

South Sudan Training Module on
Safety and Protection of Journalists
and Other Media Professionals

For

The AMDISS-Media Development
Institute
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By

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Introduction

Media, journalists and other related professionals are influential actors, players and critical stake-holders in social transformation of societies and especially so in conflict infested and prone regions including countries, regions and globally. Their role collectively and individually, both by design and by default, by commission or by omission has a direct and indirect impact on social transformation, progress and development, or lack of it in any given society.

In this regard therefore, the media as an institution and indeed, the journalists and other media professionals elicit intense scrutiny and interest by society including governors, the powerful, the rich and influential, the political elite; and the criminal elements, organized and individually in their bid and in attempt(s) to moderate/mediate and mould public opinion.

It is therefore, critical that the media, journalists and other related professionals are in the first instance be inducted into their working environment to appreciate their critical and at times, cardinal role(s) that they play in Knowledge Acquisition and Intelligence (Information) flow in societies and the attendant risks and threats that accrue, exist and obtain in their realm as they ply their trade and profession.

At the heart of this induction process lie the twin issues of Safety and Protection of the media, journalists and other related professionals. Though Safety and Protection differ in their application and definitions, their impact and or lack of, have an overwhelming effect on Freedom of Expression, Press (Media) Freedom, Right to Information (Access), Human Rights, Democracy, the Rule of Law, Equity and Justice in societies.

Those therefore, who seek to assist, enable, empower and facilitate society to acquire Knowledge through Information Flow, must as a fact of life be Acutely Aware that they elicit inordinately and immense Interest from those who seek to Control Free Flow of Knowledge and Intelligence for their own private, collective and or communal Interest(s). In this regard, the media, the journalists and other related professionals become Prime or Fair Targets for those who seek to Cover-Up, Manipulate, Hide; or Deny any wrong-doing, being accessory to, or complicit in any anti-social activities and actions either by design or by default, by commission and or omission.

For the media, journalists and other related professionals therefore, their mandate and reason for their existence is to Enable, Empower, Facilitate, Defend and Protect the Public Interest for the Public Good they invariably draw attention to themselves both individually and collectively and in the process become unwitting Prime Targets depending on the level, the extent and the depth of their professional endeavours and the impact their professionals activities elicit in their societies on account of their final content and product that they serve their readers, audiences and consumers.

Their mediums and messages have the capacity to affect, sway and influence vast audiences. It can often serve as a means of transmitting legitimacy and hostility, directly or indirectly, thus playing a great and devastating role in the escalation of conflict. Media, however, also has the potential to act as an extension of democratic polity by providing a venue and platform for dialogue, an outlet to present different perspectives and initiate discussion on sensitive discussions.

In this regard, the media, journalists and related professionals have the power to challenge misperceptions and promote tolerance, collaboration and reconciliation between all parties and across all strata of society.

Likewise, those who seek to benefit, subvert and even seek to control social discourse for

whatever selfish reasons and for whatever gain, are not averse; to seeking to threaten, intimidate and in certain circumstances to exercise the ultimate weapon, namely to employ direct harm to the media, journalists and other professionals, both direct and indirect either collectively and or individually, selectively and in any combination thereof to send and register their displeasure.

The key aspect to ward-off, minimize, ameliorate, arrest and address these insidious direct and indirect actions and threats to media, journalists and other related professional in discharging their primary social duty and profession is to Raise Awareness, Train and Equip journalists and their related professionals on their Safety and Protection in a structured, co-ordinated and holistic manner to in the first instance, to Own their Safety and Protection, secondly; to ensure that a comprehensive sector-wide/industry-wide advocacy and outreach plan on Safety and Protection is in place, and thirdly; a national Safety and Protection advocacy and outreach plan and programme is adopted by the state as per United Nations Standards and procedures, specifically, the United Nations Plan Against Impunity and Protection of Journalists of 2012.

While the media, journalists and other related media professionals wield such immense powers, potential and opportunities, many situations in media practice and conduct raise both legal and ethical questions. In this respect, media laws are rules and regulations governing the way media operate are in many instances salient and or vague on Safety and Protection issues, while ethics are standards of behavior which are not necessarily underpinned by law but are voluntary codes of conduct.

Safety and Protection of Journalists and other related media professionals is an imperative as their consequences have a direct and a chilling effect on society at large – fear and crossroads censorship and all that it entails – closing of Free Flow of Knowledge and Information.

There are as yet very few explicit training courses and even manuals that address the issues of safety and protection exclusively for journalists, yet there are many media laws worldwide criminal and common, provincial and federal that places legal restrictions on how the press gathers information and what it publishes. These include libel or defamation, sedition, etc. There are laws affecting the media such as those on media regulation which tend to focus on broadcast media, but can have wider application. There are laws that tend to restrict free press and free expression.

In the same vein, there are many and numerous ethical codes of conduct for journalists such as respect of privacy, accuracy, social responsibility, ethics that warns media, journalists and other media professionals against unprofessional conduct like plagiarism and discrimination but very few that address this exploding threat to the industry as a whole and society in general.

In this regard, it is within this understanding that a Safety and Protection of Journalists curricula model has been developed for the Media Development Institute (MDI) to address the training needs and gaps in these areas in South Sudan.

They include:

1. Physical Safety training and exposure.
2. Risk and Threat Analysis and Mapping.
3. Contingency Planning and Evacuation Drill.
4. Security Forces and Public Order.
5. Riots/Civil Disaster Coverage.
6. Travel and Hotel Safety and Security Planning
7. Digital and ITC Security Planning.

8. Communication and Equipment Security.
9. Psycho-Social and Trauma.
10. First Aid/Health (Well-Being) drill.
11. Home and Bureau Safety Planning and drill.

Main objective and rationale for the module

The main objective of the module is to present training materials that will enhance, improve and strengthen the role of South Sudan (SS) media in Safety and Protection of the Media Sector, Journalists and other related media professionals in addressing issues of Safety and Protection in the country by building capacities of journalists to enhance, improve and safeguard their individual and collective Safety and Protection including well-being both physically and emotionally to enable them employ journalism principles based on impartiality, balance and responsibility while, at the same time, they are (media) conscious of the legal and ethical implications of the decisions they make in performing their work. In many newsrooms in South Sudan and in many other conflict infested and prone regions and countries the world over, whether an action is legal is considered to be the first hurdle that any action must clear, before ethical issues are raised, however, whether that can lead to direct or indirect harm to the journalists and the risks and threats inherent are rarely given the due attention nor focus.

In most instances, the risks and the threats inherent are glossed over due to many reasons, but the most primary being lack of capacity, skills and resources in many conflict-infested and prone countries in African including South Sudan. Many journalists, editors and indeed media owners place a more emphasis on ethical standards such as fairness and accuracy are used in court cases to evaluate stories for libel and other legal problems.

Granted that ethical and professional standards are critical, but they must also place an equally high premium on Journalists safety and Protection as a corner stone of journalism, for it's the lack of Safety Training and Protection that Knowledge Acquisition, Retention that Ventilates Intelligence (Information) Flow that leads to an Informed Decision making, the hallmark of an enabled, empowered and inclusive citizen and populace that protects Human Rights, Democracy, Rule of Law, Justice, Equity and Progress.

The proposed Safety and Protection module, will equip South Sudan journalists working in diverse media with skills and knowledge to sustain professional standards during conflict (and other) coverage and to produce professional reports while paying premium to their Safety and Protection. This will consequently enhance the role of journalists in social transformation, peace-building, reconciliation and progress while critically aware of their physical and emotional safety and well-being for the benefit of the country as a whole and the region in particular and more fundamentally aware that they are at the front-line and in the cross-hairs of those who seek to control Freedom of Expression and the Free Flow of Information and in the process, seek to Target the Messenger in a Vain Attempt to Manipulate the Message for their own Selfish Ends, be they political, ethnic, religious, commercial and or individual.

Within a volatile, hostile socio-political-economic environment, such as that of South Sudan, assistance to local media must turn towards capacity building in order to ensure a sustainable transition to peace and democracy. To maintain ensure professional standards, journalists need to acquire adequate knowledge of conflict theory (and its application), safety and protection the laws and ethical codes governing the media practice in South Sudan and elsewhere in the world, particularly in the East African Region.

South Sudan journalists and other related media professionals need to acquire safety and protection skills and analytical ‘know-how’ to be able to report accurately, impartially and ‘safely’ on, and within conflict situations. The need to appreciate the influence of media as it operates within - and how it can contribute to conflict situations is not only essential but critical if journalists are going to play a part in promoting/supporting peace and reconciliation processes while fully aware of the risks and threats inherent and involved and how best to mitigate and address them while providing non-violent dialogue and communication channels.

The rationale and mandate for training South Sudan journalists in Safety and Protection is further informed by the research conducted through in-depth interviews and focus group discussions with some media stakeholders in Juba over the years since 2005 as well as a review and analyses of documents including, among others, a reports on the training needs assessment by many media support organizations including, the Association of Media Development in South Sudan (AMDISS), the Union of Journalists of South Sudan (UJOSS), the South Sudan Media Working Group, UNESCO South Sudan Country Office, Norwegian Peoples Aid (NPA) amongst others.

All these media assessment reports and reviews, the issue of Impunity and safety and Protection of Journalists has been a major issues and the fact that South Sudan is one of the Five pilot countries in which UNESCO is leading on Safety and Protection of Journalists and the Culture of Impunity.

In light of the on-going conflict in South Sudan and also in light of the past conflict and the dire depth in which the country has sunk into, the need for an urgent, structured, co-ordinated and timely delivered Safety and Protection Awareness Training for South Sudan Journalists cannot be over-stated nor taken for granted. The Need is Urgent and Real the Gaps are there, the Commitment is there from the local and international agencies, partners and donors.

The urgency is real, the price has been heavy and the great need has been expressed for South Sudan Journalists to be trained on how they can effectively and safely report on conflict situations in South Sudan in order to do away with the current self-censorship affecting most journalists.

This training module is developed in line with UNESCO’s guidelines presented in the key publication, Freedom of Expression and Public Order (2015), Union of Journalists of South Sudan (UJOSS) Safety and Protection of Journalists: Who Cares (2013) and *Conflict -Sensitive Reporting: State of the Art, A Course for Journalists and Journalism Educators*, by Ross Howard (2009), as well as other reports and texts, case studies by the South Sudan Media Working Group and a Joint ARTICLE 19/ Duestch Akademie Safety and Protection Survey on South Sudan (2015-2016) .

The module is contextualized for South Sudan environment and is designed to strengthen media’s capacity to contribute to dialogue, mutual understanding and eventually reconciliation and peace in South Sudan through the work of a socially responsible and ethical media. The curriculum seeks to build the capacity of journalists to explore and analyze the dynamics of safety and protection of the media, journalists and other related media professionals in a conflict infested and prone environment as obtains in South Sudan and violent conflict in their community as well as the laws and ethical code of conduct governing media practice in South Sudan.

Duration and Methodology

The module is designed in a way that allows trainees to move from the general to specific acquisition of skills in the areas of focus: Safety and Protection, International Media Safety Conventions and Standards, Best Standards and Bench Marks and Practice and Case Studies. With clear guidelines for the instructors (that also give room for flexibility in methodology and assessment), the methodology adopted is learner-centred where practical exercises in form of anecdotes, cases studies, simulations and drills as well as brainstorming sessions are organized around a key area of learning.

Trainees' experiences from the field will come in handy especially when dealing with how individual journalists perceive and actually report on Safety and Protection, conflict situations and in legally implicating situations and where ethical decisions may be in a balance. The total time for the module is 100 hours. More than 60% of this time, will be dedicated to practical activities that involve individual and groups drills, assignments and hands on instructions including role-playing and scenario setting.

There will also be power-point presentations, short-film shows and video clips on various first-hand experiences by renowned journalists on war/conflict reporting and disaster coverage, simulation and general brain-storming sessions including guest-appearances from members of the security forces and law-enforcement agencies etc.

The training should be for small to medium group (20-35) of young and inexperienced journalist trainee to mid-career reporters, editors and producers working in South Sudan's media, and more especially those who have worked in hostile environment/disaster and conflict-infested and prone regions and beats. Participants will be chosen from a wide range of media outlets and from different levels of media professionalism and gender. The MDI manager together with media stakeholders will design an instrument to determine how participants will be selected.

Trainers Selection Criteria/Competences

It is critical that all trainers, facilitators and instructors whether local, regional and international have a proven and demonstrable background and experience of and working in conflict situations, and where they engaged in Safety both Physical and Psycho-Social-cum-Trauma training and experience. The MDI Consultants must be practising and credible trainers in conflict/hostile and hazardous area reporting exposure. The MDI manager may advise/help in sourcing such personnel. There should also be experts in the field of media with expertise in conflict analysis and conflict theory. Such facilitators can be selected from South Sudanese and other regional or international media practitioners and trainers. A teaching plan, timeline with required training materials/resources will be provided by the trainers. In all parts, trainers will be at liberty to develop their own examples and exercises to support key concepts.

A detailed outline of the training programmes is presented in the following pages.

Description and purpose

South Sudan is largely defined by an ever increasing and ever evolving conflict infested and prone environment, where Safety and Protection of Journalists and other related professionals and media institutions face an ever deteriorating Safety and Protection situations, be they direct and indirect; and Safety and Protection training module is intended to strengthen, enhance and empower media's capacity to address, mitigate and address and ultimately

arrest, the deteriorating Safety and Protection milieu that is stifling and threatening Freedom of Expression and Free Flow of Information and a threat to media freedom in the country as the culture of impunity takes root.

This safety and Protection training will build the capacity of journalists to explore and analyze the dynamics of violent conflicts in their community and report them with responsibility, consciousness and sensitivity. The trainees will be reminded of their societal expectations and why 'conflict' is among the frequent focus of news. The course also introduces the different ways in which Safety of journalists and other media professionals can be assured, maintained and enhanced to lessen the threats and risks inherent in such environment and situations.

Training approach

Evaluations of expectations

Formative evaluation will be carried out before the trainings begin to identify trainee expectations about Safety and Protection skills to be learnt and propose effective methodologies for delivery of the training. Summative evaluation will be carried out at the end of the training to assess the achievement of objectives and draw lessons for future improvement.

Methods

The course adopts a learner-centered approach that draws on:

- A few formal presentations
- A variety of practical exercises in form of anecdotes, cases studies, simulations, etc
- Brainstorming sessions organized around a key area of learning
- Trainees' experiences from the field
- Others as deemed relevant by the trainer

Required training materials

For effective training of conflict reporting, the trainer will require the following materials for the different topics of the course:

- Article clippings (conflict stories) – and case studies
- Video clips or audio clips on conflict situations
- Images on conflict
- Power point presentations with handouts of notes and tasks for trainees
- Flipcharts and markers for demonstrations
- Cards: multi-color (optional)
- Note pads and pens

Indicative Content

1. Who is a journalist? What are his/her duties and responsibilities in a society?
2. The Journalist as a watchdog
3. Understanding conflict (and violence) as a news media story
4. Safety and Protection analysis for journalists
5. Journalists' roles in Safety and Protection – accelerating or reducing threats and risks?
6. The framing ability of the media
7. Establishing standards for Safety and Protection
8. Investigating conflicts/threats and risk assessment
9. Safety precautions while reporting in hostile environment/ conflict zones/regions

Outline and Schedule

Contextualizing Journalism Safety and Protection in Conflict Environment.

Safety and Protection precautions (20 hours)

Focus: The trainees will get a deeper understanding of how journalists reporting in conflict situations can be physically and psychologically ready for the challenges during the reporting. It gives tips for effective safety preparedness.

The presentations and discussions will be on (1) how assignments to conflict areas/regions induces stress on reporters and on (2) the sources, symptoms and responses is crucial since no journalist who reports extensively on violent conflict can remain entirely unaffected; (3) The act of listening and reporting as an act of absorbing some of the distress and tensions.

Finally, the instructor will make a presentations on (1) how such stress affects a journalist's objectivity, (2) future framing of similar events and (3) gives recommendations for recognizing and relieving stress and trauma and provides information on more extensive sources.

Tasks:

1. Trainees will be given their own accounts of how they are exposed to dangerous reporting situations and how they managed it.
2. Trainees will examine the provisions of the different instruments developed to ensure safety of journalists – by CPJ, UNESCO, IFJ, etc.
3. Their application in South Sudan context may then be assessed.
4. The instructor may give several scenarios requiring adequate preparation before coverage. Journalists will be asked to define their safety guidelines before such coverage.

Instructor's note: *The instructor will remind trainees that covering conflicts exposes journalists to serious danger and harm both physically and emotionally. He/she will facilitate a discussion of risk awareness in reporting in conflict, and presents a series of recommended safety tips, and seeks recommendations from participants. The instructor presents examples of several recommended sources of additional information on personal safety including the International News Safety Institute, the International Federation of Journalists, the Committee for the Protection of Journalists (CPJ) and UNESCO. Trainees will need to know the types and sources of danger during a conflict situation and reporting.*

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Purpose: To acquaint journalists and media workers with appropriate knowledge and skills on safety and self- protection while in the course of duty.

Expected Learning Outcomes of the Course

By the end of the period the student is expected to:

Appreciate and understand the role of safety and protection in the promotion freedom of expression and independence of the media.

MODE OF ASSESSMENT

The course will be assessed through end of course, take home assignments and practical assessment tests.

COURSE OUTLINE

WEEK 1

Monday-Friday from 9.00 A M-1.00 PM

Monday

- Introduction – Why the Course on safety and protection of journalists and other media professionals is critical to journalism.
 - a. Facts and Data
 - i. Situational Analysis (survey, facts and international and local case studies)

Tuesday

- b. Laws and other legal instruments for protection of journalists
 - i. UN Universal Declaration on Human Rights: Article 19
 - ii. UNESCO Plan Against Impunity
 - iii. Article 79 of the Geneva Convention
 - iv. Constitutions
 - v. International Labour Laws

Wednesday (4H)

- c. Why Protection Journalists
 - i. First Human Rights Defenders
 - ii. Press Freedoms on behalf of the public
 - iii. Publics' Right to Information

Thursday

Types of Threats (1H)

Identify local threats (2H). Participatory Approach via

- Open forum
- Group Work

Report back session

Friday

- Risk analysis on the own working environment and mitigation
Threats; individuals will identify threats in their places of origin and construct a lesson that identifies and offers ways on how to manage them/mitigate them -- (2 h)

Individual exercise (2H)

WEEK 2

Monday-Friday from 9.00 A M-1.00 PM

Monday

CIVIL UNREST AND PUBLIC DISORDER

Aim

To sensitize and train journalists and media workers on why adequate preparation prior to working in hostile environments is important

Introduction includes participants examining footage from recent cases of violent conflict where journalists are caught up in order to draw lessons and apply the knowledge

Participants are expected learn by observing basic safety tips and thus reduce their risk of getting injured while in the course of duty in hostile environments/including civil unrest, riots and other aspects of civil disorder.

- Risk assessment skills and strategies

Tuesday

- Personal Safety Rules including self-awareness (4H)

Wednesday

- Precautions Prior to Travelling
- Security of Luggage
- Hotel security

Thursday

- Security of Working Area- Office safety and protection
- Individual safety and protection plans
- Building security

Friday

Vehicle Safety

Responsible management and operation of your vehicle and choice of public transport is important in getting you out of danger.

Hiring Drivers

When hiring drivers in unfamiliar locations,

Week 3

Monday-Friday from 9.00 A.M-1.00 PM

SECURITY FORCES AND MEDIA RELATIONSHIPS

The aim presentation is to introduce journalists to the potential reasons for tensions between security and media and mitigation measures.

Background to Security Forces and Media Relations

Weapons and Equipment used by Security Forces in dealing and quelling civil disorder and riots.

Security Forces support and co-operation.

Tuesday

How to deal with and survive

Abductions

Kidnap

Sexual Harassment

Surviving Captivity

Periods of Tension

Wednesday

Riot Weapons

Aim:

To examine the common types of riot weaponry used by security officers:

Thursday

RIOT PLANNING / Deployment and Vantage Positions

Stay on the outer edges of the protestors and security groups, keeping away from the mid-areas and frontlines to avoid being manipulated into undesirable positions.

Practical Session

Participants to share some of the dangerous situations they find themselves in while covering conflict and sought to know what would be the most appropriate action on their part and also learn from mistakes committed in the past.

Friday

DISASTER SITUATIONS

Aim of the presentation

To prepare journalists who may be assigned to cover disaster situations e.g. fires, floods, earthquakes.

FIRE

FLOODS

EARTHQUAKES

PROTECTION AGAINST SMALL ARMS FIRE

Protective Clothing – Bullet Proof vests and armour including helmets

WEEK 4,

Monday-Friday from 9.00 A.M-1.00 PM

PLANNING AND PREPARATION

Assignment coverage, briefing and debriefing including emergency evacuation and Safe havens.

Tuesday

FIRST AID/MEDICAL

Aim

To introduce and induct journalist trainees a general overview of what First Aid is and equip them with essential first aid skills.

AIMS OF FIRST AID

- To Save Life
- To prevent further injury
- To promote recovery

BODY SUBSTANCE ISOLATION (BSI)

INCIDENT MANAGEMENT

Wednesday

GIVING EMERGENCY AID

FOREIGN BODY AIRWAY OBSTRUCTION

BLEEDING

Dressing and Bandaging

Wounds and Bleeding

Fractures

Management of Fractures

Care & Management

Thursday

Online security

Phone Security

Surveillance and digital security.

Friday

Emotional well-being, Welfare issues/Trauma Counseling

Psycho-social profiling and wellness

Suggested further reading materials, and sources and websites.

- Cecilia, Friend and Jane, B. Singer (2007), *Online Journalism Ethics: Traditions and Transitions*, M.E. Sharpe, Inc., New York 10504.
- Code of Conduct and Ethics of Journalism: Guide for South Sudan*, November 2013, South Sudan
- David Theo Golder (1995), *Ethical Theory and Social Issues: Historical Texts and Contemporally Readings*: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, Inc. USA
- Des Forges, Alison (2008), *Call to Genocide. Radio in Rwanda 1994*. International Research Development Centre: Accessed at http://www.idrc.ca/rwandagenocide/ev-108178-201-1-DO_TOPIC.html.
- Galtung, John (2000), *Conflict Transformation by Peaceful Means*. Available at: <http://www.transcend.org>.
- Howard, Ross. (2003), *Conflict-sensitive Journalism: A Handbook for Reporters*. IMPACS-International Media Support: Vancouver and Copenhagen.
- Hugo de Burgh, (Ed.) (2000). *Investigative Journalism: Context and Practice*, Routledge, London and New York.
- Jay Black., Bob Steele and Ralph Barney (1999), *Doing Ethics in Journalism: A Handbook with Case Studies* (1999), Allyn & Bacon: Massachusetts.
- Lynch, Jake (2007) *A course in peace journalism, Conflict and Communication*. Online. Vol. 6, No. 1.
- Louis A. Day (1997), *Ethics in media Communications: Cases and Controversies*, 2nd Edition Wadsworth Publishing Company: Belmont, California.
- Pilger, John (Ed.) (1999), *Tell Me No Lies: Investigative Journalism That Changed the World*. Rosalind G. Stark (1999), *Media Ethics; Where do you draw the line? A case study approach to Understanding News Coverage and Journalistic Decision Making*. The Freedom Forum Museum: Wilson Blvd, Arlington VA 22209.
- Spark, David (1999). *Investigative Reporting: A Study in Technique* Journalism Media Manual *Reporting for change: A handbook for local journalists in crisis areas*, Institute of War & Peace Reporting, London - www.iwpr.net.

Some websites of interest

1. <http://www.cnn.com>
 2. <http://www.msnbc.com>
 3. <http://www.foxnews.com>
 4. <http://ethics.npr.org/tag/social-media/>
 5. http://handbook.reuters.com/index.php/Reporting_From_the_Internet_And_Using_Social_Media
 6. http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/shared/bsp/hi/pdfs/14_07_11_news_social_media_guidance.pdf
http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/CI/CI/pdf/ipdc2010_safety_decision_final.pdf
 7. <http://www.mediasupport.org/what-we-do/safety-in-journalism/>
 8. <https://cpj.org/reports/2012/04/journalist-security-guide.php>
 9. www.ifj-safety.org
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