

Dear Reader,

The current world order is far from being stable and just. Besides numerous crises and conflicts the so far practiced multilateralism is under attack. The **Peace Report 2018** analyses the current global situation and calls for a confident EU diplomacy, with Germany in the forefront.

Find out more about this and our other current projects!

Sarah Hinz, Institute for Development and Peace (INEF)  
Rebekka Hannes, Development and Peace Foundation (sef:)

## UPCOMING EVENTS



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### : The EU in Global Food Governance

**sef: Policy Lunch**  
**12 July 2018 in Brussels**

Enough food is produced worldwide to feed humanity, yet more than 815 million people in the world are undernourished. What is the global vision for food and nutrition governance? What initiatives and reforms are being implemented? What role can the EU play? sef: and CIDSE – International Alliance of Catholic Development Agencies will debate these questions during a **Policy Lunch** in Brussels on 12 July 2018. **Register now!**



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### : How to defend digital rights?

**Session during the Deutsche Welle Global Media Forum**

Internet freedom is threatened in many states by restrictions to net neutrality or by governments shutting down internet applications. But there are rays of hope. In different world regions, civil society is mobilizing to protect net neutrality. sef: discussed activists' experiences from different world regions with 'Gbenga Sesan from Nigeria and Thomas Lohninger from Austria during a roundtable talk at the **Deutsche Welle Global Media Forum**. Read the most important results of the discussion in our short **report**.



## ：“Journalists find themselves in a tight corner”

sef: insight 6|2018

Local radio stations provide a unique opportunity to reach out to the community, especially in times of conflict. At the Berlin Summer Dialogue, Rev Geraldine Fobang from Cameroon explains how local media stations can serve as a platform for inclusive and peace journalism. The interview is available as **sef: insight 6|2018** and as a **video** on YouTube.

**sef: insight** 6|2018

**“Journalists find themselves in a tight corner”**  
Interview with Rev Geraldine Fobang on local journalism in armed conflicts

**What are the main challenges for local media in times of conflict?**

I come from the South West and North West region of Cameroon, where there is an armed conflict between the Anglophone and the government. From my local experience, one of the biggest challenges for journalists is that they are not financially viable. Because of this, they tend to turn to politicians in the government and write sensationalist reports to have something to take home at the end of the day. In addition, the Cameroon government has adopted new laws on terrorism in the wake of the Anglophone crisis. These laws are also targeting journalists. They are being harassed and intimidated, and they are now also being charged under terrorism laws instead of civil law. Just recently, the Anglophone journalist Mancho Bikiy was sentenced to 15 years in jail by a military tribunal for speaking about the Anglophone crisis. And he's not the only one; there have been other journalists who have been locked up just because they reported on the Anglophone crisis. This is challenging for all reporters and journalists as it creates an atmosphere of fear which prevents them from reporting on the crisis. You know the facts but you are afraid to tell the truth. Press freedom has been stifled by the government. It puts journalists in a difficult situation: if you do not report in favour of the government, they may come after you, but if you report too much in favour of the government, the sensitization (Anglophone) may come after you. In general, journalists find themselves in a tight corner in Cameroon because of the armed conflict.

Another difficulty is that we do not have many trained journalists. A lot of them are amateurs and ill-

tastes in the profession. They lack the methodology and ethics of journalism. With them pulling it, it is sometimes difficult to be from a professional point of view. They tend to report in a sensationalist style which appeals to a lot of people. But it creates big challenges and difficulties in a conflict situation.”

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**In what way are social media challenging traditional media?**

Another big challenge that we are grappling with in the use of social media. It sometimes seems as if social media are overturning the tables of traditional journalism. We are struggling to handle fake news and what I call the “breaking news syndrome.” With this new technology, many people – so-called citizen journalists – are disseminating their information from their bedrooms, sometimes to a wider audience than traditional media can reach. But they do not know the facts and often do not understand the impact of their stories. They also lack moral responsibility. Perhaps they just don't care. But they certainly lack any understanding of how they are harming others with their videos, photos or language. Some use hate speech and have no concept of how it affects others. The greater challenge for us as traditional journalists is to counter the information and speed by which hate speech is being disseminated on social media. As a traditional journalist, you take time to gather the information.

**“We are struggling to handle fake news and what I call the “breaking news syndrome.”**



## ：“The media have a very big role in promoting social cohesion”

sef: insight 5|2018

How do conventional and peace journalism differ? What are the main challenges for local media in conflict situations? And how can they contribute to social cohesion? Dr William Tayeebwa from Uganda provides some insights at the Berlin Summer Dialogue. The interview is published as **sef: insight 5|2018** and as a **video** on YouTube.

**sef: insight** 5|2018

**“The media have a very big role in promoting social cohesion”**  
Interview with William Tayeebwa on conventional and peace journalism

**What are the differences between conventional and peace journalism?**

What we call conventional journalism tends to focus on violence, on drama and on conflict. In conventional journalism, we say: “If it bleeds, it leads.” Conventional journalism is also mainly preoccupied with zero-sum scenarios – there has to be a clear winner and a clear loser. Advocates of peace journalism, on the other hand, believe that even the perceived “loser” has a point to make and something they stand for. Conventional journalists generally concentrate on other personalities and other nations, with little focus on people at the grassroots. It is what we call the “person-once rule”. Peace journalism gives a platform to the grassroots, believing that everyone has a role to play and a voice that should be heard. These are the key differences between conventional and peace journalism.

**Many radio stations in countries of the Global South are owned by politicians. This is the case in my own country, Uganda, but also in other parts of Africa. Issues are mostly framed in a way that suits the agenda of the politicians owning the station, rarely giving a voice to the opposition or alternative viewpoints. Are journalists employed by politicians – even the good ones – will naturally frame issues to promote the agenda of their employer. The third challenge comes with extra media factors, such as advertisers and other stakeholders who in most cases may not be interested in promoting an agenda that would identify common ground or build communal harmony. Instead, with perceived audience wanting conflict, journalists tend to frame issues to respond to their audiences. In addition, most African countries do not offer freedom of expression and freedom of speech enough, so governance becomes another factor challenging journalists in Africa.**

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**In what way can the media play a role in creating social cohesion?**

The media have a very big role in promoting cohesion in societies. First of all, they can give a voice to peace-makers and grassroots organisations promoting communal harmony and dialogue. Grassroots media, women and youth organisations are the voices that should be heard. Instead of constantly giving airtime to politicians who promote conflict and set communities against each other, the media should provide a platform for civil society organisations that are working to identify common ground.

## ：“Peace Report 2018. Endless Wars

A joint publication by BICC, HFSK, INEF and IFSH

The Peace Report 2018 provides an answer to the current crises and armed conflicts by calling for „More diplomacy – fewer arms exports”. Particularly in times, where the so far practiced multilateralism is under attack, the Peace Report calls for a confident EU diplomacy. When doing so, Germany should stand in the forefront, while at the same time limit itself regarding, for instance, arms exports. These and further analyses and recommendations can be read in the **Peace Report 2018**, a joint publication by BICC, HFSK, INEF and IFSH.

- The complete publication is available in German only -

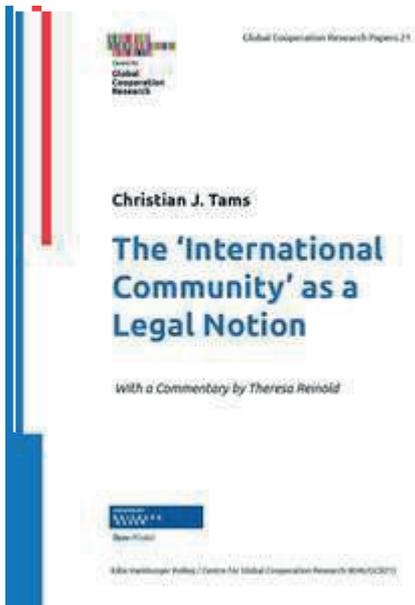


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## : The International Community and the Autonomy of International Law: Response to Christian Tams – A Commentary by Theresa Reinold

**KHK/GCR21 Global Cooperation Research Paper 21**

In a contribution published as part of the **KHK Global Cooperation Research Paper Series**, Theresa Reinold discusses the concept of the "international community", which Christian Tams critically appraises in his contribution to the same Research Paper. As Theresa Reinold's commentary demonstrates, this concept makes an important contribution to securing the autonomy of international law from political interference.



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Development and Peace Foundation (sef:)  
Dechenstraße 2 | 53115 Bonn | Germany  
[sef@sef-bonn.org](mailto:sef@sef-bonn.org)  
[www.sef-bonn.org](http://www.sef-bonn.org)



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Institute for Development and Peace (INEF)  
Lotharstraße 53 | 47057 Duisburg | Germany  
[inef-sek@inef.uni-due.de](mailto:inef-sek@inef.uni-due.de)  
<http://inef.uni.due.de>

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The Development and Peace Foundation (sef:) was founded in 1986 on the initiative of Willy Brandt. It is a cross-party and non-profitmaking organisation. sef: provides an international high-level forum for shared thinking on the complex challenges of globalisation. It is linked to the Institute for Development and Peace (INEF) by a cooperation agreement. The aim of INEF's application-oriented research is to build bridges between theory and practice. It is one of three host institutions of the Käte Hamburger Kolleg / Centre for Global Cooperation Research.