

Raghida Dergham



Raghida Dergham is the Founder and Executive Chairman of Beirut Institute and Columnist for The National. She served as Columnist, Senior Diplomatic Correspondent, and NY Bureau Chief for the London-based Al-Hayat for 28 years.

She has contributed to Al Joumhouria, Huffington Post, Arab News, Al Arabiya English, The New York Times, The Washington Post, and Newsweek. She was a political analyst for NBC, MSNBC, and LBC for eight years as well as a contributing editor for Global Viewpoint produced for the Los Angeles Times Syndicate.

Since founding Beirut Institute, she has partnered with remarkable board members, global think tanks, exceptional staff, and with host governments of the Beirut Institute Summit such as the United Arab Emirates. Such partnering has allowed her to lead an organization since its inception till it became a highly respected global brand recognized by other think tanks all over the world.

A specialist on global strategy, she is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and an Honorary Fellow at the Foreign Policy Association. Dergham served on the International Media Council of the World Economic Forum and is on the Development Advisory Committee of the InterAcademy Partnership, a global network of science academies.

Dergham is a frequent lecturer at universities, think tanks, and business councils throughout the United States, Europe and Asia. She has spoken at Harvard, Princeton, Columbia and Georgetown among other distinguished universities. Dergham is a frequent participant in Policy conferences worldwide.

As an international correspondent and television commentator on global affairs in the US, Europe, Russia, China and the Arab world, Dergham has been seen as a woman who broke the glass ceiling multiple times and inspired young women to become political commentators and analysts. Her first television appearance was as a guest of the prestigious McNeil Lehrer News Hour in 1979 at age 26. Since then, she has made over a thousand appearances as a global affairs specialist and expert on the UN.

Since the late 1980s, Dergham has interviewed over 40 global heads of state and leaders including US president George W Bush, Russia's president Boris Yeltsin, Egypt's president Hosni Mubarak, HM King Hussain of Jordan and HM King Abdullah II of Jordan, Iran's president Abolhassan Bani Sadr, Palestinian presidents Yasser Arafat and Mahmoud Abbas, France's president Giscard d'Estaing, Philippine's president Ferdinand Marcos, India's prime minister Rajiv Gandhi, Sweden's prime minister Olof Palme- and over 80 ministers from all over the globe. She covered the historic American-Soviet summits and 27th Soviet Communist Party Congress. Dergham has interviewed and worked with succeeding UN Secretary Generals, including, Javier Perez de Cuellar, Boutros Boutros Ghali, Kofi Annan and Ban Ki-moon, among others. She moderated a roundtable of eight presidents and prime ministers for the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in Bangkok.

While President of the United Nations Correspondents Association in 1997, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan appointed Dergham as a member of the Task Force on the Reorientation of Public Information. She served as Chairman of the Dag Hammarskjold Fund Board in 2005.

Dergham was featured in PBS Documentary "Caught in The Crossfire" and is quoted in several books in many languages. A recipient of numerous lifetime achievement awards, she is in the State University of New York's (SUNY) Hall of Fame as a Distinguished Alumna and has received an Honorary Doctorate of Letters in 2003 from SUNY which comprises the largest comprehensive system of universities and colleges in the world.

She was named one of the 100 Most Powerful Arab Women in 2011 and in 2016, and in 2017 she was named "Arab Woman of the Year" for her achievements in Journalism.

For more information: www.beirutinstitute.org and @RaghidaDergham | @BeirutInstitute