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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.

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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.

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 Hankocks 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 nonviolent 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...
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 Mobilising 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-

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 invented. 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, Heim 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
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 anywhere else, he recognized that communication is the most effective tool to shape opinion and mobilise 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 mobilise 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 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.

Gandhi’s journlists never had any sensational topics. He wrote on construction work, satyagraha, nonviolence, diet, nature-cure, Hindu-Muslim relations, and prohibition. He stressed the need for re-orientation of education and food habits and was a severe critic of national defects.

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 newspapers and managing them, including the advertisement and finance aspects. Thus, it is useful both for journalists and publishers even in the present times.

It was Gandhi’s firm belief that the newspaper was meant for “self-less 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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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 Keers, 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 filmmakers Cynthia Lukas and Kell Keers and the premiere will be open to the public. 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.”

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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 of the kind. Indeed, the journal became for me training in self-restraint, and for friends a medium through which to keep in touch with my thoughts.”

If we can practice peace journalism effectively, then the role of journalist is prominent. The above statement of Gandhi clearly mentions 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.”

Reference


“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.”

Writings about the “Indian Opinion”

Abhilash Chandran is the M.Phil Scholar of Gandhian Studies at the School of Gandhian Thought and Development Studies, Mahatma Gandhi University, Priyadarshini Hills Kottayam in Kerala, India.
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 Community 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 professionals to begin their work, stressing how hate speech can be countered and how media can be inclusive rather than divisive.

The works has led to the official registration and growth of the Cameroon Community Media Network, which now has more than 70 members. Working on what they learned, Ziegler pointed that while they may have preconceived ideas on what stories they will find, and, of course, giving voice to the voiceless.

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 racial 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.

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 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, giving 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 plant. Tonganoxie revolted against this plan, protest 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 diversity of viewpoints reflecting the complexity of the issue.

Another interesting example was KUER’s radio’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.

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Photojournalists can humanize, spark healing

By Alexandra Canedo

The Gabriel García Márquez Foundation for New Ibero-American Journalism (FNPJ) held its sixth Gabriel García Márquez Journalism Awards and Festival in Medellin, 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 Medellin 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), Joao Pina (Portugal), Natalia Botta (Colombia), and Alvaro 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 to countries to acknowledge the violent history 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, especially minor- ity 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 testi- fies.” When truth commissions meet after a conflict ends, they mostly rely on written testimony, which can be troubling if the voices of certain 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 survi- vors of conflicts” with her photogra- phy 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 multime- dia photography project, Yuyanapu, to build collective memory in the aftermath of Peru’s internal conflict. Stephen Ferry believes that photos 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

Photo from Pg 10

are important, they create negative peace, marked by the absence of violence. Social peace — known as positive peace — goes deeper, and can lead to true healing.

4. Photojournalists have a larger responsibility.

It’s crucial that photojournalists adhere to the highest levels of ethics and refrain from altering images, 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.

Visit: https://ijnet.org/en/story/photojournalism-has-role-constructing-

peace-conflict-areas

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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 Cam eroon using peace journalism prin- ciples 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 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 (BRO) 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 pre- vent journalists from doing their jobs.

More capacity building seminars and meetings will be held within the year that will include various stakehold- ers involved in peacebuilding so that peacebuilders and CCMN can combine forces for sustainable peace. Members were also drilled on support with empathy during a crisis by vet- eran journalist Omer Songwe. Overall, CCMN members continue producing productions to enhance peace and conflict transformation.

Rosaline Akah Obah is the Re- gional Communication Secretary of the Christian Broadcasting Service (CBS) Radio Bamenda in 2016.

In October in Medellin, Colommbia, conference panelists discuss photojournalism’s ability to nurture and heal societies.

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For the International Center for Journalists in Medellin, Colombia, Alexandra Canedo provides support to several grants, particularly under the umbrella of the Investigative Reporting Initiative in the Americas. Canedo manages various small grants and provides logistical and administrative assistance to carry out workshops and conferences.

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

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In Cameroon, journalists evaluate peace efforts
Community radio stokes peace in Colombia

By Emma Heidenreich

I want you to imagine a dilapidated microphones. He strategically omits large areas, many joining the FARC – the Armed Forces of the Republic of Colombia, the largest left-wing 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 to media reform and community radio agreement.” Clemencia Rodriguez 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 disseminate 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 network TRANSCENDO 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.

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.

Continued on next page
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 Turkova (fake news, Russia and Ukraine); Arbana Xhare from Kosovo (fostering intercultural understanding); Katherine Kowars (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.
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Nigerians concerned about social media, violence
By Innocent Iroaganchi

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 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 electorate 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; 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 demeasuring, aggressive, inflammatory and damaging contents against their perceived opposition. In fact, on the 18th of January, 2018, the online version of Leadership Newspaper published a piece with this headline: “PDP Launches Social Media War Against APC.”

Abuja workshop unites media, police

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

The Media Foundation for West Africa (MFWA), International Media Society (IMS), Nigeria Union Journalist (NLU), 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 Nigerian 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.

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.

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 I wrote my first articles showing how such killings 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.

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 curricula in schools. They are taught the necessity of goodness of such things.
Diuguid

Discovering the Real America
Towards a More Peaceful Union

Lewis W. Diuguid

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, Iran, and Syria and U.S. troop involvement in other parts of the Middle East and Africa. The news media mostly promote the cause 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 Peacemaker 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 in such subjects 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 columnists who did promoting nonviolence. These are included in my book, Discovering the Real America: Toward a More Peaceful Union:

Email: March 29, 2002

“It has been a long time since one of you speak chauvinists have incited me. You monkeys never learn do you? One hundred and one of 114 counties passed concealed carry in the state of Missouri. Holding up rifles in public is okay with the NRA, but it is not okay in Missouri. Let’s keep it that way.”

Leading peace journalist wins Golden Jubilee Medal

One of the world’s best known peace journalists, Gloria Laker Adiki 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.
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 fueled 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 elections; strengthening youth and women’s participation in peace and development.

PI 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, JDS, 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.

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 Conflicts (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 demobilization 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 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 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.

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.

By Jo Dodd

DRC project harnesses radio’s positive power

Nanzu Nelson works at the Kabasha Community Development radio station in Beni, Democratic Republic of Congo. (Photo by Greg Funnell)
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. On January 15, the New York Times published a graphic, bloody, close-up photo of a 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 barbarism and ex-fighters and will help them build livelihoods in agriculture and livestock. I was interested and joined an agricultural 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 ambitions 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 Conflicts, 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.

DRC from Pg 23

demobilisation and reintegration (DDR) process and self-care. The broadcast gave her hope that reintegration and self-care. The project “Inua maisha”, and they said I was told about their process and self-care. The project “Inua maisha”, and they said

This is the exact image that Shabab would have selected

2. Are there images the families of the victims would consider inappropriate? Should we consider their feelings before we publish?

This photo clearly re-victimizes the victims’ families, and disrespect 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

If it was a shot of dead Americans or Europeans?

Here, the Times defense, that similar pictures of African 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 perspective 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.
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 journalism 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 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.