* Why did you decide to report about the conflict (Syrian War)?

I was a journalist. So, I decided to go on with my work, though it was very dangerous to report the facts, because of the Syrian government targeting of journalists.

* Do you work with Western or Arab News agencies and what are the main differencies about working for Arab or Western news agencies?

I worked with both.

In general, Arab agencies are owned or controlled by governments, and have very clear bias.

* What do you think about objectivity?

Objectivity is an indispensable element of “true” journalism by definition.

* Regarding the journalistic boundaries, how do you define yourself? And what do you think about the contribution of stringers, citizen journalists and local reporters?

I am an independent journalist, with a focus on reporting ethically on human rights issues. I helped countless foreign journalists to report on Syria.

Citizen journalists played a crucial role in in reporting the news in Syria.

Since 2011, citizen journalism has spread in Syria and provided great services to the process of news coverage and dissemination, and expanded largely because among other reasons, professional journalists were by the Syrian regime by killing and arrest, and then the kidnapping by ISIS and Nusra Front.

These conditions, in addition to the belief of many citizen journalists in the necessity of their participation in documenting the events in Syria and transmitting them to the world, paved the way for citizen journalists to play perhaps the largest role in covering and transmitting news in Syria, and they became the most important part in the process of reporting the news, regardless of the extent of their commitment to journalism ethics or their knowledge of the standards of the press. Journalistic professionalism became a great challenge for them. In light of the major crimes that these citizen journalists witnessed or were exposed to, which affected them on a personal level, and directly negatively affected their lives, a number of them resorted to emotional exaggerations in depicting reality, more than objectivity, which negatively affected professional journalism.

Syrian professional journalists had very few options: Either keep working in Syria and the state propaganda outlets, or leave the country, if they had managed to survive detention and hunt by the Syrian regime in the first place. Consequently, they started fleeing Syria or the regime-controlled areas to the "liberated" areas in Syria.

Because Syrian media is controlled by state security, turning it into a propaganda and denial machine, reporting the facts/news became a basic act of resistance by ordinary Syrians in their revolt against Assad regime. Thousands of Syrians turned into citizen journalists and started using their smart phones to film what they saw going on around them, uploading videos and photos, and providing news.

Many or most foreign news agencies depend on citizen journalists to obtain news.

Here are 2 links, they may be useful:

<https://www.refworld.org/docid/57765bc14.html>

<https://www.newarab.com/opinion/syrias-citizen-journalists-frontline-press-freedom>