

# Karen Dabrowska

Journalist focusing on the Middle East and Islamic Affairs

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## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Karen Dabrowska was born in Wellington, New Zealand in 1956. Her parents were refugees from the city of Lvov in eastern Poland, who could not return to their country at the end of the Second World War because the region was annexed by the then Soviet Union.

After completing a BA at Victoria University, Wellington in sociology and politics and a journalism course at Wellington Polytechnic, Ms Dabrowska joined the *Evening Post* a national daily in 1979. During her six years with the paper she worked as a business and court reporter, covered the commercial fishing and horticultural industries, wrote a series of articles on alternative medicine and welfare issues and contributed freelance articles to *Commercial Fishing Magazine* and the *RSA Journal*. She also did voluntary work for Prisoners Aid. After leaving the *Evening Post* she worked as a press officer for the New Zealand Theatre Federation and the New Zealand Standards Association.

In 1985 she was accepted for a post-graduate course in international journalism at City University, London. Her MA thesis dealt with the effectiveness of the Polish-government-in-exile as a pressure group.

After graduating in 1986 with an MA (with distinction) she spent two months in Ethiopia researching and writing *Addis Ababa: A pocket guide to Ethiopia's capital city*.

In 1987 she was appointed features editor of *New Horizon*, a Middle Eastern/ Islamic publication dealing mainly with the politics and culture of the Islamic world. She became editor of *New Horizon* in 1988. After the magazine changed its focus to Islamic banking, she assisted in setting up a number of English language newsletters dealing with the Middle East such as *Dialogue*, *Iraq Update* and *Kuwait Review*. She also worked as assistant editor of *Al-Muhajir* and *Gulf States Newsletter* and contributed articles to *Discourse* a monthly publication promoting Muslim-Christian relations and *The Yemen Times*.

From 1991 to July 2011 Ms Dabrowska worked as London correspondent for Jana News Agency. She was also assistant editor of *Islamic Tourism* magazine [www.islamictourism.com](http://www.islamictourism.com) and undertook some editorial assignments for Cyrus Consultants and ZDF German television and has regular transcription assignments for the Abrar Islamic Foundation. On December 19<sup>th</sup> 2004 she set up a good news website about Iraq. She joined the Sudanese National Council as development officer in August 2011. In March 2012 she began contributing articles to the *Tripoli Post* and is now the paper's London correspondent.

In 2002 *Iraq: The Bradt Travel Guide* which has been reprinted twice was published. Ms Dabrowska is also the author of *Iraq: Then And Now – a guide to the country and its people* which was published in April 2008 and *Bahrain Briefing: The Struggle for Democracy (December 1994 – December 1996)* and two reports on the Iraqi regime's violations of human rights and drainage of the marshlands of southern Iraq.

She has recently completed three books : *The Libyan Revolution: diary of Qadhafi's newsgirl in London*, *Into the Abyss: Human Rights Violations and the suppression of the*

*popular movement for change* and a collection of short stories: *Melancholy memories: foreign dreams*.

A second edition of *Iraq: the Bradt Travel Guide* and *Justice Denied: Riad El Taher and the oil-for food surcharge* is currently being prepared.

In the course of her work she has visited over 30 countries including Afghanistan, Australia, Fiji, Oman, Syria, Libya, Palestine, Morocco, Tunisia, Iraq, Jordan, Western Sahara, Ethiopia, USA, Iran, Yemen, St Lucia, North Cyprus, Turkey, Canada, Poland, Ukraine, Kenya and Tanzania.

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