



As War Rages Next Door, Local Media Shows Promise in Amman

Ammann, Jordan, March 27, 2003. While the world's media brought its real-time sound-bites to bear on the war in Iraq, a pioneering group of Arab journalists took time out to learn invaluable lessons in the role of accuracy, objectivity, and balance in reporting and local media. The four-day training was co-sponsored by Internews and the Arab Women's Media Center, and made possible through a grant from the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor.

Forty Jordanians, Palestinians, and Saudis — nearly all women — took part in the training, which consisted of several instructional sessions. Trainees engaged in the fundamentals of professional journalism, with strong emphasis on basic reporting, interviewing and reporting skills, as well as training in legal issues, critical analysis, freedom of expression, and ethics. Nearly all trainees attended each session.

Internews trainers reinforced accuracy, objectivity, and balance in reporting at every session

Men and women collaborated. Veiled women worked alongside those not wearing veils. Trainees found mentors, and mentors discovered a real hunger for the skills behind responsible, fact-based journalism.

The event's success was all the more extraordinary, of course, because of the war escalating across the border. It was an inspiring lesson in the kind of investment — in time, resources, mentoring, and cultural sensitivity — that can nurture vibrant, pluralistic, and open media in the region.

For more information, please contact Karim Alrawi at (202) 833-5740 x107 or kalrawi@internews.org



Participants analyze local media from the region, with an eye to basic reporting and interviewing skills



"The atmosphere among the participants was wonderful and very positive, as were the instructive efforts of the organizers."

— Alaa al-Tamimy, participant



"This was the most useful training session...extremely useful."

— Wafaa Hussein, participant

"The workshop was very useful and provided a new perspective, while also allowing me to develop relationships with journalists from abroad as well as from Jordan."

— Johad al-Fuqaha, participant



"The subjects were all very important and well selected with each subject gaining new significance as we proceeded with the sessions."

— Luqay Ali Salim, participant



"What was most useful was that it contained everything to do with the A B C of journalism in a compact and concentrated way."

— Susan al-Sharidah, participant

"Excellent...I look forward to more specialized training sessions."

— Manar Houidi, participant