لاسـتطلاع الرأي والدراسيات المجتمعية

# Interviews of the Invited 'Mohammed Ali Al-Husseini' on Al-Arabiya Channel: An Analytical Reading

October 2024





# مركز الفيض العلمي والدراسات المجتمعية

#### Introduction

The deceptive media machine has become accustomed to generating controversy, illusions, strife, and even death, rendering them counterparts to truth and life. It skillfully broadcasts these narratives into the minds and hearts of its audience. A prime example of this phenomenon is the appearance of the so-called Mohammed Ali Al-Husseini on Al-Arabiya Channel in recent days, coinciding with the escalation of the current war in southern Lebanon across multiple programs, including "Direct Question," "Special Coverage," and "Dialogue Hour." He presented predictions, information, and analyses regarding the general situation in the region, particularly in the countries of the Resistance and Retaliation Axis. This appearance has been met with unparalleled promotion and marketing, orchestrated deliberately by an inflated media apparatus that encompasses numerous satellite channels, applications, and digital armies. This figure and his interviews have elicited a flood of opinions, both in support and condemnation.

In this context, Al-Faiyd Scientific Center has taken the initiative to monitor these interviews, conducting observation and analysis to provide a scientific perspective on their content and form.

#### **Background and Questions**

. Al-Arabiya Channel has been known since its inception for its hostile stance toward those with religious and ideological leanings, particularly those aligned with the Resistance Axis and opponents of the Zionist entity and American presence in the region. Their media policy and editorial discourse adopt a clear exclusionary logic. However, what is striking and peculiar is that recently, the channel has provided ample and excessive space for a Shiite figure dressed in religious attire, allowing him to present necessary clarifications and discussions regarding Shiite beliefs, symbols, and history. This topic carries numerous significant questions about the channel's intentions, its collaboration with Mohammed Ali Al-Husseini, and his connections and objectives.

.This channel is directly funded by the Saudi royal family and is explicitly aimed at undermining the opposition to American presence while amplifying Saudi influence in the region. If the intentions and goals behind hosting a Shiite figure in clerical garb are not a direct accusation, they certainly raise suspicion and doubt



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. Al-Arabiya Channel has employed a strategy of distraction and misdirection through the presence of Mohammed Ali Al-Husseini during a critical period in the history of the region and its liberation and revolutionary movements. Instead of covering the tragedies faced by the people of Gaza in Palestine and southern Lebanon—manifested in destruction, displacement, and deliberate killings by the Zionist entity and its supporters—the channel brings this guest from the Shiite community, symbolically associated with the black turban and its significance for hundreds of millions of Muslims worldwide, to discuss these highly sensitive topics in the current context.

. This strategy diverts attention from the perpetrator and shifts the conversation to the reasons for the killings and the main instigator (Iran, as they attempt to assert), a role that Mohammed Ali Al-Husseini has played during the days and events following the martyrdom of the Leader of the Resistance, Sayyid Hassan Nasrallah, may God be pleased with him.

Perhaps the best way to begin is with the following set of questions:

Q: Why is Saudi citizenship granted to a Lebanese Shiite citizen who spent a significant portion of his life studying in the religious seminary in Qom, and who claims to be a former member of Hezbollah?

Q: Why is a Lebanese figure granted Saudi citizenship despite being officially accused of collaborating and spying for the Zionist entity in 2012, according to the permanent military court in Lebanon?

Q: Why is such an excessive media platform provided to a figure who showcases the Shiite historical, doctrinal, political, and social narrative on Al-Arabiya Channel?

Q: What is the reason for choosing the current time to host Mohammed Ali Al-Husseini and broadcast his episodes in this organized programming through Al-Arabiya Channel and other associated websites and applications?



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#### General Aims of These Interviews

§ Intensifying psychological warfare against the Resistance Axis and its audience, as well as the peoples of the region at large.

§ Promoting him as a leader for the upcoming phase; even if unsuccessful, this serves as an opportunity to tarnish the image of religious leadership.

§ Undermining the image of the Resistance Axis and its leadership through internal qualitative opposition.

§ Educating the public toward calmness and reconciliation, positioning diplomatic channels as the only means of engagement with the entity.

§ Laying the groundwork for creating an environment conducive to normalization with the Zionist entity.

### v Specific Aims of These Interviews

§ Weakening the perception of Sayyid Hassan Nasrallah as a leader (prior to martyrdom), portraying him as merely a media figure rather than a field commander.

§ Assigning responsibility for the war to Hezbollah, suggesting it provided the rationale for the entity to target Lebanon.

§ Implying that the Islamic Republic of Iran is not trustworthy regarding the Resistance Axis and is risking its leadership by sacrificing them.

§ Suggesting that the Islamic Republic operates through a deep state, asserting there is no modern state as such, and that the leadership of the Islamic Revolution is ineffective.



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§ Educating that a radical transformation is imminent in the region, moving toward normalization with the entity.

§ Preparing the masses for the alleged peace and calm, promoting the idea that the "Husaini" approach is suitable for the upcoming phase.

§ Asserting that the support movement for the resistance merely represents an expansion of Iranian political Islam, positioning it as the greatest threat to other religious institutions, such as the Najaf Ashraf authority and its seminary.

§ Presenting him as a peace intermediary and leader for the next phase.

§ Inciting the Iranian people to initiate attempts to change the current regime from within.

v Reflections on the Form and Content of the Discourse

§ Mohammed Ali Al-Husseini presents his discourse in a paternalistic manner, positioning himself as the "trustworthy advisor" to others, as if he embodies peace, guidance, and truth. § He employs Shiite narratives, traditions, and sayings from the Ahl al-Bayt (peace be upon them) to criticize the Resistance Axis and all its factions, relying on a strategy of internal qualitative opposition in his discourse.

§ His speeches are directed solely at Arabs, intentionally neglecting the broader Islamic audience, consistently asserting, "We are Arabs, and we must adhere to nationalism and belong to the Arab," while willfully ignoring the humanitarian and Islamic dimensions of the discourse.



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§ He mentions intricate details regarding operations and movements of the Zionist entity and resistance factions, including specifics about personnel and numbers, without citing any sources for this information.

§ He provides numerous recommendations and plans to eliminate Hezbollah and the Resistance Axis in detail, naming locations and individuals, as well as what the entity requires to achieve this.

§ His discourse functions as that of an official spokesperson or authorized representative of the entity, acting as a strategic expert and advisor on military operations and how to defeat Hezbollah.

§ He contradicts himself in numerous instances within a single episode or between different episodes.

#### v Some Contradictions

oHis speech lacks objectivity and neutrality; it focuses on a specific role and task, which is the direct attack on the personality of Sayyed Nasrallah. He emphasizes tarnishing his image and undermining his reputation by labeling him with inappropriate descriptions and comparing him to notorious global figures like Hitler and Napoleon. He uses derogatory terms against Sayyed Nasrallah, such as arrogance and vanity. It is notable that these descriptions and terms cannot be associated with the character and legacy of the martyr Sayyed, as he is one of the beloved and charismatic figures, recognized for his unique charisma by both friends and many of his adversaries.

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oHe does not clearly define his role and title (presenting himself as the Secretary-General of the Arab Islamic Council—an almost fictional council akin to any organizations established to cover the hidden roles of certain personalities). He does not refer to the sources of his statements or precisely what he represents; he oscillates between being an analyst at times, a forecaster at others, and claiming to speak with precise information without clarifying the source of that information or its accuracy.

oHe exaggerates the image of the strength and infiltration of the Zionist entity and its military arsenal while significantly downplaying the dignity and capabilities of the Islamic Republic, in addition to showing disdain for Hezbollah's movement and the patience, struggle, and victories of its members.

oHe promotes the idea among Mossad and Arab governments that Hezbollah is an Iranian creation and that it is an instrument devoid of will and decision-making, claiming that the party's leaders and members merely execute orders from Iranian leadership.

oHe attempts to sow division among Shia circles and their leadership, focusing on fabricated differences within Lebanese society, especially among Shia and Hezbollah.

oHe exaggerates the imminent victories of the enemy's army, suggesting that the entity will use advanced and modern weapons, which is a clear method of intimidation and psychological warfare.

oThere is an evident collaboration between the program's producer and presenter and the guest, Muhammad Ali Al-Husseini, through constant reminders from the presenter to the guest, especially attempts to link events to Iran.



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oA closer examination of the interviews reveals that what is presented is a form of discourse and direction, bearing no resemblance to journalistic or analytical work.

oHe never accused the entity outright nor condemned its criminal behavior, instead placing the blame for current events on Hezbollah and Hamas, as well as the Islamic Republic of Iran. This approach contradicts the most basic levels of objectivity and neutrality in discussing and analyzing issues.

oHe frequently tries to mislead the audience into believing he is a noble advisor, suggesting that the upcoming phase is one of peace and prosperity, advocating for the abandonment of arms and a move towards reconciliation, implying that normalization is the only path for the future of the region and its peoples.

oHe holds the Islamic Republic of Iran and its high religious leaders responsible for being directly implicated in the execution of Sayyed Muhammad Baqir al-Sadr in Iraq, the disappearance of Sayyed Musa al-Sadr in Libya, and the assassination of Sayyed Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim in Najaf after 2003. This discourse is superficial and naive, completely detached from truth and credibility.

oHe does not reference the recent history of Takfiri Salafism in the Arab world, especially its religious institutions, and their mobilization of thousands of Takfiri and terrorist fighters who entered Iraq after 2003, killing hundreds of thousands of peaceful Shia citizens due to the new political process and system that elevated Shia Iraqis to prominence, reflecting their presence and effectiveness in the regional and international arenas.





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oHe also fails to mention the behavior of Arab governments and regimes in regressing the region, oppressing its peoples, and subjecting them to a state of dissociation, backwardness, and loss of direction.

#### **Direct Superficial Contradictions**

### Sayyed Nasrallah

- ü Sayyed Nasrallah is merely a media leader.
- ü Sayyed Nasrallah is the backbone of Hezbollah and a field commander.

#### Sayyed Nasrallah

- ü Sayyed Nasrallah is ineffective; therefore, he has not been targeted.
- ü Sayyed Nasrallah is the leader of the axis; thus, he has been targeted.

#### Hezbollah

- ü Iran will not allow Hezbollah to use significant and precise weapons to strike important locations.
- ü Hezbollah will use long-range and precise missiles to target Tel Aviv and Netanyahu's residence.

## ·Islamic Republic of Iran

- ü The Republic is very weak and highly penetrated by intelligence agencies.
- ü The Iranian lobby in America is stronger than the Zionist lobby there.

### Alternative Readings of the Interview

1. The nature of the questions in most episodes was inspired by real events. For instance, after the failure of Israel to achieve all its objectives in Gaza, it sought a new victory by targeting Hezbollah, particularly the martyrdom of Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah. Furthermore, the invited guest, Muhammad Ali Al-Husseini, resides in an environment that is highly hostile to the Resistance Axis, specifically Saudi Arabia and some normalization states.





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Consequently, some questions and answers reflect the general situation in these countries and represent their wishes and aspirations, and some may have been funneled from the Zionist entity to these states, disseminated to market this individual and similar figures as new representations of future leadership.

- 2. The character of Muhammad Ali Al-Husseini is marked by evident contradictions. At times, he presents himself as a religious preacher who rejects political Islam, while at other times he markets himself as a political analyst offering his own interpretations. He sometimes claims to possess accurate information from his own sources and at other times presents himself as a field military analyst, describing the battle in the south and the maneuvers and tactics of the Zionist entity during its incursion into southern Lebanon.
- 3. The nature of the images and video clips broadcast by Al-Arabiya channel in the program all contain evidence of the destruction and devastation from the war in southern Lebanon. The objective of this is to enhance support for their psychological warfare and to instill high doses of frustration and despair among the Resistance members, their families, and the broader Arab and Islamic community.
- 4. The content of the episodes and the nature of the questions, as aired by Al-Arabiya channel, suggest to those who scrutinize most of its clips that they are prepared as a pre-agreed script between the channel and Muhammad Ali Al-Husseini. For example, he engages in analysis and prepares the viewers, drawing their attention to a topic he emphasizes, while the channel management presents previously recorded video clips that support his idea, to which he later comments that these clips affirm his credibility.



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5. His presentation in most episodes is neither objective nor neutral, exhibiting clear language of bias and animosity toward Hezbollah, the entire Resistance Axis, and the Islamic Republic of Iran. This serves to support psychological warfare and bolster the strength of the Zionist entity.

- 6. The discourse of Muhammad Ali Al-Husseini does not differ significantly from the discourse of the Zionist-American axis and the states normalizing relations with the Zionist entity. In some episodes, he expresses sentiments of Jewish animosity, perhaps even more than the Jews themselves, while defending the entity and portraying its actions as a form of the right to self-defense.
- 7. In every episode, he plays on themes of Arabism, Arab nationalism, and the Arab embrace, discussing how to eliminate and curb Persian expansion—as he describes it—and strives to present himself as a trustworthy advisor to the resistant Arab peoples, urging them to return to the Arab embrace. We believe this is a tactic to program the Arab mind according to a nationalist ideology, separating the peoples of the region despite their human-social closeness and religious-cultural similarities.
- 8. He emphasizes legitimizing normalization with Israel through a series of comparisons between stable Arab states, which enjoy security and economic stability, and the countries hosting resistance peoples, which are suffering from destruction and devastation. Moreover, he legitimizes normalization by stating that the era of war and martyrdom has ended, and now we are in the "Hassanian phase," referring to the period of Imam Hassan (peace be upon him)—that is, reconciliation with the other.



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9. We note that this statement (calming and reconciliation) has been raised but in a different manner. One of the sheikhs of the tribes in Anbar has currently demanded a Sunni region, mentioning that the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) normalized relations with the Jews when the Islamic call was weak. This statement was made during an interview on Samarra TV.

- 10. The name of the state of Israel is mentioned repeatedly in most of his interviews, indicating clear signs of official recognition of this entity, and it does not differ from the nature of the discourse of the entity itself or the allied states.
- 11. The term "cancerous tumor" is a description used by the free people of the world and the resistors for the usurping entity, while Muhammad Ali attempts to project this description onto Hezbollah, promoting a culture that suggests the region will only stabilize by eradicating this cancerous tumor, which is a malicious approach.
- 12. In the early episodes, he consistently criticized Hezbollah, blaming it for all the destruction and suffering of the war, while exonerating the aggressor, the Zionist entity, justifying its actions as merely a justified reaction to protect its citizens from Hezbollah's attacks.
- 13. He often seeks to prepare the collective mindset of the Lebanese people by broadcasting ideas of destruction, devastation, and shortages of funds and food supplies. For instance, he mentioned that the Hassan Foundation in Beirut was bombed and contained significant amounts of money and deposits from individuals in southern Lebanon, and its charitable centers were bombed, asserting they are now in need of money, food, and shelter, which is one of the psychological warfare tactics.





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14. He asserts that the funds coming from Iran, according to his claims, are only enjoyed by members of the Resistance, while the other people of southern Lebanon suffer only the horrors, destruction, and devastation caused by their wars. Here, he attempts to prepare the masses and create grounds to delegitimize the resistance movements or to mobilize public opinion against them.

15. He emphasizes in most interviews that the region is on the verge of comprehensive change, specifically referring to the states of the Resistance Axis, without mentioning any other Arab or regional countries. The purpose of this is to increase psychological warfare pressure and instill despair among the members of the Resistance Axis.

16. Most episodes begin by broadcasting negative energy and frustration to the supporters of the Resistance by detailing the number of Israeli airstrikes, as well as the number of martyrs and injured. Nothing favorable for the Resistance is mentioned, and the episode concludes with a reminder that the region is on the brink of comprehensive change, which has been decided, thereby intensifying the psychological warfare waged by this channel and its guest.

17. Much of the information he provides lacks specified sources; he merely states that he knows everything.

18. There are numerous contradictions in his statements, particularly when he analyzes Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah's character before his martyrdom. Muhammad Ali claims that Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah is an impulsive figure and that the greatest jihad is to speak the truth against him, asserting he suffers from psychological disorders and visits a psychiatrist daily. However, after his martyrdom, he describes him as a flexible character with ease and remarkable humility.



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19. He also states that Hezbollah's existence is dependent on Iranian support, while in other instances, he affirms that its presence relies on backing from Damascus. He discusses the accuracy and precision of the Zionist entity's army in targeting objectives, citing that Israel (the usurping entity) succeeded in displacing half a million Lebanese from the south.

20. He has confirmed that an invasion is imminent, and the Zionist army will enter southern Lebanon accompanied by a musical band. However, after the resistance's steadfastness and the entity's failure to invade, he began justifying this by claiming that the entity is moving and advancing cautiously and deliberately, albeit slowly.

21. In most of his episodes, he consistently portrays a bleak image of the region, asserting that it is headed for destruction and devastation intended to bring about a comprehensive change in the areas of the Resistance Axis. He insists that the decision for change has been made, only to subsequently state that there is still an opportunity for correction, which lies in the Resistance abandoning its resistance and opting for peace according to the Zionist vision—implying quiet normalization steps.

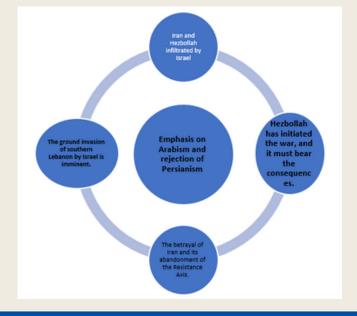
22. In some episodes, he attempts to compare the Shia religious authorities, particularly the Najaf Ashraf authority with the Qom al-Muqaddasa authority, aiming to provide a description that disparages the Iranian authority and depicts its movement as an expression of expansionism and mere political Islam. He then praises the Najaf authority for not aspiring to political Islam, as he puts it. The intent behind this is to continuously affirm criticism of what the Islamic Republic of Iran, under the leadership of Sayyed Khamenei, provides in terms of support for the entire Resistance Axis, with his words completely devoid of any sense of love or loyalty toward the Najaf Ashraf authority.





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- 23. He focuses on active factions in Iraq, particularly the Hezbollah Brigades and al-Nujaba Movement, explicitly indicating the need to eliminate their leaders, destroy their weapons, and sway public opinion against them, in addition to targeting the political forces and the current prime minister.
- 24. He links the future political, social, and religious situation in Iraq to a specific public and leadership that he feels resonate with his views and those of Arab governments, especially the Gulf states. He believes that rallying around them would diminish the presence of the Resistance Axis in Iraq and the Iranian influence, as he puts it.
- 25. In the content analysis methodology, he emphasizes the frequency of certain words intended to convey specific messages. Through our monitoring of several of these clips, we found that there are two stages in these episodes: the pre-response stage of the promised response (the second Iranian missile attack on the entity) and the post-Iranian response stage. In the first stage, there is a consistent emphasis on several keywords, as shown below, which indicates insistence and repetition of these words, with the aim of enhancing the effectiveness of psychological warfare and attempting to instill despair and hopelessness within the ranks of the Resistance Axis, as follows:





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After the Iranian response, the discussions began to focus on downplaying the significance of this response, asserting that it did not achieve its objectives. These discussions emphasized the following points.

v Highlighting the prevalence of agents within Iran and a significant infiltration at the highest levels of the Revolutionary Guard leadership.

v Undermining the value of the Iranian response, claiming it was coordinated with the United States to target specific objectives devoid of personnel and essential materials.

v Affirming that the Zionist response will target the Iranian nuclear reactor and energy sources.

v Indicating that the discussions after the Iranian response shifted towards describing the structure and characteristics of Hezbollah, lacking any specific information or facts as previously claimed by him prior to the Iranian response.

v Focusing in the discussions after the Iranian response on some historical files related to certain security formations of the Islamic Republic of Iran, attributing to them a sense of infiltration, betrayal, and concessions, as he expresses, for the interests of Iran.

#### **Conclusions**

§ Through a deep understanding of the discourse and an analysis of psychological tendencies, subconscious projections, verbal expressions, and body language, it becomes evident that this individual represents a significant project that has been in preparation for some time, directly targeting the esteemed leader, Sayyid Hassan Nasrallah, may Allah be pleased with him. This effort is part of a larger media machinery aiming to undermine that pure value-based existence.

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§ There are major indications that the Zionist entity and its collaborators have faced a failure in military, political, or social confrontations. Thus, they resorted to preparing internal qualitative opposition to undermine confidence within social circles regarding the leadership of His Eminence or the soundness of his beliefs and lofty goals

§ There is a significant possibility that this individual will soon be absent from the media landscape, having fulfilled their role and completed their discrediting agenda. We also propose the hypothesis of potential physical elimination of this individual by the same sponsoring entity to achieve various objectives

§ We believe there is a project aimed at preparing other figures of similar caliber in diverse forms, but with different roles that will be presented according to the circumstances and conditions. However, they represent a single project targeting the creation of internal qualitative opposition.