

the PEACE JOURNALIST

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Planting the seeds of peace journalism in

Cyprus



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 and about teachers, students, and practitioners of peace and conflict sensitive journalism.

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

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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.

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Peace journalism takes root in Cyprus

By Sarah Stout

The island of Cyprus has been divided into the Turkish North and Greek South since a 1974 war. The reminders of the war still remain. In Famagusta in the north, there is an abandoned area called Varosha. It was once the most exclusive of resorts, but now stands a vacant ghost city, closed off with fences and signs warning to keep out. Varosha underscores the need for the island to tear down the walls that isolate, both outside the buildings and in the hearts of the people.

While the intervention of the UN and others has prevented violence since the war, the island still seeks peace that will allow it to function as a whole.

The media from both sides have had a detrimental influence on the conflict, publicizing predominantly negative narratives about the other side, according to Cypriot journalists. To combat these narratives, there is a belief that applying peace journalism principles could be one element that might bring the two sides together. The practice of peace journalism in Cyprus would lead journalists and journalism organizations to disseminate news that would be fair, balanced, accurate, anti-stereotype,

peace oriented, and feature perspectives from both sides instead of one. Peace journalism taking hold in Cyprus could be a start in breaking the current negative narratives, and establishing a foundation for resolution and eventually peace.

A recent peace journalism project in Cyprus was launched in hopes of planting the seeds for the wide scale practice of peace journalism in Cyprus. "This may be a small project, but it will be big step for the future activities," said Assistant Prof. Dr. Metin Ersoy, Faculty of Communication and Media Studies, Eastern Mediterranean

University (EMU) in Famagusta, North Cyprus.

Planting the Seeds

The 2014 Spring Peace Journalism Cyprus mission was led by Steven Youngblood, director of the Center for Global Peace Journalism and associate professor of communication at Park University in Parkville, Missouri USA.

The project began with a lecture by Youngblood on Monday, March 10, at EMU. The lecture on Monday included some challenging questions from communications department faculty. One attendee was peace journalism teacher and PhD student Ayca Atay, who will use the lecture to enhance her teaching at EMU.

"I think it was a good seminar which



Peace Journalism discussions were held at Eastern Mediterranean University for students (top) and faculty.

renewed my knowledge on peace journalism," she said. "Currently, I am teaching peace journalism on the undergraduate level in Turkish. I am going to translate and use Professor Youngblood's content analysis rubric in my class. In times of peace, media may not have powerful effects on the formation of public opinion, but in times of conflict, especially violent conflict, media's effects amplify as people depend more on the information flow from the media.

"The traditional journalism tends to add fuel to fire with its news values that prioritize violence over nonviolence. 'If it bleeds, it leads', as the saying goes. We need to work more for peace journalism to gain a stronger

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Cyprus PJ project from Pg 3

foothold," Atay commented.

Dean of Communications at EMU, Professor Dr. Suleyman Irvan, agreed that the lecture was educational. He noted, "good examples were given for how to practice peace journalism."

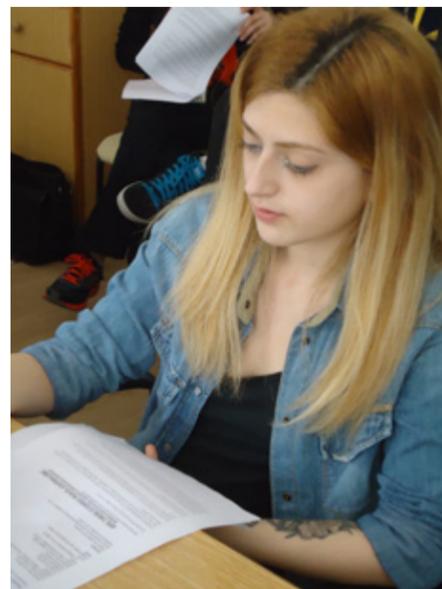
A second lecture for students was held on day two of the Cyprus Project at EMU. The students were high-energy and eager to learn. The students learned the foundations of peace journalism at a fundamental level, not through a textbook, not from a flyer, but from Prof. Youngblood's hands-on lecture. The room full of 33 inquisitive and adept minds included doctoral graduate student Elnaz Nasehi. She remarked, "I didn't have a rich academic background in peace journalism, and this workshop brought some new interesting ideas to me. I appreciate Professor Youngblood's efforts to travel around the world to spread the idea of PJ."



Students check a story for peace journalism content at EMU in Famagusta.

Cyprus Community Media Centre

The second half of peace journalism training was held in Nicosia, the capital of the Republic of Cyprus, at



Going over notes during a Peace Journalism seminar for students at Eastern Mediterranean University.

the Cyprus Community Media Centre (CCMC). The CCMC is located in the United Nations controlled Buffer Zone—a sort of no-man's land between north and south Cyprus. The PJ seminar was held on Thursday March 13 and Friday March 14. The purpose of the training was to teach the fundamentals of peace journalism to the participants, who were a mixed group from both north and south. The attendees included NGO professionals, journalists, and graduate students. Attendees were taught to seek social responsibility in reporting, and to ask themselves some key questions: "Am I going to cause a riot? Will what I write drive a wedge between conflicted parties?" These are questions that help journalists understand their role in peace building in Cyprus.

Participants were also introduced to the idea of breaking stereotypical media narratives in the Cyprus con-

flict. Participants noted that press treatment of "the other side" is usually negative and distorted—that the northern media are negative about the south, and vice-versa.

"Because of our culture we think there is this one truth; we don't have a lot of critical thinking skills. We are no good at conflict...lack of empathy, maybe it's a Mediterranean thing, has to do with everything here, it's all politicalized," said seminar participant Eleni Christodoulou, political science PhD student.

Professor Youngblood worked with the participants on how to apply principles of peace journalism in practice. The journalists expressed their hesitation that it is hard to report in a peace sensitive fashion for fear of being labeled boring, and that sometimes you have to report in a sensational way so

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Cyprus PJ project from Pg 4



Participants debate at the PJ seminar at the Cyprus Community Media Center (CCMC) in Nicosia, Cyprus in March (above and right). CCMC is located in the buffer zone adjacent to a UN base.

that you will get printed. Youngblood countered by saying that sensationalism isn't necessary and that there will always be a market for good peace journalism style storytelling.

On Friday, the last day of the training, the participants were assigned to interview refugees, migrants, and asylum seekers, and begin to create a story that acted as a counter-narrative to the usually negative stories about migrants. What they came up with were compelling stories about a refugee and his cat; a Pakistani student discussing Cyprus and how it welcomes immigrants; an asylum seeker from Togo; and a Syrian immigrant who is working hard to assist those escaping the mayhem in Syria.

Later, participants created proposals for a large-scale peace journalism project in Cyprus. Project goals included raising public awareness on commonalities between the two sides, increasing interaction between the two sides, and creating a peace journalism website for Cyprus that would include articles on current events, educational resources, profiles on prominent figures, photos, videos, PSAs on peace, and re-writing of

mainstream media pieces.

"The (CCMC) training was valuable for me to see the responsibilities of the journalist contrary to dealing with PJ as a utopia academic venture," said attendee Cem Cicek, public information officer for UNFIC. "Going out of the classroom to practice PJ was the most valuable for me as it allows me to form a relation with what is written in the books and with the work of journalism. As a reader in Cyprus, I believe that we have been trained to accept only one view - the view of the elite. In this regard, as readers we



have to start demanding other views however in order to start demanding, the journalists must give us the taste of other views. Therefore the journalists must have the awareness to 'give a voice to the voiceless,'" Cicek added.

The future for peace journalism in Cyprus is bright. Recognizing the benefits of organizing as a unit, CCMC seminar participant John Theodore-Edevu offered an idea to form a Turkish-Cypriot Greek Cypriot journalist group, and call it Association for Peace Journalists in Cyprus (APJC). Some of the group came together after the seminar to form the APJC, which will soon be hosting an organizational meeting. In addition, the Center for Global Peace Journalism, EMU, and the CCMC have started making plans for a more comprehensive peace journalism project in Cyprus.

The seeds have taken root.



Steven Youngblood goes over PJ basics at the CCMC in Nicosia, Cyprus.

Jake Lynch: East meets West in Myanmar

By Jake Lynch in Yangon

East meets West, along with competing ideas of the societal role of journalism, in this conference titled Challenges of a Free Press, being held in Myanmar, the southeast Asian country formerly known as Burma and now emerging from decades of military dictatorship.

Journalists and professionals involved in media development heard an opening statement from presidential spokesperson (and deputy Information Minister) U Ye Htut, in which he emphasised his government's commitment to freedom of expression, and promoting media reform as "a vital process for the evolution of democratic culture."

Realising that "we cannot control the media in the digital age", the new authorities here are instead urging government ministries to share infor-

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http://routledge-ny.com/catalogs/routledge_research_media_and_communication/1/10/



mation with journalists and the public. Veteran editor U Thiha Saw, who last year launched a new English language daily, Myanmar Freedom, serves on a newly formed Press Council, which has drawn up a Code of Ethics, Code of Conduct and a new press law.

Suddenly, after 50 years, the dead hand of the censor has been removed from the process of reporting, Saw told the conference, and many Burmese journalists are revelling in their newfound freedom.

Dark shadows remain, however. Last month, Tomas Ojea Quintana, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Myanmar, issued an outgoing report as his six-year term came to an end. "During this mission," he reflected, "I met journalists who described a prevailing climate of uncertainty and fear of arrest, particularly if reporting dealt with issues too close to the interests of the military or other powerful elites." Examples included newspaper staff arrested for investigating stories on chemical weapons factories, and a separate case where a reporter pursuing a story on corruption was sent to jail for three months.

The office of the Special Rapporteur has been an important safeguard, and a source for the international community of independent information and assessment, which makes it all the more concerning to find the new Myanmar government at loggerheads with the UN over the need for it to continue with a new appointment.

What has Peace Journalism to offer in this situation? A prevalent theme of the Myanmar conference is that media freedom also confers responsibility. The Ministry of Information has "a mandate to promote diverse and responsible media," Minister Htut said, in the interest of "enabling citizens to

make informed decisions."

Fine words: however, an involuntary shudder runs through the hall at the notion of governments deciding what constitutes responsible media. Meeting that definition in Myanmar seems to require "cooperation" with the Ministry, to be rewarded – in the case of international news organisations – with extended multiple-entry visas.

A better way to foster journalistic responsibility is for it to grow organically. The now-globally distributed Peace Journalism movement has always drawn from people's sense that there must be more constructive roles for journalism in conflict. It took root in the UK, in the mid-1990s, as wars in Iraq and the disintegrating federal state of Yugoslavia focused attention not just on the conflicts themselves but on the way they were reported.

It appealed to people in Indonesia, at the turn of the century, when that nation was at the same stage that Myanmar is now, when the abolition of censorship gave rise to debate over the roles of a newly freed media as not only a newly transparent window on matters of common concern, but also a potential vehicle for escalating tensions.

In such cases, journalists and their newsrooms can be prompted to the critical self-awareness, when reporting conflicts, that is crucial to the emergence of an enabling environment for peace journalism. Reporters should report, honestly and without favour, the facts in front of them, but also ask: how did I come to meet these particular facts, and how did they come to meet me? What is missing, with what consequences, and how could those elements be put back in?

One Asian country that enjoys both a

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www.park.edu/peacecenter

PJ, press freedom in Asia *from Pg 6*

free press, and a public debate of rare sophistication over journalistic ethics, is the Philippines. Another speaker here, Melinda Quintos de Jesus, is Executive Director, Center for Media Freedom & Responsibility in Manila, and urged Myanmar to create a national program of citizen education for media literacy as part of its reform program. "Ultimately," she declared, "it is the people who are the only real watchdogs."

In the Peace Journalism panel, I was joined by Dilnaz Boga, who won an award from the Associated Press for her brave and vivid reporting from Kashmir.

People there are exposed to multiple dimensions of violence, and in need of raised awareness among, and engagement by internationals – in solidarity with their own nonviolent action for their rights and freedoms – if there is to be any prospect of peace with justice.

Myanmar, too, brings into its new era a set of regional and ethnic conflicts that are essentially unresolved. There is a risk that development, now proceeding apace, may both exacerbate those conflicts and bring new ones. The country's ambition to achieve rapid industrialisation will require new sources of energy, and the newspaper given away in delegate packs at the conference, the Myanmar Times, contains a special pull-out section on the burgeoning power industry.

However, the Shan Human Rights Foundation has raised the alarm over six new foreign-owned hydropower plants now planned for the Salween River, since locals have not been consulted, the area is divided between

government troops and rebel forces, and thousands of farmers stand to lose land, access to water, or both.

Fully 99% of Myanmar's media industry is reckoned to be concentrated in the main city, Yangon. Minister Htut acknowledged that "minority and marginalised groups are losing their voice in the media," a problem that risked deepening inequalities, and re-



Melinda Quintos de Jesus

quired more than merely commercial growth to resolve it.

There is a sense that Myanmar, for better or worse, is losing some of its exceptionality. Until recently, it was notorious as one of the most repressive states on earth, with periodic uprisings by a downtrodden but still courageous people. Now, it is best described as partly free, with political prisoners released, media censorship lifted and an elected legislature. The military still has an overblown role in public affairs, and many illiberal laws are still on the statute book – but in those respects it has many other

countries for company.

For years, imprisoned democracy leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi inspired followers around the world with her luminous advocacy for nonviolence in the face of tyranny. Now, while still a figure of extraordinary personal appeal and grace, she has to behave as the politician she has become. She disappointed some delegates here, in a speech at a pre-conference lunch, by not issuing stronger words of condemnation of violence against the Muslim Rohingya people of Rakhine State.

But Myanmar still enjoys considerable goodwill, and admiration for the refusal of its people to relinquish their dream of democracy through all the years of dictatorship.

Delegates here include many who are keen to help. In one important respect, they have a local tradition on which to draw. Repression of the press in Burma is an artefact of colonialism. Back in the late 19th Century, the penultimate King, Mindon, promulgated 17 articles of press freedom,

encouraging the nascent local journalism profession: "If I do wrong, write about me."

As an early statement of willingness by rulers to submit to judgement in the public sphere, it still takes some beating. And it could easily feed into a context in which Peace Journalism initiatives could take root.

The International Media Conference in Yangon, on March 9-12, was organised by the East West Center with partnership by the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung.

Note: Jake Lynch was a guest and keynote speaker at the conference.--Ed

Some Pakistan media seek inter-faith peace

By Dr. Navras Jaat Aafreedi

Realistically speaking, it is least expected of a Muslim publication to greet Jews across the world on their new year, Rosh Hashanah, but you expect the unexpected from Weekly Press Pakistan (WPP). It even published an article showcasing Israel's achievements on the sixty-fourth anniversary of the creation of the modern Jewish state and wished her a happy birthday.

It is very unusual for a Muslim publication to do so, but WPP is sincerely and strongly committed to doing everything it takes to bring about reconciliation between Jews and Muslims.

Hatred thrives on falsehood. The best way to combat falsehood is to spread knowledge through the dissemination of correct information, and this is what the online bilingual (Urdu and English) news magazine WPP has devoted itself to.

WPP sincerely tries to present before its predominantly Urdu speaking South Asian Muslim readers in India, Pakistan and in their diaspora, an alternative image of Jews and Israel, in English as well as in Urdu, the lingua franca of almost all South Asian Muslims. And what is particularly noteworthy is that it does so without any support from any organization and that too at the great risk of being perceived as a Zionist propaganda tool.

WPP set its tone of peace journalism

from the very first story it published on December 11, 2012. This was a report on the Golden Jubilee session of the Christian-Muslim Forum of Canada, jointly established by the Muslim founder, owner and editor-in-chief of the WPP, Tariq Khan, and Pastor Tony Zekveled, held on August 24, 2000.

WPP entered into an agreement with the Israeli news agency Tazpit in July 2012, and thus became the first ever Urdu publication to do so, for which it was severely criticized in the Iranian media. The Iranian press propagated that the Zionist media after acquiring control of Saudi Arabia were trying to control the media of other Muslim countries, like Pakistan. However, the Jewish media warmly welcomed the collaboration.

WPP brings into sharp focus not only the sessions of Muslim-Christian and Muslim-Jewish dialogues co-led by its owner and editor Tariq Khan, but wherever in the world such dialogues take place. Khan knows very well that the call to dialogue is at the heart of Islam, as the Turkish Islamic scholar Fethullah Golen says, advocating dialogue as a step towards peace. "Gulen insists...the basic Islamic sources advise Muslims to engage in dialogue with other faiths".

WPP believes in making peace the story to give peace a chance, taking cue from the veteran Israeli journalist Danny Rubinstein, who said, "...A big terrorist attack would make a good story. But peace negotiations will be relegated to the secondary place. My conclusion is to give peace a chance (and to) make peace the story."

Conscious of how the lack of history and perspective on an issue distorts people's understanding of a conflict,

WPP has formed an international advisory board made up of eight renowned and eminent scholars of Judaism and Islam and of their histories.

Aware of the anti-Jewish bias of the Urdu

press and equipped with a lifetime of experience as a journalist, Tariq Khan invested all his savings in bringing out the WPP upon his migration from Karachi in Pakistan to Toronto in Canada in 2000. The goal was to bring to his fellow South Asian Muslims news of the Jewish world.

Tariq Khan was invited to join the advisory board of the Daniel Pearl International Journalism Institute at the Interdisciplinary Centre in Herzliya, Israel, when it was established in April this year, i.e. 2013. He is the only Muslim on the board originally from Pakistan, where the Wall Street Journal's South Asia Bureau Chief, Daniel Pearl, an American Jew, was brutally killed in 2002.

There has been a lot of news related to the Jewish world which the WPP has been the first to break. The path WPP has chosen for itself is certainly not an easy one to tread. This can be gauged from the often passionate

WPP is sincerely and strongly committed to bringing about reconciliation between Jews and Muslims.



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Inter-faith peace from Pg 8

comments its articles often attract.

Given the fact that it caters to the Urdu speaking South Asian Muslim population, its significance and importance can be realized by what the New Delhi based eminent writer and filmmaker Arshad Amaullah says, "The Urdu journalism, in its essence, is 'views oriented', as its role in moulding Muslim public opinion is simply incomparable to the other vernacular press". Freelance journalist Jyoti Punwani, who specializes in communal issues, finds the Urdu press openly biased: "The Urdu press refuses to even acknowledge that Muslims can be violent...Far from compulsion, the Urdu press' bias has more to do with the beliefs held by Urdu journalists."

But the successful Urdu journalist Shahid Siddiqui who has also been an elected member of the Indian parliament blames reader compulsions for his indulgence in yellow journalism after the failure of his first news magazine in 1972. This was right after the Indo-Pakistan war that created Bangladesh in 1971: "I went to Bangladesh at that time...I wrote the truth which was not acceptable to Muslims, because for them the creation of Bangladesh was a turning point, because [it was] the destruction of the idea of Pakistan, the two nation theory." The very next year he founded Nai Duniya and benefited from a similar chance, the Arab-Israeli War of 1973. The rise in circulation to 30,000 in just a few months time set its course of anti-Israel, anti-Zionist and anti-Jewish rhetoric. This anti-Zionist or anti-Israel rhetoric is actually a characteristic of the Urdu press.

The fact that WPP has already started influencing the South Asian Muslim attitudes towards Jews and Israel is indicated by the number of likes (2,248) its page has received on the social networking site Facebook and also by the frequency at which its stories are shared by its readers on Facebook and Twitter. It is certainly indicative of their gradually opening up to an alternative image of Jews and Israel, even if not of an absolute change in their attitudes towards them.

What is significant is that most of those who like the pages are Muslims, which shows willingness on their part to learn about Jews and Israel things very different from what is fed to them in the name of news by their Muslim

press. Among the many examples of anti-Semitism in the Urdu press, here are a few from Lucknow, a centre of Muslim scholarship. In 2009 the two most popular Urdu daily newspapers there published front-page lengthy stories denying the Holocaust and calling it a hoax with the aim of sabotaging the then ongoing Holocaust films retrospective there, which happened to be the first ever in South Asia. Sadly anti-Semitism in the Muslim press is not confined to their Urdu press, but is also found in their press in other languages.

In December 2012, the English weekly The Lucknow Tribune published an article on Jews in Lucknow by the present author under a title different than what had originally been submitted. This article was illustrated with an anti-Semitic caricature. In response to a number of letters

of protest from the present author and several scholars, the LT republished the article without the illustration, but neither published an apology nor those letters of protest.

When checked on 27th August, 2013, eight of the ten most popular articles of WPP were related to Jews or Israel or to both in some way or the other. It

is of great significance as its readership is predominantly Muslim. It is unprecedented for any Muslim publication to have eight of its ten most popular articles to be about Jews or Israel. WPP maintains a Google group, subscribed by more than 16,193 journalists, mostly Pakistanis, but also of other countries.

Members of its Google group regularly republish WPP stories in their respective publications which greatly multiplies the readership of its articles. According to WPP's own estimate 43% of its readers are in Pakistan and India, 38% in the USA and Canada and the remaining 19% in the rest of the world. It is estimated that there are over twenty million Internet users in Pakistan and seventy-four million in India. India is the third largest Internet user after America and China. A survey conducted by two Pakistani websites in July 2013 among 1,100 respondents across Pakistan, found that 75% of them regularly used the Internet for news.

The case of WPP presents before us a role model for journalism.

Crisis porn: The power of content curation

By Monica Curca

In early October 2013 a boat filled with African migrants sank off of the Italian island of Lampedusa, killing at least 111 people, and more than 200 are still missing. Friday the 4th of October 2013, was declared a day of mourning in Italy. The event has brought much introspection and concern. News and Media, not withstanding has of course told the story of these migrants. Sometimes the content is important to educate, inform, or even to advocate, but on Friday the 4th of October 2013, I think the Guardian went too far.

All kinds of content is written or created to show different aspects of the tragedy on Lampedusa; maps, pictures, interviews, video etc. Each one tells the story supposedly from the perspective of those involved or affected by this tragedy. But, when the Guardian published a click through photo slideshow of found photographs of those that were lost at sea, I think they went too far. In simple terms, the Guardian bought, bartered or received photographs of family and of migrants, which were recovered at sea and somehow acquired by the La Stampa news agency, and reposted the images with one or two sentences of assumptions, questions or random thoughts.

Photographs of migrants lost at sea on their way to Lampedusa: Faces of ambition and hope are seen in this poignant collection of photographs washed up on beaches or found in

wreckage.

I see this as Crisis Porn... an offshoot of poverty porn. It is when tragic images and stories of people are told to the benefit of the storyteller, in this case a news agency.

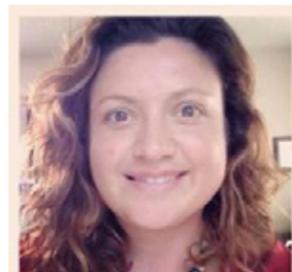
Here is my logic:

1. Unless they hired a fortune teller to speak with the dead I seriously doubt either La Stampa or the Guardian acquired permission to publish the pictures. The issue of ownership is a real one and calls into question the journalistic practices of La Stampa and the Guardian.
2. The security of the victims of this tragedy are not considered, nor of their families. The pictures and identity of the victims could lead to unforeseen consequences by others who might prey on the family or even by those that might have lent/loan-sharked money to the victim or her/his family to get to Europe for work. Al Jazeera reports on what actually happened to these migrants after and it is not pretty.
3. I am not convinced that the goal of humanizing the victims is a good argument for this story since there is no (real) information about their humanity that is offered. Either the journalists are lazy or simply not 'on the ground' to collect the real stories (or worse money was not invested by their news agency) which further highlights the ugliness in my last point...



4. Why do a click through? We know that news agencies receive advertising dollars based on clicks and page views. What a ten image click-through slide show does is multiply one view times ten, and soon we can all see the money rolling in.

In the end "Crisis Porn" or "Humanitarian Aid Porn", or "Poverty Porn," at their core are all about power. When the powerful tell the stories of the powerless to gain more power... that is unethical. When the powerful, be they news agencies, humanitarian aid organizations, or charities use the images and stories of their subjects for their own enrichment, that is unethical. No matter how noble the cause, I believe that a story becomes exploitative when the subjects are not involved in the creation and therefore not empowered which can often lead to the same paradigms that began their oppression. For the sake of space and your sanity, I won't even dive into the festering waters of the "white man telling the black man's story" or how this information technology is re-colonizing the global south. That will have to be for another post.



Monica Curca is a strategic communications consultant and trainer with expertise in conflict and peacebuilding. Communications, marketing, branding, social marketing etc. These are my specialties. Her passion, experience and education is in Peacebuilding, International Development and Conflict Resolution.

Journalists learn post-conflict tips in Colombia

By Samit Jadin Vergara

In Colombia, IOM Colombia and government partners have trained more than 150 Colombian journalists on the importance of effective journalistic practices in a post-conflict environment.

The series of workshops titled How to Narrate Peace, Peace Building, Historical Memory and Reconciliation, were held in five cities around the country: Medellín, Pereira, Cali, Cartagena and Montería.

According to Marta Ruiz, workshop leader and editor for the influential political magazine *Semana*: "The sessions were important spaces in which to analyze the challenges confronted by journalists in the post-conflict stage, including all the difficulties that the new context implies, and new and relevant questions that each journalist must ask when reporting. The workshops were also a space for dialogue, creativity, and consideration for journalists as storytellers."

The workshops were designed to respond to the country's need for journalists with the necessary training to play a role in the post-conflict phase, following the demobilization and reintegration of men and women who were part of illegal armed groups.

"It is important that we as journalists change our mentality and think about how to narrate peace in a post-conflict scenario. In the workshop, we were given the opportunity to analyze how we can begin to discuss these processes and how to inform those who watch or read our media outlets," said Ricardo Gaviria of *TeleAntioquia Noticias*, who attended the workshop in Medellín.

Other trainers included Peruvian expert Javier Ciurlizza, Director of the International Crisis Group, Latin America and the Caribbean. Ciurlizza was Executive Director of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Peru between 2001 and 2003, and was in charge of informing the journalists about transitional justice and the importance of

Samit Jadin Vergara works for the Press and Public Information office of the International Organization for Migration's (IOM) mission to Colombia. He collaborates with the Community Oriented Reintegration of Ex-Combatants (CORE) Program, which works on issues like reintegration, reconciliation, peace and conflict. Vergara is based in Bogotá, DC (Colombia).



IOM-Colombia workshops concentrated on journalists' role in a post-conflict setting.

truth and memory in a similar context.

"Attending the workshop implies understanding what has happened to us as a society. It also helps us to understand the topic of historical memory, and how the men and women who have left the war are going to help build that historical memory," added Catalina Puerta, a journalist who attended the workshop in Montería.

The How to Narrate Peace workshops are an initiative of the Colombian Reintegration Agency (ACR), the Attorney General's Office, and the National Center for Historical Memory - the entities in charge of implementing the reintegration law which helps ex-combatants with psychosocial treatment and assistance to return to school or job training. In exchange they agree to tell the truth about their involvement in armed groups, commit to non-recidivism, request for forgiveness, and perform community service activities.

IOM Colombia, with support from USAID, supported the workshops as part of its communications strategy Paso a Paso. This aims to strengthen the capacity of government institutions involved in the reintegration process to encourage demobilized persons in the process of reintegration, receiving communities, and the media to better understand related Government initiatives and to generate processes that facilitate national reconciliation and peace.

Twitter influences peace, social change

By Craig Zelizer

Since its founding in 2006, Twitter has rapidly grown to be one of the most powerful online platforms for connecting hundreds of millions of individuals and organizations around the world. While the estimates vary, Twitter estimates they have over 100 million active monthly users of the platform and almost 500 million registered Tweeters, with several hundred million tweets sent per day (see http://www.mediabistro.com/alltwitter/twitter-statistics-2012_b18914). The service is experiencing exponential growth and has rapidly changed the Internet (see the bottom of the guide for an infographic that has more detailed info/stats on Twitter).

This resource guide provides an introduction to Twitter, discuss the role it can and has played in peace-building and social change and offers key resources to begin actively using the platform. Over the past few years, Twitter has rapidly become a powerful tool for connecting social activists fostering political reform and change in many regions of the world. From the Arab spring countries, to Occupy Wall Street in the US, to how individuals inform and connect on serious issues such as organizing political movements, documenting resistance, reporting on violence, to more lighthearted uses such as connected groups around common issues, ranging from education to humor, Twitter has and will continue to have a tremendous impact. It is important to note Twitter is part of the larger movement of using mobile tools for social tools, such as the field of crisis mapping.

What is Twitter?

Before getting into specifics, first it is important to define some of the key terms related to Twitter. According to

Dr. Craig Zelizer is the Founder/CEO of The Peace and Collaborative Development Network (PCDN). He started the network in June of 2007 and it has rapidly become the leading online network connecting peacebuilders and change agents from around the globe. Dr. Zelizer is also is the Associate Director of the MA in Conflict Resolution within the Department of Government at Georgetown University. PCDN can be found at <http://www.internationalpeaceandconflict.org>.



the company, "Twitter is a real-time information network that connects you to the latest stories, ideas, opinions and news about what you find interesting." The central aspect of Twitter are Tweets, which are similar to SMS messages of less than 140 characters and can contain text, links, pictures and other media. While 140 characters might sound absurdly short, a Single Tweet by a high profile Tweeter (someone who does the Tweeting) can reach the world within a few minutes and have the possibly mobilize millions to take action and/or put pressure on cause a government, company or some other institution to change their unjust actions.

How does Twitter work?

Anyone who has Internet access can setup a Twitter Account by going to Twitter.com and registering (it is free and only takes a few minutes). A Tweet can be written online via the Twitter Platform, via a Twitter client or Software program on a smartphone or computer or via many other means (a summary of some key programs is provided below).

The key feature of Twitter is that it provides a real time means of communicating with the world. Once a user has an account, he can then find users who are tweeting on topics of interest, such as peace, politics, food, Bollywood movies, music, and much more. One of the most useful aspects of Twitter is that users can be constantly surprised and find new Twitter

Friends and sources of news, inspiration and fun.

One of the most powerful features of Twitter is that any user can "Retweet" or repost instantaneously in a second a "Tweet" that is compelling. When a user Retweets the message is distributed to all of the user's followers and this can create a chain that sends a particular Tweet viral and go from 100 people reading to 1 million in a short time frame.

Users can also create lists of Tweeters who Tweet on similar topics to help organize access to information. A newer trend is creating Twibes, which is "...a group of Twitter users with a common interest" <http://blog.twibes.com/twitter-tools/what-is-a-twibe>

A key organizing feature of Twitter is the use of Hashtags which Twitter defines as "The # symbol, called a hashtag, is used to mark keywords or topics in a Tweet.

How to find interesting Tweeters to follow

There are several main ways to find Tweeters to follow. The first, is if a user has a friend or institution that she would like to follow on Twitter it is possible to search Twitter and find the account (Twitter accounts are written with the @sign). To follow a user go to the profile page on Twitter and click on follow. Second, Twitter provides some general categories

Continued on next page

Tweets for peace from Pg 12

such as music, news, and food that can help to identify interesting Tweeters. Third, Twitter also has wonderful suggestions for accounts to follow based on a user's particular interests. For example, if a user starts following Twitter Accounts from leading news outlets such as Al Jazeera English or AlertNetTwitter will recommend other key news sources.

HOW CAN A USER GET OTHERS TO FOLLOW HER ACCOUNT?

One of the key ways to start attracting a healthy number of Twitter followers is to create a clear and compelling profile page (which is a user's public profile). Second, to post regularly updates about key news, events, inspiring news stories, etc. It is important to experiment and find a Tweeter identity as one gets comfortable with the platform.

WHAT IS THE CONNECTION OF TWITTER TO PEACE AND SOCIAL CHANGE?

A key question is can a single Tweet create peace? While it is unlikely that one tweet will create sustainable peace, one posting can go viral and create significant pressure on a regime, company or other institution to pay attention and take corrective action.

There are countless examples of how Twitter has helped to Tweet for Change. However, there is a very healthy debate in the field, where some scholars and activists believe Twitter and other online platforms do not have much of an impact. They are critical of the lazy person's approach to social change by clicking or Retweeting at a computer instead of doing the long-difficult work needed to create an impact. For example, as Malcolm Gladwell comments, "This revolution will not be Tweeted." On the other hand, there are countless organizations and individuals that are effectively using Twitter as a tool for new forms of organizing, connecting and creating change. Twitter has curated a collection of stories where the platform has had a tremendous positive impact on individuals, communities and the world (see <http://stories.twitter.com/>). Examples include Wael Ghonim, a prominent activist in the Egyptian revolution, who was imprisoned after and a global campaign for his release took place largely through Twitter and other social networks. Upon his release Ghonim stated, "If you want to liberate a government, give them the Internet."



Some of the world's top politicians, celebrities and others have over a million or more followers. For example the musician Lady Gaga has over 23 million followers, while Shakira has almost 16 million (see the top Tweeters <http://twittercounter.com/pages/100>). With both musicians actively engaged in social projects, anti-bullying, education and other initiatives a single Tweet can have a big impact.

Of course many Tweets are simple fun, or not designed to have an impact or there are also spammers as well.

For a wonderful report exploring the debate about the "Twitter Revolutions" see U.S. Institute of Peace's report, *Blogs and Bullets: New Media in Contentious Politics*.

Other powerful examples of the impact of Twitter include:

Chris Strouth who Tweeted he needed a kidney and found a donor

In Kenya, Village Leader Francis Kariuki uses Twitter to stop crime

Tweeting for Peace could have a big impact on relations between Pakistan and Indira or other conflicted regions

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO HAVE INFLUENCE ON TWITTER?

There is no single recipe for how to have influence on Twitter. One of the key factors is how many followers a user has. But what is almost equally important is how many users Retweet a user's original Tweet. Thus a user with 1000 followers who posts a Tweet which many of her followers Retweet may have a bigger impact than a user with a much larger number of followers.

For a fascinating review of diplomacy and Twitter, see the new *Twiplomacy 2013* report which discusses how governments around the globe are using Twitter.

Top Tweeters to consider following on peace, international development, social change, and related fields

The following is a list of some of PCDN's favorite Tweeters to follow. It would be very difficult to post a complete list of all the Tweeters posting high quality information so this list is intended as a starting point. Please feel free to also add your own suggestions.

Continued on next page

Peaceful Twitter accounts *from Pg 13*

1) @PCDNetwork - news, networking, careers and resources 4 individuals/orgs in intl affairs, development, peacebuilding, social change and related fields.

2) @Masterpeace2014 - Grass Roots #Peace Movement! Empowering People From All Over The #World To Use Their Talents To start Creating #Peace. Together.

3) @SocialEdge - Global online community by social entrepreneurs, for social entrepreneurs.

4) @Ning - Ning lets you easily create a social network for just about any purpose.

5) @NickKristof - New York Times columnist, two-time Pulitzer Prize winner, co-author @Half the Sky.

6) @mrsimoncohen - Founder of @globaltolerance. Champion of media ethics & communications with conscience.

7) @OpenSociety- The Open Society Foundations work to build vibrant and tolerant democracies whose governments are accountable to their citizens.

8) @Ashoka - Ashoka is an international citizen-sector organization which is leading the way to an Everyone a Changemaker World.

9) @SFCG_ - Search for Common Ground - global peacebuilding NGO headquartered in Washington DC

10) @USIP - Created by Congress, the independent U.S. Institute of Peace works to prevent, mitigate and resolve international conflict through nonviolent means.

11) @ushahidi- We are a non-profit tech company that specializes in developing free and open source software for information

collection, visualization and interactive mapping.

12) @SkollFoundation - Driving large-scale change by investing in, connecting, & celebrating social entrepreneurs & innovators dedicated to solving the world's most pressing problems

13) @GlobPeaceIndex - The Global Peace Index aims to go beyond a crude measure of wars and systematically explore the texture of peace.

14) @globalvoices- Calling attention to the most interesting conversations and perspectives emerging from citizen media around the world.

15) @AWID - Association for Women's Rights in Development: Strengthening the voice, impact and influence of women's rights advocates, organizations and movements globally

16) @ThePCFF - Israeli and Palestinian Bereaved Families Supporting Peace, Reconciliation and Tolerance.

17) @Love_Forgive - The Fetzer Institute's Campaign for Love & Forgiveness encourages bringing these practices into the heart of individual & community life. Converse. Take Action.

18) @rotary - Official Twitter page for Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation, an organization of more than 1.2 million business, professional, & community leaders.

19) @TechChange - We train leaders to use tech for sustainable social change. #ICT4D #EdTech and much more.

20) @AfPeacebuilding - The Alliance for Peacebuilding (AfP) is a coalition of diverse organizations & professionals working together to build sustainable peace and security worldwide.

@PeaceJourn is honored



In an article titled "Best in Journalism: 151 Twitters Worth a Follow," Journalismdegree.org lists "journalists, bloggers, and news organizations that are pushing the limits of what can be accomplished with Twitter."

The accounts cited include @NYTimes, @Knightfnd, @Pewresearch, @Mediagazer, and @PeaceJourn, the account of the Center for Global Peace Journalism at Park University (this magazine's publisher).

The writers said that @PeaceJourn focuses on "ethical and coherent" journalism. Of course, it is also heavily peace-journalism themed as well.

--Steven Youngblood

21) @EmmanuelJAL - I do not know how to start or end this bio, but just to put it short, I am an ex child soldier turned into a recording artist.

22) @JaredCohen - Director of Google Ideas & Adjunct Senior Fellow at CFR. Author of the books Children of Jihad, One Hundred Days of Silence, & forthcoming The New Digital Age

23) @Gens_for_peace- Generations For Peace is using sport for peace building by empowering volunteer youth leaders in communities experiencing conflict.

Workshop in N. Ireland sparks spirited debate

By John Brewer

The Institute for the Study of Conflict Transformation and Social Justice (<http://www.qub.ac.uk/research-centres/iscts/j/>) at Queen's University Belfast, and its newly appointed Professor of Post Conflict Studies, Professor John Brewer (<http://www.qub.ac.uk/research-centres/iscts/j/Staff/ProfessorJohnDBrewer/>), as part of ISCTSJ's commitment to civic engagement and outreach, organised an all-day workshop on peace journalism on Friday 29th November.

The workshop was supported by funds from Northern Ireland's Community Relations Council and ISCTSJ, and was co-organised by John Brewer from ISCTSJ and Duncan Morrow from the University of Ulster.

The event was held in Queen's University's Riddell Hall and was restricted to 60 participants for health and safety reasons. Pre-registrations quickly filled this number and a reserve list had to be operated. This was a measure of the popularity of the theme.

The workshop facilitated for the first time a debate in the public sphere about the nature of Northern Ireland's media and its contribution to its peace process (for the programme see <http://www.qub.ac.uk/research-centres/iscts/j/filestore/>

John D Brewer, is Professor of Post Conflict Studies at Queen's University and a member of the United Nations Roster of Global Experts for his expertise in the sociology of peace



processes. For further details see <http://www.qub.ac.uk/research-centres/iscts/j/Staff/ProfessorJohnDBrewer/>.

Fileupload,424112,en.pdf).

The speakers were strategically invited because of the variety of their experience in different types of media, including new social media, and as a cross section of genders, ages and work locations. The event was designed to promote an interrogation by Northern Ireland's media of the relevance of peace journalism. The audience mostly comprised local journalists.

The journalists attending the conference disliked the term. Peace journalism was thought to be relevant to war zones, where it might encourage media to help search for, and assist in promoting peace. Journalists did not feel it applied well to post-conflict societies where the problem is dealing with legacy of conflict. They saw it as an infringement of strongly held principles of media freedom and autonomy, and the idea was responded to emotionally rather than calmly. This emotional reaction resonated with the largely masculine culture of Northern Ireland's 'conflict journalism' and the idea was described on Facebook as 'leftie, tree hugging shite'.

This emotion clouds the response to it, for peace journalism still has professional rigour and still speaks truth to power. It was explained to the audience as a style of journalism that was not so much about topics, but about balance in news content and a way into exploring the values that underpin the editorial choices media make

in societies emerging out of conflict. Journalists in the audience relied on the standard argument that they must report the facts regardless.

The notion that media treat facts as sacred, that it reports the facts unadulterated, that it is fact driven, was described by academics at the workshop as a myth, for facts are socially constructed; everywhere, in all countries and in all contexts exigencies like 'taste and decency' or news agenda or political biases mean some facts are disclosed,

some remain hidden.

It was emphasised by academics that peace journalism asks about the choices that need to be made between 'good' and 'bad' news, between a focus on the past and future, between emphasising continuity or change, between developing a sense of crisis and hope. And it asks about the values that should influence this choice and about the responsibilities journalists have to help shape a better society when emerging out of conflict.

It was emphasised that it does not mean ignoring crisis, or continuity, or bad news; it is about balancing them with the other focus. It is about questioning the assumption in conflict journalism that hope, forgiveness and reconciliation are uninteresting and un-newsworthy. It is about using the



Website promotes peace in Caribbean

By Francis Belle

As a High Court Judge and lawyer based in the Eastern Caribbean, with an undying interest in conflict resolution and peace building, the website regionalconflictinsights.com. (“regional”) became a useful outlet for the enthusiasm and ideas generated concerning peace building issues at home and abroad, of a legal and non-legal nature.

At “regional” we try to speak to conflict all over the world by providing links to other journalistic work, along with occasional commentary and analysis of our own. On our home page we list what we consider to be the major conflicts of the month as our main feature. This feature we hope helps the analyst and researcher to link conflict not only in terms of culture and location but also in a time sensitive way. We sometimes provide links to the analyses of these conflicts on the same page.



On the Homepage we also focus on issues arising in the Caribbean Region where we are based.

By using a format which sets out the conflict regions geographically, we hope to spark the interest of followers and readers based on their regional context. Readers may wish to focus on their area of interest alone and ignore everything else or they may compare the kinds of conflict issues being dealt with from region to region.

The website also focuses on such topics as the UN Millennium Development Goals, Gender, Climate Change, ADR and Justice. These topics cover broad social issues which are of global significance. Indeed we have found no difficulty sourcing interesting articles and videos on these topics.

Under the headings Analysis and Dialogue we present the thinking of various contributors on topics which we believe to be important and current. To enrich the dialogue we also include reporting that is not main-stream.

“Regional” as an online journal can react to issues as they develop in so-called real time. In mere hours we are able to embed a video or post a link to an article first published anywhere in the world on the very day that it was first published. The website is therefore a quick reference point for

Justice **Francis H. V. Belle** is a High Court Judge Conflict Analyst, and trained mediator who chairs the Court Connected Mediation Committee on



the island of Saint Lucia (Eastern Caribbean) which manages the Court Connected Mediation programme.

contemporary peace studies research. We hope one day to enhance this role with direct contributions from reputable peace journalists.

In terms of areas of interest, various conflict scenarios which gain global recognition are relevant to our circumstances. Among these are the consequences of racism. We also have a great deal of interest in conflicts on the African continent because a high percentage of the populations of the Caribbean islands and diaspora are of African descent.

We are a totally voluntary and non-profit entity. We are not able to promote our website vigorously. But having discovered The Peace Journalist we feel that we are on the right track and would wish to be more involved in peace journalism, become more professional and attract peace journalists to submit articles to our website.

Northern Ireland from Pg 15

power of the media to improve lives rather than pander to base hatreds, stereotypes, myths and beliefs because they sell newspapers, raise listening figures or represent the natural constituency of some newspaper readers.

The workshop was useful in asking journalists to think about their role in a society emerging out of conflict and whether or not they should reflect a society that is struggling to move on or resort to the same old ‘extreme news’ agenda associated with the conflict. They reflected on what might be ‘socially responsible journalism’ in Northern Ireland’s fragile peace; it did not persuade them that the term should be adopted.

The workshop generated a considerable response on Twitter and Facebook, which was much more favourable, and was covered in BBC Radio Ulster’s Evening Extra news programme (Friday 29th November), on BBC Radio’s Sunday Sequence current affairs programme (Sunday 1st December), where John Brewer took part in a panel discussion on the theme of peace journalism, and by Alex Kane, one of the participants in the workshop, in his column in the Newsletter newspaper (Monday 2nd December), who is an opponent of the idea of peace journalism.

Center assists exiled Somali journalists

By Burhan Farah Hassan

For the long catastrophic situation in Somalia, 3/4 of population in Somalia fled across borders and lived overseas just to escape from deadly conditions. Journalists were among the people fleeing, but the worst time for journalists was when Al-Shabab and other political groups targeted media houses. Horn Afrik Media Corporation and GBC Radio were among the radio stations destroyed by Al-Shabab.

During these raids, Somali-Canadian founder Ali Iman Sharmarke was killed. This was a blow to the birth of the free media that was born after a long period of warlord dominated media in Somalia. Horn Afrik was the first radio station that has show relative freedom and a chance to give the public a freedom to call a station and demonstrate an idea.

Freedom of Expression became a direct target in Somalia

The Committee to Protect Journalists warned that only in 2012, more than 20 journalists were directly killed and the number of outcast journalists in the neighbourhood countries was increasing. This means that every month one or two journalists were killed in front of the public by Al-Shabab terrorists. Mohamed Hajji, a Somali journal-

Burhan Farah Hassan—In his own words:

“I was born in Mogadishu in 03-01-1983. In 1985, I was admitted to SOS-Children’s Village in Mogadishu due to circumstances of losing both parents. In 1993, I was shot down by a stray bullet and I escaped death threat...After the wound my foster mother took care of me at a hospital...In 2004, I was a working as a journalist in Mogadishu. In 2005 August, I evacuated and crossed the border of Liboi, Kenya. In Buruburu, I asked the SOS-Children’s Villages Kenya to help and SOS supported me to go to a college. After a fixed term of short courses study, I arrived in Eastleigh in Nairobi where I joined many urban refugees.

In Kenya, I have been in a difficult life in Eastleigh town where many urban refugee Somalis stay...I volunteered to be a peace journalist during my urban refugee status. I also volunteered at many radio stations during my refugee status in Nairobi.

(We founded the) Center for Peace and Journalism CEPJO



in 2014. I have still a dream that poor journalists get assistance in their work in suffering countries like Somalia. Our ambition is to open two houses in both Mogadishu and Kenya. In this year, I am both struggling for my personal development and the development of my organisation.”



A full house of Somali journalists enjoy a CEPJO event in Kenya.

ist of the Warsan FM in Baidoa said, before he fled, that when Al-Shabab want to massacre journalists, they call a press conference.

Journalists helping journalists

In this horrific situation, there were few journalists that worked for the welfare of others. That changed when we launched the Center for Peace and Journalism (CEPJO) in 2008. We were three young journalists who were thinking about this in Mogadishu, but unfortunately we three were evacuated to Kenya at the same time.

The Center for Peace and Journalism has two goals: to help traumatized journalists evacuating from Somalia, and to train journalists in Peace Journalism so that no journalist would be biased.

In Nairobi, CEPJO did not have any support. We donated small money each from our pockets. We have still not asked public or private entities for funds. Our main idea was to relieve the murder and attacks against journalists and for the world to hear our voice. Sometime later, the center took steps to increase trainings in Kenya so that refugees journalists can improve their knowledge and skills.

We have succeeded to persuade society that press members are conveying important messages to society. Press releases, direct consultations and messages have been conveyed to political parties back in Somalia. Our center’s coordinators constantly asked killers to give up fighting and to return captured journalists to their families.

Continued on next page

Review: Journalism, Conflict in Indonesia

By Dr. Lora Cohn

Journalism and Conflict in Indonesia: From Reporting Violence to Promoting Peace. Steve Sharp. New York: Routledge. 2013.

Journalism and Conflict in Indonesia lays out, through the example of conflict in the Maluku region of Indonesia, a careful argument for the power of communication—finding that journalists' words are perhaps the most powerful weapons in any war. Sharp suggests to reduce the likelihood of factional violence reporters merge the "democratic skepticism" that any single group can make the best decisions representing the people with the principles of peace communication (peace journalism/conflict-sensitive journalism) in reporting. Additionally, focusing on community participation in developing and disseminating media messages would allow for consensus building and lessen the likelihood that stories will be framed in ways that fan violence.

The book is a careful, academic exploration of the role of reporting in the violence that killed up to 9,000 people in 1999 and 2000. Chapter one introduces the conflict and the author's hypothesis that journalists and their writing/photography help development of political discourses that fuel violence. Chapter two focuses on how media narratives affect the way violence occurs. Scholars will find the review of the literature on communication and culture in this chapter thorough if brief. The chapter weaves that literature together with a discussion of the West's role in developing nations and media industries in Asia. Chapters

CEPJO from Pg 17

Sadly, Somalia is still unsafe for journalists. One example --journalist Mohamed Mohamoud Tima'adde. He returned to Somalia in 2011 from exile. He felt a relative peace occurred in Mogadishu but unfortunately terrorists targeted him and murdered him in November 2013.

Because of the difficulty of returning home, CEPJO works with Somali journalists where they now live and work, in Uganda and Kenya. CEPJO goals and activities include:

- To respond to food insecurity and lack of protection and shelter for refugee press community in (Where most exiled journalists fled to in East Africa);
- To restore and build resilience for 50 Somali refugee journalists to get advanced training;
- To create awareness and capacity development on psychosocial and adaptation to both refugees and local affected/host community;
- To speak out for the family of the slain journalist, get reports on how orphans live currently and respond quickly;
- To operate not only when a press member is killed but also work on journalism media house referrals, scholarship, and personal development schedules.
- To conduct community initiative called "Theatre For Peace", this program connects communities with the "power of entertainment and music society";
- To conduct continuous Peace-Journalism awareness regionwide.

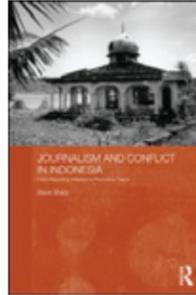
three through five set the context for chapter six's analysis. This middle section of the book focus on the history of journalism in the region, the region's Muslim and Christian roots and resultant conflicts, and how the conditions media workers found themselves in led to the creation of stories that furthered the religious violence. Chapter six argues (through an interpretive discourse analysis of news stories) that reporters embraced a primordialist view of the conflict.

Finally Chapter seven contrasts "war" and "peace" journalism. War journalism identifies conflict as a game between two groups contesting a single goal and peace as victory for one side and a ceasefire.

Peace journalism reports the conflict but searches for the causes of the conflict as it covers how all involved carry out and suffer from violence. Market freedom does not create the conditions for press freedom and democracy in a nation. He suggests a return to the idea of "development communication." Specifically, reporters need to be skeptical of any group claiming to best represent the people and instead involve the community in their reporting. Communities subject to violence should plan for community control of media and media infrastructure.

The book is a complex read but Sharp's explanation of academic theory clearly sets up the discussion of the case study and leads to his conclusions. The book makes the conflict in Indonesia understandable and offers a model to young scholars.

Dr. Lora Cohn is an associate professor of Communication at Park University in Parkville, Missouri. She has a PhD from the University of Kansas in Communications Studies.



Study: Are Fiji media inflammatory?

By Shailendra Singh

Are media in Fiji inflammatory? This is the topic my PhD study is exploring.

My study is titled, "Responsible conflict reporting: Rethinking journalism for strengthening social cohesion and democracy in Fiji and other 'troubled' Pacific Island societies."

I am exploring claims that media misrepresent and inflame conflicts in Fiji (pop. 900, 000), beset by 25 years of socio-economic malaise due to four coups caused by political and ethnic tensions. The study aims to determine whether media can, and should, be part of conflict resolution.

The research has wider implications in the sub-region of Melanesia – the so-called 'arc of instability'. Tensions suppressed during colonial rule surfaced gradually after independence, with the post-cold war period marked by a rash of violence in Fiji, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Vanuatu.

With conflict regarded as the 'pre-dominant' threat to sustainable development and a risk to Australia's \$1 billion regional aid program, calls have been made on the media to consider presenting news in ways that could avoid escalation.

Mr Shailendra Singh has written widely about Pacific media, politics and development, both as a journalist and an academic. He was senior lecturer and head of journalism at the University of the South Pacific (USP) in Suva, Fiji, before undertaking PhD studies at the University of Queensland in March 2011.



The research methodology and preliminary findings

The research seeks to address the following questions:

1. Which frame dominates conflict reporting, peace or war journalism?
2. What is the level of journalist diversity/capacity in Fiji?
3. Who owns Fiji media, and the impact of ownership on conflict reporting?
4. Are Fiji's laws conducive for responsible conflict reporting?

The mixed methodology includes content analysis, survey questionnaire, document research and in-depth interviews, inspired by peace journalism (Lynch & Galtung, 2010; Youngblood, 2011); use/abuse of media in vulnerable societies (Frohardt & Temin, 2003); and political economy of the media (Herman & Chomsky, 1988).

Content analysis of Fiji's 2006 general elections was conducted one month prior to polling, yielding 1000-plus articles from three national dailies. Preliminary results show hallmarks of war journalism – elite domination, lack of context, single sources. The 1:10 ratio between news stories and analytical pieces denote the dearth of critical reporting.

Data triangulation gives deeper insights into the problem. The survey interview (67 % response) shows the typical Fiji journalist is male; aged below 28 years with less than six years of experience; and was trained on the job, with no formal qualifications. This implies a relatively young (10 years below global average), inexperienced, and under-qualified journalist corps struggling to report national issues.

In-depth interviews lend further weight to the content analysis and survey findings: Media companies are grappling with an advertising market that has been in a stalemate since

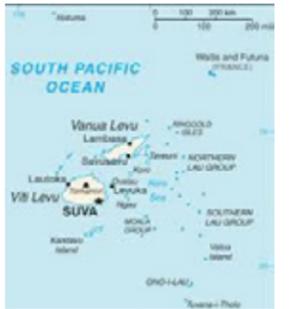
the 2006 coup, while competition and costs have shot up. Media companies are unable to hold down experienced staff lured by better-paid jobs. This situation is not conducive for in-depth reporting.

New line of enquiry

The study set out to prove or disprove that media may be exacerbating conflict by the use of inflammatory language, but it stumbled upon an apparently more significant problem -- under reporting of critical socio-economic issues often at the heart of conflicts. This could be an unacknowledged and unaddressed problem in Fiji – a possible causality of the 'only if it bleeds, it leads creed'.

Moreover, the research set out to look for evidence of manipulation of journalists by those with privileged access to the media. It found this, and more. The manipulation seems to be a two-way, rather than a one-way process, in that some journalists seem 'willing' to be 'manipulated' to gain easy access to news sources. This arrangement holds potential all around benefits for all: regular coverage for politicians, ready supply of stories for journalists, and cost-savings for media companies. The scenario is consistent with this study's political economy of the media theory.

A strong, emergent theme is that while journalists are habitually blamed for alleged misreporting, there is far more at stake. The 'evil' journalist is but part of a much larger, media industry complex and society buffeted by internal pressures, and external forces, such as globalisation.



PJ: Transforming the field of journalism

By Keith Brown & Marta Lukacovic

This article addresses the future of the peace journalism concept within two environments; the mass communication research and the practice of evolving and transforming the field of journalism.

Research-Empirical Basis

Empirical evidence could equip peace journalism with important tools to face the challenges of the contemporary era. Peace journalists, educators, and theorists must effectively assess and react to fast-paced transformations of the modern mass media landscape. A promising course for peace journalism as a useful model for the field stems from appropriate incorporation of research generated knowledge. Peace journalism can be supported by a robust body of media effects knowledge that has been already illuminated. Established theories and hypothesis are the useful beginning point for peace journalism inquiries. Equally important is that peace journalism finds gaps where it fits well within evolving areas of current mass media research. Further research is crucial for strengthening the foundation for development of peace journalism's theory building, educational efforts, as well as for practice oriented initiatives.

Research Advancements

Leading scholars of peace journalism Lynch and Gal-tung acknowledge in their 2010 book that research and empirical testing are running behind theory and practice at this point. Thus far, few academicians took up the role to quantitatively test the effects of peace journalism on audiences, notably Lynch and McGoldrick (2012) and Kempf (2005). The reported results suggest that effects indeed occur as predicted; peace journalistic coverage impacts audience's evaluations of a situation in directions of creative conflict resolution. This promising start should motivate additional research.

Marta Lukacovic is a doctoral student, Graduate Teaching Assistant, and Graduate Research Assistant at Wayne State University in Detroit. Her primary area of interest is media studies with focus



on new media and political communication. **Keith Brown** is a Graduate Teaching Assistant and doctoral student at Wayne State University. He holds a B.A. in Journalism from Oakland University and an M.A. in Communication from Wayne State (2012). Keith has an extensive professional background as a newspaper writer and columnist.

Future Research Prospects

An example of inquiry area that is rapidly evolving now and that includes fertile grounds for testing peace journalism's propositions is studies of effects of new digital media. The lively academic debate about effects and lack of effects of new media translates into fruitful research programs.

Peace journalism is a concept that may and arguably should find itself within the debate as well as within the subsequent research. The body of empirical literature that focuses on the political effects of user-generated content that appears through new media is still rather slim, however it is proliferating. The concept of peace journalism could serve as a template for conditions for experimental studies of the effects of user-generated content, to name just one potential type of study.

Practice--The Objective Model

Based on the current historical and philosophical literature, there remains a great divide, and debate, among scholars and practitioners of contemporary journalism in regard to the objective and advocacy approaches to the craft.

Since the nineteenth century, the principle of objectivity has been considered a bulwark of American journalism. It has remained a staple of mainstream media ideology, partly because media consumers have grown accustomed to the familiar third-person mode of reporting based on an alleged absence of bias. Until the 1970s, the objective model was largely unquestioned and generally accepted. However, since that time scholars and practitioners of American journalism (Tuchman, 1972, Gitlin, 1980, Bagdikian, 2004) have become embroiled in an ongoing and contested conversation regarding the basic notions embedded in objectivity.

The tenets of objective journalism include a detached perspective with an emphasis on balance, and information gleaned from multiple sources, many in elite positions of power and authority (Entman, 1993).

Advocacy

The idea of advocacy in American journalism is as old as the country itself. In 1776, for the first time in history, according to Streitmatter (2008), a few colonists showed their discontent could "swell into open rebellion." Writers of this movement crafted "prose that demanded freedom from an oppressive government."

A well-documented revolution ensued. Advocate journal-

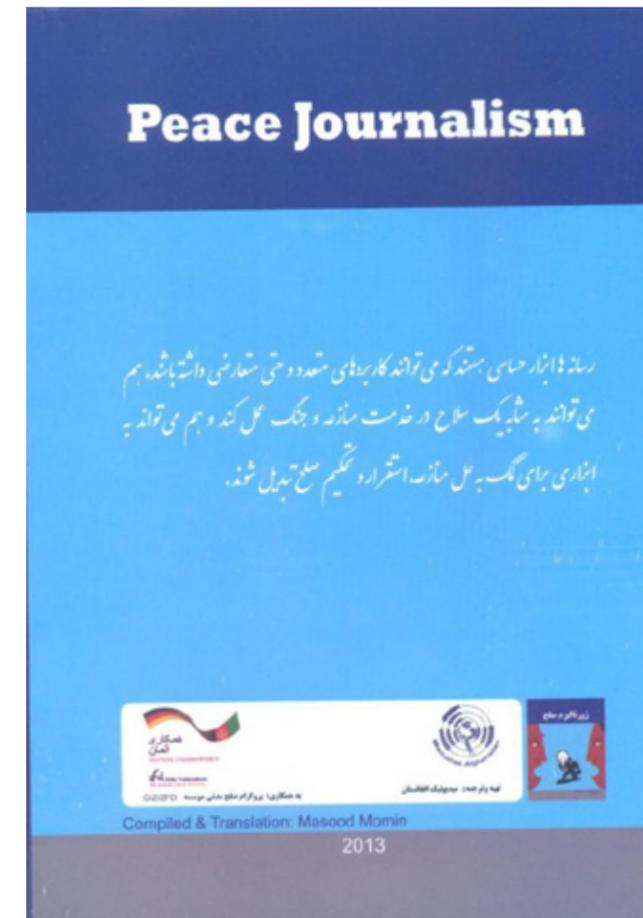
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Manual introduces PJ to Afghan journalists

By Masood Momin

Mediothek Afghanistan has been proving capacity-building programs for journalists and reporters across the country through its media houses located in different provinces. So far Mediothek has trained, on different capacity levels, more than 2300 journalists via different workshops and capacity-building programs in the capital and provinces.

Additionally, Mediothek has been consistently working on the provision of journalistic and educational and training materials, and as a continuation of these efforts, Mediothek recently translated and published a manual on "Peace Journalism." The manual is a handy help and reference for both journalists and educators.



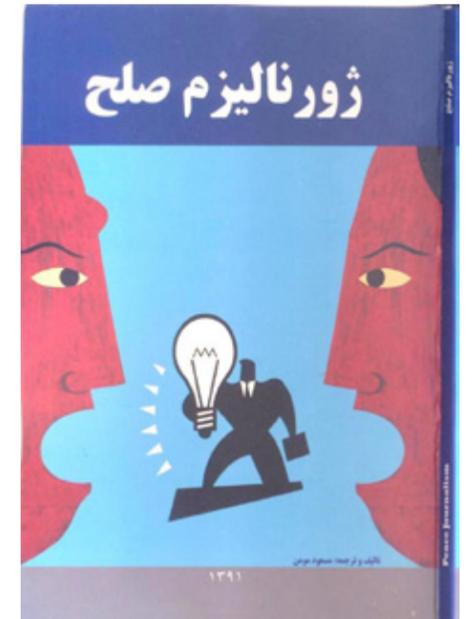
The main objective of this book is to provide journalists with an in-depth understanding of peace journalism and conflict sensitive journalism. This genre of journalism is not well understood. Most journalists practice traditional journalism, which lacks the conflict sensitive attributes.

Peace journalism prepares journalists and reporters to report from violent conflicts in a constructive manner, carefully chose wording, and cover the conflict from various angles, because incorrect and reckless wording can exacerbate the conflict and stir violence.

Like journalism in its all forms, conflict sensitive journalism particularly stresses impartiality, objectivity and neutrality. Because of this, Mediothek Afghanistan conducted eight workshops in eight provinces of Afghanistan since 15th of January until 15th of April 2013.

Mr. Massoud Momin selected, compiled and translated the materials and resources. The GIZ-ZFD Civil Peace Service Program supported this initiative.

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ists have acted as social change agents in efforts to abolish slavery, get women the right to vote, enact Progressive era reforms, document the 1960s' Civil Rights and Anti-War social movements, and engage in ongoing activism through truth.

Give Peace a Chance

Looking at the objectivity and advocacy models of journal-

ism, is there the possibility of developing a hybrid model that will better serve the public, combining the tenets and principles of peace journalism, a form that is evolving into a bona-fide movement? It's a question worth pondering, as the mainstream legacy media seems to lag behind the alternative press, new media outlets and the international community in a producing a real, and valuable, brand of new journalism.

Nigeria: Journalists' role in peaceful elections

By Rosemary Okoh

Background

The incremental waves of violence during elections in Nigeria make it crucial for journalists to be actively involved in fostering peaceful elections across the country through objective journalism.

In Nigeria, elections provide the avenue for interested politicians to compete under various party umbrellas. Unfortunately, the contest often takes violent dimension due to perceived incompatible goals of parties which have diverse manifestoes.

Since democracy is a system that naturally functions by the consent of the governed, it is thus expedient for the media through journalists' reports to objectively bridge the information gap between the public and politicians during this crucial electoral process.

Theoretical consideration, Objective Journalism in the Electoral Process

Ramadhama Shamsia (2013:14) notes that media generally are significant actors in conflict prevention and peacebuilding especially when they campaign for peace and avoid reporting issues that could generate violence. This article espouses media dependency theory as propounded by Ball-Rockeach and DeFleur (1976) to explicate the relevance of media and



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the entire field of journalism to the society due to individuals' information needs that are usually fulfilled by media. This article also espouses gate-keeping theory as propounded by Kurth Lewin in 1943 which explains how journalists report election related issues or new developments during general elections. In the context of elections, people's media dependence is premised on the gate-keeping role of journalists which is central to information, enlightenment, their actions as well their responses to controversial reports by rival parties and candidates.

Conflict sensitive imperative

For instance, apart from the activities of desperate politicians, it is the type of information dished out by journalists that determines the behaviour of people during elections; significantly, impacting on the potential of transforming political culture and mitigating the tradition of youth violence in the electoral process. This makes it pertinent for tertiary institutions to design conflict sensitive - reporting courses to equip more journalists than the usual workshops to improve their capacity to foster peaceful elections in the polity, for them to partner effectively with civil society like Transition Monitoring Group and Justice Development and Peace Commission (JDPC).

As gatekeepers, journalists not only decide the aspects of information they offer to the public through print media, electronic and social media. Carrying out their role demands that they objectively give balanced reports.

However, the biggest challenge being faced by the Nigerian media which is also affecting the reports of journalists is the issue of ownership and control. This is a major factor that has coloured the writings of journalists especially during elections, given the reality that some media organisations



where journalists work are either owned by government or private bodies that are loyal to the government.

Nigeria as a nation stands to gain significantly if the following needs are taken seriously:

1. Transformed political culture, from a tradition of violent elections to a peaceful and more humane electoral process;
2. Disciplined and more law abiding public sphere;
3. More responsive media where journalists take their conflict prevention and peacemaking role seriously;
4. More effective early response to election-related imbroglio in the polity.
5. It will also give the people the right perspective to the electioneering process;
6. Their objective and peace-oriented journalism would enhance unity between rival parties.

Instead of reactive strategy, the above expected outcomes would be more effective than when security forces deploy horses and dogs during elections in the country. Journalists and media organisations alike through their gate-keeping role would position themselves as the only intermediary between the politicians and the public with the aim of promoting peace. This is to ensure that their strategic role of providing in-depth situation reports during elections is not downplayed by any group.

Media resurrect cold-war narratives

By Steven Youngblood

In a cold war flashback, the media in Russia and the U.S. are offering competing one-dimensional narratives about the situation in Ukraine.

The resurrection of these cold-war media narratives began with coverage of the Kiev protests in February. One astute observer, Iryna, a former peace journalism training participant, wrote me about these narratives. She said, "When I watch the news reports...I often remember our discussion about peace journalism. While Western media mainly focus on the overall situation often presenting the information from both sides of conflict, Russian media go with the official version of Ukrainian government and declare all Ukrainian protesters to be 'terrorists.'" An examination of several news websites confirmed Iryna's observations.

On the website of Pravda, a semi-official Russian newspaper/website, articles in February about the protests in Ukraine did toe a discernible line, one that often placed blame squarely on the protesters. The story "Civilians killed, death toll grows" used the inflammatory language "extremists" and "radicals" to describe the protesters. While it did contain one sentence about "alleged" police shootings, the bulk of the story is from Ukrainian officials (from the former government) decrying the violence. Pravda's coverage included a story titled "Kiev sniper shoots 20 law enforcers." This would seem consistent with Pravda's effort to paint all the protesters with the same brush—murdering radicals and extremists.

A Pravda editorial, "Ukraine-Some questions," clearly articulated a slanted viewpoint. "Western media outlets demonizing the Government, busloads of thugs being ferried around the country, we see the US Secretary of State speaking to the 'Opposition,' namely armed criminals and agents provocateurs, hooligans and an ex-boxer."

Others in Russian media are also took a bellicose tone. In the Russian paper Vedomosti, Vasily Kashin wrote, "Attempts to implement neo-imperialist plans in this strange country or, on the contrary, to show 'liberal solidarity' are extremely dangerous..." (bbc.co.uk-20 Feb)

Bias was just as evident in the western media. A BBC news analysis, "Why is Ukraine in turmoil," asked, "Those on the streets say they are struggling over the future development of the country - will it be a country based on the rule of law, or Russian-style oligarchy and closed interests?" In BBC news reporting, those taking



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to the streets were called "anti-government protesters", and never extremists, thugs, etc. While Pravda's coverage seemed to center on protester misbehavior, the opposite is true of BBC's coverage. For example, "At least 21 protesters have been killed by security forces in Kiev following the breakdown of a truce..."

CNN's narrative was similar to BBC's, and repeated the mantra "anti-government protesters". The focus of the story "Truce Crumbles" (20 Feb) is on protesters fortifying barriers and "dodging" sniper fire. Later in that story, however, CNN did report that protesters were throwing rocks and Molotov cocktails. In the story "20 Questions", CNN said, "Russia threatened its much smaller neighbor with trade sanctions and steep gas bills if Ukraine forged ahead."

The same cold-war narratives were present in March, during Russia's absorption of Crimea. Not surprisingly, Pravda's coverage of Crimea revealed a different reality than the one being portrayed in Western media (AP, BBC, CNN, AFP, etc.). One needn't have looked past the headlines to divine the slant of Pravda's coverage: "Can Russia save Ukraine?"; "Will Russia go to War to win Ukraine?"; "Ukraine: Another Yugoslavia"; "Maidan Destroys Ukraine's Cultural Heritage"; "Russia and Ukraine will never to go to war against each other"; "Russia to recall ambassador from USA after Obama's insulting statement."

BCC and CNN headlines revealed a different reality. These included "Russia demands Crimea's surrender"; "How close to war"; "Russian TV rhetoric"; "Putin testing Obama"; "Why Ukraine matters to the global economy"; "Russia demanding Ukrainian military leave Crimea"; "Ukrainian interim Prime Minister says 'Nobody will give Crimea away'"; "Armed men have blocked 10 Ukrainian military and naval bases in Crimea, official says."

This cold war rhetoric does a disservice to both western and Russian audiences, leaving them with a one dimensional view of the conflict (and of each other) that lacks depth and nuance. Peace journalists shun the rhetoric in these antiquated narratives and stereotypes, eschewing "popular wisdom" while seeking balance and perspective. Balance is, of course, a tall order in Russia, where media freedom exists only on paper. In the West, however, we

have no excuses. Ideally, coverage in our media should reflect multiple perspectives. Also, a peace journalist recognizes propaganda from any source, and seeks to cleanse it with facts. Journalists covering the Ukrainian conflict would do well to apply the principles of peace journalism.

Distorted narratives fuel Rwandan media

By Ashley Harbin

Scholarly Definition of Media Narratives

The world is full of stereotypes and generalized ideas for nearly every topic. The media is obligated by society to share stories to the public without said stereotypes and preconceived notions, thus giving an unbiased approach. Because each individual is not perfect, it is nearly impossible to do this.

Media narratives are just that: the way that the media tells and portrays a story based on the preconceived notions and stereotypes associated with the story's topic. This, in theory, may make a more compelling story since it is built upon the "knowledge" that most individuals have on the subject; however, media narratives do not always contribute to an accurate story.



Examples of distorted media narratives include black women being "welfare queens" and Latin Americans having an association with negative behavior and/or drugs.

Media Narrative: Homosexuals in Rwanda

Homosexuality is continuously becoming more accepted in the United States as well as many other western countries. This trend has encouraged education and understanding. However, this is not the case for many other nations. A strong example of the lack of tolerance for homosexuality is the African country Rwanda, where, although homosexuality is not currently considered illegal, recently the threats of banning homosexuality have become more frequent ("Rwanda: Situation Update"). Persecution is also abundant, and, unfortunately, the Rwandan media portrayal of homosexuals does nothing but fuel the enmity against homosexuals.

The majority of recent Rwandan news stories regarding homosexuality involve neighboring countries' policies or articles discussing trends in general. For example, the very recent signage of the anti-gay bill in Uganda is presently a hot topic in the Rwandan media. Although none of the articles reviewed regarding the new Uganda law state that the journalist, Rwandan people, or Rwandan government agree with the law, no defense was made for homosexuals either. Only quotations from the president of Uganda jus-

tifying the passing of the legislation were included in the article as well as one-sided information from the scientific study, which was also used to justify the new enactment (Muramira).

Another article discusses the trends in Rwanda for 2013. The topics mentioned in the article are all controversial and tend to have negative views in the Rwanda culture including body art, eccentric hairstyles, and drug addiction. The introduction to the article is as follows: "The closet is not a province exclusive to gay people, there are as many closets as there are things to come clean about and accept, things society will commend or disgrace. At times we emerge out of the closet (or chose to be open about the things we do) unaware and other times we are well aware of our actions, brushing aside what society will think about the matter" (Mwai). The introduction brings light to the fact that homosexuality is not accepted in Rwandan society and, in a sense, compares all of these other "shameful" trends to homosexuality.

One of the most startling articles discovered is a lengthy piece beginning with a small amount of information regarding homosexuality followed by anti-gay statements from the presidents of Uganda, Zimbabwe, and Kenya. The article then states that although Rwanda has not voiced its stance on homosexuality, "it is certainly against the practice." "Blame" for homosexuality is passed on to those who used rape during the Rwanda genocides to engender fear. Europeans and others from Western nations are also "blamed" for homosexuality in Africa. The article concludes by stating that there are several reasons that citizens should "worry about homosexuality," including that it threatens the survival of society (Rwembeho).

Based on the first two articles mentioned, the media took a more tactful approach in portraying homosexuality as unnatural, heinous, and something deserving of shame. However, despite hiding behind analogies and the actions of other nations, a strong distasteful media narrative can easily be uncovered. The final article mentioned does not attempt to hide the message that the journalist wants conveyed. It is clear that homosexuals are portrayed as

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outcasts to the society and perpetrators of wrong. All of these narratives are incorrect portrayals of individuals who identify as homosexual. The most important aspect to realize is that homosexuality is a more recent topic in Rwanda. This means that although many people have already formed opinions about it, many others have yet to decide how they feel. Whether the Rwanda media is directly slandering homosexuality through news stories or reporting on other nations' slandering, the only information the public is receiving has a negative context. Essentially, the Rwanda media is planting seeds of hate and alienation into minds of citizens who have not experienced the truth that people who are homosexual are people just like them.

Media Narratives vs. Peace Journalism

The media narratives regarding homosexuals in Rwanda are highly inconsistent with peace journalism. Not many Rwandan news stories regarding homosexuality are transparent enough to state a position, but various aspects of peace journalism were violated in all articles evaluated. Fortunately, however, because most stories did not come right out and state that Rwanda is antigay, there is plenty of room for peace journalism to be applied.

In "Museveni now signs anti-gay Bill into law," Muramira writes about the passing of an anti-gay law by the Uganda government. The justification for the law, made by the president of Uganda, is also discussed in the article, and includes a scientific experiment conducted on the president's orders. The results are said to prove homosexuality is the result of "mercenary reasons on account of the under-developed sectors of our economy that cause people to remain in poverty" or by the individual's upbringing (Muramira). There is no mention, however, that other studies have been conclusive with different results. For example, some studies have shown that a homosexual male's brain is more similar in size to a heterosexual female's brain, and a homosexual female's brain is more similar in size to a heterosexual male's brain due to the amount of various hormones, which would lead one to the conclusion homosexuality may be biological. Also, information from sources other than the president would enhance the legitimacy and peace journalism tendencies of the article. Perhaps a discussion with an anonymous member of the LGBT community in Rwanda regarding his/her feelings on the legislation in Uganda would provide a more balanced view of the issue.

"Homosexuality in Rwanda? Yes, it lives" is the total opposite of peace journalism. The article may not directly state that all citizens reading the article should take up arms and use violence to combat the "blasphemy" of homosexuality, but it sure does not hinder the idea. Rwembeho and Mutara create a strong emotional article by using the inflammatory statements from presidents of three nearby countries to put readers in the mindset of their cause. It is clear that the news story is one-sided and does not mention any similarities between homosexuals and heterosexual. This particular article opposes peace journalism much more than the previous article, and thus would need to be completely rewritten to be held at a peace journalism standard. A good start would be the elimination of a quote by the president of Zimbabwe, which states that homosexuals are "worse than dogs and pigs" and are "sexual perverts" (Rwembeho). Another positive change, as discussed for the previous article, would be to show the truth about homosexuality by including interviews with people who identify themselves as homosexual.

Overall, peace journalism is not practiced with regard to media pieces covering homosexuality in Rwanda. Negative stereotypes are being created in part by the influence of political leaders from other nations. Very few of the stories regarding homosexuality are balanced, unbiased, non-inflammatory, without blame, or focused on similarities instead of solely differences. If the media began including the components listed, the general Rwandan public would be more fit and educated to make their own decisions based on their personal, untainted beliefs regarding homosexuality, which is exactly the service that the media is, in theory, supposed to provide as a public service.

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