العربية‎, [transliterated](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabic_romanization): al-ʿArabiyyah; meaning "The Arabic One" or "The Arab One"[[a]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al_Arabiya#cite_note-4)) is a [Saudi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saudi_Arabia)[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al_Arabiya#cite_note-5) [free-to-air](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Free-to-air) television news channel broadcast in [Modern Standard Arabic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Modern_Standard_Arabic). The channel is based in [Dubai](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dubai) and broadcasts to a pan-Arab audience; it is regarded as a competitor to [Al Jazeera](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al_Jazeera).

## History and profile

Launched on 3 March 2003,[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al_Arabiya#cite_note-6)[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al_Arabiya#cite_note-7) the channel is based in [Dubai Media City](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dubai_Media_City), [United Arab Emirates](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Arab_Emirates), and is owned by [Saudi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saudi_Arabia) broadcaster [Middle East Broadcasting Center](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Middle_East_Broadcasting_Center) (MBC).

The current general manager of Al Arabiya is [Adel Al Toraifi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adel_Al_Toraifi), who took over that post from Abdulrahman Al Rashed on 22 November 2014.,[[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al_Arabiya%22%20%5Cl%20%22cite_note-app-8) who had held the position since 2004 and was outspoken against Islamic extremism.[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al_Arabiya#cite_note-9)

A [free-to-air](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Free-to-air) channel, Al Arabiya broadcasts standard newscasts every hour as well as talk shows and documentaries. These programs cover current affairs, business, stock markets and sports. It is rated among the top pan-Arab stations by Middle East audiences.[[9]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al_Arabiya#cite_note-BBCProfile-10) The news organization's website is accessible in Arabic, English, Urdu and [Persian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Persian_language). As of March 2018, the website's number one consumer by country was Saudi Arabia, with 20% of the entire viewership.

On 26 January 2009, [American president](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/President_of_the_United_States) [Barack Obama](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barack_Obama) gave his first formal interview as president to the television channel.[[1](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al_Arabiya#cite_note-AA01-11)

**PROGRAMS**

**Special Mission** is Al Arabiya's longest-running [investigative journalism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Investigative_journalism)/[current affairs](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Current_affairs_%28news_format%29) television program.[[18]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al_Arabiya#cite_note-19) It broadcasts on the Al Arabiya Pan Arab Channel based in Dubai. Premiering on 19 October 2003, it is still running. The Special Mission team contributed in setting the tone of the program early on, and has since maintained it.

Based on the investigative [Panorama](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Panorama_%28TV_series%29) concept, the program addresses a single issue in depth each week, showing either a locally produced program or a relevant documentary, in the form of stories from many areas around the world. The program has won many awards for investigative journalism, and broken many high-profile stories. A notable early example of this was the show's [exposé](https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/expos%C3%A9) on the appalling living conditions endured by many children living in rural Africa and East Asia. Issues like politics, economy, and religion are addressed.

**Eda'at** ([Arabic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabic_language): إضاءات‎, meaning "Spotlights"), hosted by [Turki Al-Dakhil](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turki_Al-Dakhil%22%20%5Co%20%22Turki%20Al-Dakhil), airs every Thursday at 2:00 PM ([Saudi Arabia time](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UTC%2B03%3A00)) and lasts one hour.[[19]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al_Arabiya#cite_note-20) The show consists of one-on-one interviews with influential regional figures, such as journalists, writers, activists, politicians, etc. (the programme is currently off air)

**Rawafed** ([Arabic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabic_language): روافد‎, meaning "Affluents") is directed and hosted by [Ahmad Ali El Zein](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ahmad_Ali_El_Zein), and broadcast once a week (Wednesday at 5:30 PM).[[20]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al_Arabiya#cite_note-21) [Rawafed](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rawafed%22%20%5Co%20%22Rawafed) is a series of documentaries/interviews devoted to the world of arts and culture. Guests have included writers [Tahar Ben Jelloun](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tahar_Ben_Jelloun%22%20%5Co%20%22Tahar%20Ben%20Jelloun), [Gamal El-Ghitani](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gamal_El-Ghitani%22%20%5Co%20%22Gamal%20El-Ghitani), poets [Adunis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adunis%22%20%5Co%20%22Adunis), [Ahmed Fouad Negm](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ahmed_Fouad_Negm), [Joumana Haddad](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joumana_Haddad%22%20%5Co%20%22Joumana%20Haddad), musicians, [Marcel Khalifa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marcel_Khalifa), [Naseer Shamma](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Naseer_Shamma%22%20%5Co%20%22Naseer%20Shamma). Many key principle artists, writers and politicians in the Arab world have also appeared on the show.

**From Iraq** is a socio-political, humanitarian program which strives to uncover the realities inside of [Iraq](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iraq). The program is broadcast Sundays and presented by Mayssoun Noueihed.[[21]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al_Arabiya#cite_note-22)

**Inside Iran** is a series which focuses on investigative reporting, primarily on political, social, and economic issues inside [Iran](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iran).[[22]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al_Arabiya#cite_note-23)

**Death Making** is a weekly broadcast which airs Fridays, focusing on global terror. The show provides analysis on global terror attacks around the globe, shining a spotlight on religious, social, economic, and political factors. It also provides interviews with well-known figures. It is hosted by Mohammed Altoumaihi.[[23]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al_Arabiya#cite_note-24)

**Business Profiles** is a monthly program which provides an in-depth portrait of regional business leaders. The program typically follows an influential business person, including outside of their office, in order to better understand their ways of thinking. It is presented by Fatima Zahra Daoui, and has been on air since June 2013.[[24]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al_Arabiya#cite_note-25)

**Point of Order** is a weekly program, broadcast on Fridays, which conducts live interviews focusing on socio-political topics. It is known be hard-hitting and has also been known to invite controversial figures, such as [Jean-Marie Le Pen](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jean-Marie_Le_Pen), Syrian President [Bashar al-Assad](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bashar_al-Assad), and others. It is hosted by Hasan Muawad.[[25]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al_Arabiya#cite_note-26)

**Political Memoirs** is a weekly program which focuses on historical events, serving as a platform to discuss different views on single events, while comparing these different vantage points to recorded history. It is presented by Taher Barake, and is broadcast on Fridays.[[26]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al_Arabiya#cite_note-27)

**Diplomatic Avenues** is a monthly program focusing on the [United Nations](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations). It is broadcast live from Al Arabiya's studios in the United Nations headquarters, and features interviews with high-level UN officials and diplomats. The program focuses on political, social, scientific, and humanitarian issues before the UN, with an emphasis on the Arab and Islamic worlds. It is hosted by Talal al-Haj, and broadcasts on the last Friday of each month.[[27]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al_Arabiya#cite_note-28)

**Studio Beirut** is a weekly discussion program, broadcast on Sundays, which features prominent guests from the Arab world. it is hosted by [Giselle Khoury](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Giselle_Khoury).[[28]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al_Arabiya#cite_note-29)

**The Big Screen** is a weekly program which focuses on the film industry, and serves as an entertainment show, focusing on celebrities and film. It provides coverage on industry news, upcoming films, film festivals, and interviews with industry leaders, as well as celebrities. It is hosted by Nadine Kirresh.

## Investment and ownership

According to unconfirmed reports, Al Arabiya was founded through investment by the [Middle East Broadcasting Center](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Middle_East_Broadcasting_Center), as well as other investors from [Saudi Arabia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saudi_Arabia), [Kuwait](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kuwait), and the [Persian Gulf states](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arab_states_of_the_Persian_Gulf).[[9]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al_Arabiya#cite_note-BBCProfile-10) Through MBC, Saudi Prince [Abdulaziz bin Fahd](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abdul_Aziz_bin_Fahd%22%20%5Co%20%22Abdul%20Aziz%20bin%20Fahd) and his maternal uncle [Waleed bin Ibrahim al Ibrahim](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waleed_bin_Ibrahim_al_Ibrahim%22%20%5Co%20%22Waleed%20bin%20Ibrahim%20al%20Ibrahim) own and have control over Al Arabiya.[[14]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al_Arabiya#cite_note-cablegatesearch1-15)

In March 2012, the channel launched a new channel, [Al-Hadath](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Hadath) which focuses exclusively on prolonged extensive coverage of political news.

### Arab criticism

Al Arabiya had been banned from reporting from [Iraq](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iraq) by the country's interim government in November 2004 after it broadcast an audio tape on 16 November purportedly made by the deposed Iraqi President [Saddam Hussein](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saddam_Hussein).[[9]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al_Arabiya#cite_note-BBCProfile-10) The Iraqi government had also banned the channel on 7 September 2006 for one month for what it called "imprecise coverage". According to the station itself, Al Arabiya journalists and staff have come under constant pressure from Iraqi officials to allegedly “report stories as dictated to” and in 2014, PM Nouri Maliki threatened again to ban Al Arabiya in Iraq, shut down its offices and websites. For his part, Al Arabiya's General Manager at the time, Abdulrahman al-Rashed, vowed in a statement that the news channel and its sister channel al-Hadath will continue reporting the story in Iraq despite “Maliki's threats” as well as other threats from the likes of ISIS.[[41]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al_Arabiya#cite_note-english.alarabiya.net-42) However, al-Arabiya is widely perceived in Iraq as a pro-Saudi and anti-Shia sectarian channel.

Due to post-coverage of [assassination of Rafic Hariri](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Assassination_of_Rafic_Hariri), as of 2007, Syrian politicians on many occasions labeled al-Arabiya "al-Yahudiyya" ["the Jewish"] and "al-'Ibriyya" ["the Hebrew"], for anti-government and perceived pro-US and pro-Israeli bias.[[42]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al_Arabiya#cite_note-43) However, the label “al-‘Ebriya” (“the Hebrew One”) itself is given by many Arabs to the station reaching all the way back to 2003, for what some perceive as relatively sympathetic coverage of Israel (Francis, 2007).[[43]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al_Arabiya#cite_note-44)

In 2013, Saudi scholar [Abdulaziz al-Tarefe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abdulaziz_al-Tarefe%22%20%5Co%20%22Abdulaziz%20al-Tarefe) tweeted: “If the channel ‘Al-Arabiya’ existed in the time of the Prophet [Muhammad] the [hypocrites](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Munafiqun) would only have rallied behind it and the wealth of [Banu Qurayza](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Banu_Qurayza%22%20%5Co%20%22Banu%20Qurayza) would only have been spent on it.”[[44]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al_Arabiya#cite_note-45)

## Online

The Al Arabiya internet news service (alarabiya.net) was launched in 2004 initially in Arabic, and was joined by an English-language service in 2007, and [Persian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Persian_language) and [Urdu](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Urdu) services in 2008. The channel also operates a business website that covers financial news and market data from the Middle East in Arabic (alaswaq.net). The Al Arabiya News Channel is available live online on [JumpTV](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/JumpTV%22%20%5Co%20%22JumpTV) and [Livestation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Livestation%22%20%5Co%20%22Livestation). The English website of Al Arabiya[*[citation needed](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia%3ACitation_needed%22%20%5Co%20%22Wikipedia%3ACitation%20needed)*] was relaunched in 2013 and now features automated subtitles of the news and programs that appear on the channel.[[50]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al_Arabiya#cite_note-51)

The Al Arabiya website was plagued with numerous technical difficulties during the Egyptian protests at the end of January 2011. The site very often went offline with error messages as such as the following: "The website is down due to the heavy traffic to follow up with the Egyptian crisis and it will be back within three hours (Time of message: 11GMT)".

## References

* 1. ^ [Jump up to:***a***](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al_Arabiya#cite_ref-frequencies_1-0) [***b***](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al_Arabiya#cite_ref-frequencies_1-1) [*"الترددات الجديدة لقنوات MBC - MBC.net"*](http://www.mbc.net/ar/corporate/frequencies/taradod.html). [*mbc.net*](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Mbc.net&action=edit&redlink=1)*. Retrieved 7 March 2017*.
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	4. [**^**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al_Arabiya#cite_ref-5) [*"Four dead in bomb attack on al-Arabiya TV in Baghdad"*](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-10762652). [*BBC News*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BBC_News). 26 July 2010.
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