

# the PEACE JOURNALIST

## IN THIS ISSUE

- Reports from Mexico, Palestine, Libya, Kenya, Nigeria, Gaza, Afghanistan, Bronx,
- Guinea-Bissau journalists visit Rhode Island university
- Peace researchers gather in Istanbul



SPECIAL REPORT: Searching for Peace Journalism in

# Ferguson, MO



# the PEACE JOURNALIST

The Peace Journalist is a semi-annual publication of the Center for Global Peace Journalism at Park University in Parkville, Missouri.

The Peace Journalist is dedicated to disseminating news and information for teachers, students, and practitioners of peace and conflict sensitive journalism.

Submissions are welcome from all. We are seeking shorter submissions (300-500 words) detailing peace journalism projects, classes, proposals, etc. We also welcome longer submissions (800-1200 words) about peace or conflict sensitive journalism projects or programs, as well as academic works from the field.

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A Park University Publication

## Contents

<b>3-4</b> Ferguson, MO New narratives, Sensationalism?	<b>17</b> Palestine Q&A: Female reporter
<b>6</b> Nigeria PJ and Boko Haram	<b>18</b> Gaza War journalism persists
<b>7</b> Pakistan Population control and PJ	<b>19</b> Bronx Workshop: Covering Immigrants
<b>8</b> Kenya Hybrid PJ program at Rongo Univ.	<b>20</b> Turkey PJ, peace researchers gather
<b>10</b> Libya NEW: Peace Reporter's Showcase	<b>22</b> Mexico Serapaz works for peace
<b>12</b> Mozambique PJ initiative trains 100 journalists	<b>23</b> DR Congo Journalists for peace

### 14 Guinea-Bissau

Reporters visit Rhode Island

### 15 Book review

Promoting peace, inciting violence

### 16 Afghanistan

Reporting fellowship for women

### 24 Somalia

Training: Peace through media



## What is Peace Journalism?

Peace Journalism is when editors and reporters make choices that improve the prospects for peace. These choices, including how to frame stories and carefully choosing which words are used, create an atmosphere conducive to peace and supportive of peace initiatives and peacemakers, without compromising the basic principles of good journalism. (Adapted from Lynch/McGoldrick, *Peace Journalism*). Peace Journalism gives peacemakers a voice while making peace initiatives and non-violent solutions more visible and viable.



# Ferguson offers journalists chance for community-based narratives

By Mallery Tenore

As news in Ferguson, Missouri, continues to develop, reporters and photographers are facing a growing number of challenges. They're tasked with telling a nuanced narrative that has been complicated by racial tensions, civil unrest, arrests, tear gas, and a lack of information.

For all the challenges it presents, the story also offers journalists an opportunity — to tell community-based narratives that help people make sense of the chaos and identify meaningful pathways forward.

Journalists don't need to have all the answers. But they can share lessons from other communities that Ferguson can learn from. The New York Times did this in a piece that explains how Cincinnati, Oakland, Los Angeles, and Miami have dealt with similar situations involving police who shot unarmed black men.

Times reporters Erica Goode and Michael Wines say these cities have learned the importance of quickly releasing information, cultivating relationships with civic and religious leaders, and stopping violence before it gets out of hand.

Oakland rioted in 2009 after a Bay Area Rapid Transit officer shot and killed an unarmed black teenager — by accident, he said — as he lay on the ground. The officer immediately resigned and initially refused to talk to the authorities, but the transit agency met with residents and listened to complaints about the shooting for six hours, then agreed to review its policing procedures.

In Miami in 1989, rioting began in the mostly African-American neighbor-

hood of Overtown after two unarmed black men were killed by a Hispanic officer. But the unrest settled a week later, when prosecutors charged the officer with manslaughter, without waiting for the findings of a police review panel or a grand jury.

In Cincinnati, repairing the wounds of the riots took years. The city entered into a voluntary agreement with the Justice Department to review and correct police procedures, and gradually worked through the problems.

"People were generally worried about the future of this city and how it was going to come out," said Mr. Luken, the former mayor, "but curiously, it has come out of it bigger and better.

The New York Times story is a good example of how to move beyond breaking news coverage by helping people see the bigger picture. It's also a reminder that the narrative of one community — Ferguson in this case — can be strengthened by the narratives of others.

This is a time when journalists need some strength and hope. They've

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for newsrooms and universities. Previously, she was managing editor of *The Poynter Institute's website*.

taken great risks to report the news in Ferguson; some have been arrested, harassed, and tear-gassed. Despite the dangerous conditions, they continue to inform people about what's happening in a once little-known city that has attracted worldwide attention.

When a city suddenly finds itself at the center of a major news story, it's easy for it to become defined by the news. National media outlets swoop in and report what's happening on the ground, but have little time to actually get to know the community. This is where local organizations can step in and play a more influential role.

In an interview with Jill Geisler of The Poynter Institute, St. Louis Public Radio Editor Margaret Wolf Freivogel said:

"The image of St. Louis I see in national media is not the St. Louis I know. For our newsroom, this is more than a big story. This is home. We need to keep reporting on the issues that existed before Michael Brown's death and that will still need to be addressed when the spotlight moves on."

St. Louis Public Radio has done a good job capturing what Ferguson is really like, without reducing it to a "battle ground." Last week, it launched a new series called "This is Ferguson," which features local residents sharing untold stories about the city.

"In Ferguson, there's a strong sense of community," Ferguson resident Wesley Bell told St. Louis Public Radio's Mary Delach Leonard. "I don't want Ferguson to be painted as some racial hot spot, because it's not that."



# Sensational Ferguson coverage lacks context; fuels stereotypes

By *Steven Youngblood*

Seldom have the stakes been higher for the media as they moved in to cover the Michael Brown shooting in Ferguson, Missouri in August. Responsible coverage could help inform and empower the community to react non-violently, while irresponsible coverage could fuel the flames while demonizing Brown and re-victimizing his family.

There was some productive, analytical coverage. Examples include “Violence in Ferguson Didn’t Have to Happen,” (Kansas City Star, 8-17), a CNN town hall meeting about race in America (8-19), and an insightful NPR report about the living amidst the turmoil in Ferguson (8-19).

However, much of the Ferguson coverage was superficial, sensational, and lacking context, while feeding well-worn stereotypes and narratives.



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The sensational events, the riots and civil unrest, proved irresistible for journalists. A Lexis-Nexis advanced news search of 318 newspapers was conducted Aug. 18. This search shows hits but, of course, doesn’t address tone, nuance, or quality. Still, the results were revealing. The news search showed intense newspaper coverage of “Ferguson, Missouri” (389 hits), “Ferguson, Missouri and riots” (197), and “Ferguson, Missouri and looting” (73). Also, a simple Google search turned up 1,320,000 videos under “Ferguson riots.”

While no one would suggest that the riots and civil unrest should be ignored by journalists, one could argue that excessive media coverage of the unrest in Ferguson overshadowed reporting about the reason for the unrest—Michael Brown’s killing. I agree with Nikole Hannah Jones, who wrote, “As a journalist, I get it. The images of the rioting were gripping. But coverage of the riots should not overshadow the cause of the riots. The real story has taken a backseat to the sensational.” (Essence, Aug. 12, 2014).

The coverage in Ferguson is, ironically, reminiscent of traditional war coverage that centers on the “action,” who

## Ferguson Narratives

from Pg 3

Continued on next page

Leonard also spoke with Dan Wentz, a Ferguson veterinarian who had to board up one of his office windows after it was shattered during the riots. On the board, he wrote: “Ferguson Proud.”

“That’s how I feel,” Wentz said. “It really hurts to see the bad press that Ferguson’s getting because I believe this is not a reflection of what Ferguson is.”

Wentz has worked in Ferguson for more than two decades and says his customers are racially and ethnically diverse. “It’s a very nice, diverse community,” he told Leonard. “People get along. They cooperate.”

Ferguson resident Molly Rockmann told Leonard: “The outpouring of support has been beautiful. On the converse, people all of a sudden are having a fear about Ferguson because of the sensationalized media attention around the looting. Those are significant things, but Ferguson is not a war zone.”

When we see front-page photos of tear gas being fired into the air, it’s hard not to envision Ferguson as a war zone. Stories about the tear gas and arrests are important, but it’s worth asking: To what end? At what point do we as journalists shift our focus from “what’s happening in Ferguson?” to “what’s possible in Ferguson?”

The public deserves to hear stories that paint a more accurate picture of Ferguson and that show what it can learn from other communities.

Ultimately, stories like these can give people hope — and provide them with insights about how to respond to difficult situations in ways that will strengthen the community rather than tear it apart.



# Sensational Ferguson coverage

from Pg 4

bombed whom, while ignoring or marginalizing the underlying causes of the conflict and on finding peace. Our Lexis-Nexis search uncovered only two stories under “Ferguson, Missouri and peaceful solutions,” zero hits for “Ferguson, Missouri and finding peace,” and zero hits for “Ferguson, Missouri and finding peace.”

The way Michael Brown was portrayed was also revealing.

The database search showed 1,061 newspaper stories about Michael Brown. Of these, “Michael Brown and victim” had just five hits, and “Michael Brown and innocent” had six hits. Meanwhile, “Michael Brown and criminal” has a whopping 337 hits—meaning that stories linking Brown to criminal activity occurred in over one-third of the total stories mentioning his name. Most telling was the police-released video of Brown allegedly stealing cigars from a convenience store. There were 3.2 million YouTube videos posted of this incident (or commentary about the incident), and 17.5 million Google hits on “Michael Brown robbery video.”

The coverage of Brown typifies the media narrative of young black men as criminals and thugs, a narrative borne out by researchers (Opportunity Agenda, etc.), and illustrated by the press’ treatment of the convenience store robbery video. Most media responsibly noted that the robbery had no connection to the attempted arrest of Brown. Yet as anchors repeated this over and over, they also showed the video over and over, leaving a powerfully negative impression on the viewer that no words or disclaimers could wash away.

More responsible reporting using a peace journalism framework would

not blame the victim, either overtly or implicitly. It also would not demonize the officer who shot Brown until a full accounting of what happened is revealed. Better reporting would give a broader range of peacemakers a voice, and explore in depth possible short and long term solutions to the crisis in Ferguson. More responsible coverage would eschew the sensational, live video of the stand-off—incessant coverage that overshadowed the much larger issues of race and justice.

Better still, media could have proactively spotlighted the striking racial imbalance in Ferguson between the police (50 of 53 police officers are white) and the population (67% African-American) months or years ago, and in the process encourage a much-needed dialogue between officials and citizens in Ferguson.

Given the tone and volume of the reporting, it’s hard to conclude that media coverage didn’t exacerbated the crisis in Ferguson, Missouri.

## Peace Journalism and Covering Civic Unrest

Tips: Be proactive before violent unrest occurs—facilitate dialogues, offer a platform to the marginalized, and contextualize reporting about contentious incidents between officials and citizens.

Reporting in general:

1. Provide analysis and context, not just play-by-play;
2. Give a platform to the voiceless;
3. Avoid official propaganda, or at least offer critical analysis of this propaganda;
4. Avoid us-vs-them characterizations (Black vs. White, Christian vs. Muslim, etc.);
5. Report about the invisible effects of violence;
6. Use non-inflammatory, non-sensational language;
7. Report counter-narratives that offer non-traditional perspectives on all the players involved;
8. Give peacemakers a voice and report about sustainable solutions (not just cease-fires).

--Steven Youngblood, Center for Global Peace Journalism

# PJ offers best approach to Boko Haram coverage

By Kirthi Jayakumar

Originally published in July, 2014 on [insightonconflict.org](http://insightonconflict.org).

When beginning writing this article, I ran a simple search on Google's news panel with the words "Boko Haram." In all the results that ensued, I found three common elements: propaganda, us-versus-them, and a conspicuous absence of peace efforts – three factors that feed into the very quintessence of traditional war journalism.

War journalism is exactly what keeps war alive. It is the frontrunner element that campaigns for the prolonged business of war.

For the uninitiated, as the name suggests, War Journalism refers to journalism that is focused on war, and encourages a presentation that: 1. Is heavily oriented towards violence and in projecting the conflict arena in a two-party and one-goal deal; 2. Confines itself to closed spaces and time; 3. Studies the cause and effect only in the conflict arena; 4. Concerns itself only with the visible or tangible effects of violence, making the conflict opaque. The focus is on an 'us-and-them' rhetoric while seeing the enemy 'them' as the problem and dehumanising them. (1)

War journalism is heavily reactive in

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that it waits for violence to start before it does or says anything.

It is heavily propaganda-oriented, seeking only to expose 'their' untruths while helping to cover up 'our' own flaws.

It tends towards the Elite, by focusing on 'their' violence and 'our' suffering, calling 'them' evil-doers and focusing only on the elite segments of society like officialspokespersons.

War journalism is skewed toward victory, in that it considers peace and ceasefire as victory while concealing peace initiatives even before victory is at hand.

Traditional war journalism gives up on a war once it is through – not looking at the root of the issue that needs solving – and returns only if the war flares up again.

What War Journalism does is create a hype that gets everyone to say "Never Again" and employs powerful sounding hashtags – but it stops with that. Once the conflict is resolved or becomes old news, there is a massive decline regarding concern over the issue, yet nothing was done to understand the root of the problem in the first place. This leaves a sort of Band-Aid on the sore, without any concern for preventing the conflict from happening again.

On the contrary, Peace Journalism doesn't concern itself with the winner-versus-loser rhetoric, but rather zooms right into the root of the issue. It portrays conflicts in realistic terms and encourages the exploration of

backgrounds and contexts of conflict formation. It presents the causes and options of every side involved, without introducing the 'us' versus 'them' perspective.

Peace journalism effectively serves the purpose by: 1. Being transparent in the representation of the causes, background and issues concerning a conflict; 2. Giving a voice to the rival parties involved and their views; 3. Offering creative ideas that can culminate in conflict resolution, development, peacemaking and peacekeeping; 4. Exposing lies, cover-ups and attempts to cover-up as well as culprits on all sides unequivocally; 5. Revealing the suffering inflicted on people of all parties involved in the conflict; 6. Paying attention to peace stories and efforts for peace; 7. Providing

information on post-war developments. (2)

I want a solution, but I have no idea what the solution can be. I don't know anything beyond the fact that these girls were kidnapped from a school and that the Boko Haram is a group of terrorists that are pivoted against Western education. Peace Journalism is about transparent journalism that relies on facts and explores the reality of the situation. In any of the reports I've read so far, I haven't found a background on the Boko Haram or any description of its activities, its rationale or its motivations. In the process,



Continued on next page

# PJ and Boko Haram from Pg 6

I am – and I am joined by a majority of the world's laypeople in this – only a jingoistic crusader, happily brandishing the #BringBackOurGirls tag without understanding the simmering elements to the conflict. I want a solution, but I have no idea what the solution can be. I don't know anything beyond the fact that these girls were kidnapped from a school and that the Boko Haram is a group of terrorists that are aligned against Western education. There are undoubtedly scores of efforts being made globally to tackle the issue – but the mainstream media doesn't tell me about any.

If the narrative had advanced itself from a Peace Journalism perspective, we would have been able to divert our attention to realistic and valuable solutions. We would be able to work strategies that are capable of addressing the undercurrents that motivate the Boko Haram in their activities. Proving my point is this article from *The Guardian*, which focuses on the coming together of Nigeria's two main religious groups in an attempt to respond to militancy and terror. It is immaterial what their religious faiths are, as it appears, for they seem to recognise that it is the people that suffered – irrespective of their faith.

This is precisely the problem with the way the world tackles conflict. Peacebuilding is a process that starts from knowledge. First and foremost, we need an understanding of what has happened and why. Next, we need to identify the kinds of solutions that are practicable given a particular framework concerning the groups involved. The third rung in the ladder is to understand the social ethos in which the actors are operating so that the best suited solution can be identified. An external solution often times remains a mere imposition that doesn't succeed simply because the local community neither owns it, nor identifies with it.

There is no use for Band-Aids as in War Journalism – what is necessary, is a look at the very root of the conflict in order to address it comprehensively.

[1] See Lynch, J. & Galtung, J. (2010). *Reporting Conflict: The Low Road and High Road*

[2] Lynch, J. & McGoldrick, A. (2010) "A Global Standard for Reporting Conflict and Peace" in R.L. Keeble, J. Tulloch & F. Zollmann (eds.) *Peace Journalism, War and Conflict Resolution*. (Peter Lang: New York)

# Guiding a discussion on population in Pakistan

By Mohid Iftikhar

Since the early days of Pakistan, social conditions have not been conducive for a healthy society. This statement could be analyzed through various view points; first, what the print and electronic media have communicated till now and secondly, expert opinions. But it is essential to recognize the perspective of Peace Journalism for population control in Pakistan, which has been a vital social concern.

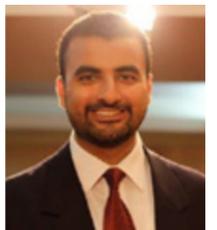
Peace journalism in the matter would move beyond a stereotypical headline. Instead, a context would be communicated of a will and determination to control population. An article by Akram, "Pakistan poverty dozen" quotes:

"Three wars with India; a never-

ending arms race, and involvement in America's wars in Afghanistan, has drained Pakistan's limited resources and attention away from economic and social development."

Through the above statement, a struggle of Pakistan's leadership can be identified. Perhaps, this is one aspect of peace journalism that communicates the truth. A significant element of peace journalism is not being critical; rather a trend has emerged from Pakistan's standpoint which promotes knowledge and necessary action for population control. This is disseminated through both print and electronic media. In journalistic writings references to reports and research are made for joint efforts by the government of Pakistan and International organizations on family planning and future goals.

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Peace journalism comprehends maturity involving all stakeholders in a social challenge. In Pakistan's relevance; population control involves the citizens, government and non-governmental organizations. Their progress for working collectively towards education of important issues, like pre-mature births and early marriages is a valid aspect from a peace

Continued on next page

# Rongo Univ. center examines Kenyan media

By Dr. Fredrick Ogenga

For many decades Africa has been represented negatively. The narrative about the continent has been that Africa is home to diseases, failed states, poverty and conflicts. However, the question is: Who is responsible for the invention of this narrative about Africa? Is there a way Africa can reclaim its history in the context of this dominant negative representation?

Scholars would premise their arguments on the contribution of colonialism and slavery - that colonialism contributed largely to the negative discourse and the idea of the "dark continent" as explorers and missionaries scrambled for a piece of Africa under the veil of 'enlightening' the natives. It is the extension of this narrative, as advanced by the local and foreign media, that would compel keen observers to have quick answers and conclusions to the reasons behind the negative representation of Africa.

Mass media through technology has simply glorified the perception that there is nothing good that can ever come out of Africa. Therefore, one quick answer to complex questions raised about the idea of Africa out of a list of possibly many would be that the mass media, both local and foreign, have been responsible for the negative images/representations about Africa. The latter has been celebrated by Western commercial media. But should



Presentation at the Centre for Media and Democracy, Peace and Security.

local media follow a Western/ foreign trend?

Media scholars should therefore begin questioning and inspecting media operation and the reasons why the media always covers Africa negatively and sensationally, amidst positive events in the continent that overshadow such representations, which would lead them to necessary discussions about Western-centric ideologies of journalism which are, in fact, problematic when simply copied and pasted to explain African news, especially conflicts. The latter is central to this thesis.

The Center for Media and Democracy, Peace and Security (CMDPS) at Rongo University is beginning to inspect the conduct of the media through research, especially in the context of electoral disputes and terrorism in Kenya. Our new graduate programme in Media, Democracy and Peace appreciates Peace Journalism (PJ) as conceptualized

Continued on next page



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## Pakistan

from Pg 7

journalistic view point. In fact, this discipline advocates a healthier life style by underlining benefits of controlled population leading to social development, education and employment opportunities.

Peace journalism holistically views challenges that citizens face due to over population in Pakistan, such as poverty, crime, hunger and etc. Thus, it does not avoid ground realities of change and encouraging positive thoughts for transformation. In fact, the Pakistani public for decades has been riddled with examples as failure of governance towards addressing social issues. On the contrary, modern phenomena of peace journalism provides a legitimized approach of collective efforts on managing over-population in Pakistan. The parameters it provides are education development and empowerment of women. For sustainability of this trend, solidarity between Pakistan's citizens, government, independent research institutes, media and NGOs must be advanced, for progression of peace journalism in society.

# Rongo Univ. from Pg 8

by its proponents but seeks to find and institutionalize new philosophical approaches to peace journalism research in Africa inspired by Africanism that are more hybrid (Hybrid Peace Journalism or HPJ). This was recently unpacked in a recent study by Ogenga (2012) published by the Conflict and Communication Online where the opportunity for its experimentation was missed by the Kenyan Press when covering Operation Linda Nchi or Protect the Nation.

Our research agenda is to deconstruct ideologies of journalism in conflict reporting and PJ to come up with HPJ that consider local wisdom, contexts and nuances to transform journalism from within mainstream media institutions in Kenya, East Africa and Africa through newly developed curricula in media, conflict and peace in educational institutions of higher learning. African journalism has been trapped between Western traditional, commercial cultural-industries of mediation and knowledge production and Western fashioned lenses and blueprints in reporting news which have often represented the continent negatively and sensationally. As it would be expected, African journalism has simply become that of mimicry and bandwagonism. Our programme is beginning to rationalise the possibilities of African journalism that is unique and different yet in sync with Western modes of expectations.

As one of the delegates in the recent 4<sup>th</sup> International Africa Peace Conference held in Johannesburg South Africa titled: "Alternative Dispute Resolution and Peace Studies in Africa: Lessons Prospects and Challenges," jointly organized by the Centre for African Peace and Conflict Resolution (CAPCR) of California State University, Sacramento, USA and the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD), we recognized the fact that mass media have formed an integral part of conflict resolution acknowledging



Discussing peace media in Rongo, Kenya.

## Rongo Univ. to host Oct. Peace and Reconciliation Journalism seminar

Radio Journalists will be gathering at Rongo University in southwestern Kenya Oct. 14-16 for a Peace and Reconciliation Journalism seminar. The event is sponsored by the Center for Global Peace Journalism (Park University, Parkville, MO USA) and The Center for Media and Democracy, Peace and Security (Rongo University, Kenya).

Steven Youngblood (Center for Global Peace Journalism) will be lead instructor. He will be assisted by Dr. Fredrick Ogenga (Rongo Univ.) and Gloria Laker (Peace Journalism Foundation of East Africa).

The seminar will feature instruction on the basics of peace journalism, how PJ can be used as a reconciliation tool, and will include a hands-on radio reporting exercise in the field.

that it can either enhance or mitigate conflict based on the approach, position or angle it takes when covering conflicts in Africa. That the media in Africa seem to follow a Western trend of reporting dictated by Western ideologies of journalism which compels them to cover Africa sensationally and negatively.

There is need to deconstruct Western ideologies of journalism by infusing the currently growing concept of peace journalism in conflict reporting with local approaches to news coverage to come up with hybrid ways (HPJ) of representing Africa that take into consideration the nuances in the continent.

For this to be achievable, institutions of higher learning are encouraged to introduce curriculum in media, peace and security studies to train African journalists to master these newly formulated hybrid traditions that are necessary for transforming media institutions in Africa from within.

# Peace Reporter's Showcase: Libyan Flashbacks

The Peace Journalist unveils a new feature this edition: Peace Reporter's Showcase, which will spotlight outstanding peace media reports from around the world. The first installment is from the German NGO Peace Counts. Since 2002, Peace Counts has sent reporters and photographers to conflict areas. They report on successful peacemakers and possible solutions. Peace Counts teams have worked in more than 50 countries from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe. Their inspiring stories are published in newspapers, magazines, radio, television, online, in the book "Die Friedensmacher" (The Peacebuilders; in German only). Peace Counts has been awarded various journalism prizes and collaborates with the Institute for Peace Education (Berghof foundation) which uses our peacebuilder-stories for educational programs both in Germany and in conflict regions. This story is edited for length--Ed

By Michael Gleich

Feras is on the steering wheel. His friend is on the passenger seat; he is bleeding from a bullet wound to the calf. In the back seat us the captive, guarded at gun-point by a third friend. They race through the streets of Tripoli at over 100 kilometres per hour. Behind them, the pursuing car. They shoot at the captive's car. Feras shoots back, with a gun in one hand and the other hand on the steering wheel. His car starts skidding towards the left pavement. The man is lying on the ground. In front of a pharmacy. Dead. A bullet through the chest. Then it becomes clear: a distant uncle. Feras can only see the thick trickle of blood flowing down the pavement. Then everything starts anew. Feras is on the steering wheel. His wounded friend is on the passenger seat...

Libya is never-ending horror film. But this film has only one spectator. He cannot believe what he is seeing. Feras, 26, has studied law and wants to become a successful car salesman. Feras, with string lower arms and soft eyes, which are lowered

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president. He is founder of the registered charity "Culture Counts Foundation" dedicated to support "Constructive Journalism".



Recovering from devastation (l), and finding hope at the Libyan Youth Centre.

when he tells his story: In his head, he repeats this sequence over and over again. He is haunted by feelings of guilt and shame. There lies his uncle, there is the pool of blood. Shot. Did he shoot him? By accident? Did he shoot his uncle by accident? Shame, did he bring shame upon himself? Hash helps. Feras smokes. What can you do? What happened, happened. When the smoke gives way, the images return. He can't rely on a lot.

Flashbacks is the name of the trauma which Feras suffers. One experience destroys the mind's comprehensive facility. It's too much,--too disturbing.

The car chase through the Libyan capital happened two years ago. That Feras even knows what flashbacks are and what it does to the mind, is thanks to Nayla, his psychiatrist at the Libya Youth Center (LYC). Officially, she works in a typical youth centre. The LYC the only trauma centre in Libya. Trauma is a taboo concept in a society which cherishes patriarchy, the strong, the warrior. Weakness is almost the same as idiocy. Trauma sufferers who openly address the subject are treated as insane by their families, according to Nayla. Thus, many keep their experiences during the 2011 civil war a secret.

On the outside, everything seems normal. A smart phone is passed over a mocha in a café. On it runs a clip where a captured revolutionary's head is severed by a soldier with a knife. He slaughters him, just how goats are slaughtered. Young men in Libya have many such videos on their phones. "Show me a gruesome video, and I'll show you one which is even more gruesome."

In the war two years ago, Feras did not fight against foreign enemies. The revolution against dictator Muammar al-Gaddafi drew boundaries straight through families, companies and football teams. Once friendly neighbours became hated enemies, students armed themselves with grenades, regular soldiers became killers who murder civilians. Nobody trusts anyone. Many scores to be settled. And too many open wounds.

And what heals?

LYC has created a peaceful and happy place right in the middle of Tripoli. It is a quiet oasis near the busy Quedesia roundabout. In the garden, the sound of traffic is reduced to a mere rustle. Boys and girls play on the lawn,

Continued on next page

# Peace Reporter's Showcase from Pg 10

which is protected by walls. A refuge, even if it is just for a few. 400 children and young people are allowed in per season. "Yet the whole population is heavily traumatized," says Nayla. Usually professionally optimistic, she seems momentarily glum. She comes from Lebanon, has experienced four wars in her 32 years and still flinches every time a wedding takes place. Many weddings are celebrated in Tripoli, and firing Kalashnikovs into the sky is once again considered chic. She sees her origin as an advantage. "Libyans don't trust their compatriots," says Nayla, "Because I am Lebanese, it is easier with me to be open with me." The setting offers LYC psychiatrists a place to confidentially spot and treat disorders.

One day, Feras appeared in the centre with a mission – to get his sister out of there. She had been taking part in the programme for a few weeks. At home, she had spoken about things which seemed weird to Feras--developing personal goals in life and her own visions of the future, something scandalous in a country where parents decide over the most minute details of their children's lives.

At the behest of their parents, Feras entered the centre. He was welcomed by a pedagogue. He was allowed to experience the centre for one afternoon so he could decide whether or

not to prohibit his sister from visiting. Feras took part, and has stayed. He has since never missed a single group meeting. "I feel safe here," he states. "At the beginning, I found it unbelievable that the carers seemed to draw happiness out of the mere fact of me just being there. Meanwhile I know: Their happiness is real. I simply feel welcome." An atmosphere of trust is also fostered by the centre's insistence on neutrality. Adolescents from pro-Gaddafi families sit next to former freedom fighters.

Praise is an exotic concept in Libyan culture. And in the centre, praise and thanks flow freely for a drawing or a photo on Facebook. There is openness while discussing drug abuse. Feras enjoyed this atmosphere from the beginning. He slowly built up trust towards Nayla. He agreed to personal sessions. The centre recommends these to all who took part in armed combat. "Most of them suffer from posttraumatic stress disorder," says Nayla.

Guided by the psychiatrist, Feras begins to diligently explore his own memory. Every detail of the day he raced through Tripoli could hold the key to solving the trauma. His movie is being consciously reconstructed. Nayla observes how fear fades after each rerun. The day the reconstruction is complete, it becomes clear: The fatal bullet must have been shot by

someone else. Feras could not have been the shooter. "It felt like a heavy weight had been lifted off my shoulders," is how he describes his feeling after the breakthrough.

The idea of the Libya Youth Center as a peaceful oasis was formed during the war. The leadership of Austrian oil corporation OMV, active in the country for decades, recognized the need to heal traumas. If not, the "new Libya" for which the revolutionaries fight, will remain an illusion. The centre was planned and entrusted to the Austria Hilfswerk for professional maintenance in December 2011, before the war against Gaddafi was won. Work began in the spring of the following year. First, the upper age limit was raised to 25, to include the "freedom fighters", those young men of the revolution with the worst emotional wounds.

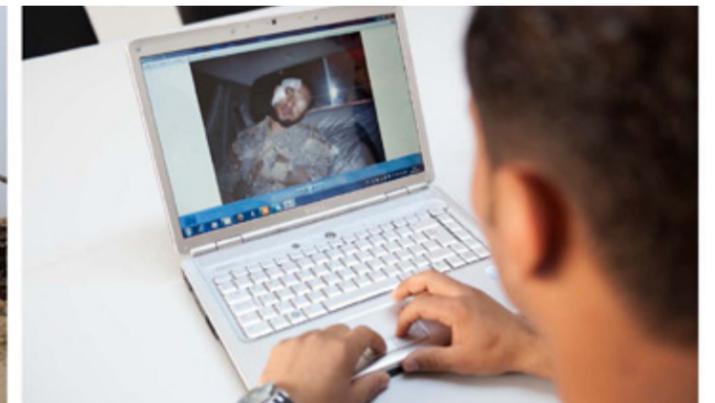
But there are also little ones, like Khalifa, who are also struggling to cope with what they witnessed in front of their front doors.

What did Khalifa witness? All are standing in a circle. The eleven year-old jumps into the centre. Rolls on the ground. A quick look at the others: Are the others also looking? Then he jumps back into the circle. After singing, everyone lies on their backs, practicing relaxing breathing methods.

Continued on next page



The Libyan Youth Centre (r) is a peaceful oasis amid the country's turmoil.



# 100 Mozambique journalists trained in PJ

By Marianne Perez de Fransius

In July and August 2014, in a project organized by IREX (a USAID-funded media strengthening organization present in Mozambique) and the US Embassy in Mozambique, I trained nearly 100 journalists in four Mozambican cities on the principles of peace and conflict-sensitive journalism. My Mozambican co-trainers, noted political commentator Tomas Vieira Mario and independent journalist Rui Lamarques, presented on electoral journalism and citizen journalism respectively. These trainings sought to provide journalists with key skills ahead of the October 15 presidential and parliamentary elections which are likely to be the most contested in the state's 20 years of democracy. Mario and Lamarques agreed that while Frelimo, the ruling party, will likely retain the presidency, it will probably lose seats in Parliament to Renamo and MDM, the main opposition parties. The question is how many.

## Peace Reporter's Showcase from Pg 11

Khalifa pokes the boy next to him. He beats his chest. Pulls his hair. Runs across the room. In every other nursery he would be the enfant terrible, with whom no one would want to play. "Children like Khalifa desperately need the centre," according to Sala, a supervisor at LYC.

Khalifa was nine when the war started. One day the door was kicked in shortly after lunch. Many gesticulating men stormed into the house. They carried a body wearing a blood-drenched t-shirt. It was the body of Khalifa's older brother. How does Khalifa get rid of this image?

Wars rob childhoods. Nayla observed that "many of those growing up lack



The Libyan Youth Centre helps youngsters overcome trauma.

the characteristic carefreeness." Even ten year-olds are made to behave like adults. Disciplined and self-important. For youth, frustration is often released in beatings, which degenerate into shootings. Small wars spring out of boredom. Weapons are easily available. Lamya remembers how a gun went off as she was painting a wall near the centre with the children. "I thought that the kids would panic. But nothing came of it. I could collect them calmly and bring them back. I could hardly believe how calmly they reacted."

Whoever enters the Libya Youth Centre will at first not recognize any pain or trauma. Children walk carefree through the corridors, dancing takes place in the cellar, youths practice martial arts in the garden, 12 year-olds form a circle around the keyboard in the first floor to think of a hymn for their dream school. This is a very normal youth club, at least by European standards.

Sometimes, while there is happiness on the outside, there is darkness inside. Just ask Mahmoud, a 24



Marianne Perez de Fransius is an educator and peace worker specialized in peace media. She is the founder of Peace Is Sexy ([www.peaceissexy.net](http://www.peaceissexy.net)) which shifts the understanding of peace from dull, idealistic, costly and boring to peace as sexy, possible, profitable and fun.

It was an eye-opening experience to learn about the state of journalism in Mozambique. Community radio is by far the most widely accessible source of information for the general population, yet stations often operate on shoestring budgets with volunteers who often have little professional training in journalism, making them vulnerable to manipulation and propaganda. Additionally, radio stations have little capital available to replace or

Continued on next page

year-old who has completed his first programme cycle at the centre. Only sometimes can bitterness be seen around his eyes. Mahmoud fought against the Gaddafi regime in 2011. He showed several videos on his laptop, including one where one young man smiled and made the V-sign. Mahmoud explains, "He was my best friend. He was later killed by shrapnel. And he had his right leg amputated. This one is dead, that one, too."

Mahmou returned home after the victory of the revolution. His aggressive behaviour became noticeable after some time. During an argument with a friend, he pulls out a gun, but luckily shoots at the ground. He cannot believe it. "I knew I was nervous, yes, but that is normal. My friends who returned from the front were just the same," he said. Still, he was convinced that he did not need psychiatric treatment.

By October 2012, he had been taking part at the centre's sessions for a while. Then in Bani Walid, southeast of Tripoli, there was an uprising against

Continued on next page

# Mozambique from Pg 12

update equipment, further adding to their challenges.

The journalists in Beira shared so many unbelievable stories of political intimidation that I told them that they should start doing satirical journalism. (Jon Stewart couldn't even come up with some of this stuff!) One journalist related how last year, during the local elections campaign, he went out to cover a candidate and when he came home members of the other party had plastered his house with their candidate's propaganda lest he forget him. Another journalist told the story of a schoolteacher who volunteered at the community radio. He was perceived to give more favorable coverage to the party that lost the election. As a result, the new district administrator transferred him from his teaching post to working in the funeral services despite the fact that there is already a severe shortage of teachers. After that, he didn't dare volunteer at the community radio station again.

On the other hand, the group in Quelimane took their civic duties very seriously and really saw journalism as a means of improving their communities. In one district, villagers were able to obtain an ambulance because journalists covered the plight of the ill and suffering there. The Catholic radio station has as one of its crusades efficient trash collection which, given the general cleanliness of the city, seems to be working. Others were giving a voice to the voiceless.

In Mozambique, political power opens so many doors, especially economic ones, that individuals and parties are motivated to access or consolidate power for financial reasons rather than for ideological reasons.

## Peace Reporter's Showcase from Pg 12

the interim government. Mahmoud is angry. The revolution seems to be in danger. Everything he has fought for is at stake. He wrestles with himself. His mother pleads with him to stay. His father, the undisputed chief, strongly forbids him to travel to Bani Walid. He once again obtains a machine gun and joins the militia. Within a few days, they "liberate" the town. This time around, his return is not celebrated. His father no longer speaks with him.



Peace Journalism training in Mozambique in July, 2014.

In a scandal that broke earlier this year, the Green Party was caught abusing its privilege to import goods into the country duty-free by importing and reselling SUVs at a profit. This puts journalists in a delicate position as there is little for them to discuss in terms of party platforms and ideology. The political parties are very well organized and party loyalty is a strong currency in Mozambique. Journalists who attempt to be fair and balanced in their reporting are often considered disloyal by the party they "should" belong to because of their neighborhood or their tribal group. Perceived disloyalty can have important ramifications, effectively making it difficult to obtain jobs, basic services, or official documents.

The Peace Journalism trainings unsurprisingly found many enthusiasts in Quelimane, but also, interestingly, amongst journalists working for the official state newspaper which tends to be a government mouthpiece. On the other hand, journalists in Nampula found the concepts challenging as one reporter admitted, "I'm having trouble wrapping

my mind around this. We're so used to reporting in an us vs. them frame that it's hard to get out of it." Nonetheless, Mozambican journalists universally acknowledged that neither they nor the general population want to return to war and grasped the potential that journalism has both for inciting violence and for incentivizing peace.

**PEACE JOURNALISM – AFRICA GROUP**--There is now a Peace Journalism – Africa group that can be publicly accessed on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1480984135511416/>).

Mahmoud felt ostracized, but also guilty towards his friends at the LYC who desperately tried to discourage him. He started attending therapeutic sessions with Nayla. They are taking effect. "Although sometimes anger takes over, and sometimes I don't even know why. But I have learned not to immediately act on it," she said. Nayla calls this emotion management.

He still keeps his gun and other weap-

ons at home. "I will hand these over one day, but only to an authority that I really trust." Thousands Of former fighters share his views. They remain ready. Mahmoud lives with an inner strife, which is typical for the Libya on the road to peace. While he takes part in "violence-free communication" courses at LYC, he keeps himself armed just in case one day another dictator shows up and the horror film starts again.



Five radio journalists from Guinea-Bissau are enrolled in a peace journalism certificate program at Rhode Island College.

## Guinea-Bissau journalists travel to Rhode Island

by Gita Brown

In Guinea-Bissau, a former colony of Portugal, radio is the primary means of communication. Political and social news, and even deaths, are announced via radio. The problem, said Rhode Island College (RIC) Professor of History and Africana Studies Peter Mendy, is that many radio broadcast journalists are “bought” by politicians and are openly in favor of one politician over another. Biased reporting in Guinea-Bissau and in other parts of Africa often leads to violence.

Best practices in reporting will be the focus of study for five radio broadcast journalists from Guinea-Bissau who are enrolled in a new certificate program in peace journalism at RIC. Preparation for their course work at RIC began with a two-week orientation to campus life and to America last summer.

The team of reporters who hail from Rádio Sol Mansi (Radio Sunrise) consists of Amadu Uri Djaló, editor-and-chief, who oversees 40 national correspondents and 30 journalists; Anabela Bull Ramalho, program director; Casimiro Cajucan, producer and journalist; Mamadu Saido Embaló, chief technician; and Armando Mussá Sani, trainer in the Portuguese language.

The Pro Dignitate Foundation for Human Rights in Lisbon, Portugal, initiated the training of these reporters and went on to select Rhode Island College as an advanced training site because of the global mission of RIC’s Institute for Portuguese and Lusophone World Studies and because of the college’s location – Rhode Island has the highest concentration of Portuguese people, including Portuguese-speaking Cape Verdeans, in the United States.

**Gita Brown** is an editor and journalist for Rhode Island College’s Office of College Communications and Marketing and author of the novel *Be I Whole*.



The Institute and Pro Dignitate signed an accord in 2010, agreeing to work together to promote peace in Portuguese-speaking Africa, with specific focus on radio broadcasting.

According to Mendy, a member of the Academic Advisory Council for the Institute, peace journalism is critical for Guinea-Bissau and for Africa in general. Although the country has been independent for 41 years, its independence has been a tumultuous one, with numerous coups d’état, presidential and political assassinations and military influence on the government. Radio journalists often present biased political reporting, which leads to violence both during and after elections.

Though the five visiting journalists will explore best practices in broadcast journalism, the certificate program they are enrolled in is called peace journalism.

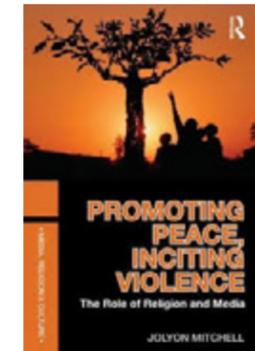
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## Review: Promoting peace, inciting violence

By Dr. Benoy Joseph

**Jolyon Mitchell (2012). Promoting Peace, Inciting Violence: The role of religion and media, London: Routledge, 328 pages.**

Professor Jolyon Mitchell in one of his latest works speaks of the role of religion and media in promoting peace and inciting violence. The book has seven chapters having two parts.



Part I deals with incitement to violence taking three case studies. These three case studies are covered in three chapters such as a World War I memorial in stained glass in England, murals portraying martyrs from the Iran-Iraq war in Iran, and genocide in Rwanda.

After having portrayed how the media can be used to promote peace, Mitchell focuses his attention in considering the ways that different media are used to contribute to the creation of situations where peace can be promoted. At the same time the ways different media are used to contribute to the

### Guinea-Bissau

creation of environments where violence can be incited and how media can be used to build peace.

The first chapter speaks of a war memorial that was erected after World War I in one of the parish churches in the U.K. This memorial was depicted on stained glass windows inside the church. There are 27 memorial images representing various war activities with explanatory Bible texts beneath. However, one who analyses closely these windows might find five processes connected with these windows. They are grieving, commemorating, justifying, remembering and vilifying.

The second chapter takes us into the streets of Iran commemorating the Iran-Iraq war (1980-1988). Big and small cities of Iran portrayed murals and posters which remind us of people killed during the Iran-Iraq war. In the 1st chapter ‘visualizing the holy war’ under each stained glass window there used to be a quotation from the Bible finding meaning for their death. Martyrdom was considered to be the highest form of reward a person can attain for his country and for his faith.

In the third chapter the author draws our attention to Rwanda, site of the 1994 genocide. There existed ethnic tensions from the beginning between



**Benoy Joseph, Ph.D.**, is a Research Scholar in the Department of Peace and Conflict Studies and Management, Sikkim Central University, India.

the Majority Hutus and the minority Tutsis. With the prompting of state-controlled and independent Rwandan media Hutus attacked the Tutsis. Almost 800,000 people lost their lives.

These three chapters speak of three things. First of all, every possible means of media was used to encourage the people to fear, to be proud, and to fight. Both words and images could be used to highlight the suffering, commemorate the killing or to celebrate martyrdom. Local heroes are glorified and enemies are vilified.

The second part of the book deals with promoting peace by being a witness, searching for truth and reconciliation and promoting peace through media. The concluding chapter, titled

*Continued on next page*

from Pg 14

“Peace journalism is an effort to establish and maintain peace through ethical reporting,” Mendy explained.

Their orientation at RIC included a week-long professional development workshop led by Pedro Bicudo, international journalist and former Washington correspondent for Portuguese Public Television RTP.

“Taking their reality as a first step, we’ve been working on standards and formats that could help them improve their work at Rádio Sol Mansi,” Bicudo said.

The journalists also toured two Portuguese-American radio stations – WJFD Radio Globo in New Bedford and WHTB Rádio Voz Do Emigrante in Fall River. The peace journalism enrolees will return to RIC over the next two summers to complete the certificate program.

“A program like this is important,” said Marie Fraley, director of the Institute for Portuguese and Lusophone World Studies, “because it strengthens our international connections with other Portuguese-speaking cultures around the world.”

# Sahar Speaks seeks to train Afghan women

By Amie Ferris-Rotman

*Proposal: Sahar Speaks!*

*A reporting fellowship for Afghan female correspondents*

As the last U.S. troops prepare to withdraw by the end of 2016, Afghanistan hopes to undergo its first transition of democracy in almost a century. The need to advance the careers of Afghan female journalists is critical.

An accurate story cannot be told without the participation of its women. Foreign news outlets hire Afghan men, but not female reporters. This means the world misses out on the full Afghan story.

I lived in Kabul for almost two years, as senior correspondent for Reuters. I was impressed by the creation of a large and relatively free Afghan press: a huge achievement since the Taliban was toppled in 2001.



Sahar Speaks seeks to engage girls, women.

up with the International Women’s Media Foundation (IWMF) in Washington, D.C., and we are actively looking for funding.

The vision behind this project can be seen in its name. “Sahar” is a common female name in Afghanistan, mean-

ing “dawn.” Its meaning here is two-fold: it represents all Afghan women, and also heralds the beginning of a new era, where Afghan female reporters can tell their stories to the world.

Afghanistan has approximately 2,000 local female journalists, representing around a fifth of the country’s total. For a place like Afghanistan, still ranked one of the world’s worst places to be a woman, this is considerable.

But there are no Afghan female reporters at the foreign news outlets in Kabul – not at the BBC, The New York Times, Reuters, Associated Press, etc. This has been a systemic failure by the international press. The Afghan

Afghanistan has thirty million people, and 9,000 local journalists. This is a high number. It is the same press saturation as the United States.

But deteriorating security as foreign troops prepare to leave, combined with internal political strife, mean the number of female journalists in the country is shrinking.

It takes effort to recruit, train and encourage Afghan female journalists. It requires intentional investment.

This is why, as a Stanford Journalism Fellow over the last year, I developed Sahar Speaks, a training, mentoring, and publishing program for Afghan female journalists. I have teamed

*Continued on next page*

Amie Ferris-Rotman is a British-American journalist. She has reported from ten countries, from over 30 datelines. After Reuters postings in Moscow and Kabul, she was awarded a Knight Journalism Fellowship at Stanford University last year.



## Review from Pg 15

‘swords into ploughshares,’ shows how weapons of destruction can be transferred into productive tools of peace. This concluding chapter, named with a phrase from the book of Isaiah in the Bible, highlights how the weapons of destruction can be transformed into productive tools of peace. The author writes that it is the duty of each individual, community, ethnic group, religion, government, and media outlet to facilitate peace building.

Media can be used to play a vital role in conflict transformation and peace building. Peace building has different stages and creative media can be used to contribute to each of these stages. First of all, media can be used to bear witness to the suffering caused by violence. Secondly, media can conduct inquiry that leads towards truth. Thirdly, media can portray means of reconciliation thereby reducing the intensity of violence and finally media can help people to envisage a peaceful future. I strongly feel that the author succeeded in keeping a balance with regard to the role of religion and media in promoting peace and inciting violence in ethnic conflict transformation.

# Q&A: Palestinian reporter sometimes ‘frustrated’

By Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation

“The TV news channel that I work for right now is only interested in the hard news about the struggle and violence, so often I just report on what is happening at the moment without analyzing or explaining the background,” Laila Odeh says.

Odeh is a Palestinian freelance journalist and correspondent, working for the television news channel France24 and Montecarlo Radio in Jerusalem.

She was born in Jerusalem and has worked as a journalist in Israel and Palestine for different international media outlets since 1993. She knows the conflict very well, and would prefer to do more analyzing and explain the structure in which the events occur. However, most of her editors only want her to report exactly what the official leaders say.

Odeh says it’s frustrating, since she often knows when the leaders mean something other than what they are saying. To make up for this, she says it’s important to go out and ask civilians in the street for their opinions, too.

“They are the ones who are affected by the decisions made by the leaders. If you want to know what the consequences of the politics are, you have to talk to the people living in the reality,” she says.

Odeh adds that it is equally important to speak to both men and women. Without female news subjects the picture presented will never be complete. “Sometimes

women and girls are shy and don’t want to be on TV, but I always try to persuade them to give their opinion. It is really important that their views are reported too,” Odeh says.

In most Arabic media women are pretty much invisible in the commenting field – especially as experts. “It is a big problem,” Odeh says. “I don’t know why, every time I ask a male colleague why they don’t invite female experts, they don’t even reply. It is as if they don’t think women can do it, and they don’t want this to change. But I think that if one TV channel would change, the rest would follow.”

“Like in the rest of the world there is no lack of female experts. The Palestinians are very educated people, and the universities are full of women. You just have to look beyond the old conventions,” she observes

Do Odeh cover peace initiatives for her current employer?

“Yes, but only if the official leaders are negotiating. And to be honest we hardly cover that anymore either, since it never leads anywhere. We don’t cover small peace groups since my editors are more interested in the big news than what is going on in everyday life,” she said.

From Peace Journalism: How Reporting Affects Wars and Conflicts, Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation, Sweden. Link to the report: <http://tinyurl.com/nt24zsz>

**Kvinna till Kvinna** literally means “Woman to Woman”. Kvinna till Kvinna cooperates with women’s organisations working for women’s rights and peace. See- <http://kvinnatillkvinna.se/en/>



Laila Odeh

## Afghanistan from Pg 16

woman’s story is being told by Afghan men, foreign men, and foreign women.

enabling them to produce innovative, in-depth coverage of complex issues. In addition, the IWMF will provide

security training designed to mitigate physical risk and protect digital content. As a result of their training,

It would be more productive for English-language media that produce numerous stories on women’s rights to hire Afghan female reporters.

We propose a three-year reporting fellowship for Afghan female correspondents, with 15 participants each year. Beginning in Kabul, training will provide the fellows with advanced reporting skills and mentorship,



fellows will explore new narratives, seeking sources from all strata of society, and through accurate, ethical and gendered reporting they will tell the story of women in the quickly evolving environment in Afghanistan.

After thirteen years of the NATO-led war in Afghanistan, doesn’t the international press owe the global community the full story?

# Operation 'War Journalism' rages in Gaza

By Erin Niemela

As Israel's boots hit the ground in Gaza last summer, Operation War Journalism raged on. Both Arab and Israeli war journalists weaponized rhetoric: False dichotomies (do we bomb or do nothing?) and a pro-violence worldview, among other deadly bullets. War journalism sells violent conflict - "if it bleeds, it leads" - and we bought it. The violence in Gaza is partially a result of decades of media-distributed war products made from state-provided materials. War journalists escalate and prolong violent conflict. Their reporting choices, whether conscious or not, are harmful to citizens on all sides of violent conflicts.

Fortunately, violence isn't the only product on the market. "To say that violence is the only thing that sells is to insult humanity," Prof. Johan Galtung said his 2000 essay, "The Task of Peace Journalism." Peace journalism, Galtung's conception of the 70s, is defined as "when editors and reporters make choices - about what to report, and how to report it - that create opportunities for society at large to consider and to value nonviolent responses to conflict." Peace

journalism insulates journalists from war propaganda by avoiding false dichotomies, highlighting nonviolent options and making other positive peace reporting choices. For the cynics: Peace does, in fact, sell. Conflict & Communication Online studies in 2005 and 2006 (Kempf, Sphors) showed audiences accepted peace journalism articles no less, and even more, than traditional war journalism articles. Nevertheless, war journalism continues, and Gaza is the perfect battleground.

Al-Jazeera's regularly updated webpage lists the names and ages of 285 Palestinian victims in Gaza. In a 2013 study on Arab news framing of the 2008-2009 Gaza conflict, author Mohamad Hamas Elmasry and colleagues found that some Arab news networks regularly framed Palestinians as victims of Israeli aggression, showed images of Palestinian grief and included names and ages for Palestinian victims more than those of Israeli victims. In fairness to Al-Jazeera, two Israeli victims' names and ages - the first two Israeli deaths (*at presstime*) - sit below the list. But the names aren't meant to provide balance or personalize those deaths. They're meant to dichotomize between good and evil and provoke the question: Whose side are you on? With victimization comes demonization - the "evil" side is implied and violence against evil is justified.

For Israeli news, it's the same story. In an extensive 2004 study on audience effects from news of Israeli-Palestinian conflicts, "Bad News from Israel," Greg Philo and Mike Berry observed that participants identified more with the side where violence was presented as justifiable. Words like "retaliation" for Israel's military operations provided this justification. Palestinians were presented as having "started it."

A July 18th article from *The Times of Israel* on the Gaza invasion is a case in point. The title: "20 Hamas fighters killed, 13 captured in first hours of ground offensive." With violence in the headline, the lead justifies: "IDF says soldiers in Gaza destroy 21 rocket launchers, find several tunnel openings; Eitan Barak, 21, from Herzliya, is first IDF fatality; 80 rockets fired at Israel." Dangerous weapons, nefarious tunnels and an Israeli death are just the facts on the ground and they happen to provide justification.

Yet, there are other facts, such as in a curious blurb near the bottom. "Gaza health officials said at least 20 Palestinians have been killed since the ground operation began, including three teenage siblings killed by shrapnel from a tank shell attack. It was not immediately clear if the 17 terrorists killed by the IDF were among the casualties reported by Gaza authorities." Peace journalism refrains from emphasizing "our" facts while marginalizing "their facts," and names "evil-doers" on all sides.

War journalism gives us two sides to choose from, but it only offers one option for resolving conflict: violence. As media often frame the Israeli government and its citizens, and Hamas and Palestinians, as one and the same, we get to choose the violence of either Hamas or Israel.

Erin Niemela (@erinniemela) is PeaceVoice Editor and Peace VoiceTV Channel Manager, and a Master's Candidate in the Conflict Resolution program at Portland State University, specializing in peace journalism and social movement media.



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## Media immigration coverage scrutinized in Bronx, NY

You can never go wrong asking people to criticize the media.

In July, Peace Journalism Seminars at BronxNet/Lehman College in New York City began with the question, "What's wrong with the media?" The responses were animated, and didn't deviate much from the common themes of inaccuracy and distortion. Then the question narrowed, focusing on specific coverage of immigrants. Again, the participants easily listed a dozen tired stereotypes of immigrants perpetuated by the media.

These immigrant stereotypes, and the media narratives that fuel them, were the theme of the workshops at BronxNet sponsored by the Center for Global Peace Journalism. One two-day workshop was for students and young reporters, while two other shorter workshops were for public access TV producers and the general public.

Participants discussed using a peace journalism model as a way for media to break out of these stale, distorted narratives about immigrants. Then, workshopers collected man on the street interviews about the benefits that immigrants bring to communities like the Bronx.

The students and access producers alike learned to think about media, and particularly media coverage of immigrants, in a more analytical, critical manner.



## Gaza from Pg 18

But violence is never the only choice for dealing with conflict. Peace journalists report nonviolent options from Palestinians, Israelis and any other stakeholders. Not because we don't recognize claims to victimhood, but because we recognize that emphasizing violence as the only conflict management option only produces more violence.

Reporting nonviolent options means sourcing peacebuilders, like the Christian Peacemaker Teams that work with locals to build nonviolent, Palestinian-led, grassroots resistance. pr Gush Salom, where Jewish-Israelis use direct action to stop the occupation. Insight on Conflict and Peace NGO Forum host a long list of peacebuilding organizations in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories. Any respectable reporter can find a peacebuilder to quote, and a balanced, impartial report on Gaza depends on including the voices of peace.

Traditional war journalists support perpetual violence - their bread and butter. Yet, reporters could choose to support perpetual peace and still maintain journalistic integrity. Peace journalism practices deflect war propaganda, provide actual balance and fully inform democratic audiences. We need more peace journalists in Gaza, America, Israel and every country suffering through violent conflict. This isn't advocacy, public relations or advertising - these are the goals of war profiteers. This is simply good journalism by good journalists with a commitment to democracy, accountability, and the well being of global society.

# IPRA attendees ‘Unite for Peace’ in Istanbul

By Dr. Metin Ersoy

Emphasizing that journalists act ridiculously, especially in times of conflict and war, peace researcher Prof. Dr. Johan Galtung said that there are journalists who do not or cannot ask the politicians the question, “What will be the solution to this problem?”

Academics, researchers and artists committed to world peace met in Istanbul at the 25<sup>th</sup> conference of the International Peace Research Association (IPRA), which was organized under the theme “Uniting for Peace: Building Sustainable Peace through Universal Values.” Over 500 people from 95 different countries attended the conference, which lasted from 11-15 August 2014. As a group of academics from the Faculty of Communication and Media Studies of the Eastern Mediterranean University, we had the opportunity to attend the conference.

### He shares his knowledge

Prof. Dr. Johan Galtung, a pioneer

**Dr. Metin Ersoy** (left, with Dr. Johan Galtung) is from North Cyprus. He has earned his BA, MA and Ph.D degrees from Eastern Mediterranean University in Famagusta, North Cyprus. He is currently an Assistant Professor of Journalism at Faculty of Communication and Media Studies, in Eastern Mediterranean University. The title of his Ph.D dissertation was “Peace Journalism, News Coverage of the Cyprus Conflict” where he explored the Turkish/Greek Cypriot media coverage of each other to see how they frame the “other” in their coverage. Since 2012, he has been secretary of European Peace Research Association (EuPRA) and 50<sup>th</sup> Istanbul conference organizing committee of International Peace Research Association (IPRA). His areas of research interest are peace journalism, Cypriot media, framing, news coverage, public opinion, and conflict.



academic in the field of peace research in the world, was among the keynote speakers of the conference. We had the chance to meet Professor Galtung and have a chat with him before he gave his opening speech. Norwegian peace researcher Galtung, who was born in 1930, travels around the world to share his knowledge despite his advanced age. In addition, he radiates positive sentiments with his energetic attitude and witty speech. We approached him and told him that we came from Cyprus, and we learned from him that he visited the island in the most remarkable and difficult

times of its history.

### “I became a model”

He said that he visited the island in 1964 and 1974 to give lectures and make connections. In our short conversation, when we asked him to take a photograph, he told us an anecdote of Albert Einstein. Einstein, who left his hallmark in the world of science, is often surrounded by people who wish to take a photograph with him. In one of those occasions he says, “I am no longer an academician, but a model.” Galtung, after sharing this anecdote with us, stood between us and posed like a “model”, smiling at the camera with his usual loving and peaceful facial expression.

### The living legend of peace journalism

Johan Galtung is known to be the person who put forward the concept of peace journalism. He is a reputable academician not only in the field of peace journalism, but also in the field of peace research in general. As someone who works in the field of peace journalism, it was a nice feeling to encounter with the inventor and the living legend of the concept.

In his opening speech, Galtung stressed that peace research started in Norway



Participants enjoy the IPRA program in Istanbul, Turkey in August.

Continued on next page

# IPRA from Pg 20

in 1959. He said that the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) also became interested in peace research in those years. Referring to the barriers peace research faced in its early years, Galtung said that the most serious obstacles were erected by other disciplines (psychology, politics and international relations, sociology, etc.), and that in those days, it was believed that a separate field of “peace research” was not needed. Galtung and his colleagues did not step back and were able to move peace research to the point we know today.

### IPRA established in 1964

International Peace Research Association (IPRA) was founded in 1964 by a group of scientists including Johan Galtung. This non-governmental organization, which celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary today, continues its work in spite of those who do not believe in peace. Assist. Prof. Dr. Nesrin Kenar from Sakarya University and Dr. Ibrahim Seaga Shaw from Northumbria University, currently hold the IPRA secretary general positions.

### We need to discuss the solution

In his speech, Johan Galtung also mentioned the importance of



Dr. Johan Galtung addresses the IPRA in Istanbul, Turkey.

democracy to world peace, and defined democracy as an instrument to manage the world. Stressing that journalists act ridiculously, especially in times of conflict and war, Galtung said that there are journalists who do not or cannot ask the politicians the crucial question of “what will be the solution to this problem?” Galtung said that journalists especially in conflict-situations should encourage people who are responsible of foreign policy to think towards the solution of the problem.

### Togetherness and sharing

Highlighting the issues of “togetherness and sharing” at the end of his speech, Galtung gave the example of a kindergarten, which helped the audience to develop a more accurate understanding of the issue. Galtung

said that in kindergarten, children experience problems in sharing toys and other materials, and usually display the attitude of “this is MINE”. Offering different perspectives and solutions on the subject, Galtung suggested that it is necessary to seek paths to achieve solutions and to develop a “this is OURS” attitude.

### We must take an active role

Finally, if the subject is to be connected to the Cyprus Problem, we can say that the current situation in the island stems from the fact that we cannot meet on a common ground with a sense of “we”. As Galtung also noted, it is necessary that journalists and other individuals pressure the people who are responsible for developing solutions to the problems. Therefore, journalists should leave the logic of passive protocol reporting behind, and write their news stories from a more critical, questioning, and analytical perspective. The concept of peace journalism that Galtung has put forward contributes to the journalistic values. As individuals working in the media, we must review our understanding of journalism and be equipped to ask the necessary questions.

## Center for Global Peace Journalism

at Park University, Parkville, Missouri USA

**MISSION:** The Center for Global Peace Journalism at Park University promotes the concepts of peace and peace journalism, including advocating non-violent conflict resolution, through seminars and courses both in the U.S. and abroad, through its website and magazine, and through partnerships with like-minded organizations and individuals.

**TURKEY PROJECT:** THE Center for Global Peace Journalism at Park University has received a \$35,000 grant from the U.S. State Department and the U.S. Embassy in Ankara, Turkey. The grant will fund a project titled, “Reporting Syrian Refugees: Building Communities of Understanding in Turkey.” The next edition of *The Peace Journalist* will have full details.

# Serapaz promotes peaceful resolution

By Lourdes Zamanillo

*“Peace conflicts are like a see-saw with a very fat kid on one side and a very skinny one on the other. As mediators, we must put more weight on the skinny kid’s side, put the fat kid on a diet or move the axis of the see-saw.” – Pablo Romo, founder of SERAPAZ and Ashoka fellow.*

Throughout the years, journalism has fought for the public interest by detecting and exposing crime, protecting public safety and always seeking the truth. But in a world that is growing more and more intricate, it has become more and more difficult to do so. A sales-oriented business model has set up obstacles for diversity in content, and thus, many conflicts have become unknown to most of the population. Luckily, some organizations have taken the responsibility to get this information out to the public.

SERAPAZ is one of these organizations. Its objective is to bring peaceful resolutions to social struggles in Mexico. It achieves this through the promotion and articulation of civil initiatives, investigative editorial work, capacity building, and consulting. The organi-

zation, founded in 1996, has already mediated different conflicts throughout Mexico.

One of these conflicts occurred last year in UNAM, the National Autonomous University of Mexico. UNAM is the biggest university in Spanish speaking countries. Founded in 1910, today it has more than 330,000 students per year studying more than a 100 majors and 40 PhDs. The University has 14 faculties, nine high schools and more than 50 investigation programs and institutions. Last year, it was hijacked by its own students.

The students wore masks to protect their identity and prevented anyone from coming into the rectory as a sign of protest to a reform in their study plan. They wished to speak to the principal to make their opinion heard, for they believed the changes reduced critical thinking and supported subjects that prepared the students to work for big corporations and not think for themselves. The principal, however, refused to listen to the students. After two weeks with no progress on either side, SERAPAZ intervened. After talking to the principal and the students, the principal agreed

Lourdes Zamanillo is the communications coordinator for Ashoka Mexico and Centre America. Previously, she



has collaborated with media such as Forbes, Nextbillion and National Geographic.

to meet with the students and the students agreed to leave the rectory and take off their protest signs.

SERAPAZ’ success has been possible largely due to its staff. Coming from different backgrounds that involve the civil society, the academy and the church, the team is able to build integral solutions and communicate better with actors involved in diverse issues. Since conflicts usually derive from bad communication and misunderstandings. Empathy and the capacity to understand different perspectives, possibilities, and even contradictions are the keys to prevent violent incidents.

Thus, SERAPAZ promotes new spaces

*Continued on next page*

## Ashoka engages journalists for change



Despite the challenges, journalists can be agents of change.

This important and encouraging message was the most critical take-away from the symposium, “Journalism for Change,” held in August in Mexico City. Sponsored by the NGO Ashoka, the symposium gathered 80 influential Mexican and Latin American journalists as well as other interested parties like the International Center for Journalists (ICFJ), Poynter Institute, and the Center for Global Peace Journalism at Park University. Attendees learned that the practice of change journalism, and peace journalism, faces many obstacles in Mexico. Javier Garza, a newspaper editor and representative of ICFJ, told a symposium roundtable about the obstacles to responsible journalism posed by both economics and

by violence in Mexico. He said the Mexican public suffers from “sensationalism fatigue” because of the onslaught of reporting about drug killings. One related, and chilling, scenario was discussed: Can murders become so commonplace that they cease to qualify as news? The symposium concluded on an optimistic note, as several break-out group participants pledged to unite to disseminate change-oriented stories and to continue to exchange ideas about how to leverage media for positive change. --Steven Youngblood, Center for Global Peace Journalism

# Journalists gather, train for peace in DR Congo

By De Genserice Fresnel Tsimba Bongol

The Group of Journalists for Peace (GJP) in the Democratic Republic of Congo was created in April 2008 by Nathalie Christine Foundou, a journalist at Tele-Congo. The group’s mission is to contribute to the promotion of a culture of peace through education, promoting actions of non-violence, rights and duties of citizens, promoting international humanitarian law, and encourage freedom of the press.

The GJP brings together journalists from diverse backgrounds who reflect on approaches to prevention, analysis, resolution and transformation of conflicts. GJP also promotes democratic debate in order to become peace-makers.

It is in this context that we find the various activities it organizes. One training session at the beginning of this year had the theme of the importance of journalism in promoting the culture

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## Serapaz from Pg 22

for agents in conflict to inform themselves and reflect on the issue at hand. It makes visible the invisible. It gives a voice to the voiceless. It opens channels so that trust and dialogue can take place once again. “We work to guarantee freedom of expression and protection -for these are necessary conditions for democracy and transformative change to happen,” says Dolores González, director of SERAPAZ.

SERAPAZ’ work is vital in a country like Mexico, where official figures state that in the past six years, over 125 thousand people have been murdered and 16 thousand have disappeared. “We are in a country at war. No one is talking about it, but it is there. And there is no talk on how to build peace,” states Pablo Romo, cofounder of SERAPAZ.

Ignorance has always been the real enemy. SERAPAZ is trying to fight it through different programs, including Rompevento TV. This is an independent internet TV channel that makes social conflicts visible and critically ponders the chances

*Continued on next page*



# the PEACE JOURNALIST



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## Somali journalists strive to build peace

By Mekuria Mekasha

A workshop organized for Somali journalists was conducted by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) in collaboration with the Federal Government of Somalia, the Ministry of Information, and the Ethiopian Communication Affairs Office. The four-day workshop, supported financially by the European Union, was held April 7-11 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The training was taught by Mekuria Mekasha of the School of Journalism and Communication at Addis Ababa University, and organized by the Ethiopian Leadership Institute.

Some of the main areas covered in the session were peace-building through media, understanding conflicts and violence, peace journalism, the power of media in conflict resolution, the responsibility of peace journalism and new media for peace and social change. The session was presented in the context of the situation in Somalia. To make the training more practical and hands-on, the documentary video from Al Jazeera presented and commented by the Somali journalist.

According to the participants, they are striving to bring peace in Somalia. Hana Mohamud said, "The Somali women are glue in bringing different ethnic groups in Somalia to discuss peace and future development of Somalia. We journalists will work in attaining this goal."

### Serapaz *from Pg 23*

for a different and more inclusive reality. Rompeviento TV was created due to the poor response of traditional mass media that didn't want to include conflict themes in their content. Regretfully, political and commercial interests seem to dominate the public agenda and the "fourth estate" has come to form part of the first.

If media refuse to shed light on the interests of the people, the people can only seek other means for getting the desired attention – means that usually resort to violent conflict.

"In Mexico, people are throwing bombs and blocking streets to be heard. There is no communication between the government and its citizens. Institutions are corrupted and one-sided. Enterprises are recognized. Politicians are recognized. But common people are made invisible and have no chance in the public agenda. This is what power does, it makes its opponents invisible," explains Pablo Romo.

If there is no communication, the only way of solving a conflict is through force. Force creates martyrs. Martyrs create rage. Rage creates more violence. Journalists (*like those who attended Ashoka's August symposium--see pg. 22*) and organizations like SERAPAZ hold the power to articulate a dialogue between social actors, to make visible the invisible, to give a voice to the voiceless, and thus, to create change.

pg 24

**Mekuria Mekasha** is an Assistant Professor of journalism at Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia. He has a solid experience in conflict and peace building. He is a media researcher, trainer, writer and consultant.



Mohamed Odu said that, "We have to change our approach of reporting by avoiding and defining the conflict by always quoting the Somali war lords who make familiar demands. We are keen now to go beyond the elites. Report the words of ordinary people who may voice the opinions shared by many."

The training also focused on the issue of diversity in the Somali newsroom to make the peace journalism more vibrant and dynamic. The participants strongly suggested during their discussion about the need to have female journalist working in the media. "We have very few female reporters. We do not report issues of importance to women. Our reporting does not represent the reality of our country," said Mohamued.

IGAD believes the training was important for supporting the Somali stabilization process and ongoing AMISOM military operations by enhancing the capacity of Somali media to deepen peace-building and stabilization processes.