

HUGH MACLEOD



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INTRODUCTION

Hugh Macleod is a barrister, law lecturer and journalist with a Master's in International Human Rights Law from Oxford University. He spent a decade in the Middle East as a foreign correspondent and filmmaker, reporting on humanitarian and political crises in Syria, Lebanon and Yemen, and produced award-winning coverage of the Syrian uprising and crackdown. Now living in Copenhagen, Hugh's practice focuses on the public understanding of human rights law, particularly as it relates to international development, the rule of law, and climate change liability.

EDUCATION

2019-2020: **City Law School**, University of London, **Bar Professional Training Course**: Very Competent. Vocational training in English law for representing clients in all civil and criminal proceedings, from opinion writing and drafting, to written and oral court advocacy. I specialised in Advanced Criminal Litigation and Fraud. (60 ECTS)

2017-2019: **University of Oxford**, New College: **Master of Studies in International Human Rights Law**: Merit. I specialised in Refugee Law; Business and Human Rights; International Environmental Law and Human Rights; and the International Rights of the Child. My dissertation was on IHRL in Investor-State Dispute Settlement. (90 ECTS)

2015-2017: **Nottingham Trent University** Law School: **Graduate Diploma in Law**: Commendation. Winner of the Shoosmiths Prize for Best Research Project 2016/17 for my paper on Climate Change Liability in English Law. (60 ECTS)

1999-2002: **University of Oxford**, Brasenose College: **BA Hons** English Language and Literature: 2:1 (180 ECTS)

CONSULTANCY

Mar 2021: I am the **Communications Director** for the **Oxford Climate Alumni Network**, a global alumni network committed to working together to meet public and private sustainability and net zero emissions targets.

Feb-Apr 2021: My consultancy work for the **International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims** included writing content for the Secretary General, and producing public awareness films.

Oct 2020-ongoing: I am a consultant for Denmark's **International Media Support** currently researching safety of journalists in Ethiopia, having completed an extensive report of the global impact of Covid-19 on public interest media. I presented that report at the opening of the academic conference during the UN's World Press Freedom Day.

Sept 2020-ongoing: I work as a producer on **Duty of Care**, a documentary film partnering with Belgium's **Klimaatzaak** NGO, which tells the story of global climate change litigation through the groundbreaking work of one Dutch lawyer.

May-Aug 2020: I worked for the director of Copenhagen University's **Human Rights Nudge** researching climate change litigation in courts around the world.

Dec 2019-Jun 2020: For the UK's **Good Law Project** I researched strategic environmental litigation, including prospects for bringing an action in tort against the UK government.

2005-2012: While based in the Middle East, I taught photojournalism workshops in Beirut and Cairo for the **Soros Foundation**. I worked as a media consultant for the **Norwegian Refugee Council** and wrote the annual **Media Sustainability Index** in Syria and Lebanon for Washington-based **IREX**. From Yemen, I reported for risk analysts the **Good Governance Group** and was a consultant photographer for the **UNHCR**.

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

Nov 2020-(ongoing): **Visiting Lecturer** at **University of Law, London**: For the UK's largest law school, I teach undergraduate students human rights and public law, tort, EU law, equity, and crime.

Jan 2020: **Six Pump Court Chambers**: I undertook training with barristers at one of the UK's leading environmental law chambers, including researching the UK's Environment Bill, assisting at Crown Court criminal trials, and writing for Chambers' climate change blog.

Jun 2019: **Monckton Chambers**: I undertook training with barristers at one of the UK's leading regulatory law chambers, including drafting after conference at the Competition and Market Authority, and advising a foreign government seeking to reject a case at the UN Human Rights Committee.

Sep 2019-Feb 2020: **Barrister Training**: During this time I competed in **formal legal debating** at Gray's Inn, developing my research, written arguments, and oral advocacy. I trained at the Great Debaters Club on arguing, spotting logical fallacies, and utilising rhetoric. I also undertook **pro bono** legal work with the **Free Representation Unit** (FRU), learning how to represent clients appealing the loss of social security benefits in the First Tier Tribunal.

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WRITTEN JOURNALISM

Apr 2011-Dec 2012: **Correspondent** for **The Sunday Times**: After contributing reporting from Syria, Yemen and Lebanon since 2005, I led coverage of Syria's uprising for the UK's best-selling quality Sunday broadsheet, including running local reporters in Syria and Lebanon. Weekly leads in World News and Focus included breaking stories on the Assad regime's militia, torture, Iranian military assistance and the formation of Syria's armed rebels.

Nov 2010-Sep 2011: **Al Jazeera English**: I recruited a team of reporters in Damascus and Beirut, gathering breaking news for Al Jazeera English's online coverage of the Syrian protest movement. Features included breaking the story of the death by state torture of a 13-year-old boy, news that went on to make global headlines. With my partner, our coverage of Syria during the period was shortlisted for the **2012 Amnesty International Media Awards**.

Jan 2011-Dec 2012: **Correspondent** for **GlobalPost**: I wrote and produced multi-media coverage for America's first online news company dedicated to foreign affairs, including short films on Syria that won a **2011 Peabody Award**.

Sep 2006-Nov 2011: **The Guardian** and **Observer**. Reporting from Damascus, Beirut and Yemen, I covered Iraqi refugees, upheaval between Syria and Lebanon, the War on Terror, poverty and development, and the Syrian uprising.

Nov 2006-Dec 2008: I was Syria-Lebanon **correspondent** for **The San Francisco Chronicle** covering the aftermath of the Hezbollah-Israeli July War, US military and security issues, and human rights.

Sep 2005-Mar 2010: **Editor IRIN news agency**: Lebanon and Syria editor for the UN's award winning humanitarian news agency. I wrote and photographed over 200 reports on development issues, and the July 2006 War in Lebanon.

Sep 2004-Jan 2011: I was a contributor to other leading British news publications, including **The Economist**, **BBC News** online, **The Times**, **The Independent on Sunday**, **The Sunday Telegraph** and **The Sunday Herald**.

Jun 2003-Apr 2004: **Staff on The Independent Foreign Desk**: International News Assistant: Daily reporting and editing of international news, and ran the foreign service to the media group.

BROADCAST JOURNALISM

Jan 2010-Dec 2012: **Director of Film Company**: With a former CNN producer I set up an independent documentary film company. I was the director, cameraman and scriptwriter. Over three years, our films included the following:

- **'Little Dictator'**: 25 mins: A film about political satirists swept up by Syria's revolution. Commissioned and broadcast internationally by **Al Jazeera English's** flagship documentary strand, **Witness**.
- **'Yemen's School of Democracy'**: 30 mins: The story of school children campaigning through the highs and lows of Yemen's only free and fair election. Bought by **Al Jazeera Witness**, Australia's **SBS** and the **Guardian**.
- **'Syria's Youth Revolution'**: 12 mins: The stories of three young protesters who helped start Syria's uprising, commissioned by France's **ARTE** Reportage, later broadcast on America's **PBS Newshour**.
- **'Syria's Children of War'**: 25 mins: The first documentary shot in Syria highlighting the plight of children during the war, it was featured at the **IDFA** in Amsterdam and the **EcranMed** Film Festival in Montreal in 2013.
- **'Hunger in Yemen: A Silent Emergency'**: 25 mins: Travelling into remote, rural Yemen to highlight the little-known humanitarian crisis in the country, bought by the **World Food Programme**.
- **'A Force is Born'**: 5 mins: The first footage of the rebel Free Syrian Army, broadcast on the UK's **Channel 4 News** and later on America's **PBS Newshour** and on Denmark's **TV2**.
- **'Inside Assad's Torture Chambers'**: 7 mins: A torturer and a survivor of torture describe the horrors of life and death inside the Assad regime's prison system. Part of an entry that won a 2011 **Peabody Award**.

Sep 2004-Dec 2012: I was a Middle East correspondent for **Global Radio News** reporting live for **BBC News 24**, **BBC Radio Scotland**, **Canadian CBC**, **Dublin FM**, and American **CBS Radio**. I recorded feature pieces for the **BBC World Service** and **podcasts** for the **Guardian**. I also did **live TV** from Beirut, for **Future News** and **France 24**.

PERSONAL INTERESTS

Having been lucky enough to travel parts of America, India, South America, South-East Asia and the Middle East, I enjoy drawing on these experiences to inform my career. I play drums, and have gigged with bands from east London, to Glastonbury, to surfer bars in Sri Lanka. I am also a keen sailor and obtained my RYA Day Skipper qualification. I am a member of London's **Gray's Inn**, the NGO **Justice**, and the **Oxford Climate Alumni Network**.

REFEREES

Mr Colin Harvey, Professor, Queen's University Belfast; Tutor, University of Oxford MSt in IHRL: c.harvey@qub.ac.uk

Ms Colette S. Heefner, Global Safety Advisor, International Media Support: cosh@mediasupport.org

Dr Sos Eltis, Fellow and Tutor in English, Brasenose College, Oxford: sos.eltis@bnc.ox.ac.uk