



# MAHMOUD ELSOBKY



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Antwerpen, Belgium

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## Summary

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An experienced investigative journalist with a background in multimedia journalism. Expert in interviewing, reporting, and working on a deadline. Expert in Middle East issues where I worked with international news channels and agencies.

## Skills

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| *Excellent reporting skills                     | *Outstanding interview and research skills |
| *Editorial judgment                             | *Multitasker, in the newsroom or the field |
| *Imagination/ creative thinking                 | *Fact-checking and self-editing skills.    |
| *Team working                                   | *Willingness to learn& teach               |
| *Flexibility                                    | *Quick learner                             |
| *Extensive knowledge of social media reporting, | * Resilience                               |
| Networking, and relationship building.          | * Influence & persuading                   |

## Experience

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Investigative journalist

April 2021 – Now

De Morgen Newspaper (Location: Belgium)

- Develop story ideas, write, shoot and edit news stories.
- Develop original content through social listening and independent sources.
- Collect data from a variety of credible sources
- Interview Sources, and professionals and compile their responses
- Write and edit drafts before uploading the final version
- Collaborate with fellow writers and editors to ensure cohesive content

**Investigative Reporter:** (Feb 2022- Nov 2022)  
**MBN- Alhurra Channel (location: The USA)**

- Perform extensive research and analysis to build facts and current events into investigation stories.
- Interview Sources, and professionals and compile their responses
- Translating Interviews, and documents From English to Arabic and vice versa.
- Editing stories on editing programs.
- Scriptwriting.
- Build relationships with relevant contacts for future reference

**Investigative reporter & Documentary filmmaker** April 2016 to October 2021  
**Al-Jisr Media (Location: Belgium)**

- Develop story ideas, write, shoot and edit news stories for on-air broadcasting.
- Develop great sources and contacts.
- Develop original content through social listening and independent sources.
- Write and post daily on all digital platforms including social media.
- Write for the web, including attaching images and streaming videos.
- Write in an exciting, captivating, and authentic manner.

**Freelance journalist (Location: Egypt and Belgium)** Jan 2014 to April 2016

- Develop story ideas, write, shoot and edit news stories for on-air broadcasting.
- Develop great sources and contacts.

**News producer** Sep 2013 to Jan 2014  
**Al-Jazeera English (Location: Egypt)**

- Responsible for producing and formatting news by gathering, evaluating, and coordinating appropriate news material available from all sources.
- Search for new stories to be in the news and documentaries.
- Proposing the questions and interviewing guests.
- Making voiceovers for the stories.
- Coordinating with anchor, other producers, and director of production needs.
- Reporting on several breaking news stories through live phone interviews.

- Handle responsibilities of preparing a list of visual materials for integration within the news program format.
- Perform the task of producing and creating energetic, interesting, and important newscasts with proper pace, flow, and detail.
- Research all national and local news that should be shared with the public each day.
- Work with broadcasters to develop stories and determine the order of the news.
- Write scripts for the newscasters and help them prepare for clips and pictures being shown.
- Schedule special guests for certain stories.
- Assists on-location broadcasters in plans for live broadcasts such as determining location interviews, clips to be shown, etc.
- Work with other television news producers to maintain continuity among broadcast times.

**Freelance news producer** Nov 2010 to Dec 2021  
**Vlaamse Radio en Televisie (VRT) (Location: Egypt and Belgium)**

- Responsible for producing and formatting news by gathering, evaluating, and coordinating appropriate news material available from all sources.
- Search for new stories to be in the news and documentaries.
- Proposing the questions and interviewing the guests.
- Handle responsibilities of preparing a list of visual materials for integration within the news program format.
- Perform the tasks of creating and producing energetic, interesting, and important newscasts with proper pace, flow, and detail.
- Coordinate with the anchor, other producers, and the director on production needs.

**Programs Coordinator** Sep 2010 to June 2011  
**Ani for Development and Human Rights (Location: Egypt)**

- Preparing ANI's Monthly bulletin.
- Searching for human rights news connected with democracy and the right of participation to be in statements and headlines.
- Representing ANI in international conferences and meetings.
- Supervising ANI's published works and translations.
- Translating documents, statements, reports, and emails from English to Arabic and vice versa.
- Coordinating and communicating with international organizations.

**Researcher** Jan 2010 to Sep 2010  
**The Arabic Network for Human Rights Information (Location: Egypt)**

- Preparing and translating ANHRI's weekly bulletin.
- Searching for human rights news connected with freedom of opinion and expression to be in statements and headlines.
- Representing ANHRI in international conferences and meetings.

- Translating documents, statements, reports, and emails from English to Arabic and vice versa.

**Journalist & Researcher**  
**Freelance (Location: Egypt)**

July 2005 to Dec 2009

- Develop story ideas, write, shoot and edit news stories for on-air broadcasting and newspapers.
- Develop great sources and contacts.
- Writing statements and reports for NGOs.

## Education

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Bachelor of Arts, English literature	2005
Post-graduate English-Arabic translation diploma. Cairo University	2008
Master, Journalism, and Media in Europe. Free University Brussels (VUB).	2018

## Activities

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Keeping up with breaking news and current events fills most of my time, but for personal enjoyment, I like to play ping pong and football. I volunteer some of my time to help refugees by translating for them in different institutions.

## Training

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ICRC training for media professionals about covering the war zones and approach to international humanitarian law. Dec 2014.

Finance uncovered a training program on advanced financial reporting. The training is aimed at practicing journalists and researchers who have an interest in investigating business and the flow of money. Nov 2019.

## Languages

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Arabic: Mother's tongue

English: Excellent

Dutch: Very Good

French: Beginner

## Personal information

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- Date of Birth: 13 September 1984
- Place of Birth: Giza, Egypt

- Country of residence: Belgium
- Nationality: Egyptian
- Marital Status: Married
- Mobile : +32 465 44 0537
  
- E-mail : [elsobky200@gmail.com](mailto:elsobky200@gmail.com)

## Publications

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### MBN-Alhurra

Libya...the Tragedy of Migrants

<https://youtu.be/TTkO2i8xEg8>

Sudan ... gold and Russian protection

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j6pjUELKbGM>

<https://www.alhurra.com/episode/2022/08/13/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B3%D9%88%D8%AF%D8%A7%D9%86-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B0%D9%87%D8%A8-%D9%88%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AD%D9%85%D8%A7%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B1%D9%88%D8%B3%D9%8A%D8%A9-1014716>

Russia... War Crimes accusations

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ln7ImQBBQhc>

<https://www.alhurra.com/episode/2022/04/30/%D8%B1%D9%88%D8%B3%D9%8A%D8%A7-%D8%A7%D8%AA%D9%87%D8%A7%D9%85%D8%A7%D8%AA-%D8%A8%D8%AC%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%A6%D9%85-%D8%AD%D8%B1%D8%A8-976641>

### Al Jazeera

Illegal migration with a similar passport...brokers and the black market for the European travel documents

<https://www.aljazeera.net/knowledgegate/longform/2022/7/6/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B3%D9%88%D9%82-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B3%D9%88%D8%AF%D8%A7%D8%A1-%D9%84%D9%84%D8%AC%D9%88%D8%A7%D8%B2%D8%A7%D8%AA-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A3%D9%88%D8%B1%D9%88%D8%A8%D9%8A%D8%A9>

The Belarusian Trap... Arab immigrants in the European borders' game

<https://www.aljazeera.net/knowledgegate/longform/2022/4/22/%D8%A8%D9%8A%D8%A7%D8%AF%D9%82-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B4%D8%B7%D8%B1%D9%86%D8%AC-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D9%87%D8%A7%D8%AC%D8%B1%D9%88%D9%86-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B9%D8%B1%D8%A8-%D9%88%D9%84%D8%B9%D8%A8%D8%A9>

**Salt road...Journey of torture to reach Europe via smuggling networks in Mauritania**

<https://www.aljazeera.net/knowledgegate/newscoverage/2021/8/1/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AC%D8%B2%D9%8A%D8%B1%D8%A9-%D9%86%D8%AA-%D9%8A%D9%83%D8%B4%D9%81-%D8%B4%D8%A8%D9%83%D8%A7%D8%AA-%D9%88%D8%A3%D8%B3%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%A8-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%87%D8%AC%D8%B1%D8%A9>

#### **De Morgen newspaper Belgium**

**What the 'Syria fighters' are to Belgium, the 'mujahideen' are to countries like Egypt**

<https://www.demorgen.be/nieuws/dit-zijn-de-kinderen-van-al-qaida-nakomelingen-van-jihadisten-worstelen-met-hun-terugkeer-naar-moslimlanden~b4d136e8/>

**11 September Attacks through the Eyes of Al-Qaeda members**

<https://www.demorgen.be/nieuws/exclusief-een-uitzonderlijke-terugblik-op-9-11-uit-het-hart-van-al-qaida-de-taliban-verzetten-zich-tegen-de-plannen-van-bin-laden~b4dcc5f/>

**"Yemen is the worst place on earth for children", an investigation about the invisible consequences of the war in Yemen**

<https://www.demorgen.be/nieuws/ik-ben-bang-dat-onze-nieuwe-baby-ook-misvormd-is-de-onzichtbare-gevolgen-van-de-oorlog-in-jemen~b69cad9e/>

**The Migration Mafia investigation:**

- <https://www.demorgen.be/nieuws/ze-eisten-4-000-dollar-die-had-ik-niet-de-morgen-onderzoekt-mensensmokkel-vanuit-afrika~b3bc5cf7/>
- An hour later and we would drown: migrants on their perilous journey  
<https://www.demorgen.be/nieuws/een-uur-later-en-we-waren-verdronken-migranten-over-hun-levensgevaarlijke-tocht~bdf72ee2/>
- All migrants coming to Europe are at risk, but women face most of it: 'He raped me every night'  
<https://www.demorgen.be/nieuws/alle-migranten-naar-europa-lopen-gevaar-maar-vrouwen-nog-het-meest-hij-verkrachtte-me-elke-nacht~b91689ad/>
- Such a journey is to die several times and come back to life: This is how migrants come from Gaza to Brussels  
<https://dossiers.demorgen.be/specials/de-migratiemaffia/>

## Alaraby TV

"The Route": is an investigation of smuggling networks between Africa and Europe and illegal immigration to Europe through Libya.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c2cAOEwi3gQ>

## -BBC

'Bring my grandchildren home from Syria'

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/world-europe-48129129/bring-my-grandchildren-home-from-syria>

## - VRT (the Belgian Public Broadcaster)

Is IS Over? (Long investigation on ISIS intelligence unit, their future and move to Libya, and the returnees file)

<https://www.vrt.be/vrtnu/a-z/is-is-voorbij-/2018/is-is-voorbij-/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zIRAdrKNMK4> (Dutch version)

<https://youtu.be/9-0F9BNTAWY> (English version)

- "De jongeren opsluiten, heeft geen zin" (Locking Young people up does not make sense)

<http://www.canvas.be/vranckx-actua/de-jongeren-opsluiten-heeft-geen-zin>

- "De volgende revolutie wordt bloediger" ( the next revolution will be more bloody)

<http://www.canvas.be/vranckx-actua/de-volgende-revolutie-wordt-bloediger>

## -Chat Jihad

Investigation about ISIS online recruitment of the people

<https://youtu.be/v79Ppw1l410>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ipP0wkp2SYM&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR1t0do\\_UD3GHGsKTUDIJVTYxpKAJztpm8RJgxKxEWMXY9oOL-gQ-B0ZacE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ipP0wkp2SYM&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR1t0do_UD3GHGsKTUDIJVTYxpKAJztpm8RJgxKxEWMXY9oOL-gQ-B0ZacE)

## - The Sun newspaper:

**MO HAPPINESS - Mo Salah is building a hospital and a school in his hometown Nagrig – and Liverpool star has spent hundreds of thousands to improve lives for people who live there**

<https://www.thesun.co.uk/sport/football/6035853/liverpool-hero-mohamed-salah-is-building-a-school-and-a-hospital-in-his-hometown-of-nagrig-and-has-spent-hundreds-of-thousands-to-improve-lives-for-people-who-live-there/>

**Daraj**

The Military Economic Republic of Egypt

<https://daraj.com/en/80098/>

<https://daraj.com/80065/>

**MO magazine:**

The Second Breath of IS

<https://www.mo.be/reportage/de-tweede-adem-van>

**Chat Jihad series:**

1-Chat Jihad. How jihadist propaganda dominated the internet

<https://www.mo.be/en/reportage/chat-jihad-how-jihadist-propaganda-dominated-internet>

2- Of fanboys and soldiers - how ISIS perfected jihadist propaganda

<https://www.mo.be/en/report/fan-boys-and-soldiers-how-isis-changed-jihadist-propaganda>

3- No such thing as a lone wolf - inside the jihadist recruitment machine

<https://www.mo.be/en/report/no-such-thing-lone-wolf-inside-jihadist-recruitment-machine>

4- Attractive brutality: why terrorist propaganda appeals to people

<https://www.mo.be/en/report/attractive-brutality-why-terrorist-propaganda-appeals-people>

5- Terrorism and tech - Silicon Valley's violent propaganda headache

<https://www.mo.be/en/report/terrorism-and-tech-silicon-valley-s-violent-propaganda-headache>

6- Countering the jihadist narrative - the future of the War on Terror

<https://www.mo.be/en/report/countering-jihadist-narrative-future-war-terror>

**Middle East Eye:**

<http://www.middleeasteye.net/in-depth/features/frontier-dreams-how-mediterranean-migration-impacting-eu-policy-land-1290517504>

<http://www.middleeasteye.net/in-depth/features/palestinians-lose-egypt-residency-mediterranean-crossing-attempt-472082938>

**The Times:**

Interview with Mohamed Al Zawahri brother of Al-Qaeda leader:

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/world/middleeast/article3748046.ece>

**AJE:**

Egypt bombing sets off angry protests

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WHLSxfb8hro>

The Halawa siblings who were detained in Al Fath mosque in Cairo:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y7gsGz38Td8>

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#### Documentaries participated in

- De vloek van Osama (the curse of Osama bin Laden) by VRT. (The Egyptian part)
- De revolutie (the route to the revolution) by VRT. (The Egyptian part)
- De Arabisch Storm. By VARA Netherlands TV (filmed in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya)

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#### Channels, newspapers, and Radios freelanced for

BBC - The Guardian - The Sun – BNN VARA - ChannelFlip UK- the Globe and Mail newspaper

- Radio France - Radio Netherlands RNW- VPRO Netherlands- The Times - Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung- Africa French news agency - Le Croix newspaper – Bild newspaper – The Daily Mail

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**Prizes:**

ARIJ Silver prize 2022

Nominated for Belfius press prize 2021

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#### References

References are available upon request.

Thanks for your time and concern.