

# the PEACE JOURNALIST

## IN THIS ISSUE

- Reporting on Ebola in Sierra Leone
- Reports from Afghanistan, Cameroon, Pakistan, DR Congo, Kenya
- IPRA peace research conference



(Clockwise from left)-Protests at Los Angeles International Airport (photo: Monica Curca), Kansas City International Airport (photo: Alex Youngblood), and downtown Kansas City (photo: Val Espadas).

Applying PJ principles to coverage of

# The Resistance



# the PEACE JOURNALIST

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

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

**Deadlines:** March 3 (April edition); September 3 (October edition).

**Editor:** Steven Youngblood, Director, Center for Global Peace Journalism, Park University  
Proofreading: Dr. Carol Getty

**Contact/Social Media:**  
steve.youngblood@park.edu  
Twitter-@Peace Journ  
Facebook-Peace Journalism group  
Center for Global Peace Journalism, Park University  
8700 NW River Park Dr  
Parkville, Missouri 64152 USA



A Park University Publication

## Contents

<b>3</b> Cover story Reporting anti-Trump resistance	<b>10</b> Sierra Leone Brave journalists cover Ebola
<b>6</b> United States Student reporter covers resistance	<b>12</b> Sierra Leone PJ workshop for journalists
	<b>13</b> Afghanistan Mediothek conducts PJ training
<b>7</b> Immigration PJ approach should be applied	<b>14</b> Cameroon Training for community media
<b>8</b> Sierra Leone Intl Peace Research Assn gathering	<b>16</b> Jordan/Syria Photojournalist inspires
	<b>18</b> United States Police shootings pose challenges
	<b>20</b> DR Congo Journalists discuss election reptng
	<b>22</b> India/Pakistan Journalist initiates dialogue
	<b>25</b> IVOH New fellows; Media Summit
	<b>26</b> Kenya Regional PJ summit in Rongo

## What is Peace Journalism?

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

## Center for Global Peace Journalism

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

## Commentary/Analysis

# Media play key role during travel ban resistance

By Monica Curca

This time, for some reason, it wasn't so shocking. I heard the news while sitting at LaGuardia Airport, waiting to board my flight to Los Angeles. The second Travel Ban Executive Order will be enacted on March 16, 2017; more fraternal twin than distant cousin of the first one.

The first one (Executive Order 13769) was a 90-day suspension on entry of certain immigrants from seven countries: Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen. In the new Executive Order, Iraq has been removed from the list, and the number of refugees has been reduced from 100,000 in Fiscal Year 2016 to 50,000 in Fiscal year 2017 (beginning October 2017). We've had a few weeks to become accustomed to this new face of America.

We live in times of fear; of uncertainty. I'm not here to give you a

*Monica Curca is a communications strategist and social entrepreneur leveraging new media and digital technology for social change. She is the founder of PAX Manifesto, a social enterprise that supports non-profits, grassroots organizers and movements with communications and narrative shifting campaigns around peacebuilding, policy and social cohesion. Monica is also the co-director of the Refugees Welcome Guidebook.*



balanced discourse on the virtues of isolationism vs. global citizenship, to argue for or against immigration, or to talk about legislative checks and balances. What I want to talk about is fear - because it's the one thing that unites everyone right now, no matter what side of the fence they're on. And more than that: I want to talk about the media, and how it can be a force for peace in highly tense or potentially violent times.

Robert Manoff from the Center for War and Peace and the News Media at New York University states, "Media's influence is significant and increasingly so, and as a result the media constitutes a major human resource whose potential to help, prevent, and moderate social violence begs to be discussed, evaluated, and where appropriate mobilized." Offering his own typology of the roles of media in building peace, he draws on "conflict management theories of various stripes, negotiating theory in the diplomatic context, and a wide range of other approaches to preventing and managing conflict." Manoff asks, "What would be possible and appropriate, to undertake in particular conflict situations?"

Manoff outlines possible roles for media in conflict situations, including:

- [Accountability] Establish the transparency of one conflict party to another;
- [Mediator] Engage in confidence building measures;
- [Educator] Educate parties and communities involved in conflict and thereby change the information environments of disputes, which is critical to the conflict resolution process;
- [Definer] Identify the underlying interests of each party to a conflict for the other;



Protesters voice their concerns at LAX after the first travel ban was issued.

- [Rumor Control Manager] Prevent the circulation of incendiary rumors and counteract them when they surface;
- [De-mystify] Objectify and re-humanize conflicting parties to each other and avoid stereotyping;
- [Advocate] Bring to bear international pressure on media organizations that promote xenophobia, racism, or other forms of social hatred;
- [Broker] Encourage a balance of power among unequal parties where appropriate, or, where the claims of parties are not equally just, strengthen the hand of the party with the more compelling moral claim;
- [Communicator] Enable the parties to formulate and articulate proposed solutions by serving as a non-antagonistic interlocutor;
- [Warning system] Provide early warning of impending conflicts;
- [Face-Saver] Help leaders who are negotiating maintain credibility with their own constituents;
- [Facilitator] Participate in the process of healing, reconciliation, and social reconstruction following conflicts;
- [Historian] Signal the importance of

Continued on next page

accords that end conflicts by ‘historicizing’ them as important public occasions to embed the resolution process in shared social memories.

Typically, mainstream media have been a force to increase violence rather than build peace. They often feature what can be called ‘Crisis Porn’ where violence and suffering are highlighted. However, in the case of the travel ban, mainstream media have helped promote peace, because its interests have aligned with those people on both sides of the argument in four key ways: Media as Early Warning System, Media as Advocate, Media as Rumor Control Manager, and Media as Power Broker.

#### Media as Early Warning System

On January 25, 2017, the director of the local resettlement agency confirmed the news that my fellow activists and I had been fearing regarding the travel ban. While the public and even those who will be directly impacted by the executive order such as resettlement agencies were not informed in advance (even though their work would be severely impacted), the media reported information about the ban before it was publically announced.

Even in draft form, the media’s early release of the travel ban helped stake-



Reporter Leslie Bernstein-Rojas from NPR Affiliate KPCC 89.3 Pasadena interviews the Issam Family about the wife’s airport detention at LAX on January 29, 2017.

holders spring into action. Soon after immigrants’ rights organizations all received the information, we began to mobilize into clearer advocacy roles, such as calling state senators and congressional representatives. Early warning also helped those immigrants and refugees affected to avoid being detained by delaying planned trips. In fact, in the week following the travel ban, I received numerous calls and Facebook messages from people (who I did not know) seeking advice on their best course of action.

#### Media as Advocate

Media engaged to bring to bear pressure on policymakers and those who support them and/or those who promote xenophobia, racism, and other forms of social hatred.

Upon hearing the news, immigration advocates and refugee resettlement agencies repeatedly called their elected officials like congressional representatives and senators. The American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California, a powerful partner to many in social justice work, issued an action alert calling for a quick and calculated response. Our message spread across social media, prompting our friends and online community to start engaging with their elected representatives.

Our network of activists and my organization’s effort called ‘The Beautiful Resistance’ began to collaborate and reach out to allies and partners from the undocumented advocates community, Muslim civil liberties community, and refugee resettlement agencies. These entities planned a joint press conference for the following day in front of the regional office of Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Many of us knew that we needed to have a compelling and cohesive message to get ahead of the executive order and to compel the media to be reporting on it early, and often. We needed a strong and united voice to

the travel ban.

**Media as Rumor Control Manager, Media as Provider of Information**  
Media can prevent the circulation of incendiary rumors and counteract them when they surface.

On Jan. 25, two days before the ban was imposed, I was interviewed by a local talk radio that broadcasts in the mostly affluent and Caucasian region of Southern California. It was surprising how much basic information about the issue was not known or understood, such the fact that refugees entering the U.S. needed to run a gauntlet a 20-step vetting process. Having the platform for 40 minutes to teach the audience about the refugee resettlement process was enlightening for me and for the audience. The information I thought was widely understood and know was new and eye-opening for the hosts and audience (based on Facebook comments).

Media can provide a platform for subject experts to educate audiences and provide information that can stop rumors. By Jan. 27, the media’s presence at airports, and its constant communication with those released from detention, and with lawyers, refugee resettlement agencies, and community organizers, all helped the public better understand the ban. Specifically, the public was educated that the travel ban not only affected people from countries named in the ban, the but also Indians, special immigrant visa holders from Afghanistan, green card holders from countries not on the list, and even dual citizens from countries on the list such as Iran.

The media had a front-row seat from which to document the way that the travel ban was being implemented. This included reporting that was supported by personal stories. By Jan. 29, two days after the travel ban was enacted, we and our partners

Continued on next page

[www.park.edu/peacecenter](http://www.park.edu/peacecenter)

from the Arab American Civic Council joined over 7,500 protestors at the Los Angeles International airport (the only port of entry in the greater Los Angeles area) armed with posters reading “Refugees Welcome” and banners that said, “Our existence is resistance.”

During the Sunday protest, a refugee resettlement case manager contacted me to ask whether we would help in a case involving an sickly Iraqi woman green card holder that was returning from an emergency trip to Iraq to say her final goodbye to her family. I quickly connected the family with the lawyers present at the airport and began to advocate for her release. After nine hours in detention, she finally was released. The next day her story was featured in the *Los Angeles Times* and a local NPR affiliate as an example of how the travel ban was a form of discrimination against already-marginalized communities. Our collective work with this case shaped a narrative and story that the media would use to dispel rumors that the ban was in fact protecting the United States.

#### Media as Power Broker

Media can encourage a balance of power among unequal parties where appropriate, or, where the claims of parties are not equally just, strengthen the hand of the party with the more compelling moral claim.

Mass protests and nonviolent direct action are meant to disrupt “business as usual.” When power in a society is asymmetrical (meaning the government does not reflect the wishes of the people), then protests can give the opposition a useful foothold from which to negotiate a re-balancing of power.

Media played a key role as power broker during the travel ban roll-out. In the first days of the executive order, a fascinating chain of events led to actions that halted the ban. The



Thousands gathered at LAX to protest the first travel ban which was issued in January, 2017.

media’s presence at the airports gave them access to those who were being detained, provided a platform for community organizers and civil rights organizations, and put a vital human face on the refugees and other immigrants being detained.

The reporting of the protests and stories was key to bringing a network of lawyers to the airport, led by the ACLU-SoCal, which provided families and refugee resettlement agencies access to instant legal counsel, language translators, and support for releasing those detained.

The constant presence of both protestors and the media created the political will for elected officials to act against the travel ban. By Jan. 29, a federal judge in Brooklyn, New York, issued an emergency stay order, stopping deportations of travelers caught up in the ban and ordering the release of travelers with valid visas being held at U.S. airports. Public pressure continued even as Homeland Security Department Secretary John Kelly issued a waiver from the ban for lawful permanent residents (over the reported objections of chief White House strategist Steve Bannon). In addition, on Jan. 30, Washington State’s attorney general sued the Trump administration in federal court, claiming irreparable harm from the ban and asking for a temporary nationwide restraining order blocking it.

At LAX, holders of a Special Immigrant Visa (a visa that is issued to those who supported and worked for the U.S. government in Iraq and Afghanistan) were still at risk of being detained. On Jan. 31, a local refugee resettlement agency in Southern California called me to ask if I could help organize a protest to ensure that a family of six from Afghanistan did not get detained. The father in this family had served the U.S. military as a mechanic. For nine hours, hundreds came to LAX protesting the family’s detention. Finally at 9:00 pm, the young parents and four exhausted but bright-eyed children emerged from detention as protestors cheered. It was a small victory in a huge war.

The shock and awe tactics of the Trump administration worked, creating mass chaos and confusion -- just the kind of situation where mainstream media can thrive. With the the new travel ban announced March 16, we know that there will be less attention to the situation. Getting media to be a positive, proactive force for peace will mostly like be as tedious and piecemeal as it was in the days of Obama.

While it will be difficult, we will have the dear faces of the smiling, bright-eyed Afghani children in our hearts and minds. I hope the mainstream media won’t forget the children’s faces either.

# “The real story can get lost”

By Valeria Espadas

*Student journalist Valeria Espadas has covered the Women’s Day, Immigration Ban, and Day Without Immigrants protests in Kansas City.--Ed*

Covering protests, marches, or rallies can be an intense experience. As a journalist you want to cover as much of the situation as possible. Between getting the perfect picture and a variety of quotes, the real story can get lost.

I found this to be true when I was covering the Day Without Immigrants protest. If I knew then that I would be asked to write a Peace Journalism article about the protest, I would have covered it completely different. When I arrived at city hall I wanted to get the “front page news” story. I wanted to cover the “play by play” of the protest. Later I found out that even though I was there, I completely missed the story.

For example, when I covered the Day Without Immigrant protest, I interviewed a couple different people. I wanted to get brief quotes about why individuals felt the need to be there.

Several such quotes came from Mariam Gallan. She is a mother of two boys and a Mexico native who attended the rally outside of City Hall in Kansas City on February 16. When asked about why she felt the need to be there, she said “To support, we have to come out here and support

**Valeria Espadas** is an undergraduate student at Park University (Parkville, MO) studying public relations with a minor in international business. She is a reporter for Park’s Stylus newspaper.



the community and our people.” She continues, “My boys are American citizens but me and my husband are not, if he gets deported, how are we going to survive?”

Mariam continued sharing her story, which is a familiar story for many Mexican immigrants. “We came here for opportunity. We wanted our kids to have as many doors open for them as possible...We came here and worked, we started a life and now people are asking us to pick up and leave.”

Another individual I spoke with was D’asia Williams, a mother of a 2 year old boy, whose father is an undocumented immigrant. Though D’asia is an American citizen she felt the need to be there. “(Immigration reform) tears families apart...I don’t want my son to grow up without a father, and I don’t want to constantly be worried that he might have to.”

At Park University, I took the Peace Journalism course taught by Steven Youngblood. I read his first book, I looked at Youngblood’s blog and after all that I still never understood what peace journalism was really about and why we need it until I started reporting these events.

I realized that telling the news through personal stories of people directly affected by the situation was the correct way of covering this story. It gives people insight to a reality that many have no idea about. Peace Journalism humanizes the process of deportation, at a time when a part of our society does the opposite. I did not go in depth with either one of the individuals that I spoke with, so when it came time to write this article, I felt unprepared, like I rushed the process of covering the protest.

Being rushed as a journalist is some-

*Continued on next page*



Protesters have their voices heard during Kansas City’s Day Without Immigrants event.



# PJ approach needed in covering protests

By Steven Youngblood

As the resistance to the Trump administration continues, with major protests seemingly every few days, some media outlets, faced with how to cover the resistance, seem to be lapsing into familiar patterns of superficial coverage.

The first tenet of peace journalism implores reporters to examine the causes of conflict, and to lead discussions about solutions. How much of the anti-Trump protest reporting has addressed the reasons behind the protests?

A Lexis-Nexis search of newspaper articles using the search “anti-Trump protests” from Jan. 20 to March 1 showed that only a minority of stories—24.6%-- discussed the root causes of the protests. Of the 548 articles that came up in a search, 91 discussed racism, 21 sexism, 2 Islamophobia, and 21 xenophobia. In total, there were 135 total mentions of these grievances.

Almost identical results were found regarding broadcast news transcripts. During the same time period, for the 227 hits generated by the search, 34 stories mentioned racism, 0 sexism, 1 Islamophobia, and 24 xenophobia. There were 59 total mentions of these root causes that appeared in 25.9% of the total number of broadcast stories.

It is important to note is that in both newspapers and broadcast transcripts, for the purposes of the mini-study, I counted each mention of each word (xenophobia, sexism, etc.) as a separate “hit”, thus it’s possible, even likely, that several of these terms no doubt appeared in the same story.

Thus, no more than one in four news pieces about the protests has gone into detail about the stated grievances

## Real story from Pg 6

thing under discussion in another class I’m taking. Slow journalism, a concept taught by Prof. John Lofflin at Park, and Peace Journalism can go hand in hand. The idea of slow journalism is that you thoroughly plan how you want to write your story before you actually write it. It allows for more time to fact check, and it really focuses on the context of the story instead of simply reporting a breaking story as it is happening.



behind the protests. Instead, these stories have provided nothing but superficial and sensational “blow by blow” coverage. What did get covered? Most stories provided details about how many attended, whether there were any arrests, etc., along with simple, succinct, superficial quotes from participants.

Peace journalists, in contrast, would provide depth and context, rather than just superficial and sensational coverage of events like protests, which after all are merely the visible surface manifestations of a roiling sea of underlying discontent.

In addition, in my book *Peace Journalism Principles and Practices*, I encourage journalists to report counter-narratives that provide different perspectives on the protesters. (Support for this approach is voiced by reporter Val Espadas on the previous page.) One such example can be found in the *Kansas City Star*.

*The Star’s* article (Feb. 16) on the “Day without Immigrants” protest, for example, centered on Marisol Cervantes, who crossed a desert to enter the U.S. but now “lives in fear” of the Trump administration.

In another example, *Al.com*, which features articles from three Alabama newspapers, profiles undocumented immigrant Cesar Mata and his impressions about Trump’s plan to build a border wall.

If journalists are really interested in rebuilding their shaky credibility, a good place to start would be recognizing that context and root causes matter, and writing articles that offer stereotype-busting, contextual counter-narratives.

What would I do differently? I would go in depth with one individual. I would talk to her kids, her family, maybe her employer. Without going in depth, the people I interviewed were just superficial examples.

Peace Journalism offers a form of writing that can put the reader in someone else’s shoes. It can change perspectives. It also allows for readers to hear a counter narrative to the

same story that traditional journalism tells. Most importantly it gives a voice to the voiceless. This is especially important when it comes to immigration, equal rights, or refugees. Peace journalism can tell the personal stories of these people affected by any sort of social injustice. This is important because our reporting could give new insights, and could change opinions on immigration and refugee policies.

# Peace researchers convene in Sierra Leone

By *Steven Youngblood*

At the International Peace Research Association (IPRA) conference last November in Sierra Leone, peace journalism took a prominent role.

At a peace journalism commission session, Prof. Jake Lynch, director of the Department of Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Sydney and author of many peace journalism studies and texts, discussed his proposed agenda for the future of peace journalism research. Lynch posed the following questions to the overflow crowd:

1. Does PJ exist, and if it does, is it a byproduct of “normal” news? 2. Where is PJ practiced? 3. What is its impact? Do readers notice the difference, and does it prompt them to take different meanings (from the news they’ve consumed)?
4. Could it be expanded? Could journalists implement it? 5. Is it consistent with objectivity?

Lynch, a co-organizer of the peace journalism commission (interest group), also listed several questions for clarification, including how the definition of violence impacts the scope of PJ; if the orientations of PJ are coded to provide contextualized distinctions across contexts; and if PJ is a reaffirming process or instead a critique of professional journalism. Finally, he laid out several constraints, asking, how is the scope of PJ expanded? At what point do journalists encounter ideological constraints? Do efforts to implement PJ compromise objectivity?

---

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

---

In a separate plenary presentation, Lynch engaged the audience on the free flow of information and promoting peaceful societies. He pointed out how sustainable development goal #16 is promoting peaceful societies, and that #16.10 is ensuring access to information. Peace, therefore, must have an information component, he said. Thus, there will be increasing opportunities for peace journalism to serve these sustainable goals.

Prof. Brian Wilson from the University of British Columbia discussed sports journalism for peace. He cited research that shows that sports media promotes xenophobia, violence, and militarism. Wilson recommends that sports coverage applies to other areas of peace discourse. His research into peace sports media will identify best practices in peace and sports journalism, and develop pedagogical tools to teach peace sports media.

Prof. Gloria Ooko from Moi University in Kenya discussed how Kenyan media have covered terrorism. Her findings, illustrated with examples like the West Gate Mall attack, showed that news media use a war journalism construct; dehumanize terrorists; use “us vs. them” narratives and profile Somalis as “them”; and adopt a “government mentality” in their coverage. She said the Kenyan public gets only a one dimensional view on terrorism and how to deal with it. Ooko recommended that media re-think their current approaches.

In another session, Prof. Jacob Udo-Udo Jacob of the American University of Nigeria talked about peace journalism efforts underway in Nigeria. He discussed a recent peace journalism project at AUN (highlighted in the Oct. 2016 Peace Journalist magazine), and the establishment of the Peace Journalist’s Network-- <http://www.peacenetwork.org.ng/>

home-1 . There are 78 journalists active in the network, many of whom work in areas afflicted by Boko Haram. Prof. Jacob noted that PJ is needed in Nigeria because press coverage of Boko Haram has been episodic, “moving from one theater of violence to the next.” He noted that the press has a responsibility to treat all sides fairly; to be community-driven; to open up community engagement for peace; and to provide a platform for solutions that come from all sides.

Later, during a second presentation, Prof. Jacob discussed media framing of IDP’s (internally displaced persons) in Nigeria. He said IDP’s are typically covered as victims, thieves, violent, and as needy. This

➤  
*Continued on next page*

[www.park.edu/peacecenter](http://www.park.edu/peacecenter)

At IPRA in Sierra Leone, Prof. Jake Lynch discusses the future of PJ research.



## IPRA *from Pg 8*

treatment is yet another justification for peace journalism.

Prof. Matt Mogeckwu from Ithaca College (New York) promoted PJ as an educational tool. He noted that PJ has been largely responding to exiting crisis. However, he believes that PJ must also prevent escalation of conflicts through education. Prof. Mogeckwu believes that PJ students must specialize in peace journalism—an area of study that should be presented in addition to basic journalism education. He also noted that effective PJ must also be locally focused and produced by locally expert reporters, as opposed to “parachute journalists” who drop into a conflict zone for a few days, file a story or two, then return to their home base.

In addition, Prof. Virgil Hawkins of Osaka University (Japan) presented his findings on a study about death toll reports in DRC and Darfur. The study found almost twice as much coverage of Darfur than the ongoing wars in DRC, even though the 2008 death tolls were the opposite—5.4 million deaths in DR Congo vs. 300,000 deaths in Darfur. Further, Darfur press coverage in the four English-language newspapers studied was also more emotional (“horrors”, “tally of human suffering”) than DRC coverage. Why the differential? Prof. Hawkins said that the word “genocide” was one trigger for more Darfur coverage. He also said that ties to the home country of the newspaper may also provide an explanation. Also, social science principles like news consumers ignoring information that counters ones’ values and being numbed to ongoing violence may also explain the coverage. His conclusion: media use death tolls selectively, and use them as an attempt to generate empathy.

Prof. Ritchard M’Bayo of the Univer-

sity of Sierra Leone oriented the audience about Sierra Leone journalism. He noted that media rarely serve the needs of the rural poor, and are instead responsive only to the urban elites. M’Bayo also said that there is no independent media in Sierra Leone, and that all media, even if independently owned, are nonetheless politically aligned.

At the last PJ commission session, Prof. Muhammed Tarique from the National University of Modern Languages in Lahore, Pakistan unveiled his study about media coverage of Iran by Pakistani media. He showed how international wire services (AFP and AP, for example) are integral to Pakistani newspapers, and that these wire services build the news media agenda in Pakistan. Then, Prof. Tarique showed how coverage about Iran changed once sanctions were lifted on Iran. During the first period studied, peace journalism framing in Pakistani newspapers, based on a content analysis, was seen in 17% of stories, while war journalism was found in 39% of stories. Later, after sanctions were removed, this flipped, with 65 percent peace framing and 35 percent war framing. War themes found in the stories included the right to attack, “our” losses, U.S. elitism, and the perception of threat. Peace themes in the studied stories were negotiations, “their” losses, and hope.

I presented about the Reporting Syrian Refugees in Turkey project that was jointly administered by the Center for Global Peace Journalism and the University of Istanbul. I discussed the need for PJ projects on reporting refugees by citing studies of negative, distorted refugee coverage by Turkish media. I concluded the session with an overview of how the same type of news coverage can be found in other refugee hosting countries like Jordan, Lebanon, Austria, and Germany.



Above-Prof. Matt Mogeckwu listens to feedback during his IPRA session about PJ as an educational tool. Below-Audiences at two IPRA sessions in Freetown, Sierra Leone.



# Ebola in Sierra Leone: Reporting a nightmare

By Rexford Johnson

On May 25 2014, Sierra Leone recorded its first confirmed case of Ebola which was traced from neighbouring Guinea. The virus would later spread exponentially to affect all regions, districts and sectors of the nation. The country's health care system was overwhelmed by the outbreak, the government was perplexed and the entire population was traumatised. As the chain of transmission surged across the land, social values were eroded; state and non-state institutions were adversely impacted. The stability and even the existence of the nation were threatened.

The spread of the disease was fuelled by certain behaviour practices, misconceptions, a weak health care system, and a general lack of understanding of the characteristics of the virus even among medics. Social commentators note that the impact of the country's 11 year civil war pales in comparison to the one year Ebola crises which has been described as the worst viral disease outbreak in modern history. It took the collaborative efforts of almost all sectors of the society plus massive support from the international community succeeded



**Rexford Johnson** has over fifteen years of experience in Journalism. He is Programs Director at Believers Broadcasting Network and Producer at Independent Radio Network. His also contributes to Africa Press Agency and The Media Project as online correspondent.

in breaking the chain of transmission with the local media at the nerve centre on this massive response.

## Communication Issues

At the initial stage of the outbreak, government was unwilling to involve media in its health education campaign. Quoting the scientists, the media reported Ebola to be an incurable disease. Society viewed infected people as victims instead of patients which undermined efforts to mobilize the public to seek medical attention if they develop symptoms. Communication strategies flopped as government sources differed with information from international Medics on the frontline – like MSF. The public was getting confused, fears were heightened, rural communities were in information blackout, and myths were spreading. People in the early affected communities had a general mistrust for medical personnel because their prevention methods conflicted with the local culture. Health experts were predicting 1.5 million people would be infected in Liberia, Guinea, and Sierra Leone before the virus could be contained. With the situation rapidly deteriorating, journalists realised that we could not continue with traditional media functions (to inform, educate and entertain) while the communication abyss between key stakeholders and the dying population continued to expand. The media had to switch its focus to a collaborative role.

## Role of the media

On July 26 2014, the Sierra Leone Association of Journalism established an Ebola Response Strategy. Forty eight private and community radio stations across the country donated airtime and ran a daily simultaneous broadcast under the umbrella of the Independent Radio Network. The objectives were; "To provide an early response outlet for the Ministry of Health and the Social Mobilisa-



Participants gather as part of the national campaign to end Ebola by Women in the Media Sierra Leone. They were complimenting the efforts of the Sierra Leone Association of Journalist's (SLAJ) Yellow Ribbon Campaign.

tion Committee, increase the level of awareness and understanding of the virus, and educate the public on action to be taken to reduce and eventually halt the spread of the virus."

Programs were designed to raise public awareness about then signs and symptoms of the virus, to discuss the role of the key service providers and the significance of new medical infrastructures such as holding centres, case management centres, and treatment centres. Control activities like contact tracing, safe burial, surveillance quarantine, and isolation and stigma issues, were also recurring program themes.

While international media highlighting the existing fragile health system, resulting in generating support and resources from other nations, local media focused on information and sensitization, not investigation. The radical / watchdog role was rejected by the journalists who themselves were afflicted with the deadly virus. The design and content of the messages was persuasive as it appealed for safe, healthy practices. Soon radio became the nerve centre in the fight against Ebola.

Continued on next page

# Ebola crisis from Pg 10

## Challenges

When covering war, journalists have scores of protocols and guidelines to refer to, but not so with covering the Ebola outbreak. There was no code; the Sierra Leonean press had no idea how to cover a health emergency of such proportion. Ill prepared and ill equipped, we took the gauntlet and learned along the way. Just one month into the outbreak, we had our first casualty. Mohamed Mwalim Sherrif of Eastern Radio in Kenema died of EVD in June, 2015. Sherrif had interviewed a Muslim cleric who cared for an Ebola patient at home. It is believed the young journalist contracted the disease at the burial of the infected person. Those were the early days of the outbreak when ignorance was prevalent, but his demise was warning enough. Eyewitness journalism was negatively impacted as a result. We learned from scientists that the virus exists in human fluids. This brought the general fear that the windshield of a recorder or microphone could be a channel for the spittle from an infected person to infect an unsuspecting newsperson. It didn't take long to develop our personal codes of practice. Mine would have probably read like:

- \*Don't touch.... Anything or anyone. Handshakes were even outlawed. Above all don't touch your face.
- \*Carry anti-viral gels with you everywhere; and apply often.
- \*Wash hands frequently with soap and water- mostly chlorinated water.
- \*Keep a safe distance from people.... even when interviewing.
- \*Don't interview sick people
- \*Don't visit non-essential family and don't encourage visits .
- \*Don't go snooping around treatment centres. Better to cover a community riot over the failing of emergency services to collect a corpse or sick person.
- \*Maintain a good stock of gloves, food items, medication at home.

- \*Eat lots of citrus fruits and spicy foods to boost your immune system.
- \*Check for red eyes. We learned that red eyes were a give-away sign of infection; so one has to regularly check their eyes and those of others.
- \*Be prepared for round the clock temperature checks and be patient with the check points.

Media houses, like all other public places, practiced precautionary measures like compulsory hand washing with chlorinated water and temperature checks upon entry. All of this was nothing compared to the protective gears and measures of international journalists who were in town covering the crises. It wasn't rare to see them in personal protective equipment – space suits - around hospitals or treatment centres. The BBC even had a bio-hazard expert working alongside their journalists.

In September 2014, another broadcast journalist lost the battle to the virus together with his wife and young son. Victor Kassim formerly of the Catholic Radio Station - Radio Maria reportedly got the virus through his wife who was a health nurse. Kassim and Sherrif were the only two Ebola related



Broadcasters discuss Ebola during a live interview session at Independent Radio Network (IRN) studio during the lock down to stop Ebola transmission in 2015

deaths within the media fraternity.

In the absence of a code of ethics, a few mistakes occurred, especially with pictures of emaciated patients in hospitals or abandoned children or children in quarantine homes and even corpses in crowded morgues. These were mainly published on social media. Program wise, we had to develop fresh angles to maintain the audience's attention. Keeping them interested while constantly repeating health information was a huge task. To aid this, a radio drama series was added to the program content. That brought life to key issues being dealt with in the talk show segment, increased the entertainment value of the program, and addressed EVD issues in an engaging manner.

In November 2014, the Social Mobilization Consortium comprising state functionaries, international non-governmental organisations, health and media experts developed a concept for national Ebola messaging dubbed "Big Idea of The Week". This concept was intended to "improve understanding and acceptance of messages by maximising discussion on one key issue for an entire week. It was coordinated with all partners across channels including radio, television, posters, house to house campaigns, print news, SMS text messaging, social media and discussion forums. This meant no more information overload and no more conflicting messages." It didn't take long for gains to be realised. By the end of January 2016, infection rates started declining.

On February 14, 2016, the country's Journalism Association launched the Yellow Ribbon Campaign (see graphic, next page) to revitalise the national Ebola response which was showing signs of fatigue. Citizens were encouraged to wear yellow ribbons or wristbands as a sign of commitment

Continued on next page

# Ebola crisis from Pg 11

Ebola scourge. The initiative turned out to be a nationwide success.

## Reporting a nightmare

Living in Ebola territory was a walking nightmare. Imagine a year with no Christmas holiday, no Easter break, no birthday celebrations, no vacation, no social gatherings, hugs, handshakes, and sometimes no church gatherings. The fear of death was so strong you could almost touch it. Fear of contracting the virus, fear of touching a door knob at the office, fear of using headphones in the studio ... fear of headache, fever or worse.



#SLAJ\_YellowRibbon  
End Ebola

Radio was essential in relaying round the clock info during the two major countrywide lockdowns in Sept 2014 and Mar 2015. It was more than packaging reports and anchoring programs; we were giving hope to the nation. At the peak of Ebola infections, we had had 111 new infections in one day. The sadness and despair was clearly printed on every face in the newsroom. Another sad day at the office was when we had to report that the country's only virologist had fallen victim in the battle. He was like the frontline commander in the fight and many feared the worst with his demise. Nonetheless, we mustered courage and proceeded with the day's simulcast and encourage the populace that it will soon be over provided we adhere to the preventive protocols. Sometimes you will be receiving text messages on air about abandoned corpses, neglected quarantine homes, and other failings in the health response; you have to filter

the information you put out while taking the responsibility to contact the relevant authority off air. All of this proved to be psychologically exhausting.

The Sierra Leone government which at the onset accused the press of fear mongering during the early days of its Ebola coverage now congratulates the media unreservedly for its positive contribution in halting the spread of the virus. Some journalists have even started receiving awards for their courage during the crises as well as their reportage. In September 2015, the ban on handshake was lifted along with almost all the other restrictions.

## SL journalists discuss Ebola reporting, learn PJ basics

Journalism during times of extreme crisis can literally be a matter of life and death. Just ask the 30 journalists who attended my peace journalism workshop last December in Free-town, Sierra Leone.

When discussing their coverage of the Ebola crisis, which officially ended just over one year ago in Sierra Leone, several reporters shared stories of extraordinary peace journalism. A producer/reporter team talked about the lengths they went to insure that their listeners got accurate information about the disease and how it is spread. One women reporter said that on many days, there were actually hourly updates. Journalists here risked their lives bringing reports from hospitals, treatment centers, and Ebola-endemic areas.

In addition to Ebola reporting, we also discussed how peace journalism might apply to electoral and reconciliation journalism here. Though the civil war here ended in 2002, the reconciliation process is ongoing. This process, I suggested, could be assisted by news reports about peacebuilders and through the



use of media platforms as forums for ongoing discussions.  
--Steven Youngblood

# PJ taught in Balkh province, Afghanistan

By Masoud Momin

Together with GIZ-Civil Peace Service Program, Mediothek Afghanistan organized a three-day intensive workshop on Peace Journalism in Balkh province. This training was conducted Nov. 21, 2016 for the lecturers and some students of Balkh University, Faculty of Journalism.



Masoud Momin leads participants in an exercise during a Mediothek training in November in Afghanistan.

The aim of this workshop was to strengthen the capacity of lecturers to teach the approach of Peace Journalism Principles. Mr. Masoud Momin Media Trainer at the Mediothek Afghanistan has been facilitated this three day training. Participants received theoretical and practical issues in terms of Peace Journalism.

The workshop was the first of its kinds to be conducted at Balkh University; therefore it was of great interest for the lecturers and students.

In the course of three-day of the training on "Peace Journalism", different topics were covered, including basic and good knowledge on peace journalism principles, media and conflict resolution, peace and war reporting characteristics and techniques for producing balanced reporting to increase

understanding between conflict parties.

The workshop on Peace Journalism combined practical examples with projector screenings, theoretical analysis and in-class exercises and evaluation. During the practical part the participants produced some reports according to peace journalism principles.

The programme involves individual and group exercises as well as input from the trainer. There were many opportunities for the participants to raise their questions throughout the workshop. These approaches were

used in the trainings: presentations group work, role play, film show, Individual work, open discussion, and studies. During the training handout on Peace Journalism, was distributed and given to participants as a training material and resources reference which hopefully constantly help them on the knowledge and skills acquired during the three day training. Participants welcomed the workshop as a successful effort and thanked the GIZ-ZFD Civil Peace Service Program and Mediothek for their ongoing endeavor to help and support Journalism Lectures and journalists in their capacity-building programs. At the end of the training, participants were handed certificates of a successful completion.



Participants discuss the principles of peace journalism during a November training in Balkh province, Afghanistan.

The evaluation of the participants indicated the training was very successful and outstanding. To a large extent the objectives of the workshop and expectations of participants were met. The Topics for the trainings were very new for most of the participants. The experiences, skills, knowledge and interactive mode of presentation made facilitation friendly and lively.

**Masoud Momin** currently works with Mediothek Afghanistan. He began contributing to Afghanistan Today in 2012. He is studying Political Science in Kabul province.



# Community media's role in peace explored

By Alexander Vojvoda

During a workshop in July 2015 on the question of "What is News for Community Media?", eight community-based broadcasters in the southwest region in Cameroon formed a loose working collective to promote community and civil society reporting and to build capacities in conflict-sensitive journalism. Subsequently, this collective has grown to a network with currently 20 members. The network members have started to jointly produce (micro-)programmes, radio dramas, documentaries, call-in shows and discussions on peace building, conflict transformation, and local socio-political, cultural, economic and community issues.

On 21 December 2016, the Community Media Network in the southwest region organised its 8th Community Media Network Meeting entitled "The Role of Community Media in Peace and Conflict" to reflect on the role of media in the current civil unrests in the anglophone southwest and northwest regions and to train journalists on peace journalism principles, methods, and practices. The meeting

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



hosted the 20 community media network members, 15 non-community based media houses, and representatives of civil society.

The current protests in the southwest and northwest regions in Cameroon address issues of marginalization and discrimination of English-speaking teachers and lawyers in the educational and legal system. In October 2016, the strikes of English-speaking teachers and lawyers in the two Anglophone regions in Cameroon stopped social, cultural and economic activities in these regions. Eventually,

the protests resulted in isolated violent confrontations between protesters and security forces followed by indiscriminate mass arrests. Excessive use of violence caused the deaths of protesters, civilians, and security forces and the government imposed an Internet blackout in the anglophone regions.

In this context, the 8th Community Media Network meeting commenced with an input on peace journalism principles and the potential roles of journalists in conflict situations by showcasing examples of conventional and peace journalism and their effects. The keynote was followed by a panel discussion with Rev. Mokoko Mbue Thomas, the Presbyterian Church in Cameroon's national communication secretary; Kum Leonard, a representative of a Cameroonian journalist union; Esther Omam, vice-president of a local civil society network, and Wolfram Metzsig-Eisner, an expert on conflict management. They discussed the status-quo of the conflict, the role of the media, and possible ways to enable a constructive and peaceful dialogue.

The panellists concluded that while there is a strong bias in reporting either favouring the protesters or the government, journalists have the right to report on the conflict. It is important in a democracy that media can uncover human rights abuses or brutalization of protesters without having to fear police prosecution. The panel emphasized that violent reactions from all conflict parties need to stop, and that the Cameroonian media have to report responsibly.

The network meeting continued with a self-assessment of the reporting style of the participating journalists by evaluating whether they consider themselves to contribute to

*Continued on next page*



Community journalists discuss the current challenges they face in reporting and covering the ongoing conflict in the southwest and northwest regions in Cameroon.

## Cameroon from Pg 14

an escalation or a de-escalation of the conflict through their coverage. Contributions during the open floor discussion pointed out that in general, Cameroonian media have a tendency for conflict over-reporting, as well as one-sided and unbalanced coverage. The participants observed an increase and emphasis on an 'Us vs. Them' or 'Anglophones vs. Francophones' coverage, sensationalism, and rumour reporting based on social media content.

The network meeting ended with a wrap-up on possible ways forward and recommendations for the work of the community media sector in Cameroon. The journalists addressed the need for further training of community journalists and volunteers on conflict-sensitive journalism, and an intense collaboration with the civil society, human rights organisations, and other partners in support of generating peaceful dialogue.

### A Way forward: Peace Journalism and Community Media Networking

In order to support the needs of community media in Cameroon identified during the meeting in December

2016, the Community Media Network in the southwest region organised a two day follow-up training on the topic of "Peace, Conflict and Communication" from 26 to 27 January, 2017 to build capacities in the areas of conflict analysis, constructive communication, and to create a practice module on peace journalism.

The 9th Community Media Network meeting participants discussed the necessity to build a formal structure for the community media network to enable the promotion of conflict-sensitive reporting, conflict management on the radio, and collaboration with other peace building and conflict management organisations. They also discussed organising trainings for journalists and volunteers. Participants stressed the importance of making media house managers aware of the benefits of peace journalism.

In addition to the formalisation of the network in the southwest, the network members also made it clear that solely working in the southwest is just a drop in the ocean. The network needs to expand its activities to the northwest and include journalists and

community media and other media houses from the Francophone regions in Cameroon to collaborate on raising issues and supporting the use of peace journalism in all regions.

Unfortunately, a planned kick-off network meeting in Bamenda, northwest region on 17 February 2017 had to be cancelled as just days earlier several journalists had been arrested and some of the community media network members experienced pressure from government officials not to report on current events related to the protests.



Nformi Jibril Tamfu, community journalist from the Muslim Community Communication Department in Buea, presents the results of his working group on common activities and strategies of community media and the civil society for a peaceful dialogue.



During the 8th Community Media Network meeting, journalists split up in groups to work on the roles of media in the current conflict, challenges of conflict reporting, common activities and possible collaborations with the civil society.

# Peace photojournalist communicates hope

By Rachel Cerrotti

A beautiful story, one filled with hope and with resilience, and told with compassion, has the ability to inspire action.

The collaboration between photojournalist/cinematographer, Carey Wagner, and CARE, a humanitarian organization focused on fighting global poverty, is doing just this for Syrian refugees.



Carey Wagner

During World War II, CARE sent its first packages to European refugees. Today, the once displaced children who received those first packages are paying forward the kindness they received by writing letters to Syrian refugee children living in Jordan.

"I know it is very difficult to adjust in a different country. I feel very deeply for you. There will be better times ahead," writes Helga, a World War II survivor from Berlin to Sajeda, a 16-year old Syrian refugee.

**Helga Kissell (l)** sends a letter to Sajeda. After her father having was killed in an air raid in Berlin, Helga Kissell and her mother fled to an uncle's home in the Bavarian village of Hohenschwangau. It was in her uncle's camera shop where 16-year-old Helga met an American soldier, Leo Kissell, who, after returning to the United States, began sending Helga CARE Packages.

**Sajeda (right)** is 16 years old and lives in an apartment in Zarqa, Jordan, where her mother is raising her and her four siblings alone. She left Syria with her family in 2012 when her neighborhood was no longer safe from bombing. She reads the news about Syria regularly, and her dream

Part of the letter is read out loud in the video Wagner created as well as on the CARE website.

Five years ago, after after spending 10 years working as a staff photographer at newspapers in California and Florida, Wagner made the leap to freelance work. Since then she has been telling stories about women around the world.

"I do feel like woman are extremely strong, but they are taking on so much. I feel like I want to be able to be a part of that, to help women communicate ... I think that can only help our world," said Wagner about her focus.

Her ability and her desire to communicate hope within the perimeters of her storytelling contributed to her success documenting CARE's Special Delivery Project.

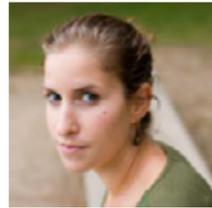
In early 2016, Wagner traveled with CARE to four cities in the U.S. and then to Irbid and Zarqa in Jordan to film the former European refugees and then the Syrian children who were recently forced to flee from their homes.

"The most challenging part of telling



is to become a political journalist. When Sajeda received a letter from WWII refugee Helga Kissell, she said, 'Helga understands my situation and she feels for me,' and added, 'Helga made me feel like I exist.' CARE pro-

**Rachael Cerrotti** is a Boston-based freelance photographer and writer, as well as a 2015 IVOH summit attendee. You can follow her on Twitter @RachaelCerrotti or Instagram @RCerrotti.



stories, this one included, is editing down the story into a few minutes while leaving in the emotion, complexity and spirit of each person," Wagner said.

Wagner's story was first broken by *Mashable*, which published an extensive exclusive on their site which was viewed across the world. Since then, other media outlets, including *PBS Newshour* and *BBC World Service*, have picked up the story, leading to thousands of shares on social media.

The stories, which have been adapted to fit multiple media, have served as a positive message of hope in a time when so many people are used to only seeing brutal and shocking images.

Continued on next page



vides psychosocial support to Sajeda through a safe recreational place to draw, socialize with other Syrian and Jordanian peers and engage with professional case workers.

# Photojournalist from Pg 16

The recipients of the CARE packages gain a sense of solidarity by hearing the stories and words of those who also once had to flee their own home and adapt to a new country.

Wagner recognizes the importance of identifying the type of work she is producing. Working in newspapers, it is expected that a situation is reported on within the ethics of journalism. But, when it comes to working with a non-profit, there is more opportunity to create a situation in order to tell a story.

"The lines are blurred, but you really should be transparent and be like, hey, this is from this organization and they set this up or this happened in this way," she noted.

When asked if she thought her work was successful, Wagner replied, "What is the metric on that? Do you want people to write letters? Do you want people to donate money? Is it more about people understanding things in a different way or not just seeing Syrian refugees as this "other" ...or is it more about relating to



Zaher, center, reads his letter from WWII refugee Gunter Nitsch. All photos by and used with permission from Carey Wagner and CARE.

people in the world?"

For the refugees themselves, as well as for many battling with trauma, sharing the story becomes part of the healing process. "I think for some people it has empowered them just by telling their story and I think they had an effect just by releasing their story," Wagner commented.

She has twice been a fellow with the International Reporting Project. This past summer she traveled to Indone-



Having escaped the Russian invasion of East Prussia, **Gunter Nitsch** and his family made their way, illegally at times, to West Germany. In order to survive, he often stole potatoes from fields along the way. He typed a letter of hope to Zaher, an 8 year old Syrian refugee boy living in Jordan.



**Zaher** lives in an apartment with his family in Irbid, Jordan. His family left Syria several years ago, not long after the war broke out, but he still remembers and misses his home. Zaher goes to school in the community and enjoys playing soccer when he's able to go outside.

sia where she reported on women in Islam and what their day-to-day life looks like outside of the context of terrorism.

In the past, Wagner has covered gender-based violence in Papua, New Guinea. "When I was (there), people were telling me, 'I have never had anyone listen to me,'" Wagner said. "We don't talk about these things. It is not cool to be emotional and complain about something. No one has listened to me."

When looking at Wagner's portfolio, it is easy to wonder if she gets overwhelmed by the amount of trauma that her subjects have experienced. "I was in Jordan I was playing this game of ice cream freeze with the kids in the street. I mean, it was emotional, but you still have fun and that is the thing that sometimes gets lost," Wagner said.

The collaboration between Wagner and CARE shows how storytelling not only benefits individuals facing a time of crisis, but also has the power to reveal resilience. "There are bad things that have happened, but there is joy in life. And, when you see it in a place, in another kind of situation, it is more meaningful."

--Story originally from IVOH.org

# Police shootings, new tech challenge journalists

By Terry Likes

In the last two years, newscasts, newspapers and social media posts have often led with stories of someone, often black and unarmed, dying at the hands of police. How does media coverage impact the attitudes of those who consume news? In an era of when media use police body camera footage or video shot from a viewer's camera phone, what is the impact of this new technology?

## Too many news reports sound like this

Television news announcers, of late, have read far too many stories like this, "A traffic stop turned deadly as

**Terry Likes, Ph.D., teaches multimedia journalism at Tennessee State University. He has won 80 awards in his career and continues to freelance for the Tennessee Radio Network. In 2017 he won the Library of American Broadcasting's Historian Award while in 2013 the Southeast Journalism Conference named him its Journalism Educator of the Year.**



a police officer opened fire on a black driver," (CBS 2, New York, 2016, July 7). "It feels like every week, sometimes every day, another person, often black and unarmed, has died at the hands of police. Michael Brown, Eric Garner, Tamir Rice, Jason Harrison, Walter Scott, Eric Harris, Freddie Gray, to name a few." (McLaughlin, 2015, April 15). CNN News Desk Editor, Elliott McLaughlin, says, "The headlines make it feel as if the country is experiencing an unprecedented wave of police violence, but experts say that isn't the case. We're just seeing more mainstream media coverage, and for

a variety of reasons." (McLaughlin, 2015, April 21).

## Challenges for media coverage

The issue of race relations, police action and the subsequent media coverage may have come to national attention when the National Guard took control of Ferguson, Missouri. Former CNN Washington correspondent, Charles Bierbauer, always hopes for fair media coverage, but sees new technology and social media as a challenge for today's journalists. "Indeed the ability of every citizen to broadcast on their own, as we saw happen, and one of the shooting incidents imposes a greater responsibility on the media to ensure that they've got the story right."

## Comparing then and now

Many wonder how today's media coverage compares to that of the civil rights movement. Charles Bierbauer, who worked for ABC and later CNN for over twenty years, says it is difficult to compare today's media coverage to that of the civil rights movement because in the 1960's consumers only had traditional media outlets. "Today you've got a thousand different perspectives, some of which may be legitimate, some of which may be first person, and many of which are just re-tweets," says Bierbauer. Since 2002, Bierbauer has been Dean of the College of Mass Communication and Information Studies, at the University of South Carolina.

Bierbauer shares how a teaching example can apply to all who consume news. "Indeed I tell my students that if they're only getting their news from one place, they're doing themselves a disservice to start with and certainly not doing a service and gathering the story. People have to expect that much of what we see comes from a biased perspective." Bierbauer adds if you factor in bias, you can extract useful information. "If you take things

on face value then the bias is going to run rampant over you. So, I think the challenge for journalists and for audiences is to recognize how complex the situation is now and how much the responsibility is to sift and sort and determine what are really reliable sources and what are the equivalent of your crazy uncle in the attic," says Bierbauer.

## Research in progress

Many of these incidents occurring in cities like Baltimore, Ferguson and Baton Rouge are so fresh that some professors around the country have research in progress. One example stems from the reaction of those who heard news clips like this from ABC News from Charleston, South Carolina. "Remembering the nine people who were shot dead inside that church." (ABC News, 2015, June 20).

University of South Carolina's Dr. Kenneth Campbell's research provides an analysis of first-day coverage of the Emanuel Nine Church Shooting in Charleston and what it might say about journalistic practice. In his research, Campbell wanted to see if the presence of race in a story involving a horrific shooting by a white male at an African-American church had some effect on how the story was treated. "Because of the racial history of the region, the newspapers that we looked at were really sensitive in how they handled this story. They were concerned about telling the story to the public and to the local community in a way that helped move the community forward rather than just focusing on the nature of the crime."

Campbell says media may be evolving over time to not just reporting what happened but showing compassion and advancing the story. "Media were certainly, in this instance, serving a positive role in the community

Continued on next page

[www.park.edu/peacecenter](http://www.park.edu/peacecenter)

# Police shootings *from Pg 18*

and when I say media I'm talking specifically about the newspapers that we examined," says Campbell.

Another research project compares the effects of news media coverage on African-American, Caucasian and Hispanic attitudes toward police. Dr. William Kinnally, an associate professor in the Nicholson School of Communication at the University of Central Florida, is studying how news might affect people in different ways in terms of their attitudes or confidence in police. His initial results show a difference in attitudes across ethnicities.

"Caucasians were more positively, more favorable toward police and law enforcement. African-Americans were least favorable toward police and law enforcement. Hispanics were right in the middle and where there was a statistical difference was between the Caucasians and Hispanics and African-Americans. Theirs was different but not statistically different." Kinnally adds there is a body of research having to do with the portrayals of minorities in the media. "The way in which those portrayals affect people's perceptions, particularly of policies, and so some of the earlier research was looking at the impact of the images, the photographs used in

news stories, whether it's online or in a paper and the way in which people respond to the ethnicities of the people who are presented in those photos."

## More transparency

"The new technology has enabled coverage of this very substantive issue to change dramatically."

The quote above is from former News Director for WSMV-TV in Nashville, Alan Griggs, who says it was not too long ago when there was no video of a racially-charged event, resulting in he said, she said accusations. Griggs says that changed with the advent of camera phones and body cameras for police. "Not every police officer has one but many do nowadays and so that video is released quite often and so you have an entirely different and changing complexion of news coverage about these events." Griggs, now the Chair of the Communication and Journalism department at Lipscomb University, admits coverage is much more transparent today than it ever has been. "It creates a new challenge for journalists for broadcast journalists. I do believe in the sense that we should show it but we do not want to be inflammatory about it and I think too many times in this business, television journalists gauge

the importance of a story about the strength of the video that they have," says Griggs.

## Technology trumps story substance?

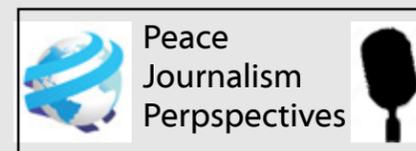
Reflecting on his years leading one of the country's most awarded news staffs, Griggs says today, even when a story is considered weak, if the video is compelling you're going to see the video used. "So there is a definite advantage to the technology bringing along coverage of this issue but, at the same time, it's incumbent upon journalists to really make sure that the technology doesn't get so far ahead of them that it biases the news coverage and I think that's a real possibility."

Griggs hopes that today's journalists weigh the substance of the story before they think about the impact of the technology because he cautions it's real simple to put that in reverse. For example, he says body camera use is so new that he is not sure if most newsrooms have a policy concerning the use of that video. "We have remarkable video today of those who have been arrested being put in chokeholds, being shot, or being chased and while that video really adds validity to the court case and to the event itself, I'm just concerned

Continued on next page

## New podcast, book add to available PJ resources

The second edition of the **Peace Journalism Perspectives** podcast features a discussion with Park University Journal-

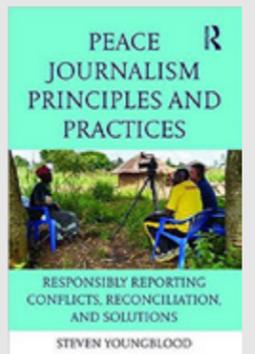


ism Professor John Lofflin about the challenges of reporting about the Trump administration, as well as a presentation from

a recent peace research conference in Sierra Leone about an innovative peace journalism project underway in Nigeria. The podcast is available at- <http://www.park.edu/center-for-peace-journalism/podcast.html> .

The first U.S. peace journalism textbook has been published. The text is titled, "**Peace Journalism Principles and Prac-**

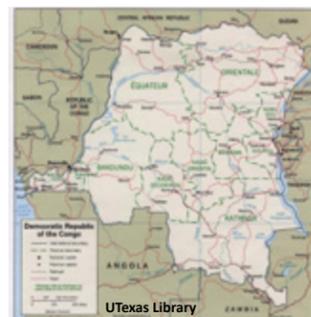
**tices: Responsibly Reporting Conflicts, Reconciliation, and Solutions.**" It is authored by Steven Youngblood, director of the Center for Global Peace Journalism, and editor of the Peace Journalist magazine. The book includes a foreword by Dr. Jake Lynch of the University of Sydney. It is available at Amazon.com.



# DRC journalists discuss election experiences

by *Christophe Babunga*

Forty journalists including publishers, editors, editorial secretaries and reporters from both the print and audiovisual media in the province of North Kivu learned about electoral violence and shared their experiences on peaceful reporting during elections in anticipation of December 2017 elections in DR Congo.



The Goma Press Center, a donation from MO-NUSCO (United Nations Organization

Stabilization Mission in Congo) served as a host for the event on Monday 4 July. The UNPC, National Union of the Congo Press section of North Kivu, in partnership with the MONUSCO

Public information Section also coordinated the event. Its object was to teach media how to train and inform the public about the electoral process for credible, transparent, and peaceful elections.

The knights of the pen are partners of the CENI, the independent national electoral commission. CENI contributes greatly to the conduct of the elections. One speaker, Kambale Ngayirewama, who is in charge of litigation at the provincial secretariat of CENI North Kivu, discussed the expectation of CENI vis-à-vis the press. "We expect the press to control the content of the electoral law and to raise awareness and give the right information to the population, to participate in the prevention, management and transformation of conflicts (pacifying press)."

Kambale highlighted the main causes of electoral violence, including the choice of an electoral system in a dynamic of conflict, a culture of violence rooted in countries where small arms

and light weapons are distributed, a fragile legal system, embezzlement of state resources for election campaign purposes, insufficient policing, and exclusion of certain candidates.

### Pacifist Media

The role of the media during the electoral period, ethical challenges, and deontology of journalists was a subject addressed by Touver Lundi, a provincial director for JED, Journalists

*Continued on next page*

**Christophe Babunga** is a Congolese journalist and the founder of ACV, *action pour la communication pour la vie*. He has a wide range of experience in radio journalism and newspaper especially in science and peaceful domains.



*Continued on next page*

## Police shootings

from Pg 19

that too many journalists base the importance of the story on the power of the video. That's something that can't be overlooked but I think the substance of the story itself should outweigh that." Griggs warns with some of the coverage we have seen, if journalists are not careful, it's going to underline the belief the media are more inflammatory than anything else. "I think a word of strong caution is in order that we be responsible about what video we use. How we show it and how many times it's used, again, not letting that argument of the strength of the video overcome all of these other questions that we need to put in to perspective, badly needed perspective."

### The issue of fairness

Many journalist codes of ethics, such as from SPJ and RTDNA,

include wording of giving a voice to the voiceless, holding the powerful accountable and seek truth and report it. Griggs says journalists should ask themselves whether they are being fair to every person impacted in any news report but, specifically involving cases like what has been noted above, with new technology allowing us to show police body camera video. "How far should we go in using that video and should any of it be edited out? I'm sure that it should be in most cases but I mean that it is such a powerful tool now that I'm afraid it would be easy for us to let it get out of hand," says Griggs.

### Thoughts broadcast from a non-journalist

We have heard from media professionals and top academics weighing in on this subject. Here

is a different take. The Daily Show host, Trevor Noah, adds humor to commentary in addressing a police shooting of a minority in Tulsa. "It looked cut and dry to me but the truth is I wasn't there, none of us were there. We are never there in those situations. We don't know what happened before the video. We don't know what the cop expected when they got there. We don't know if the guy was on drugs or not on drugs. What we do know is this...it seems extremely easy to get shot by police in America...which is not right," (Noah, 2016, September 22).

### Conclusion

While conducting research on racial bias in media coverage, Lisa Wade questions where the cognitive be-

[www.park.edu/peacecenter](http://www.park.edu/peacecenter)

# DRC *from Pg 20*

in Danger. JED is a non-governmental organization working on protecting journalists, studying the impact of the positive involvement of the media in the electoral process, promoting pacifist media leads to smooth elections, and encouraging a climate contributing to the maintenance of peace in the province.

Also, Touver noted that editors should facilitate balanced access to the media during the election period. Journalists must refrain from amplifying the rumors likely to stir up conflict in the political sphere and sow confusion in public opinion. For this purpose, they must observe scrupulously the basic rules of ethics. Articles must conform to the inverted pyramid, in observance of equity, accuracy, honesty, responsibility and above all independence.

Professionalism puts journalist at the crosshairs of attacks, said Jules Ngala Wamona, radio journalist from Okapi,



40 Congolese journalists discuss the role of the media during elections at a recent workshop in Goma.

during his presentation. The media practicing their roles of surveillance, facilitation, and positive criticism are doing their job well and contributing to freedom of the press. By observing the code of ethics or honor of the journalist, outlined in the Munich charter, the journalist is safe from at least 60% risk of attacks related to his trade. 40% of cases of violence against

journalists occur when journalists abuse their power and are corrupt, Wamona said.

Rosalie Zawadi, radio journalist from Okapi Goma, the provincial president of UNPC, described the workshop as positive, especially since most journalists are currently ignoring the rules of ethical journalism.

## Police shootings

from Pg 20

lief that black people are dangerous comes from? "Partly, it comes from the media. A new study by Color of Change found that, while 51% of the people arrested for violent crime in New York City are black, 75% of the news reports about such arrests highlighted black alleged perpetrators," says Wade. McLaughlin says because humans are visual creatures, "videos impact people more than might a written or spoken narrative, and many experts feel the images help drive coverage of the incidents," says McLaughlin. In an article about whether America Is Deeply Divided Over How Media Covers Race and Police Misconduct, Ariel Edwards-Levy found, "overall, Americans are about equally as likely to say Gray's case got too much attention as they are to say it was covered the right amount, with few saying the case attracted too little

coverage. Most Republicans think his death received too much attention, while the majority of Democrats and black Americans think the coverage was fair," says Edwards-Levy who added, "There's a similar divide on the coverage given to more broad stories about police misconduct. Nearly half of black Americans say such stories aren't given enough attention, while just 16 percent of whites agree," (Edwards-Levy, Ariel, 2015, May 11). All agree we need a strong police force, as everyone loved the police on September 12, 2011. There are some calls for more police training with subsequent requests for communities to engage in surveillance and crime prevention. For media coverage, new policies are needed regarding how to cover and present stories involving new video technology and consumer awareness of potential bias.

### References

ABC News, 2015, June 20, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0uNZy5AwOTA>  
 Bierbauer, Charles. (2016, October 15). (Personal communication). Dean, Dean of the College of Mass Communication and Information Studies, University of South Carolina.  
 Campbell, Kenneth. (2016, October 14). (Personal communication). Associate professor, School of Journalism and Mass Communications, University of South Carolina.  
 Edwards-Levy, Ariel. (2015, May 11). "America Is Deeply Divided Over How Media Covers Race, Police Misconduct." [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/media-police-poll\\_n\\_7259942](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/media-police-poll_n_7259942)  
 Griggs, Alan. (2016, October 28). (Personal communication). Chair, Department of Communication and Journalism, Lipscomb University, Nashville, TN.  
 Kinnally, William. (2016, October 14). (Personal communication). Associate Professor, Nicholson School of Communication, University of Central Florida.  
 McLaughlin, Elliott. (2015, April 21). "We're not seeing more police shootings, just more news coverage." <http://www.cnn.com/2015/04/20/us/police-brutality-video-social-media-attitudes/>  
 Noah, Trevor. (2016, September 22). The Daily Show. "Terence Crutcher's Police Shooting & Racial Bias in America." <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wZmRW1x4A24>  
 Wade, Lisa. (2015, April 9). "Racial Bias and Media Coverage of Violent Crime." <https://thesocietypages.org/socimages/2015/04/09/racial-bias-and-media-coverage-of-violent-crime/>  
 WCBS-TV New York, 2016, July 7, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KjopPckzagY>

# Indians, Pakistanis write postcards for peace

By Chintan Girish Modi

When I told my Pakistani friend Ziyad Faisal — the features editor of a newspaper called The Friday Times — that I was scheduled to visit Chandigarh and Ambala in northern India to conduct peace education workshops with high school students in both cities, he wrote a gorgeous letter addressed to all the students.

Thanks to Dikshant International School in Chandigarh and Mindtree School in Ambala, almost 60 students from grades 8 to 11 got to read it. Each one was invited to write a personal reply to Ziyad. They were most excited. One of them said, “Sir, please give us more time. I have never written to a Pakistani. I want to put my heart and soul into this.” In most Indian schools, it is not often that students get to work on writing assignments that are addressed to someone other than their teacher. Even if the classroom task is to write a letter to a municipal commissioner, an author, or another kind of celebrity, it is hardly ever sent to that person. Students usually know that they are writing to please the teacher. When they heard that their letters would actually reach Ziyad, they were absolutely thrilled.

Here is Ziyad’s letter:

Hi everyone!

I work for a newspaper in Pakistan.

Have you ever wondered: how is it that the problems between India and Pakistan can drag on from 1947 to 2016? Have you ever wondered why we have to keep acting like enemies, even when we know that we can’t make the other country give up and go home? What stories do our governments tell us about each other, to make us want to fight?

Well, I can tell you this: a lot of the fault lies with the media on both sides! In both Pakistan and India, there are some very cowardly journalists, who think it is their responsibility to feed their people all the nonsense that the governments cook for them. Make a list of all the rea-

**Chintan Girish Modi** is a writer, researcher, educator and peacebuilder living in Mumbai, India. He consults with the UNESCO Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development, and is the founder of *Friendships Across Borders: Aao Dosti Karein*.



sons you were ever given to hate Pakistanis. Trust me, the Pakistani students of your age have been taught a similar list by politicians, religious leaders and TV-channels waalay log. And trust me, this stuff is not important. What’s really important are the things you and I have in common — the movies we watch, the songs we like, the fun stuff!

If anyone ever told you that Pakistanis are terrorists and are jealous of India, I can promise you one thing. In Pakistan, the same story is told, but in that story, Indians are the ones creating terrorism in Pakistan. But these stories are not our stories — they are not mine and not yours. They are the stories someone else gives us! We don’t have to accept this stuff.

If you want to know the truth, here it is: our biggest enemies are behind our backs — in our own countries, not across the border. Our biggest enemies are the people who teach us hatred.

The truth is that some powerful people on both sides don’t want peace. They will have to retire if there is peace and friendship between the two countries. So friends, let’s send these people away! Bohat lambi innings ho gai inki, ab bus!

The governments of both countries have done many things to harm each other’s country from 1947 until today. The only people paying the price for this are ordinary people like you and me. Do you think that we really have to go on accepting this? Well, I don’t think so, and Chintanbhai does not think so. We work together to try and spread the message that Indians and Pakistanis don’t have to fight.

On both sides of the border — in India and in Pakistan — there are people who believe that a different way is possible. In fact, we believe that the path of peace and friendship is the only way. Won’t you join us?

When you go home today, please Google and read about the “Christmas Truce” from the First World War — when soldiers from both sides of a terrible war stopped fighting on Christmas day, 1914. They realized that on the other side, the “enemy” soldier is just a human like them, and sings Christmas carols like them, and likes chocolates, and has family like them! Generals and politicians on both sides of the war now had a problem — how to make them go back to fighting each other and killing each other, so the war could go on?

In the same spirit as those soldiers, let’s make a deal. As your friend, I promise you that no matter what happens,

*Continued on next page*

## India-Pakistan *from Pg 22*



High school students at Mind Tree School, Ambala, North India, participate in a peace education workshop aimed at transforming hostility towards Pakistanis into friendship, hope, and reconciliation.

no matter what story someone tells me, I will never fight against you. Can you make the same promise to me?

### Ziyad Faisal

It was fun to read the letters students penned in response. In order to protect the identities of students, their names are not being mentioned here but I cannot help sharing some excerpts with you. One of them wrote, “I was first only not in favour of war. According to my ideology, war is just a wastage of time, resources and moreover lives. But I think that it is the fault of the government, social media and moreover our textbooks. From the day we started school and grew up, we have been hearing about Pakistan and the people over there. Some people take it just for fun as there are many posts and jokes on social media. Everyone is like hating Pakistan. They want wars, matches of India versus Pakistan as entertainment. I would like to tell you to watch the movie War Chhod Na Yaar. You will feel good, and enjoy it.”

I wish adults in both countries were as reflective as this teenager, and could spot the source of their toxic conditioning. Another student wrote, “Here in India, people — especially Punjabis — take things to heart. They are filled with hatred for Pakistanis. The main reason for this was the Kargil War. I, myself, am a Punjabi. I was so angry because I lost my grandfather, like other Punjabis who lost their family members. You just go on YouTube, and

search: Which is greater — Pakistan army or Indian army? Just read the comments. I mean, they abuse like anything. I am scared to visit it. I don’t know if I come there, I will be killed or not.”

And there were those who were completely floored by Ziyad’s words. One of them wrote, “I read your letter and trust me, I am personally influenced by it. In the beginning, Chintan asked if we would want to visit Pakistan, and I said I don’t know. But now, I really wanna go there and meet the people, especially you. I almost lost a relative of mine to the 26/11 attacks, so I understand exactly what it feels like. I’ve always really hated violence, even in the smallest of forms. I know that the people in your country are not bad. All of us want eternal peace, right? So I support your cause, and I will make sure I spread the word (and love). Good job, buddy!”

Some found in Ziyad’s letter, an articulation of their own thoughts. A student wrote, “It feels so good to know that people like you from Pakistan share the same perspective like that of the Indians. Many of us get confused — Is it the Muslims that we don’t like, or the Pakistanis? The answer is that it is the politicians that we hate. These bugs are the masterminds, or may I say chefs, who cook false stories. If these people are so fond of war, why don’t they pick up an AK-47? Why waste the precious life of a man (soldier, to be specific) who is the earning head of the family, whose wife beats her chest when she sees the dead body of her husband? Why? We, citizens of India, want to invite our brothers, our bhajiyaans from Pakistan. We would feel happy to come to your place and eat biryani or chicken tikka.”

The opportunity to exchange their thoughts with a Pakistani was quite novel for them. Each letter shows that the students would love to have more such opportunities. I hope schools wake up to the possibilities that lie dormant. Can you imagine what would happen if millions of Indian and Pakistani children and teenagers decided to correspond with each other? It would be mind-blowing.

An eleventh grader wrote, “I have wondered why we have to keep acting like enemies, and I agree with the fact that the fault lies on both sides of the border. I personally have always been very attached to Pakistan, and I don’t even know why. I just want to share an experience with you. Two years ago, I went to Amritsar, and visited the Wagah border. After the parade, there is something in which we were supposed to meet the Pakistani people. They way we actually interacted was amazing. We did not speak much but our eyes did. There were some very young children passing smiles, and those smiles made my day. I knew they

*Continued on next page*

# India-Pakistan from Pg 23

were young, and thus did not have any hatred. But I also knew the fact that as soon as they grow up, so much hate will be put in their minds by the media and the politicians, and this fact saddens me. Why can't we love each other and be friends? Why?"

Though all the students spoke of the need for cross-border friendships, some had specific political points to make. Want to hear the tough talk? Here you go. "Nawaz Sharif, the President of Pakistan, is not doing anything. Any decision made by him is not followed. I think he is a puppet of the terrorists," wrote one of them. "If you guys want to fight, then don't attack on our back. Come face to face and fight. If you will fight on our back while we are sleeping and stuff, it shows your cowardness," wrote another. This letter by a seventh grader was perhaps the most intense. It said, "India didn't attack Pakistan even after the Mumbai attack and so many other disputes but now we bore enough. It is time for you Pakistanis to pay back for all the destruction you have caused. I cannot promise that I won't fight against you but I will try my best to control my anger."

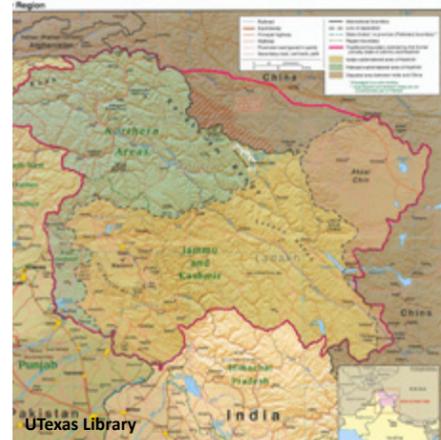
The overall mood, however, was one of tremendous hope and goodwill — something that a lot of adults in both countries need to find amidst their overarching cynicism. One of the students wrote, "It is good to know that not all Pakistanis are vengeful and cruel. We have read in school that media can be influenced but it was shocking that all the stuff I have seen or read was a cooked up masaledar (spicy) story for the sake of profit. I can promise that I will never fight against any Pakistani because now that I know that both of us experience same casualties, it will not only be biased but also evil to support such a bloodshed. We have the same cultures, our history before division is the same. If we were one before, we can be one now as well. We can be two peaceful neighbours who grow and progress together, who share and live forever in everlasting harmony."

This hope should not be mistaken for naivete. Hope is born of the courage to imagine and create a different world. Cynicism is often just laziness wearing a mask. One of the letters addressed Ziyad as "Ziyad bhai." ("bhai" meaning "brother") It went on to say, "The people who cook false stories about nationalism and India-Pakistan rivalry are the ones responsible for the mess in which we are today. I would love to visit Pakistan, and I wish that all the problems are solved without war because one act leads to another. Non-violence is a better way to ensure peace and true freedom. The day when this conflict and the virtual border between the mindsets of people ends, I will celebrate it as Independence from backward ideas."

Another student wrote, "Even I think that all Pakistanis are not terrorists but many a times if I talk of this at home my mom says that I have gone mad. She believes that Pakistanis are not at all trustworthy. I think that such kind of a workshop should be there for adults like my mom even. I've tried my best and will keep trying. We all need to work as arbitrators and sit and resolve this matter. It is us, today's generation, who can bring this change. Even the UN is doing nothing about it. Being frank, I would like to tell you something — I love Pakistanis. Their dressing sense and everything. Especially their language. I would surely like to visit Pakistan if it would have been safe. But as I told before, my mom would kill me if I would tell her about this dream of mine. I wish I could actually meet people like you who have the same opinions as me. The thing I could never speak up about — I have written all that here."

I sincerely wish that every Indian and Pakistani, especially those who want war, would read the views of these young people who care about nurturing a future that transcends petty politics and old feuds. How can one gloss over the love and innocence contained in these lines? "I read your letter, and I think that we have similar views. The problem lies in the biased news that we, the younger generation, receive. Don't you think we should do something about it? Because, if this continues, the young generation will learn to hate Pakistan too, and this war will never end. You are an editor, and you can do something. Maybe start up a newspaper in India that actually gives unbiased news on India-Pakistan controversies. Your views are great. You should certainly write such letters to all Indian and Pakistani kids. That will bring a change. I'll do my part, telling my friends about this letter. I am little, and I can do little. But you can certainly do a lot. I'm glad journalists like you exist."

*This article first appeared on the Postcards for Peace blog, and has been reprinted with permission.*



# IVOH names fellows; plans media summit

By *Mallory Tenore*

The media play an important role in telling stories about tragedies, trauma, and communities or individuals who are facing adversities. And yet, too often, these are the main stories we see and hear from the media. Images & Voices of Hope (IVOH) is working to change that — by providing media practitioners with an opportunity to tell stories about how people and communities are finding hope, resiliency and restoration.

One such opportunity is IVOH's Restorative Narrative Fellowship. Six fellows have been selected for 2017. This year's cohort was selected from among 113 applicants worldwide. The IVOH restorative narrative fellows for 2017 are Liana Aghajanian, Jed Lipinski, Jaeah Lee, Anna Claire Vollers, Ally Karsyn, and Alice Driver.

These six media practitioner/fellows will spend half the year telling restorative narratives — stories that show how people and communities are making a meaningful progression from a place of despair to a place of resilience. Their work will take shape in public radio, magazines, newspapers, video, documentary photography, and on stage, and will show what's possible when media practitioners tell stories through a restorative lens instead of focusing solely on doom and gloom. Their stories won't ignore



2017 IVOH restorative narrative fellows are: (From top left)-Liana Aghajanian, Jed Lipinski, Jaeah Lee, Anna Claire Vollers, Ally Karsyn, and Alice Driver.

hardships, but they won't get stuck there either. They'll illuminate signs of resilience, restoration, and hope that emerge in the aftermath of difficult times, and in doing so will reflect a more holistic approach to storytelling.



Thumbnails from previous IVOH Media Summits.

## IVOH Media Summit

The IVOH summit — which will be held June 22-25, 2017 in the Catskill Mountains of New York — coincides with a time when people are turning away from the media due to burn-out, distrust, questions around facts vs. fake news, and more. We aim to create a communal, safe space at the summit where people can come together to share and seek a diversity of ideas about how the media can act as an agent of change and world benefit.

The summit will begin with a day-long retreat to help attendees reflect on the topics we'll be discussing. The summit and retreat will bring together individuals who are interested in and/or practicing storytelling approaches aimed at strengthening people, communities, and media as a whole. Topics will include restorative narratives, solutions storytelling, constructive storytelling, and peace storytelling.

## Featured speakers include:

-David Bornstein, co-founder of The Solutions Journalism Network and co-author of *The New York Times'* "Fixes" column, where he explores and analyzes solutions to social problems.  
-Dr. Alice Driver, a bilingual photojournalist who splits her time between

Mexico City, her home state of Arkansas, and Washington, D.C. She is the author of "More or Less Dead: Femicide, Haunting, and the Ethics of Representation in Mexico."

-Ally Karsyn, the founder, producer and host of Ode, a live storytelling series where community members tell true stories on stage to promote positive impact through empathy. Each event is recorded for broadcast on Siouxland Public Media, the NPR member station in Sioux City, Iowa  
-Anna Claire Vollers, an investigative reporter for Alabama Media Group, covering human and civil rights, education and social justice issues. Her work appears online at AL.com.

-Jed Lipinski, who covers public health and criminal justice for The Times-Picayune in New Orleans. He is a regular contributor to The New York Times and has written for BuzzFeed, Politico, Slate, Salon, The Wall Street Journal, Vice and other outlets.

-Liana Aghajanian, an independent journalist whose work explores the issues, people, and places that often remain hidden on the fringes of society. Her work has appeared in The New York Times, The Guardian, Newsweek, Foreign Policy and Al Jazeera America.

-Steven Youngblood, the director of the Center for Global Peace Journalism at Park University. He is the author of "Peace Journalism Principles and Practice" (Routledge/Taylor and Francis Books, October 2016).

For more information or to register, see: <http://ivoh.org/ivohsummit/>.

**Mallory Tenore** is Managing Director of Images & Voices of Hope (ivoh.org), a nonprofit that helps strengthen the media's role as an agent of positive change. In addition to her role at ivoh, Mallory does social media consulting for newsrooms and universities.



# Kenya seminar draws regional, intl expertise

By Gloria Laker

Opening a two day regional peace journalism training workshop in Kisumu, Kenya March 16-17, Dr. Fredrick Ogenga, the founding director of Center for Media, Democracy, Peace, and Security (CMDPS) at Rongo University, asked journalists, "Do you want to make conflict worse or make it better?" This question sparked lengthy discussions by 15 journalists from five East African countries: Kenya, Uganda, South Sudan, Rwanda, and Tanzania.

The workshop began as Prof. Steven Youngblood, the director Center for Global Peace Journalism at Park University, discussed the basics of PJ and urged journalists to avoid inflammatory language in their reporting. Youngblood also encouraged journalists covering the August presidential election in Kenya to use a peace journalism-style approach to prevent media induced violence.

Participants embraced this message. "As Kenyan journalists, we shouldn't wait for the general election in August. Instead, we must start conducting internal peace and electoral reporting trainings now to prepare reporters to cover the coming election peacefully," said Silah Koskigi, a reporter with Standard Group in Kenya.

Later, I shared with journalists the role of peace journalism in ending the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) war

**Gloria Laker** is the founding director of the Peace Journalism Foundation of East Africa in Kampala, a BBC award recipient, and experienced peace



journalism trainer. She reported on the LRA war from Northern Uganda.



Dr. Fredrick Ogenga from Rongo University discussed hybrid peace journalism at a March conference in Kisumu, Kenya.

(1988-2006) in Northern Uganda. The role of peace media as a tool in ending the LRA conflict began, ironically, with a military-founded radio called "Radio Freedom." Eventually, Radio Freedom morphed into a much larger, and much stronger-signal, station called Mega FM, which is widely credited with sowing the seeds of peace in Northern Uganda.

The fact that peace media sprung up alongside military operations against the LRA came as a surprise to attendees. Tyra Mecry, an Eldoret, Kenya based reporter, said, "I am impressed with the Ugandan army's role in establishing the first ever peace radio in East Africa...I wish other African countries could borrow such rich experiences as a way of opening more room for dialogue during conflicts (so that) more lives can be saved."

Dr. Duncan Omanga from Moi University in Kenya gave an excellent speech on day one about PJ and terrorism. He

analyzed terrorists' goals vis-à-vis the media, and in the process introduced the audience to the concept of "violence as a form of communication."

In another session, Dr. Ogenga stressed the importance of promoting African approaches to peace journalism, a view which dominated the two day workshop in Kisumu. He said, "This African-centered approach is called hybrid peace journalism." According to Dr. Ogenga, this approach "takes elements of Western journalism and views them through an African lens." His hybrid peace journalism approach features an emphasis on development journalism as well as offering counternarratives to traditional Western-style reporting which portrays Africa only in a negative light.

At Rongo University, hybrid peace journalism is being manifested through a master's program in Media,

Continued on next page

[www.park.edu/peacecenter](http://www.park.edu/peacecenter)



# the PEACE JOURNALIST



©2017 by Park University

## PJ pioneer Dr. Galtung on Nobel Peace Prize short list

According to Nobel Peace Prize Watch (<http://www.nobelwill.org/index.html?tab=8>), peace journalism and peace studies pioneer, professor, and founder of Transcend Media Service Dr. Johan Galtung has made the short list of 32 individuals and organizations being considered for the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize.



His nomination, from Prof. Richard Falk of Princeton University and the Univ. of California-Santa Barbara, states, "Johan Galtung has been the sort of dedicated warrior for peace that it seems to me the Nobel Prize was created to honor. By so doing, (this will) raise public consciousness of what must happen if we are to overcome the war system and enjoy the material, political, and spiritual benefits of living in a world of peace premised on the nonviolent resolution of disputes among sovereign states and respect for the authority of international law.

"For decades Johan Galtung has been an inspirational presence in the field of peace studies broadly conceived. His exceptional vitality and mobility has brought this message of understanding and insight into peace with justice to the four corners of the planet in a remarkable fashion that is truly unique in its educational and activist impact. It is no exaggeration to write that he invented and established the field of peace studies as a respected subject of study in institutions of higher learning throughout the world. As a consequence of his charismatic speaking ability and seminal writing Johan Galtung has reached the hearts and minds of thousands of people throughout the world, conveying the belief above all that peace is possible through the dedicated efforts of ordinary people if they are work to change the political climate sufficiently to educate the public and exert pressure on the political leaders of the world as well as on global media."

Nobel prize winners for peace, physics, chemistry, literature, medicine, and economics will be announced in October.

## Kenya from Pg 26

Democracy, Peace, and Security. The university also has a hybrid peace journalism club made up of peace-



Dr. Duncan Omanga discusses PJ and terrorism in Kisumu, Kenya.

Vol 6, No. 1

building students. Also, plans are underway to launch a campus/community radio station at Rongo University dedicated to peacebuilding. "We're giving students an opportunity to tell their own narratives," Ogenga said.

Dr. Ogenga insists that peace journalism must be embraced for a better and more developed peaceful society.

Another speaker was Victor Bwire of the Media Council of Kenya. He said ethics, objectivity, and sound journalistic practice are needed if Kenyan journalists are to rebuild trust with the public.

Other presenters on day two included Dr. Jacinta Mwendu of the University of Nairobi, who discussed media, human rights, and social justice. She articulated several suggestions for reporting human rights, including:

1. No 'us vs. them';
2. No worthy or unworthy victims;
3. Report humanely during conflicts;
4. Explore all sides.

At the end of the training, Prof. Youngblood recommended that the journalists unite and form a peace journalism press club in East Africa.

With the different views, one message each of the participants took with them is that peace journalism is good journalism, and can be adopted and used in reporting different themes like immigration, politics, and terrorism.

The two day training was sponsored by Rongo University's Center for Media, Democracy, Peace, and Security; The Social Science Research Council; The African Peacebuilding Network; and the Center for Global Peace Journalism at Park University.