

the PEACE JOURNALIST

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South Korea



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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 (500 words) detailing peace journalism projects, classes, proposals, etc. We also welcome longer submissions (1000-1500 words) about peace or conflict sensitive journalism projects or programs, as well as academic works from the field. We do NOT seek general submissions about peace projects, but are instead focused only on articles with a strong, central 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 can contribute to defusing Korean tensions

By Jake Lynch

“Do not demonise North Korea. Demons do not negotiate. If there are no negotiations, there will be war.” These were the words of Chung-in Moon to journalists who gathered for the Korea Press Foundation journalism conference in Seoul, in October, as diplomatic efforts were being stepped up for a second summit meeting between Kim Jong Un and President Donald Trump.

Moon is a sage old hand of arms control talks. A current member of the South Korean government’s advisory committee on diplomatic strategy, he previously served as Ambassador for International Security, combining these posts with his career in universities. His advice is timely, given the findings of new research on Australian media and how they refer to the Democratic People’s Republic(1). In coverage from two major newspapers and the public broadcaster, the ABC, North Korea was usually described as rogue, secretive, totalitarian or evil, with its leader “often referred to as a ruthless psychopath.” Dominant metaphors tended to be conflictual, framing the country as “a military threat [and] unpredictable, irrational and ruthless.” As the researchers comment, the pattern is typical, and not just in Australia.



South Korean diplomat Chung-in Moon addresses the 2018 KPF journalism conference in Seoul.

What would it take, to change the tenor of international coverage? Restraint, for one: CNN’s Seoul correspondent Paula Hancocks, who also spoke at the conference, recalled how she successfully argued against the network running a story on claims that Kim had removed one of his relatives, fallen from government favour, by feeding him to a pack of dogs. Editors in Atlanta had been keen on the

story, which was being widely aired elsewhere, but Hancocks advised caution, given that no firm evidence was available to support it.

What can the Peace Journalism playbook contribute? How can readers and audiences be prompted and equipped to consider and value non-violent responses to the still-unresolved conflict on the Korean peninsula, with all its potential dangers?

Look past slogans from both ‘sides’ to focus on the goals of the conflict parties, for one. The Korean war of 1950-53 has never been declared officially over. The Koreas are separated by a so-called Demilitarised Zone (DMZ) which marks the ceasefire line. Given this, Moon said, it was vital to realise that the North saw no reason to consider itself “a defeated nation. [So, they would think] don’t treat us as if we have to surrender to the United States.” Reporters should therefore regard with scepticism calls by hawkish

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voices on the American side for “complete and verifiable disarmament” before concessions such as the lifting of sanctions. Approaches that provide for such steps to proceed in parallel should be seen as more realistic.

Another distinction in the Peace Journalism model originally proposed by Johan Galtung is to focus on “people as peacemakers”, not just leaders. A couple of months before leaving for Seoul, I listened to a talk, at Sydney’s Exodus Foundation, by the veteran nuclear disarmament campaigner, Joseph Gerson, who was visiting Australia from the US. Because the North Korea talks were an initiative of the Trump White House, he explained, Democrats were instinctively sceptical, if not downright hostile. A typical line was: “this is all a sham, Trump

gave up too much, we should still be exerting maximum pressure.” Instead, he called on the official agenda for the process to be “attacked from the Left: demand the formation of negotiating teams” to hammer out a sequence of real progress towards denuclearisation, and the “easing of the trade and medicine embargo.” This would also meet one of Galtung’s key recommendations for reporting peace plans, which I presented at the Seoul conference: ask “is the peace plan a process or only an outcome?” Beyond the day’s headline, what happens next?

If non-elite voices deserve greater prominence on the American side, the same is true on the Korean peninsula. Korea Peace Now: Women Mobilizing to End War, is an intervention by the Nobel Women’s Initiative and Women Cross the DMZ. Taking the form of a letter to Presidents Trump and Kim,

they call for normalization of relations by “establishing reciprocal liaison offices, lifting sanctions that harm vulnerable individuals, and facilitating people-to-people engagement.”

One of the chief gains from the first Trump-Kim summit in 2018 was a “freeze for a freeze”: no further nuclear weapons testing by Pyongyang, in exchange for a halt to joint military exercises between the US and South Korea. Peace campaigners are calling for the latter to be made permanent. Over recent years, the pristine environment of Jeju Island has been violated by the establishment of a new naval base, which hosted an “international fleet review” last October. The local Association of Gangjeong villagers, who opposed the development, called on third coun-

Continued on next page

Prof. Jake Lynch discusses peace journalism at the 2018 KPF conference in Seoul.



tries not to send warships to take part. If more media were prepared to listen seriously to such voices, then a more nuanced picture, exposing more of the realistic prospects for peacemaking, would emerge.

As Annabel McGoldrick and I argue in Peace Journalism (2), distilling many of the discussions we conducted with editors and reporters around the world, presenting inputs to news from unconventional sources requires journalism to construct a “framework of understanding” to establish their relevance to the story. Today’s journalists must do this anyway, it could be argued, to justify their existence as professional communicators.

Another contributor to the Seoul conference was Thomas Rosenstiel, Executive Director of the American Press Institute. Publics now require “news fluency”, he said, to enable them to differentiate journalism they can rely on. Editors and reporters can help by explaining “how and why this was a story.” If the message from journalism to readers and audiences in the 20th Century was “trust me”, its equivalent for the 21st, in a world of unprecedented media plenitude, was inverted. Now, the message was coming from readers and audiences,



demanding greater transparency as a corollary of that trust: “show me.”

Part of the remedy for the demonising coverage exposed by the findings on Australian media, would, the researchers say, be to feature “more stories illustrating individual and community life. This would give North Koreans a human face”. Getting the requisite access for such stories is difficult, they concede.

However, a notable example has just screened on Australian television, which points the way. The Foreign Correspondent strand on ABC Television took us into the heart of a unique US-North Korean cooperative venture, between clinics in the country for patients with multidrug-resistant tuberculosis – a deadly disease that strikes half a million people a year worldwide – and volunteers from the Eugene Bell Foundation, who work with them.

Titled ‘Out of Breath’, it’s a moving and memorable film, which deserves to be more widely viewed – which it can be, on the program’s website (3). “I will never forget the first tuberculosis centre I visited,” the film-maker, Hein S Seok, has written (4). “As soon as we stopped, the North Korean medical team rushed over with huge smiles. I realised I was witnessing a reunion of old friends who had been working towards the same goal for

decades... I discarded any assumptions I might have had about the North Korean people.”

As long-form journalism (the film runs 28 minutes) it’s in a genre that lends itself most readily to the PJ approach. But there are clear opportunities now for editors and reporters engaged in all forms of journalism to peer beyond the clichés, engage with the goals and agendas of the parties to an unresolved and potentially dangerous conflict, and make room for peace to enter the debate.

Notes

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2. Jake Lynch and Annabel McGoldrick (2005) *Peace Journalism*. Stroud: Hawthorn Press
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4. Hein S Seok (2019) ‘Amid international tensions, the battle to treat “contagious cancer” in North Korea’. *ABC News*, February 19, retrieved from link: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-02-19/north-korea-contagious-cancer-battle-amid-international-tensions/10822102>

Gandhi: The original peace journalist

By Abhilash Chandran

The true function of journalism is to educate the public mind, not to stock the public mind with wanted and unwanted impressions. A journalist has therefore to use his discretion as to what to report and when. As it is, journalists are not content to stick to facts alone. Journalism has become the art of intelligent anticipation of events.

-Mahatma Gandhi-

Apart from being a national leader and social reformer, Mahatma Gandhi was a great communicator. More than anyone else, he recognized that communication is the most effective tool to shape opinion and mobilize popular support. Gandhi, whose 150th birthday is being celebrated this year, was a strong believer in the power of the word and wrote very cautiously in his newspapers to mobilize public opinion. The subjects he chose to write on were varied and variegated, which depicted his honesty, integrity, and in-depth understanding.

Gandhian journalism emerged from the values and philosophy practiced and propagated by Mahatma Gandhi in his life and through his publications viz., *Indian Opinion*, *Harijan*, and *Young India*. With courage of conviction, Gandhi applied the principles of honesty and integrity in his real life and also in journalism. He could

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bravely write his quest for truth or experiments with truth while boldly facing the poignant situations to achieve his goals. Essentially, he believed that newspapers should have values when they are launched with a view to serving people.

Gandhian journalism

Gandhian journalism was a product of Gandhi's approach to life, his concern for humanity, and his deep commitment to the poor for whose sake he fought for national independence. It was essentially the journalism of communitarianism and humanitarianism. He had certain noble goals that were based on his philosophy of non-violence (ahimsa), self reliance (swadeshi), self rule (swaraj), and truth-force (satyagraha). All these were reflected in his journalistic writings and oral communications, and his non-verbal communications such as his innumerable journeys on foot, padayatras, within India, mediation, fasting and prayer meetings. (1)

Gandhi's journals never had any sensational topics. He wrote on constructive work, satyagraha, nonviolence, diet, nature-cure, Hindu-Muslim unity, untouchability, spinning, khadi, swadeshi, village industries, and prohibition. He stressed the need of re-orientation of education and food habits and was a severe critic of national defects. (2)

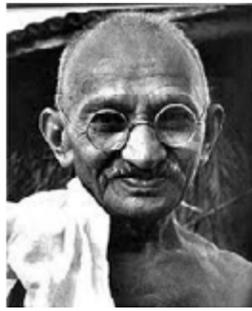
Gandhi's insights and understanding of the necessity of the media and communication led him to have the movement's on news and views publication and that is how the *Indian Opinion* seems to have been born. Gandhi has devoted a separate chapter both in his autobiography and his book on satyagraha in South Africa. Both the chapters contain details on why and how to publish a newspaper. The content of the chapters is enough

to pass Gandhi as a professional and committed journalist. He has in these chapters described difficulties of publishing news magazines and managing them, including the advertisement and finance aspects. Thus, it is useful both for journalists and publishers even in the present times. (3)

It was Gandhi's firm belief that the newspaper was meant for "selfless service" and that it should not be used as a commercial enterprise to amass profits. Despite financial strains, he chose to turn down advertisements as they could compromise the focal purpose of the paper. Instead, he devised unconventional modes to sell his paper and expanded the subscription to sustain his paper.

He argued that additional columns would be saved and could be instead employed to advance the struggle. Gandhi constructively used journalism as a vehicle of his political activism. However, the movement stretched beyond the political realm and entailed the striving for dignity and self-respect. It brought about elemental transformation in the socio-political frame of the Indian community.

Today, journalism is a tool to create an ever expanding source of revenue, but for Gandhi, who had very different goals, revenue was always more of a spiritual return. Always a social and humanitarian crusader, Gandhi's underlying journalistic concerns were with the living conditions of the poor-



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Gandhi from Pg 6

est of the poor. He believed in living frugally to the point of excess. In his book "Small is Beautiful", E.F. Schumacher points out how Gandhi rejected Western urbanization and mass production in favour of a more traditional labor intensive approach. Even his approach to circulation of his paper was unique. Rather than depending on advertisements as a source of revenue, he advocated copying and circulating of papers. (4) Gandhi's approach to journalism was totally devoid of ambitions. To him it was not a vocation to earn his livelihood. It was a means to serve the public.

Gandhi as a peace journalist

Gandhi, in a journalistic career spanning nearly four decades, used journalism as tool of social reformation and building peace in India. As a journalist, Gandhi took the subjects which could only be used for peace building among the people. In Gandhi's concern the main objectives of journalism are: A. Understand popular opinion and give expression to it; B. Arouse desirable sentiments among the people and C. Fearlessly expose popular defects.

Gandhi used journalism as a tool for avoiding the escalation of conflicts. As a country like India with differences in each and every community, the chance of violence is inevitable. Gandhi's experiences both in South Africa and in India convinced him that violence could only be ended by unilateral acts of kindness. For avoiding the Hindu-Muslim conflict he advised both parties to understand the situation, and the language of Gandhi reveals the inner power within him. For instance he dedicated the entire issue of "Young India" dated May 24, 1924 to write a lengthy article on Hindu-Muslim tension, its causes, and cure. In the article, he used sober language

to express his feelings while advising the two parties to resist from the temptation of resorting to violence and see reason in the situation. (5)

Furthermore, peace journalism seeks involvement of people to reduce tensions between warring factions. In the Gandhian approach, Gandhi understood the involvement of the people would be useful to solve communal riots. Thus, he suggested a formation of a peace brigade to reduce frequent conflicts by prescribing a code of conduct to the members of the peace brigade.

In "Harijan" (June 18, 1936) he wrote, "Some time ago I suggested the formation of a peace brigade whose members would risk their lives in dealing with riots, especially communal. The idea was that this brigade should substitute (for) the police and even the military. This reads ambitious. The achievement may prove impossible. Yet if the congress is to succeed in its non-violent struggle, it must develop the power to deal peacefully with such situation". These writings clearly shows how Gandhi used his words for peace building.

Writing about the "Indian Opinion"

Mahatma Gandhi: A Celebration of the World's First Peace Journalist August 26-27, 2019

Join us in Kansas City with scholar and author Dr. Rajmohan Gandhi, the grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, for an examination and celebration of Mahatma Gandhi's role and influence as a journalist, and his lasting impact on the profession. Featured speakers also include Cynthia Lukas and Kell Kearns, producers of two documentaries about Mahatma Gandhi which have aired on PBS.

The celebration is being held in conjunction with Gandhi's 150th birthday.

Two events will be open to the public. On Monday, August 27, Park University will host the Missouri premiere screening of "Gandhi's Gift." A Q&A with filmmaker Cynthia Lukas and Kell Kearns and Dr. Gandhi will follow the film screening. On Tuesday, August 28, Johnson County Community College will host Dr. Raj Gandhi in an event celebrating Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birthday. His topic: "The Status of Peacebuilding Between India and Pakistan."

journal, Gandhi said, "It was never intended to be a commercial concern. So long as it was under my control, the changes in the journal were indicative of changes in my life...I cannot recall a word in those articles set down without thought or deliberation, or a word of conscious exaggeration, or anything merely to please. Indeed the journal became for me training in self-restraint, and for friends a medium through which to keep in touch with my thoughts." (6)

If we can practice peace journalism effectively, then the role of journalist is prominent. The above statement of Gandhi clearly mentioning the character and morality of a journalist is most important. And a journalist can work effectively if he can express and apply his soul through his words.

--This piece was originally published in the April, 2012 edition of *The Peace Journalist*.

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Radio peacebuilding from Pg 8

There are many such radio stations in East Africa that have embraced peace journalism in their radio programs.

Ron Jones, Director of Community Engagement and Laura Ziegler, Community Reporter from KCUR public radio in Kansas City spoke next on community engagement as peacebuilding. Ron Jones defined community engagement this way: "To learn the needs and aspirations of communities by examining issues that matter most to their lives. And to help people seek solutions to the issues facing their communities." He stressed how they sought out new voices and perspectives to broaden their coverage of issues. As a result, they focused on serving underserved communities through their radio productions. This meant being engaged in communities beyond parachuting in to cover one-off stories. One prerequisite for this was to establish trust; otherwise the community would not engage with reporters. This involved identifying stakeholders in the community who were asked what the issues that they faced, and whom the reporters should talk to who could address the issues from the community's level. With the stakeholders' input the reporters then arranged listening sessions that took place in that community and were always off the record.

The public radio reporters would always start out with the following questions:
 "What do you want metro Kansas City to know about your community?"
 "How engaged are you in your community?"
 "How engaged do you want to be?"

Then after getting confirmation from the group that their notes were accurate of what the community shared, they would return to the station and conceptualize stories based on what they learned. Ziegler pointed that while they don't consider themselves to be technically peace journalists, there is obviously a lot of overlap in what they are



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doing in community engagement with the characteristics of peace journalism. For example, they say they do not have any preconceived ideas on what stories they will find, and, of course, they give voice to the voiceless.

Ron then shared an example of community engagement in their story based in Tonganoxie, Kansas. This centered on the plans of Tyson Foods to bring a chicken processing plant to the town – a plan that was supported by then-Kansas Governor Sam Brownback. However, many in the town opposed the plan. Tonganoxie revolted against this plan, protesting most directly against the city council, who had notice of this but did not alert the rest of the town. Through their community engagement, KCUR's story captured the variety of viewpoints reflecting the complexity of the issue.

Another example was KCUR's pursuit of stories centered on borders in the KC metro area. In this case, their community engagement resulted in a series of stories they titled "Beyond Our Borders." They put in over a year to rediscover Troost Avenue (a traditional dividing line of segregation in KC), the State Line, the Wyandotte-Johnson county line (another racial dividing line), and the Missouri River. This in the spirit of peace journalism aims to dispel stereotypes perpetuated by Kansas City's geographical and racial boundaries.

The final speaker, Spencer Graves, board member of community radio station KKFI, gave examples of peace initiatives that have been broadcast by KKFI or disseminated on its website, including events and rallies by PeaceWorks Kansas City.

The radio and peace session was part of the Greater Kansas City Peacebuilding Conference. This three-day event was hosted by Avila University, Park University, and Johnson County Community College from Oct. 25-27, 2018.



(Far left)- KCUR's Laura Ziegler discusses border-bridging stories produced by the station. (Left)- Cameroon Community Media Network's Rev. Geraldine Fobang and Alex Vojvoda connect with the conference via Skype.



2018 Greater Kansas City Peacebuilding Conference

Conference evaluates radio as peacebuilding tool

By Tom Patterson

As part of a three day peacebuilding conference in Kansas City, speakers from around the world focused on the achievements of radio as a peacebuilding tool on Oct. 26 at Park University. Steven Youngblood, director of the Center for Global Peace Journalism welcomed some 60 people to the afternoon event which included four sessions on radio and peacebuilding.

The first presentation featured via Skype Alexander Vojvoda from Vienna, who works for a civil society organization based in Buea, Cameroon, and the Reverend Geraldine Fobang of Yaoundé, Cameroon, president of the Cameroon Media Network and station manager of the Christian Broadcasting Services, CBS Buea. They presented on "Radio and Peace in Cameroon," showing how radio has been used as an effective peacebuilding tool in reporting on the Anglophone crisis in Cameroon.

Cameroon has historically been regarded as one of the more peaceful countries in Western Africa, but that has changed recently. Rev. Fobang gave a brief history of the origins of the conflict, which now centers in southwestern, Anglophone Cameroon. Mr. Vojvoda spoke on how he has been organizing workshops for media to professionalize their work, stressing how hate speech can be countered and how media can be inclusive rather than divisive. The work has led to the official registration and growth of the Cameroon Community Media Network, which now has more than 70 members.

Rev. Fobang then explained what the Christian Broadcasting Service (CBS radio) is doing to bring people together in the service of peace. One way is a program focused on conflict resolution called "Eyole" which means "the Wind of Peace." Another, focusing on issues in Northwest Camer-

oon is called "Towards a Peaceful Society." Yet another is a radio drama entitled, "A Call for Peace." Vojvoda commented that community media, like peace journalism, does not just give a voice to the elites of society but gives voice to the traditionally voiceless by presenting their views directly from them and not from someone who claims to represent them. He stressed that radio in the form of community media has great potential for peacebuilding.

Youngblood, director of the Center for Global Peace Journalism at Park University, spoke next and took us to East Africa (Uganda and South Sudan) in his talk on Radio and Peace. He began by going over the 10 characteristics of peace journalism:

1. Being proactive
2. Uniting rather than dividing
3. Rejecting official propaganda
4. Giving voice to the voiceless
5. Being balanced
6. Providing depth and context
7. Considering the consequences of the reporting
8. Carefully choosing words to avoid being inflammatory
9. Selecting images that are not inflammatory
10. Debunking stereotypes, myths, and misperceptions.

Youngblood discussed how he included these elements of peace journalism in workshops he led for radio journalists in Uganda. These journalists produced radio stories (the most important medium in Uganda) that incorporate these 10 characteristics. In one example, a public service announcement (PSA) sold the concept of a peaceful election. It used the tag line: "Everyone has a dream to live a better peaceful life this election. Choose Peace!" This PSA was played thousands of times throughout Uganda.

Youngblood then talked about the series of peace seminars that he held in Juba, South Sudan, in 2016. The focus of these seminars was on radio as a tool of reconciliation – the healing of groups that have been torn apart by war or conflict. Then, as in Uganda, the journalists went out into the country to produce radio stories with a theme of reconciliation. He then played a couple of these reconciliation radio productions that those journalists had produced.

Continued on next page

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Photojournalists can humanize, spark healing

By *Alexsandra Canedo*

The Gabriel García Márquez Foundation for New Ibero-American Journalism (FNPI) held its sixth Gabriel García Márquez Journalism Awards and Festival in Medellín, Colombia.

Every year, the event offers more than 75 free activities centered around journalism, literature, art, science, technology, innovation and culture. This year, speakers, panelists, and trainers from more than 25 countries gathered in Medellín Oct. 3-5 to celebrate some of the best publications to surface in Latin America in the last year.

In an event titled, "Photojournalism, memory and search for truth," Colombian academic Germán Rey, moderated a discussion between four photojournalists: Stephen Ferry (United States), João Pina (Portugal), Natalia Botero (Colombia), and Álvaro Ybarra (Spain).

The conversation was structured around the role that photojournalism can play in the search for truth in conflict-ridden societies and the construction of peace. Through their own work, these photojournalists brought critical insight to several conflicts in Latin America, and their photographs have provided a foundation for countries to acknowledge the violent his-

tory of many regions in Latin America.

Here are four key takeaways from the panel discussion:

1. Photojournalism adds a human layer to conflict.

Historically, the needs and grievances of civilians, specifically minority groups, have been pushed aside in peace negotiations and left out of peace treaties. Despite the harrowing experiences of individuals living in conflict in the 21st century, many people still associate conflict with military movement and weapons. Botero believes it's important to photograph conflicts because it forces individuals to see the conflict from a different perspective and makes "the conflict more human." Many individuals in power approach conflict from a top-down approach, rather than a bottom-up approach, which hurts individuals on-the-ground in conflict zones. The panelists agreed that photojournalism can serve as a tool to help fill this gap, shifting the focus to individuals who are affected.

2. Photography can serve as evidence.

Botero says that "photography testifies." When truth commissions meet after a conflict ends, they mostly rely on written testimony, which can be troubling if the voices of certain

*In her role as Program Officer for the International Center for Journalists in the Americas, **Alexsandra Canedo** provides support to several grants, particularly under the umbrella of the Investigative Reporting Initiative in the Americas (IRIA). Canedo manages various small*



grants and provides logistical and administrative assistance to carry out workshops and conferences.

groups are not invited to the table. Photography can provide irrefutable evidence and challenge conflicting testimonies. With this in mind, Botero said that she "tries to save the survivors of conflicts" with her photography and be as impartial as possible when she's behind a camera lens.

Ferry brought up Peru's Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) as an example of the successful use of photojournalism in the peace process, and an example for other countries to follow. Peru's TRC ordered a multimedia photography project, Yuyanapaq, to build collective memory in the aftermath of Peru's internal conflict. Stephen Ferry believes that photographs are fundamental if the country truly wants to reflect on their past and move forward as a unit.

3. Photojournalism can spark healing.

Panelists agreed that photojournalism can have a profound impact on societies and their ability to create a foundation for communal healing by building a shared visual memory and national consciousness. Ybarra believes that photography should play an important role throughout the entire healing process, laying the groundwork for social peace. Although ceasefires and peace treaties

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www.park.edu/peacecenter



In October in Medellín, Colombia, conference panelists discuss photojournalism's ability to nurture and heal societies.

In Cameroon, journalists evaluate peace efforts

By *Rosaline Akah Obah*

Members of the Cameroon Community Media Network (CCMN) and North West and West chapters made up of peace journalists met in Bamenda recently to evaluate efforts put in place by their various activities as journalists in bringing peace to the war-torn region as well as peaceful living and coexistence. This was during a network meeting of the association coordinated by the President Rosaline Obah Akah.

During this strategic meeting, the members engaged the 2019 year on a more promising note by conducting a situational analysis of the Anglophone crisis in Cameroon and the Bangoulain crisis in the West Region.

After finishing one year of the peace journalism project, a project impact analysis was done. The chapter also worked out an action plan on how various actors, including the media through the CCMN, can work on contributing towards the de-escalation of violence and encourage peace in Cameroon using peace journalism principles and conflict sensitive reporting.

Opening the one day meeting, Chapter President Akah reminded members to always remember that peace remains priceless and as peace journalists, contributing in any way possible for peace to reign remains paramount. She urged them to redouble efforts



Cameroonian journalists meet in Bamenda to evaluate their efforts for peace.

as the ongoing crisis in Anglophone Cameroon rages on.

The members have received trainings on principles of peace journalism and conflict sensitive reporting thanks to the Presbyterian Church in Cameroon (PCC) and Bread For the World (BROT) in collaboration with CCMN. The participants took turns doing a self assessment and group evaluation of the efforts they have put in so far in peace building through the radio, TV, print, and online platforms.

Collectively members observed that their work in the regions are challenged by factors like inaccessibility to news events, withering up of news sources, ghost towns (general strikes), and sporadic shooting. These all prevent journalists from doing their jobs.

More capacity building seminars and

since they have the power to write history. Photographs have the power to reconcile various truths and create a more collective, consistent memory. With this power, it's imperative to be impartial and to shed light on all sides of the conflict.

--Originally published on International Journalists' Network (IJNet.org) and is published here with permission. See: [https://ijnnet.org/en/story/photojournalism-has-role-constructing-](https://ijnnet.org/en/story/photojournalism-has-role-constructing-peace-conflict-areas)

meetings will be held within the year that will include various stakeholders involved in peacebuilding so that peacebuilders and CCMN can combine forces for sustainable peace. Members were also drilled on reporting with empathy during a crisis by veteran journalist Omer Songwe. Overall, CCMN members continue producing productions to enhance peace and conflict transformation.

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was named the Pioneer Station Manager of the Christian Broadcasting Service (CBS) Radio Bamenda in 2016.

peace-conflict-areas

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Community radio stokes peace in Colombia

By Emma Heidenreich

I want you to imagine a dilapidated but colourful radio station studio, nestled in verdant Colombian jungle and protected overhead by a dense canopy. Inside, a man speaks into a microphone. He strategically omits his name from his broadcast for fear of an armed group active in a village nearby.

Colombia has been at war for 60 years. It is one of the longest wars in modern history and is perpetuated by poverty, political underrepresentation and a lack of access to healthcare, education or land rights for rural people. In the mid-1960s, armed militias emerged from both ends of the political spectrum in these rural areas, many joining the FARC – the Armed Forces of the Republic of Colombia, the largest leftist rebel army in the country and some joining hard-right paramilitaries with corrupt ties to state security forces.

In this context, the history of community radio runs deep in Colombia. In October 2016, former-President Juan Manuel Santos signed an historic peace agreement with FARC. The agreement stipulated a commitment to media reform and community radio projects “in their production and dissemination of content to foster a culture of peace.”

Today, some 450 internationally recognised community radio stations operate throughout rural and regional Colombia, actively opposing the armed conflict. Radio is a cheap and relatively accessible medium for most rural-dwelling Colombians in areas with poor infrastructure, no internet or electricity access. Inexpensive, battery-powered radios have become a key source of information.

Community radio stations in Colombia date back to the early 1940s. Grassroots movements for peace used

Emma Heidenreich is a Journalism and International Relations Graduate (Hons. in Peace and Conflict Studies). Emma is a member of the TRANSCEND Network for Peace Development. She lived and worked as a journalist in Colombia at the height of the 2016 peace negotiations. Her research centres on engaging grassroots voices in conflict and post-conflict contexts.



radio to protest against the treatment of rural farmers and poor families and to whistle blow the activity of illegal armed groups in their communities. In her book “Citizens’ Media Against Armed Conflict,” Clemencia Rodríguez highlights the significant role local media projects have played in networking grassroots organisations for peace in Colombia and in disrupting armed groups’ recruitment of young men. However, some stations are high-jacked by armed groups and religious authorities with their own motives. Radio is a powerful medium.

Violence against local radio stations

Community radio stations and grassroots activists in Colombia often become targets of armed groups, who see media projects as attempts to dissuade local people against their violent ideologies. In the post-peace agreement phase, it is critical that the international community, the Colombian Government and non-government organisations work together to afford security measures to local radio stations and grassroots journalists.

According to a 2018 investigation by Reporters Without Borders (RSF), Colombia is still one of the most

dangerous places in the world to be a journalist. The World Press Freedom Index situates Colombia at a dismal 130 out of 180 countries. At most risk are those journalists situated in rural zones, where clashes between armed groups and drug cartels are frequent.

The peace agreement in October 2016 saw a ceasefire and demobilisation of record numbers of FARC troops. However, other armed groups with similar ideologies to FARC remain active, such as the People’s Liberation Army, as well as right-wing paramilitaries and drug cartels. According to Human Rights Watch, right-wing paramilitaries in Colombia are responsible for a disproportionate number of extrajudicial killings, intimidation of journalists and censorship of violent events.

How does supporting Colombia’s local radio stations build Positive Peace?

In Colombia, international and national policymakers, NGOs and citizens recognise local radio stations’ contributions to peace. The earliest examples of community radio networks supported by USAID, the EU and UNESCO, include Popular Cultural Action (ACPO). ACPO plays a role in educating rural communities and enabling them to have a voice on the aforementioned root causes of conflict in Colombia. Understanding how best to address these issues in the future remains a critical challenge for transitional justice policy. To build Positive Peace in the nation, local voices must be heard.

Local radio stations are key to peace in Colombia because they are located where the majority of violence takes place, where it is too dangerous for most journalists to travel and where local people truly know and understand the causes and impact of conflict on their communities.

Continued on next page

Global journalists compare threats, discuss PJ

By Steven Youngblood

(Santa Fe, NM)-I traveled 754 miles from Kansas City to Santa Fe, New Mexico in December to attend and speak at a conference titled, “Journalism Under Fire” (JUF). Little did I realize that this short trip would literally take me around the world.

JUF was blessed by the active presence of 48 international journalists (literally, from Albania to Zimbabwe). These journalists were brought to the U.S. as Edward R. Murrow Fellows by the U.S. State Department.

Interactions between the international journalists and

Continued on next page



An overflow crowd is engaged by speakers at the Journalists Under Fire conference in December in New Mexico.

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Organisations such as the Colombian Federation of Journalists and the Communication System for Peace (SIPAZ) today help to network local media projects and to ensure funding is directed to them. Funding is particularly critical given Colombia’s highly monopolised media context. According to RSF, small scale media projects have to compete for audience interest against more lucrative, pervasive media conglomerates and their ties to political and economic elites.

In August 2018, President Iván Duque, leader of the far-right Democratic Centre Party succeeded Santos. Duque opposed the peace agreement and its approach to transitional justice, vowing to renegotiate the agreement and prioritise justice for victims if elected. Ironically, it is victim’s voices that have been silenced in the process – the majority of peace agreement ‘yes’

voters are located in areas where the conflict has caused the most devastation. Duque’s campaign attracted voters from urban areas, but many rural voters lacked access to information on Duque’s political objectives or a medium through which to voice their concerns. The link between access to information and peace is clear. Edu-



cational and talkback programmes on community radio stations have, and continue to be, significant platforms. Rural consumers can access information, have an opinion on political and justice processes and hold Duque’s government to account.

Evidently, these rural radio stations are key to peace because they are located where the majority of violence takes place, where international and even urban Colombian journalists rarely travel and where local people truly know and understand the causes and impact of conflict on their communities. This does not need to be a complex process. Rural communities have already laid the groundwork. They need recognition and support. Recognition that what they do makes a difference and support in one of the most hostile contexts in the world.

--Originally published at: <http://visionofhumanity.org/positive-peace/colombias-rural-radio-stations-key-peace/> and at <https://www.transcend.org/tms/>.

JUF

from Pg 13

the Americans present enlightened and enriched both groups. I was privileged to moderate two exchanges with the international journalists. One exchange featured journalists from Ghana, Cote D'Ivoire, Cameroon, and Nigeria (panel discussion on misinformation), while another had reporters from Cameroon, Niger, and Nigeria (Citizen Exchange Circle). We discussed fake news and government propaganda; the double-edge sword of social media; the challenges of reporting about terrorism; and the state of media freedom in their respective countries.

My breakfast and lunch chats with the visitors about their careers and their lives were equally enriching. Professionally, several journalists even indicated an interest in hosting me for a peace journalism workshop or project in their home countries in Africa, the Middle East, and Southeast Asia.

I presented a breakout session where a lively group of about 50 gathered to discuss media coverage of migrants, and how peace journalism can be a tool to improve that coverage. In this session, after a quick examination of superficiality, negativity, and stereotyping coverage of Syrian refugees in European and Turkish media, we talked about how many of those same traits can be seen in recent coverage of the caravan "crisis." I showed findings of recent studies that showed the threat was exaggerated by politicians, and that negative language was used far more than positive language about the caravan migrants. Finally, we discussed the way that the president used the media to spread his anti-immigrant hysteria.

I said that peace journalism, conversely, would portray immigrants more three-dimensionally, and with a humanitarian angle. PJ would also reject the harsh, judgmental language we've seen so much in the media. I played several examples of peace journalism-style stories, including a terrific piece by NPR's Scott Simon about a family separated at the border (<https://www.npr.org/2018/08/11/637780548/how-separation-affected-a-migrant-family>).

The audience pitched me some difficult questions to close out the discussion. Will audiences pay attention to PJ stories? (Actually, research shows audiences prefer PJ and solutions themed stories). How can we get media consumers out of their bubbles? (Not easy. Start with media literacy).

Aside from my presentation, Journalism Under Fire featured a number of outstanding speakers, including Pulitzer Prize winners Dana Priest (*Washington Post*) and Don Bartletti (*Los Angeles Times*).

Priest spoke about global censorship. Interestingly, she said that Facebook's handling of news constitutes "a new kind of censorship" that promotes extreme views by giving consumers only the news Facebook thinks readers "want." Photojournalist Bartletti showed his photo essays from the U.S.-Mexico border (including recent shots of a migrant caravan), and from Honduras. His photos were evocative: infuriating, depressing, and startling.

Other JUF speakers included Ukrainian Olga Yurkova (fake news, Russia and Ukraine); Arbana Xhare from Kosovo (threats against journalists); Angela Kocherga and Alfredo Corchado (covering the U.S.-Mexican border); Nikahong Kowsar (the dangers of political cartooning in Iran); and several New Mexico journalists discussing their challenges and threats.

Journalism Under Fire was organized by Executive Director Sandy Campbell and his staff at the Santa Fe Council on International Relations. Jason Rezaian of the *Washington Post* spoke at JUF and wrote about the conference in the *Post*. Rezaian noted that the conference was timely, since threats facing journalism are "one of the most consequential challenges facing free societies today."

I couldn't agree more.

Steven Youngblood is editor of the Peace Journalist Magazine, author of Peace Journalism Principles and Practices, and director of the Center for Global Peace Journalism at Park University, where he is an associate professor.



At a peace journalism presentation (left); and at a panel of African journalists at JUF in New Mexico.



Thrilled UPeace graduates last spring (right); and a view of the university's bucolic campus near San Jose, Costa Rica.

UPeace to offer new MA in media and peace

By *Suamava Mitra*

To build peaceful and inclusive societies in today's mediatized world, knowing how media can be a tool for conflict transformation, and a platform to promote inclusivity, is essential. Peacebuilding processes now increasingly include media-related practices and approaches to enhance their impact but focused higher education for students and practitioners in this wide area is lagging behind.

The gap between the disciplines of Media Studies and Peace and Conflict Studies – in spite of efforts by scholars and practitioners around the world such as the *Peace Journalist* magazine – remains one of the major stumbling blocks.

With a goal of building interdisciplinary knowledge among the peacebuilders of tomorrow about research and

practice from both the fields of Peace and Conflict Studies and Media Studies, the University for Peace is launching a new postgraduate program called MA in Media and Peace.

The program at UPeace, which was established by the General Assembly of the United Nations, will begin in August 2019 and is meant for students who are interested in studying peacebuilding and conflict transformation from the perspective of media and communications. Current or would-be practitioners in the international humanitarian and peacebuilding fields who want to specialize in information-related interventions will find the program beneficial.

The students of the program will be attending a range of courses related to Peace and Conflict studies that are already offered by the Department of Peace and Conflict Studies at the University. In addition, the MA in Media and Peace program will revolve around five core courses meant to offer them deeper understanding of the diverse theories, practices and research within the Media and Communications discipline that have intersections with, and implications for, peacebuilding and conflict transformation.

These core courses will draw on knowledge and understanding related to global political economy of media,

critical cultural studies related to media, political communication, international media law as well as critical understanding of contemporary digital media.

Admissions to the program are open now. Partial scholarships for students from all signatory countries to the University for Peace Charter of the UN General Assembly (currently 41 countries), along with a few full scholarships, are on offer for prospective students. Those interested can find more information by visiting www.upeace.org.

Based in the beautiful surroundings of a 300-hectare nature reserve near the capital San Jose in Costa Rica, University for Peace is a globally focused institution of higher education in the field of peace and conflict studies, as well as international law, and environment studies.

The University is well known for its pedagogy and research in the broad area of peace and conflict studies and has been active in creating disciplinary dialogues between Media Studies and Peace and Conflict Studies since its inception in 1980. The MA in Media and Peace will build on this expertise in inter-disciplinary research and pedagogy at the University and also broaden the scope of the current MA specialization in Media, Peace and Conflict that has been on offer for students in recent years.



Saumava Mitra coordinates the new MA program in Media and Peace at University for Peace. He holds a doctorate in media studies from University of Western Ontario in Canada. Apart from his teaching, he researches on news media's role in conflict with a special emphasis on visual imagery of war.

Nigerians concerned about social media, violence

By Innocent Iroaganachi

The 2019 general elections in Nigeria were delayed, then finally held Sunday, Feb. 24. These elections were held against a backdrop of real and perceived violence on social media in previous elections.

Prior to the 2015 general elections in Nigeria, some predictions were made, that Nigeria will break up, there is going to be war, etc. Most of these predictions were based on how heated arguments were on the media, especially the social media. Those intense moments on the social media were felt among the political class and the electorate, who were in support of either of the leading political parties in the country. With providence on her side, the country held her elections and a new government was instituted.

During the run up to these elections, in 2014, the interesting thing was the antagonistic use of the social media



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to publicise contents aimed specifically at discrediting institutions and personalities in the then PDP (Peoples Democratic Party) -led government, by the newly formed coalition party known as APC (All Progressive Party).

In 2014, it was basically the then opposition party (APC) who understood 'better' how to use the social media to reach the electorates with their desired contents, though not minding if the contents were violence-oriented or not. While APC was focused primarily on disseminating contents through the social media, PDP focused on using the traditional media namely; the

television, radio, and newspaper to also engage APC in the war of words.

Four years down the political line, Nigeria is back going through the same experience again with the 2019 elections. Now, it is no longer the case of one political party, other political parties have learned the skills, that is, skills on how to maximise the social media, to sell demeaning, aggressive, inflammatory, and damaging contents against their perceived opposition. In fact, on the 18th of January, 2018, the online version of Leadership Newspaper had reported a piece with this headline: "PDP Launches Social Media War Against APC."

The fear of concerned citizens in Nigeria is not about the social media, which is good in itself, but the fear is on the kind of direct and indirect violence-oriented contents which these political parties and their respective followers transmit using social media platforms.

A clear instance where we see more of these virtual incivilities taking place is on the comment sections of any news story that is published by online by news agencies which contain political content about parties or politicians. It need be said that religion and ethnicity are the dominant divisive factors on which most of the comments found therein are based upon. These factors have for a very long time remained prominent for use by Nigerian politicians in the acquisition

Continued on next page

Abuja workshop unites media, police

A workshop February 6-8 in Abuja, Nigeria brought together senior journalists and editors and police officials to discuss and plans for the Nigerian general elections later in February, according to the Media Foundation for West Africa (mfwa.org).

The Media Foundation for West Africa (MFWA), International Media Society (IMS), Nigeria Union Journalist (NUJ), and the Nigeria Police Force held a workshop "to ensure mutual respect and understanding between the police and the media during and after the 2019 Nigeria elections," according to the Media Foundation for West Africa.



As the workshop concluded, the participants adopted a resolution that stated a need to educate the public on social media and its possible adverse effects; for police to share

their operating procedures with the media and to hold regular briefings; to hold "confidence building" sessions between the media and police prior to elections; and to "check overzealousness and overbearing attitudes on both sides," according to the Media Foundation for West Africa.

For more, see: <http://www.mfwa.org/issues-in-focus/media-stakeholders-police-commit-to-ensure-improved-police-media-relations-ahead-of-2019-nigeria-elections/>

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of political powers, even before the coming of the social media.

Prior to the coming of the social media, basing political arguments on religion and ethnicity for winning of votes was minimal and it could easily be regulated. But with the social media, doing so has been amplified and has had negative effects on both educated and uneducated electorates. Some electorates, in many cases the young people, make uninformed judgment on a candidate or political party because of negative social media content. Added to this, electorates go as far as using abusive and inflammatory words to insult fellow electorates.

Foreseeing this kind of incivility, the Nigerian parliamentarians some time ago proposed laws to regulate social

Prudence is expected of (those of) us who use social media

media and to set up a media council commission. The both proposed laws have encountered setbacks because of massive campaign against them

from the people, as a result of lack of trust in the government.

One thing the Nigerian electorates using social media need to know is that the political class in Nigeria are firmly united in believing that the direct and indirect fights and insults taking place on the social media between the electorates mean 'success' for politicians. Thus, the Nigerian electorates are to be guided by prudential peace in their transmission of views on elections and political issues.

In his article "Connecting Peace and Electoral Journalism," Steven Youngblood (2012, p.14) made a list of tips to be avoided and others to be implemented by those wishing to transmit

views and opinions concerning electoral processes. These tips, adapted to Nigerian politics, are:

1. Avoid comments that make it look as if the election is between APC and PDP. Instead, let our comments give publicity to other political parties, whose candidates and ideologies are credible.
2. Avoid limiting our arguments on just polls and surveys. Instead, let our comments focus on "issues of importance as identified by the public and articulated by candidates and parties, including platforms/manifestos."
3. Avoid basing your knowledge of the candidates on what they say about themselves. Instead, "seek expert analysis of the candidate's background as well as the veracity and logic of the candidates' comments."
4. Avoid making reference to "inflammatory, divisive, or violent statements by candidates. Instead, there are two options: A. Edit these comments to eliminate these inflammatory statements; B. Publish or broadcast these comments, and then offer pointed analysis and criticism of what is being said."
5. Avoid "airing comments and reports that encourage sectarianism and divisions within society—race-baiting, for example. If these comments must be aired, then follow up with commentary pointing out the candidate's attempt to divide and distract voters." Instead, our comments should "insist on the candidates addressing issues that highlight common values and bring communities together."
6. Our comments should be such that do not allow "candidates get away with using imprecise, emotive language. This includes name calling. Instead, our comments should "hold candidates accountable for what they say, and use precise language as you discuss issues."

7. Avoid comments that portray the "election as a personality conflict between candidates. Instead, focus on the candidates' positions on issues of importance—schools, health care, roads," security, housing, unemployment, etc.

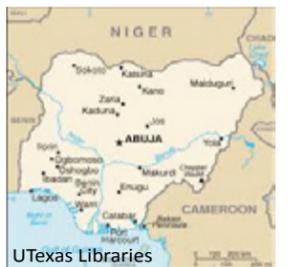
8. "Avoid unbalanced stories. Instead, seek to balance each story with comments from the major parties or their supporters. Balance includes getting input from informed citizens."

9. "Avoid letting candidates use you to spread their propaganda. Identify and expose talking points. Instead, as you broadcast their statements, include a critical analysis of what is being said."

10. "Avoid reporting that gives opinions/sound bites only from political leaders and/or pundits. Instead, center stories around everyday people, their concerns and perceptions about the candidates and process" (Youngblood, 2012, p.14).

Nobody wishes to be insulted or abused because of a political party or persons running for office that he/she supports. Neither does anyone who loves peace wish to foment a virtual war of words that is capable of causing direct violence for electorates. It is journalism's responsibility to share our views in a manner that they "inform citizens so that they may intelligently fulfill their electoral duties and framing stories so as to short-circuit violence and not exacerbate political polarization."

This prudence is expected of us using the social media, because we all are Nigerians, seeking to have committed Nigerians that will make Nigeria better.



*Journalism:
A
Peacekeeping
Agent*



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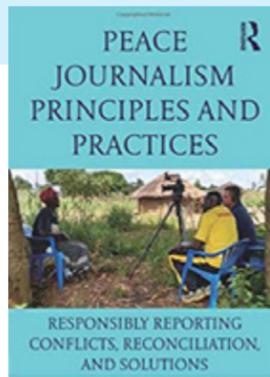
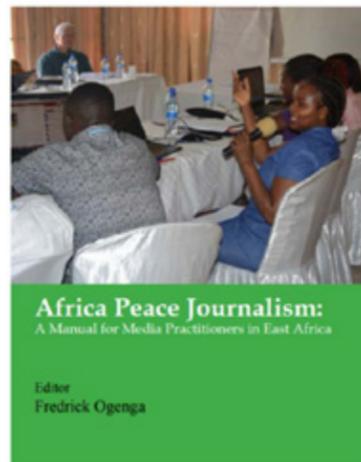
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*Africa
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Edited by Dr. Fredrick Ogenga
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Ebook available:
<http://ruc.ac.ke/cmdps/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/AFRICA-PEACE-JOURNALISM.pdf>

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*Peace Journalism
Principles and
Practices*

By Steven Youngblood
Routledge Publishing/Taylor and Francis Books
Currently Available: <https://www.taylorfrancis.com/books/9781317299745>

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the PEACE JOURNALIST

Shedding violent words enables peace

By Lewis Diuguid

Covering the peace movement forever changed me as a journalist. Sure, there were the soul-stirring sermons of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. as he led the Civil Rights Movement in the United States. His words and his speeches have continued to reverberate throughout the U.S. and the world. In my early years as a journalist both in college at the University of Missouri-Columbia School of Journalism, in the mid-1970s at the *St. Louis Sentinel* and in the late 1970s at *The Kansas City Star*, I wrote about Dr. King as the push grew to create a national holiday, honoring him.

We build motifs and stories around words of aggression and receive praise...

Also in my more than 39-year journalism career with *The Kansas City Star* (May 1977-October 2016) as a reporter, photographer, editor, columnist and editorial board member, I have had the privilege of interviewing and writing about other nonviolent, civil disobedience notables including the Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth, the Rev. James Lawson, the Rev. Joseph Lowery and Dr. John Swomley, as well as anti-apartheid South African Bishop Desmond Tutu. But the more lasting effect on my career and the writing that I continue to do as a journalist and author came from covering the peace movement from the 1990s, through the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, and the protests against the U.S.-led, endless wars in Afghanistan, Iraq and elsewhere.

In the 1990s, the effort toward peace focused on ending the senseless gun violence occurring in America’s cities.

I wrote articles showing how such shootings boiled out of the illegal drug trade, generating crime, the school to prison pipeline and prison industrial complex. Urban communities like Kansas City recorded the mounting tragedies in lives lost; people injured; grandparents, fathers, mothers, aunts, uncles and children either killed, injured or locked up; neighborhoods devastated by the families being split apart; and unprecedented numbers of black and brown people being traumatized. Yet these “victims” heard nothing but police sirens, “ghetto birds” as hip-hop artists labeled police helicopters, and politicians’ and everyday individuals’ cries of “law and order” justifying the all-out assaults on urban communities.

Look at many inner cities now in the United States. It’s as if a war occurred, and the people lost. Those of all races who could, fled. Without the means, poor people had to stay. Segregation, as a result, is worse now than when Dr. King was alive.

The news media largely turned to police, prosecutors, and other law enforcement officials for insight on the illegal actions and causes. But neither was enough. Keep in mind that journalism thrives on words of aggression and the controversy and conflict surrounding human interaction. The words include “fight,” “battle,” “violence” and “war.” We build motifs and stories around those and many other words of aggression and receive praise for such “good stories” that are published. Careers flourish or flounder based on the quality of such punched-up storytelling.

Abandoning all it could be career-ending. But the peace movement teaches that the news media and its writers must use the language more creatively to promote nonviolent conflict resolution among children and adults. So instead of “fighting for civil

rights” and “battling for social justice and equity” such phrases should be recrafted to stress the “struggle for civil rights” and “the ongoing work for social justice and equity.”

It became clear to me more than 25 years ago that actual violence also was its own language. Whether in domestic situations, schoolyard fights, or shootouts, people would strike out often when they were at a loss for words. Our society has simply failed to give them the proper communication tools as alternatives. Part of it stems from our society’s reverence for violence. Such aggression also is in the bricks and mortar of our language.

What people fail to see is how other industries benefit from humanity’s violent language and behavior. That includes, but is not limited to the police, the courts, the jails, penal systems, health care workers and facilities, undertakers, government, weapons manufacturers, and the sports, news and entertainment media. Violence is big business; peace isn’t.

Children learn the language of violence in the books and other curriculum in schools. They are taught of the necessary goodness of such things

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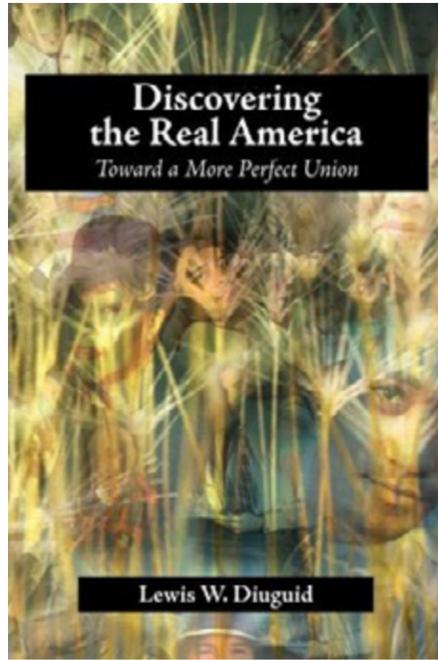
Lewis W. Diuguid is an author, lecturer, diversity facilitator, and chair of the Political Action Committee of the National Association for Multicultural Education.



as the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the American-Indian Wars, the Civil War, the Spanish American War, World War I, World War II and the Gulf War. The goodness of the Korean War and the Vietnam War are more questionable as are the endless wars in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Syria and U.S. troop involvement in other parts of the Middle East and Africa. The news media mostly promote the wars because it fits the all-American narrative that writers, editors, photographers, and artists grew up with. Career high points include becoming imbedded with U.S. troops, which is very similar to going with police on raids or drug busts and having the opportunity to write about such activity. Again, the editors love it, and so does the reading or viewing public. Such stories with all of the heroic language of violence, fits the American narrative.

Peace groups dating back to the mid-1990s helped me understand how to use a different and better language to explain newsworthy events without using words that promote violence. I kept a file of the names and contact information of many Kansas City area organizations and the people in them. They included the Coalition for Positive Family Relationships, the American Friends Service Committee, MediaWise, the Domestic Violence Network, the Stop Violence Coalition, the Crescent Peace Society, the AdHoc Group Against Crime, PeaceWorks, the National Youth Information Network, the Coalition for Community Collaboration, the YMCA Peace Jam, the Nonviolent Peaceforce and the Interfaith Peace Alliance. Some even went so far as to never use "bullet points" in public reports. Such mainstays in journalism were creatively changed in public reports and news conferences to peace signs or flowers. Yes, I was sure to note the change in the stories I turned in for publication.

These are the groups that promoted



nonviolence and an end to bullying in schools before such things were the right thing to do. These groups and the people in such organizations also took to the streets after the 9-11 attacks to try to persuade the public that military aggression was not the way to respond to the attacks that killed nearly 3,000 people, destroyed the Twin Towers in New York City and heavily damaged the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. Peace groups also were behind countless protests in Kansas City and elsewhere after the endless U.S. wars started. They put their bodies on the line in nonviolent resistance, made creative signs and initially drew the public's ire. So did I for being among the few journalists who continued to write about such efforts for peace.

What follows are just two of thousands of similar examples of public feedback I received in my career from columns I did promoting nonviolence. These are included in my book, *Discovering the Real America: Toward a More Perfect Union*:

Email: Feb. 15, 2002

"After the U.S. military cleanses the very backward stone-age Middle East of murdering terrorists who kill their

own people and kill Americans, our plan may be to move on to Africa and free up another stone-age part of the world from warlords who have killed millions without Diuguid having expressed in writing any concern whatsoever!

After all, it was necessary for the U.S. military to do the same thing here in America 150 years ago where approximately 400 Indian "stone-age tribes" had been continually at war with one another. Warring people who held nightly blood sacrifices on hilltops. People who lived here for thousands of years and had not progressed or developed anything except arrows, clay pots, and basket weaving yet believing there were "spirits" in alcohol.

These backward native people certainly would not have been a match for the attacking Japanese or German war machines in 1941 – or would they?

Perhaps smoke signals, praying and negotiations would have scared the Japs away from Pearl Harbor and kept the German army from taking over Europe and Russia!

With The Diuguid flawed thought process, and with his very serious naïve fundamentalist, we think he would fit in very well living in backward times in the Middle East or in Africa.

It's funny that Lewis should write about the peace prize nomination for Bush and Blair. Diuguid's President Bill Clinton should have been given the piece prize. After all, who has had more "pieces" than former governor and President Clinton – who has now become the laughing stock of the free world."

Email: March 29, 2002

"It's been a long while since one of you spear chuckers have incited me. You monkeys never learn do you? One hundred one of 114 counties passed concealed carry in the state of Missouri

Continued on next page

three years ago. You can go check that out if you're literate enough to research it. It was the 10 inner-city counties where your brethren were led by their nose rings where it failed. Even outer lying districts in Kansas City and St. Louis passed it.

It's going to be a long, long seven more years, Lewis, with President Bush in control and the NRA sitting there by his side. Hehehe. You juju's haven't thought through what's coming have you? The NRA and all us white honkies fully expect (Former Missouri Gov. Bob) Holden to veto the upcoming bill. Then we will slide through our conceal carry with ease, and it won't matter a whit what you apes out in the trees think! Just think, Lewis! There's about 5.5 million citizens in the state, and you have what support in the Kansas City and St. Louis areas? Maybe a million of that? You apes are going to get out voted next time around, Lewis, and there's not a damned thing you can do about it. You should stick to scratching yourself and eating bananas.

I can see it now! Yard signs down in nigger town saying Chittlin Chewers Unite! We must strike down the great

evil Satan, the NRA. Lewis, you must know it's a lost cause. The NRA is a well organized machine run by white men with computers and guns and at the right hand of the president of the United States! What can a bunch of monkeys down from the trees hope to accomplish against such great odds? Now go have some more ribs and watermelon and don't trouble yourself further. America is now in saner hands

It all begins with the language we use, explaining what we value...

It's gonna be a painful seven years for you, Lewis, but the NRA is gonna enjoy every minute of it.

By the way, did you know Sarah Brady is getting ready to give up the ghost! It's a new day dawnin', Lewis, and you ain't gonna like any of it."

These and voluminous other examples of email, voicemail, letters, and

faxes help explain how married people are to the language of violence, their outrage directed at anyone who dares question what they have been carefully taught and how they blend racism with violent language to make their point. And people wonder how Donald Trump got elected president?

Change and the opportunity for a lasting peace will only occur when an arms and violence reduction happens in the literature and language used in our schools, colleges, news media, governments, and communities. We have to disarm how we speak to and about each other. Conflict won't end. However, my hope is that people eventually will develop peaceful solutions to differences. Maybe then, gun violence will subside and more people will see the futility of owning and carrying firearms.

With a new focus, ideas will surface prompting the world's resources to expand, clean water for all life will be possible, poverty will subside and wars will become a thing of the past. It's a lot to ask for. But it all begins with the language we use, explaining what we value, and at the top of the list must be the lives of all human beings.

Leading peace journalist wins Golden Jubilee Medal

One of the world's best known peace journalists, Gloria Laker Adiiki Aciro, has received one of Uganda's highest honors.

Laker, founder of the Refugees Online Network and the Peace Journalism Foundation of East Africa, was recently awarded the Golden Jubilee Medal by Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni. The media, given for service and loyalty to Uganda, recognizes Laker's important role in covering the two decades of the LRA conflict. The honor recognizes her commitment, determination, and sacrifice in calling international attention to the conflict. Museveni presented Laker the award in Kitgum in northern Uganda on Feb. 6.

Nine other Ugandan journalists were also recognized with Golden Jubilee Medals for their service to the nation.



Gloria Laker receives her medal from Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni (right).

Georgia project empowers women in PJ

By Shmagi Chokheli

After the Soviet Union's breakup Georgia faced severe ethnic armed conflicts and two secessionist wars. Now the conflicts are frozen in both of these regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia representing permanent security threats and hindering achievement of stability, peace, and economic and democratic development in this country, including its break-away regions. The 2008 war between Russia and Georgia on South Ossetia proved once more that the frozen conflicts could reinvigorate any time.

The problem of conflict resolution in Georgia stands as dilemma for all parties involved. Few mechanisms of conflict resolution are working here and Peace Journalism could be regarded as one of those mechanisms that can bring the country closer to peace and conflict resolution.

Peace Journalism can counter militaristic propaganda; it is an alternative rationale to standard journalism, which is a victim of violent conflicts. During the period of armed conflicts in Georgia, the propaganda through the television and radio stations was instrumental in spreading messages of hate that incited and fuelled the conflicts and demonized their opponents. This continues until now, especially in breakaway regions and affects negatively on the population's attitudes on both sides of the conflict. Today peace journalism is in search of consensus

Since 2008, Shmagi Chokheli has been the Chair of local NGO - "International Network for Civil Development" (INCD) that is working towards democratic development of the country; supporting free and fair election; strengthening youth and young women's participation in peace and development.



PJ training graduates in Georgia.

and it can play a vital role in reconciliation process and promotion of conflict resolution. Peace Journalism, if accurately applied, will help promote peace and stability concepts and change the communities' attitudes and behavioural patterns, which will bring confidence and trust among the conflicting parties.

This was the idea of the project "Women in Journalism for Peace in Georgia" developed by Georgian NGO International network for Civil Development (INCD) and financed by the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI) on August 1, 2018.

The CFLI is a development assistance program managed by the Canadian Embassy in Ankara, which provides support to local partners in Georgia across a range of priority thematic areas. The program aims to support modest but visible, high-impact, results-oriented projects at the community level.

Involving women in the peace journalism process was a specific accent of the project as this could double the effect of peace building process as women's participation in preventing, resolving and recovering from conflict is proved to be more effective and credible. Women's participation in peacebuilding makes these activities as more effective. Women have different experiences, they offer different insights during negotiations, and are more productive when approaching conflict affected population face-to-face. Men and boys sometimes have

militaristic thinking that prefers hard power to resolve conflicts, while women often opt for soft power, which is the ability to shape the preferences of others non-violently.

The goal of the project was to advance women's participation in peace journalism that could be used as the mechanism for supporting rapprochement and confidence building among the population living at the both sides of conflict-divided lines. The main project activities were : (1) Peace education among women journalists/media agency representatives and young women and men civil activists who want to contribute to peace building issues; (2) Creating special media episodes using peace journalism to spread information on social media about peace dividends and thus influence public opinion.

As a result three-day training in peace journalism were held in Zugdidi, Gori, and Tbilisi for 85 women and men journalists and young people interested in peace building through journalism. 12 media episodes were also produced with the participation of active journalists, IDs, and peace activists. The media episodes were shared with the wider public through social media and the TV station "Voice of Abkhazia." The expected results of the project have been achieved as women's representation in peace journalism was strengthened and the concept of peace journalism itself was promoted widely in the country.

For conflict resolution and peace building, a lot still needs to be done in Georgia, but this small project on peace journalism supported by CFLI was a strong step forward towards spreading peace messages and understanding the concept of peace journalism as mechanism for reconciliation and peace building through updating the concept of balance, fairness, and accuracy in reporting.



Nzanzu Nelson works at the Kabasha Community Development radio station in Beni, Democratic Republic of Congo. (Photo by Greg Funnell)

DRC project harnesses radio's positive power

By Jo Dodd

In the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), a country that has been mired in conflict and political instability for decades, radio is being used as an innovative and life-saving tool for promoting peace and dialogue and rescuing combatants from a life of violence. Centre Résolution Conflits (CRC) is a local organisation leading community-led peace projects across North Kivu, a province in Eastern DRC.

In the DRC, most people listen to radio. Without the proper infrastructure in place for TV (many rural areas lack electricity), and with high levels of illiteracy making the limited print media inaccessible, radio is often the main source of news and information. CRC is a local peacebuilding organisation, and partner of international charity Peace Direct, which is harnessing the power of radio to bring communities together through weekly 'radio clubs' that disseminate vital, life-saving

information on violence and demobilisation in North Kivu.

Kadima's life changing radio show Kadima (name changed) was still of school age when she resorted to joining the Mai-Mai militia group. Her family could not afford to send her to school, so as a young girl she spent her days selling water on the streets, and when this became difficult she turned to prostitution to make a living. Living in a straw hut and depression, facing a lack of education and

Jo Dodd is a Communications Officer at Peace Direct, an international charity dedicated to stopping wars and building peace. Previous to this, she co-founded and managed a non-profit enterprise, COLOURS of Edinburgh, which amplifies the voice of refugees.



economic opportunities, she joined the Mai-Mai.

"I saw other girls going to school and life seemed easy for them, they wore nice clothes and did not work like me. In 2007, I entered the bush and joined the armed group, still in search of a life." Kadima learned to handle weaponry and became a skilled fighter. As she commented, "I shone in everything, because I was brave with determination." However it was this determination and braveness that interested militia leaders, who abused and sexually exploited her.

"This situation further increased the pain in my heart to the point that I was ready to decide to end my life."

After five years of living in these conditions, and at breaking point, Kadima heard a radio broadcast from CRC giving advice on the disarmament,

NY Times photo trivializes African victims

By Steven Youngblood

One of the most difficult tests media outlets face is whether to publish horrifying, gory images from crime scenes and terrorist attacks. Journalists covering a January, 2019 Nairobi, Kenya hotel-office complex attack

recently faced this challenge.

Commentary

On January 15, the *New York Times* published a graphic, bloody, close-up photo of bullet riddled victims from the Nairobi attack, and received an avalanche of criticism. In Kenya's *Business Insider*, George Tubei wrote that *New York Times* "like countless other foreign

publishers seem to be hooked on African 'gory porn' which they can't wait to go on another mindless orgy." Tubei noted that the *Times* never published similar gory photos from 9/11 or the November 2018 mass shooting in California.

In a defense of the decision to publish this photo, *The Times* wrote on Jan. 17, "Generally, we try to avoid identifying victims or showing unnecessary blood and gore, particularly if it is not central to the news story that the photograph accompanies. But it is an important part of our role as journalists to document the impact of violence in the world, and if we avoid

batants and ex-fighters and will help them build livelihoods in agriculture and livestock. I was interested and joined an agriculture cooperative. I followed the trainings and participated in the activities of the group."

At first Kadima faced discrimination and isolation on returning to her community. However with CRC's support, she has earned their respect and has been helped to reintegrate. Today, she is supporting her family and paying for her children's education, and has am-

publishing these types of images, we contribute to obscuring the effects of violence and making debates over security and terrorism bloodless." The *Times* cited examples where they did publish pictures of victims from the Las Vegas shooting. "If you go through the archives of The New York Times, you can find a number of photographs that depict dead Americans," according to the article.

This photo should never have been used, and does not represent peace journalism. In my textbook *Peace Journalism Principles and Practices*, I

Continued on next page

bitions of setting up her own business.

The radio clubs have transformed thousands of lives in communities affected by violence, with an estimated 2,000 listeners in 2017 in the surrounding villages and towns. They have helped demobilise combatants and facilitate community dialogue and social cohesion, and have served as a violence warning system, with alerts sent out when attacks from militia groups are known to be imminent. However, due to a lack of funding, the programme is temporarily being suspended.

Stories like Kadima's are testament to the power of media projects at the community level in driving non-violence and development. To read more about Centre Résolution Conflits, please visit www.peacedirect.org.

About Peace Direct

Peace Direct is a charity based in London, England which supports grassroots peacebuilders in areas of conflict. Peace Direct focuses on supporting grassroots peacebuilders who are local to the conflict and have a clear vision of what needs to be achieved. Peace Direct funds this work, promotes it and learns from it.

Photo

from Pg 24

discuss how peace journalists might approach using sensitive images in a way that accurately reflects the story without being inflammatory. Journalists should consider these questions as they make decisions on whether to publish potentially inflammatory images from terror or crime scenes:

1. Are these images sensational? Are they necessary for a complete understanding of the story?

In this case, the picture is clearly sensational, designed to shock more than inform. Certainly, there were many other less sensational photos that could have helped the reader understand the story without the gore.

This is the exact image that al Shabab would have selected

the victims' families, and disrespects the victims' memories. How would you react if this was a picture of your father or husband or friend?

3. Do the pictures in any way glorify the attack/crime, making it (in a sick way) attractive to copycats? Does it fuel the a narrative desired by the attackers or terrorists?

The image certainly is exactly what al Shabab (the group that staged the attack) wants—to sow terror and fuel panic. In fact, this is the exact image al Shabab would've selected if given the choice.

4. For U.S. and Western media, if the images are of overseas victims, and a decision is made to publish them, ask: Would we use the same gory image



A January, 2019 NY Times photo, pixelated, showed victims of a terrorist attack in Kenya.

if it was a shot of dead Americans or Europeans?

Here, the *Times* defense, that similar pictures of American victims have been published, rings hollow. While there have been published pictures of dead Americans, there are no images as graphic or sensational as this one. A body covered by a sheet at a crime or terrorist attack scene, or taken from 200 yards away, is not the same as a zoomed-in image of uncovered, bullet riddled, bloody, slumped over victims taken at the scene.

In fact, many believe, with some justification, that Western media coverage devalues Africans and others from the developing world. Tubei, in the *Business Insider*, says there is a "double

standard" in coverage of African victims that "goes against the ethics of journalism." Whether we believe this or not, it's important for Western journalists to keep this perception in mind and to report with more empathy and sensitivity.

The New York Times says that it's going to convene a group to come up with clearer guidelines for use of images in situations like this. Good. Let's hope these guidelines include the principles of peace journalism.

Steven Youngblood is editor of the *Peace Journalist Magazine*, author of *Peace Journalism Principles and Practices*, and director of the Center for Global Peace Journalism at Park University, where he is an associate professor.

Peace Journalism Resources

A number of valuable peace journalism resources can be found at the Center for Global Peace Journalism website--www.park.edu/peacecenter.

Just click on "Resources" to find:

- Case studies* (PJ introduction, Reporting the World, American Hate Radio)
- Issues* (Covering Civic Unrest, Language and PJ, Immigrants and PJ)
- Multimedia* (What is PJ video; Audio reports from Lebanon, Uganda)
- Websites* (Solutions Journ. Network; PECOJON, IWPR, Fuller Project)
- Textbooks/handbooks* (PJ resource packet; Conflict journalism handbook)

The PJ website also contains an index and back copies of The Peace Journalist magazine. Just click on "Peace Journalist."

Past PJ magazine editions include:

- April, 2018 – A report on a special PJ project in Ethiopia,
- October, 2017–PJ projects in Cameroon, Pakistan, and Ethiopia
- April, 2017–Reports from Afghanistan, Kenya, and Sierra Leone

DRC

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demobilisation and reintegration (DDR) process and self-care. The broadcast gave her hope that reintegrating into society and making a life for herself was possible, and with this she found the courage to escape the militia and return to civilian life.

"I made every effort to join one of the CRC projects. I was told about their project "Inua maisha", and they said that this project is aimed at ex-com-



Nzanzu Nelson adjusts audio levels at the Kabasha Community Development radio station in Beni, DRC. (Photo by Greg Funnell)



the PEACE JOURNALIST



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Media & conflict conference held in Islamabad

By Hassan Danial Dar

The International Conference on Media and Conflict (ICMC) 2019 was the first government-led academic initiative to highlight the Pakistan media's role in covering conflict and violence in the country. The February conference was organized primarily by PPC (Pakistan Peace Collective) under the ministry of information. The conference featured



national and internationally renowned academic scholars, senior journalists, government officials, communication experts, and counter extremism specialists. It was held in Islamabad at Bahria University, which is one of the prominent HEC (Higher Education Commission) recognized institutes of Pakistan. The conference showcased the latest research on media discourse on extremism, terrorism and violence in the country, and also assessed how conflict reporting and peace journal-

ism can be institutionalized both in the media industry and university level across Pakistan.

The conference had the following objectives:

1. Highlight the latest national and international research on media and conflict.
2. Develop a research hub for HEC on peace journalism for benefit of higher education sector.
3. Develop linkages between academic sector and media industry to professionalize conflict reporting in Pakistan.
4. Generate a research repository for universities and HEC to utilize while educating on peace journalism in media studies departments nationwide.
5. Generate and share the best practices, on teaching of peace journalism in universities.

Conference participants included the President of Islamic Republic of Pakistan Dr Arif Alvi; Interior Minister of Islamic Republic of Pakistan Shehryar



Hassan Danial Dar is part of organizing team at the ICMC along with being a correspondent for BU TV Bahria University Media House. He is currently pursuing a bachelors in Media Studies.

Afridi and Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry. International speakers included Dr Jake Lynch, University of Sydney, Australia; Dr. Elisabeth Eide, Oslo Metropolitan University, Norway; Dr. Rune Ottosen, Oslo Metropolitan University, Norway; and Erin Marie Saltman from Facebook. Some presented via Skype.

The conference themes were: Theme I: Role of the state in conflict communications & media coverage. Theme II: Media narratives on intra-faith and anti-minority violence. Theme III: Evolution of terrorist threat and media coverage. Theme IV: Social media and conflict.

The format of delivery was through panel discussions, slides and Q/A sessions. Students of Bahria University Media department took notes which they will be using in their own research work.

ICMC is the beginning of more such conferences in Pakistan that cover the role of media in conflict. Such more conferences should be organized in Pakistan to give out a peaceful image of Pakistan to the international community.



President of Pakistan Dr. Arif Alvi delivered his thoughts and personal experiences on media and conflict at ICMC in Islamabad.