

A newswoman defies her assassins

May Chidiac, Lebanon's Diane Sawyer, was nearly killed by a car bomb. Now she's back, and more outspoken than ever.



Chidiac, back on the set, top; her destroyed Range Rover

THIS JULY, JUST 10 MONTHS AFTER LOSING her left hand and leg to a car bomb planted under the seat of her new Range Rover by men alleged to be pro-Syrian thugs, Lebanese TV journalist May Chidiac returned triumphantly to the air. Her history of on-air remarks criticizing Syria for stationing troops in Lebanon and engineering the 2005 assassination of her country's prime minister had made her a target, but she picked up exactly where she'd left off, hosting one of her country's most popular news talk shows, called, fittingly, *With All Courage*. The only difference: Chidiac was wearing a prosthetic hand—complete with French manicure and a large gold ring—and an artificial leg, and carefully angled her good ear toward her guest (the blast had deafened her on

one side). Chidiac continued to broadcast while the streets near her office were being bombarded during this summer's Israeli/Hezbollah conflict. "I wanted to go back on the air," she says. "I am a journalist. I'm used to danger. This is what I *had* to do." In the meantime, she tries not to dwell on the fact that the people who attempted to kill her in September 2005 are still at large. "They didn't succeed, and they are not happy seeing me again like this, saying loudly what I believe in. But I won't hide or be afraid," she says. This month she'll receive a Courage in Journalism Award from the International Women's Media Foundation; beyond that, she's considering a run for Lebanon's parliament in 2009. But she's sure of only one plan: "I will keep on speaking out until the last day of my life." —REBECCA WEBBER