

Yemen as a Battleground: Biographical information

Bio Iona Craig

Iona Craig is an Irish-British award-winning independent journalist. Previously based in Sana'a from 2010 to 2015 as The Times (of London) Yemen correspondent, her work has appeared in more than twenty publications worldwide and her footage and pictures have been used by multiple television channels and radio stations across the globe. In 2014 she won the UK's most prestigious award for investigative journalism, the Martha Gellhorn Prize, for her reporting on America's covert war in Yemen. In the first year of Yemen's civil war Iona spent six months reporting from the ground, travelling over 2,000 miles across the country. Since the conflict began in March 2015 she has regularly reported from both sides of the frontline for US and UK media. Her reporting for TV, radio and print covered the country's escalating humanitarian crisis, the impact of the Saudi-led aerial bombing campaign as well as the complexities of the war economy. Her most recent work has appeared on The Intercept, on BBC radio and on Ireland's national broadcaster, RTÉ. In addition to her journalistic work she has carried out field research in Yemen for Action on Armed Violence (AOAV) and in July 2016 authored an in-depth analytical report on Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula and Islamic State in Yemen for The International Crisis Group after spending time in the al-Qaeda controlled city of Mukalla. In May 2016 she was awarded The Orwell Prize for journalism, Britain's most prestigious prize for political writing.

You can follow her on www.ionacraig.com and on Twitter at [@ionacraig](https://twitter.com/ionacraig)

Bio Sara Ishaq

Sara Ishaq is an award-winning Yemeni-Scottish documentary filmmaker. Her debut short documentary film "Karama Has No Walls" was nominated for an Academy Award in 2014, BAFTA New Talent Award 2013, and screened internationally, winning several awards including Aljazeera Film Festival Award for Short Doc. SARA holds an MFA in film directing at the Edinburgh College of Art. In the past few years Sara volunteered in the occupied Palestinian territories and did radio-reporting from Yemen during the 2011 uprising, while documenting her experiences through video blogs, and has been involved in several BBC productions set in the Middle East. Her most recent documentary "The Mulberry House" shot in Yemen during the revolution was an official selection of IDFA 2013 and participated at Muher Competition in Dubai International Film Festival 2013 and won the Jury Prize at the This Human World Film Festival in Vienna. Sara is the co-founder of the Yemeni media collective #SupportYemen and 'Comra', Yemen's first documentary film camp.

Bio Belkis Wille

Belkis Wille has been the Yemen and Kuwait researcher with Human Rights Watch for the last three and a half years, and is now taking over its Iraq program. She is responsible for researching abuses and conducting local and international advocacy on human rights issues affecting these countries. Previously, Wille worked at the Geneva-based World Organisation Against Torture, leading its Middle East and North Africa work from Tunisia and carrying out advocacy and trainings on torture prevention in Libya. In 2011, Wille was a consultant to the International Commission of Jurists in Geneva. In 2009, she documented alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity with the Al Mezan Center for Human Rights in Gaza. At a London solicitor's firm, she subsequently helped bring these cases to UK courts under universal jurisdiction. Wille received her bachelor's degree from Harvard University, her graduate diploma in law from City University London, and her LLM in human rights and humanitarian law from the University of Essex. She speaks English, German, French, and Arabic.

You can follow her on Twitter at [@belkiswille](#).