

BIOGRAPHIES OF THE PANELISTS

MEDIA WEBINAR ON THE ROLE OF THE MEDIA IN PROMOTING SILENCING THE GUNS IN AFRICA

Under the theme of the Year: “Silencing the Guns: creating conducive conditions for Africa’s development”

08 October 2020 | 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm (GMT+3)

Keynote Address:



Name and Title: H.E. Smail Chergui

Position: Commissioner for Peace & Security

Organization: African Union Commission



Name and Title: H.E. Josep Borrell Fontelles

Position: High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission

Organisation: European Commission/European Union

SESSION I: MEDIA PERSPECTIVES ON SILENCING THE GUNS IN AFRICA

PANEL 1:

Media, Peace and Development: Is Africa on the Right Track?

Panelists:



Name and Title: Ms. Mary HARPER
Position: Africa Editor
Organization: BBC World Service News

Mary Harper is the Africa Editor at BBC World Service News. She has reported on Africa for the BBC for two decades, and has a special interest in the Horn of Africa, especially Somalia, where she spends much of her time. Much of her work focusses on violent radical Islam in Africa, and sea piracy off its shores. She has reported from many conflict zones including Sierra Leone, Liberia, Sudan, South Sudan, Algeria and the two Congos.



Name and Title: Prof. Laeed ZAGHLAMI
Position: Professor in the Faculty of Information and Communication
Organization: Algiers University

Prof. Zaghlami has also served as an expert at the European Union/Algeria Media Program, is an External Examiner at Mauritius University. During his journalism career, Laeed served as a correspondent and freelance journalist for Africanews TV, a reporter and Newscaster with Algerian Broadcasting Corporation, Chief Editor, and Manager of Radio Net, correspondent for Radio World International, correspondent for United Nations Office in Geneva & InfoSud Swiss News Agency.



Name and Title: Ms. Catherine GICHERU
Position: Journalist
Organization: Founder, African Women Journalists Project

Ms. Gicheru is a pioneering editor who has built networks that bring together women journalists, data experts and content specialists to improve coverage of issues that matter. As ICFJ Knight Fellow, she is spearheading a project that drives coverage of underreported gender, health and development issues affecting marginalized groups through the Africa Women Journalism Project (AWJP), where she leads a team of journalists, mentors and data analysts in five African countries (Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Tanzania and Uganda) who are producing smart, data-based storytelling.



Name and Title: Mr. David Malingha DOYA
Position: Bureau Chief
Organization: Bloomberg East Africa

Mr. David Doya is the East Africa Bureau Chief at Bloomberg LP, managing news coverage within the East African region.



Name and Title: Dr. Yemisi AKINBOBOLA
Position: Media Entrepreneur Journalist
Organization: African Women in Media (AWiM)

Dr. Yemisi Akinbobola is a media entrepreneur, and an academic. She is the co-founder of African Women in Media (AWiM), which was established to foster the needs of female African media content producers.



Name and Title: Mr. Solomon MUGERA
Position: Regional Editor
Organization: BBC Africa

Mr. Mugera has more than 20 years of experience as a broadcast journalist. Currently, he is the regional editor for BBC Africa. He oversees the managerial and editorial direction of 12 BBC Africa language services, digital and TV programmes with a combined weekly audience of nearly 100 million. He leads a team that's spread across various locations in Africa and London.



Name and Title: Ms. Cândida MENDES
Position: Journalist
Organization: Rádio Nacional de Angola

Ms. Cândida Mendes has over 29 years of professional experience as a journalist. Currently, she coordinates the International French broadcasting of the National Radio of Angola. Ms. Mendes covered the 5th AU-EU Summit in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. He was participant of the 3rd Edition of the Africa Female Journalist, in Casablanca, Morocco.

Discussant:



Name and Title: Amb. Salah Siddig HAMMAD
Position: Head of the African Governance Architecture (AGA) Secretariat
Organization: African Union Commission

Amb. Hammad is the Head of the African Governance Architecture (AGA) Secretariat and the Senior Human Rights Expert within the Department of Political Affairs of the African Union Commission. He holds an LLM Degree in Human Rights and a Doctorate Degree in International Relations with focus on Human Rights.

Panel 2:

TACKLING THE ROOT CAUSES OF CONFLICT, MEDIA INTERVENTIONS



Name and Title: Mr. Abdisalam AATO
Position: Film maker and storyteller

Mr. Aato is a Somali Filmmaker, Storyteller, and Creative Consultant. He is also founder of Art & Creativity House of Somalia, an organization whose work provides Somalis the opportunity to participate in the arts, exercise their imaginations, and develop their creative capacities.



Name and Title: Mr. Peter BURDIN
Position: Media Practitioner, trainer and mentor
Organization: PBA Media Ltd

Mr. Burdin teaches journalism in leading universities in Africa. He is a former Africa Bureau Chief at BBC and brings more than thirty years of experience as a senior editorial leader in the BBC's international news operations. He now mentors and trains young journalists; is an Ambassador for the Tutu Foundation UK, he's on the Board of the African Leadership University, the South Africa-UK Trust, and is Chair of Trustees for Humanity & Inclusion UK.



Name and Title: Ms. Njeri RUGENE
Position: Consultant Editor and Columnist
Organization: Woman's Newsroom Foundation (WON)

Ms. Rugene is a Consultant Editor and Columnist. Previously, a News Editor the Daily Nation Newspaper in Kenya, now 'Nation.Africa'. She is the founder of Woman's Newsroom Foundation (WON), has over 25 years of experience as a journalist (Reporter, Writer, and Editor) and holds extensive experience in Parliamentary, Political and Gender Affairs reporting.



Name and Title: Ms. Amanda SPERBER
Position: Freelance journalist

Ms. Sperber is a multi-award-winning foreign correspondent and investigative journalist. She has filed for leading international media, breaking stories, producing long form features from rebel-controlled territories previously untouched by NGOs and reporters. Amanda Sperber was a 2018 IWMF Fellow to El Salvador and the Dominican Republic.



Name and Title: Mr. Mohamed SALAHA
Position: Independent Journalist

Mr. Salaha is a journalist based in Mali and reports on conflict matters. Also correspondent for several international media organizations



Name and Title: Mr. Baba AHMED

Position: Freelance journalist in North Mali

Mr. Ahmed is a correspondent for Associated Press and Jeune Afrique in Mali and reports on conflict matters.

Discussant:



Name and Title: Ms. Mary HARPER

Position: Africa Editor

Organization: BBC World Service News

Mary Harper is the Africa Editor at BBC World Service News. She has reported on Africa for the BBC for two decades, and has a special interest in the Horn of Africa, especially Somalia, where she spends much of her time. Much of her work focusses on violent radical Islam in Africa, and sea piracy off its shores. She has reported from many conflict zones including Sierra Leone, Liberia, Sudan, South Sudan, Algeria and the two Congos. Mary is the author of GETTING SOMALIA WRONG? Faith, War and Hope in a Shattered State. She has written for *The Economist*, *Granta*, *The Guardian*, *The Times* and *The Washington Post* and is a regular speaker and moderator at universities, conferences and literary festivals.

MODERATOR OF THE VIRTUAL CONFERENCE:



Name and Title: Ms. Esther Azaa TANKOU

Position: Head, Information Division, Directorate of Information & Communication

Organisation: African Union Commission

CO-MODERATOR:



Name and Title: Ms. Mfrekeobong UKPANAHA

Position: Early Warning Officer, Peace and Security Department

Organisation: African Union Commission