



## SUGGESTED SPEECH TOPICS:

- **Inside the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict**
- **How the News Media Fuel the War on Terror**
- **US Foreign Policy in the Middle East: From Peace to War**

# AYMAN MOHYELDIN

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT, NBC NEWS

Based in Cairo, Egypt, Ayman Mohyeldin has returned to the NBC News family having been hired as a Foreign Correspondent in August 2011. Always on the cutting edge of history, he gained worldwide acclaim and notariety following his coverage of the Egyptian revolution in early 2011 and the 'Arab Spring' that followed as the Egypt Correspondent for Al-Jazeera English. Moyheldin's world-class journalism earned him a place among TIME Magazine's '100 Most Influential People in the World.' Formerly stationed in Gaza, he was the only American journalist embedded inside the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. As a former producer for CNN and NBC, Mohyeldin was one of the first Western journalists allowed to enter and report on the trial of then Iraqi President Saddam Hussein for crimes against humanity. He was also the first journalist to enter one of Libya's nuclear research facilities after producing Col. Muammar al-Gaddafi's first interview announcing Libya would abandon all WMD programs.

In 2008, he became the first journalist to report on the intricate network of tunnels - once used for smuggling of weapons and people across the Egyptian Gaza border - that are now a vital route into Gaza for medicine, food and fuel supplies.

Mohyehldin was born in Cairo to an Egyptian father and Palestinian mother, and spent the majority of his childhood in Egypt and the United States. He earned his BA in International Relations from American University in Washington, DC with a focus on the European Union and receiving his MA in International Politics with a focus on Peace and Conflict Resolution. Mohyeldin's graduate thesis - entitled "The News Media Paradigm in the War on Terrorism" - was recognized and accepted by the International Association of Media Researcher's Conference in Barcelona, Spain (2002).

He began his career at NBC News as a desk assistant in the Washington DC bureau, having received his first real assignments shortly after the 9/11 terrorist attacks. In an interview with PRWeek, he described his early opportunities and how they helped launch his career:

*"Unfortunately, [after 9/11], there was a real shortage of people with language skills or expertise in the Middle East. Just because of my language skills and the timing, so to speak, I got a lot of experience. I was thrown into a mix of things that normally desk assistants at my level would not have gotten. I started working on some big pieces that had to do with investigating 9/11 and all kinds of international terrorist connections... I was doing translation mostly, but I was also developing themes or threads to stories that either had some Middle East connection to them or some type of Arabic language skills required. So it was an unbelievable experience at a really young age."*

Mohyeldin's coverage of major news events in the Middle East include the Iraq War, the first multi-candidate presidential Egyptian Elections (2005), Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, and the 2005 Palestinian elections. He has traveled extensively in the Middle East covering the Sharm al Sheikh resort bombing (2005) and the Jordan Hotel bombings (2005).

As a producer, Ayman's work in the CNN documentary *Iraq: Progress Report* about the daily struggles of Iraqis during the war was nominated for an Emmy. He served as an associate producer for the NBC News Special that also received Emmy Award nominations for *Ship at War: Inside the Carrier Stennis* and *Inside the Real West Wing*. He is also known for his coverage of the annual Muslim Pilgrimage (Hajj) to Mecca and was involved in the production of CNN specials *Islam: The Struggle Within* and *Hajj: A Spiritual Journey*.

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