

the PEACE JOURNALIST

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Peace Journalism workshop, Yaounde, Cameroon



Peace and Electoral Journalism in Cameroon

the PEACE JOURNALIST

The Peace Journalist is a semi-annual publication of the Center for Global Peace Journalism at Park University in Parkville, Missouri. The Peace Journalist is dedicated to disseminating news and information for teachers, students, and practitioners of PJ.

Submissions are welcome from all. We are seeking shorter submissions (300-500 words) detailing peace journalism projects, classes, proposals, etc. We also welcome longer submissions (800-1200 words) about peace or conflict sensitive journalism projects or programs, as well as academic works from the field. We do NOT seek submissions about peace or peace projects, but are instead focused only on articles with a strong media angle.

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What is Peace Journalism?

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

A number of valuable peace journalism resources, including resource packets and online links, can be found at www.park.edu/peacecenter.

Center for Global Peace Journalism

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

PJ empowers community media in Cameroon

By Alexander Vojvoda

In 2018, four elections are scheduled to be held in Cameroon. Cameroonian citizens will be asked to elect the next President, the representatives for the National Assembly, Senate, and to vote at Council level. The elections will be a test for the Central African country currently facing economic stagnation, violent protests by the anglophone minority in the South-West and North-West regions against socio-political marginalisation, and an increase in Boko Haram attacks in the Far-North region.

The Cameroon Community Media Network (CCMN) held a 2-week training session to explore the role of community media during elections and discuss the potential of a peace journalistic approach going forward in support of peaceful elections in 2018.

The CCMN invited Prof. Steven Youngblood (Center for Global Peace Journalism) to train a total of over 120 journalists during four workshops and seven in-house trainings in Yaoundé, Bafoussam, Bamenda, Mamfe, Kumba, Limbe and Buea. The 2-week workshop series was financially supported by the US Embassy in Yaoundé, the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, and the Center for Global Peace Journalism and implemented by the CCMN – Cameroon Community Media Network and its 22 members.

Alexander Vojvoda is community media activist and holds a MSc in Sociology and a MA in Political Communications. He currently collaborates with a community media network in Cameroon on community-based journalism, community development and conflict-sensitive journalism within the framework of the Civil Peace Service (CPS) Programme.



A participant reviews her notes at the Fredrich Ebert foundation in Yaounde.

Youngblood, members of the CCMN and participating print, radio, TV and online journalists discussed the potential of peace journalism before, during, and after elections. The main objective was to build a basic understanding of the principles of peace journalism.

Is violence during the 2018 Elections in Cameroon likely?

The key questions during the workshops and in-house trainings for the CCMN were: Will the elections in 2018 turn violent? If yes, what are possible factors promoting violence before, during, and after the elections?

Youngblood, the CCMN members, and participating journalists reflected on a framework to create an atmosphere where violence before, during, and after elections is enabled. Youngblood introduced the following factors to discuss the possibility of violence during the 2018 elections in Cameroon:

- Having a persistent and sustained

sense of election fraud;

- Having an election where the outcome is not so contested, but there is a bitter and non-accepting loser;
- Violence is the cause of an external or domestic source not immediately participating in the election process (another state, 'terrorists,' economic 'profiteers' of violence)
- Violence connected to contested legitimacy of the state itself or the failure/weakness of the nation-building process
- Situations where violence is supported or provoked by the government to implement controversial restrictions, to consolidate political power or to weaken certain communities
- Situations where violence is pursued by non-state actors (including opposition parties) to economically profit from conflict, to consolidate political power or to weaken certain communities. (*Stremlau and Price, 2009*).

The more than 120 journalists who



In Bamenda, Cameroon, journalists review stories for PJ content.

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participated in the various workshops or in-house trainings confirmed that at least one or more (some journal-



A press scrum in Kumba with Steven Youngblood (top); CBS radio in Buea.

ists stated all) of the aforementioned factors are applicable in Cameroon and that therefore violence – under certain conditions – is most likely to occur during and after the elections.

Particularly, the current, on-going conflict between the anglophone minority and the government and the confrontations between Boko Haram and the Cameroonian military in the Far-North region can contribute to further escalation of violence in times of elections.

Furthermore, political apathy and socio-political exclusion of certain groups especially of young persons, economic stagnation and the intensifying socio-political tension in the country can contribute to a possible fragile situation around the elections.

How can the Cameroonian community media contribute to peaceful elections?

After discussing the likelihood and the factors that could contribute to the Cameroonian elections in 2018 turning violent, participants discussed which contributions journalists can make to prevent violence before, during, and after the elections in their communities.

The general idea of participating journalists was that practicing good journalism was key to reducing media-induced violence during the election period. Good journalism includes but is not limited to making reports fact based, avoiding rumour and chitchat reporting, fair and objective reporting, and to avoiding one-sided and biased coverage on electoral issues.

Furthermore, Youngblood added to this list from the peace journalism perspective and concluded that in addition, the elections should not be portrayed as a race between two candidates who want good reports about themselves and bad reports about their opponents. He encouraged journalists to rather address issues which are relevant to every day people and include their opinion in their reports, instead of solely focussing on the opinions and messages from elites and the government.

Especially the idea of a public announcement campaign as a method for political education was considered an interesting and possible tool to prevent violence before, during and after the elections in Cameroon. The public announcement campaign would

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include radio and TV programmes, print and online articles which would include topics like information on the voter registration process, information on the importance of elections in a democracy and thereby fighting political apathy especially amongst young voters.

A Way Forward: Building Networks for Peace Journalism

Directly after the workshops and in-house trainings a number of participating journalists from the Central, Far-North, North, West and North-West regions started to set-up local and trans-regional communication platforms via social media such as Facebook or WhatsApp. These groups and forums are dedicated to the exchange and discussion of peace journalistic material e.g. radio programmes and cultural events dedicated to highlighting the work of peace builders and inform the local communities of the potentials, tools, and principles of peace journalists.

This exchange builds a fruitful foundation for further activities. Some journalists, media houses, and civil society organisations already showed interest to extend the collaboration from the virtual realm to the real world and build networks or communities of practice in their cities or regions. In so doing, they can promote peace journalism as an alternative to conventional journalism, keep the exchange and discussion going and co-ordinate common activities around the elections and other events.

The CCMN will offer support to these communities-of-practice, collectives and peace journalists to build strong connections and to use these platforms to promote peace journalistic principles and common activities during the 2018 elections in Cameroon.

For further information, visit the Cameroon Community Media Network website at www.communitymedia.cm.



A journalist discusses PJ at a post-seminar press conference in Buea (top), and a participant looks over stories at the Fredrich Ebert foundation in Yaounde.

PJ workshops conducted in two Fiji cities

By Rukhsana Aslam

A series of workshops on peace journalism was conducted in two cities of Fiji - the capital Suva and Nadi - in September, 2016.

They were significant in many ways: it was the first time the Fiji journalists from across the board were formally introduced to the concept of peace journalism; the workshops were designed and conducted by myself based on the 'CAUSE' model I had developed for peace journalism education in 201. The resulting stories produced by the participants clearly showed that Fiji journalists operating within the fragile democracy and media regulation in the country were more than ready to embrace this new concept. Lastly, all stories produced were published in diverse media platforms in Fiji including newspaper, television, magazines, and online.

The PJ workshops bannered under the title 'Investigative and Diversity Reporting in Fragile Democracies' were part of the broader 30-month project 'Valuing Voices,' funded by the European Union and delivered by the British Council. The overall project aimed to contribute to the democratic

process by enabling greater breadth of voices in mainstream and social media through creative arts.

Investigative journalism is considered the best practice in journalism but it is discouraged or constrained in many fragile democracies including Fiji, which has seen its fair share of dictatorships. Journalists are either restricted or penalised by law for their investigative work mainly due to the media decree that was imposed in 2010 during Bainimarama's dictatorial rule. The decree produced on Fiji media 'a chilling effect in which in-depth, analytical and investigative stories were avoided because of a complex mix of personalities and legal interpretation that could come into play' (Morris, 2016, p. 26).

Even after the general election in 2014 which ironically saw Bainimarama as the country's new elected leader, the media landscape remains dominated by the media regulatory body MIDA (Media Industry Development Authority) which is criticised both by journalists and scholars for its controlling and draconian methods (Morris, 2016).

Against this backdrop, the over-

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arching goal of the PJ training was to gather around 40 Fijian journalists on one platform and help them develop a better understanding of socio-political issues within their socio-political context. It also aimed to inspire them with the creativity of journalists in other countries; to enable them to acquire the requisite skills; and to empower them with various media tools, networks, and platforms.

The workshops were designed on the model formulated for peace journalism education by myself, called CAUSE – creativity, attitude, understanding, skills, and ethics. Creativity pertains to designing messages and exploring the right medium; attitudes as a reflection of biases prevalent in society and traditional media; understanding to gain theoretical perspective and knowledge of the issues; skills as required in the journalistic professional practice; and ethics as they apply to people affected by the issues. Together they help journalists apply the principles of PJ as an approach and set of skills to effectively leverage various media platforms.

The primary benefit in using this model is that the generic modules allow the curriculum to be developed into lectures and presentations within the

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www.park.edu/peacecenter

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regional and specific socio-political context of a country. In this case, they helped to design a course that was specific to the socio-political context of Fiji and suitable to the respective participants of various media organisations. Guest lectures were included to bring in the local expertise and perspective on issues that are sensitive in the Fijian society yet seldom talked about.

According to the evaluation report, 12 stories were submitted by the participants in the first two months, followed by 14 more in the later months, which covered a range of topics that are relevant in the Fijian society. They included child identity theft on the Internet; sexual and physical abuse of children; rape cases; non-communicable diseases; problems in the fisheries industry; dangers of using alternate medicine; workers' say in local mining projects; excessive mineral extraction that is shallowing the local river; and threat of the climate change to the local residents. Some of these topics, such as non-communicable diseases and child sexual abuse, are sensitive issues and there is a social reluctance or taboo about discussing them in public. One participant chose to display a photographic exhibition.

Because of the diverse range of media platforms used to publish these stories, the stories were evaluated looking at the attributes of peace journalism and the aspects of the CAUSE model (creativity, attitude, understanding, skills, and ethics) exhibited in them.

All stories demonstrated the inclusivity aspect of peace journalism approach by talking to the people who seemed invisible but were affected by the issue. The participants made an effort to gather as many diverse sources of information as possible and interviewed as many people as they could. The story on the climate



Participants discuss peace journalism at a recent workshop in Fiji.

change in a village near capital Suva contains interviews of several people on how it affects their lives. The three stories on various aspects of illegal gravel extraction in Sigatoka River bring to fore the concerns of the silent residents. Similarly, the story on coal mining focuses on what the workers and miners have to say about the project as opposed to the government officials and land owners. The story on the child who is sexually abused by her male relative is a great example of how her silent voice is brought to the fore. And the story on the dangers of using alternate medicines tells the stories of two people who used them and suffered the consequences.

The participants used several tools to investigate their story, unveil the truth and expose lies. They include finding facts and figures, studying other documents and reports, conducting interviews from various sides, and providing various interpretations of facts through analysis.

A significant example of journalistic creativity was the photographic exhibition that was created by a participant for the Tropical Cyclone Winston Commemoration and showcased in February 2017. In terms of making an impact, at least two participants shared their experience as to how their stories – one on farming problems in Sigatoka aired on Fiji TV and

the other on the shallowing of Sigatoka River through excessive graveling published in *Fiji Times* – made government officials take notice of the matters and prompted some kind of action on them.

The post-training feedback given by the organisers and the participants showed how deeply they felt the values of peace journalism were 'meaningful' and 'invaluable' to their work. After submitting the promised stories for evaluation, several participants have continued to produce news stories with peace journalism approach. According to the Program Specialist, Sivendra Michael, the training was 'a true inspiration to all of us'. And the head of the British Council New Zealand, Ingrid Leary, after the final one-day workshop in which all participants gathered to share their experiences, said via email that she found the experience 'deeply moving' and was 'really touched by the commitment the journalists showed in the face of various real pressures including those within the newsroom plus from Government and others. To my mind they had really learned a lot and showed a new maturity in their approach to journalism.'

Reference: Morris, Ricardo. (2016). 'Journalism of hope': realities in post-election Fiji. *Pacific Journalism Review*, 22(1), 25-37.



Participants discuss journalism in Fiji at a "Valuing Voices" PJ workshop in Fiji.

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Kenyan election 2017: Did journalists practice PJ?

By *Steven Youngblood*

Kenyan press coverage of elections in March 2013 and August 2017 has generated larger questions about the applicability and desirability of peace journalism in electoral settings. In both 2017 and 2013, critics wondered if the Kenyan press went too far by advocating peace and ignoring conflict.

In 2012, The Institute for War and Peace Reporting (IWPR) wrote, "Some critics have condemned the media for not following up on claims made by politicians that the poll was rigged. For example, parliamentary candidate Ayiecho Olweny cried foul after he lost the Muhoroni seat which he had been expected to win easily."

On my "Peace Journalism Insights" blog in 2013, I wrote, "A number of disgruntled Twitter messages accused the Kenyan media of 'rolling over' and 'advocating peace.' These included:

--'Kenya overapologetic media. Peace journalism isn't journalism, it's a campaign.' --'The entire country is saturated & zombified by messages of peace - no critical thinking is going on here... #Kenya -Though we were smart!'"

A small study examined if Kenyan media practiced peace journalism in 2013. Using a rubric that measures different peace journalism criteria (language, framing, bias, etc.), a peace journalism class at Park University analyzed 35 Kenyan media stories produced in March after the election. "A majority of the stories (51%) were rated peace journalism, while only 9% were deemed traditional/war journalism due to their inflammatory nature. The rest fell somewhere in between. The few instances where peace journalism was not practiced were primarily reflected in biased, one sided stories, but again, these were the exception."

Even more troubling criticisms of the Kenyan media, and of peace journal-

ism, surfaced after the August 2017 election, which was marred by post-election violence that claimed 24 lives. (The August election was invalidated, and a new election ordered for Oct.)

In the *Washington Post* (Aug. 11, 2017), Patrick Gathara observed,

"...The media has, with the sole exception of the Star (newspaper), nonetheless been determined to avoid any mention of the tension and the protests, which are small but seem to be spreading....Much of this is reminiscent of what happened in the 2013 election. Four years ago, as the country again hung on tenterhooks with politicians bickering over another presidential election, I wrote of a compact that had developed between the media and the public: 'Kenya would have a credible election, no matter what.' Back then, it was thought that the way to avoid the sort of violence that had nearly torn the country apart in 2007, on the back of yet another disputed presidential election...was to not ask uncomfortable questions.

"Today, the reasons for silence are considerably more sinister. In the run-up to the (2017) election, there was great public resistance to 'preaching peace as a means of preempting violent protests in the event that the election was disputed. So out went 'peace journalism.' But in place of a compact with the people based on the mutual fear of anarchy, the media appears to have made a deal with the government based on a mutual interest in plundering the public."

Even though I'd like to see much more evidence backing up his contentions, let's for the sake of argument accept Gathara's claim that the media avoided covering the tension and the protests in 2017, and even colluded with the government, and that peace journalism was trotted out as an excuse to paper over election rigging and stifle legitimate protests.

These claims reflect a misappropriation of the term peace journalism, and a misunderstanding of its nature. Nowhere in the theories of peace journalism elaborated by its founders Dr. Johan Galtung, Dr. Jake Lynch, and Annabel McGoldrick, and nowhere in my new university textbook "Peace Journalism Principles and Practices," does anyone say that peace journalists should ignore unpleasant and potentially volatile news. "Tension and protests" are newsworthy, and must be covered. Election rigging is news, and can't be ignored by real journalists. Peace journalism doesn't question if these stories should be reported, but instead asks how journalists should cover this news. Do we report responsibly and in a manner that doesn't incite violence or exacerbate tensions?

If media in Kenya or elsewhere are ignoring or minimizing news, then they aren't practicing peace journalism, or any real journalism for that matter.

Further, if Kenyan media have, as Gathara claimed, made a "deal with the government," then these reporters have ceased to become journalists. Instead, they have become propagandists and political hacks who have misappropriated the moniker "peace journalism."

To qualify as peace journalists, media must still fulfill their watchdog function, and report about societal tensions, government malfeasance, and election irregularities without bias or sensationalism. Peace journalism, as I wrote in 2012, "doesn't advocate, but it doesn't inflame or otherwise serve political agendas, either. This is bound to upset political partisans, some of whom depend on hatred and divisions to advance their agenda."

Real peace journalism that serves the public while being careful not to exacerbate tensions and fuel violence can be an important tool whenever peace is threatened by electoral conflict.



Learning peace journalism at a public forum in Addis Ababa (top left); at Jimma University (top right), and at the University of Addis Ababa.

U.S. Embassy sponsors Ethiopia PJ project

By *Nick Barnett*

The U.S. Embassy in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia was proud to host Professor Steven Youngblood, director of the Center for Global Peace Journalism, on a State Department-sponsored Speaker Program on Peace Journalism in July 2017.

During his visit, Youngblood had the chance to interact with university students and professors, journalists, and Ethiopian youth to discuss what Peace Journalism means in the context of Ethiopia.

Participants in the program were wary of the concept at first, wondering if Peace Journalism meant censoring reports to avoid sensitive topics.

Through intensive engagement in person, and through Facebook Live broadcasts that attracted hundreds of thousands of participants, people came to understand that Peace Journalism is basically "good journalism" with more care given to word choices to avoid inflaming tensions. In a country that has seen widespread violent protests, increased restrictions

on media freedom and rising ethnic division, the topic was both timely and relevant.

Youngblood's engagement sparked a conversation about the role the media should play, not only in informing the population of breaking events, but in ensuring that tensions are not unnecessarily inflamed through rhetoric.

Bulletin: 2018 Project Planned

The U.S. Embassy in Addis Ababa and the Center for Global Peace Journalism will launch a joint project in 2018 titled, "Peace Journalism in Ethiopia: Applications and Practices for More Responsible Reporting." Details will be posted soon on the Peace Journalism Insights blog.--Ed

Nick Barnett is the Information Officer at the U.S. Embassy in Addis Ababa. A career diplomat, Nick has previously served in Azerbaijan, Russia, and Tajikistan.



Spanish journalists analyze Greek refugee crisis

By Mayra Ambrosio Laredo

More than 62,000 refugees live in one of the 50 camps set up in Greece. Corresponsales de Paz (Correspondents of Peace), the society of alumni of the Universidad Francisco de Vitoria (Madrid), in collaboration with the university's journalism students, has created a WebDoc which was written following a visit to Athens to obtain a first-hand look at the real situation that the refugees endure. Journalists, institutions, and experts in Economics and International Relations have worked together to address this issue in all its dimensions.

The aim of the WebDoc, "Greece, a comprehensive look at its refugee situation", simply aims to shine some light on this reality, in an attempt to "get to know others" - in this case, the thousands of people have left their previous lives behind, fleeing a war that has already lasted over six years. Since 15 March 2011, the war in Syria has caused the death of more than 270,000 people, while 145,000 are reported missing and over 11 million have been forced to flee their homes. Of these 11 million, nearly six million remain within the frontiers of the country, while five million have managed to escape.

The refugee crisis, its source especially over the last few years being found in the Middle East, should be managed, among other approaches from the viewpoint of International Law. This is precisely what regulates what affects these people at an international level, from the moment they leave their country of origin. Some areas of international law already existed, while some have had to be modified and others created. Of special note is the regulation of person mobility in Europe and the Schengen area, the treaty signed by Turkey in March last year and the right to asylum and refugee status.

Since the refugee crisis began, major points of entry have been those located in Europe's East, both by sea and by land. Turkey and Greece are especially affected. The former as it is a springboard for entering Europe and the latter for being the first European destination available. However, most refugees see Greece only as a country in which to pass through, on their way to the real destina-



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tions - above all central Europe, taking advantage of the Schengen area.

The Schengen Area

The agreement was signed by those European Union member states that wished to create a common area with the objective of abolishing borders between countries in order to improve safety, immigration and the free movement of people. Many of the countries affected by the crisis are part of this agreement, but few actually comply.

According to the International Organization for Migration, since the arrival of a million refugees to European Union soil in 2015, most of the countries that signed the Treaty have since backed out of the agreement. Hungary took the first step in the summer of 2015 by building fences on its borders with Serbia and Croatia. Austria soon followed suit on the border with Slovenia and Germany on the border with Austria. France, Sweden, Denmark and Norway subsequently carried out similar actions.

This turnaround regarding the Schengen agreement by these EU member states left Greece as the only entry point into Europe and thereby was subject to the daily arrival of masses of refugees who subsequently found themselves trapped there.

Agreement between Europe and Turkey

On 17 and 18 March 2016, the agreement between the European Union with Turkey was signed, with the aim of solving Greece's suffocating situation. The return of new irregular immigrants to Turkey who had arrived on the shores of the Greek isles was agreed upon, the deal being one resettled refugee in the European Union for each one returned to Turkey. This arrangement was harshly criticised by many sectors of the international community because of the deal that was struck: the payment of 3,000 million Euros to Turkey until 2018, apart from the new steps made in the negotiations regarding accession to the 27 and easing visa restrictions for Turkish citizens. Since the signing of this agreement, the arrival of refugees in Europe has dropped by 72%.

Once the flow of refugees had been stemmed, the next issue to be dealt with was the control of people with the right to asylum entering countries, regulated by the Fourth Geneva Convention and the Additional Protocol I, one of its responsibilities being the protection of civil society.

The difference between a refugee and an asylum seeker

One of the main issues that need to be understood is the difference between asylum seekers and refugees. The

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(Left), Children at play at a refugee camp in Athens, Greece. (Below), Greek Journalist Yannis Chryssovaghis, who worked with his Spanish colleagues in Greece.



Refugees from Pg 10

Convention of 1951 relating to the status of refugees recognized as a refugee as "A person who owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence as a result of such events, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it." Asylum is considered as the way in which international protection may be provided to a person who is being persecuted in his or her country for political or ideological reasons. In relation to territorial asylum, it is the countries that decide the conditions that people must meet in order to be granted this right enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

This is the present situation. Currently, there are more than 62,000 asylum seekers in Greece awaiting a decision on their future. There exist 50 refugee camps in the country in which families wait until they can continue their journey.

The asylum application process

In order to obtain recognition as a refugee and be relocated, certain steps must be followed. In the first place, upon arriving on the Greek coasts, they must register their application in an asylum office - something which is by no means easy as these offices are overwhelmed with thousands of applications. Subsequently, the Greek authorities review the application and select the most convenient destination, depending on the relationships that the applicants have or could have. After this, the selected countries express their willingness to receive these applications in order to undergo security checks (after having passed

those carried out by Greece).

In March, the newspaper *El Pais* in Spain reported that 1.2 million asylum seekers (six out of every ten) request relocation in Germany, 10% request Italy, 6% France, while 4% ask to stay in Greece. Unfortunately, of all the asylum applications received, the member states of the European Union have only fulfilled 10% of what was agreed upon. This is the biggest impediment that the refugee crisis currently suffers: the willingness of states to accept refugees in their countries. It is of little importance, therefore, if the other mechanisms work well if at the end of the day the result of all this hard work is that doors are quite literally slammed in their faces when they come knocking.

The Role of the Media

The media play a key role in covering the reality of the more than 62,000 refugees being held in one of the 50 Greek refugee camps. Before, Greece was of little interest to the European media or the world in general. The media interest began due to the galloping economic crisis and the possible exit of Greece from the EU. Spain began to take an interest in the country when it perceived a certain similarity with the rise of populist parties. What was happening in Greece might happen in Spain?

During the trip, Corresponsales de Paz and students of Universidad Francisco de Vitoria had a meeting with Spanish news correspondents in Greece - Ingrid Haak (EFE), María Antonia Sánchez Vallejo (EL País), Begoña Castiella (ABC y COPE), Óscar Valero (EFE, El Confidencial and Deutsche Welle) and Greek journalist Yannis Chryssoverghis, who works for various Spanish publications. In it, they talked about how the media told the news regarding the refugee

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Tiny FM stations energize Ugandan media

By Willy Chowoo

Grassroots Radio for Community Input and Output (RootIO) is a community radio technology that is revolutionizing last-mile communication in hard-to-reach and war ravaged areas of Northern Uganda, using a mobile phone for broadcasting.

RootIO Radio stations are tiny FM radio stations that require little investment, maintenance, or financing from the community, yet at the same time offer more and better modes of interaction than traditional stations.

Each station is amplified by our cloud/telephony Radio as a Service (RaaS). With the cloud, an individual station can receive free voice-quality calls that go straight to air, download audio from the Internet in the background, or run SMS votes. Using any basic phone (through RaaS) local hosts

Willy Chowoo is the News Editor at 92.1 Choice FM (Gulu), where he has been working for over 10 years and also, he was the Community



Media officer for the Grassroots Radio for Community Inputs-Output –RootIO Project being piloted in Northern Uganda.

can run live shows with callers; local business people can record ads or announcements; and citizen journalists can cover live meetings or sports events. With solar power a station can serve as 24/7 endpoint to emergency services.

How RootIO radio works

While there is no shortage of radio in Uganda, it is broadcast from towns and can easily have a million listeners. The only advertisers are national (beer and telecommunications), and the rural poor never participate in programs.

RootIO stations are focused on communities of a few thousand to 10,000 people. Because it uses a “call out” method, where callers aren’t charged for participating, many more people feel comfortable joining in to talk shows and asking questions. Local program hosts use only their own phone to participate, and aren’t charged. Because the RootIO cloud purchases all the phone credit, we get a massive discount, and costs to the community are very small.

To address the issue of the local content, the community identifies programs of their choice and the volunteers are assigned using a scheduling algorithm. For example, if a volunteer is to do a show on farming, their phone will receive a phone call at a scheduled time, and he hosts the show from anywhere.

Chris Csikszentmihalyi, Chief Executive officer, and Jude Mukundane, Chief Technology Officer, are the founders of the RootIO broadcasting.

Radio in a bucket broadcasting on 103.8FM

Four stations have been running in Northern Uganda for the last two years, and small rural communities are creating their own programs, reporting their own news, and requesting audio content from the Internet. RootIO, with the help of Resilient Africa Network, is hoping to launch another 12 stations soon in the eastern part of Uganda.

The broadcasting coverage will be able to cover a distance of up to 35km on flat terrain areas. Communities benefitted from this pilot project include Patongo in Agago, Kitgum Town, Pabbo Sub-county in Amuru District, and Aber Sub-county in Oyam District. Each consists of a solar panel, battery, 15-metre-tall transmitter tower, and a smartphone. A white 19-litre bucket houses the hardware and keeps it dry.

It uses a smart android phone to replace a studio, and affordable solar power to replace expensive national grid electricity or a generator that all total up to UGX 8-million only. It broadcasts for 20 to 30 km radius, a much smaller range than commercial stations, but this allows it to provide

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situation in Greece. The journalists warned against the recurring error of comparing the phenomenon of the left-wing coalition group Syriza with the rise of the Spanish political party Podemos. Also of concern was the prevalence of activism-journalism when reporting the situation. In this regard, the correspondent of the newspaper *El País* pointed out that “activism is one thing and journalism quite another. This does not mean that journalists do not get involved personally in many issues - and the refugee crisis is the first on the list. But to report something you have to contain yourself and distance yourself from it. Activism-journalism (or the so-called citizen journalism in its day, although this is not the same) generally does not provide context and is always biased - something that real journalism must never do.”

The journalists pointed out that, in their experience, the importance of rigour, the choice of language to be used and the duty to avoid activism are essential in order to report events with veracity, respect people’s dignity and not encourage xenophobia.

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hyper-local content, advertising by village based traders, and host local community dialogues and discussions.

The stations are designed to best serve rural citizens and bridge the gap between the communities and the currently available commercial radio stations which are located within the business centers of operation hindering access. This station was developed by a team of technology innovators from RootIO, supported by Makerere University School of Public Health ResilientAfrica Network (RAN) as well as the Knight Foundation, which supports engaged and informed communities.

“RootIO puts together radio, the Internet and telephony to come up with a hybrid solution with greater benefit than any of the individual technologies on their own,” says RootIO CTO Jude Mukundane. “By focusing on intra-community communication, we hope to help communities find their own solutions and innovations, and build their own resilience.”

How communities are benefiting

The communities are using the radio to sensitize members about issues related to Health, education, farming, sanitation, religion, land utilization and conflict mediation among the resettling population.

They are hosting talk shows free of charge, sending announcements and advertising at affordable rate. These stations have tremendously reduced the burden of trekking or pedaling for over 100kms to send announcements in the mainstream local FM stations.

Onencan Michael, the Sub County Chief of Pabbo Sub County where one FM is situated, says the new technology has helped community to use local means to address land conflicts.

“It is a good innovation, and we appreciate it so much because it is

affordable and reliable to our people,” he observed.

Francis Angor Local Council III Chairman, Aber sub-County, says communities are very positive about the radio and they have formed a listener’s club.

“We are very happy to have such radio here, it is giving us positive benefits in sharing information about service delivery,” Angor adds.

Jane Adongo, a staff member at Gwoke Keni, a NGO which is hosting Patongo radio, says the radio is helping the community mobilization.

“We host many experts here on issue regarding health, agriculture, education, religion and the community is responding positive. The radio station has helped to recover a cow which got lost after sending the announcement over the radio,” Adongo recalls.



Listening to “tiny FMs” in Northern Uganda (top) is a community affair; Launching Aber Community radio.

Workshop focuses on Middle East reporting

By Isabel Pérez

As we were heading to Cairo from the Rafah crossing out of the Gaza Strip, I could not think about anything else: We must prepare a workshop, a Peace Journalism workshop focused on Palestine and Israel.

During the first month in Spain, I was able to relax a little bit. It was Christmas time and the second time we succeeded going out of sieged Gaza in four years. However, my mind was busy thinking about the best approach and material to be used in such a project. I, a Spanish freelance journalist living in Gaza since 2013 (in the Middle East since 2007), had gathered so much information, so many experiences in the field, and also ended up so tired of listening to an “unresolvable conflict” which is actually being encysted, in part thanks to the media, that I felt the necessity and the responsibility of offering all that I’d learned. I counted with the invaluable help of my husband: translator, journalist, and analyst, but above all a Palestinian man who has worked together with Israelis for a common future.

María, a friend of mine since we were teenagers and also journalist, was the ‘starting point’ of the creation of the needed network. I’d been so many years out of the Spanish journalism

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such as El Mundo, Eldiarios, and Píkara Magazine.



Mussa'ab Bashir and Isabel Perez conducted the workshop ‘Palestine and Journalism’ in Zaragoza, Spain.

context that I had no idea where to start. “Blanca is the best person to help you,” she told me.

Blanca is a journalist working in Zaragoza. She is the first Spanish journalist to open a case against her employer for firing her once he knew that she was expecting a baby. “I will introduce you to the Journalists’ Association in here,” she promised.

In a week, the Journalists Association gave us room for our workshop under the umbrella of the Spanish journalists national conference per excellence, the Digital Journalism Conference. The workshop ‘Journalism and Palestine’ took place in Zaragoza, Spain with an audience of journalism, radio and TV professionals, including the journalism degree’s director at the public university, María Gómez y Patiño, Ph.D. “I’m very happy to hear about Peace Journalism again,” she mentioned during a break.

The workshop’s proposal explains that talking about Palestine and Israel shouldn’t be like a football match, where there is an A-Team and a B-Team. My husband and I designed the workshop as a briefing for those who want to inform about this theme without falling in anachronisms, having a

-more than good- idea of the Palestinian history, the society, and their complex political system. We also added a general idea of Israeli society, a vertical and horizontal reality of its social stratus and religious way-of-life, so that the audience could understand better the context.

From the beginning, we included more than two points of view about the historical reasons behind the conflict. One slide showed four different comments on what happened in 1948. The most interesting thing were the expressions on people’s faces when they watched and listened to people from Israel criticizing anti-peace Israeli policies and people from Palestine doing the same. Then I asked them: “What stops us from making stories about these ‘other’ people--these critics? Not about the A-Team or B-Team? These critics have something important in common: they want peace.”

Less than a month had passed after the workshop, and I received a call from Malaga, 840 km away from our home. The caller also wanted the workshop ‘Journalism and Palestine’ offered at their university. Journalism students, Marcial Garcia Lopez, the

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curriculum coordinator for journalism at Malaga University, and the General Secretary of the Andalusia’s Journalists Union attended. Students were making an extra effort because it was a Carnival Saturday, and the sunny streets of Malaga were very tempting.

We completed another workshop, then returned to our small village in Zaragoza province with another proposal to bring the workshop to a Cuban university.

Our ‘revolutionary’ workshop for Peace Journalism has been well accepted. That sounded fine, but we felt we needed to improve some points and be flexible in changing the material depending on the background of the audience. Some audience members were very competent when it comes to history, but lacked the tools to examine current issues. Thus, we distributed post-workshop materials that included background and a list of Palestinian and Israeli mass media.

Then, another call. It was a complete honor to be invited to the Autonomía of Barcelona University by Xavier Girò. Girò is a well-known professor, always involved in fair causes, leading research programs in many issues including how media cover violence against women or his ‘cracks’ theory, i.e., “discursive cracks through which the public access to non-hegemonic political views and possible alternative or dissident ones.”

Girò opened for us the door of his ‘Communication in Armed Conflicts, Peace, and Social Movements’ master’s degree classroom. There were students from Spain and Latin America and, I must say, they already had a complete background about peace journalism, so we instead talked about our experiences in the field, and how to combat propaganda, Twitter-organized trolls and haters with the truth, facts, and international law and accords.

“Many of you asked me always the same question: How can I get into Gaza and cover a war there? Isn’t it too dangerous?,” I told participants as most nodded their heads in agreement.

“I would never recommend anyone in the world to cover a military operation. It’s horrible. Instead of this, I would hardly push as many as you to go there during the post-war. It’s safer and, indeed, a very crucial moment to be covered,” I said.

Peace Journalism is useful in bringing back to the headlines a forgotten conflict, an unpunished war crime, and the suffering of those who have lost everything. Sometimes I like sharing something that happened to me: A Twitter hater (troll) affirmed insolently about me that without the conflict, I wouldn’t be working in Gaza. I replied: You have no idea how I wish this conflict came to an end so I could write about encouraging peace stories ad infinitum.

Colombia Fulbright hosts PJ event



The Fulbright Association of Colombia and the Colombian president’s office of human rights sponsored a peace journalism forum at the Universidad Nacional in Arauca in April.

Steven Youngblood, director of the Center for Global Peace Journalism, delivered a keynote address to an overflow crowd. He discussed different constructs of peace, and explained the basics of peace journalism, especially concentrating on journalism’s role in reconciliation processes. These roles include creating platforms for societal discussions; ensuring transparency in reconciliation processes; producing counter-narrative reporting that humanizes the other side; and providing a voice for all citizens, and not just elites.

After the keynote speech, Youngblood led a workshop where participants analyzed the challenges to implementing peace journalism in Colombia, which include: media overly commercial/ratings driven; factions in territories can make reporting dangerous; corruption in media/lack of professional values for journalists; monopoly of media ownership; distorted information; inflammatory language; and sensationalism.

Rwandan radio show teaches valuable lessons

By Massimiliano Colonna

Every Sunday afternoon, thousands of listeners across Rwanda tune into a radio show that became a lifeline for farmers at risk of losing everything.

The studio where it is recorded belongs to a local station, Radio Isango Star. It is hidden up a narrow staircase in an unassuming building in downtown Kigali. Today, Jean-Baptiste Ndabananiye, the show's host and a member of Search for Common Ground Rwanda's team, invited me to watch one episode live.

He greets the policewoman stationed by the entrance and guides us up a couple of floors. We turn into a deserted indoor market, each shop with its shutters pulled down, until we reach a door displaying Radio Isango Star's logo. Despite the popularity of the show, the studio is simple and austere. The whole thing is crammed into a single windowless room. The furniture is essential: a wide desk, a few chairs, three computers, a flock of microphones bending their long necks from the center of the table, wires of all sizes carpeting the floor.



Jean Baptiste hosts his radio program in Rwanda.

Jean-Baptiste eagerly described the content of his program during the drive to the studio. "The show's name is Ubutaka Bwacu, which means Our Land in Kinyarwanda," he said, straining his voice to overcome the loud drumming of torrential rain on the roof of the car. Every week, the program tackles one issue related to land conflict, usually with the help of an expert in studio. "Land is the main source of income here. 80% of Rwandan people depend on the land to live," he explained. "Naturally, it becomes a primary source of conflict and violence."

Even though Rwanda's tertiary sector has been growing at a steady pace, agriculture is still the bedrock of the country's economy. Rwanda is known as the land of a thousand hills ("and a thousand smiles," as Jean-Baptiste remarks), and each of them is covered with plantations: banana, cassava, potatoes, beans, maize, rice. A majority of the cultivated land belongs to small farmers. Rwanda's



Massimiliano Colonna is the Communications Manager at Search for Common Ground, the world's largest dedicated peace-building organization, with offices in 36 countries. Visit the website at sfcg.org.

fertile soil and favorable climate yield regular harvests that families rely on for food and income. And yet, 22% of Rwandans—about 2 million people—are food insecure, as a result of deforestation, soil erosion, and a growing population.

"The size of the Earth never changes, but our population does," Jean-Baptiste said. "We have lots of mouths to feed." In a country as big as Maryland, resource scarcity is becoming more and more apparent, and owning a piece of land provides safety from hunger.

It's not surprising then that land conflict is so common. In most cases, it is tied to inheritance, family disputes, or quarrels with neighbors. Often, farmers in rural Rwanda don't have accurate information on the laws regulating land ownership and property transfers. Couples ignore the legal binds that they enter through marriage, and land owners disregard laws of succession. Lacking knowledge of their rights and a consultative body that they can appeal to, many people involved in land conflict decide to take the law into their own hands.

Since 2008, when Search opened an office in Kigali, we have prioritized solving land conflict as a way of decreasing violence and improving livelihoods in Rwanda. Together with a vast training curriculum for local traditional mediators, our media programs are revolutionizing the way communities deal with these issues. Ubutaka Bwacu is one of the longest-standing among them—and, thanks also to Jean-Baptiste's talent, one of the most successful.

Jean-Baptiste didn't set out to become a peacebuilder. As a university student, his dream was to become a journalist. It was after he left school, working as a reporter for Contact FM, that he met Search. He was working on some stories about conflict transformation and was impressed by our mission and methods. He decided that he wanted to be a part of the organization, and joined in Jan, 2012.

Five years later, he is Search's very own radio celebrity in Rwanda. Each Sunday afternoon, his voice reaches listeners all across the country, from Kigali to the rural areas. It's radio primetime: Rwanda's most famous brands, including telecommunications giant Tigo, compete for ad space during the show.

Ubutaka Bwacu is an interactive program. Listeners can call in, ask questions, and seek advice from Jean-Baptiste

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www.park.edu/peacecenter



Professor Zikamabahari answers questions during the show.

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and his guests. This time, the expert is John Zikamabahari, a law professor at Kigali Independent University. He is a familiar face at Radio Isango Star and an expert on matrimonial law. Since the reallocation of property after divorce is one of the most frequent causes of land disputes, he has been on the show many times.

While Radio Isango Star's Sunday music program airs the last few songs, we set up shop in the studio. The sound technician informs us that we'll be live in a few minutes. I ask Jean-Baptiste whether knowing that thousands of people are listening makes him nervous.

He flashes a big smile. "I built the experience during university, so I'm not nervous now," he says. "I would not be nervous even interviewing the president," he commented.

The technician counts down to zero. "Mwiriwe," says Jean-Baptiste as the show begins. For the next hour, he speaks in the mic with a friendly, charismatic tone, as if commanding a room packed with people who hang on his every word. He exudes confidence and skill.

Later, as we pack our equipment, he describes a call from a woman named Mariah. She was chased from her home by her husband, who also forbid her from accessing the land that they both own. She and her four children are now struggling to scrape together a meal. When she appealed to the local authorities, they supported the husband's case; that's why she decided to seek advice from Ubutaka Bwacu. Jean-Baptiste and Professor Zikamabahari

reminded her of her rights as a land owner and suggested a course of action.

In addition to the anecdotal evidence provided by stories like Mariah's, our team regularly collects data to assess the impact that the show is having on people's lives. The results are remarkable; 90% of the sample we analyzed find Ubutaka Bwacu helpful, and 77% put into practice the lessons that they learned through the program.

When we step outside of the studio and walk back to the car, darkness is setting on the city. The rain has stopped, and far more people than earlier are walking in the streets. As we drive back, we pass by the impressive, brightly lit dome of the Kigali Convention Center, Rwanda's newest symbol of prosperity.

"There is a positive atmosphere here," Jean-Baptiste reflects, "because we have lots of resources that can help society advance. But we still have problems exploiting these resources that God gave us."

Jean-Baptiste hopes that he can point the way to the sustainable use of land, decreasing both violence and poverty. "Conflict creates poverty and poverty creates conflict," he says. "A hungry person doesn't listen and is manipulated easily. If we solve conflict we solve poverty, and vice versa. That is what I want to do with the show. That is my dream."

--Originally published on the Search for Common Ground blog at www.sfcg.org.

Media law and ethics and citizen and peace journalism were on the menu at a recent seminar in Karachi, Pakistan.



In Karachi, teachers analyze peace, citizen journalism

By Zehra Abid

“When the cost of truth is death, how do you report it?”

This was among the questions raised at a seminar to talk about peace journalism and the citizen’s place in the media. The seminar held in Pakistan’s largest metropolis Karachi was part of the Badal Do campaign (translated into English as ‘let’s change things’) that hopes to promote peace and reduce religious intolerance by training and educating teachers.

The seminar was a mix of training sessions coupled with a panel discussion on what constitutes Citizen Journalism. The panelists were prominent journalists in the country, namely Kamal Siddiqi, Farooq Baloch, Shayan Naveed, Hira Siddiqui and Zehra Abid and photojournalist Farah Kamal.

The panelists discussed the importance of tackling conflict through journalism. Excellent questions were

Zehra Abid is a freelance journalist based in Karachi, Pakistan. She previously worked at *The Express Tribune*, where she was the Desk In Charge for the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and FATA section.



raised by participants about contemporary issues facing the country, including very sensitive matters such as religious extremism.

Among the 100 participants, a teacher whose family resides in the conflict-ridden area of Lyari, questioned the problematic role of the media in times of crisis, explaining the difficulties of surviving in violence-ridden areas where even access to food is restricted and not having the media highlight those issues. Panelists discussed the power of citizen journalism in these trying times and how to use social media to promote peace.

The need for verification on social media has become greater than it was before, with social media being used for propaganda purposes. Both participants and panelists discussed these concerns and ways to counter false news generated online.

The seminar held on May 14 and May 21st was perhaps the first such initiative to promote peace journalism and discuss it as a topic for public debate. In fact, the term itself is very new in and for Pakistan.

Keynote speech

Kamal Siddiqi, the Director of the Centre for Excellence in Journalism in Karachi, was the keynote speaker for the event. Siddiqi is both a teacher and journalist and spoke to partici-

pants about their role as teachers and potential citizen journalists. He discussed various issues plaguing corporate media and how to serve journalism in a time of great state censorship and self-censorship by journalists themselves.

Training sessions

The trainings included workshops on peace journalism, media laws and ethics, newswriting and reporting, Photojournalism and Digital journalism tools. Participants learnt how to categorize between hard news and soft news, feature writing and how to use social media such as Facebook and Twitter to report on news and incidents around them.

With respect to peace journalism, a number of issues were discussed openly that are otherwise not discussed in Pakistan. A ‘writing lab’ session by Hira Siddiqui brought forward the importance of recognizing and appreciating different cultures within the country. Siddiqui discussed the need to combat preconceived notions, stereotyping and to encourage diversity. Such discussions are increasingly important in Pakistan, where there is a lot of ethnic and religious prejudice and non Muslims are fast leaving the country. “We are not saying that all these groups are the same,

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Karachi from Pg 18

but celebrating what we are together despite differences,” she said. Karachi has suffered through decades of violence and Siddiqui, then, spoke about the need to connect to other people and to learn to empathize.

Farah Kamal, the Executive Director of the Society for International Education, held a training on photojournalism and showed by example stories that pictures can tell when words cannot. Kamal spoke about how to study people’s expressions and body postures and how to capture them. Giving examples of her work in Kenya with the Masai tribe, Kamal discussed how diversity can be incorporated in visual storytelling.

Meanwhile, Baloch discussed the need to report beyond numbers and tell stories that narrow in on people’s realities.

The ‘Badal do’ initiative

Badal do is a grassroots movement for change. The campaign is part of a consortium of seven organisations that are trying to rally for positive change in Karachi. Among its role in the consortium, the Society for International Organization organized one-day seminars for teachers. A total of 400 teachers will be trained as part of this campaign. The teachers come from a range of schools, targeting different socioeconomic backgrounds. The first two seminars were held in May and the next round will be in September 2017.

Afghanis, Pakistanis produce joint documentaries

By Said Nazir

Pakistani and Afghan documentary makers presented their joint audio and video productions on human rights issues at the Centre for Excellence in Journalism, Karachi, in July.

These documentaries were produced in a first-of-its-kind residential training programme that brought together documentary makers from Pakistan



TNN Managing Editor Said Nazir interviewing a shemale while making a documentary on job challenges faced by transgender community in Karachi. (Photo by Sadeq Naseri)

and Afghanistan in Karachi from 17-28 July 2017. The training was led by award-winning journalists from Serbia, Sonja Ristic and Zoran Čulafić.

Foundation Hirondelle, the Centre for Excellence in Journalism, International Film Festival and Forum of Human Rights. and the United Nation Information Centre jointly organized the training on ‘Documentary Making for Human Rights and Peacebuilding’, which was funded by the Embassy of Switzerland in Pakistan. Documentaries produced in the training would be broadcasted on radio and screened at film festivals across the world.

“Bringing different people together is always a fascinating idea. You get different perspectives, skill sets and different ways of thinking,” Mohammad Behroozian from Afghanistan said. He added, “It is even more important when the people of Pakistan and Afghanistan come together. The people-to-people diplomacy will, hopefully, result in better relations between the people of the two countries.”

“There is a wide gap between the journalists of Pakistan and Afghanistan. Trainings such as these definitely help build better understanding among professionals and improve the prospects of peace, because these

A journalist from the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) of Pakistan, **Said Nazir** was the Hubert H. Humphrey Fellow for the year 2014-2015 at University of Maryland. He is the co-founder and News Director of Tribal News Network (TNN), a radio news agency that provides news to local radio stations in conflict ridden Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province and the adjacent tribal areas of Pakistan.



people have the power to build public opinion,” said Said Nazir, a Pakistani participant.

“It was not an easy decision to come to Pakistan because the media shows only problems. There are more similarities between the two cultures than differences. I found Pakistan like my own home,” said Tamana Ayazi, a participant from Afghanistan.

Kanzul Fatima Arif (Pakistan), Gulzar Nayani (Pakistan) and Tamana Ayazi’s (Afghanistan) film ‘Behaali’ or ‘Recovery’ is a journey into the lives of two

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Similar storytelling genres complement PJ

by Karen McIntyre

Peace journalism is described as proactive. Peace journalists consider the consequences of their stories. Peace-focused stories provide depth and context by moving beyond the “who-what-when-where” details of traditional news stories. These descriptions can also be used to describe other, similar genres of news, namely: constructive journalism, solutions journalism, and restorative narrative.

Below I will introduce you to these genres, provide examples of journalistic work in each area, and highlight some of the research being conducted on these topics. Although each genre is distinct, they remain unified in their overarching goals.

Constructive Journalism: What is it?

Constructive journalism is an emerging form of news that involves apply-

ing positive psychology techniques to news processes and production in an effort to create more productive and engaging stories, while holding true to journalism’s core functions. This form of news is meant to ultimately contribute to society’s well being. Like peace journalism, its goals are consistent with the social responsibility theory of the press, which asserts that journalists have a responsibility to consider society’s best interest when making decisions. Constructive journalism is broader than peace journalism. I think of constructive journalism as an umbrella term, with peace journalism as one specific technique to practice constructive reporting.

Where can I read constructive stories?

The Correspondent is a member-funded news platform that originated in Denmark in 2013 and is now

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preparing to launch in the U.S. The journalists collaborate closely with their members to report and write thorough, forward-looking stories. And I love that they have constructive-

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Documentaries from Pg 19

children Mohammad Ramzan and Shakeel, who are recovering drug addicts but do not let their history of addiction define them.

At the centre of Nameera Ahmad (Pakistan), Mohammad Behroozian (Afghanistan) and Najiba Noori’s (Afghanistan) film ‘Sound of Silence’ is a 15-year-old girl Fariah, who was born deaf. Through Fariah’s story, the film explores the challenges faced by deaf people in Karachi and how they deal with them. Radio journalist Said Nazir (Pakistan) produced an audio documentary on the challenges and success stories of transgender people in mainstream professions. Sadeq Naseri (Afghanistan) produced an audio documentary on child labour in Karachi.

Ambassador of Switzerland to Pakistan Marc P George, Director UN Information Centre Vittorio Cammarota, diplomats as well as the characters of the documentaries were present on the occasion. A day earlier, the Swiss Consul General Philippe Crevoisier hosted the closing ceremony of this training at his residence, which was also attended by filmmakers and film enthusiasts.

In his comments, Marc P. George, Ambassador of Switzerland in Pakistan, noted, “The Swiss government is proud to offer this unique opportunity to enhance dialogue and professional relations between young Pakistani and

Afghan documentary makers by developing common projects with the support of professionals.”

Vittorio Cammarota, Director UN Information Centre, said, “This training programme reflects the three pillars of the United Nations: human rights, peace and security, and socio-economic development. We brought filmmakers from Afghanistan and Pakistan to work on documentaries on human rights with a focus on children and minorities. This training programme was a concrete exercise of peacebuilding and a great opportunity for promoting freedom of expression.”

Kamal Siddiqi, Director Centre for Excellence in Journalism, said, “We are happy to host such an exercise. It is our aim to make CEJ a regional Centre for excellence in Journalism and we are excited at the prospect of having journalists from Afghanistan and Pakistan come together and collaborate in this manner at our state-of-the-art facilities. Such an initiative will help build bridges of understanding between our two countries and we hope to conduct more such exercises in the future too.”

Caroline Vuillemin, CEO Fondation Hirondelle said: “This training was an exciting opportunity to marry capacity building and production for the participants. The...team brought new angles and rich inputs to the stories.”

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oriented positions such as the “progress correspondent.”

What does the research say?

A 2016 national survey of journalists conducted by me, Dr. Nicole Dahmen and Dr. Jesse Abdenour, both of the University of Oregon, revealed that U.S. print and online journalists highly value the professional roles associated with constructive reporting. For example, journalists highly ranked values such as to “act in a socially responsible way,” “contribute to society’s well being,” and “portray the world accurately.” They ranked these values just as important, and often more important, than other traditional values such as to “get information to the public quickly,” “discuss national and international policy” and “concentrate on the widest audience.”

We also found that younger journalists and female journalists valued constructive journalism more than other groups. This study was published in the academic journal, Journalism.

Another study to be published in September 2017 in the *Journal of Media Innovations* by myself and Cathrine Gyldensted, a leader in the constructive journalism movement, further

defines constructive journalism. Specifically, we outline five techniques by which constructive journalism can be practiced.

Where can I learn more?

- By reading From “Mirrors to Movers: Five Elements of Positive Psychology in Constructive Journalism”
- My website: karenmcintyre.org
- The Constructive Journalism Project
- The Constructive Journalism Network Facebook page

Solutions Journalism: What is it?

Solutions journalism is rigorous reporting on how people are responding to social problems. I view this as another specific way to practice constructive journalism. It shares many of the same goals as peace journalism, but solutions journalism can be applied to a wider variety of issues than peace journalism, which is most often referred to in the context of national and international conflict.

Where can I read solution-focused stories?

The *New York Times* blog series, Fixes, features solution-focused stories. The stories are written by primarily by the founders of the Solutions Journalism Network, which promotes solutions

journalism. Also read the *Seattle Times*’ Education Lab for solutions coverage.

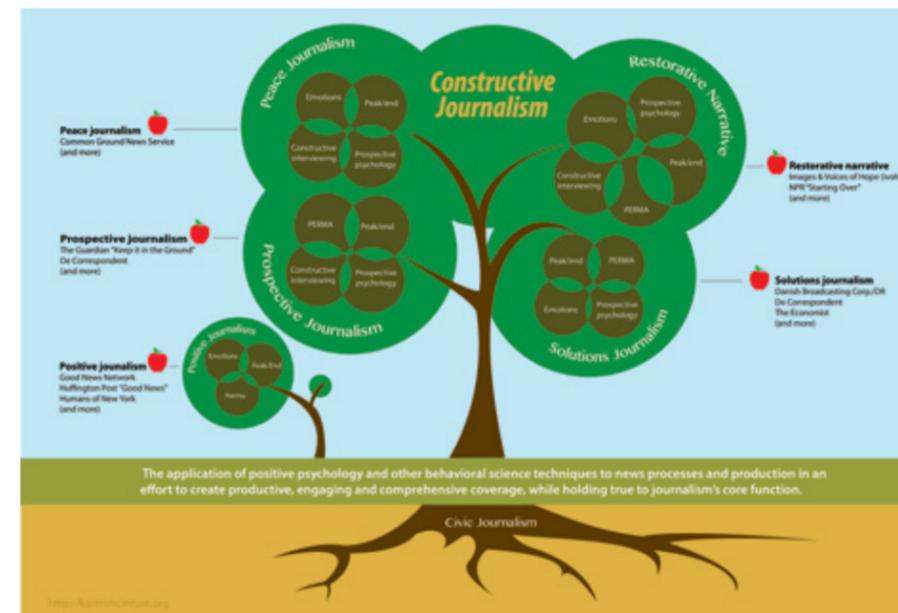
What does the research say?

The Solutions Journalism Network together with the Engaging News Project conducted a quasi-experiment in 2014 that revealed those who read solution-oriented stories reported more perceived knowledge about the topic, higher self-efficacy in regard to a potential remedy, and greater intentions to act in support of the cause than those who read conflict-oriented stories (Curry & Hammonds, 2014).

Although Curry and Hammonds’ study revealed optimistic outcomes of solution-based reporting, its results should be viewed with caution as participants were not randomly assigned, threatening external validity. I conducted a true (randomized) experiment on solutions stories in 2015 and found that a solutions story caused readers to feel less negative and to report more favorable attitudes toward the news article and toward solutions to the problem than when no solution or an ineffective solution was mentioned. Reading about an effective solution did not, however, impact readers’ behavioral intentions or actual behaviors. This suggests that solution-based journalism might mitigate some harmful effects of negative, conflict-based news, but might not inspire action.

Another stream of research has examined the photographs published alongside solutions journalism stories. A study by myself and Kyser Lough, of the University of Texas at Austin, found that 64% of photos published with solutions stories portrayed a solution, while many of the remaining photos portrayed a conflict. A follow-up study looked at what happened to readers when the message in the photo was incongruent with the

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Foreign journalists banned from South Sudan

By Joseph Oduha

South Sudan has banned about 20 foreign journalists from entering or operating within the country for reporting what it termed “unsubstantiated and unrealistic stories,” the Chairperson of the South Sudan Media Authority said.

Of course, this ban has drawn fierce criticism from South Sudanese media professionals.

The government’s viewpoint is articulated by Elijah Alier, who heads the media regulatory body. He said that most of the journalists prohibited from covering issues in the country have often reported stories that have the potential to incite hate and violence among South Sudanese.

He said that some of the reports do not have reliable sources or specific locations, but generalize events and people in the country. Journalists, he said, have written stories that insult or degrade the country and its people, and often portray nonentity acts to justify the lifestyle of

Joseph Oduha is a South Sudanese freelance journalist. He had work with several news outlets including Daily of Kenya. He holds a certificate in Journalism issued by



Sudan Media Forum in 2012. He is currently pursuing a diploma in International Relations and Diplomacy at Starford International University in South Sudan’s Juba.

the people of South Sudan.

Alier said the reports sometimes advance violence rather than encourage the public to embrace peace. He added that some of the reports have violated provisions of the Media Authority Act.

“Issues to do with hate speech, incitement to violence and disinformation are not acceptable in the context of our law. Some of the reporters have not even been seen in South Sudan, you need to respect also the country, you can’t just label the country as crazy,” Alier said.

He said they don’t have issues with journalists reporting on facts about the country. He said it is the unverified information which often leads to panic and increase instability in South Sudan, that they pick issue with.

“Reporting about the humanitarian situation is a reality. Such reports are helping South Sudan at some point; they are informing the world and the donor community,” he said without specifying the names of the foreign journalists banned and the media houses they work for.

Alier said the Media Authority has issued over 200 permits to foreign journalists and media houses to operate in South Sudan.

He said most of these journalists will help in relying

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message in the text. Our findings showed that readers felt the most positive when the story and photo were congruent, in that they both represented a solution. However, interestingly, readers reported more interest in the story and stronger intentions to share the story on social media when the solutions story was paired with a neutral photo.

Where can I learn more?

- The Solutions Journalism Network
- Nieman Reports

Restorative Narrative: What is it?

Restorative narratives are stories that show how people and communities are learning to rebuild and recover after experiencing difficult times, such as a natural disaster or other tragedy.

Like the other genres, restorative narratives do not ignore the conflict or negative aspects of the story; they just focus on the restoration that takes place after the immediate event. I view restorative narrative is another, more specific way to engage in constructive storytelling. These stories, like those of the other genres, inspire and empower audiences, making readers feel hopeful.

Where can I read restorative narratives?

Here are a few specific news stories that use this technique:

- Surviving the Finish Line - Slate
- After Newtown shooting, mourning parents enter into the lonely quiet - Washington Post
- The Girl in the Closet - The Dallas

Morning News

What does the research say?

Little research has been done in this field, but Dr. Nicole Dahmen of the University of Oregon studied visual restorative narrative by analyzing photos and interviewing visual journalists. She found that visual restorative narratives could be a skill reserved for professional photojournalists and one that extends beyond the scope of citizen journalists. Therefore, restorative narrative could be a sustaining value for visual journalism. This study was published in the academic journal Visual Communication Quarterly in 2016.

Where can I learn more?

- Images and Voices of Hope

Charlottesville coverage challenges peace journalism

By Steven Youngblood

News coverage about Charlottesville has been a mixed bag, sometimes responsible, and at other times needlessly sensational.

In August in Charlottesville, Virginia, marching white supremacists clashed with anti-hate protesters. A car rammed the anti-hate group, killing Heather Heyer and wounding 19.

One bright spot was coverage of the murderer who ran down Heyer. In the past, news reports of fatal attacks like the Charleston church murders (2015) and the Kansas City synagogue shooting by an avowed racist (2014) put a

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disproportionately bright spotlight on the murderer and his twisted beliefs. Oftentimes, this disproportionate reporting overshadowed coverage of the victim(s).

The press’ seeming devotion to over-exposing terrorists and other mass murderers has led the family members of mass shooting victims to form an organization and website called No Notoriety (www.nonotriety.com). This organization challenges to media to “deprive violent individuals of the media celebrity...they so crave.” (See next page for details.)

The good news is that No Notoriety’s admonitions were at least partially heeded during the Charlottesville coverage. Lexis Nexis database searches of newspaper and broadcast transcripts between Aug. 13 and Aug. 21 showed the murderer named in

156 of the first 1000 newspaper hits for “Charlottesville,” and 221 of the first 1000 broadcast transcript hits. In both searches, the name of the victim was mentioned more than the murderer-- twice as much in the newspaper search (309 vs. 156), and still considerably more in the broadcast transcript search (299 to 221). Recognizing the victim’s relative importance compared to the murderer is a step in the right direction.

What these searches don’t show is how often the murderer’s image was used. If it was used even once after “initial identification,” that’s one time too many, according to No Notoriety. I agree.

An interesting aside: the same two searches showed a majority of the

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on vital information during the process of the National Dialogue. The government official urges foreign journalists to seek accreditation such as a permit from the Media Authority to enable the body to facilitate their work.

However, South Sudanese journalists believe the ban suppresses freedom and discourages the dialogue the government says it supports.

Veteran journalist Alfred Taban expressed serious disappointment over the Juba government’s denial of visas for foreign journalists who want to report events in the war-torn country. “This is sending the wrong message to foreigners and opposition elements abroad that the dialogue which was declared by President Salva Kiir is not a genuine and transparent process,” he said.

Taban, who is the founder and Editor-in Chief of the *Juba Monitor*, an English news daily newspaper, said the denial of foreign journalists to enter South Sudan was giving an impression that Juba administration has something (maybe a lot) to hide.

Last month, President Kiir promised freedom of the press to the media fraternity, including foreign media, as the world’s youngest nation was rolling out national dialogue process countrywide.

Taban, however, called upon the media authority body to reverse its decision and allow entry to any journalist and give those journalists the right to objectively report all news events.

South Sudan’s Media Authority is a body established in 2014 to “supervise” the work of journalists in the country.

Juma Omer Gabriel, a local journalist based in Juba, described the move by the media regulatory body as an attempt to control and censor the news media’s coverage of critical topics.

“I fear the next step would be barring the Internet to suppress the local journalists in the country. The banning

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coverage centered on President Trump and his response to Charlottesville (576/1000 newspaper hits; and 835/1000 broadcast transcript hits). An in-depth content analysis is needed to determine if this flood of Trump coverage eclipsed more important reports about the victim and the hatred and societal dysfunction embodied by Charlottesville.

The bad news on the Charlottesville coverage, from a peace journalism perspective, was the widespread usage of the nauseating footage and/or still photos of the murderer's car plowing into the protesters. I saw the footage myself at least 10 times on CNN, and still images from the car attack were widely used. The most sensational, egregious front page, to

No Notoriety Challenge to the Media

*Limit the name and likeness of the individual in reporting after initial identification, except when the alleged assailant is still at large and in doing so would aid in the assailant's capture.

*Refuse to broadcast/publish self-serving statements, photos, videos and/or manifestos made by the individual. Elevate the names and likenesses of all victims killed and/or injured to send the message their lives are more important than the killer's actions.

*Recognize that the prospect of infamy could serve as a motivating factor for other individuals to kill others and could inspire copycat crimes. Keep this responsibility in mind when reporting.

*Agree to promote data and analysis from experts in mental health, public safety, and other relevant professions to support further steps to help eliminate the motivation behind mass murder. Recognize that the individual's name and likeness is irrelevant to media coverage of such acts unless the alleged assailant is at large. (*nonotriety.com*)

South Sudan

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of foreign journalists alone will tarnish the image of the country as a nation that prohibits foreign media house from covering issues that the world is supposed to know. If possible, revoking the order would be (a larger) need," he said.

Another journalist, Majak Kuany Alier, slammed South Sudan government for failing to respect freedom of the press and allow all journalists from across the world to cover the suffering of the people in the country.

"The government is acting this way because our authorities have no clue that information can bolster their mutual cooperation with outside. The more in-depth reporting about what is affecting any given country's citizens by wider independent journalists spark the world into action to salvage that particular nation," he said.

He urged the country's authorities to respect national and

no one's surprise, was the *New York Daily News*, with a zoomed-in photo showing victims flying through the air, their faces, and looks of horror, clearly visible.

As peace journalists, we should be thoughtful about the images we use, always asking these questions:

1. Are these images merely sensational, or are they necessary for a complete understanding of the story?
2. Will these images needlessly inflame passions against the suspect, scuttling his right to a fair trial?
3. What about the families of the victims? If this was your loved one, would you want the photo or video published?
4. Do the pictures in any way glorify the perpetrator, his crime, or his cause? Do the images encourage copycats?

Responsible peace journalists should always consider the consequences of their reporting, and their minimum responsibility to not make a bad situation worse.

the international fundamental principles on free flow of information as stipulated in international human rights law.

Not only is free press an issue in South Sudan, but so is journalist safety. Attacks against journalists hit record high since the young nation seceded from Sudan in 2011. Eleven journalists have lost their lives, some in the line of their profession. A crackdown on the media has also forced several other journalists into exile. The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) has ranked South Sudan as among the dangerous places to practice journalism in the world.

Last month, the Association for Media Development in South Sudan (AMDISS), an umbrella organization for journalists and media houses in South Sudan, also urged President Kiir to take the lead in stopping aggression against journalists.

Halabja museum visit sparks questions about PJ's role

By John Beal

Halabja was no more dramatic nor more lethal in sheer numbers than its predecessors, for example the Armenian genocide or the Holocaust, nor as its successors, the genocides of Rwanda and Sudan, thus it has hardly merited much of an acknowledgement by the Western media, either at the time, nor by the Western psyche since.

Although the Turkish photographer Ramazan Öztürk brought the gas attack to the world's attention with his vivid portrayal of the dead; historically, the Ba-athist al-Anfal campaign including Halabja, Iraq was just a backwater genocide, easily dismissed and forgotten by most in the West. Neither al-Anfal or Halabja entered into the vocabulary of most Westerners, who, when asked about those names today, might suggest the names refer to a Middle Eastern brand of tea.

As an activist documenting human rights violations in the Iraqi Kurdistan Region, visiting the Halabja Memorial Museum prompted a certain introspection into the whole idea of peace journalism in general and documenting the horrors of conflict, both in pictures and in print, in particular. What good comes from the photos and the stories, given the chronic compassion fatigue of Western audiences? Do the stories and pictures from the field make any substantive difference? Do they really? And if it seems they have not, why am I here?

So, what keeps peace activists, myself included, in the field covering conflict and war when neither the graphic images the photographs portray, nor the often poignant written accounts seem to alter the behavior of the Western public in any real way? Ideally, is that not the goal of peace journalism, to inform in the hopes some will respond, keeping in mind Edward Abbey's thought, "Sentiment without action is the ruin of the soul"? Can it be that experienced conflict and peace journalists are expected to continue to document conflict without the expectation of influencing others' emotions for more than an arrested moment, let alone others' thoughts turned to actions?

For me, the industry of peace journalism seemed to become, in the case of Halabja, an act to fulfill a personal need for catharsis. This need seemed to come from my awareness of my own disregard of the Halabja incident as it was happening when I was a thirty-eight year old American on 16 March 1988, the day of the bombing; the day the Kurdish families of Halabja hid in their cellars to survive the explosions only to die as the heavier than air cyanide gas released by the chemical bombs settled into those low-lying kill zones.

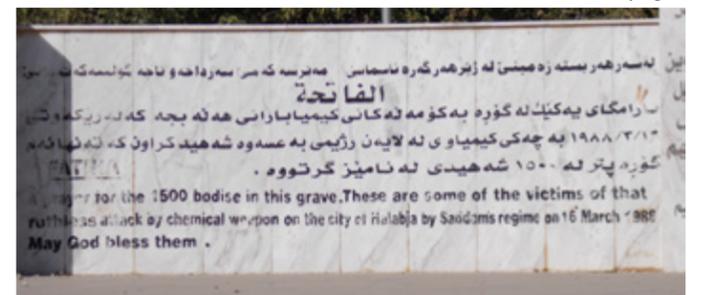
My guide through the Halabja Memorial Museum was a

John Beal (with a Yazidi mother and son who had just escaped from ISIS close to the Syrian border) is a former special operations soldier and combat veteran. He currently teaches at Park University and Weber State University. He is active with environmental and social justice organizations, most recently documenting human rights violations in Iraq.



Kurdish man who, as a boy, had survived the bombing and the gas. A photograph of him as that boy, possibly taken by Öztürk, hung in the museum, part of the photographic evidence chronicling the conflagration. The museum also displayed life-sized scenes recreated from the photographs and arranged in graphic settings. There was my guide again, created as that small boy in the photograph, disheveled, uncomprehending at that time, propped up against a wall; the same small boy who buried 24 of his relatives in a mass grave the next day, one of many mass graves in the Halabja cemetery, a cemetery with a large sign over

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(Top) A mass grave, holding 1500, honors those lost in the gas attack in Iraqi Kurdistan. (Below) A guide at the Halabja Museum, who survived the gas attack as a young boy, gives a first hand account of what happened in 1988.



Study: Karachi conflict reporting is inflammatory

By *Shabbir Hussain and Bakht Rawan*

In this study, we investigated the deadly ethno-political conflict in Karachi through the perspective of war and peace journalism and documented limitations of peace journalism.

The ethnic conflict Karachi started soon after the creation of Pakistan

in 1947. The locals Sindhi population found themselves turning into minority when millions of refugees migrating from India settled here. Many Pakistanis from the northern region also migrated to Karachi in 1960s for better economic opportunities. Despite communal tension in some parts of the city, there was relative calm.

The problem started when the ethnic communities, mainly Muhajir, Sindhi, and Pashtoon, were politicized and political parties were formed on ethnic lines in 1980s. Since then, ethnic tension is a norm in this city of 20 million people in which thousands of common people have lost their lives and millions dollars of national revenue have been lost.

Keeping the above context in mind, we applied both content analysis and detailed interviews with journalists to analyze the ethno-political conflict in Karachi through the perspective of war and peace journalism. The researchers selected two leading TV channels, two English newspapers and two Urdu newspapers from a period of one year. Also, interviews were conducted with journalists to address issues arising from the research.

In this systematic study, we found in the empirical content analysis study that the ethno-political conflict in Karachi is reported in highly inflammatory and jingoistic manner. The mainstream Pakistani media act as mouthpiece for the jingoistic parties. The conflict is told from political perspective where drama and sensationalism are dominant while the humanitarian aspects are completely ignored. The politicians having communal interests use media for fomenting ethnic tensions. Reporters and editors were asked about the situation. "As report-

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journals on issues relating to peace journalism in Pakistan. Dr. Hussain is also a trainer in peace journalism.

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the entrance that read in Kurdish and English "Baath's Members are not Allowed to Enter."

Was I a genocide tourist, albeit with the best intentions of being a peace journalist? Interestingly, I was not able to photograph the graphic images of dead Kurdish men, women and children that hung on the walls and that were recreated in three dimensional representations of their massacre, lining corridor after corridor of the museum representing the 5,000 Kurds who were killed. I was allowed to take photos, but I could not bring myself to. I thought, what would be the point?

Photographs, even of a most extremely tragic nature, have rarely received more than a fleeting and superficial response from the Western public. Those that do, for instance Kevin Carter's Pulitzer Prize winning photo of the emaciated little Sudanese girl with the vulture hovering behind her, for Westerners, tend to



A photo of a dead cow and her calf hangs in the Halabja Muesum in Iraq.



A sign hanging over the Halabja cemetery in Iraqi Kurdistan.

take on the qualities of a commercial logo. In Carter's case, a logo symbolizing the anguish that was Africa at the time. However, what is the point, as even such extreme pathos does not seem able to galvanize a populous to action. Possibly such grim logos do not have the same sales potential for Westerners as the Nike swoosh. I did take one photo in the museum.

I photographed a framed photo of a dead and bloated cow lying on her side, also a victim of the Halabja genocide. In the photo, her calf was standing in front of her, uncomprehending. I rather thought, for me, it caught the bathos of documenting the human rights violations and the atrocities of Halabja and every other mass killing, given the Western public's low tolerance for compassion fatigue that rarely seems to allow serious, sustained commitment to change in vision, passion or action.



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ers we are required to tread the fixed route, if one deviates, he/she is in trouble," said an anonymous reporter.

Regarding the key frames in media reporting, the conflict is covered as "law and order issue, battleground, ethnic and political tension, mafias and extortion and political vendetta" while the actors are pitted against each other. As the media discourse is highly politicized, common people are usually ignored. However, occasionally they get the lowlight as "people of Karachi, citizens", and unworthy victims as simply body counts when killed.

During interviews with journalists and stakeholders, it was revealed that conflict reporting in Karachi is circumscribed by various factors including the ethno-political affiliations of reporters, security problems, strong political influence on media houses, commercial pressures, and active self-censorship by media practitioners.

All these factors tilt the coverage of the conflict towards war journalism. While the 'worthy politicians' are given maximum coverage, the 'less worthy common people' are usually

ignored, to put it in Chomsky's parlance. If common people are killed, they are simply ignored or reported in one liners, but when workers of political parties are killed, they get the media limelight. These incidents are followed by political rigmarole where the conflict is turned into political battle. In fact, conflicting political statements are apportioned a major chunk of time and space. It is unfortunate that though this conflict is in progress for many decades, most Pakistanis still don't know the main causes and contexts. One key problem lies with the media—they are being manipulated by powerful groups and they don't report on the real situation in Karachi.

Though in our other investigations to different conflicts in Pakistan, we have found that journalists favor the peace journalism approach. However, in this conflict, we found the conflict reporters were indifferent towards the media's role in resolution of conflicts. Peace journalism scholarship suggests

media people have to be convinced for peace if it has to be turned into a reality. The only silver lining in this whole scenario is the deliberate attempt by reporters to avoid revealing ethnicities of those involved in violence. The already volatile ethnic tension could degenerate into a full-scale war if reported irresponsibly.

The media discourse is highly politicized, and common people are ignored.

However, barring few examples, this study finds that the Pakistani news media come short of expectations while reporting on the politico-

ethnic conflict in Karachi. The media appear to be a tool of discord rather than a voice for peace.

Summarily, we found that the Pakistan news media is escalatory and sensationalizing this conflict. The conflict is mainly reported through political perspective where the political victims are considered as worthy; the non-political victims are ignored and treated as less-worthy victims. The researchers advocate a more humanitarian perspective for news media in this conflict to reduce ethno-political tension in Karachi.

Blog, podcast, book supplement peace journalism resources

Peace Journalism Insights blog gives updates on activities of the Center for Global PJ, and provides analysis of how PJ principles are, and aren't, utilized in coverage of current events.

Peace Journalism Perspectives podcast talks to PJ practitioners and teachers around the world. The current edition features a discussion about a recent peace journalism project in Cameroon, and a discussion about PJ and the recent Kenyan elections.

All podcasts are available at the Center for Global Peace Journalism's website.

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

