

the PEACE JOURNALIST

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- Reports from Macedonia, Germany, Austria, Pakistan, Spain, Liberia
- Sahar Speaks program in Afghanistan



Special Report: Journalist refugees



Practicing reconciliation journalism in

South Sudan



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 PJ.

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. We do NOT seek general submissions about peace projects, but are instead focused only on articles with a strong media angle.

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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.

Center for Global Peace Journalism

The Center for Global Peace Journalism works with journalists, academics, and students worldwide to improve reporting about conflicts, societal unrest, reconciliation, solutions, and peace. Through its courses, workshops, lectures, magazine (The Peace Journalist), blog, and other resources, the Center encourages media to reject sensational and inflammatory reporting, and produce counter-narratives that offer a more nuanced view of those who are marginalized—ethnic/racial/religious minorities, women, youth, and migrants.



At the PJ workshops in Juba, journalists produce their reconciliation themed radio stories (left), and discuss peace reporting guidelines during class.

South Sudanese utilize media for reconciliation

By Gloria Laker

A long-awaited peace journalism project was launched in Juba, South Sudan amidst demand for peace reporting in the continent to counter increasing violence in many African countries.

The May 2016 peace journalism launch in South Sudan kicked off with the training of over 40 pioneer peace journalists in two separate seminars in Juba focused on 'peace, reconciliation, and unity' spearheaded by international peace journalism trainer Steven Youngblood, director of the Center for Global Peace Journalism at Park University in USA. The project was held in partnership with the Association for Media Development in South Sudan (AMDISS) and the Peace Journalism Foundation of East Africa. It was supported by a USAID-funded

program, Viable Support to Transition and Stability (VISTAS).

To the journalists who attended, the project is timely. Attendees were from throughout South Sudan, including war-torn regions. Most of the participants had to fly in to Juba because the roads were too dangerous due to robbers and combatants.

The participants were enthusiastic about peace journalism. "This is my first time to attend a peace focused journalism class and I just realized that I can do a lot to make my country more peaceful and a safe place to live in," said Anthony Ayella, who heads a radio station in Mangui.

Although in July violence broke out shortly after the two seminars were held, the birth of peace journal-

ism isn't in vain, and reporters are optimistic they are now in a better position to play a constructive role in contributing to ending the South Sudan conflict using the peace journalism approach. One of journalists who prefers that his name not be used explained, "I now have enough information on how to report that I can contribute to peace in my country without compromising the principles of good journalism."

A section of the participants who previously covered the conflict also agree with their fellow journalists that for decades, the need for peace journalism was high in the world's youngest nation because peace journalism can help communities dialogue on issues around peace building.

During the trainings, Youngblood encouraged the reporters to do their best to inform the world on the situation in South Sudan despite facing numerous challenges such as fear, insecurity, and intimidation. These factors, coupled with a lack of training, often have resulted in South



Gloria Laker is the founding director of the Peace Journalism Foundation of East Africa, based in Kampala, Uganda. A former war reporter during the LRA conflict, Laker was recently recognized by the BBC's "Outlook Inspirations" program.

Sudanese journalists producing one sided stories, and mostly quoting only one official source or "side" to the story. Youngblood called for the application of peace journalism by all the journalists in South Sudan and Africa at large saying the media can be the best tool if carefully used in ending the South Sudan conflict.

AMDISS program officer, Ms. Irene Ayaa, agreed. She urged reporters to utilize the peace journalism materials well and be able to balance their stories as they cover South Sudan.

The two seminars included the basics of peace journalism as well as an in-depth examination of media as a peacebuilding tool. Toward that end, journalists were sent into the field to produce reconciliation-themed stories. Stories produced included ones about people who have solved land or cattle disputes; about farmers who are re-starting their lives after the war; about those struggling to find jobs, especially women; about war-fueled divorces; and how regular

people from different ethnic groups celebrate together.

Speaking at the closure of the seminar, AMDISS chairman Alfred Taban appealed to the pioneer peace journalists to form a peace journalism club for South Sudan which they can use to encourage peace reporting. He said the media in general is a powerful tool in uniting and reconciling people and its much needed in South Sudan.

According to the Committee to Protect Journalists/Freedom House's report on South Sudanese media, six journalists were killed in South Sudan last year, making South Sudan one of the world's most dangerous countries for journalists to work in. The report also cites a recent "crackdown on media resulting in the closure of two English Language publications by the National Security."

The launch of peace journalism in South Sudan will help prevent a repeat of the 2014 incidences in which radio in a number of places was used



by the rebels to trigger abuses such as rape of women. Attendees agreed that PJ can be used to prevent media induced violence.

With the launch of a peace journalism project in South Sudan and the active engagement of the journalists based on field reporting exercise, it is clear that peace journalism can be well practiced in South Sudan, and that many more such trainings are still needed.



Radio journalists analyze stories for reconciliation content at the PJ workshops in Juba in May.

SPECIAL REPORT:

Journalist as refugee: The flight to Uganda

By Steven Youngblood

A staggering 21.3 million people worldwide are refugees, half of whom are under the age of 18, according to the UN High Commission for Refugees. There is no database that tracks the exact number of journalists worldwide who are refugees. Or at least, there is no longer such a database that is compiled by the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), according to CPJ Editorial Director Elana Beiser. This is because of "the extreme difficulty of getting information that is comprehensive or at least reflective of global trends," according to Beiser.

That said, the CPJ still works diligently to assist refugee reporters. According to a report published in 2015 at cpj.org, "Since March 2011, CPJ has helped 101 Syrian journalists going into exile; in the past five years, the country has seen more journalists flee than any other country in the world... The Syrians reported for local media centers, news websites, regional outlets, and international publications, covering daily life inside the country as well as the conflict. They did this work at no small risk: Syria has been the most deadly country for journalists for three consecutive years." (<https://cpj.org/reports/2015/06/exiled-when-most-dangerous-place-for-journalists-is-your-country-world-refugee-day.php>) In fact, according to the CPJ, 101 Syrian journalists have been killed since 1992. (<https://cpj.org/killed/mideast/syria/>)

Aside from Syria, one might reasonably speculate that there are also large numbers of refugee journalists from other war torn countries as well, including Yemen, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and South Sudan. In South Sudan, journalists suffer not only from the ongoing conflict, but also from deadly attacks wherein 7 journalists were murdered in 2015, at least 5 in direct retaliation for their work, according to the CPJ.

As the violence flared again in and around Juba in July 2016, one journalist, who we'll call Robert, decided that the risk of staying in South Sudan had become too great for him and his family. In August, Robert, with financial assistance from several friends/sponsors in the U.S., undertook a journey from the turmoil in South Sudan to the relative safety of neighboring Uganda.

The emails below, printed with Robert's permission, reflect his journey, and struggle, as he relocated his nine family members to Uganda. They are presented in chronological order from June through August.

June--

--Hi Steve,
I hope God will listene to my cry through our joint struggles. In Africa it is very difficult to get such chances with the current crisis, especially in South Sudan, where tribalism, nepotism, and sectarianism is very high and people like us who comes from the minority group definitely suffer.

July--

--Here we are fine except that the security situation in the country is so scaring.



The family of radio journalist "Robert" gets ready to flee to Uganda. (Faces blurred for anonymity).

Continued on next page

Journalist, refugee *from Pg 5*

Am sorry to have delayed writing to you just because the current political situation in the country has made it very difficult for smooth running of every program in South Sudan. As I talk now almost all NGO has evacuated their staff and most offices are closed. As such we are badly lacking Internet today. I have succeeded through a narrow chance. Currently my family are ok but we have got stuck because (the NGO that finances my radio station) has not given a new contract to our station and we do not know yet the fate of the radio station. We are entirely depend on the donation from (the NGO) and we have now stayed for three months without salary. Otherwise the situation is tough and hunger is looming in the country and many people have now left South Sudan for Uganda . I wanted to evacuate the family but I have got stuck due to financial constraint.

August—

--(After Robert has received word that a small group of Americans is willing to financially sponsor his flight to Uganda). For us we are worried for fear of attack and renewed clashes between government forces and forces loyal to the former vice President Dr. Riek Machar. Today Tuesday 02/08/2016, I just read your messages the willingness (of sponsors) to help me get out of South Sudan. I strongly welcomed and appreciate this idea and good heart for the support (the donors) would like to give me in order to save my life and that of my family to get out from this danger. I welcomed it with all my soul. At the moment for me to get out of South Sudan together with my family it will approximately take up to 800 USD to hire a vehicle that will take me and my family to (a) district in Uganda and also feed on it for sometimes.

--(Robert has gone to Uganda alone to first scout out the situation and seek housing for his family.)

It has been very hectic the whole day today. When I moved around looking for a house to rent in (a village in Uganda) but have not managed to get one for rent. I still hope God will help me find one that I could be renting for the family. Generally, the situation is tough as I continue to look for a place for the family. Life is tough in (this village) because of the influx of the South Sudanese refugees who are everywhere in all major towns of Uganda, and this has made rent very expensive in Uganda even in remote places like (this). I will communicate to you any latest development should any development come our way.

--I'm traveling to the border today 23/08/2016 to bring my family for family reunion after I have rented a house in (a village). Indeed, I have found it very difficult and expensive to plan everything ie rent, feeding, transport, accommodation and border clearance. As such, I have reported myself to the office of the prime minister in Uganda and am



"Robert" and his family pack for the move to Uganda. (Faces blurred for anonymity)

registered as a refugee and am yet to bring my family for reunion. Out of the money sent I have rented a house in (a) in a Ugandan district) and have also got some plot of land and raising some temporary building for the family because it very expensive to rent Uganda due to the influx of the refugees in Uganda.

--Thanked God I have arrived this afternoon 26/08/2016 in (a town in Uganda) after a long detention by the Ugandan police at the boarder point of Elegu between Elegu and Gulu in a place called Atiak since Thursday 25/08/2016.

It was surprising to me as a refugee to be demanded 550 USD as border

Continued on next page

Journalist, refugee *from Pg 6*

clearance fees for my nine family members whom you people have helped to evacuate from the war torn country of South Sudan.

I was detained with the whole family the whole day on date 25/08/2016 and was threatened to be taken back to South Sudan not until I paid 1,320,000 UGX (\$391) to the police who did not even write any document reflecting the amount of money paid to their office but only to released the family late evening making us to travel in the night yesterday.

On a sad note my mother has developed mental problems as a result of frustration and bullying that we experienced at the border, coupled with the situation we are in right now, In fact, it was beautiful when I received the money hoping to cater for many things, but now the situation has changed with all the bad luck we have experienced. My mother is in poor health status as I write now...

Today when I presented my family members to be reunited with me to get refugee status, people working in the office of the deputy camp commandant are demanding money. I truly do not know how other journalists from this country of Ugandan can come in to help the situation?

In fact it has now become worse in this refugee camp since on the first day I entered the camp. What I saw I could not be able to explain all thing here. Other South Sudanese have made their way back to South Sudan promising to go and die in their country with gun other than being undermined in this country.

(Later)-Am now reunited with family. This was after direct talk to the settlement commandant who then considered the case after he had also seen the condition of my mother.

I hope this will push the family to another step in (our new home) and perhaps, my prayer could be if God will help mom to get some treatment here in Uganda to get better.

...I would rate all of the people who came for my help as lifetime friends. I hope we shall be talking more as I have already made one of the most challenging tasks i.e. registration in the camp."

In his last email to me, at least for the time being, he said, "It was a long journey we live to remember."

Steven Youngblood is editor of the Peace Journalist magazine, director of the Center for Global Peace Journalism at Park University, and author of "Peace Journalism Principles and Practice."



A small dwelling being built in Uganda by "Robert" for his family.

IN THE NEXT PEACE JOURNALIST, we'll profile of refugee.tv, which, according to their website, is "an act of empowerment. Refugee.tv is a TV station designed by refugees in cooperation with a German/Austrian film team. The reporters of refugee.tv came to Europe as refugees. Amongst the refugees are many skilled workers, some filmmakers, journalists (etc.). Many refugees had to flee their home country because they were putting the spotlight on problems and injustices in their home countries. refugee.tv provides them a platform to continue their passionate work." (<http://refugee.tv/>)

SPECIAL REPORT: Refugee journalist reports from Ugandan camp

Getting refugee status in (a Ugandan) refugee camp has become a tag of war as many South Sudanese lined up for complains to the office of the settlement commandant on Monday 5/09/2016.

Thousands of South Sudanese have been forced to leave the camp after several failed attempts to register, and many have moved back to South Sudan due to hunger and failing to register themselves.

The suffering which many South Sudanese have blamed on the leadership of South Sudan government which they said have served the interest of their own while ignoring the welfare of their citizens.

Photos: Top right is a photograph of some South Sudanese lining up to struggle for registration.

Middle right is a refugee market in the refugee camp with almost nothing to sell to thousands of refugees in the camp.

Lower right are South Sudanese refugees lining up for meal cards in the refugee settlement camp in Uganda.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Story and photos by "Robert," a South Sudanese radio journalist who has asked that his name, and his exact location, not be used for the protection of his family.



BRIEFLY

IAMCR hosts peacebuilding, PJ session in Leicester

By Dov Shinar

A session on "Peace Journalism and Peace Building: Theory and Practice for the 21st Century," dedicated to the memory of Majid Tehranian, was held at the 2016 conference of the International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR) at the University of Leicester, UK (July 27-31). A Renaissance-type scholar, Majid was active in major social and communication issues, using a deep humanist orientation to become a loyal friend and supporter of Peace Journalism.

Following this spirit, and in the presence of family members, panelists and some 50 participants from all continents engaged in reconsidering changes in the Peace Journalism premises and strategies offered by Johan Galtung and his disciples.

Background issues included the changing global environments, newer technologies, social networks and action structures. Dov Shinar, from Hadassah Academic College, Israel (Chair) looked at the impact of



technology and social reorganization on Peace Journalism; Wilhelm Kempf, from the University of Konstanz, Germany, and Editor, *Conflict and Communication Online*, reflected on the dangers of Peace Journalism (pre-recorded); Lea Mandelzis from Kinneret Academic College, Israel, offered critical insights into cultural forces, theories, and concepts of Peace and Peace Journalism; Steven Youngblood, from the Center for Global Peace Journalism at Park University, US; and editor *The Peace Journalist Magazine*, presented cases of adapting and Implementing Peace Journalism

theory (pre-recorded), and Robert Hackett, (Simon Fraser University, Canada) explored the relevance of

the Peace Journalism experience for dealing with other problems, such as the climate crisis.



The PJ and Peacebuilding session audience at IAMCR in Leicester, UK in July.

Zurich seminar features 'Reviving PJ'

By Dov Shinar

Reviving peace journalism with 21st century technologies and social networks was discussed at ETH-Zurich on Sept. 9.

Johan Galtung's peace journalism seminal model, and the efforts invested in its implementation through traditional media (print, radio TV) in the last 50 years, was presented, evaluated, and followed by discussion and case studies on the promising impact that 21st century communication technologies and social media can have in order to improve the model and its applications. Threats to peace journalism by 21st century communication technologies and social networks was also discussed. Outputs included exchange of information and development of strategies for adapting peace journalism to 21st century realities; warning of threats to PJ by newer technologies and social environments; and academic and applied teaching and learning materials.



social environments; and academic and applied teaching and learning materials.

Professor Dov Shinar (left, at ETH in Zurich), PhD. is Head of the Public Diplomacy Program at the Department of Politics and Communication at Hadassah Academic College in Jerusalem, Professor Emeritus from Ben Gurion University in Israel and Concordia University in Montreal, Canada.

PJ “not sufficiently known” in Macedonia

By Marina Tuneva

The 2001 armed conflict in Macedonia was one of the most exploited topics in the media in the country, both throughout its duration and after the signing of the Ohrid Framework Agreement in August the same year, which officially ended the conflict. Media extensively covered activities of different actors, both national and international, aimed at mediation and resolution of the conflict. While recognizing the important role media play in a particular conflict, it seemed to be important to also analyze the ways in which media portrayed activities of the international community, as a powerful actor in conflict resolution in Macedonia.

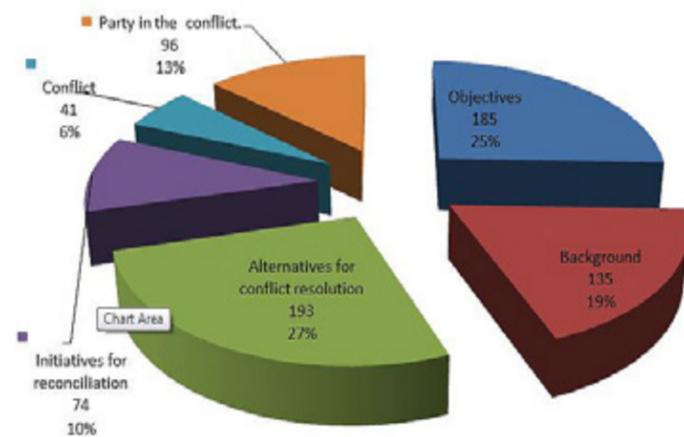
The importance of media in shaping of the modern conflict is often misunderstood, similarly as the ways in which they can assist in setting of the scene for peace. Peace journalism is a concept that tries to look behind the positions of the warring parties and present all parties and their interests.

As there is no scientific record until now about the portrayal of international community during the armed conflict in the country, the concept of peace journalism and its standard were used as a basis to analyze the coverage of its activities related to conflict resolution. At the same time, there has been no research in the country about the observance of peace journalism standards in media’s reporting in general.

This article presents the main findings of the research on media coverage of international actors in the daily *Dnevnik* in 2001. It also presents the findings from the research on the awareness about peace journalism concept from today’s perspective and its application in today’s media practice, especially in cases of conflicts of various kinds, as well as in times of tensions and incidents.

The most observed standards of peace journalism in the articles analyzed in *Dnevnik*, as indicated in the graph, are as follows: Alternative ideas for conflict resolution, objectives of the parties involved, and background/history provided.

One party in the conflict was more often mentioned as a source of the problem rather than the conflict itself. Conflicts



are often presented as a collision between two parties because things are seen in “black and white.” Even though editors who took part in the research agree that media should have presented all parties in the conflict and their demands, still this is not a case in the media coverage of the armed conflict in 2001. This is a practice is present today.

There is also a sharp distinction between “Us” and “Them”. Invisible consequences of violence, such as trauma and psychological damage, were rarely reported. The “Other” usually started the problems and is to be blamed for the conflict. Media mostly describe the oppression, suffering, and fears of only one party in the conflict. The coverage is frequently one-sided. This is also often the case in today’s coverage of incidents, conflicts of various

kinds, and tensions across communities.

The language of victimization was often used, such as the words ‘powerless’, ‘destroyed’, ‘helpless’ ‘pathetic’ ‘tragedy’, etc; or a demonizing language (‘brutal’, ‘cruel’, ‘extremists’, ‘fanatics’, ‘fundamentalists’).

A common conclusion is that standards of peace journalism have not been sufficiently known to journalists and editors

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Studies at the University St. Cyril and Methodius in Skopje. She is Executive Director of the Council of Media Ethics of Macedonia.

Continued on next page

Balanced reporting needed on Pakistan nukes

By Ruqiya Anwar Tutor

Pakistan’s nuclear program was established by Zulfikar Ali Bhutto in the year 1972. Later on, Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan brought some significant technological changes to this programme. On May 28, 1998 Pakistan announced five successful nuclear tests in response to the five Indian nuclear tests. Since then, Pakistan’s nuclear arsenal has been the subject of deep concern from both Indian and international media.

Mainstream U.S. and Indian print media, including newspapers like the *Washington Post* and *Hindustan Times*, have generally held a negative view of Pakistan nuclear arsenal. Analysis of their editorial content shows that much of the discourse on Pakistan’s nuclear arsenal revolves around certain themes, such as, terrorist may attack Pakistan’s nuclear installations, or, nuclear facilities may be taken over by radical groups. Overall, the print media of U.S. and India defines Pakistan’s nuclear programme as a threat for regional security.

Ruqiya Anwar Tutor is an MS Scholar of Media Studies at Riphah International University of Pakistan.



Reporting of Pakistan’s nuclear arsenal uses the war journalism approach. Hence in this scenario, balanced reporting and active peace journalism is needed to counter sensational reporting of this sensitive issue. Media coverage does not reflect the diversity of opinion and it has negatively impacted perceptions about Pakistan’s nuclear arsenal. Hence, opportunities for peace journalism in reporting on issues relating to Pakistan’s arsenal are strongly recommended. Likewise, there is a necessity to probe deeper into the matter and bring into limelight the realities of its command and control system and variety of legislations that exist to deal with the safety and security in the strategic field.

Peace Journalism challenges the dominant news sources. A Peace Journalist is supposed to be aware of the heaviness of the matter and the ways that can hypothetically affect their professional obligations, while reporting on this issue. Peace journalism aims at reporting on the important and neglected aspects of an issue. This way, the neglected perspectives of this issue and the realization to accompaniment them with more innovative strategies. Better reporting would analyze the responsible aspects of Pakistan as a nuclear power, their policy of restraint, how they avoid an arms race in the region, and Pakistan’s system of strong controls and checks

Active PJ is needed to counter sensational reporting...

that are in place to anticipate any threat to its nuclear arsenal.

The international media needs to enlarge the range of stakeholders by engaging political parties, Pakistani leadership, policy makers, and representatives of other countries having reservations over Pakistan’s nuclear arsenal and other actors by providing them equal time and space. Whereas, the U.S. and Indian media on this issue need to have balanced reporting. Moreover, media should try to find ways of reporting on the invisible effects, since derogatory reporting tries to destabilize Pakistan and more specifically its nuclear deterrent capability. Furthermore, media reporting should pick up and explore peace initiatives in this scenario.

Doing peace journalism is probably most difficult on this issue but not impossible. As, the journalists many face immense pressure from the state agents and policy makers and more importantly from the market forces to come up with sensational news on Pakistan’s nuclear programme. While reporting on this sensitive issue, journalist must be aware of these pressures and the way these affect their professional values.

Macedonia from Pg 10

and the practice confirmed their insufficient observance. In the context of our analysis we came to a conclusion that the continuous representation of a group of international actors, who often appeared on the scene with certain attitudes and activities, were portrayed as a suitable source of information on issues related to the armed conflict in the country. By selecting certain facts or frequent mentioning of certain ideas or solutions, even through the voice of the “Other”, an agenda, image, or perception is imposed upon the public. Thus, journalism is practically put in support of their initiatives, which in turn may affect the objectivity and balance of coverage.

The concept of peace journalism implies that journalists are seen as active participants in the search for detailed information explaining the conflict. Thus, it not sufficient if journalists only provide chronicles of the events and developments during the conflict and, in the context of our analysis, the activities of the international actors. In fact, peace journalism is a concept that challenges the dominant news values and routines in reporting conflicts and focuses on the opportunities for transformation of professional routines.

Responsible refugee reporting takes hold in Germany, Austria

By Steven Youngblood

The Center for Global Peace Journalism conducted peace journalism seminars designed to improve refugee reporting in Germany and Austria in May and early June.

Seminars were held at München Wermarkt Universität (Munich Army University); Ludwig Maximilians Universität (Munich); University of Salzburg (Austria); and University of Klagenfurt (Austria). In Salzburg, meetings were also held with the local organization of women journalists.

In Salzburg, the highlight of the workshop was a visit by the participating students to a Syrian refugee family who was living in a church near downtown Salzburg. The students were then tasked with producing a peace journalism style story that reflected a counter narrative—a different style and tone of reporting about Syrians. Here are several student stories.

Reporter's Notebook

By Olivia Skoglund

Yesterday I discovered the refugees are not here to stay. They actually don't want to be here forever. If they could go anywhere in the world, it would be Syria, the place where many of them grew up, where their friends and families still reside, their home.

When the president is gone, they want to go back. Living in Salzburg forever was never the plan. The parents want to find jobs while they are here, and they only "want what's best for their children." One mother even said she turned down donations on several occasions because they did not need

At peace journalism workshops at LMU in Munich (top two) and the University of Salzburg (bottom), May, 2016.



it as much as other refugees might.

The truth is they are just trying to survive and live normal lives like any other family in Salzburg. They all just want to go home when it is all over, and I think we non-refugees tend to forget that.

Dreaming about the future

By Barbara Santos

Samar from Syria, currently living in Salzburg with a Turkish family, abandoned her country seven months ago to seek for a safer life and more easily pursue her dreams.

More than 40,000 refugees went to Austria since 2015 to find a better life, where they can have the chance of freedom. But they now fear the choice of being in a place they thought was the best option for them because the Austria minister wants to send immigrants back.

Salzburg is one of the cities where you can see and meet refugees. In a church that gives asylum to 50 refugees you can feel their happiness but when you talk with them about home (country), you can see sadness in their eyes. And if this war ever ends they want to go back to their lives and country.

"I want to learn the language and provide education to my children," Jamila said.

Although they fear to move from Salzburg to another country, that doesn't stop them of dreaming about their future. Dreams that start with being a hairstylist to a makeup artist to being able to work in their second home country.

A woman left Syria because for 12

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www.park.edu/peacecenter

Germany, Austria from Pg 12

years she couldn't get pregnant but when she did, she knew the best decision was to protect her 1 year child and give to her a safer place to grow and live. "We have to live day by day and then we'll see," she said.

From Syria to Salzburg: Learning Through the Language of Mozart

By Cynthia Springer

Fifty. The amount of people living within this unfamiliar housing unit (within a church compound) along the Salzach River of Salzburg. Eight. The number of families residing in this specific accommodation that have fled from their home countries of the Middle East for a safer life in Austria. Five. The number of children that Anarazn* raises with her husband in hopes her kids will live a successful, comfortable life.

For Anarazn, being a housewife has always been her purpose in life. It was her job in Syria, and it's her current job now. For her husband, he is unable to work due his current status as a migrant and Austrian law. The journey from Syria to Salzburg, of course, strenuous. All in all, it took her family one whole month to travel between the two countries, let alone the 21 days from Turkey to Salzburg. The family travelled by boat and by walking, all through Greece, Macedonia, Turkey, Serbia and Hungary until they had finally reached Austria.

But why Austria? Why not the country of Turkey, which constantly accepts thousands of refugees and migrants seeking sanctuary? For one, Anarazn had stated it's because "the situation in Austria is more calmer" than anywhere else they had chosen to stay. Despite the struggles of not being in their home country anymore, they seem to have adapted well into the classical city of Salzburg. They still make the foods that they used to eat

and enjoy back in Syria, they all continue to laugh and smile at each other. Remarkably enough, these families that I encountered all had one other thing in common: the learning of the German language. These families were not just learning German, but they had the will to learn this incredibly difficult language. In fact, when they spoke, it would sometimes be a mix of both Arabic and German. I'll label it as Garabic. Their current goal here: to learn the language and be able to work in this country. Anarazn's children, all of whom are 13, 12, 9, 8, and 3 years old, are currently attending a school here in Salzburg where they learn German, English, and Arabic. When asked her age, the twelve-year-old daughter giggled and said, "Ich bin zwölf jahre alt!"

Although these families are not able to work legally, they most certainly work hard in establishing themselves within the Austrian culture and system. They do not want to take the government's money and live off of it; but rather make a life of their own and surpass the language barrier.

As welcoming the Austrian people have made these families feel, Anarazn had stated that Syria will always be and feel like her true home. Yet, she and her family continue to make the most out of their experience here in Salzburg by attending these language courses and immersing themselves as much as they can in a country that is currently growing stronger in their right-wing views.

Six. The amount of years I, myself, have been taking German as a foreign language and yet, this hospitable Syrian family probably knows more Deutsch than me within their nine months of living in Austria.

*Name Changed



"No person is illegal"

A few days prior to a PJ lecture at the University of Klagenfurt in June, a far right wing group stormed into a lecture hall at the university, disrupting a discussion about refugees. The group, The Identitarians, barged in wearing masks, wielding a bullhorn, and held up a large sign stating that "Integration is a lie," and scuffled with the university's president and some students.

A response to this—a rally in support of refugees—was held a few days later, during a symposium on media and refugees. See photos above. Titled "Solidarity with Refugees," the event featured speeches from refugees, administrators, and students. One sign at the rally said, "No person is illegal."

AUN workshop trains Nigerian journalists

By CMD Media Team

The United States Embassy in Abuja and the American University of Nigeria, AUN, have trained 56 Nigerian journalists on Peace Journalism as an alternative to conventional news reportage.

The two-day training workshop, which held between Tuesday, May 31 and Wednesday, June 1 at the AUN's Robert A. Pastor and E-Learning Center, saw the journalists undergo a series of practical training sessions on Principles and Practice of Peace Journalism, Ethics and Coverage of Violence, Sensitive Interview Techniques, Transmedia Storytelling, Coping Mechanisms for Emotional Distress, and Risk Assessment and Situational Awareness.

Declaring the workshop open, AUN President, Dr. Margee Ensign, and US Embassy Public Affairs Officer, Mr. Larry Socha, charged participants to use their stories as building blocks for peace.

Dr. Ensign emphasized that as Africa's development university, AUN is fully committed to working with journalists and international partners to tell stories of peace and reconciliation.

In his remarks, Mr. Socha noted that technology has remarkably changed journalism. While technology has various desirable purposes, he said, they could also speedily multiply the distribution of false information and cause chaos.

"Your role is more important now than ever. It is your unique role as journalists...to inform not inflame. There are millions of stories to be told. And my hope is that our work at this workshop can help us tell them better," he said.

Facilitators at the workshop were Professor Judith Matloff of the Columbia Graduate School of Journalism, Ms. Rakiya Usman, a producer on the Girls Rising project, and Professor Jacob Udo-Udo Jacob, AUN's Interim Dean of the School of Arts and Science, SAS.

In the first session, themed "Principles of Peace Journalism", Prof. Jacob took participants through a conceptual understanding of the basic theories of conflict transformation and emphasized the need for journalists to draw on the theories to add breadth and depth to their reportage. He used actual and reconstructed video reports of Boko Haram attacks to illustrate the distinctions between peace journalism and conventional journalism.

In the second session, which focused on "Ethics and Coverage of Violence" with emphasis on visual imagery, Prof. Matloff talked about the need to uphold ethical standards in covering violence, especially when using visual descriptions.

She advised participants to be creative in their image selections, rather than rely on all sorts of gory images in telling stories of violence.

There were two breakout sessions that focused on "Sensitive Interview Techniques" and "Transmedia Storytelling: A Case Study of 'Girl Rising'" respectively, with participants switching sessions.

Speaking on sensitive interview techniques, Matloff emphasized the need for journalists to tell stories from victims' own lenses and avoid being judgmental, leading, or aggressive. She used one video clip each from *FOX News* and *CBS TV* to illustrate the best approach to adopt when conducting sensitive interviews such as interactions with victims of violent extremism.

Jacob and Usman in the session on effective storytelling, showed how transmedia storytelling techniques can be used to tell stronger and more effective news stories.



Prof. Matloff, Mr. Socha, Prof. Jacob, and Ms. Usman at AUN-Nigeria.

Continued on next page

Nigeria training from Pg 14

"People can contest your facts; people can contest your data; people can contest your arguments, no matter how well laid (out) they are, but the fact is that no one can argue with a true story," Jacob stressed.

Usman, who agreed that stories are everywhere, urged participants to tell stories with professionalism in order for the stories to be impactful.

"There are stories everywhere. But the way journalists tell stories as professionals is what makes the stories authentic, believable, and impactful."

She drew on the 'Girl Rising' documentary videos to demonstrate effective storytelling with real-life videos of young girls who overcame their dire situations to achieve an education.

In the closing discussion, Provost of AUN, Prof. LeGene Quesenberry, thanked the facilitators, the US Embassy and participants, adding that AUN would help the participants in their peace journalism undertakings.

"Thank you all for being here. Give us your suggestions, and please come back again. Tell us what you need, and AUN will do what it can to support you."

Participants were given certificates and encouraged to join the emerging Peace Journalists Network, a US Embassy-AUN initiative, which in addition to propagating Peace Journalism across the country, hopes to institute an annual award for The Peace Journalist of the Year.

One of the participants, Mr. Arukaino Umukoro, a senior correspondent in the *Punch* newspapers, who attended the workshop from Lagos, said that it was a revelation and a veritable platform to network with journalists who report on conflicts.

"The US Embassy-AUN Workshop on Peace Journalism was a rewarding experience of learning a different field in journalism and news reporting.

"It, also, was a fantastic opportunity to network with other journalists covering conflict areas in the northeast of Nigeria," Umukoro said.

Another participant, Ms. Blessing Tunoh, the Borno State correspondent of *Channels TV*, said the workshop was particularly helpful to journalists who live in and cover the Boko Haram-ravaged northeast, and added that she now has a peace journalism mindset.

"The workshop was a good outing for journalists, especially those of us in the center of the northeast insurgency, who are ourselves victims of the war.

"My networking horizon has broadened and my thinking has been redirected towards peace-inclined and developmental reportage," she said.

To further expand the impact of the workshop, the US Embassy and AUN have collaboratively set up the Peace Journalists Network – a coalition of Peace Journalists in Nigeria. Launched at the US Embassy as part of activities to mark the 2016 World Press Freedom Day, the network is a coalition of journalists committed to the tenets of Peace Journalism. It would be recalled that AUN, with support from the US Embassy, Abuja, held a similar workshop for 102 students from five tertiary institutions in Adamawa State on April 21.



At the AUN peace journalism training May 31-June 1 in Nigeria.

Sahar Speaks gives voice to Afghani women

By Emma Head

“The all-encasing burqa is the image the world has become accustomed to over recent decades, and one I was determined to shatter,” writes Amie Ferris-Rotman for *The Huffington Post*.

Mothers, students and family breadwinners are among some of the 12 women who have fought to get their voices heard. Before Sahar Speaks, there was not a single Afghan woman working in any foreign news outlet in Kabul, the country’s capital. Instead, their stories were being told by Afghan men, foreign men and foreign women, a custom that’s always been in place. On 20th June 2016, this all changed.

Amie Ferris-Rotman founded Sahar Speaks, a movement fueled by her anger at the misrepresentation of Afghan women in the media, and a burning desire to deliver justice.

Aged between 18 and 31, the aspiring journalists completed the inaugural round of their training in March, and began working on their own news

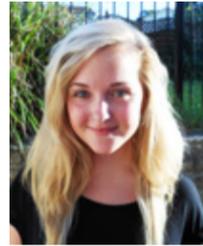
stories for publication in *The Huffington Post*.

Published in June, the womens’ stories were both groundbreaking and heartbreaking. They spoke of Afghan girls being sold into arranged marriages at age seven; some wrote about their own experiences, like defying the Taliban’s rule against female education by dressing as a boy and attending school; one spoke out for all Afghan women, addressing the shame felt by whole families when a girl starts menstruating.

“We need more programs and initiatives like Sahar Speaks. There aren’t enough. Mainstream western media desperately needs to be interrupted by diverse voices,” says *GroundTruth* Middle East correspondent and Foreign Policy Interrupted co-founder Lauren Bohn. “Our understandings of the world are incomplete otherwise.”

The women were paired with top female journalists who guided them through the writing process and taught them the skills they needed to

Emma Head is a student at Bath Spa University in the UK, and the Programme Assistant at Sahar Speaks, and alongside the rest of the team, is helping seek out more Afghan women journalists for the second round of training.



flourish. Among these talented mentors, there were senior news reporters, editors of global magazines and multi-award winning journalists. With their expert guidance, the participants have been shaped into successful writers, reporters and photographers, and more importantly, have been given the opportunity to make history.

Ferris-Rotman shared details of the training in an article for *The Huffington Post*:

“In Afghanistan, the genders are

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‘PJ Principles, Practice’ published by Routledge

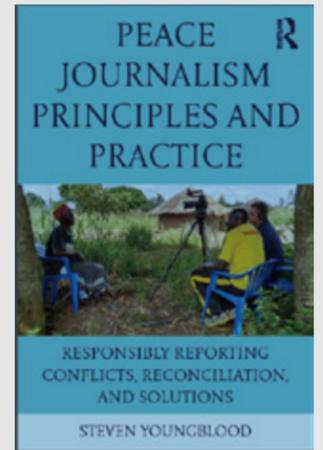
The first U.S. peace journalism textbook has been published. The text is titled, “Peace Journalism Principles and Practice: Responsibly Reporting Conflicts, Reconciliation, and Solutions.” It is authored by Steven Youngblood, director of the Center for Global Peace Journalism, and editor of the Peace Journalist magazine. The book includes a foreword by Dr. Jake Lynch of the University of Sydney.

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Sahar Speaks from Pg 16

often strictly separated, meaning most women cannot speak to most men. Guest speaker Danielle Moylan, an Australian freelance journalist in Kabul, put it nicely when she said that “even foreign women don’t get true access, the real feeling for what the

story is about.”

In the face of militant oppression and a lifetime of war, these women have stood up and fought against the expectations of their families, their culture and their gender. Sahar Speaks

plans to provide training for as many Afghan women journalists as they can. It is vital that Afghans hear the voices of silenced women across the country, that they fight as hard as they have fought, and that Sahar Speaks continues to push for change.

In the Sahar Speaks project, Afghani women train to tell counternarrative stories about their lives on topics including defying the Taliban and arranged marriages. Photos by Joel Van Houdt.



Liberian students trained to be change-makers

October 2016

by Francis Lansana

Access to quality information is pivotal to the promotion of democracy and the sustenance of development and media has a greater role to play in achieving this through telling stories of citizens' responsibility, integrity, speaking against ills in society and serving as a community watchdog.

Uncertainty is a primary development challenge of our time and a significant barrier to the achievement of the development agenda especially the upholding of democracy.

These challenges are further complicated by the changing nature of conflict that involves multi-level and intra-state conflicts of extended duration marked by repeated cycles of conflict. The fourteen-year civil

Francis Egu Lansana is a civil society leader in a country that has been significantly damaged by 14 years of civil unrest. His passion for community participation and development is inspired by humanitarian groups and world leaders who strive for global stability. He studied



Sociology and Political Science at the University of Liberia., as well as the present and future of journalism.

conflict in Liberia left the country with increase of human rights abuses and introduced many Liberians into aberrant behavior. During the war, most of Liberians experienced the worst situation of violence ranging from rape,

sexual abuse, economic exploitation, torture, etc.

Though the Liberian civil conflict is over, yet the use of violence by many citizens of Liberia is still an alternative. Many people have attributed this to the weakness of the Liberian laws and the corruption that has engulfed the judicial system thereby leaving the citizens without trust in the government especially the judiciary and the security sector. It also can be attributed to the lack of proper security civic education outreach.

Less is been done to comprehensively address improve judiciary/security citizen's positive relationship and to promote the fundamental rights of children to education, participation

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High school press club members learn citizen journalism, and "change making" techniques, at trainings sponsored by the Accountability Lab.



Liberia from Pg 18

in community social issues, access to quality healthcare, etc.

To change this situation requires trained and independent journalists who will serve as a force to education, promote peace and reconciliation by correcting misinformation and increasing awareness and empathy for others. Achieving this required a multi-dimensional approach. Hence, Accountability Lab, in partnership with Internews, with funding from USAID, is conducting a project called "Liberia Media Development."

Over the past months, Accountability Lab Liberia has been working with professional journalists and media experts to train high school press club students on citizen journalism. The trainings under the heading "Accountability for Media and Change-Makers" has the following sub-topics:

- Camera handling
- Information gathering
- Ethics
- Integrity
- Media & Accountability
- Effective communication

The students were also introduced to various forms of media including print journalism, and radio and television broadcasting.

Based on the acknowledge acquired, the students have become more ambitious and are now able to choose interest areas within the field of journalism. They now called themselves "change-makers," echoing the encouragement from the staff at Accountability Lab. The students are in the process of developing a nationwide network of partnership high school press clubs.

The lab is also closely working with Vol 5, No 2



professional media institutions and individuals to promote integrity in media and expand news collection and outreach.

Tetee Gebro is a pioneering journalist, and social and political commentator, who bravely talks publicly about critical integrity issues in Liberia. With the lab's support, Gebro is designing radio programming that will ensure the accountability of the media in Liberia; and working to develop new forms of dissemination including podcasts online with forward-thinking media

houses. With support from the lab, Gebro has launched a project titled, "Accountability and Us."

Jefferson Krua is a co-founder of *Bush Chicken*, a local media organization that is setting a new standard for journalism in Liberia. The team recruits, trains and deploys reporters all over the country to research and report independently and effectively on important issues in Liberia including issues of civic participation, corruption and governance.

Left-“Angels of War”, from Iraqi Kurdistan (by Jamal Jenjweny). Right- The film “Yemeniettes” follows a group of teens in Yemen. (Photo by Layalina Productions).



Peace News challenges prevailing approaches

By Kate Roff

The problems with mainstream news media’s coverage of international affairs are well known: a focus on sensationalism and violence; a framing of issues from the perspective of military authorities or violent extremists; and a lack of focus on peace-building and peace-builders. News angles like these can leave viewers misinformed, fearful about the world, and ready to support political opportunists who offer simple (often militaristic) solutions. Media agencies, in this way, can inadvertently increase violent conflict by fanning the flames of war, distrust, and hate.

A new media platform called Peace News was created to challenge this prevailing approach to covering international news, particularly in conflict zones. The goal of the online news agency is to present stories about people working for peace in conflict zones, to give a voice to peace-builders, and to challenge media stereotypes about “others”, with the aim of restoring some degree of hope and trust in humanity.

Launched in 2015, the U.S. and New Zealand-based agency has published stories from 22 conflicts in 17 countries, with topics ranging from interviews with Dr Johan Galtung on alternatives to Syrian peace talks to the rise of online gaming as a tool for peace-building. Dr Babak Bahador, Research Professor at George Washington University and Senior Lecturer at the University of Canterbury, founded the site, and works with myself and a small team of video editors, newsreaders, and freelance journalists around the world to bring audiences new stories each week.



There has been an amazing positive public response to the stories on this site, showing a real thirst for news that covers more than just the violent stages of conflict. Growing rapidly, Peace News’ weekly stories now regularly garner around 50,000 views across multiple media platforms. To get the scoop, check out www.peacenews.com.

Peace News Stories: Excerpts from The “Other” Refugee Crisis

While we often hear of Syrian refugees migrating to Western countries, mainstream media rarely covers the story of those refugees in developing countries, such as Uganda from South Sudan. Peace News reporter Ochan Hannington spoke to two South Sudanese journalists who have been forced to flee their homeland. Bonifacio Taban, of Betiue, and Joseph Nashion, of Yambio, moved to Uganda after receiving death threats for their reporting, and admitted causes of the conflict are difficult to grasp.

Kate Roff is the founding editor of Peace News (kate@peacenews.com). She has worked as a journalist and editor for print media



in Australia, New Zealand, Canada and Costa Rica. Roff has an MA in Political Science, and contributed to Politics and the Media (2nd ed).

“To me, I am not going to say it is a political thing, I am not going to say it is a tribal thing [between Dinka & Nuer] because I don’t belong to any...[of the two tribes],” Nashion said.

“What I know is a misunderstanding, a small misunderstanding that sparks, and then...someone who is at the back of the gate who doesn’t see what is inside, but because he has heard fire sparking he also picks up a gun and begins shooting,” he said.

Continued on next page

“We have art, we have culture, and we have life. I want to show people the other side of the war,” he said.

Juliet den Oudendammer from Art Represent said the London gallery was excited to host such an insightful exhibition, and that art offers a different view of conflict, and people’s experience of it.

“We can show a different perspective, and start a dialogue between what the media is saying is happening in these countries, and what is actually happening to these people who are a lot of the time very far away from the politics, or the fighting, or actual conflict,” she said.

Yemeniettes: A Story of Teen Determination

An award-winning film called Yemeniettes has proven that violent wars, poverty, and gender constraints are no match for a determined teenager.

The documentary follows the true story of a team of girls in Yemen, against the backdrop of conflict between Al-Qaeda and Yemen’s Houthi population. The girls were struggling to get ahead in their education, specifically when constant power-outages stopped them from being able to do their homework, so they started a company that produces solar-powered lamps. Their story is captured by Layalina Productions, an organisation that aims to bridge the divide between the Arab world and the United States.

“They are 16-year-old and 17-year-old entrepreneurs from one of the worst public schools in Sa’ana,” said executive producer of Layalina, Leon Shahabian.

“They are saying ‘Ok, this is the hand we have been dealt, we are going to see if we can make things better...We are not going to wait for the government to figure out how to provide enough power, we are not going to wait for the government to get us a job after we graduate, we are going to take care of things on our own,’” Shahabian said.



Top-Peace News covered the making of the film “Yemeniettes”. (Photo by Layalina Productions). Left-Journalist Joseph Nashion fled persecution in South Sudan, and Peace News covered his story. (Photo by Ochan Hannington).

Mozambique media: PJ practice and possibilities

By Marianne Perez de Fransius, Aradhana Sharma, and Maria Ahmad

As a contribution to an upcoming Peace Journalism book edited by Yasemin Inceoglu and Tirse Erbayal, we looked at the practice and possibilities of Peace Journalism in Mozambique, where a low-grade armed conflict has resurfaced since 2013. In our study, we analysed how the conflict between the Mozambican government, led by ruling party, Frelimo (Frente de Libertação de Moçambique), and opposition, Renamo (Resistência Nacional Moçambicana), played out in Mozambican media, which is susceptible to political influence.

We analyzed articles on “politico-military tension” in three web-based daily news outlets in March 2016. Main stories were about Renamo’s at-



Marianne Perez de Fransius (top) is an educator and peace worker specialized in peace media. She currently resides in Mozambique and is developing a peace superheroes digital game.



Aradhana Sharma (middle) is a journalist from India where she has taught graduate level media studies in Delhi. She is doing her PhD in representation of an internal conflict in India.



Former broadcast journalist and journalism trainer, **Maria Ahmad** (bottom), has worked with *Internews Network*, *BBC Radio*, *CTV*, *Pakistan’s State TV & GEO TV*. She has a masters in Anthropology.

tempted takeover of the six provinces in the center and north of the country, where their presidential candidate claims to have won majority vote, and the status of refugees due to ongoing violence between the military and Renamo fighters.

The study included interviews with journalists and politicians to further inform primary research and analysis. Data was organized under themes of Ownership; Propaganda; Censorship; and lack of Peace Journalism and conflict analysis to understand the Mozambican media landscape.

We relied mostly on Johan Galtung and Jake Lynch’s theoretical frameworks on peace journalism when analyzing content and editorial decisions. Edward Herman and Noam Chomsky’s theories shed light on propaganda, ownership and censorship. We, however, used these and other theoretical frameworks sparingly because many of the models apply to more developed media systems. The Mozambican media, developed largely in the past two decades, is still in a nascent stage and thus cannot always be looked at through the same prisms as applied to more sophisticated media systems.

We faced significant challenges during research: while a number of people (the government media officer, the head of the Higher Mass Media Council, the opposition paper editor...) refused to be interviewed or ignored our requests for interviews, those interviewed were not totally open and forthcoming. It was reflective of the prevailing climate of fear in the country. Our efforts were further frustrated by the fact that in April 2016, the *Wall Street Journal* broke a major story about previously undisclosed debt that Mozambique had with private lenders leading to much suspicion about leaking information to international media and actors.



Our findings show that Mozambican media is working under structural, forced or self-imposed constraints which restrict the practice of Peace Journalism. The concept itself is alien to some and new to others in an industry that lacks both resources and training. Add to this the widespread practice of dichotomous reporting and not peeling through the layers of propaganda, topped with an atmosphere of fear and it can feel like the chances of change are slim.

However, it is heartening that despite this key stakeholders collectively believe they can contribute positively and want to adopt Peace Journalism. Mozambican journalists can make that change by broadening their frames and voices.

Journalists will need to build trust with all parties and go beyond the headlines to find actors who can and will initiate the dialogue. This will have to be accompanied by organizational changes to provide structural strength to this thinking and its execution. Expansion of social media and mobile technology can also give a push and further this change by forcing existing outlets to provide added value in professional, balanced reporting and analysis, lest their consumers take recourse to other alternatives.

Almaty forum seeks to counter xenophobia, intolerance

From School of Peacemaking and Media Technology

On May 12-13, the 7th Central Asian Forum “Development of Internet Sphere in Central Asia InternetCA-2016” was held in Almaty, Kazakhstan on the subject “Calls to Counter Destructive Content on the Internet: Xenophobia, Propaganda, Language of Intolerance.”

The main topics of the discussion referred to media wars, media manipulations, hate speech, propaganda, differences between freedom of expression and intolerance, and an understanding of the ways that Internet and freedom of speech are manipulated and controlled. The discussion also included international and regional specialists’ demonstrated best practices, and recommendations for master classes on the subjects.

Inga Sikorskaya, director of School of Peacemaking and Media Technology in Central Asia (Kyrgyzstan), the leading organization in the region involved in hate speech and discrimination monitoring and research, presented the results of analysis of Kazakh and Kyrgyz online media, and highlighted some similarities and trends.

First, there is online aggression and a growing number of hate groups. This is a relatively new phenomenon in our Internet. The existing hate speech, clichés, and stereotypes available on the Internet are accompanied by hate messages, sometimes spread in implicit forms and often using fictitious identities. They cover more and more users and are most dangerous, according to researchers.

Second, there is still a strong connection between the political agenda and the formation of intolerance. Emotional users immediately respond vitriol spread by hate groups and Internet trolls, thus increasing hate speech overall due to large-scale online aggression. For example, frequent and unjustified references to ethnic backgrounds of persons in posts and articles lead to the growth of intolerant language. Often, however, the author of the post is either incompetent, or intentionally uses manipulation tools to stir up incendiary ethnic and social topics. This can be seen on *Kyrnet* when journalists and users post about decisions of the authorities related to either Chinese or Canadian investments when the representatives of these countries immediately become the targets of hate speech. In *Kaznet*, such hate against the Chinese was identified by the researchers amid recent land protests related to legislative amendments. “It is essential now to have all participants of the online communities, persons making decisions on internet issues, as well as those who accuse content creators to hate speech understand the difference between the freedom of expression and the incitement to hatred,” Sikorskaya, the School of Peacemaking director, said.

According to official data, in 2015 Kazakhstan registered 88 criminal cases on “incitement of social, national, tribal, racial, class or religious hatred.” Many of them were related to various statements on the Internet. Therefore, an understanding of the freedom of expression and responsibility for statements remains pertinent. “We cannot handle today’s internet challenges without it,” Sikorskaya added.

According to Sikorskaya, the incidents of intolerance both in Kyrgyz and in Kazakh internet were often identified in posts and articles discussing the influence of the Russian propaganda on the audiences of Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan, the relations between Russia and Ukraine and the West, and their influence on the EAEU (Eurasian Economic Union) states. Researchers found dehumanizing statements about the development of state languages and the reluctance of the people to master them in full, the historical past of Kyrgyzstan (the tragedy of 1916, when the country was a part of tsarist Russia) and Kazakhstan (forced famine of 1932-1933, when the country was a part of former USSR), the Islamic factor, and the war in Syria.

Alia Moldaliev, a Bishkek-based media expert studying the manipulative influence in the media and online environment, elaborated on the xenophobic trends on *Kyrnet*. She pointed out that the online environment became the means of discrimination of vulnerable groups through the dissemination of xenophobic content in the news, video, and photos. This is how the violence and disorders are caused. Moldaliev gave an example when the videos of abuse of representatives of vulnerable groups were spread online. In almost all cases when intolerance is spread, hate speech



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the PEACE JOURNALIST



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‘Corresponsales’ improve Spanish media

By Mayra Ambrosio Laredo

Corresponsales de Paz (Correspondents of Peace) is a Spanish non profit organization formed by graduates in journalism and communication from the Universidad Francisco de Vitoria in Madrid, Spain.

Our group is a network of communicators which, by means of human and professional education, intellectual reflection and communication action, allows that its members to become true seekers of the truth and ambassadors of peace wherever they carry out their roles in the communications industry.

Why this initiative? The Universidad Francisco de Vitoria (UFV) now enjoys more than 17 generations of journalism graduates. Many alumni feel professional disappointment because the current situation in the media does not correspond to the nature and conception they have of the journalism profession.



Why Corresponsales de paz (Correspondents of Peace)? We choose this name because:

- Correspondent: Is someone who is sent on a mission. - Sent where? To him or herself, to family or friends, at work and in our society... - Sent on what mission? To transmit peace and instil such feelings in his or her surroundings.
- Of peace: In the widest and deepest sense of the word, not just the absence or resolving of conflicts. Through our work in media we can build bridges of understanding and concord for the benefit of peace.

Mayra Ambrosio Laredo is a journalist and coordinator of Corresponsales de Paz, a Peace Journalism



project linked to the Universidad Francisco de Vitoria in Madrid, Spain.

Our members are former and recently-graduated students with a promising future. They hold important positions in media like: *Television Espanola, Cuatro, USA Today, La Semana, and Radio Nacional de Espana.*

Corresponsales de paz holds meetings with experts in current issues/news in order to improve de quality of the information we publish in media. Also we have meet opinion leaders, politicians, members of civic groups, journalists, and historians to share ideas in profit of the peace. For instance, we are studing the phenomen of “independentism” in Catalonia. Our next item of study is how to improve news related to the Middle East, and work for the peace highlighting cases of peaceful coexistence.

Online hate *from Pg 23*

against minorities is growing because users get involved into discussions using abusive language and post online comments containing calling for violence and discrimination. “It is impossible to specify only one source of xenophobia with the purpose of political manipulation,” Moldaliev emphasized. “In fact, various forces use it on the Kyrgyz Internet.”

Aizat Shakieva, an activist of the Bishkek Feminist Initiatives, reported about the existing relationship between intolerance towards women and girls and the struggle for their rights. She revealed a series of facts about online harassment of activists on *Kyrnet*, where they were exposed to abuses and threats coming from users. For example, the analysis of online coverage of the protest march on March 8, 2016 dedicated to the International Day of Struggle for Women’s Rights revealed a flow of abusive posts, including from users thinking that the strengthening of women’s rights was “unacceptable and offensive for the Muslim society.” Almost 100 negative comments with xenophobic connotations and offenses were found under the video posted online, where activists were talking about their discrimination in the families and at schools and about gender stereotypes in the society.

Opposite trends can be seen on the Internet of Uzbekistan with its offline and online strict censorship, where the majority of media content is state propaganda. The targets of ideological attacks are often Muslims, foreign NGOs, rights activists, freelance journalists, and LGBT communities.