Accuracy Press Institute

Accuracy Press Institute
Better Journalism Leads to Better Syria

Why we exist?

On March 3, 1963, Syria's emergency law was put into effect when the Ba'ath Party came to power in a military coup. As a result, independent media was shut down immediately and the very few Ba'ath-supporting outlets became active ever since. Right after Assad the son came to Power in 2000, a few non-political insignificant media outlets surfaced.   . In other words, Syria was not breathing media freedom for decades.

Public Domain

The 2011 uprising sparked an intense media movement that spurted alternative ways to deliver news, videos, and pictures by individuals who have become known as "media activists". The growing number of practicing journalists and media outlets reached a crescendo in the last few years. Even though, many media providers in Syria still work with an "activist" mentality and lack the solid background and experience in journalism due to the de facto circumstances; they thrive to develop and sharpen their skills in order to transform media in Syria and become key actors in countering terrorism and promot peace. — according to extensive interviews conducted by Accuracy Press Institute (API).
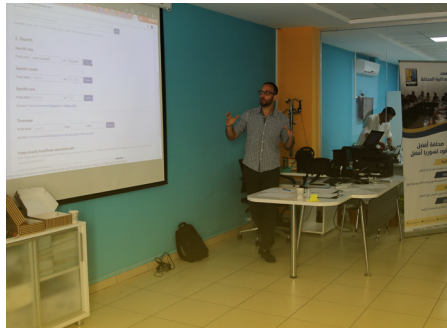

Mohamad Zaid Mastou

What we are?

API is a non-profit organization dedicated to responding to the needs of Syrian journalists by creating a professional media sector inside Syria.

API monitors the Syrian media environment and provides online and in-person training for media professionals in a variety of topics required for the establishment of a professional media sector that can contribute to the building of a peaceful and democratic country. It also connects journalists to opportunities for professional development and encourages high-quality reporting through an annual prize for exemplary reporting. API is led by a team of experienced Syrian media professionals with additional support from a dedicated board of directors with experience in nonprofit management. It is registered as a 501(c)(3) in the United States.

API is:

The only organization that all of its focus is the Syrian media development.

Designed strategy that is being applied, regardless of the political and military developments in the country.

Unlike most other organizations, API attracts audience from all Syrian political perspectives and various ethnicities.

Our Dream

In 10 years from now, Syria is a free, democratic, and safe country where every citizen has the right to express themselves freely and comfortably.

Journalists will have been played their standards role and every journalist in Syria would have earned a complete professional training. Many of them will have studied in international institution schools and have played a leading role in promotion of peace and knowledge building, and fighting against extremism as well as militancy ideas in the framework of the democratic process under the leadership of API.

API will have established its own academy for journalism inside Syria. An academy that will provide short and long term training for journalism and related fields.

Our Vision

Syria in which every journalist is professionally trained and freedom of the press is upheld, enabling media to contribute to building a peaceful and democratic country.

Our Mission

To provide the tools, means, mechanisms, and knowledge required for creating and sustaining a professional and independent media that contributes to building a peaceful and democratic Syria.

How we work?

API team worked for months , using various creative ways, on a strategic plan to develop the Syrian media. This plan has crystallized our big dream and divided it into short, medium, and long term projects, and took into consideration that all projects have to workout, regardless of changes in the political and security conditions. Likewise, the plan took into consideration both the needs and demands in the field.

Monitoring

We monitor the state of Syrian media and the role that it plays either positively by being an essential doer as an independent for pushing toward democracy, peace and human rights, Or negatively by promoting violence, dictatorship, extremism, and violation of human rights. We also monitor other non-independent media platforms such as, the Syrian regime, political and military opposition groups, as well as extremists media outlets. This helps us to keep our work In line with the field's needs' and for other policy makers or international organization who are interested. Thus, , we periodically conduct research, analysis, events, and workshops on all Syrian media platforms.

Training

We do provide continues specialized training to experienced and non-experienced Syrian journalists and photographers who are working in Syria, Turkey, or neighboring countries.
Since Syrian journalists who live inside Syria find it impossible to attend our trainings in person due to the many obstacles of visa procedures, financial and security situations; API started to develop various training materials such as video trainings, books, booklets and tips for self training purposes. Our virtual "Journalist Library" also includes other materials which also has been produced by third parties in different sections such as (code of ethics, law of media, media language skills, fact-checking conflict reporting, investigative reporting, etc..)

Networking

We aid Individuals and organizations for finding new opportunities offered by third party. We publicize journalism and photography scholarships, fellowships, jobs, festivals, awards, or training opportunities in our platforms. We are also willing to partner with international universities and training academic centers to obtain long term academic studies for Syrian Journalists.
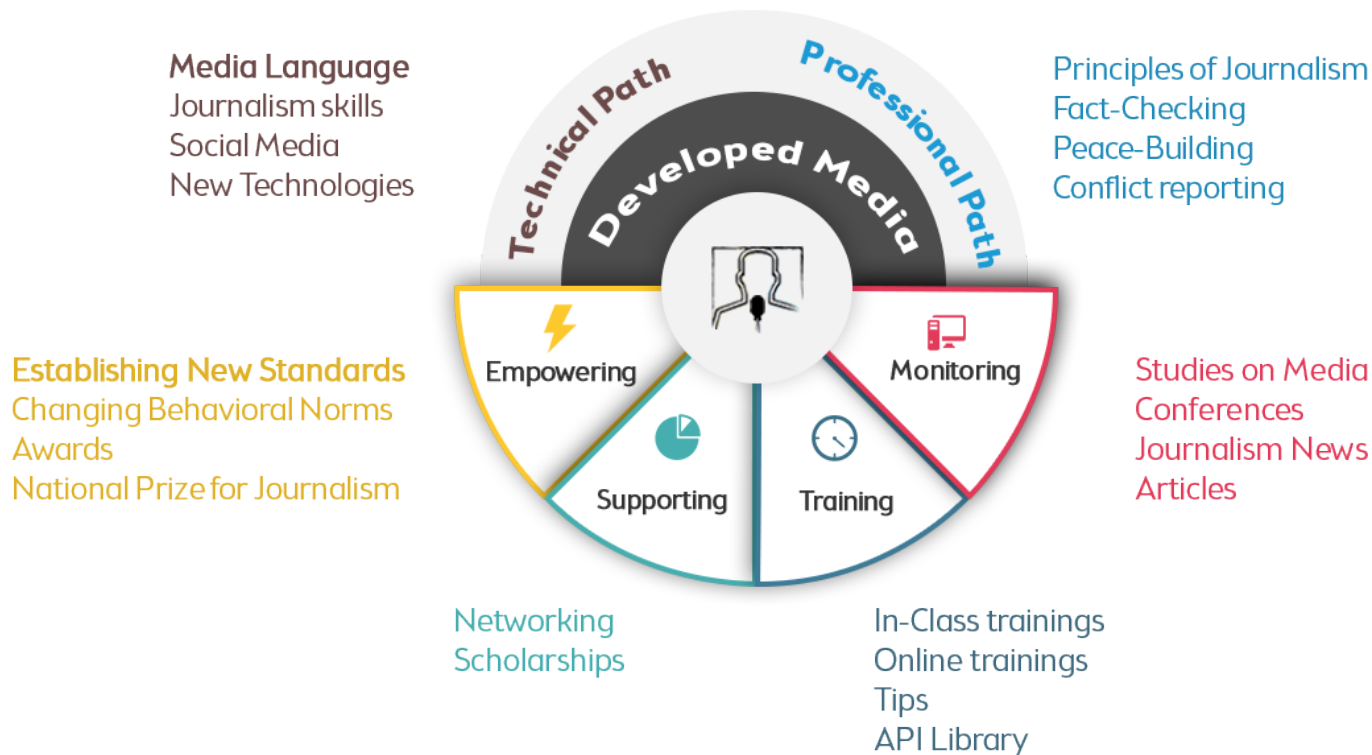
Our Arabic version sections website consist of:

• News: updated news of the Syrian media and Syrian journalists or any related news that suit the interests and needs of the journalists . Selecting the news takes into consecration to highlight success stories and promote positive values such as respect for human rights, and peace building media.
• Opportunities: updated studies, scholarships, internships, fellowships offered by API or a third party.
• Journalist Library: In addition to API products, the virtual library also collect books, booklets and researchers from various sources.
• Tips: updated weekly tips in articles and video forms.
• Opinion: API gives the opportunity to its team, other journalists, experts, to share their Ideas about all media related topics.

Empowering

We believe that highlighting good examples of professional journalism helps to change the behavioral norms, and encourage individuals and organizations to improve their performance.
To this end, API is looking to establish an annual prize for Syrian journalists who exemplify professional standards in reporting; This will be the first innovation of its kind in Syrian history.

Media Language
Journalism skills
Social Media
New Technologies

Technical Path

Professional Path

Developed Media

Principles of Journalism
Fact-Checking
Peace-Building
Conflict reporting

Establishing New Standards
Changing Behavioral Norms
Awards
National Prize for Journalism

Empowering

Monitoring

Studies on Media
Conferences
Journalism News
Articles

Supporting

Training

Networking
Scholarships

In-Class trainings
Online trainings
Tips
API Library

Our Achievements

API started its programs in the beginning of 2017. We were able to hit the ground running fortified by different factors, such as the reputation of the team as individuals, professional work, and the strong connections among most of Syrian media outlets. Below are some of our achievements to date:

- Training topics: News writing, Fact checking, Civic education for media professionals, Code of Ethics, Financial Journalism, TV reporting, reports Camera shooting, Investigative journalism, Writing skills.

Locations: Ghouta, Idleb, Gaziantep, Istanbul, Lebanon, Online

Ebooks

Connecting hundreds of journalists to jobs, training, fellowships, and other opportunities.

Connecting dozens of victims to relocate and obtain financial aid.

Who we are?

KAREN VOLKER
Board Member

Karen is a civil society activist and former government official. She has worked to promote democracy and pluralism for almost 30 years.

Karen is a board member at Accuracy Press Institute and a Director for Strategic and International Partnerships at Cure Violence.

Prior to that, she was the Director of the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI), a $500 million program that supports civil society organizations in the Middle East and North Africa. Earlier Foreign Service assignments included the Secretary's Policy Planning Staff, Senior Advisor to the Under Secretary for Public Affairs and Public Diplomacy, U.S. Stability Pact Coordinator, and Special Assistant in the Coordinator's office for transitions in both the former Soviet Union and in Central and Eastern Europe.

Overseas assignments included Budapest, Brussels, and London, Karen focused on those things that are most important to her: supporting political transitions, promoting pluralism and human rights, and preventing violence and violent extremism.

MOHAMAD ZAID MASTOU
Board Member| Chief executive officer

Zaid is a board member and Chief executive officer at Accuracy Press Institute. He is a Syrian journalist who has worked in TV, Radio, Newspapers, modern digital Media, and Civil Society. His work has mainly focused on issues of the Middle East and North Africa. He started working in 2007 in several countries, including Morocco, Scandinavia, Syria and USA. He holds BAs in journalism and Law (Political Science).

Zaid covered the news of the Syrian conflict since it peacefully started in March, 2011 in Damascus and turned into an armed one , with more than 300 written articles, interviews, analysts, investigative field reports and news stories. His job was the reason of his arrested for 2 months by the Assad Regime to silence him like other journalists working in international media outlets covering the news.

SHABAN ABOUD
Board Member

Shaban Abboud is an American -Syrian journalist who currently is Syria TV correspondent in Washington DC.
Shaban has worked in various media outlets ,TV, Radio, Newspapers.
And been writing about the Syrian affairs since 2000 in regional and international media outlets.
He started working in journalism since his graduation from Damascus University 1993.
Shaban has worked for more than 12 years in MBN "Middle East Broadcast Network " it's an American -Arabic TV Known as Alhurra TV.

Recently he worked and produced a documentary film about Caesar Bill and he also has established a show about for Alhurra (الحكي سوري)Syria named "Talk is Syrian" TV before leaving the station for another opportunity.
Shaban has worked between 2005-2006 as trainer with ARIJ (Arab Reporters for Investigative Journalism).
He also was credited for coining the term "Damascus Spring" referring to the Syrian civil/political movement that took place between 2000-2001
He reported the Damascus Spring in a special coverage.
He reported the Damascus Spring in a special coverage.

API Team

Ahmad Saloum
Web & Social Media Manager
Ahmed is a journalist and civil society activist who has worked in the field of media for nearly ten years, moving between the newspapers, radio, dgital media in several countries such as Syria and Jordan. Ahmad studied journalism in Damascus University.

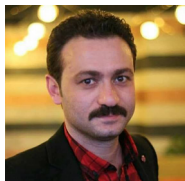### Nawar Mohra
Graphic Design Manager

Arwa Karkazan
Training Manager

Mark Abboud
Videographer

Sherwan Mela Ibrahim
Graphic DesignManager
Sherwan is a journalist who has been working on media for over 13 years. Sherwan who currently lives in Germany, has worked in several Arab and Kurdish media outlets.
Shirwan holds a B.A in media from the University of Salahaddin in Erbil, the capital city of Iraqi Kurdistan.

Our trainers

We work with more than 20 trainers who are familiar with Syrian conflicts. Our standards for trainers require of at least 7 years of experience in the field of training as well as experience with training of at least 10 workshops.

API trainers are a variety of specialists that covers most journalism and related fields which include but are not limited to (Broadcast media, Social media, Radio, investigative journalism, financial journalism, peace-building, conflict reporting, violence, photojournalism, gender, code of ethics, human rights, extremism)

We also benefit from our best trainees energy and prepare them as trainers.

Testimonials

> I benefited from API with a grant that contributed to my life and it gave me strong support to continue. API has had a positive impact on my life.

Obaida Alumar

> API, Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your help and cooperation. First, when I had wonderful courses and then when I was injured by standing by my side and connecting me with organizations that support journalists.

Mohamad Ayman

> Through API connections, I was able to get a grant that helped me with living for a while

Mazhar Alboushi

Our Partners