Programme

Draft: 22 May 2018

Public Evening Event

Building Peace through Media Engagement?
The role of local media in armed conflict

29 May 2018
Berlin Town Hall, Louise-Schroeder-Saal

Conference languages
German/English (simultaneous interpretation)

As part of the Berlin Summer Dialogue 2018
Strengthening Local Peacebuilding – Establishing the Basis for Sustaining Peace

In cooperation with the
Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
BACKGROUND

Around 45 per cent of the world’s people have no access to a free press, according to the latest World Press Freedom Index. Free speech is particularly constrained in authoritarian regimes and intra-state conflicts, where journalists face considerable risks to their personal safety. In addition, there are limited financial resources available to support independent journalism.

The media have a responsibility, however, to report sensitively on conflicts and diverse social groups. The spread of disinformation or “fake news” can escalate conflicts, so it is important to raise media professionals’ awareness of conflict-sensitive, peace-oriented journalism. Its aim should not be to steer the public in a particular direction but to foster mutual understanding and facilitate dialogue in accordance with the universal principles of journalism. Local media are often an important source of information for the public in conflict settings. In many instances, they are the first to spot emerging conflicts or abuses and their reporting helps to shape opinion. The local media can also foster social cohesion by giving all groups within society a voice.

What are the challenges facing the local media in conflict regions? What are the opportunities for – and limits to – peace-oriented reporting during conflict? How do economic restraints influence conflict-sensitive journalism? And which forms of external support may be beneficial?
PROGRAMME

17.00 hrs  Registration
Chair

Ute Schaeffer  
Deputy Director  
DW Academy, Bonn

17.30 hrs  Welcome

Christian Rickerts  
Secretary of State  
Senate Department for Economics, Energy and Public Enterprises, Berlin

17.35 hrs  Opening Speech

Dr Elke Löbel  
Director for displacement and migration; crisis prevention and management, Commissioner for refugee policy  
Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Bonn

17.45 hrs  Round table discussion

Nicolas Boissez  
Head of Communication and External Relations  
Fondation Hirondelle, Lausanne

Rev Geraldine Fobang  
Station Manager, CBS Radio Buea  
President, CCMN - Cameroon Community Media Network, Buea

Dr William Tayeebwa  
Senior Lecturer  
Department of Journalism and Communication  
Makere University, Kampala

Followed by  Plenary discussion

19.00 hrs  Reception  
hosted by the Governing Mayor of Berlin
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