



2020 세계기자대회

# WORLD JOURNALISTS CONFERENCE 2020

14(Mon.) - 16(Wed.) September 2020

## Conference Book I

Various Countries' Examples of and Countermeasures  
to Fake News and The Future of the Journalism

Fake News에 대한 각국 사례와 대응방안  
그리고 언론의 미래

Hosted by  한국기자협회  
JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION OF KOREA

Supported by  Ministry of Culture, Sports  
and Tourism

 Global Inspiration  
GyeongGI-Do

 한국언론진흥재단  
Korea Press Foundation

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# WORLD JOURNALISTS CONFERENCE 2020



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※ World Journalists Conference is funded by the Journalism Promotion Fund raised by government advertising fees.

**Title** World Journalists Conference 2020

**Date** 14(Mon.) - 16(Wed.) September 2020

**Venue** International Convention Hall [20F],  
Korea Press Center

**Hosted by**  JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION OF KOREA

**Supported by**  Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism  Global Inspiration GyeongGI-Do  한국언론진흥재단 Korea Press Foundation

**Theme**

- **Conference I**  
Various Countries' Examples of and Countermeasures to Fake News and The Future of the Journalism
- **Conference II**  
Global Responses to COVID-19 and Disease Control Methods
- **Conference III**  
The 70th anniversary of the Korean War and Peace Policy in the Korean Peninsula

**Objectives**

- **Discuss the development of journalism along with changes in the media environment**
  - Share national journalism situations and discuss the future of journalism to cope with rapidly-changing media environment around the world
  - Seek countermeasures to the global issue of Fake News
  - Make efforts to restore media trust and develop business model sharing
- **Discuss status-quo and role of journalism in each country amid the spread of COVID-19**
  - Share the COVID-19 situation in each country and the quarantine system
  - Protect the public's right to know and address human rights issues related to the infectious disease
  - Introduce Korea's reporting guidelines for infectious diseases
- **The 70th Anniversary of the Korean War and Peace Strategy on the Korean Peninsula**
  - form a consensus on the importance of peace on the Korean Peninsula and the world commemorating in 2020 the 70th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War
  - Let the world know the willingness of Koreans toward World Peace and gain supports
  - Discuss each country's views on the situation on the Korean Peninsula and the role of journalists to improve inter-Korean and North Korea-US relations

## Opening Address



**Although we may have different countries, genders and ideologies, we are journalists.**

Fellow journalists from all over the world. It's a pleasure to meet you. And welcome from the bottom of your heart and soul.

I am Dong Hoon Kim, the president of the Journalists Association of Korea.

Established on 17 August, 1964 and celebrating its 56th anniversary this year, the Journalists Association of Korea is the nation's biggest association of journalists that has more than 10,000 journalists from 188 media companies as members.

First organized in 2013 by the Journalists Association of Korea with the aim of promoting world peace and contributing to the advancement of journalism, the World Journalists Conference is held for the eighth time this year.

For the last seven years, journalists from all over the world have been invited to World Journalists Conference (WJC) to provide them with opportunities to personally experience the reality of the divided Korean Peninsula, which is now the only separated nation on Earth. Thus, this reminds journalists of the importance of peace. Furthermore, I can proudly say that the conference is becoming one of the most significant events for journalists globally with each passing year as it expanded into a conference for mutual exchange and gave opportunities to discuss the future of journalism.

However, as COVID-19 continues to spread globally, we inevitably had to hold the event online this year. Therefore, we regret that we cannot show you the beautiful nature and culture of South Korea and the reality of the divided nation in person. Nevertheless it is equally a relief that we could prepare this event to contribute to the development of the journalism by sharing the situation in each country and mutually and healthily meeting in the online space.

Distinguished journalists,

Although we may have different genders, skin colors, and ideologies, we still share some commonalities. We, journalists, all work hard to make the truth known with a warm heart and cold rationality, ultimately for peace and freedom.

We are pleased to hold online World Journalists Conference 2020 with several distinguished

## Opening Address

journalists from all over the world to discuss the themes of fake news and COVID-19, which are global problems, as well as peace in the Korean Peninsula, as we commemorate the seventieth anniversary of the Korean War this year.

Although we are only meeting online, I hope that you would all exchange opinions and recommendations so that we may all fulfill our calling as journalists as the conference provides us with precious opportunities to discuss major global issues.

Once again, I take this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude for your participation despite your busy schedules, and I hope that this conference would serve as a highly meaningful and beneficial event. Moreover, please make your unexchangeable experiences here widely known among fellow journalists and the people of your country as well.

I look forward to the end of the COVID-19 pandemic and inviting you all to South Korea to show our beautiful traditional culture and how Koreans, who love peace, live.

-

**Dong Hoon Kim**

President  
Journalists Association of Korea

## Congratulatory Message



### Congratulatory Remarks for the World Journalists Conference 2020

Greetings. Let me begin by extending my congratulations on convening the World Journalists Conference 2020, held online this year due to COVID-19.

Despite its relatively short history of 8 years, the World Journalists Conference has been hailed as a shining example of public diplomacy.

I would like to express my appreciation for the hard work of President Dong Hoon Kim and members of the Korea Journalist Association, who managed to put together this meaningful event in these difficult times.

This year's World Journalists Conference looks to the future of journalism through three subjects: fake news, COVID-19, and the 70th anniversary of the Korean War.

As you may well know, the world has been besieged by an epidemic unprecedented in our lifetime and subsequent economic recession. Meanwhile, we are grappling with "fake news" that spreads like wildfire.

I am well aware that in order to avoid inhibiting freedom of expression, regulations that address fake news need to be tailored with a high level of precision. This perspective has driven the Korean government's response to COVID-19 fake news. To the extent that such misinformation poses a serious social problem threatening the health and safety of citizens, the government is making the utmost effort in preventive measures to avert an "infodemic." According to a paper published in a prominent U.S. journal, misinformation about COVID-19 has led to approximately 800 deaths and 5,800 hospitalizations.

That "fake news" poses such a real threat to human lives should sound an alarm.

I believe this demonstrates how vital trustworthy information is. In this regard, allow me to extend my respect to all the journalists around the world joining in this worthwhile occasion.

Distinguished guests from the media and press around the world:

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War.

The two Koreas joined hands two decades ago for the June 15th South-North Joint

## Congratulatory Message

Declaration, and again, two years ago, for the April 27th Panmunjom Declaration, but we have seen no further progress recently.

Nevertheless, our belief remains firm that permanent peace on the Korean peninsula is a noble goal and mission that South and North Korea must achieve.

In fact, the COVID-19 crisis has laid bare the reality that the two Koreas constitute not only a shared community of fates but a shared community of life in terms of public health.

I ask for your continued support of our resolute journey towards a 'Korean peninsula of life and peace.'

We now live in an era where digital technology enables everyone to produce news. However, the flood of information paradoxically throws into sharp relief the value of journalism.

I hope this year's event will serve as a venue of wisdom to reaffirm the importance of journalism and promote solidarity in preparation for the post-COVID-19 era.

Thank you.

-  
Prime Minister **Chung Sye-Kyun**

## Introduction of Journalists Association of Korea



A sentence that records history,  
Images that deliver reality of the scene,  
Journalists who are passionately seeking the truth as their calling,  
And always standing behind them, is the Journalists Association of Korea.

Established on August 17, 1964 based on the consensus of Korean journalists, the Journalists Association of Korea celebrates its 56th anniversary this year.

The association has advocated five principles which are the democratic development of Korea, the improvement of journalists, the protection of freedom of speech, the promotion of friendship amongst the association's members, the achievement of peaceful reunification and homogeneity between North and South Korea, and the strengthening of ties with journalists around the world. The five principles serve as the Association's reason for being and as its ultimate goal.

The Journalists Association of Korea is the nation's biggest media body, boasting a current membership of 188 company members and 10,500 individual journalists. The association delivers 50,000 copies of its weekly paper across the nation to present various key issues and viable alternatives.

Also, the Journalists Association of Korea makes efforts to enhance capabilities of journalists by hosting various forums and seminars, and providing reporters with financial support for short- or long-term training programs or studies at domestic graduate schools. We present the annual Korea Journalist Award, which is the most prestigious and long-standing award in Korea's journalism, as well as the Award for Journalist of the Month. These help raise the status of journalism by boosting the morale of journalists and by encouraging the production of high-quality news articles.

Recently, the Journalists Association of Korea has been committed to ousting fake news given its escalation into a global issue and formed a committee to strengthen the ethics of press to promote ethical awareness of journalists. In addition, the Journalists Association of Korea is working to restore the public's faith in media by collaborating with journalists associations around the world.

At the same time, with a view to bolster the public role of the press, we have steadily engaged in the so-called "talent donation" by sending reporters to elementary, middle and high schools. We also make donation for less fortunate neighbors every year. To give

## Introduction of Journalists Association of Korea



students a chance to deepen their thinking, we host national students essay contest. To boost members' unity and friendship, we hold national reporters soccer competition and reporters climbing contest every year.

Having recognized early on the importance of strengthening the bond with journalists around the world, the Journalists Association of Korea joined the International Federation of Journalists as a full member in 1966. It also interacts regularly with journalists of other nations by exchanging delegates with journalist associations including the All-China Journalists Association in 1993, the Vietnamese Journalists Association in 1994, the Indonesian Journalists Association in 2013, the Confederation of Mongolian Journalists in 2014 and the Association of European Journalists Bulgaria in 2015, the Russian Journalists Association and Delegation of mutual journalists in 2018. The Journalists Association of Korea is also continuously interacting with the US Society of Professional Journalists.

Regular exchanges with reporters from these countries are role model cases in people-to-people diplomacy beyond conventional diplomacy and greatly contribute to harmony and improvement in bilateral relations. Looking forward, we hope to expand our network with more journalists from foreign countries.

In addition, JAK successfully hosted the IFJ's general meeting for the first time in Asia back in 2001, as well as the East Asia Journalist Forum in 2003, the Asia Journalist Forum in 2005, and the IFJ's special general meeting in 2007. We also held a conference with journalists from Korea, China and Vietnam in 2012. We are interacting with international media organizations like the Reporters Without Borders (RSF) for announcing the freedom of speech and the rights of journalists around the world. Organized annually by inviting journalists around the world since 2013, the 2019 World Journalists Conference is held for the eighth time this year.

The Journalists Association of Korea Would like to strengthen its solidarity with journalists from around the world through this World Journalists Conference. Of course, we share the status and quarantine of the COVID-19, which began late last year and spread around the world. And we're looking for a role in the media for a quick end to COVID-19. And I hope you have a chance to discuss ways to increase the credibility of the media in response to Fake News. Especially, with the 70th anniversary of the Korean War this year, we will let the world know our commitment to peace on the Korean we hope that this will serve as an opportunity for global peace and harmony to spread throughout the world, starting with the Korean Peninsula.

# Overview

## Introduction of Journalists Association of Korea



Mr. Dong Hoon Kim, the 47th president of the Journalists Association of Korea, and the Executive Department are determined to communicate with the public, realize social justice and closely monitor those who have power and authorities with keen eyes. Also, we will demonstrate journalism in which we stand by the less-privileged with warm heart. Also, we will take the lead in the efforts for our members' rights and welfare as well as our people's grand unity.

To this end, we will continue to strengthen ties with international outlets and build reliable friendships in the process. And, we will prepare for what lies ahead with constant reform and innovation.

Thank you.

# Overview

## Program

Time	9. 14(Mon.)	9. 15(Tue.)	9. 16(Wed.)
15:00 - 15:05	<b>Opening Address</b>		
15:05 - 15:10	<b>Congratulatory Message</b>	<b>Introduction video</b>	
15:10 - 15:15	<b>Introduction video of R.O.K</b>	<b>Conference II</b> Global Responses to COVID-19 and Disease Control Methods  Presentation & Q&A	<b>Conference III</b> The 70th anniversary of the Korean War and Peace Policy in the Korean Peninsula  Presentation & Q&A
15:15 - 17:00	<b>Conference I</b> Various Countries' Examples of and Countermeasures to Fake News and The Future of the Journalism  Presentation & Q&A		
17:00 - 17:10	<b>Introduction video</b>		
17:10 - 18:00	<b>Debate</b> Various Countries' Examples of and Countermeasures to Fake News and The Future of the Journalism	<b>Debate</b> Global Responses to COVID-19 and Disease Control Methods	<b>Debate</b> The 70th anniversary of the Korean War and Peace Policy in the Korean Peninsula



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# WORLD JOURNALISTS CONFERENCE 2020



**WJC** World  
Journalists  
Conference  
2020

2020 세계기자대회

## Conference I

### Various Countries' Examples of and Countermeasures to Fake News and The Future of the Journalism

- Biography
- Presentation Materials

※ The presentation materials are listed in alphabetical order of country.





## Moderator

### Sisoo PARK

The Korea Times / Journalists Association of Korea  
Digital news desk editor / Chairman of the International  
Exchange Division  
Korea

#### • Curriculum Vitae

Park Si-Soo has been working since 2007 as a English newspaper reporter in South Korea. He is also an author of two books, YouTuber, lecturer and translator (KOR-ENG). Park has featured in various TV and radio shows at home and abroad, including BBC, Arab News, Arirang Radio and TBS eFM, commenting on major issues taking place on the Korean Peninsula. He currently serves as head of the international exchange division of the Journalists Association of Korea.



## Special Speaker

### Min-Kyu LEE

School of Media and Communication, Chung-Ang Univ.  
Professor  
Korea

#### Curriculum Vitae

- Member of Press Arbitration Commission
- President of the Korean Society for Journalism & Communication Studies
- Judge, Korea Reporter Award and Reporter of the Month Award by Journalists Association of Korea
- Dean, Graduate School of Journalism and Broadcasting, Chung-Ang University
- Research Fellow, Korea Press Foundation



## Speaker

### Mashiul ALAM

The Daily Prothom Alo  
Senior Assistant Editor  
Bangladesh

#### • Curriculum Vitae

Mashiul Alam is a journalist, fiction writer and translator based in Dhaka Bangladesh. He studied journalism at People's Friendship University in Moscow, Russia, and received his M. A. in 1993. Presently he is a Senior Assistant Editor at Daily Prothom Alo, a leading Bengali daily in Bangladesh. He writes editorials and op-eds, does interviews, translates and edits. He is especially interested in media and journalism issues.

## Fighting Fake News and the Future of Journalism in Bangladesh

### I.

I often receive phone calls from friends and relatives, and sometimes even from unknown persons, who tell me that they read some news on Facebook, and ask me whether it was published in Daily Prothom Alo (First Light), the newspaper for which I work. If my answer was no, then they took the news as a rumor, which we journalists call 'fake news'. Recently this happens often because the social media is awash with fake news, and people trust my newspaper as a responsible media outlet, that does not publish unauthentic and not factual information. In the similar vein, they believe that daily Prothom Alo does not miss authentic news, which is important to the people. If the piece of information was published by Prthom Alo, the people could be confirmed that it was not fake news.

Thus the general people of Bangladesh find a way not to be misled, instigated or confused by deliberately fabricated and circulated rumors, conspiracy theories, hate speeches, etc. re-circulated by the social media and some of the newly popped up "news portals" who lack professional responsibility and ethics of journalism.

## | Mashiul ALAM

But there are not many trustworthy newsrooms in Bangladesh presently, and their professionalism didn't prove to be enough to fight successfully the big battle with the fake news circulating networks. And, because hate speeches and conspiracy theories go viral very fast, and the task of fact-checking takes some time, they can create serious social tension sometimes. Especially, fake news created and circulated intentionally to hurt religious feelings of a certain community can lead to communal riots. Bangladesh, unfortunately, has had some sad experiences in recent years, when religious minority groups had been attacked after some fake news gone viral on Facebook. Their houses and temples had been burnt by angry mobs before the professional media outlets succeeded to confirm the people that the news was not a news at all, but a blatant rumor fabricated intentionally to instigate them.

Fake news can be fought with authentic news, and some of the professional media outlets in Bangladesh have been trying to do that very hard. So far, their number is limited, though. Besides them, there is University of Liberal Arts (ULAB), a privately owned university which teaches journalism among other disciplines, also has an initiative to help countermeasure fake news. They check authenticity of information circulated mainly on social networks which possibly can create social tension or cause harm to some community, institution or person, and publish factual information on fact-watch.org, their own website.

The government of Bangladesh has so far no institutional initiative to countermeasure fake news. However, there are some laws namely, The Information and Telecommunication Act, and The Digital Security Act, under which making fake news and circulating/sharing it is punishable criminal offence. But in reality, these two legal tools have been abused mainly to harass journalists who try to do independent journalism, and citizens who express views critical to the sitting government and the political party in power. Most of the people who were punished and harassed by these laws so far, were not accused of fake news, but of libels, or 'undermining' powerful people connected with political power.

Fake news is not a new problem, but a very old one. But our society had been able to manage it somehow in the past. It did not create serious problems to such extent as it has been doing in recent years, thanks to very high speed and vast extent of social communication networks. It is essential to fight and defeat fake news, and the ultimate way to do that is to serve the people with authentic information and truth. And that is a duty and professional responsibility of journalism. Independent and ethical journalism only can save the people from the flood of rumors, fake news and conspiracy theories.

## | Mashiul ALAM

### II

But journalism as a profession is in a great crisis now, and its future does not look as bright as it had looked at the start of the new millennium. Rather, as British Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, Oliver Dowden, recently said, it is now in the "biggest existential crisis" in the whole history of the press. The crisis began at least a decade ago, when the press and the media industry started losing advertisement revenues to non-journalistic digital platforms like Google, Facebook, etc. The ongoing Covid-19 pandemic has enhanced the crisis, and caused to raise such existential questions as "can journalism survive?".

Newsrooms are closing, journalists are losing jobs around the world, and Bangladesh is no exception in this regard. Here also the pandemic's consequences are devastating, and the newspaper industry is "nearly on the verge of collapse", according to a recent statement of the Newspapers Owners of Bangladesh (NOAB). The pandemic has caused drastic circulation decline and farther plummeting advertising revenues. The sharp fall in revenues has led to many newspapers closing down or discontinuing print publication and shifting online, mass layoffs, reduction in regular payments, etc. 254 newspapers were forced to close down until the month of June, hundreds of journalists lost their job, and job cut is going on, and no one knows when it may stop.

So, the present crisis of journalism in Bangladesh is very grave, if not "existential". The main way out from this crisis is to stop farther decline of revenue earnings, and that seems very difficult to do since the economic condition of the nation is yet to revive. And there are comprehensions that, even after the economy gets better, the media industry may not get back to the same economic position where it had been before Covid-19. This is because the advertisement revenues may continue to go more and more to non-journalistic digital platforms like Google, Facebook etc. And the printed newspapers may continue to lose circulations as a natural process in this digital age, when young people prefer online media.

So, as I see, the future of Journalism is uncertain. Its economic challenges may lead to shrink the industry, and discourage bright and intelligent young people to come to this profession. And I think, journalism industry will need a new business model to survive. And I hope we shall find one, since the modern world cannot do without journalism; a world without journalism is unviable, and thus, unimaginable. #

## Speaker



### Rethea PANN

The Post Media.Co.ltd  
Sub-editor / Reporter  
Cambodia

#### • Curriculum Vitae

I am PANN RETHEA live in Phnom Penh City, Cambodia and a graduated of the Master of Art in English at Norton University and Master of Law at Cambodian University for Specialties, Bachelor of Art in Khmer at Royal University of Phnom Penh. I am being employed over 10 years' experience as translator and reporter, and sub-editor at The Post Media Co., Ltd (Phnom Penh Post Newspaper). Moreover, I am also being as a lecturer of English language over ten years at universities and institutes in Phnom Penh City.

## The Fake News in Cambodia

### I. What is the fake news?

The Fake news, also known as junk news, pseudo-news, alternative facts or hoax news, is a form of news consisting of deliberate disinformation or hoaxes spread via traditional news media or online social media. Digital news has brought back and increased the usage of fake news, or yellow journalism<sup>1</sup>. Wikipedia

### II. The variety of Fake News and Countermeasures to Fake News in Cambodia.

#### a. The variety of Fake News appeared recently

1. Yellow journalism and the yellow press are American terms for journalism and associated newspapers that present little or no legitimate well-researched news while instead using eye-catching headlines for increased sales. Techniques may include exaggerations of news events, scandal-mongering, or sensationalism.

## | Rethea PANN

- Facebook's & Facebook Page's account name

Ex. TVFB shut down: Phnom Penh municipal police on Tuesday 8 April, 2020 arrested Sovann Rithy, the director-general of news station TVFB in connection with the dissemination of critical information. Under the country's fake news purge, incitement has a detrimental impact on security, social order and social security around government measures to prevent Covid-19.



Figure 1: Sovann Rithy-TVFB

Ex. Dispute over number held for disseminating fake news- Licadho posted on Facebook that several Cambodians had been arrested for sharing rumours on social media, even if they shared the information through private messages. According to the Facebook post, the users either pledged to stop spreading "government-labelled" fake news or were charged and sent to pre-trial detention.

-TikTok's account name

Ex. AC repairman nabbed- An air conditioner repairman in Preah Sihanouk province was arrested after he (Arth Eng) tried and failed to get his ex-wife arrested for posting fake news. Instead, it was he who was arrested for posting Facebook messages threatening to kill the country's leaders, inciting discrimination and insulting the King.



Figure 2: Arth Eng (Central)

### b. The Countermeasures to Fake News

Ex- According to Article 495 of the Cambodian Penal Code, inciting to commit crimes may be punishable by six months to two years of imprisonment and 1 to 4 million riels (\$250 to \$1,000) in fines of Mr. Sovann Rithy, the director-general of news station TVFB.

Ex. Arth Eng, 36, worked as an electrician and air conditioner repairman. He used two Facebook accounts, namely Traing Sela Angkor Thom Phum Prasat and the name, Sela Siem Reap or Sela Prasat. His TikTok's account name is Sela Siem Reap and When questioned by the authority, Eng confessed that he used the names and photos of his ex-wife on Facebook and TikTok accounts out of spite to mislead the police and have her jailed.

Ex-The National police told The Post that nine people were sent to court for sharing fake news about Covid-19 infections, while NGO Licadho claimed 19 people were arrested, 13 of who were released.

## | Rethea PANN

### III. The Future of the Journalism

#### a. Fake news flounders in face of new committee

- Minister of Information Khieu Kanharith formed the Fake News Monitoring Committee in March to help combat the spread of fake news and exaggerated information on social networks. Monitoring Committee in March to help combat the spread of fake news and exaggerated information on social networks has decreased by over 50 per cent.



Figure 3: H.E Khieu Kanharith

#### b. Fake news remains a top priority for ministries amid virus rumours

- The ministries of Information; Interior; and Posts and Telecommunications are increasing efforts to work with Facebook to weed out fake news causing disorder in the Kingdom in the wake of misinformation regarding the deadly coronavirus outbreak. Information and broadcasting director-general, Phos Sovann said on Wednesday that the ministries are now collaborating with Facebook to manage and get rid of websites and Facebook users who spread fake news to cause social chaos. "Our relevant ministries have collaborated with Facebook. The company tells us that if any websites or Facebook account users commit wrongdoing, it will allow us to report the case to it to delete the fake news. "If websites or Facebook account users still spread the same fake news, we will request Facebook to delete the website or Facebook accounts," he said.



Figure 4: Mr. Phos Sovann

#### c. Anti-fake news site online

- The Women's Media Centre of Cambodia (WMC) has launched an information verification website named 'Crosscheck WMC' to combat the spread of misinformation on social media. It will enable the public to verify information from a number of sources to identify whether the information is true or otherwise. A WMC press release said the site is an important first step in the fight against fake news, which has become widespread in Cambodian society. WMC executive director Oung Chanthol said the site aims to make crosschecking information easier by providing the public with verified and accurate information. "The creation of Crosscheck WMC is the first information authentication site in Cambodia and a commitment to



Figure 6: WMC

## | Rethea PANN

disseminating accurate information.

### d. Fake news guide for journos

- UNESCO Cambodia and the Ministry of Information on Thursday released a handbook on journalism education and training entitled Fake News and Disinformation to help strengthen and enhance the professional capacity of journalists and journalism students in Cambodia. The book, which was unveiled at a ceremony, aims to encourage journalists to verify their facts and ensure accuracy before publishing articles on public media platforms. Its country representative to Cambodia Sardar Umar Alam said at the ceremony that the progress of the internet has led to significant changes in media management policies. Digital technology has facilitated the access to and use of large amounts of data for the media, Alam said.



Figure 5: UNESCO country representative to Cambodia Sardar Umar Alam

## Speaker



### Margaret OJALVO

Oja Noticias, El Mundo al instante, Free Lance  
Director and Journalist  
Colombia

#### • Curriculum Vitae

Margaret is a Colombian senior journalist. She studied journalism and communications at university Externado de Colombia, and marketing management specialist from Politécnic Gran Colombiano University. She has more than 30 years of experience in TV, Radio, newspapers and on line media. Started as a reporter in a Colombian prime time TV News "Noticiero Nacional". She is has been director and anchorwoman from many TV and Radio news shows. She writes for Oja Noticias, Evaluamos, El Mundo Al Instante, and special articles for Portafolio and more. She was honored with "National Press Award "Simón Bolívar", for best TV coverage. \*This is the most important and relevant press award in Colombia. She won the "International Candean Press Medicine Award". Is an important Latin America's press award.

## "Fake News" Another Really Dangerous Pandemic

'Fake News' is growing day by day with the dangerous purpose of misinforming, disorienting, and building within the public opinion erroneous concepts about politics, governments, candidates, products, leaders, trends, the coronavirus pandemic, basically anything and everything that people pay attention to, to lead the people to act, elect, vote or have opinions impacting what is perceived as truth all over the world.

While disseminating deceptive information is not a new practice. However, the environment created by social networks has been ideal to propagate false messages masked as real news.

This environment, found in Twitter, Facebook and Whatsapp, the most popular social networks, allows anybody to post opinions and ideas that their followers may believe and,

## | Margaret OJALVO

in a carefree way, forward, share, repost or retweet to hundreds or thousands of their followers, who in their turn may also retweet, share, etc, to hundreds more followers, creating an exponential effect not unlike that of the spread of COVID 19. For some years, these big social networks let these misinforming messages flow without issue.

Surely, the moment when the world understood the harmful and dangerous of this practice, which is never to be considered as journalism, was during the United States presidential elections of 2016, when Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump were candidates. US intelligent agencies found that Russian agents and bots carried out a misinformation campaign in Facebook to sow discord in favor of one of the candidates and harm his rival. As never seen before, 'fake news' took center stage as the elections unfolded and most likely influenced the final results.

At this moment of history in the United States as well as in other regions of the world like in Europe and Latin America, social networks and polls were strong protagonists. We experienced cases of marketing professionals, advisors, advertisers, public relationists and the politicians themselves, investing heavily in social platforms to reach voters and influence them to elect their own candidates.

Currently, social networks are implementing controls and protocols to identify and block users who spread false information, but many platforms have not.

Facebook, with 2.45 billion monthly active users and in the second quarter of 2020 its total revenues amounted USD\$18.7 billion, said that it is preparing measures and technological solutions to face fake news. Twitter announced a zero-tolerance policy to manipulation of information on platforms.

Since the pandemic began on March of this year, millions of fake articles and posts regarding coronavirus have been detected. Only the social network Facebook said it had identified some 100 million cases of misinformation on the subject and removed 7 million.

The traditional media as we know like newspapers, radio and TV also became digital with large coverage and have strong presence on networks like Twitter and Facebook.

Alongside the large media outlets, small media outlets and blogs have a space today in the news world. It is an immense range that does not comply in all cases with the journalistic manuals in ethics, style, writing and don't include, at least, two credible and serious sources

## | Margaret OJALVO

in articles or stories they publish. Today with a mobile it is easy to tell a video story, or upload a podcast with an interview or a traffic accident. Anyone can ask and anyone can answer.

The question is who is the reporter and who is the source? The source is vital, the facts are fundamental, the journalist must be a professional with knowledge of the topics, analytical skills, common sense and a good writer or storyteller. One source is never enough. The minimum is two. The journalist should ask as much as possible and record the interview to have it on file and to help their memory.

### **Latin America must understand and act with knowledge and education**

Detecting fake news is not easy. According to Forbes Magazine Colombia about 70% of Latin Americans do not differentiate fake news from real journalism. A study by 'Kaspersky and Corpa' found that Perú with 79%, Colombia with 73% and Chile with 70% are the countries in this region in which the audience least identify posts and stories that are fake news.

Latin American countries must know and understand the problem and face it from different fronts. The consequences and scope of fake news impact the political, social, economic, academic fields, among others, as well as many aspects of their development and relationships regionally and globally.

Latin American media outlets must work very hard to understand the real problem, ensuring that readers, TV viewers, radio listeners and followers always receive true, validated and secure news. This is supported by quality controls, continuous training for journalists, keeping them updated in new trends and good practices. Having a strong relationship with the academy in particular with Schools of Journalism and News and Media Observatories as well as tracking and monitoring this ecosystem throughout the region and globally.

Build and maintain a continuous exchange of knowledge on this subject with regional and global associations and the international academy is paramount.

Education and timely information are the key for journalists, editors, directors to identify and fight fake news. Education is the key for the media.

We are in a very polarized world, much more online. One of the objectives of being in social networks is to have many followers, many of them are unknown. "You don't always know who is who. You can't always look into each other's eyes".

## | Margaret OJALVO

<https://www.statista.com/statistics/422035/facebooks-quarterly-global-revenue/>  
<https://forbes.co/2020/05/08/tecnologia/estos-son-los-paises-de-latinoamerica-donde-hay-mas-confusion-por-fake-news/>  
<https://www.univision.com/noticias/politica/que-papel-busca-jugar-facebook-en-las-elecciones-de-2020-medio-de-comunicacion-o-plataforma-neutra>  
<https://www.semana.com/tecnologia/articulo/facebook-ha-eliminado-7-millones-de-noticias-falsas-sobre-el-coronavirus/693501>



## Speaker

### Luis Francisco BEIRO ALVAREZ

Listin Diario Newspaper  
Editor  
Dominican Republic

#### • Curriculum Vitae

Cuban journalist, currently in the Dominican Republic and a member of the Union of Journalists of Cuba. Since 2000, he has been Editor of the Listin Diario newspaper, the dean of the Dominican Republic press. Winner of the Caonabo de Oro Award (Association of Writers and Journalists). Author of: Jewels of Korean Cinema (2011), New Jewels of Korean Cinema (2016), Korean Cinema: The Miracle of the Han River (2019), among other publications.

## Various Countries Examples and Countermeasures To Fake News and future of the journalism

In less than six months, the Dominican Republic has gone from being a country of print newspaper readers to a country of digital newspaper readers.

Digital journalism is much more demanding and original than print. Simple information has been turning into background analysis, research, and content work.

Digital journalism is currently displacing social networks, which little by little have been leaving their communication function to limit themselves exclusively to information due to the brevity required by Twitter, Facebook, Tic Tok and others.

Digital journalism has turned into allied sources for its investigations as scientists, environmentalists, doctors, physicists, bioanalysts and in a general sense, professionals who before the pandemic were not taken into account by a general reader. From an intuitive informant, one has become an informant who knows the different branches of knowledge through training and studies.

## | Luis Francisco BEIRO ALVAREZ

In the Dominican Republic, Listín Diario, the newspaper where I work as Editor, has its own agenda and content. Already the daily news such as politics, elections, commerce, tourism, accidents, etc., have changed the way of approach and are being transformed into their own investigations whose contents go out of the ordinary framework.

For example, when a person commits gender violence, not only the fact and its characteristics are exposed, but the commissioner and the victim are investigated, their past and present, sources are sought with specialists in the field, lawyers, teachers, religious and opinion leaders to expose the aggravating or mitigating circumstances of the event.

This example is common to all sections of digital journalism. Furthermore, this has made it possible to end the barrier of so-called "interviewed journalism" that has done so much damage to our profession. The empire of photo and design displays to accommodate deep and analytical journalism is now being left behind.

This has been happening with newspapers in the Dominican Republic, a small island where sometimes the statistical information on deaths from the pandemic is not as transparent as it should be.

Dominican newspapers are eliminating the disorderly, capricious and remote-controlled information by politicians and big businessmen that undermined print journalism to take advantage of the intense and profound changes that journalism work has undergone in the time of coronavirus.

The diversity of digital media is another point in favor of this new journalism where the communication professional can open his mind and express his points of view, always documented and duly endorsed, either in the different sections, supplements or magazines of the newspaper.

### Fake News

Paraphrasing Karl Marx, "a ghost haunts the world / the ghost of Fake News".

## Speaker



### Ashraf DALI

Asia Journalists Association / The Silk Road Literature Series  
President / Editor-in-chief  
Egypt

#### • Curriculum Vitae

- Editor in Chief, THE SILK ROAD LITERATURE SERIES
- Worked in Cultural Journalism for 30 years, authored and translated 35 books.
- Man of Culture for the Year, 2012, Tatarstan, Russia
- Manhae Prize in Literature, 2014, the Republic of Korea
- Arab Journalism Award in Culture, in 2015, UAE
- President, Asia Journalist Association since April 2016

## Fake News & the Future of Journalism Al Jazeera: A Case Study

Fake news started to be criticized at a long scale after the spread of supporting social media platforms.

While media has been connected with fake news and silly propaganda since the birth of newspapers and the broadcasting of radio stations and TV channels; the help of Facebook, Twitter, and other social media platforms, created a huge focus on them.

Fake news has become no longer restricted to its original sources, because the new easy platforms in all hands were able to double their spread in an unprecedented way.

When Al Jazeera Media Network was launched in November 1996, it had a very famous slogan to identify itself: "The Opinion and The Other Opinion". This simple and basic statement is the core of the message not respected by Al Jazeera Media Network.



## | Ashraf DALI

Fake news do not mean publishing wrong facts alone; they also mean hiding the correct ones.

Al Jazeera Media Network is a news channel for public benefit under Qatari law. Under this structure, Al Jazeera Media Network receives funding from the government of Qatar, but this funding has a price that made Al Jazeera losing its independence. Al Jazeera kept following the guidelines applied by the Qatari owner.

After the political upheavals of the Arab Spring, Al Jazeera aligned itself with Islamist political parties such as Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood, and other radical Islamists when backing Islamist fighters in rebellions that took place in Syria and Libya.

Then came the moment of truth; when the Gulf States considered those political Islamists groups were working against the political systems inside the Gulf itself.

To their surprise, it was revealed that Qatar, with help of Al Jazeera's presence, paid a huge amount of money, besides sending critical information to military in Yemen that caused the fatalities of many of UAE fighters and Saudi soldiers in Yemen.

Eventually, four countries moved to response, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Bahrain and Egypt, to stop the financial and media wars led by Qatar against them.

In addition to stop supporting Hamas (the Palestinian resistance movement) and Muslim Brotherhood, expulsing their members from Qatar, the four countries were clear to ask for ceasing the broadcast of the Al Jazeera news channel, which was considered the strong hand of Qatar to interfere in the political and economic scene in the region.

One of the many resigned journalists who quitted Al Jazeera, Aktham Suliman, told DW in Berlin: "we suddenly found ourselves in a situation in which our reporting was precisely aligned with Qatari foreign policy."

It could be right to follow Qatari foreign policy and tell the truth at the same time, but the opposite did happen.

Al Jazeera was found to be wholly deceptive and journalistically unprofessional in a report published by Al Ahram, Egypt. After the collapse of the Egyptian regime, 22 members of staff of Al Jazeera's Egyptian bureau announced their resignation on July 8, 2013, citing "biased" coverage of the ongoing Egyptian power redistribution in favor of the Muslim Brotherhood.

## | Ashraf DALI

In September 2013, a court in Cairo ordered Al Jazeera to stop broadcasting in Egypt, claiming it was "inciting violence that led to the deaths of Egyptians."

Late videos discovered confirmed how Al Jazeera used to fabricate fake videos to mislead their viewers.

The fake news does not come directly from Al Jazeera; they can also be generated by its members on Social Media.

After disaster of the Port of Beirut, Ahmed Mansour, most famous Egyptian journalist of Al Jazeera claimed that Beirut silos were built by the Ottomans more than 150 years ago, and this is why it resisted the explosion!

This was one of the fake news series, as Kuwait financed the grain silos project in the port of Beirut, by a loan agreement between the Fund for Arab Economic Development and Lebanon which was approved in accordance with the law dated March 16, 1970.

Al Jazeera staff journalists do not follow any line of professionalism in doing their job, as long as fake news is ready to support their mission.

For the sake of future journalism, we need giant news networks, but they must be honest to prevent fake news. There are two ways to stop fake news; the technological one - by stopping the availability of their resources and platforms, but this is – somehow - the dictatorship school applied currently in the region.

The other way is to create alternatives. They could be technological alternatives, by allowing users to live in other news spaces via VR glasses. We can also detain all fake news platforms by blacklisting them. But I believe that the most effective way in journalism is to be transparent, honest, and trusted. When people trust you, they will not follow the opposite.



## Speaker

### Sabina INDERJIT

IFJ /Indian Journalists Union  
Vice President /Secretary General  
India

#### • Curriculum Vitae

Sabina Inderjit is third generation journalist, who continues to be of the old school of thought and cherish journalism values. She is a senior journalist and is presently Associate Editor of India News & Feature Alliance, based out of Delhi. She is Secretary General, Indian Journalists Union; Vice President of International Federation of Journalists; has been a former member of Press Council of India for two terms.

## Journalism is all Facts, No Place for Fake News

“A functioning press and democracy require criticism, transparency, and consequences for journalistic mistakes. They also require that we’re able to collectively distinguish them from lies and deception. Otherwise...real information will be painted as fake, and manufactured (rubbish) gets presented as fact.” - Craig Silverman

The quote couldn’t be more apt for the topic under discussion. In these unprecedented times the role of the media-- the fourth pillar of democracy, is very critical given its mandate to inform the citizen/ public about what’s happening as well as help build public opinion. However, over the years this task is getting gradually blurred with advent of technological changes and ‘Fake News’ creeping across the globe, beyond borders.

These two words are making the fraternity cringe as in one stroke these undermine and discredit the noble profession of journalism as it is to me and those who still believe in its philosophy of it being a ‘public service’. However, the hit is not necessarily in the traditional media but fake news stories unquestionably are flourishing via social media, effortlessly

## | Sabina INDERJIT

and swiftly, making it difficult to separate the wheat from the chaff and at times it’s too late for damage control.

According to UNESCO ‘fake news’ is an oxymoron which lends itself to undermining the credibility of information which does indeed meet the threshold of verifiability and public interest – i.e. real news. ‘Powerful new technology makes the manipulation and fabrication of content simple, and social networks dramatically amplify falsehoods peddled by States, populist politicians, and dishonest corporate entities, as they are shared by uncritical publics.’

In fact there is no clear definition of fake news. While US President Donald Trump can be credited for making the two words-- “fake news” make headlines, the jargon according to media experts ‘exists within a larger ecosystem of mis-and disinformation.’ While misinformation is false or inaccurate information that is mistakenly or inadvertently created or spread; the intent is not to deceive. Disinformation is false information that is deliberately created and spread “in order to influence public opinion or obscure the truth”.

Be it “fake news” or ‘disinformation’, governments across the world are alarmed and have tried to deal with the crisis—rightly or wrongly --is a debate which shall be never-ending. Individual States have considered regulation and laws to tackle the problem.

As I come from the world’s largest democracy, India, the second-largest online market, behind China with 574 million active internet users and it is estimated that by 2020-end the numbers would go up to 639 million, let me start and share what counter measures are being taken.

There is grave concern that mischievous and false posts on social media and messaging platforms like Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp and Google have played havoc in number of States and many lives lost, either in riots, violence, election time, etc. Whatsapp is the most popular messaging platform and posts are largely related to ‘political’ and ‘religious’ matters. Governments have so far tackled the issue with a knee jerk reaction simply shutting down internet for hours, days or months, with J&K being the longest! According to the Freedom House, India is the world leader in internet shutdowns, with 100 reported shutdowns in 2018 alone.

While there is no specific legislation to deal with ‘fake news’ like some other countries, there are number of offenses under India’s Penal Code which criminalise certain forms of

## | Sabina INDERJIT

speech that may constitute “fake news” and apply to online or social media content. In fact, there is an alarming trend among State governments i.e. those who do not find a particular telecast or report or a post to be in sync with their political ideologies, would register First Information Reports (FIRs, which could lead to imprisonment) against journalists, primarily to harass and intimidate them and get them to succumb to the line of the State or else face the music at the hands of the police. Latest estimate is that since the pandemic, over 55 journalists have been charged or harassed by the police across the country for “creating fictitious articles”, especially when the articles were controversial. A clear misuse of the law!

At the same time Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000, empowers the central government, or any of its authorised officer, to direct an intermediary to block public access to information generated, transmitted, received, stored or hosted in any computer resource. The intermediary who fails to comply with the direction shall be punished with an imprisonment for a term which may extend to seven years and shall also be liable to fine.

Recently, the Indian government issued a directive to all social media companies asking them to actively prevent sharing of fake news on their platforms, raise awareness, take down any mis-informative posts and offer genuine news sources on their platforms.

And while social media platforms are taking steps, though small, the Government has its Press Information Bureau setting up a fact-checking unit to verify news involving government ministries, departments, and schemes and asked the public to send across any information they want verified. It claims it is ‘an attempt to curb false information being shared on social media,’ by putting out the factual position after checking with the Ministry concerned. The attempt is limited to government news but it may expand, which could lead to hurdles for the media to report independently.

Let me now move over to some other countries which have initiated counter measures or are contemplating against spread of fake news as reported in the media and on internet. The list is not exhaustive but I do hope of course that these are verified and not ‘disinformation’. I have sought to doubly check but am more than willing to stand corrected if any participant from these countries would like to draw my attention to it. This is in consonance with the right spirit of responsible and good journalism.

Some Examples:

- Singapore: has enacted a controversial ‘Protection from Online Falsehoods and

## | Sabina INDERJIT

Manipulation Act’ (POFMA) which empowers any government minister to issue a range of corrective directions against online ‘falsehoods’ deemed to be against the public interest. Non-compliance with directions would be an offence that individuals can be fined up to S\$20,000 and/or imprisoned for up to 12 months. For non-individuals, they may be liable to a fine up to S\$500,000.

- Sri Lanka: The government introduced 5-year jail terms for those caught spreading fake news and hate speech on social media following a surge in online vitriol and disinformation in the aftermath of the Easter suicide terror attacks. Offenders will also be fined one million rupees.
- Cambodia: has introduced fake news law under which anyone posting misinformation on social media or websites can be punished with up to two years in jail and fines of US\$1,000. Besides all websites have been told to register with its Ministry of Information.
- Vietnam: Has a new Cybers security Law which requires the likes of Facebook/ Google to open offices and store data in the country, remove ‘toxic’ fake news content from their platforms when asked to by government and, in specific cases for law enforcement, hand over user data to the authorities.
- Thailand: has adopted the Computer-Related Crime Act in 2016, which equips the government with the ability to clamp down on anyone propagating information online it deems ‘false’.
- Malaysia: It was the first to adopt the Ant-Fake News Act 2018, which critics felt was used to curb free speech ahead of last year’s General elections, which Prime Minister Razak eventually lost. Fortunately, the new government under Mahatir scrapped the law making “fake news” a crime, as it was aimed at curbing dissent.
- China: Spreading fake news that seriously disturbs public order through an information network or other media is a crime under its Criminal Law, punishable by up to 7 years in prison. The 2016 Cybersecurity Law prohibits manufacturing or spreading fake news online that disturbs economic and social order. It also requires service providers, when providing services of information publication or instant messaging, to ask the users to register their real names.
- Russia: Last March it passed a law with tough new fines for Russians who spread what

## | Sabina INDERJIT

the authorities regard as 'fake news' or who show "blatant disrespect" for the State online. Authorities may block websites that don't meet requests to remove inaccurate information and individuals can be fined up to 400,000 rouble (\$6,109.44) for circulating false information online that leads to a "mass violation of public order".

- Australia: While there has been no serious talk of passing a law banning fake news, politicians across the board have been pressuring the biggest social media platforms to be more vigilant and remove fake news before it becomes a problem.
- France: Passed two anti-fake news laws in 2018 to rein in false information during election campaigns, aiming to empower judges to order the immediate removal of "fake news" during election campaigns. The law also allows the CSA, the French national broadcasting agency, to render the authority to suspend TV channels "controlled by a foreign State or under the influence" of that State if they "deliberately disseminate false information likely to affect the sincerity of the ballot." In simple words France has the power to take on any foreign TV station suspected of spreading "false news."
- Germany: Passed a law 'Network Enforcement Act', commonly known as NetzDG last year for social media companies, such as Facebook and Twitter, to quickly remove hate speech. The law requires large social media platforms, such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube, to promptly remove "illegal content," as defined in 22 provisions of the criminal code, ranging widely from insult of public office to actual threats of violence. Faced with fines up to 50 million euro, companies are already removing content to comply with the law.
- UK: Currently, it doesn't have any legislation that regulates the validity of news posted by online platforms, but proposed legislation is pending, as 'Fake news' has recently been recognized as an issue that poses a potential national security threat, with foreign actors seeking to influence UK citizens. Several government reports issued on this subject have recommended introduction of a duty on tech companies to remove content identified as harmful or face fines.
- European Union: Heads of State will urge governments to share information on threats via a new warning system, launched by the bloc's executive. They will also call for online platforms to do more to remove misleading or illegal content.
- Egypt: Has three domestic laws on Anti-Cybercrime, Regulating the Press and Media, and

## | Sabina INDERJIT

the Penal Code to regulate distribution of information and ensure its accuracy in both print and online media, including on social networks. The government is fighting what is considered misinformation by suspending websites and social media accounts, trying to establish a local social media platform to replace Facebook, creating a hotline to report false news circulating on social media outlets, imposing fines on newspapers posting news deemed false by the Egyptian authorities, and arresting and detaining individuals whom the government accuses of spreading false news through social media platforms.

- Saudi Arabia: Citizens and expats who spread rumours on social media could be jailed for up to 5 years and fined SR3 million (\$800,000) under measures to counter false information regarding the coronavirus pandemic.
- Brazil: Its Senate has passed the 'Law of Freedom, Responsibility and Transparency on the Internet', which makes it a crime, punishable with 1-5 five years in prison, to create or share content that allegedly poses a serious risk to "social peace or to the economic order" without defining those terms; to be a member of an online group knowing that its primary activity is focused on sharing defamatory messages, even if the member has not created or shared those messages; requires internet communication platforms to collect users' ID and cell phone numbers to open messaging and email accounts. But whether it would go through the Congress is anybody's guess.

The above cases, though not exhaustive, do portray a disturbing scenario for journalism of today and its future. Not just because of the onslaught of fake news, which has blurred the distinction between good and the bad, the truth and the lie, but of the nagging fear that Governments are increasingly using or are going to use as a justification to restrict independent media which is critical and even free speech. In India, my union the Indian Journalists Union has been vocal about this dangerous trend where governments under the guise of fake news or false complaints, or hate speech are doing good journalists in and seeking to censor news and even opinion. They claim it's false or fake news, but who should decide?

In numerous occasions, International Federation of Journalists has sought to draw a distinction and is of firm opinion that authorities cannot pick and choose what classifies as 'fake news' without a detailed report on what has been found as false and why. Government efforts to censor and block publications without explanation are detrimental to democracy and free speech.

## | Sabina INDERJIT

Besides, rapid technological changes which allow social media and news platforms unrestricted free viewership will impact the sheer quality of journalism, by squeezing out the traditional media. The IFJ insists major news platforms like Facebook and Google rake in billions in profits but pay few taxes and produce no original news content. This needs to change. More needs to be done, specially when fake news on platforms puts a question mark on the credibility of the entire media.

Other than social media platforms and messaging groups, it is important that journalists and their organisations play a proactive role in curbing the trend. Today there is need to look within, introspect and see where we are heading and how soon will this juggernaut of fake news engulf the fourth estate, if checks are not put in place.. For media is and shall remain a public good – i.e. serve public interest not political agendas or corporate greed.

While media companies and digital online sites are slowly but surely taking fact checking on a serious note and some start ups have emerged, it is important that we as journalists do our every bit to check the spread of fake news. We need to ensure that the younger generation does not forget what perhaps our generation is gradually losing – i.e. the thumb rule of ethical journalism. If we protect and safeguard this, we perhaps may be successful in protecting the future.



## Speaker

### Pragya SAINI

Indiatimes | Times Internet Pvt Ltd.  
Senior Video Producer  
India

#### • Curriculum Vitae

Pragya Saini is an experienced journalist with nearly 8 years of work under her belt. She currently works with Indiatimes, an online news and lifestyle platform, where she creates and anchors non-fiction video content on various socio-political issues.

## Various Countries' Examples of and Countermeasures to Fake News and The Future of the Journalism

Anyong hashimnikka. Hello everyone. It's a pleasure for me to be a part of this year's Korean World Journalists Conference. Hope you're all safe and healthy. I don't think any of us ever imagined that the world would encounter a pandemic such as this. It would not be wrong to say that the coronavirus pandemic has wreaked havoc on countries, with economies suffering, rising unemployment to the over burdening of the health systems and social unrest. And amidst all of this, misinformation around coronavirus in many countries, including India has created a sense of false fear and exasperation among the people.

Let me give you glimpse of what's been happening in India:

- So misinformation targeting Muslims spiked in the first week of April. This was after several members of an Islamic group called the Tablighi Jamaat, who had attended a religious gathering in Delhi, tested positive. As more members of the group tested positive, false claims about Muslims deliberately spreading the virus became viral.
- There were many false claims which were being circulated on Whatsapp Forwards that drinking cow urine or soaking yourself in cow-dung or drinking a stew made of ginger,

## | Pragma SAINI

basil and other herbs can cure coronavirus.

- Reports of self-stigma and societal stigma are also very much prevalent. For example, a man in India killed himself because he thought he had coronavirus infection and couldn't deal with the guilt and shame of contracting the virus and infecting the family, along with an impression of how the society will react to that.
- A myth about consuming highly concentrated alcohol for disinfecting the body and killing the virus had also been circulating in India. At least 12 people, including children, died after drinking liquor made from toxic seed Dhatura. The victims had reportedly watched a video on social media that Dhatura seeds give immunity against COVID-19.
- False claims were also widely spread in India that eating vegetarian food and eliminating meat from your diet could prevent you getting coronavirus. The government launched campaigns to stop the spread of such misinformation.
- Some of the most viral false information has included fake claims that former top Indian cricketer Sachin Tendulkar had asked for meat shops to be shut.
- The Indian authorities made an assessment that by April, misinformation about meat-eating generally had contributed to losses of up to 130bn rupees in the poultry industry.
- India along with 132 other countries is now a part of the United Nations' campaign against the spread of misinformation on coronavirus .
- Through the initiative, the Indian government is calling on people to "pause" before sharing content that may be false or have misinformation on social media.
- The World Health Organization has called this an infodemic as well. And rightly so. This infodemic is as real as Covid-19. It's mostly through people's actions as well that the spread of misinformation on coronavirus has come down in India over the last couple of months.
- Well, as far as the other topic i.e. future of journalism is concerned, I'm afraid I won't be able to do justice to it in the time that has been allotted for it. For this topic merits and entire session altogether, in my opinion.
- But just to give you a brief context of what's happening in the Indian news media, especially the television news, the race to get the maximum TRPs has led most of the news channels

## | Pragma SAINI

into this horrible cycle of propagating news in a sensational manner.

- Issues such as contraction of our GDP, rising unemployment etc. which are ailing our country, which ideally should have been discussed on our prime-time debates have been overshadowed by discussions on the conspiracy theories about the apparent death by suicide of an Indian film actor.
- But having said that, there are a lot of online platforms, video based, text based and meme-based which are doing a better job at journalism, I would say, than the conventional TV channels in our country. They're calling them out on social media regularly about their double-standards or rather their deteriorating standards in journalism.

With this I conclude my points. There's a lot to say but I'm afraid I'll exceed the time limit allotted to me. Nevertheless, thanks a lot for listening to me and if you have any questions, I'd be happy to answer. Thank You!



## Speaker

### Mohammad NASIR

Indonesian Journalists' Association (PWI)  
Director of Public Services of PWI  
Indonesia

#### • Curriculum Vitae

- Now he is a director of Welfare and Public Services at Indonesian Journalists' Association (Persatuan Wartawan Indonesia/ PWI).
- Vice Chairman of Adinegoro Multimedia Education Foundation – Dr Soetomo Press Institute (LPDS).
- Head of Education and Training at Indonesian Cyber Media Union (SMSI).
- An assessor of Journalist competency test at PWI.
- He was borne in 1958 at Lamongan, Indonesia. He was a journalist of Kompas, morning daily (1989-2018).

### Purifying Contaminated Information from the Fake News\*1

At least since one decade ago, when social media are growing and bringing some fake news, Indonesian press are facing the serious problem of the contamination of information environment. Such as the contaminated water, it needs to be purified, it needs lots of costs for purifying it when we want to use it for drinking. For treatment we should identify where the contamination come from, what's kind of pollutant, and finally we should select what's treatment will we do? For doing that, we must have knowledge and good strategy for purifying the contaminated water. What about the contaminated information?

The contaminated information will be dangerous for being consumed. It will mislead people, delude everyone who use it, and jeopardize the media which spread it, because people would not trust the media: printed media, electronic media, or online media. This is the reason why many mainstream media keep up the quality of their news, they must work

1. This paper is shared to the audience of the World Journalist Conference (WJC) 2020 in Seoul, South Korea

## | Mohammad NASIR

hard to get pure of information, not fake news, not misleading news, not disinformation, and not misinformation.

Purifying the information to be real information is not easy to do, because it is the big project that cannot be finished for one month. It takes several years for doing it. It is a big job, and need to do seriously and continuously. We have known that journalism has been surrounded by fake news, disinformation, and misinformation (false or inaccurate information). The cacophony of disinformation in social media often leak to the press media, and as soon as will drown the real information, and the media itself. So now, let's fight against the roots of fake news.

Where should we start fighting the fake news? Do we want to fight it from inside or outside factors? From inside of the news media organization, we have to identify and check the capability, professionalism in many skills of journalism. A bad interview, sloppy verification, and unskilled journalist in surveying, will allow fake news and polluting information come into the news room.

The news fake in this context, conflate misinformation and disinformation. Without awareness of journalism competence, news room will be easy to be penetrated by malicious actors who spread fake news. The malicious actors who intent to disrupt the information become disorder, here then we call it as outside factor. They arrange communication strategy to create the disorder information for their special interests, not for public interest.

In the article Thinking About "Information Disorder": Formats of Misinformation, Disinformation, and Mal-Information, in the book of Journalism, "Fake News"& Disinformation (published in 2018 by United Nation Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, Paris), Claire Wardle and Hossein Derachsan wrote: "...misinformation is information that is false, but the person who is disseminating it believes that is true. Disinformation is information that is false and the person who is disseminating it knows it is false. It is deliberate, intentional lie, and points to people being actively disinformed by malicious actors". According to them, misinformation, included false connection (headlines, visual or caption do not support the content), and misleading content. While disinformation, included false context, imposter content, manipulated, and fabricated content.

Do we want to fight directly the source of fake news as the outside factors, or we want to fight from inside by strengthen capacity, competence, and awareness to avoid the fake news, including disinformation, and misinformation? Which strategy do we want to choose?

## | Mohammad NASIR

### Indonesia Chose Press Education

Indonesia has chosen both of those strategies, but much more doing press educations and giving some tests of journalist competence (Uji Kompetensi Wartawan/UKW) to see how are journalist competence at the moment. Tests have been given according to their level: young journalists (1- 3 years experiences), middle (madya/editor) journalist, and prime journalists (executive editors and editor in chief). With the education programs and the test of journalist competence, we hope the capacity, capability of journalist skills will increase, and they will reject all kinds of fake news: misinformation and disinformation. The quality of information as press productions will be increasingly better and better, and the people trust to the press media increase too, due to media could purify information.

In Indonesia, the fighting against fake news have being commanded by Press Council (Dewan Pers) and is followed by all of its constituents, and some mainstreams media such as Kompas Daily and the groups, Media Indonesia Group, Tempo, Jawa Pos Group, Rakyat Merdeka, Pikiran Rakyat, The Jakarta Post, Detikcom, and others. And also educational sector: universities, and Dr Soetomo Press Institute (Lembaga Pers Dr Soetomo/LPDS) always involve in the media literacy program.

Every institution and media organization are fighting fake news by themselves or working together. For instance, LPDS always works together with some media or press organization to hold journalist education/workshop program, and journalist competency test, to see how competence journalists at the moment. The same programs have been held by press or media organization as Press Council constituents i.e: Indonesian Journalists' Association (Persatuan Wartawan Indonesia/PWI), Aliansi Jurnalis Independen (AJI), Indonesian Cyber Media Union (Serikat Media Siber Indonesia/SMSI), Ikatan Jurnalis Televisi Indonesia (IJTI), Serikat Penerbit Pers (SPS), Persatuan Radio Siaran Swasta Nasional Indonesia (PRSSNI), Asosiasi Televisi Lokal Indonesia (ATVLI), Asosiasi Televisi Swasta Indonesia (ATVSI), Pewarta Foto Indonesia (PFI), dan Asosiasi Media Siber Indonesia (AMSI).

All press organizations that's organized by Press Council have learnt and identified journalist skills that need to be improved, which areas are still weak to avoid fake news, disinformation and misinformation. For creating professional journalists, Press Council then had made all aspects of journalist skills to be the curriculum of press education and being materials of test journalist competence.

Then the curriculum is adopted and applied by all Press Council constituents for journalist education, through media literacy, workshops, and seminars in many regions and provinces

## | Mohammad NASIR

all over Indonesia. In certain times, journalists must join the test of journalist competence, according to their level. The journalists who pass the test would be given a certificate of competence. And who fails in test is hoped to study again, and will be allowed to register their name in the next test at another times.

What's really journalist competency? When they are young or beginner journalists, firstly they must be able to plan and propose the coverage, and bring it to editorial meeting with editors. They report to the editor about coverage planning, talking about the importance of news coverage that they want to do, who will be interviewed, how many questions, what's kind of visuals that must be prepared, photos, statistic, infographic, and maps. They must listen and note what are editors' suggestion in the meeting. Certainly, some editors' suggestions improve the journalist planning with aim the result of the coverage will be better. The first step like this, coverage planning which is brought to editorial meeting, and discussed together, and they will know it when there is fake news.

Secondly, joining press conference agenda with certain topic. The assessor evaluate them in getting the news (press conference), how do they ask questions. After press conference finished, they must write the news with the material from press conference about 100 words (straight news). The assessor will evaluate their writing, completing the elements of the news (5W+1H), checking news structure, fact, and avoiding opinion. The assessor of the test will check the language that they used, how do they use capital letter, and punctuation marks such as commas, full stop (dot), and others.

That's impossible professional journalist does not understand in using the punctuation marks. After their writing have been corrected, the test participant must rewrite or edit their own writing, and assessor will evaluate how far they have skill and understanding of the news writing.

Thirdly, assessor will also assess how do they interview. The assessor asks them to choose a partner for role play in an interview. The process of interview will be evaluated whether they are professional or not. The interview skill is very important, because it is a process of getting information. When the process is wrong, the information that journalist get will be misinformation.

Misinformation is part of fake news that is not intended. Beside one on one role play interview, they must show in practicing door stop interview. How do they stop someone in front of the door to interview, blocking the way, or giving the way for interviewee?



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Introducing their name and mention identity or not. All must be done professionally.

The fourthly, how to develop networking. Every Journalist should show and hand in at least 20 people who are very often to be interviewed as news sources. Journalists must show news sources' phone numbers, and mention position in their offices. In front of an assessor, a participant of test is ordered to call one of the person's name in the list of networking, and opened the microphone of telephone, in order to assessor hears the conversation between journalist and news source. Beside assessor want to know how many people and how wide networking journalists have developed, assessor wants to evaluate how do they communicate with news sources. The competence journalist will have long list of people in networking. They can be contacted any times.

And the fifthly, every professional journalist must understand and apply the press law and ethical journalism in everyday moment when doing journalistic works. Indonesian Press Council and press communities have a Press Law No: 40 of 1999, and the Journalistic Code of Ethics as the regulation of the Press Council No: 03/SK-DP/III/2006, and Guideline of Cyber Media as Press Council Regulation No: 1/Peraturan-DP/III/2012. All of them must be obeyed by journalists, because they have good aim to avoid fake news (disinformation and misinformation).

Those points are materials of test for journalist at all levels. It will be little different from the material test for madya (editor) journalists that they join the test for editor competence. Editor class must have all skills that young journalists have. But they also have skill to lead the editorial meeting, giving direction and guidance to make good coverage, editing, and always obey the rules, not violating the press law and ethical journalism.

And for prime (utama) journalist class (editor executives and editor in chief), journalist must have all skills that the young journalist and editor have. They must have good insight, they always warn about the important of journalistic code of ethics, press laws, and regulation from Press Council. They must have good planning for publication, and good direction and guidance for the editors and young journalists. They also think about quality information. Certainly, they must know how to avoid fake news, disinformation and misinformation. To be professional journalists in prime level, they have to follow the journalist competency test. If they do not pass, they will not be given competence certificate. As an editor in chief, a journalist must have a competence certificate or card from the Press Council. This is the way to fight the fake news.

So that, all contents in the Press Law and Press Council Regulation must be understood and

## | Mohammad NASIR

obeyed by all Indonesian journalists. All of them have been used for journalist competency test materials. They will pass, if they have grade at least 70 (pass). If they got grade under 70, they fail in the test, and they are stated as not competence yet.

"Journalist competency is a journalist capability for understanding, mastering, and keeping up journalist profession, or journalism, and the authority in decision making in the journalistic area. In this case about awareness, knowledge, and skill," wrote in Pedoman Uji Kompetensi Wartawan (Guideline of Journalist Competency Test) by Dr. Soetomo Press Institute (2019).

### The Important Articles of Indonesian Press Law

In the Indonesian Press Law No. 40 of 1999 contains many articles that relate our effort in countermeasure to the fake news. I selected some articles that are very close to fake news countermeasure. In article 1 (11), it was said, person or group of people have right to give the answer, protest the news product of media that contain defamation. Article 1 (12), said correcting the disinformation and misinformation are spread by press media is the right of every people, and at article 1 (13), media must publish the correction of the wrong information, data, fact, opinion, and picture that spread by the media itself.

In the article 6 (c and e), press develop public opinion based on true information, and press must struggle for justice and truth. This is clear that journalist must avoid the fake news. And the article 12, said that press company must announce publicly the name, address, person in charge, included editorial in chief, and the name of printing and the address (for printed media).

And the article 17 (1), the public may do activity that developing press freedom and have right to get needed information. People activity that have been mention, is for watching and monitoring and reporting the law violation and wrong technical press reporting by press media. The activity including to give suggestion to the Press Council, said in article 17 (2, a, and b).

Article 15 (2: a, and c), Indonesian Press Council protects press freedom from interference of outside of the press. Press Council

also establishes the journalistic code of ethics and controls press media in applying it.

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### Journalistic Code of Ethics

The journalistic code of ethics as a regulation of Indonesian Press Council No. 03 of 2006 must be applied by every journalist in working as journalists. This code of ethics had set to prevent all journalists to do wrong in getting information, writing the news, paying attention to human right, and public interest. I chose some articles most related to avoid the fake news. In this regulation contains 11 articles. All journalists must read and apply it.

Article 1 said, Indonesian journalist must be independent, writing accurately, balance, and not having bad intention. And they have to do professional way in doing journalistic task (article 2). The one thing that very important and corelate with avoiding fake news is in article 3, it was said that journalists always verify the information, report with balance, not mixing fact and opinion in judging, and applying the basis of presumption of innocence.

An article 4 also straightly fighting the fake news: journalists may not write fake news, slander, sadistic, and obscene. And article 10, said, Indonesian journalists must pull out the news soon when they know their news are wrong, write them again in true version, and apologize to the readers, or to the audiences.

### Guidelines for Cyber Media

In practicing actually there is no big different between cyber media, and printed media, television, or radio. There are few different in technical production and news gathering between them because of different technology, and product distribution. But all journalists at various platform must obey the same rules: Press Law and Journalistic Code of Ethics that I mentioned above. In the cyber media, verification of information is must although the uploading the news is in every moment.

If the journalist has not enough time verify the information, the media must inform the reader that the news need to be verified. This explanation must be put at the end of the news, in the bracket with italic letters. After journalist has enough times, journalist must continue verify the news that was promised. After that, verified news must be placed on the page and linking with unverified news that has been published before. In the Guideline for Cyber Media as an Indonesian Press Council No 1/Peraturan-DP/III/2012, also said, cyber media may not publish the fake news, obscene, and violating the journalistic code of ethics, and the press law.

## | Mohammad NASIR

### The Conclusion

The world is facing fake news, and it will drown the real information, and the news media. The public trust will leave the media, if the world fail to countermeasure against fake news. Every country has its own way. United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) have helped many countries with giving some workshops how to countermeasure the fake news, and how to purify information that contaminated information environment.

Indonesia has the way how to fight the fake news. Indonesian Press Council with its constituents, and press organization up to now are trying hard for strengthening education for journalists. Press companies, and the press institute, such as Dr. Soetomo Press Institute also have been doing the same countermeasure to the fake news. The press law, journalistic code of ethics, and some regulation, included the test of journalist competence have been made by Indonesian Press Council. All Press Council have done the education programs and tested journalists for measuring the real competence.

For instance, Indonesian Journalists' Association (PWI) has done the program of the test of journalists competence in many regions and provinces, since 2011. Until July 2020, PWI have done the test of journalist competence 464 times, with the result 12.128 competence journalists (pass) in the test. Few of them fail, and they must study again.

So we hope we win to attack fake news, and purifying the contaminated information from inside through press education.



## Speaker

### Alireza BAHRAMI

ISNA News Agency  
Head of art and culture desk  
Iran

#### • Curriculum Vitae

- Iranian Journalist, Poet and documentary movie maker
- Head of culture and art desk in ISNA News Agency
- Journalism teacher

## Fake News, an Opportunity for the Governments

Over the past few years, in the Islamic Republic of Iran as in other countries of the world, the advancement of technology and the development of communication tools have led to emergence of opportunities and risks of traditional standard media. Meanwhile, the media has found the opportunity to communicate with audiences in different contexts more quickly and in an extensive form, while the economic life of some media outlets have been threatened. Although a kind of communication democracy was created for all citizens, the profiteers also found the opportunity to destroy social relations in society. In this process, fake news played a destructive role; that is, news that's seemingly standard news to the general public, but is in fact false news that is produced and disseminated for vile purposes, such as increasing the audience and follower in the wrong way. At the same time, in addition to the general situation, which is similar to other countries in the world, Iran is in a state of economic and political war with some countries.

Academics and experts believe that increasing the media literacy of people is one of the most important ways to protect society against the rapid growth of fake news. However, Iran's experience has shown that in addition to the importance of this method, there is one more guaranteed way. In Iran, in the past few years, media literacy has also become part of the school curriculum. Other activities, such as the establishment of cultural centers or media literacy associations have also taken shape. However, none of them could be very

## | Alireza BAHRAMI

effective against the spread of fake news. The experience of the events of the past few months in Iran has shown that there is another effective way for the government.

Do you remember that a Ukrainian plane, mostly made up of Iranian passengers was accidentally shot down near Tehran airport during the military tension between Iran and the United States a few months ago? It took several days for the Iranian government to take responsibility for the accident via official announcements. During these few days, cyberspace and informal networks overtook the official Iranian media and a wave of distrust of the official media started to emerge. The official domestic media were blamed for supporting secrecy, and the space was provided for the dissemination of any true or false news in cyberspace.

A few weeks later, during the outbreak of the Covid-19 virus, the situation improved to some extent. After first day of criticism of the Iranian government's approach to informing about Covid-19 disease, continuous information and trust in the functioning of official and standard media made the spread of fake news more difficult. The spokesman of the Ministry of Health of Iran held a daily press conference for the media and the necessary information was regularly transmitted to people. The media, due to their social responsibility, constantly examined the government's activities in this field. In Iran, too, in the early days, the market for speculation and the dissemination of baseless information was hot in cyberspace. Economic profiteers also prospered by spreading false rumors that the use of a particular seed or herbal spice, for example, is effective in preventing the new Corona virus. However, the continuation of the government's response method, as well as with the disease itself, caused those fake news to fade over time. The credibility of the official Iranian media, which was damaged in the plane crash, has improved.

This experience showed that one of the ways to protect any society from fake news is to have a high level of accountability of the officials for society. As we all know, one of the reasons for the spread of fake news in society is that in addition to having the appearance of true and professional news, these news pay attention to the needs of society and try to address the concerns of the people; to be more welcomed.

Therefore, it can be said that the spread of fake news has created a golden opportunity for the government like Iran to create a better situation for themselves and the people by preventing their harms by responding to the information needs of society and approaching the will of the people.



## Speaker

### Frank MCNALLY

The Irish Times  
Columnist  
Ireland

#### Curriculum Vitae

Frank McNally is chief writer of the daily Irishman's Diary column in The Irish Times. He has also been the newspaper's parliamentary sketch writer and has covered a wide range of other subjects, from culture to sport, including last year's Rugby World Cup in Japan. In an earlier career, he worked in a number of civil service departments before leaving to do a Masters in Journalism at Dublin City University. He grew up in Monaghan, close to the border between the Irish Republic and Northern Ireland, but now lives in Dublin with his wife and three children.

#### The History of 'Fake News' and Its Effects in Ireland

So often has Donald Trump complained about it in the past four years that it may be necessary to remind ourselves he did not invent the term "fake news". I recently searched for it in the archive of my own newspaper, The Irish Times, and was surprised to find that the earliest mention had been well over 100 years ago, in 1908.

It featured in the report of a debate in the British Houses of Parliament, where an Irish representative raised the question of false stories in the British press about violence in Ireland. Ireland was still part of the United Kingdom then, ruled from London, although for many years it had been campaigning for legislative independence.

It suited opponents of that campaign, in a classic imperialist tactic, to present Ireland as a wild, lawless country, unfit to govern itself and needing the civilising influence of Britain. Stories of violent crime were frequently exaggerated, if not invented, by the London press, hence the parliamentarian's complaint.

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He was not the only one to raise this. The man who would become arguably Ireland's greatest writer of the 20th century, James Joyce, wrote one of his earliest essays about it in 1907, lamenting his country's misrepresentation in the eyes of the world by England.

To dramatize the point, he recalled a famous Irish murder trial from a generation earlier, in a which a man of the same surname, Myles Joyce, was found guilty and hanged.

It was later established that he had been innocent. But one of his problems was that, like many in the west of Ireland where he lived, he spoke only the Irish language, and did not understand English, the language that had become dominant elsewhere and in which he was tried.

He had to communicate with the judge via an interpreter, which led to some black comedy in the courtroom. The interpreter was a man of few words, whereas the Irish-speaking Joyce was a man of many.

When a question from the judge was translated for him, he would answer at great length and in passionate, florid terms, protesting his innocence before God. Then the interpreter would reduce this to something like: "He says 'no', your honour." The public gallery laughed continuously at the contrast.

For James Joyce, this was his country's plight in microcosm. Ireland circa 1907/8 had some of the lowest crime rates in Europe, but in the powerful London press, which was carried all over the world, it was portrayed as a place on the edge of anarchy, sure to self-destruct if it ever achieved self-rule. It didn't matter that most of Ireland spoke English by then. It could not make its voice heard abroad.

Anyway, 15 years and a revolution later, the country won its independence, partly thanks to understanding how important it was to have its story told by sympathetic writers and journalists, who could sway international opinion.

It's no coincidence that Irish writers won the Nobel Prize for literature twice in quick succession in those years and have won it twice more since: an impressive total for a country of only five million people.

Having had the English language forced on us by a colonising power, with our native Irish all but wiped out, we turned this to our advantage eventually. Now, with English ever more

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dominant in the western world, even the most ardent Irish patriots have to admit that our colonisers may have done us a favour.

I mention all of this not just to remind people that fake news has a long history, but that we in Ireland have a personal understanding of the problem - or we should have anyway. But of course, that doesn't mean we don't also have the same challenges as most other countries these days when the concept of truth in the news is more contested than ever before.

As Ireland's so-called "newspaper of record" – the one that most historians and academics trust to get details right - The Irish Times is probably Ireland's best paper. We're certainly the only one to operate an extensive network of our own foreign correspondents rather than rely on agencies or syndicated material (although I'm sorry to say we don't have a bureau in Seoul yet).

But we have our critics too. Some suggest that we are too close to government and big business to challenge the political status quo, which in Ireland has usually been centre-right on economic issues.

On the other hand, all Irish Times journalists, including me, are currently banned from appearing on the country's biggest group of independent radio stations because the company that owns them, run by one of Ireland's richest men, did not like a column written by one of my colleagues who accused the stations of institutionalised sexism and not having enough female voices on air. They thought that was fake news and now our voices are not on air either.

That's a local row. But more widely, we in Ireland are also struggling with all the same issues raised elsewhere by the atomisation of media, through Facebook, Twitter, and the countless other platforms that now allow everyone to be his or her own publisher.

As part of mainstream media, The Irish Times is subject to strong controls on what we can print. For a start, reporters are all members of the National Union of Journalists, which has a code of ethics requiring us to be fair and truthful, not to intrude unnecessarily on private lives, and so on.

When we get it wrong, there's a Press Council to which we voluntarily submit, which can investigate complaints by the public and order redress. And then there are the defamation laws, of which Ireland has some of the most stringent anywhere.

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In Irish libel law, by contrast with the normal rule of justice, a newspaper is effectively guilty until proven innocent. Given the huge costs involved, most will settle out of court unless sure they can win. The Irish Times's generally up-market readership may be good for advertising rates, but it also has the unfortunate side-effect that ours is the newspaper that lawyers are most likely to read!

Many of our new-media competitors for readership, however, most infamously Facebook, are not subject to any of these controls. This is partly because they don't consider themselves publishers in the traditional sense, and so disclaim the moral, ethical, and legal obligations that apply to old media: although they do seem to be moving now in the direction of some sort of self-policing, at least.

The extent to which Ireland's media regulation has been overtaken by change is illustrated by our national broadcaster RTE. It is subject to similar restraints as newspapers, including in its case a Broadcasting Act. But the station's online service is not covered by that legislation. So the same journalists who are subject to law when working on TV or radio are governed only by a voluntary code when they work for the website.

The challenges of new media to television were also highlighted dramatically by an event during the Irish Presidential election in 2011. In a live debate on RTE, the candidate then leading in the polls was subject to an uncomfortable line of questioning about a donation he was said to have received.

As he struggled to deal with this, a damning tweet from a member of the public was read out suggesting further details of the transaction were about to emerge. This proved to be completely false, and RTE had to pay damages to the candidate eventually. But in the meantime, he had lost the election, and the timing of the Tweet, before an audience of a million people, was widely believed to have affected the result.

The prevalence of "bots" and other fake personae on Twitter has since become very well known, so that such a mistake would probably not happen now. But Twitter has presented other problems too, not least the fact of its popularity with journalists themselves.

In Ireland these days, most news reporters and columnists are on Twitter, and as well as using it to follow the latest statements of those in the news, many also use it to broadcast their own opinions, free of the normal professional restraints. They don't consciously tweet untruths, of course. But they often take sides publicly on contentious issues.

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When Ireland had a referendum on abortion last year, for example, some journalists campaigned openly for one side or the other on Twitter in a way they might not have been allowed to do in the organisations they worked for. There, outside of the opinion columns, reporters are still expected to maintain public neutrality, however strongly they feel.

Needless to say, both camps in Ireland's abortion debate were quick to accuse the other of fake news, while media organisations tried to report an emotive subject as objectively as possible.

The current pandemic has also presented some unexpected challenges to media. Unfortunately, there is no shortage fake news in circulation about Covid, which has brought the conspiracy theorists out in force everywhere, on social media and increasingly on the streets. In the meantime, while reporting an unprecedented crisis, mainstream media is having its own dilemmas about who and what it can believe.

Even after eight or nine months of accumulated information, there is still a vast amount about the virus that not even the best epidemiologists understand. And yet, for understandable reasons, the medical experts managing the pandemic, and the Governments they advise, are trying keep their messages as simple as possible. Admitting doubt or confusion does not inspire public confidence and does not in any case come naturally to those in positions of power.

In Ireland at least, the crisis has become tied up with something I was talking about at the start: patriotism and the national interest. Everybody agrees that frontline medical staff are heroes, and nobody wants to seem to criticise them, even when they get things wrong.

On the other hand, politicians have tended to hide behind the medical advice, only too happy to avoid responsibility for controversial decisions. To criticise the Government for mistakes in dealing with the pandemic is to criticise the medical advice and to undermine the national effort that is being asked of all citizens. Or so it can appear.

We have a phrase about patriotism in Ireland inspired by the colour worn by our national sports teams. When people – including journalists – are urged to act in the country's best interests, and to suspend their normal critical faculties in the meantime, the expression is that we must "pull on the green shirt". And it's always tempting to do this.

Nobody wants to be disloyal to the team, after all. But as I know from covering last year's

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Rugby World Cup in Japan, nobody in the stadium press boxes of Tokyo or Yokohama was wearing an Ireland jersey. That would be unprofessional, after all, even when we were secretly cheering the team on. The battle against Covid-19 is no different. However unpopular it may be at times, Irish journalists need to remain sceptical of the official consensus, to keep asking awkward questions, and to refuse to wear the green shirt.



## Special Speaker

### Min-Kyu LEE

School of Media and Communication, Chung-Ang Univ.  
Professor  
Korea

#### • Curriculum Vitae

- Member of Press Arbitration Commission
- President of the Korean Society for Journalism & Communication Studies
- Judge, Korea Reporter Award and Reporter of the Month Award by Journalists Association of Korea
- Dean, Graduate School of Journalism and Broadcasting, Chung-Ang University
- Research Fellow, Korea Press Foundation

## Fake news and the future of the journalism

### 1. Introduction

'Fake news' has gained a lot of attention from the public since the nomination and election of Donald J. Trump as the President of the U.S. and more recently it has become a hot topic worldwide as the COVID-19 pandemic swept through the world.

In modern society, as information is power, the accuracy of information is critical. In this context, how can we know if someone claims that something is fake news, that the claimer has 'real' news? Does this create conflict between two or more groups?

We gather here to discuss cases and countermeasures to fake news from various countries' and the future of journalism. By no means are we trying to pretend to have the correct answers and solve the problem during this conference. Rather, we present our current problems and by discussing ideas with each other, we hope to build a solution together.

## | Min-Kyu LEE

### 2. A threat to 'democracy'

Media scholar Pablo Boczkowski criticized fake news as a threat to democracy. In reality, fake news will last as a topic of debate because very powerful groups and individuals on all sides have something to sell: ideologies, products, and services. Another reason why fake news will become a hot topic over the next couple of years is due to the rise of internet usage, especially through social media. Most of us now have unprecedented access to information. Also, we have the ability to self-publish and generate advertising revenue potentially with fake news, via YouTube and other monetization of social media.

### 3. What is fake news?

It would be naive to think that fake news and post-truth era began with the internet and President Donald Trump. Indeed, fake news has always existed and will continue to exist. That's a symptom of a much deeper problem: one of 'info dominance' and the exclusion of ordinary citizens from the information gathering and formulating process. Fake news is a type of yellow journalism or propaganda that consists of deliberate misinformation or hoaxes spread via traditional print and broadcast news media or online social media.

### 4. Five features of fake news: 'SHOCK'

There are five characteristics of fake news: Sensational, Hatred, One way, Connection, and Killing. In short, this is abbreviated to the word 'SHOCK,' to make it easier to remember.

**(1) Sensational:** It contains ground breaking, eye-catching, and stimulating content to attract attention from news consumers. Fake news appears in a sensational appearance with false packaging.

**(2) Hatred:** Fake news contains hate. Hatred is an important feature of fake news because it has a double effect of attacking the opponent and enhancing the unity of allies.

**(3) One way:** The peculiarity of fake news is that it delivers only one argument unilaterally. It does not include the elements that general news should have, such as accuracy, balance, fairness and equity. Therefore, it is more powerful and more sensational.

**(4) Connection:** Fake news on its own cannot attract attention and has no impact. However, when someone or an institution is assisted, it can be very proliferating. Even if the same information is disseminated through social media by lawmakers, mayors, prosecutors and reporters, the weight and credibility of news attention will change.

## | Min-Kyu LEE

**(5) Killing:** It is fatal from the standpoint of being subjected to fake news. The power of wrapped fake news spreads systematically through social media enough to surpass real news. Here, if traditional media play a part in the spread, falsehood is regarded as truth, and the damage is fatal.

### 5. Four types of fake news:

Like any ideology or theoretical frame, fake news is a broad spectrum. Its features are manifold, sometimes contradictory, sometimes confluent, often overlapping and not easy to categorize into neat taxonomies. There are four categories of fake news: political control type, economic oriented type (clickbait type), revolutionary type, merriment and satire type.

#### (1) Fake news for political control

Many fake news are produced for political purposes. Like COVID-19 cases, we have witnessed many examples of fake news for political control. This is where the establishment lies and exaggerates news with the expression aim of manipulating the attitudes, opinions and ultimately course of affairs among the public. This can be for purposes of war, demonization of domestic threats to current government, or reinforcement of denial of alternative systems.

#### (2) Fake news for profit

In the internet age, clickbait is the latest form of fake news. Where so-called respectable news sites raise revenue by hosting advertising content targeted to your region.

#### (3) Fake news for revolution

Grassroots organizations have and can spread fake news exaggerating the crimes of government or corporations with the aim of implementing or stopping particular policies, even up to the point of revolution. For example elite intelligence organizations plant fake news among target populations in order to elicit political agitation against target government. Revolutionary fake news has been generated by billionaires to target government and the 'crony-capitalism' from which they are excluded.

#### (4) Fake news for satire or merriment

Examples for this type include Orson Welles's radio broadcast in 1938 of HG Wells's War of the Worlds. The radio broadcast was so realistic that supposedly millions of American

## | Min-Kyu LEE

believed that an alien invasion had occurred. This is an instance of hoax as fake news.

### 6. Restore Authenticity: Un-faking news

Fake news is the adversary of journalism. Like COVID-19, the moment someone get involved, they get infected. Fake news is everywhere and always has been. If knowledge is power, the most important issue concerning fake news is who has power over whom and how that power is used. By referring to something is fake, it follows that the opposite is true. If something is true, it is, to whatever degree we my judge, authentic.

We, journalism, need to vaccinate the public with real journalism. That is by explaining in detail how we arrived at a particular story, how facts are gathered, what should be considered as fact and why. Most important of all, we must communicate how journalism works to the public. In order to prevent fake news, it is time to take deeper interest and research than ever before on changing public.

I call 'Un-faking' the news is not easy task. Under this severe confirmation bias environment, we perhaps cannot convince everyone. But it's our civic duty to try, because we can't entrust technology companies with algorithm editorial decision. And we certainly cannot let governments and their agencies decide what's newsworthy and what's not.

This task requires the task force of journalists worldwide, who care deeply about democracy and the freedom of speech under the COVID-19 era. When fake news hits, we need to hit back, vigorously. We seriously need to take care of the public. We must invest resources for un-faking news, and fact-check them. The role we have of helping citizens to develop media literacy skills is one of the important virtues of future journalism.

We need to enter these filter bubbles where conspiracy theories flourish, to understand the attraction, aesthetics, and economics of fake news, as well as the mechanisms by which rumors spread on social media and enter search results. Then, we need to use this knowledge to disrupt the self-enforcing circle of rumors and fake news.

In Korean Proverb there is a saying: "After a storm comes a calm." We are experiencing a difficult time flooded with fake news, but if we cultivate journalism with trust and public service, we can say that the future of journalism will be brighter than ever.

When fake news went low, we stood clear.





## Speaker

### Woosuk Kenneth CHOI

Chosun Daily Newspaper  
Editor of Future Planning News Desk  
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#### • Curriculum Vitae

Mr Woosuk Kenneth Choi is the Editor of Future Planning News Desk at the Chosun Daily Newspaper. He is the Executive Vice Chairman of the International Press Institute (IPI) since 2016. He was the President of Korea Automotive Journalist Association and the Executive Vice Chairman of the Journalist Association of Korea. He was Washington correspondent, Blue House correspondent, and covered numerous government departments. He holds a BS from Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) and Masters degree from Harvard University and the University of Pennsylvania.

## The Fake News: What to do about it

By Woosuk Choi  
Editor of Future Planning Desk  
The Chosun Daily Newspaper  
Sep. 14, 2020

## | Woosuk Kenneth CHOI

### Probably the Most Famous Fake News



### Yellow Yellow Yellow



You furnish the pictures and I'll furnish the war.

— William Randolph Hearst —

AZ QUOTES

| Woosuk Kenneth CHOI

## Bob Woodward



- "Mr. President, the media is not fake news," at White House Correspondents' Dinner
- "Politicians fabricated the word FAKE NEWS. "

## Trend in Fake News

- Fake news has been around more than 100 years.
- Why it is increasingly dangerous today?
- With fast developing new media environment, politicians all over the world are jumping into the fake news planet.
- To kill fake news, get rid of all politicians. But we have to live with bad politicians as well as a few good politicians.

| Woosuk Kenneth CHOI

## What to do?

- The role of journalism is getting ever more important.
- Not only good reporting, but fact checking is also essential.
- Can good journalists solve this? Maybe.
- Education, common sense, real punishment for government officials(including elected officials) who say outright fake news, etc.

## What Shall Media Do?



| Woosuk Kenneth CHOI

## Suggestions for Media Companies

- Each media companies must have an independent fact checking unit.
- Or media companies can create united fact checking entities together just as they created AP news, etc.
- This is better than having government regulations.

## Who are we?

- We, journalists, are observers.
- We record history.
- We may influence the decision makers but we are not the actor nor the perpetrator.
- So what can we do?

| Woosuk Kenneth CHOI

## What We Do Best

- We report TRUTH!
- Even though we make mistakes sometimes.
- We can show our audience what could happen or what would not happen.
- We can influence decision makers for good policies.
- For this, free press is a must.

## JFK's Quote



President [John F.] Kennedy, after the Bay of Pigs, said to Turner Catledge of The New York Times: I wish you had written more, I wish you had investigated more, because it might have saved the country of the cataclysm of the Bay of Pigs.

— Mark Shields —

AZ QUOTES

## JFK

- John F Kennedy said the he would not have invaded Cuba and fail miserably, had the New York Times reported about the possibility of failing. NYT did not publish some articles citing national security.
- But what is the fine line between national security and people's right to know?

## Why Free Press is Important

- Decision makers must consider all possibilities. A dictator grooms subordinates to give what he wants to hear.
- In a democratic nation, free press provides all aspects.
- Maybe able to prevent War.

## Hope?

- Fake news is like mold. Sunshine will kill.
- When sunshine goes away, mold creeps back in.
- No secret, then no fake news.
- Openness, democracy, free press, freedom of expression are essential ingredients for no fake news.



## Speaker

### Reaven Gerrad D' SOUZA

The Times, Kuwait  
Managing Editor  
Kuwait

#### • Curriculum Vitae

Reaven D'Souza is the Founding Managing Editor of The Times, Kuwait news magazine and online edition [www.timeskuwait.com](http://www.timeskuwait.com)

With about 30 years of experience in journalism, Reaven has extensively travelled, including to Korea and covered various global and local issues. He has been recognised for his contribution to journalism and the community.

### Various Countries' Examples of, and Countermeasures to, Fake News and The Future of Journalism.

#### PRESENTATION:

Like most countries around the world Kuwait has also become the victim of fake news.

Fake news has become so pervasive in societies that it has become hard to distinguish fake from fact. We are for the first time in modern history facing the prospect of how societies would exist without reliable news — at least as it used to be understood.

Countering fake news or disinformation has become one of the greatest media challenges of our time. This 'information chaos' is frightening and alarming because it is enabled, shaped and distributed by a handful of corporations which in the proverbial 'blink of an eye' have become arguably the most powerful corporations the world has ever seen.

Ever since social media became popular, Kuwait has been grappling to introduce legislation to counter the menace of fake news. A chaotic information system that seems to have emerged from nowhere but with serious consequences.

## | Reaven Gerrad D' SOUZA

During the time of coronavirus Kuwait witnessed an unprecedented circulation of rumors and fake news that had a detrimental impact on people's morale and the country's ability to handle and overcome the serious health challenge.

People were already under enormous psychological stress due to the spread of the deadly virus and fake news and rumors only made it worse. The misinformation circulated by some people sparked confusion and controversy thus hampering the government's efforts to combat the coronavirus.

To counter the disinformation the government adopted a tough stand and filed lawsuits against several people who spread and disseminated fake news through social media, websites and traditional media. Though the government warned that anyone circulating false data and news would be brought to legal accountability, the spread of rumors and fake news continued throughout the pandemic.

Ever since billions of people gained access to information online and could publish on to the Internet, journalism as it used to be understood has struggled to adjust. Newspapers have begun to perish right before our eyes and a new democracy of online knowledge accessible to people all over has swept over us so suddenly and overwhelmingly. This information revolution has come at a great cost. People are no longer dependent on the knowledge and experience of a few authoritative media figures, rather the reach and speed of public connectedness is unbeatable by any media organisation on earth.

But social media is also empowering people who were never heard before, creating a new form of journalism that is revolutionary and an even bigger problem for society. The news that is replacing journalism is barely understood, but it is here to stay and is revolutionising not only systems of information but also the most basic concepts of authority and power.

With journalists no longer having a near-monopoly on news and means of distribution, it is time for journalism to rethink its methods, reconfigure its relationship with the new kaleidoscope of other voices and become more open about what it does and how it does it.

Even though the economic system for supporting journalism looks dangerously unstable, the stakes for truth have never been higher.



## Speaker

### Ghena HALIK

Laha Magazine & asia N  
Journalist  
Lebanon

#### • Curriculum Vitae

Ghena Mahmoud Halik from Lebanese, she holds Bachelor in Political Science from Lebanese University and Bachelor in Fine Arts from Lebanese University .she worked as a journalist and reporter for several newspapers and magazines like "LAHA" , "QABASS" , "ASIAN"... . And she also worked as a producer for television programs in "future" TV and "MBC" and "TL".

## Fake news and the Future of Journalism

Hello! My name is Ghena Halik and I come from Lebanon.

Thank you for this opportunity to share with you the view from Lebanon about fake news.

Unfortunately, Lebanon is in the news these days mainly for the disaster that hit our beloved Beirut and the terrible loss of innocent lives and the damaging consequences.

However, be assured that the strong resolve of the Lebanese people will prevail once more, especially that great support from friends like you presents great motivation for the people and the media to keep moving forward.

We in Lebanon, like other countries across the world, have been challenged by the incredible spread of fake news with all the dangers they carry.

As you know, fake news are a global phenomenon that accompanies revolutions, political, social, health and even artistic events.

## | Ghena HALIK

It can be a rumor launched by some people to distort truth or to spread confusion in order to mislead society. It may sometimes be launched by a party concerned with the news for propaganda motives.

There have been revolutions and massive protests in Lebanon and various Arab countries recently. These unprecedented protests against the political system and corruption were accompanied by fake news that misled the people and the media.

Many types and forms of fake news were spread during the upheaval for many reasons. Unfortunately, it easily spread to social media because there was no confirmation of the facts.

Fake news and the "post truth" era

We have often heard about "the demise of the world as we know it through the dangerous spread of unreliable negative social media and manipulative reporting."

This claim can be heard everywhere these days, but it leaves out one important detail: Fake news often appears in "real news" and there was never a "truth era" for there to be a "post truth" one.

Unfortunately, even mainstream media institutions at times published fake news. They were misled into publishing them. While some of them published corrections, others just deleted the news from their websites without any remark. These established media had taken news from social platforms without checking the facts.

Reaffirming its commitment to combat fake news, the UN has been engaged with different partners in Lebanon to counter the surge in the production and dissemination of disinformation, misinformation, propaganda and other misleading contents.

Part of the solution to the massive amounts of disinformation is to improve the supply of truthful information and facts and ensure that demand for news is met quickly through reinforcing journalistic ethics and professionalism and improving media literacy among consumers of information.

This strategy involves a two-pronged combination of awareness raising on the national level and capacity-building for local actors.

Tackling fake news is particularly critical in the current Covid-19 pandemic as it is putting

## Ghena HALIK |

lives at risk, including the lives of people stigmatized for carrying the virus or accused of spreading it.

This should serve as a wake-up call for all responsible societies to learn how to deal with the spread and effects of fake news in future challenges. It is unfortunate that fake news increasingly look like real news as they now include emotions that appeal to consumers and spread quickly across continents through social media.

Fake news are a threat for democracy, security and health. We have to fight them as individuals by analyzing the news in relevance to the context of events, by fact-checking and exercising critical thinking.

The current circumstances and the accompanying revolutions, political and security events and the spread of the Corona epidemic have shown the importance of genuine media and the need for the right news that work to spread awareness and fight fake news. This situation has put the media in general and the press in particular in the face of great challenges in light of the many difficulties that affect their progress and future.

The press suffers from several crises that threaten its continuity and independence. The global economic situation, the globalization of communications and the spread of the Corona epidemic are pushing newspapers to stop publishing.

The absence of regulatory laws keeping in line with the digital age has led to media chaos and to a crisis of confidence between the media and the public and to questioning the validity of the news, resulting in a demographic crisis due to incitement against journalists and freedom of the press by some politicians under the pretext of fake news.

Despite all of this, the free press is holding on to its rightful place, prestige and influence, which drive its followers to keep seeking only the right information and to uphold the values of the freedom of expression.

Thank you



## Speaker

### Gokarna AWASTHI

Freelance  
Freelance  
Nepal

#### Curriculum Vitae

Mr. Gokarna Awasthi is an award winning freelance journalist from Nepal. He worked as a journalist for almost two decades in both electronic and print media. He worked as business editor of Kantipur Daily, largest selling daily newspaper of the country for 11 years. He is the past president of Society of Economic Journalist (SEJON), apex organization, of economic journalists. Prior to joining Kantipur he was the programme producer of pioneer economic television programme named, 'Artha ko Artha', which is aired in national television. He has done masters of business studies from Tribhuvan University, Nepal and Diploma in Development Journalism from Indian Institute of Mass Communication from New Delhi India.

## Fake news and future of journalism

Nepal went into lockdown on 24th March, a day after the second positive case of Covid-19 was detected in the country. The nationwide lockdown lasted for almost four months. However, COVID -19 cases have increased in the capital city recently, so we are in second lockdown at the moment. There has been a rise in the number of fake news since the country imposed lockdown in Mid-March.

Nepal Press Council has monitored 358 news that looked fishy. Out of this 288 are related to electronic media such as online portals, television and radio. According to Council most of those monitored news has been found fake. Here are some of the examples:

1. Wearing face mask will decrease the level of oxygen.

## | Gokarna AWASTHI

2. World Health Organization showed interest in the vaccine produced by Nepali homeopathic doctor.
3. World Health Organization has removed Nepal from high risk zone.
4. Corona virus can survive in the air for up to eight hours
5. President of Nepal, Bidhya Devi Bhandari, sold her Tilhari (traditional Nepali necklace) to donate money to fight against COVID-19.

These are some of the examples of fake news published either in the newspaper or online portals or social media. But mushrooming of YouTube channels, has raised the concern that those channels could be the new source of misinformation/disinformation. Number of complaints related to YouTube has also increased in recent days.

There are two independent fact checking websites operating in the country. Nepal fact check has listed 87 items as fake news in its website since the beginning of March 2020, whereas South Asia Check has identified 30 fake news.

Press Council has the authority to monitor and take action against fake. Council has written a request letter to the Ministry of Information and Communication to formulate guidelines for YouTube channels. Journalists demand that YouTube channels should also get registered in the Council, get journalist ID card and follow code of ethics issued by the council and other journalist's organization. Press Registrar office of Bagmati Province has recently passed an Act citing YouTube as a form of online journalism. They are in the process of formulating regulation to execute this Act.

Social Media other than YouTube are also major medium of spreading information. As majority of the people in Nepal are not techno savvy, they perceive the information posted on social media as news and trust it.

### Future of Journalism

Journalism in Nepal is in very critical situation at the moment mainly due to two reasons. First due to lockdown economy of the country is in serious crisis and many companies have reduced their advertisement budget drastically. According to latest report of Press Council advertisement in newspapers has reduced by 80 percent and radio by 70 percent in the last four months. Similarly, televisions have lost their revenue by 60 percent and online

## | Gokarna AWASTHI

news sites by 45 percent. As a result, many journalists have lost their job and many more journalists have been put on forced unpaid leave.

A recent study published by Nepal Press Institute showed that 74 percent of the journalists have been impacted financially. Another alarming finding of that study is the health status of the journalists. It shows that Covid-19 affected the mental wellbeing of a majority of journalists in Nepal. "83% (journalist) reported increased sense of vulnerability, 75% increased anxiety, and 62% grief; 25% reported they experienced depression," stated in the report. According to the Federation of Nepalese journalist 71 journalists have been affected by COVID-19 so far.

We can see that journalism is losing its credibility in Nepal and this another challenge we are facing at the moment. Credibility of the journalists is decreasing mainly due to fake news, misinformation and disinformation. Obviously, the government is also happy that journalism is losing its credibility.

Even information given by government officials have been confusing on many occasions. Prime Minister KP Oli, has claimed that 23 thousand PCR tests are being conducted on a daily basis, whereas, ministry of health's data shows that only 11 thousand PCR tests are being done on a day. This is one of the example from the government side. During this pandemic the Prime Minister has come under severe criticism for spreading misinformation. For example, right after imposing the first lockdown, the Prime Minister while addressing the parliament said that COVID-19 is just a flu and it can be treated by drinking turmeric water. He has also been seen telling the countrymen that sneezing will help combat this virus. When these type news quoting senior government officials get circulated, many general people believe it as truth. Hence, government also has been seen as source of fake news.





## Speaker

### Salim BOKHARI

CITY News Network  
Chief Editor / Director  
Pakistan

#### • Curriculum Vitae

I am serving as Chief Editor and Director of City42 News Network, Lahore which owns five television channels and a newspaper. Previously I worked as Group Editor of English daily The News and Editor the Nation. Both are leading English newspapers of Pakistan. I have been a host of three main television talk shows. I have more than 40-year experience as a working journalist. Graduated from Punjab University. I am a widely travelled person representing Pakistan as a part or head of delegations. I have interviewed renowned personalities of the world.

### 'Fake News' Can Be More Deadly Than COVID-19

Good morning everyone!

First of all, I thank the World Journalists Conference 2020 for inviting me to this online interaction with prestigious journalists and participants drawn from across the world. We all have gathered here to share our thoughts on some very pressing issues and matters including the menace of fake news that affects us more than they appear on their face.

The expansion of social media with lesser controls of the governments to regulate this menace has made it possible to communicate anything at any point of time to a massive audience across the world, irrespective of their caste, creed and age groups. This is probably the reason that top leaders both in the West and elsewhere spread highly inflammable propaganda contents, fake in entirety, and yet achieve their goals and go scot-free. This is also a fact that social media has become the main source to access news mainly because of the mushroom growth of media outlets without any check.

## | Salim BOKHARI

Experience is the testimony that fake news possesses the capacity of going viral faster than the pandemic, Corona Virus. The success of the fight against this deadly pandemic largely depends on the availability of reliable and authentic information that could then be disseminated to citizens. But realities on the ground clearly indicate that those who spread fake news are on the rampage and healthcare providers are greater liars than politicians. Be those healthcare advisories, domestic remedies or measures suggested by quacks. Besides the World Health Organisation (WHO) that provides authentic information regarding the spread of the Covid-19, death toll, a number of affected patients, there have been numerous options provided through the social media where unconfirmed figures and reports have been posted. Therefore, it is the foremost duty of the regulatory institutions of governments to educate through national media that the public must rely on newspapers, Website of the WHO and official channels disseminating information about the Pandemic. It is also, yet another duty of the respective government to keep consistent checks on social media platforms. This Pandemic menace is not going to end in the foreseeable future; therefore, it is incumbent upon the governments to initiate actions against defaulters who are offering fake information and playing with the lives of innocent citizens.

The few topics that were suggested in the invitation letter for this conference are all interconnected and equally important. And, I, being a Muslim, feel more compelled to touch upon these issues from a Muslim perspective. For long we have been complaining about the world of being prejudiced, biased and discriminating against us, of not listening to us, not understanding us.

It is true things are not as bad today as they were in post 9/11 days. The Western media has made some conscious efforts to show a relatively truer image of Muslims, but it's still far from where it needs to be.

But, I want to ask my fellows: what did we ourselves do about it?

The media representing a community serves as its mouth.

How could we expect others to even hear our voice if we don't have a mouth?

And, even if we do have a mouth, is it fully functional?

How could we suppose others to get it right whatever muttering, murmuring and mumbling comes out of a paralyzed mouth?

## | Salim BOKHARI

Despite being roughly one-fourth of the total world population, we have failed to establish even a single international news agency. Correct me if I am wrong. Do we have any news agency that is even half of what the agencies like AFP, AP, or Reuters are?

Do we have any TV or Radio channel, other than Al-Jazeera, which has a global outreach like the BBC, CNN, Deutsche Welle, or France 24?

Do we have even one such publication as the New York Times, Guardian, or Le Parisien?

The answer is No.

All Muslim states do have their public and private TV and Radio channels, newspapers and magazines, and local news agencies. But all these outlets are largely confined to their geographic and political constituencies.

And, we did experiment with an international news agency 47 years from the platform of the OIC. Headquartered in Jeddah, the International Islamic News Agency (IINA) was founded in 1972 with the objective of serving as the vanguard of Islamic information and media, and an instrument that could rally Muslims, defend their vital causes and convey their views and perspectives in the international arena.

But IINA failed to make its mark and ultimately closed down. In fact, it could never have delivered primarily because it depended on OIC member states for its finances, and it was impossible to report all such truths as could offend its financiers. The parochialism among the OIC members was another major hurdle.

The IINA has now been revived and renamed as the Union of OIC News Agencies (UNA) with the aim of serving as an umbrella organisation for the state news agencies of the OIC members. The success of this old-wine-in-new-bottle can be gauged by the fact that even most of us don't know that it exists.

The occupation of Iraq, the presence of Ethiopian forces in Somalia, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the Afghan crisis and the issue of independence for Kashmir and Chechnya were nearly untouchable for the IINA, and such issues remain the third rail for the UNA.

What is happening in Kashmir now is not reaching to the world, and whatever credible news has come out of that area have largely been through some Western newspapers and news agencies.

## | Salim BOKHARI

The scenic valley of Kashmir has been under curfew for past one and a half month, where occupation forces of India are ruthlessly killing and maiming innocent citizens, and blinding the protesting pro-independence youth with pellet-guns.

The international political and human rights forums did have noticed the alarming situation but this human tragedy has not shaken the collective conscience of the world citizenry the way it should have been.

There's no international Muslim media mouthpiece for the stateless Rohingya Muslims, who have been suffering unimaginable brutalities for the last several years.

The Bangladeshi Muslims who migrated to the Indian state of Assam almost three generations ago have been declared "foreigners". Thousands of them are being held in jails or intermittent centres under inhuman conditions. Others face the threat of genocide at the hands of the Hindu extremists, who are being propped up by the radical BJP-led government.

As for Palestine, the perennial example of power's precedence over respect for human life and dignity, it seems like Western media has lost interest in the plight of the brutalised inhabitants of that holy land. And, Muslim media is not capable enough to fill the gap.

In fact, we should not expect the western media to highlight the predicaments of Palestinians in the first place. This is our duty, and we must perform it.

My Muslim brothers and sisters, there could be many reasons for our muteness on the global stage; and, there could be many culprits.

We can blame our political leaders for their lack of vision and initiative. After all, we have no dearth of financial or human resources, why then we are lagging behind in this arena.

We can point the finger at Muslim businessmen, who have enough resources to establish and run global media concerns but have chosen to remain unconcerned.

But the biggest failure of all, my friends, is on our part.

It is we the journalists who were supposed to make our leaders realize that vibrant global media organizations can serve our collective interests even better than organizations like OIC.

It was us who must have convinced our billionaires that the international media industry is

## | Salim BOKHARI

worth their investment.

A well-functioning global Muslim media would present a closer, more real picture of Muslims to the world, and present their views and sentiments in an articulated manner. It will make others understand us better, and make them more tolerant and accommodating to us. Otherwise, we are just a noisy crowd, and no one pays attention to noise and rabble-rousing.

The increased understanding of Muslims would improve their image and help them better co-exist with different other communities and religious groups. The positive image of Muslims among other groups would also increase their influence in the global agenda-setting.

As for the issue of fake news, I believe, credible global Muslim media organizations have an important part to play here also. The truth is that in most of the Muslim countries, local media are controlled by the state with iron hands. Then how could people take anything from them without even a grain of salt?

The lack of credibility of local media heavily undermines their ability to help stop the spread of fake news. A big part of this problem can be solved by having credible global Muslim channels.

So, my fellows, we must do our duty of making this possible. Whenever we get a chance to interact with political and business leaders in our respective countries, we must try to make them realize how badly we need our own global media platforms.

I wish and I hope that next time when I attend some gathering of Muslim journalists, it would be covered by some global Muslim news agency and transmitted to the world by international Muslim TV and Radio channels - in a way that people watch it, hear it, listen to it.

Have a wonderful day!



## Speaker

### **Abdulrahman B. M. KHRAISHI**

Palestinian Journalists Syndicate (PJS)  
International Relations Officers  
Palestine

#### • Curriculum Vitae

##### Work

2016 - Current, Palestinian Journalists' Syndicate executive council member.  
2013 - 2016, Palestine Ethical Journalism Network Coordinator.  
2016 - 2019 Internews International, Media Laws Expert.  
2000 - 2013 Birzeit University, Online Journalism Trainer.

##### Education

1994 - 1995 Newhouse School for Public Communication, Syracuse University, New York:  
Hubert Humphrey Fellowship Program.

## Combating Fake News in Palestinian Media

Palestine media is going through complicated political situations: The Israeli Palestinian conflict on one hand and the internal Palestinian conflict between Fateh Movement in West Bank and the Islamic Hamas Movement in Gaza, on the other hand.

Both rival parties are using mainstream media outlets and social media platforms in the internal conflict to demonize each other, by using hatred speech and fake news to meet their goals.

When browsing both parties' social media publications, one can notice how fake news is used to demonize one another. At facebook, for example, Palestinian users can read camouflaged news, with faked journalistic titles, and anonymous sources.

## | Abdulrahman B. M. KHRAISHI

Palestinians accuse Israeli media of disseminating fake news, to incite against them, and so do the Israelis. Both parties have developed watch-dog mechanism to monitor news published by both parties' media outlets.

In addition to that, Social media in Palestine has been used for publishing misinformation and rumors on Covid-19, symptoms, prevention and treatment methods, which are not based on medical and scientific facts.

The question is how to encounter fake news and misinformation without restricting freedom of expression?

Combating fake news could be done through the following:

### **Media literacy**

Media literacy is a solution to prevent the spread of misinformation. Media literacy could be learnt at schools, universities, and media institutions.

It provides tools to help people critically analyze messages, provide opportunities for learners to increase their awareness of media, and help them develop creative skills in making their own media messages. Critical analysis can include identifying author, purpose and point of view, examining structure techniques and genres, examining patterns of media representation, and detecting propaganda, censorship, and bias in news and public affairs programming.

### **Codes of Conduct**

Many codes of conduct are designated by media and professional groups outlining the principles, values and obligations that target both professional journalists and social media activists.

Codes of Conduct help avoiding rumors and misinformation by verifying sources of information, footages, and videos. Furthermore, journalists and social media activists have to commit to remove incorrect material

### **Fake News Monitoring**

To combat fake news Palestinian Journalists Syndicate has launched fact-check platform (KASHEF) to monitor fake online news. As a result of the Palestinian inter conflict, fraud

## | Abdulrahman B. M. KHRAISHI

video clips, pictures, and texts are heavily published, mainly in social media platforms. KASHEF is monitoring such media materials, by checking their formatting and content, and publish findings to the public.

Another fact-check platform (MISBAR) that aims at spread accuracy and honesty among public debate, the media, and social networks is active in monitoring false reports and misinformation, that extremely misleading or surprising, cause high damage to news consumers.



## Speaker

### Benjamin FERNANDEZ

Radio Libre  
Director  
Paraguay

#### • Curriculum Vitae

Benjamín Fernández Bogado is Doctor in Law and post graduate courses in Syracuse University, Oxford and Harvard fellow twice one as a Nieman Fellow (00). He was president of the American University in Asunción, founder and director of Radio Libre and 5días and El Independiente newspapers in Paraguay. He wrote more than 10 books on communication, law and democracy. The last one is: "El jardín pandémico" (2020) an political essay on how the world is facing this pandemia. It is possible to find in Amazon.

## FAKE NEWS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO REINVENT REAL JOURNALISM

We are living in a world where everyone believes being a journalist or informant is just because he or she has a phone in their hands. In a moment where millions of people are interconnected through social networking some people found a mine of information that gives them an opportunity to manipulate, lie or invent news.

Journalism is a professional activity created to confront that kind of activities so we have a great opportunity to go against fake news using our tools of contrasting, looking, comparing and resume news in order to offer our readers, listeners and viewers a real perspective of the reality.

It is a great moment for us to the best journalist that we can because people are looking and paying for good examples of journalism. In my country, Paraguay, two new newspapers (5días and El Independiente) that belongs to our group went to the market in the last decade when everyone had believed that was a kind of financial suicide. On the contrary, with a good quality of writing, excellent stories to tell .. we were very successful in the market. In the Radio Libre, we decided to connect with people daily giving them a possibility

## | Benjamin FERNANDEZ

to understand news from a different perspective. Again, a good journalist who leads this kind of talk show is absolutely essential to understand political, economic and health news.

People are now more aware of fake news and starting to look for good examples of real journalism that gives us a great opportunity to reinvent our professional activity. We will need more capacity to understand culture events and to link each other and more than that to communicate people about. John Dewey used to say: community plus communication is equal to democracy.

Political interests found fake news a tool to manipulate people on their own interest and that give us as journalist a great opportunity to be close to the people. We were accused to be a little far away from people interest and too close to the corporative and political ones, now it is a occasion to revert that perspective using journalist tools and knowledge a resources on behalf to the people. To get the best we need to have a broad perspective in order to link economics news with political or social ones. It will be very important to have the capacity to see broad perspectives and link each other. The so called interdisciplinary perspective will be key instruments on journalists quality ahead.

Internet is a very useful resource for investigating journalism but we need to be careful about news which are posted for people who used trolls to disseminate fake news and are paid for that. Political electoral moments are also very sensitive moments to check news and avoid being used by people whose only purpose is to lie or manipulate. We have many cases around the world related to these cases and real journalism is the last barrier of lying.

Also fake news give us the possibility to develop a department in our newsroom in order to exhibit our readers who are people manipulating us with fake news.

We need to show that real journalism are supporting freedom of the press and freedom of expression and if we want to ensure these key elements for democracy. Fake news is a kind of virus that need a vaccine of professionalism, realism and true.

If we want a strong democracy and to preserve freedom, permanent vigilant attitude is key in order to get and maintain that condition but we need to understand how this new environment is developing and putting aside naive attitude and contrasting with a smart and intelligent position.

We have new players on the information arena but again good journalism is called to inform

## | Benjamin FERNANDEZ

reality with knowledge and compromise. School of communication needs to understand this new reality training future journalist with tools and responsibility toward citizen who do not want to return to the idiot's condition. (illota in Greek was the people who just think and act in itself interest).

Democracy and freedom need a courageous, intelligent and well aware journalists in dealing with these new reality and to give this fight will require strength and compromise indeed.

## Speaker



### Rosalin GARGANERA

Asian Journalist Association  
Chief of Staff/ Broadcaster  
Philippines

#### • Curriculum Vitae

Rosalin Ferrer-Garganera, ALIN in the world of journalism is also broadcaster from the Philippines, co-hosting the daily public service radio program "Isumbong Mo Kay Tulfo", a show, responding to complaints of ordinary citizens who want solutions to their problems or cases because of corrupt or incompetent government officials. She also works as an investigative reporter in the show. She also writes a weekly column in a widely-circulated tabloid newspaper in Manila, "Remate". Alin earned her degree on Creative Writing from the University of the Philippines (UP) and has been an AJA member since 2015. She is married with two sons, who are growing up faster than she wants

## Fighting Fake News in the Philippines

### Introduction

The proliferation of fake news is both present in mainstream and social media, but it is in social media in the Philippines that we witness the massive deployment and weaponization. In today's sharing, I will describe the social media landscape and explain the presence and practice of "fake news" in the Philippines. Then I will illustrate how we identify fake news, and finally share the approaches and work being done to fight fake news.

### The Social Media Landscape in the Philippines

In the Digital 2020 Report, groups We Are Social and Hootsuite released information about the social media landscape in the Philippines for 2020. In the Philippines of nearly 109 million Filipinos, more than 2/3 (67%) or 73 million are connected to the internet. Facebook

## | Rosalin GARGANERA

dominates this landscape with 96% accessing it while only a little more than half (56%) are active in Twitter. Meanwhile, 95% watch videos on YouTube and 64% engage in Instagram.

All these social media channels are being used by the mainstream media as their vehicles to reach out to more Filipinos, aside from the regular exposure to television, radio and print media.

Clearly, Filipinos need and want to have connections, and this also means they receive and consume huge amounts of contents from social media. News makers and content creators know this, so there is also a very high risk that most Filipinos will accept anything that is posted or distributed on social media.

### What is Fake News in the Philippines

There is no legal definition or concept of “fake news” in Philippine laws. Even academics and communication experts do not like to use the term “fake news”, although this is widely used and accepted publicly, because it is a real problem in society.

Communication and media experts prefer to use the term “misinformation” and “disinformation”. Either way, both are harmful to the audience.

On the other hand, Philippine laws point as criminal acts to producing or spreading “false information” or “alarming information”.

Misinformation is reporting the news but the contents or facts in the article are wrong, incomplete or unverified. Like when a source gives wrong or incomplete information to a reporter. False information is unintentionally disseminated on online platforms. Sometimes this is not deliberate, but this is still sloppy journalism, so we as journalist should be conscious of avoiding this.

On the other hand, disinformation is the conscious effort to produce and spread false or misleading news, articles and images that intend to convince large populations. It is deliberately false and pretends to be professional-level journalism.

Prof. Clarissa David from the University of the Philippines (UP) defines disinformation “as intended to convince online users to favor a group or individual political perspective.” She also added that “disinformation is orchestrated, it’s funded, ... it’s planned. In politics, it’s run by professionals.”

## | Rosalin GARGANERA

### Identifying Fake News

Fake news can be hard to identify immediately, but there are markers:

There is no credible source cited, and the medium itself (website, Facebook page or twitter handle, e.g.) is relatively new. Sometimes, the channel or medium attempts to present itself as another legitimate news organization.

When the post or article is full of emotional or explicit language. The content is extremist in its positions and is very polarizing most of the times.

When politicians or powerful people make pronouncements or attack individuals and organizations, but do not justify any legal or policy basis.

When the presenter (author or account-owner) has just set-up the account very recently and actually has very few followers.

When the article or the image is revising historical facts.

### Ways to fight Fake News

I gathered five best practices being used by Filipino journalists to fight fake news:

Watchdog association of media practitioners and professionals that do “self-regulation” and counter-checking of news. Some examples are

Center for Media Freedom and Responsibility (CMFR)

National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP)

MindaNews

Philippine Press Institute (PPI), and

Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism (PCIJ)

More contextual and critical reporting of news. Not simply “straight facts” anymore.

Use of digital tools to help the reporter and the editor to verify and “fact-check” the source

## | Rosalin GARGANERA

or the news itself. For example - First Draft News, Bellingcat's Digital Forensics Tools, The Listening Post Collective and #StopTheSpread by NUJP and the CMFR

Publicize erratum or corrections immediately.

Have an in-house "reader advocate" or an internal ombudsman to do "self-check" within the news organization.

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The problem with fake news: UP experts speak on the impact of disinformation on politics, society and democracy, by Khalil Ismael Michael G. Quilanguing, September 28, 2019 <https://www.up.edu.ph/the-problem-with-fake-news-up-experts-speak-on-the-impact-of-disinformation-on-politics-society-and-democracy/>

#STopTheSpread campaign of NUJP and CMFR - <https://youtu.be/w18d5dtkfkA>



## Speaker

### Timur SHAFIR

Russian Union of Journalists  
Vice President  
Russia

### • Curriculum Vitae

Timur Shafir, born 11.VI.1977

Executive Secretary (since 2013), Head of the International Department of the Russian Union of Journalists (RUJ). In June 2019 was elected as Vice-President of the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ). Over 25 years of professional experience, specializing in international and political journalism, protection of the labor and social rights of journalists.

## Russian experience in countering fake news: questions, concerns and consequences

Fake news has become a real negative phenomenon of modern time, and due to the rapid development of social networks, instant messengers and other means of communication, the spread of disinformation is becoming simply cosmic. The variety of fake news is very large, and they differ in a number of criteria that await serious, academic research. The TV or Youtube viewer can gasp in surprise, seeing professionally edited videos on which animals that do not exist in nature are shown as real. A professional journalist can grin sarcastically at the mention Claas-Hendrik Relotius name in a conversation. I am sure that many colleagues remember the story of this German journalist from Der Spiegel, winner of the CNN Journalist of the Year Award, the European Press Award, a multiple winner of the German Reporter Award, who also repeatedly and massively lied in his reporting.

But fake news can also create serious problems and be quite a powerful weapon of a political or financial nature, and not only cause bewilderment or a smile of audience. They can lead to quite serious consequences, from which a large number of people can suffer economically



## | Timur SHAFIR

and physically. According to 2019 economic study CHEQ Co. and the University of Baltimore the fake online news cost the global economy \$ 78 billion a year. There have already been cases in Russian media history when inaccurately disseminated information on blogs and social networks led to negative consequences. This year, the COVID-19 pandemic also triggered a huge amount of disinformation spreading at the speed of light. For example, when messages appeared about the measures taken by Russian airports staff to passengers arriving from China, panicky comments from users began to appear on social networks with calls for evacuation from cities. There have also been published reports of false numerous cases of COVID in regions bordering China. We saw a fake order from the Ministry of Health on measures to prevent the spread of coronavirus in Russia, which advises to drink alcohol. We have seen bogus calls for citizens to leave cities that did not lead to mass panic only thanks to a constant anti-misinformation campaign by journalists from the professional media. Additional problem is the refutation tool almost does not work in the social media world, the wave of reposts of the first message can lead to panic or delinquency for many of the participants involved.

Awareness of the negative aspects of the dissemination of false information prompts government institutions in many countries to search for mechanisms to suppress it. In particular, the European Commission is developing a pan-European strategy to counter online disinformation. The Russian government is also taking a number of measures aimed at countering fake news and their consequences. The laws banning fake were signed by President Vladimir Putin on March 18, 2019 and came into force on March 29, 2019. The penalties under these laws are in the area of administrative, not criminal law. However, there is concern in both civil society and the journalistic environment regarding the misapplication of these measures. Is it reasonable to punish for fake news? Will it lead to self-censorship of the media, which will publish only official press releases? Is it even possible to prove the reliability of the information and the intent to distort? Will the law become a tool to fight objectionable publications, especially in the regions?

The Russian Union of Journalists and a number of its partner organizations in the midst of an active and broad discussion on all these issues and are closely monitoring the situation to ensure that legal restrictions do not harm professional journalism, that the laws are not used as a means of pressure on journalists and independent media. At the same time, we also actively promote the principles of professional journalistic ethics, including such important measures to combat fakes as fact-checking. The civil society is also taking active steps to combat disinformation. Today in Russia there is already a unified electronic platform for filing complaints about cases of fake news. Websites "No Access" and "No Fakes" allow us to

## | Timur SHAFIR

simplify the procedure for filing complaints, conduct a preliminary examination and ensure prompt decision-making on legally prohibited content.

Nevertheless, it is extremely important for both the Russian and the international community to have a common understanding of the problems that fake news represent not only for internal but also for global security. Also, one of the most important tools in this counteraction face news is the exchange of professional experience at various international platforms. The struggle for sincere and professional journalism is not only a matter of a single country, representatives of a single journalistic profession. We welcome initiatives to exchange international experience and cooperation in this area.



## Speaker

### Lynn WALSH

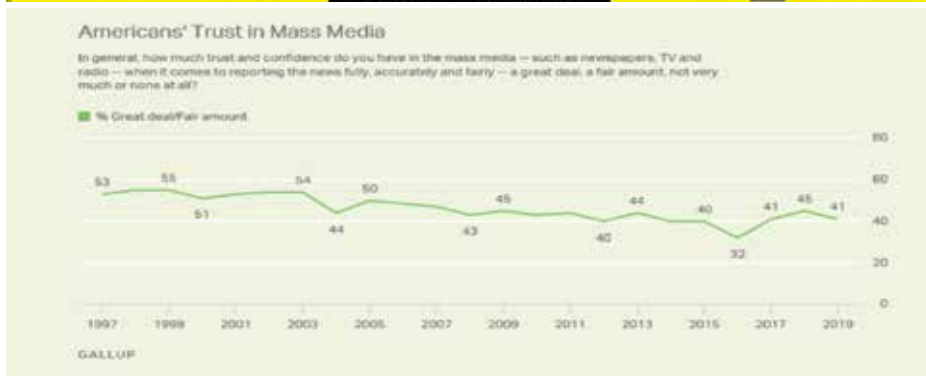
Trusting News, Society of Professional Journalists  
Assistant Director of Trusting News, Ethics Chair for  
Society of Professional Journalists  
United States of America

#### • Curriculum Vitae

Lynn Walsh is an Emmy award-winning freelance journalist who has worked in investigative, data and TV journalism at the national level as well as locally in California, Ohio, Texas and Florida. Based in San Diego, she is a past national president of the Society of Professional Journalists and the assistant director at the Trusting News project, where she's helping to rebuild trust between journalists and the public. Lynn is also an adjunct professor and freelance journalist. She can be reached at [lynn@TrustingNews.org](mailto:lynn@TrustingNews.org).

## WHAT'S A JOURNALIST TO DO?

[TrustingNews.org](http://TrustingNews.org) // [joy@TrustingNews.org](mailto:joy@TrustingNews.org) // [lynn@TrustingNews.org](mailto:lynn@TrustingNews.org)



Gallup has been asking how much people trust "media" for years. This chart shows how the percentage of people in the U.S. who say they have a "great deal" and a "fair amount" of trust has changed over the years. Journalists need to understand the challenges and the mindset of the people they aim to serve.

## | Lynn WALSH

### 1. Understand mistrust

- Start by knowing what people really think of you and your work. What do they misunderstand? What makes them mad?
- Remember that mistrust and skepticism are sometimes valid.

### 2. Address Missusumptions

People assume:

- We want things to go badly (weather, mass shootings, pandemics) because it's good for business.
- When we choose to cover something (like defunding the police, or the hospital's latest COVID-19 numbers), we're endorsing it.
- Our political biases affect our coverage decisions.
- We are not made by or for people like them.

People don't know:

- We take ethics seriously and strive to be fair and consistent.
- We consider our work a public service.
- We cover all kinds of things -- many of which they don't pay attention to or don't think of when they hear "journalism" or "media."
- We rely on their financial support.

### 3. Tell a better story about your journalism

- Engage in comments. Correct the narrative.
- Remind people of the breadth of what we cover.
- Talk about why and how we do stories -- within the stories themselves, in social, in newsletters, on air.
- Educate people about types of content (especially news vs opinion).
- Talk about where our money comes from, how much we rely on their support and what would happen if we went away.

### More resources:

- Trusting News has worked with 58 newsroom partners to test seven strategies.
- Research shows transparency increases trust (done with the Center for Media Engagement)
- Our user interviews found that people want news to be balanced, in-depth, honest and reputable.
- Get one actionable tip in your inbox each week, and learn about other training opportunities: [bit.ly/trusttips](http://bit.ly/trusttips)

## | Lynn WALSH

- Here's what Pew says people think about journalism and here is what you can do about it (<https://medium.com/trusting-news/heres-what-pew-says-people-think-of-journalism-and-what-you-can-do-about-it-8a2551d452cf>)
- Create an effective "About Us" page (<https://medium.com/trusting-news/create-an-effective-about-us-page-8b13530293c>)
- How to demonstrate trustworthiness in your COVID-19 coverage (<https://medium.com/trusting-news/how-to-demonstrate-trustworthiness-with-your-coronavirus-coverage-e7804d5dd957>)
- More articles highlighting our research and what we are learning can be found (<https://medium.com/trusting-news>)
- Search hundreds of newsroom examples on our website (<https://trustingnews.org/search/>)

## Speaker



### NGUYEN Do Hoa Mi

The Journalists and Public Opinion Newspaper,  
Vietnam Journalists Association  
Reporter / Deputy Head of International Affairs Division  
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#### • Curriculum Vitae

Reporter of the Journalists and Public opinion Newspaper (CLO) / Deputy Head of International Affairs Division of Vietnam Journalists Association (VJA).  
Education: Bachelor of Foreign Languages, Military Science Academy,  
Master of Communication, Institute of Journalism and Propaganda  
Working experiences: 8 years on international affairs desk

## Fake news has gotten out of control

Coronavirus epidemic (COVID-19) is probably fertile ground for fake news to break out on an unprecedented scale. In Vietnam, everyday silly information is still shared on social networks such as: The government sprayed drugs into the sky to fight viruses or boiled eggs can prevent coronavirus. Until September 1st, Vietnam has 1044 cases of the novel coronavirus and 34 deaths numbers that are significantly lower than the rest of the world. But still, to prevent further spread, the government has enforced social distancing. Therefore, there are so many blazed information confusing the civilian leading to unnecessary food storage.

Elsewhere, the very real consequences of fake news stories have increased. More than 300 deaths in Iran and over 1,000 people were hospitalized with alcohol poisoning after occurring a transmission of information that drinking alcohol is a preventive measure against Coronavirus. In India, the second most populous country in the world, hundreds of unscientific treatments even harmful to people's health have been posted, such as drinking urine and cow dung to cure the disease. The French Ministry of Health had to disprove the information online that "cocaine can cure Covid-19."

## | NGUYEN Do Hoa Mi

As a single-party state, with large and well-organized military and security services, Viet Nam has been able to make decisions quickly and enact them promptly. There is also a strong culture of surveillance, with people expected to inform on their neighbours if they suspect any wrong-doing. Anyone found sharing fake news and misinformation about the coronavirus risks a visit from the police, and around 800 people have been fined so far.

It can be said that the key to against fake news is actually in the hands of internet and social media users. Internet disconnecting or social networks closing to reduce the risk of spreading fake news is impossible and goes against the trend of development, however the users are completely can decide not to share, or even read from untrusted news sources.

There is one other factor that can play a proactive role against fake news that is media. In the past, it was thought that media was only to give honest and fair information. But now it must also participate in verifying information and exposing false news. Press agencies and media companies need to join hand to deliver consistent messages around false news. It is important to write the headlines by responsibility instead of enticing readers by using 'Search Engine Optimization'.

Journalism academies seem do not teach students how to responsibly expose fake news, so we need to incorporate these lessons into the courses. There should also be training courses for practicing journalists on how to slow down the spread of fake news through operational activities. Reporters should also pay attention to the way the headlines are placed, choosing images and posting appropriate news about rumors and misinformation. Newspapers need to keep their skills and knowledge up-to-date to deal with these new challenges.

### Future of journalism

During the complicated period of COVID-19 pandemic, although social networks have diversified information, most readers still turn to traditional newspapers to seek objective and authentic information. This has shown an irreplaceable role of traditional media with the role of leading, guiding public opinion and building social trust. Traditional journalism in general cannot disappear.

In the book named Beyond News - The Future of Journalism Mitchell Stephens, a professor of journalism at New York University's Arthur L. Carter Institute, proposes a new standard: "wisdom journalism," an amalgam of the more rarified forms of reporting—exclusive, enterprising, investigative—and informed, insightful, interpretive, explanatory, even opinionated takes on current events.

## | NGUYEN Do Hoa Mi

Most attempts to deal with journalism's current crisis emphasize technology. Therefore, articles including audio, video or web form need to become mainstream. We need to develop standards to differentiate such intellectual articles with harsh, controversial, and predictable one.

For e-newspapers in Vietnam, the online content is provided completely free of charge at first. Media revenues include state sponsorship, donations, advertisement and printed distribution. The general trend of the world press is that funding and advertising are getting more and more difficult, and revenue from publishing is decreasing. Therefore, more and more e-newspapers are applying measures to force readers to pay for their access. This trend is gradually emerging and prevailing. Along with the trend of having to pay for access is also a screening among e-newspapers. A game of "to be or not to be" and an uncompromising competition for readers. It must be better in quality and the readers must also be more serious and intellectual. Unfortunately, readers will have to consider carefully before deciding to spend money to buy access. The interaction relationship between readers and media is therefore very fundamental. They are forced to get closer together.



2020 세계기자대회

# WORLD JOURNALISTS CONFERENCE 2020

14(Mon.) - 16(Wed.) September 2020

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## Participants List / 참가자리스트



## 참가자 리스트



No.	Country	Name	Organization	Job Title
1	Bahrain	Habib TOUMI	Ministry of Information	Media Consultant
2	Nigeria	Austine JONATHAN ODO	Daily Trust Newspaper	Deputy Editor
3	Georgia	Khatuna CHAPICHADZE	Georgian Technical University; San Diego State University	Professor
4	India	Ranjit KUMAR	Rakshak news	Chief Editor
5	Costa Rica	Dennis Jose MORA GUZMAN	HorizontesTV	Director
6	Egypt	Ashraf DALY	Asia Journalist Association/ The silk road literature series	President /Editor in chief
7	Nigeria	Abubakar ADAM IBRAHIM	Daily Trust Newspaper Abuja	Features Editor
8	Colombia	Angel Fernando GALINDOO ORTEGA	El Tiempo	Freelance Journalist
9	Kazakhstan	Dogan IYLDYZ	Kazakistan.kz	Editor in Chief
10	India	Sabina INDERJIT	IFJ	Vice President
11	Russia	Timur SHAFIR	Russian Union of Journalists	Vice president
12	Russia	Vladimr SOLOVYEV	Russian Union of Journalists	President
13	Pakistan	Salim BOKHARI	City News Network	Chief Editor/Director
14	Turkey	Sinem VURAL	Hurriet	Journalist
15	Turkey	Mehmet Fatih OZTARSU	Former Asia N/ Hankuk University of Foreign Studies	Freelance Journalist
16	Cyprus	Petros SOUTZIS	Phileleftheros newspaper	Editor in Chief
17	India	Ambica GULATI	Independent Journalist	Independent Journalist
18	Nepal	Arun RANJIT	The Rising Nepal	Managing Editor
19	Pakistan	Rahul AIJAZ	Freelance journalist	Freelance writer/journalist and filmmaker
20	Bangladesh	Mashiul ALAM	The Daily Prothom Alo	Senior Assistant Editor

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No.	Country	Name	Organization	Job Title
21	Iran	Alireza BAHRAMI	ISNA News Agency	Head of art and culture desk
22	Papua New Guinea	Gorethy Maria KENNETH	South Pacific Post-Post Courier	Senior Political Reporter
23	Saudi Arabia	Yasir ALGHAMDI	Riyadh newspaper	Executive Editorial secretary
24	Bangladesh	Mahbub MORSHED	The Daily Star	Assistant News Editor
25	Cambodia	Rethea PANN	The Post Media.Co.ltd	Sub-editor/Reporter
26	Kyrgyzstan	Nurzhan KASMALIEVA	Kabar News Agency	Chief of international affairs department
27	Pakistan	Nasir Ahmed Memon AJJAZ	Sindh Courier	Chief Editor
28	Nepal	Kuber CHALISE	TBi Publications Pvt Ltd (The Publisher of Karobar National Economic Daily)	Editor
29	Palestine	Abdulrahman B. M. KHRAISHI	Palestinian Journalists Syndicate (PJS)	International Relations Officers
30	Poland	Boguslaw ZALEWSKI	Polish Media Association	Advisor to the Board
31	India	Pragya SAINI	Indiatimes   Times Internet Pvt Ltd.	Senior Video Producer
32	Israel	Hayim ISEROVICH	Maariv Daily	Foreign Affairs Correspondent
33	Venezuela	Francis Elena Zambrano ESPINOZA	Ministry of Culture	Press Director
34	Spain	Santiago CASTILLO RODRIGUEZ	ASIANortheast.com	Director
35	Kazakhstan	Bayan RAMAZANOVA	The Union Of Journalists Of The Republic Of Kazakhstan	Executive Secretary
36	Romania	Tinica-Octavia GALESCU	Romanian Broadcasting Company	Musical Editor/Producer
37	Nepal	Gokarna AWASTHI	Freelance	Freelance
38	Dominican Republic	Luis Francisco BEIRO ALVAREZ	Listin Diario Newspaper	Editor
39	Uzbekistan	Dilmurod DJUMABAEV	Asian Journalist Association	Correspondent
40	Kenya	Kagure Mwhiki GACHECHE	Standard Group PLC	Editor

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41	Egypt	Rasha M.Abdellah ABDELRAHMAN	Ajman University	Head of psychology department
42	Bangladesh	A K M ZAKARIA	The Daily Prothom Alo	Deputy Editor
43	Lebanon	Bilal BASSAL	Asia Journalist Association	Journalist & Art Critic
44	Panama	Alma Misilet Solis RODRIQUEZ	Panamá	SNIP Noticias de Panamá
45	Nepal	Keshab Prasad POUDEL	New Spotlight News Magazine	Editor
46	Philippines	Rosalin GARGANERA	Asian Journalist Association	Chief of Staff/ Broadcaster
47	Germany	Hassan HUMEIDA	University of Kiel	Doctor
48	Kazakhstan	Zhanat MOMYNKULOV	Academy of Public Administration under the President of Kazakhstan	Director of regional branch
49	Mexico	Rafael Enrique ROBLEDÓ CÁNO	Nest Taller de Comunicación	Deputy Director
50	New Zealand	Tim McCREADY	NZ Inc	Business Journalist
51	India	Neha BANKA	The Indian Express	Senior Sub-Editor
52	Malaysia	Norila MOHD DAUD	Malaysia World News	Senior
53	Sri Lanka	Leo Nirosha Darshan SATHASIVAM	Express Newspapers (cey) LTD	Asst. News Editor
54	Bangladesh	Md. Tawfique ALI	The Daily Star	Sr. reporter
55	United Arab Emirates	Ashwaq Mohsen Naji AL-ATOLI	Alarabiya News Channel	Writer Reporter
56	Myanmar	SAN Yamin Aung	The Irrawaddy	Senior Reporter
57	Paraguay	Benjamin FERNANDEZ	Radio Libre	Director
58	United Kingdom	Daniel John DAMON	BBC World Service	Presenter
59	Kuwait	Reaven Gerrad D' SOUZA	The Times, Kuwait	Managing Editor
60	Somalia	Khadar Awi ISMAIL	National Union of Somali Journalists (NUSOJ)	Information Secretary and Human Rights Officer



# Participants List

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No.	Country	Name	Organization	Job Title
61	Italy	Moscattello ANTONIO	Askanews News Agency	Journalist
62	Nepal	Purna Bahadur BASNET	Nepal Khabar	Editor-in-chief
63	United States of America	J. Alex TARQUINIO	Society of Professional Journalists	Immediate Past National President
64	Saudi Arabia	Hani HAZAIMEH	Arab News Daily	Assistant Editor In Chief
65	Yemen	Mohammed AL-MUHAIMID	Salam(peace) Initiative	Communication Engineer
66	Colombia	Margaret OJALVO	Oja Noticias, El Mundo al intante, Free Lance	Director and Journalist
67	India	Neelima MATHUR	Spotflim TV News Features Agency	Executive Producer
68	Kyrgyzstan	Kubanychbek TAABALDIEV	Kabar News agency / WS BBC radio	Director General / producer
69	Singapore	Ivan LIM	Environment Communcators of Singapore(Ecos)/Asia Journalist Association	Chairman/Senior Correspondent
70	Sri Lanka	Nisthar CASSIM	Daily FT	Editor
71	Lebanon	Ghena HALIK	Iaha magazine & asia N	Journalist
72	Honduras	Rosa Maria PINEDA	Newspaper the tribune	Journalist
73	Latvia	Aivars OZOLINS	Weekly Magazine IR	Commentator
74	Indonesia	Bob ISKANDAR	Persatuan Wartawan Indonesia(PWI)/ Indonesian Journalists Association	Senior Director of Confederation of Asean Journalists(CAJ)
75	Indonesia	Mohammad NASIR	Indonesian Journalists Association (PWI)	Director of Public Services of PWI
76	Cambodia	Rinith TAING	Khmer Times	Lead Journalist & Feature Writer
77	United States of America	Lynn WALSH	Trusting News, Society of Professional Journalists	Assistant Director of Trusting News, Ethics Chair for Society of Professional Journalists
78	Ireland	Frank MCNALLY	The Irish Times	Columnist
79	Vietnam	Lan Cu Thi	Dan Tri Online Newspaper under the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs	Editor- Deputy Head of the World News Desk
80	Indonesia	Eddy SUPRATO	Masagar News / RCTI	Managing director /Former Chief Editor/ Former Alliance Journalists independence Indonesia President

# Participants List

## 참가자 리스트

No.	Country	Name	Organization	Job Title
81	Iran	Pooneh NEDAI	Shokaran Magazine / Asia Journalist Association	President and Editor-in-chief/ Vice President
82	Cambodia	Sophal CHHAY	Club of Cambodian Journalists	Executive Director
83	Australia	Brett MASON	Special Broadcasting Service (SBS)	Chief Political Correspondent and Parliament House Bureau Chief
84	India	Gunjeet Kaur SRA	Sbcltr Media (subculture)	Editor
85	Ghana	Malik SULLEMANA	New Times Corporation	Journalist
86	China	ZHU Jing	All China Journalists Association	Journalist
87	Brazil	Angela PEREZ	O Estado de S. Paulo newspaper	Editor of International Affairs
88	Germany	Tobias KAISER	Die Welt	EU Correspondent
89	Argentina	Fernando KRAKOWIAK	Pagina 12	Journalist / Economy section editor
90	China	CHEN Yingqun	China Daily	Senior reporter
91	Vietnam	NGUYEN Do Hoa Mi	The Journalists and Public Opinion Newspaper, Vietnam Journalists Association	Reporter / Deputy Head of International Affairs Division
92	Mongolia	Bolortulga ERDENEBILEG	Confederation of Mongolian Journalists	General Secretary
93	Mongolia	Ariunbileg OYUNBILEGT	GoGo.mn news website, Mongol Content LLC	Editor-in-Chief
94	Indonesia	Atal S Depari	PWI Pusat	Chairman
95	United Kingdom	Jim BOUMELHA	International Federation of Journalists	Honorary Treasurer, Former President