Learning about the power of PJ in

Kashmir

IN THIS ISSUE

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### 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.

A number of valuable peace journalism resources, including resource packets and online links, can be found at: http://www.park.edu/center-for-peace-journalism/resources.html.

### Peaceful perspectives needed in Kashmir region

By Shazana Andrabi and Ruheela Hassan

In Kashmir, a conflict zone often referred to as a ‘nuclear flashpoint’ between India and Pakistan, the last twenty-five plus years have been those of violence (of several degrees of intensity), turmoil and loss. Like any conflict situation, education has been one of the major casualties and has sometimes been relegated to the background as more ‘pressing’ issues of law and order were prioritized.

Journalism, however, was needed more than ever; and responsible journalism at that. Academics from the Centre for International Relations and Department of Journalism and Mass Communication at the Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), Kashmir, and Park University, USA, came together to hold a series of workshops on Peace Journalism from the 28th to the 30th of July, 2015. The objective of these workshops was to understand how media affects the prospects for conflict and peace building. The series was meant to sensitize academics, journalists and students to perceive situations through the perspectives of a peace journalist.

It was recognised that Peace Journalism was much-needed, especially in a conflict zone, and practical, peace-oriented perspectives needed to be brought forth. It could involve different academic activities like offering joint courses, organising workshops and conferences, conducting research activities and joint publications. The first step towards this end would be to make people aware of the concept of Peace Journalism. This was done...
Workshops, primarily that of the term, faculty and students.

“Peace Journalism is the answer to many problems created by the traditional way of practicing journalism and it is imperative to promote peace in the troubled hotspots in particular. It is a thousand mile journey and we have to go a long way to establish and restore peace. With this program, the first step in the right direction is being taken,” noted Nasir Mirza, participant and Senior Assistant Professor, Media Education and Research Centre, University of Kashmir.

There were the usual inhibitions, the ‘what-if’s’ and other limitations in carrying out such workshops in a conflict zone. Despite these, the enthusiasm, especially of students in learning about this new concept and trying to gauge its applicability, was very encouraging.

Many issues came up during the workshops, primarily that of the term ‘Peace Journalism’ itself (see sidebar story, next page). Initially skeptical of the term, faculty and students alike wanted to know the difference between ‘good journalism’ and ‘Peace Journalism’, and if they were the same, what was the need to introduce a new term into the discourse. The topic was thoroughly discussed and all participants gave their inputs. Some retained their skepticism and others found the term and concept worth discussing and implementing.

One of the highlights of the workshops was that participants were required to carry out field work and write a story based on their interview(s) with people affected by conflict. Participants realised that it was difficult but not impossible to put aside their personal observations and biases and practice Peace Journalism. As it turned out, the journalists of Kashmir, as observed by Prof. Steven Youngblood, practice Peace Journalism to a very large extent. This was reiterated in an interaction between him and young, practicing journalists from the valley.

The vision behind the workshop was to initiate a dialogue on peace journalism, its merits and limitations. It is heartening to see that this process has been initiated and further projects carrying this vision forward are being worked upon.

“The workshop was an invigorating brainstorming session. It changed the way we perceive journalism as a means of creating discord, and acquainted us with a new interpretation of journalism as a means of easing the stirred-up society and bringing positive change,” said Ifrah Butt, Student, Centre for Intl. Relations.

“This workshop gave us an opportunity to think beyond conventional journalism and stimulated me to think that every story in mainstream journalism can be explored further,” said Akther Neyaz Bhat, Lecturer, Degree College Baramulla.

Agreeing with the notion that the label peace journalism “shakes things up,” I asked Bukhari if I would have been invited to speak to his reporters if all I was peddling was plain vanilla “good journalism?”

Setting aside the label discussion, Bukhari and I seemed to agree on the principles of balance and objectivity offered by the peace journalism approach. The reporters asked pointed questions about subjective terms like massacre and martyr. I suggested that if reporters use these words, they may lose their objectivity.

One reporter asked, what if her cousin was murdered by the authorities—how should that be reported? I said that peace journalism, and indeed good journalism, doesn’t appeal to everyone, and indeed will be misunderstood as open advocacy for peace and an abandonment of the cherished journalistic notion of objectivity. Lynch and McGoldrick admit that the term peace journalism doesn’t appeal to everyone, and indeed will be misunderstood as an especially tall order. Nonetheless, I suggested that she report her cousin’s death factually, without finger pointing, and in a way that gives balance and context.

Overall, I admire the work done by Rising Kashmir in not sensationalizing or irresponsibly reporting the news here under extremely difficult circumstances. They can certainly teach their colleagues in New Delhi a thing or two about responsible journalism.—Steven Youngblood
 regarded the role of visuals in PJ messaging

By Saumava Mitra

Peace journalism asks for the ‘true face’ of war to be exposed. Arguably there is no better way of showing the true cost of war and violence than through photographs because of the universal emotional appeal of visuals. Photographs, as such, are unmatched as messages of hope, empathy and peace.

Academicians interested in defining the purview of peace journalism have called for ‘people-oriented content’ in journalism as well as for providing contexts of the conflict-ridden Afghanistan where displacement and violence are already present but also serves as a justification of the foreign intervention and occupation in Afghanistan because the feature in its introduction to the photos predicates the freedom of women on the presence of international troops.

These examples are an illustration of the bigger picture behind every picture that peace journalism needs to bring to the viewer. That is, when we see violence almost daily, A joint project between a Kabul-based civil society organization, Afghanistan Journalist Safety Committee (AJSIC), a Kabul-based research organization, Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit (AREU), and doctoral researcher Saumava Mitra from Western University, Canada hopes to shed light on the visual media coverage of the events and actors in the difficult period that preceded the ultimately peaceful transfer of power. The study follows the peace journalism categories of understanding news as peace-oriented or violence-oriented and has developed an innovative categorical analysis of visuals based on these principles to understand the specific case of the role played by media during a political crisis in Afghanistan which threatened to spiral into violence.

The project, currently in its last stages of data analysis, has sampled a body of visual data from Afghan newspapers and major international news outlets as well as from popular social media pages maintained and circulated by Afghans, to build a coherent and complete analysis of what visual cues were available to Afghan media users and make sense of the crisis following the July 2014 presidential election results. The researchers expect to be able to assess the functions played by media in Afghan society with the inclusion of Afghan media sources as well as social media pages.

The project also bridges a gap that all three collaborating parties hope will be an example for more future cross-overs in Afghanistan between interested organizations and individuals, for projects meaningful for academic, advocacy, and policy intervention purposes.

The research staff hope to finalize and publish the research findings soon both as a joint report for general academic, advocacy, and policy intervention purposes.
Kuwaiti journalists give voice to Bidoon

By Shahad Al-Matrouk

Estimates of the Bidoon population range between 100,000 to 120,000 according to activists of the Bidoon issue. Even though they live in one of the richest countries in the world, the Kuwaiti government does not have an accurate or documented size of Bidoon living in Kuwait. But first, who are the Bidoon?

The label Bidoon was first given to migrant workers in Kuwait at the time of independence in 1961, after the end of the British presence in Kuwait, who were not given nationality, or Kuwaiti citizenship. It is an arabic term “Bidoon jensiya” which means “without nationality” in English. The UN categorizes the Bidoon as stateless persons. How did this situation begin? The explanations and readings are many. Their situation is critical. Even though Bidoon are provided with basic accommodations, many of their homes are run-down, and located in an area that lacks almost everything except water and electricity.

Even though the Bidoon have been in Kuwait since before independence, they share a common social background and history with the Kuwaitis. In terms of media coverage of this issue (newspapers, TV, and social media), there seem to be one-sided coverage and anti-Bidoon negative stereotyping. The media coverage focuses on the negative acts of some people from the Bidoon. Articles frequently are written about Bidoon committing crime. This type of coverage certainly does not serve this group of people as they share a common social background with the Kuwaitis.

On the other hand, the government’s attitude towards this issue was criticized repeatedly by the UN’s Human Rights Watch. Some government officials claim that Bidoon are in fact not stateless as the UN says. These officials claim that the Bidoon are citizens of other states like Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq, or even Syria. This claim could be true for some, but the vast majority of Bidoon are not considered nationals (citizens) of any country. Many of those who renounced their original citizenship joined the military corps in the 1970s, and the government did not seem to be bothered by that.

The plight of the Bidoon was central to a recent Peace Journalism seminar project in Kuwait. The seminar was given by Steven Youngblood, director of the Center for Global Peace Journalism at Park University. The event was organized and funded by the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait. It took place at Bait Al-Othman in May. The project included a three-day seminar that included theoretical and practical implementations.

During the first day, Prof. Youngblood introduced the definition of Peace Journalism to a group of journalists from different local and international newspapers through questions and answers. These discussions centered on the nature of peace journalism and state of media in Kuwait.

Prof. Youngblood displayed, in the first day, the differences between typical journalism, which is most common and used when writing articles, and peace journalism, which is not very prevalent in Kuwait. Prof. Youngblood discussed the most pressing issues that should be analyzed more in the media. The participants shared several ideas of pressing issues in Kuwait, but the majority agreed that Bidoon issue should be on the top of the list.

The second day was divided into theoretical and practical implementation of Peace Journalism. First, Prof. Youngblood assigned a task to the journalists where they had to decide if an article they were given should be classified under typical journalism or peace journalism. The article was about Russian-Ukrainian crisis, and the journalists decided it was certainly not a peace journalism kind of article based on the principles of peace journalism.

The second half of day two was hands-on. After agreeing that the Bidoon issue is a major problem, the group along with Prof. Youngblood went to Sulabiya, an area in Kuwait where most of stateless people live, to report about the Bidoon. Driven by a Bidoon activist as a guide, the group toured the Bidoon settlement area. The streets were barely fixed. Some spaces were exceeded by the houses there. In the middle of the tour, we met a teenager and asked him how about his future. He said, “I don’t have a future.”

The tour took the group to meet and interview a Bidoon family. The females from the group sat with the mother, and the men sat with the father. The family had four children, the eldest was around 26. He graduated from university but does not have a job because the both governmental and private sectors won’t hire him because he is Bidoon. The mother said being Bidoon was not a problem until after the invasion of Kuwait, and the main obstacle they are encounters as a family is finding jobs for their children. She said, “The resigning salary my husband is getting is not enough for our family. This is another problem.”

The father on the other hand was a Bidoon activist. He was imprisoned twice for speaking out their demands, including the right of obtaining Kuwaiti citizenship. He said that education of Bidoon is also an issue because many families take their children out of school because they cannot afford the expenses.

After the tour, on the third day of the workshop, the participants wrote a small article using the basics of Peace Journalism, and discussed it with Prof. Youngblood.

This experience is expected to give the participants an idea on how to write an objective article of issues like the Bidoon’s that are not talked about often in the media. It is also expected to give journalists an insight on their future writing and reporting by revising their language, the tone used in the article, as well as the consequences after their reports are published.

The peace journalism project sponsored by the U.S. Embassy also included several other lectures and presentations by Prof. Youngblood in Kuwait City. These included a presentation on media/NGO relations at the Red Crescent Society, and a lecture on “The Role of Civil Society in Promoting Peace” at the Kuwait Society for Human Rights.

“I was well received wherever I went,” said Prof. Youngblood. “Kuwait journalists and those from NGO’s had a keen interest in the topic, and seemed genuinely interested in following through to implement PJ.”

Workshop participants visited a Bidoon settlement, where living conditions are far below the standard for Kuwaiti citizens.

Commended on next page
By Alex Iván Arevalo Salinas

The continued presence of negative and violent information can influence the relationship between people and their environment, their world view, and their social relationships.

As an alternative to the traditional information model, peace journalism claims a balance between negative and positive news and a type of social information model, peace journalism as an alternative to the traditional

The research paper “Periodismo y comunicación para la paz. Indicadores y marco regulatorio” (“Journalism and Communication for Peace. Indicators and Regulatory Framework”) considers that it is possible to reformulate the discursive patterns that have led to the fact that, according to recent studies, only 1.6% of the information received from the media corresponds to positive stories about progress in conflict transformation.

An informative treatment mainly based on tragic and adverse events or crimes can influence perceptions of the environment and relationships with others. Even some people may develop psychological states marked by fear and mistrust, thus limiting their freedoms, social relations and possibilities for action in the collective space, says Salinas.

The researcher highlights that, compared to traditional journalism, “peace journalism prioritizes social impact and quality of content over economic interests. Similarly, the

shallow and decontextualized analysis made by some conventional media, in which the objectives of social control, is replaced by a concern to explain and show the factors causing events.”

Peace journalism also seeks a greater presence of positive news; information sources that go beyond those linked to power and elites; the creation of mechanisms for citizen participation in editorial decisions; and promoting monitoring of journalistic ethics.

The study by Salinas establishes a system of indicators to assess the proximity of a specific means of communication to this type of peace journalism based on four character-

istics: active denunciation of injustice and its effect on the transformation of violence; the presence of positive news and commonalities; an inclusive and diverse approach to the selection of topics and news sources; and press contextualization.

Positive experiences in the Net

While so-called violence journalism remains the dominant trend, says Salinas, “information technologies have allowed to defend and encourage a more responsible journalism independent from economic influence such as the magazine Maraera or the portal Periodismo Humano with different funding models that do not compromise their editorial line.”

However, for peace journalism not to become isolated, the researcher considers necessary “an independent and efficient regulatory framework that encourages the social responsibility of the media.”

When establishing a regulatory framework, he explains that the possibility of sanctioning content is controversial “since for a significant sector of editors and journalists it would be an attack on the right to information and freedom of expression.”

Nonetheless, groups that defend this need of sanction highlight the benefits of limiting the discursive abuse, warning that “sometimes the media use freedom of speech as a safeguard to avoid their responsibilities when certain speeches violate the freedom of thought.”

Beyond the regulatory framework, the author stresses the importance of ethical codes and style manuals, as well as the role of Audiovisual Boards. Indicators and Regulatory Framework consider that “it is possible to reformulate the discursive patterns that have led to the fact that, according to recent studies, only 1.6% of the information received from the media corresponds to positive stories about progress in conflict transformation.”

The research study part of the working lines of the research projects CSO2012-34066 “Evaluación e implementación de los Códigos de Ética Periodísticos que favorecen la transformación de conflictos” and CO2013-44066 “Evaluación e implementación de los Códigos de Ética Periodísticos que favorecen la transformación de conflictos”. The research study part of the working lines of the research projects CSO2012-34066 “Evaluación e implementación de los Códigos de Ética Periodísticos que favorecen la transformación de conflictos” and CO2013-44066 “Evaluación e implementación de los Códigos de Ética Periodísticos que favorecen la transformación de conflictos”.

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By Karen Watermann and Frederic Loew

Mindanao, the second largest island of the Philippines, was once viewed as a “promised land.” With its rich natural resources and fertile land, it offers perfect conditions for development and prosperity. Yet, a large part of the population is not only living below the poverty line but also suffering from the long lasting conflicts in the region.

Currently the biggest Muslim rebel group in the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, which has been holding peace talks with the Filipino government since 2009. The negotiations led to a final peace agreement between the two parties in 2014 which aims at the creation of a new political entity, the autonomous region Bangsamoro. But the conflict is far from being resolved. More radical splinter groups challenge the so called Bangsamoro peace process and criticize it for not going far enough.

The one-hour peace radio program is broadcast on AM Thursdays in conflict-affected parts of Mindanao. It is aired in Tagalog, the local language, to ensure that the listeners, whether they are Moro (Muslim), Indigenous or Christian community, fully understand the contents and the discussions during the program.

The format of the weekly peace radio program includes current news, interviews, and reports on the peace process. The program also promotes peace through music, Islamic call to prayers, and features from communities that support the peace process. The Peace Radio program thrives in the Philippines by Karen Watermann and Frederic Loew

Karen Watermann is the project manager of forumZFD Philippines and built up the Peace Radio in cooperation with local partners. Before her engagement with forumZFD, she worked many years as editor, consultant, and project coordinator in India, Sri Lanka, Italy and Germany. Frederic Loew works as Program-Assistant for forumZFD Philippines and writes articles for the United Nations Association of Germany.

Program. With the support of local resource persons from Notre Dame Broadcasting Cooperation, training has so far been carried out on radio production, news writing, anchoring, feature production, peace journalism and journalistic ethics. According to the project principles of KuMuNet, the composition of the participants has as well been selected in a gender and ethnic balanced approach, people from the Indigenous peoples community, Moro and Christian communities have been trained.

Reflecting on Peace Practice and Theory of Change

The main goal of the radio project is to have as many as possible informed people involved in shaping and building the Bangsamoro peace process, the related peace talks and their outcome. This would also be congruent with the programmatic approach of Reflecting on Peace Practice and the used Theory of Change which focuses on a broad inclusion and the strengthening of key people. Believing that peace can be only achieved when many people are involved, this approach...
Compassionate rebel stories inspire students

By Bert Berlowe

It was a powerful moment in the conflict transformation class at the University of St. Thomas (St. Paul, MN).

The students were immersed in an intimate encounter with an exciting new form of peace journalism – the inspiring true stories of compassionate rebels who are changing the world.

One by one the students introduced the inspiring peacemakers giving them in the stories they had posted on the classroom walls: A voice in the wilderness named Kathy Kelly

Burt Berlowe is an author, peace journalist, educator and activist in Minneapolis. He has published seven books, including the two compassionate rebel anthologies and has had numerous articles and essays published in peace and justice publications. His website is www.compassionate-rebel.com.

Philippines radio from Pg 11

sets out to engage more people in peace activism, in talking to the other side, in gaining new understanding, and so on. Moreover, peace can be achieved with the direct involvement in dialogue and programs of certain key people deemed important to the peace process. These may be influential teachers, politicians or religious leaders. Believing that a central role for suggestions on how to better meet the needs and requests of the listeners.

A Compassionate Rebel story: Voice in the Wilderness

A Compassionate Rebel story: Voice in the Wilderness

October 2015

Rebels from Pg 12

story of peace artist Jane Evershed. He said his "views of justice and peace were broadened and changed by the diversity of ideas we learned in the book...to prevent the future pain and suffering of war and conflict."

The compassionate rebel series featuring two anthologies with over 100 stories is my contribution to the expanding field of peace journalism – and to the concept of Solutions Journalism. Compassionate rebels everywhere everyday combine their capacity for compassion with the courage to step outside of their comfort zone to find creative, peaceful solutions to the multitude of problems that plague our society. In the process they can shape and define our culture and promote positive social change. Yet too often their stories don't get the attention and exposure they deserve.

Noted peace journalist Jake Lynch tells us that editors and reporters constantly make choices about what stories to report and how to report them. It's been said that "whomever tells the stories defines the culture.

By the twenty-seventh day, Kathy Kelly weighs only ninety-five pounds, ten below her normal weight. Any minute, she seems just might jut her fingers reach only for water. She has been refusing food now for almost a month, nourished by sheer willpower and the life-giving force of compassion; by memories of soup kitchen lines and starving children, for whom she has become a surrogate and symbol. It's as if she is saying, "Look at me and remember them."

Kathy has fasted many times: for ten-day stretches at the School of the Americas in Fort Benning, Georgia; fourteen days in Nicaragua; and thirty and forty days in New York City across from the United Nations building—490 days of fasts between 1999 and 2002. "After about three days you don't feel hungry," she says. "You are sustained by the energy of your commitment." She has also been part of peace teams placing themselves in harm's way of American bombs, visited the streets of Iraq's poorest neighborhoods in 100 degree heat, and been behind bars almost too many times to count.

Kathy Kelly is a different kind of war hero. She has spent much of the past twelve years embedded in the Iraq-U.S. conflict. Yet she has never carried artillery, driven a tank or worn a military uniform. Her weapons are a wealth of passion and raw courage, and an unflagging devotion to justice that has won her three Nobel Peace Prize nominations. She came gradually to this place, transformed by a series of jarring experiences that changed her world view.

"I was born in 1952 and grew up on the south side of Chicago, a blue-collar area which Saul Bellow described as 'rows and rows of bungalows and a scrawny little park,'" Kathy recalls. "I had a secure upbringing and barely knew about problems in the outside world. Yet my neighborhood was rampant with racism, militarism and sexism. My father worried that African Americans would move into cheap houses in our community and cause white flight." It was in high school during the turbulent 1960s that Kathy's current journey truly began.

The Vietnam War was raging. Martin Luther King Jr. had stones thrown at him in a park near his neighborhood. "An energetic young teacher, a Christian brother at St. Paul-Kennedy High School, an experimental co-ed school, helped us understand King—that he was a saint and prophet of our time. We also learned that napalm, which was being used as a defoliant in trees in Vietnam, was also falling on the backs of children. The film 'Night and Fog' touched me deeply. It was a film of the Holocaust camps, a graphic description that made me ask, 'Didn't they smell the burning flesh?' Average people were looking the other way, changing the subject, much like we still do in society. I didn't want to be the person to sit on the sidelines in the face of unspeakable evil." -- Bert Berlowe

Editor's Note: On August 9, 2015, Kathy Kelly was awarded the U.S. Peace Memorial Foundation Peace Prize award for "inspiring nonviolence and risking her own life and freedom for the victims of war."
Promoting citizen peace journalism in Turkey

By Ulus Basar Gезgin

The conflict between Turkish army and Kurdish insurgents had entered a period of armistice (wrongly named by many as ‘a peace period’) whereby the conflict which claimed nearly 50,000 lives since 1980s had mostly calmed down with a few exceptions, although far from settled. The unexpectedly high percentage of votes for HDP (People’s Democratic Party, an umbrella organization of Kurdish opposition as well as a number of leftist anti-government movements) on June 2015 General Elections and lack of sufficient votes for AKP to form a one-party government as in the ‘old days’ ignited another episode of conflict, as this was not a victory to be accepted and readily digested by the governing AKP (Justice and Development Party).

While a proxy war was ongoing between AKP government and Kurdish insurgents in Syria centered on Kobanê; the 20 July 2015 Suruç suicide bombing stood out as another turning point in the so-called ‘peace process’ which was not accompanied by hoped-for transformations and reforms of institutions of war. These include schooling, the legal system, media, municipal services, etc. Every day, narratives of ‘martyred soldiers’ and ‘neutralized terrorists’ abound on Turkish mainstream media as an excuse for a full-fledged war which was a formula that had failed in the past three decades of violent conflict.

Rebels from Pg 13

Soon after the 9/11 attacks on New York City, I collaborated with my peace educator colleague Rebecca Janke on the publication of an anthology of previously untold stories by multiple authors titled “The Compassionate Rebel: Energized by Anger: Motivated by Love.” It was followed several years later by the current sequel: “The Compassionate Rebel Revolution: Ordinary People Changing the World.” Over the past decade, the stories of the everyday heroes in the two compassionate rebel books have been read and told in person in college and high school classrooms, bookstores, churches and other community settings, and in social media, inspiring current and future generations to become peace messengers.

And everyday in our society, compassionate rebels are channeling their anger at injustice into peaceful solutions and telling their stories, and forcing the media to become, at least temporarily, peace journalists.

A highly visible example is the current Black Lives Matter movement that has responded peacefully to acts of violence on the streets of American cities, bringing about increased discussion and reform in our communities. In a powerful example of compassionate rebel responses, the recent victims and relatives of victims of the tragic epidemic of gun violence that has been plaguing our American cities have courageously gone public and turned their anger into campaigns for positive solutions. As current and coming generations continue to learn, practice and share the mindset and skills of peacemaking and compassionate rebellion, they gradually become the hopeful news stories of the future.

The compassionate rebel story anthologies and the educator’s guide, along with video interviews are available in both e-book and paperback formats at www.compassionateresel.com and Amazon.com. Quoting from the foreword to our educator’s guide, “Students as aspiring change agents about to venture into the larger world need to develop a sixth sense that will allow them to see beyond the status quo, hear the unheard voices, find the compassionate rebel persona that lives within them and other feasts and it is producing.”

Citizen PJ from Pg 14

rather than the tedious, arduous and somewhat unrealisic (unrealistic as the government and corporate interests reign supreme on the mainstream media) method of offering peace journalism training for mainstream journalists.

This proposal is also supported by the prevalence of smart phone rises and rise of mobile citizen journalism as witnessed in the citizen coverage of Gezi Park protests and onwards. In fact, with the censorship and self-censorship conditions of the mainstream media, promoting citizen peace journalism coupled with strengthening alternative media such as Bianet, a leading online alternative journalism site, and Evrensel and Birgün, which are anti-government print dailies, would be the practical vis-à-vis the urgency of the war and civil war casualties. A few points discussed in Gezgin (2010) which preceded the so-called ‘peace process’ and recent ‘war and civil war process’ would be relevant.

The strongly associated ethical journalism and human rights journalism need to be added to the discussions of peace journalism in Turkey. It should be realized that peace journalism per se is not a magic wand to secure peace without building the social and political institutions of peace.

For example, denial of educational rights in one’s mother tongue would not lead to a sustainable peace, even in the case where peace journalism would be endorsed by mainstream media. In other words, peace journalism is a prerequisite condition but not a sufficient one for sustainable peace.

Another point to consider is the fact that non-violent means can be introduced, but aggressiveness can’t be eliminated from a psychodynamic point of view. War can be avoided, but not aggressively; which means that ways to transform aggressiveness into non-violent forms such as sports need to be discussed and promoted.

Another proposal would be prioritizing the human sides of the stories from all sides to counter the anti-peace effects and recurring incidents of dehumanization by media.

In this context, an ongoing conversation among Turkish and Kurdish journalists on peace journalism is worth noting (Diken, 2015). I. Aktan points out that the main problem of the mainstream media target citizens to make them believe that war is inevitable, while those who reap political and economic gains from war would be against peace journalism. B. Karakaş warns against the publication of official releases without verification and frequent use of the term ‘terror’ which stifles peace efforts.

N. Baysal focuses on ‘otherization’ process by the mainstream media whereby a group of people (‘others’ or out group) are demonized to build up a positive view of self (‘us’ or in-group). She urges citizens to reflect on what is not written in news narratives and get prepared against official propaganda language. E. Yalazan reminds us that pro-war journalism is not a recent phenomenon, as same news-making style was common in 1990s which was a period of intense and massive conflicts. On this historically cumulative background, she adds the fact that media are only one of the markets that media bosses invest in is usually forgotten. Intricate economic and political links between media bosses, government and the military are a major obstacle against peace journalism. Also, women’s voices and language are needed for peace journalism according to Yalazan.

T. Tatari criticizes mainstream journalists, which act as the voice of their bosses for perception management purposes, and those who polarize the society and normalize violence with their news-making style. E. Ayıldız provides an example of a pro-peace family which lost their son in the conflict whose story was distorted by mainstream media. Finally, A. Örer draws our attention to how linguistic framing would change the message of the news text and denounces discriminatory news making.

To conclude, peace journalism is urgently needed in post-election Turkey. The relevant discussion by a group of journalists summarized above is useful, but we will see to what extent these pro-peace points of views would find their expressions on the mainstream media (including TV channels) which influence more than half of the population with it’s pro-war rhetoric. Considering the pro-war and corporate and official interests of the media conglomerates, the future is bleak. However, supporting pro-peace social media journalism and alternative media appears to be a viable solution.


Gezgin, U. B. (2010). Gazetecileri barışçıllaştırmak yerine barışçılları hemen-simdi/1


The PEACE JOURNALIST

U.S., Canadian media biased in Middle East coverage

By Alim Maherali

The citizens of Canada and the USA elect officials to govern to represent their views. If the public’s views are biased towards war, it can influence the decision making process of their representatives. Thus, it is possible for the public’s opinions to influence foreign affairs. Journalists consciously or subconsciously make choices in the way they report and this can lead to bias. Thus, the question that remains is: Do the media in Canada and the USA objectively portray the Israeli-Palestine conflict?

This article summarizes the findings of an academic paper titled “The Extent of Peace Journalism in American and Canadian National Newspapers Covering the Israeli-Palestine Conflict” by Alim Maherali. It builds on the work of past researchers including Johan Galtung. Galtung’s table defining war journalism versus peace journalism has widely been accepted and used in many academic sources. Moreover, Galtung’s table has formed the basis of conducting both qualitative and quantitative research on various conflicts such as the Israeli/Lebanon conflict and peace journalism in various parts of the world such as in Spain.

The method of this study was carefully considered for a number of factors including the conflict of the study, the journalistic medium, and the indicators of war/peace journalism. The Israel-Palestinian conflict was purposefully chosen as it has been a long term and ongoing conflict. A new conflict would likely contain a natural bias towards war journalism. Similarly, the journalistic reporting of a conflict that is close to its conclusion would likely be skewed towards peace journalism. The Israel-Palestine conflict offers an opportunity to observe journalistic reporting of a conflict that is not fresh or close to its conclusion.

Four events during the Israeli-Palestine conflict were chosen for the study between 2012 and 2014. The events were not randomly selected. This was to avoid obscuring minor incidents that may not have been included in major coverage, but were picked as important events that occurred over the study time frame. The number of articles discussing the selected events was not assessed prior to their inclusion in the study in order to capture an unbiased sample in terms of the number of articles yielded and their content. Four conflict events were selected from a timeline of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and are as follows:

• Event 1: November 14th 2012 – The beginning of Operation “Pillar of Defence” in which the Israeli Air Force killed and wounded over 700 Palestinians. This event was a key moment where the Israeli government decided to escalate their military response.

• Event 2: August 12th 2013 – Israel approves the building of more settlements in the West Bank one day before peace negotiation between Israel and Palestine are to resume.

• Event 3: March 5th 2014 – Israel intercepts a ship carrying rockets headed for Palestinian militants in the Gaza strip; and

• Event 4: June 30th 2014 - The beginning of airstrikes by Israel in the Gaza strip after discovering the bodies of three abducted Israeli teenagers.

To research these events, newspaper print media were selected as the journalistic medium for this study. Journalism captured in newspaper is permanent once printed, does not contain impromptu reporting and allows the researcher to deliberately craft the frame of the article to have a war, peace or natural frame if they choose to.

In selecting the sources for the study, national newspapers were selected for a variety of reasons. First, national newspapers avoid local geographic bias and carry a national voice in their reporting frames. Also, the national newspapers in both U.S and Canada are among the most widely read. The five newspapers selected for the study along with their average weekday circulation figures are:

- USA Today – U.S.A. - 1,674,306
- The Globe and Mail – Canada – Circulation: 346,485
- National Post – Canada – Circulation: 163,063

In selecting articles related to the four events being researched, a three day window was used. The first date of article collection was the date the event took place and articles from the next two consecutive dates were included in the study. The three day collection period allowed buf-...
As the diversity of stories hosted in the fields of social change, the role of media and Peace in the Middle East coverage from the perspective of those who advocate a transformative journalism in Israel, the West Bank and the Gaza. And is it possible to rely on local communities to do Peace Journalism in and about the area? Finally, which audience groups should this journalism speak to, among the many which participate in the circulation and consumption of information about such a globally mediated conflict?

These questions raise issues of production, content, and consumption in relation to the model of Peace Journalism, which I have addressed in my book Mediated Peace in the Middle East: The Role of Journalism for comprehensively affecting dynamics in the region of Palestine remains largely untested. As a researcher in sociology with a strong interest in media innovation for social change, I had a number of burning questions to answer about this area of the world: which platforms and content can form the basis for a transformative journalism in Israel, and how can these affected opportunities for nonviolent responses since the First Intifada. In other words, the book reviews aspects of social change in Palestine from the perspective of those who advocate a more responsible coverage, in order to stimulate a discussion about ways to achieve an effective application of innovative journalism.

These practices, philosophies and social dynamics emerge from a series of in-depth qualitative interviews with grassroots peace promoters as well as professional journalists from different media outlets, which I have conducted over a period of seven years. The findings unveil a very complex context for this comprehensive application. Practical opportunities for change largely diminished over time, primarily because of the divergent expectations and perspectives grown during the Oslo peace process, and secondly because of the constrained environments and experiences of journalists, peace promoters and local communities in Palestine. Due to this, even some former peace promoters showed reticence in engaging with ideas of peace and dialogue. Many of those I spoke to clearly also did not trust the media and journalists to bring new opportunities and support their views.

These promoters, which, together with alternative practitioners constitute the core of the network supporting Peace Journalism from within, also seemed to operate through a variety of different channels. They tended to focus their energies on survival and testimony, fighting hard to maintain their own platforms of information, which however often reached an already connectivity and voice of local experience. Little if no residual energy transpired from their voices for applying or supporting new approaches.

Table 5: Bias by Country

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Sum of Peace Journalism Indicators</th>
<th>Sum of War Journalism Indicators</th>
<th>Overall Frame Score</th>
<th>Bias as a percentage of maximum range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S.A.</td>
<td>171</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>224</td>
<td>-2.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td>266</td>
<td>327</td>
<td>602</td>
<td>112.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4: Bias by Newspaper

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Newspaper</th>
<th>Sum of War Journalism Indicators</th>
<th>Sum of Peace Journalism Indicators</th>
<th>Combined Frame Score</th>
<th>Bias as a percentage of maximum range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NYT</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-2.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global and Mail</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>-3</td>
<td>-2.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WSJ</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Post</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>22.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA Today</td>
<td>-18</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>-8</td>
<td>-24.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td>-22</td>
<td>-22</td>
<td>-42</td>
<td>-12.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3: Bias by Country

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Sum of Peace Journalism Indicators</th>
<th>Sum of War Journalism Indicators</th>
<th>Overall Frame Score</th>
<th>Bias as a percentage of maximum range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S.A.</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>171</td>
<td>-4.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td>224</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>-22</td>
<td>-2.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Finding a place for different and peace-aimed news in these tense dynamics is a big task...

peace journalism in Palestine, which focuses on feasible projects of experimentation. My book discusses the practices and philosophies of journalism covering this conflict, and how these affected opportunities for nonviolent responses since the First Intifada. In other words, the book reviews aspects of social change in Palestine from the perspective of those who advocate a more responsible coverage, in order to stimulate a discussion about ways to achieve an effective application of innovative journalism.

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These specific findings constitute one aspect of a wider problem for Peace Journalism in the area. This lies in the fact that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict attracts very high attention of media, governments, and people from around the world. Such phenomenon is partly due to external forms of political and activist pressure, but at the same time it keeps the debate polarised and weakens the possibilities for applying Peace Journalism effectively in three main ways. Firstly, the flow of information is shaped and managed by powerful sources, and is the outcome of an intense struggle over meaning, where local, national and global narratives continuously clash, making it thus more difficult for alternative stories to emerge and have an impact. Secondly, the presence of a multi-audience with different needs and backgrounds makes it more difficult to define a content which offers more opportunities for considering nonviolent transformation. Thirdly, in this conflict the practice and ideology of reflexive journalism are particularly strong and established among practitioners working in the area. Journalists frequently rely on this ideology to justify and defend their work in front of the extremely intense and diverse attention that their coverage of this conflict constantly receives.

Finding a place for different and peace-aimed news in these tense dynamics is a big task...
the PEACE JOURNALIST
Nigeria

Nigeria. The profession is so loose that anybody can call himself or herself a journalist. The Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) that is supposed to see to the standards and ethics is not checking this shortcoming.

How would journalists change from “bad news is good news” paralox to conflict sensitive reporting in a profession that is shrouded in sensationalism and deadline writing? Media ownership where state-owned media are tools of propaganda by the authorities and where managers of the media are not independent journalists, but civil servants who are appointed and changed at will by the authorities, narrow the limits of editorial independence. Self-censorship and phone calls from authorities happen regularly. But it was agreed that editors and reporters should report events in ways which create opportunities for societies to be enlightened and peaceful.

The experience shows that publishers have ulterior motives in establishing their business while journalists are forced to comply with the dictates of the employers. Journalists also work under intensive and excruciating conditions that often led them not to be conflict sensitive in their reporting. Journalists complained of low salary, impromptu firings, and other conditions that threaten their profession.

As in some other sectors in Nigeria, corruption is high in the media. Aside from low salaries, many journalists are owed months worth of back salaries and their bosses encourage the practice of accepting “brown envelopes” wherein journalists wait after an official event to collect money for showing up. One experience of a media proprietor was relayed in one of the workshops. The owner was attending to some employees advocating for salary payments. He took the team around the parking lot of the media house pointing to a line of exotic cars owned by the journalists. He asked sarcastically where they got money to buy them even though salaries were not paid. Such practices, of course, impact objectivity.

Commercialization is also a big issue in the Nigeria media. IPSR used to invite the media marketers to trainings. Generally, editors focus on deadlines and stampede reporters to write their news sensitively before a thorough investigation or vetting is done. Journalists complained about having to submit incomplete stories that fall short of proper conflict sensitivity.

In Nigeria, events are not covered except when journalists are invited. Because of the brown envelope syndrome, “they are asked to use their identity cards as meal tickets.” The effect this has on the quality of reporting is bad since such reports will lack objectivity. This also promotes the concept of “arm-chair journalists” who rely on or copy news from foreign sources.

Nigerian journalists’ personal safety is often at risk. No official life insurance covers journalists. The inability of the government to apprehend and bring to justice the killers of journalists in the past such as Dele Giwa, Bayo Ohun, and many others, has affected the way journalists report. Some live in fear and intimidation of either being killed, kidnapped, or jailed. One time NJI Chairman Abdulwahab Oba was kidnapped in 2010. These threats, understandably, could hinder criticism on national issues.

Media men (public relations professionals) are appointed as media officers, special assistants on media to political chief executives such as the president and governors. They follow their convoy in a bus marked “State House Media Crew.” Other journalists look up to this “service to the nation” and thus would not be objective in reporting of national issues so as not to incur the wrath of the incumbent.

Despite the challenges, trainings in conflict sensitive journalism can still have positive outcomes. The last election was peaceful in most parts of the country. During the evaluation of the training, about 90% of the participants indicated an improvement in their knowledge and skills. Communicating expressing the journalists’ commitment to professionalism and help break the cycle of violence were issued at the end of the workshop.

IPCR acknowledges the important role the media play in democracy. In the process of enlightening the populace on how the development process is affecting them, conflict sensitivity must be the watch word of the Nigeria media. Their freedom must be protected; training and retraining must be on-going. It is when this is done that the IPCR’s mandate to promote peace building and conflict prevention in Nigeria will be achieved.

Peace journalists face obstacles in Nigeria

By Olayekun Augustine Babatunde

Training journalists on conflict sensitivity may differ from country to country, but in Nigeria, its peculiarity is worthy of note. A wide range of intriguing issues around politics, marketing, professionalism, corruption, and the working conditions journalists complicate trainings on responsible media in Nigeria.

The recent general elections in Nigeria in March and April 2015 presented yet another opportunity for the Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution (IPCR) to train journalists in Nigeria on conflict sensitive reporting with support from the UNDP Nigeria. It was conducted in the midst of widespread campaigns of calumny and hate speeches by politicians given through the media. Documentaries on image tarnishing and unfriendly statements were aired or printed.

Media ownership where state-owned media are tools of propaganda by the authorities and where managers of the media are not independent journalists, but civil servants who are appointed and changed at will by the authorities, narrow the limits of editorial independence. Self-censorship and phone calls from authorities happen regularly. But it was agreed that editors and reporters should report events in ways which create opportunities for societies to be enlightened and peaceful.

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Turkish journalists tackle refugee reporting

By Michael Dean and Taylor Miller

Historically speaking, Turkey and its bordering neighbor Syria have had generally positive relations with one another. However, in recent years throughout the duration of the Syrian Civil War, Turkey has received an influx of roughly 1.5 million Syrian Refugees who are attempting to escape the current violence and turmoil present in their homeland.

When the refugees originally began making their way across the Turkish borders, media coverage was generally positive, but over time the perspective of the media has begun to focus on the negative aspects of this circumstance as reporting now produces more and more output honing in on tensions and divisions between the Turkish people and the refugees.

Of the 1.5 million refugees residing in Turkey, only roughly 15% live in official government camps while the majority of the rest live in informal camps known as “tent cities”. The quality of these living spaces vary. Some camps offer education and electricity, while others are poverty stricken and offer very little aide.

The presentations of the journalism students offered a realistic view of the challenges that journalists will inevitably face when reporting on this sensitive issue. However, we also were able to identify the need for direct representation of the Syrian plight through the stories presented.

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Cinema major at the University of Istanbul said about the summit, “Before the conference, I believed Peace Journalism was strictly about delivering news in an objective manner. However after the conference, I realized it branches out much further than that. Current news coverage keeps the Syrian refugee conflict behind the scenes… I now recognize the need for Peace Journalism in Turkey.”

After first defining Peace Journalism and searching for its existence or absence in outside media, participants then were able to see the presenters personalize this process as they used it on their own work. The final point the conference presented was the success of Peace Journalism in other places experiencing conflict.

Gloria Laker, director of the Peace Journalism Foundation of East Africa, presents about a Ugandan PJ project during the recent summit in Istanbul.

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Refugee from Pg 23

Gloria Laker, director of the Peace Journalism Foundation of East Africa (Kampala, Uganda), spoke in depth about her experience as the only female journalist in the recent Ugandan civil war. Her implementation of PJ techniques had a positive impact on the situation. “Well designed peace programs were introduced and we started broadcasting on a station called Mega FM. This caused some of the rebels to abandon their encampments because the messages being broadcast were peace journalism,” Laker said. “Until we taught peace journalism techniques, we were not advantaged like all of you here.” Laker also spoke about peace journalism’s role in avoiding election violence. “If you report carelessly on elections, you can cause violence,” she noted.

Speaking about a PJ project in Uganda, Laker said, “We were able to train journalists, a total of 547 including reporters, and brought on board editors and managers.” In 2011, these efforts helped prevent media-induced violence that sometimes comes with elections in Uganda.

Dr. Metin Ersoy closed by saying “Peace journalism is moderately new for the mainstream media. However, it is not a very new concept. We need more organizations to educate journalists and nongovernmental organizations for creating more impact.”

The third and final segment of the “Reporting Syrian Refugees” project will take place in Malatya, Turkey in November.

Aylan’s picture: No easy, or good, choices

By Steven Youngblood

The first time I saw the picture, I looked away quickly, shocked. The second time I saw it, tears welled up in my eyes.

The now virally ubiquitous photo is of a small boy, a three year old Syrian refugee named Aylan, who drowned and washed ashore in Turkey. The body of his five-year-old brother, Galip, washed up on another part of the same beach. The photo went viral in September.

The only comparably awful photo I can think of is the now-iconic 1993 picture of a skeletal, starving Sudanese child menaced by a seemingly impatient vulture.

Peace journalism, which encourages a more thoughtful and less sensational approach to reporting, offers conflicting advice on whether Aylan’s picture should have been used by media.

From one angle, peace journalism would encourage media to avoid sensationalizing the event, to consider the feelings of the remaining family and community, and to present the story in such a way so as not to make the situation even worse. This school of thought would say that the picture should not be used because it would have the appearance of cheap sensationalism, and of taking unfair advantage of those who are vulnerable and powerless—of using this tragedy to sell newspapers and boost ratings. PJ would also ask if the story can be told without the horrible image, and if the image itself is simply too graphic.

However, peace journalism could also be used to justify showing the picture. If accuracy is our fundamental principle, would it be possible to accurately tell the story without Aylan’s picture? PJ asks that a voice be given to the voiceless in our societies, and certainly Aylan and the other 2500 migrants who have died this year trying to escape hell deserve to have their voices heard.

Not surprisingly, Aylan’s photo sparked debate inside newsrooms about whether to publish or even share the image. Robert Mackey, writing in the New York Times, said, “A number of reporters argued forcefully that it was necessary to confront the public with the human toll of the war in Syria, and the impact of policies that make it difficult for refugees to find asylum in Europe. But many editors were concerned about shocking their readers and wanted to avoid the appearance of trafficking in sensational images for profit.” (New York Times, Sept. 2, 2015).

As I ponder what I would do as an editor or producer, my thoughts drift back to the dozens of interview and interactions I’ve had with Syrian refugees in the last year. (See The Peace Journalist, April, 2015.). I’d like to ask the kindergarten teacher at the refugee camp near Adana, Turkey her impressions of Aylan’s picture, and whether using it would do more harm than good. I’d like to ask Osama, who teaches English at the same camp, if publishing the image would help make Europeans treat the refugees more like people and less like problems.

Peace journalism asks journalists to consider the consequences of their reporting. The teacher, Osama, and other Syrians I talked to said they were so open with me and other journalists because they understood the importance of having their story told, and of jarring worldwide opinion. Given this, I believe they (and I) would reluctantly support using Aylan’s picture and telling his story in the hopes of helping people understand the gravity of the refugee crisis.

The UK’s Independent newspaper said it best when writing about their decision to use two photos of Aylan. “They are extraordinary images and serve as a stark reminder that, as European leaders increasingly try to prevent refugees from settling in the continent, more and more refugees are dying in their desperation to flee persecution and reach safety. The Independent has taken the decision to publish these images because, among the often glib words about the ‘ongoing migrant crisis’, it is all too easy to forget the reality of the desperate situation facing many refugees.” (The Independent, Sept. 3, 2015).
African journalists consider electoral roles

By De G.S. Fresnel Tsimba Bongol

The role of media in elections in Central Africa was the theme discussed in Kinshasa (DRC) June 22-23, 2015 by journalists from Central Africa. This workshop was organized in partnership with the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung foundation and the press professional union in Central Africa (USYPAC).

During this workshop, the journalists discussed the following themes: “Status report on the electoral process in the Central African countries,” “The elections in Central Africa: Instead of state, challenges and prospects,” “Elections, community development vectors in Central Africa?,” “Free and transparent elections: What role for independent media?”, “How the media monitor the elections?”, “CSAC’s role (Superior Council of Audiovisual and Communication) for good media coverage of elections in the DRC.”

The president of the USYPAC noted that all actors involved in the electoral process must recognize the essential role of the media before, during and after the elections since media are regarded as “gatekeepers.”

Media observer Stanis Nkundiye said, “As developers of the media, especially audiovisual guys (are) wondering where to go to avoid being carried away by the digital migration, when many media put the key under the mat because of the financial crisis that spares no one. How do governments support the press, without alienating its independence, and how will it be of service to citizens through the dissemination of a verified, credible and objective information?” He said journalists should “not close our eyes. The question before us is whether the media of Central Africa, known for their notorious poverty, have means to be truly that guardian of the temple, the people who eye the electoral process.”

Nkundiye also presented a series of questions at the workshop: “Have elections helped Africa in general and in particular economic community of Central Africa states (ECCAS) to head out of the water and to curb under-development? Have they promoted the integration of peoples and the fair distribution of national income? Or, conversely, are elections not the cause of the creation of new rich and the disappearance of the middle class? Have they helped to stem evils such as cronyism, tribalism, corruption and impunity? Have they been effective in promoting human rights?”

Ultimately, elections do favor the emergence of democracy and development in a space where all countries, with few exceptions, have the inglorious title of HIPC, that is to say heavily indebted poor countries? It is on these questions that the workshop attempted to shed light.

Stanis Nkundiye has also noted that Central Africa is boiling. He noted that in 2016, the following countries will hold presidential elections: Democratic Republic of Congo, Congo, Chad, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and probably the Republic of Central Africa.

Ultimately, he concluded, “Since the launch of the democratic process in 1990, only one country of the (Central African economic community) area has experienced democratic change and the change of majority--Sao Tome and Principe. This is an important indicator that context about challenges in the subregion. May this workshop help to promote a fresh start for Central Africa.”

This training is timely when we know that 2016 is an election year in Central Africa. The year 2016 will be marked by elections indeed in most countries of Central Africa area, while the Central African Republic will emerge from its political transition with elections this fall. The media in the region are already preparing for these events.