



INTERNATIONAL RADIO FORUM

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A presentation by

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KBS ABU 국제포럼

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전경련회관 컨퍼런스센터 8F

THEME:

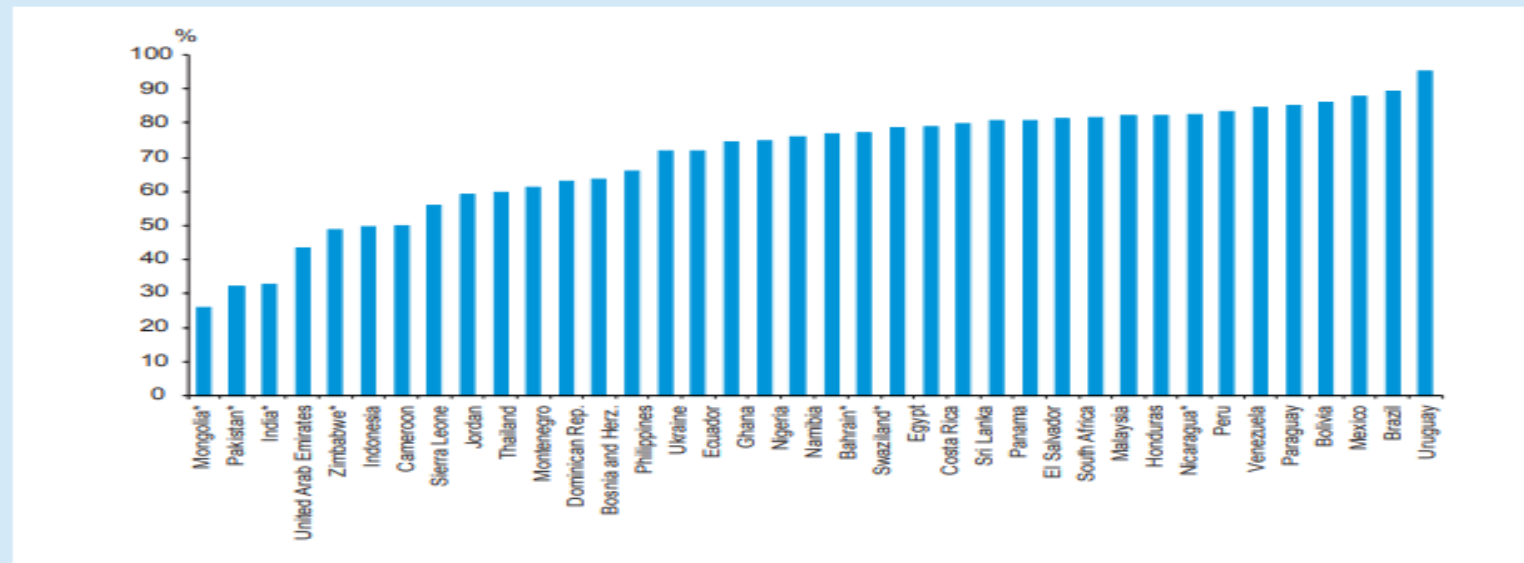
**The role of the media in
social integration and
peace**

- **The media have** always been at the centre of the greatest decisions that have changed the course of contemporary world history.
- Used wisely, they make it possible to strengthen the **unity of peoples, consolidate friendship** between States and reach the highpoints of **globalization** that is materializing with the opening of borders, **eliminating customs barriers** and the **proliferation of social networks**.
- Used wrongly, the media can be a destabilizing factor for our societies, resulting in the rise of hatred that results in inter-state and ethnic conflicts that lead us straight to chaos!

- According to a study published by the ITU, more than 95% of the world's population has access to radio.

WTDR 2010: Monitoring the WSIS targets

Chart 8.1: Proportion of households with a radio, 2007-08



Note: *Data refer to 2006. Data in this chart are presented for all countries where data were available, except for LDCs since they are featured in Chart 8.4.

Source: ITU World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators database and OSILAC, ECLAC.

- Thus, over the past fifty years, **LA RADIO** has played a decisive role in the development of the world. As a reminder, during the **two world wars** that shook the planet, radio was **used as a propaganda tool** between belligerent countries, killing thousands of innocent people.
- **In Africa**, it remains the most widely used medium because of its very accessible cost and also because it can operate without electricity.
- Unfortunately, radio as a mass communication tool proved to be destructive during the **1994 Rwanda Genocide**.

RADIO AS A PROPAGANDA TOOL / AN ETHNIC CLEANSING TOOL IN AFRICA



Example of A Thousand Hills Free Radio & Television, Rwanda, 1994

Perpetrators

- When: April 6, 1994 – July 15, 1994
- Who: Hutu-led government and Hutu extremists



Theoneste Bagosora
(1941-present)
Chief of Staff, Ministry of
Defense
Established Interahamwe
Militia



Interahamwe Militia
(1990-present)
Hutu Militia
Extremists



**Radio Television Libre des
Milles Collines (RTLM)**
(1993-1994)
Popular Hutu-led Radio
Station

- The “**Radio Télévision Libre des Mille Collines**” was a Rwandan media group that operated from 8 July 1993 to 31 July 1994. Its radio station called “**Radio Mille Collines**” (RMC) played an important role during the Rwandan genocide between April and July 1994.
- In its early days, it received support from Radio Rwanda, which was controlled by the state and licensed to broadcast using its equipment.
- But its planning was launched in 1992 by Hutu extremists in response to Radio Rwanda's non-partisan position and the growing popularity of another radio station called **Radio Muhabura** belonging to the **Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF)**.

- When Radio Mille Collines began broadcasting in July 1993, it was at the same time opposed to the ongoing peace talks between the Tutsi-majority RPF and **President Juvénal Habyarimana**, whose family had supported its creation.
- It should be noted that RMC came at a time when the means of **communication were greatly lacking**. In remote areas where **households struggled to have a television set**, it was first and foremost **an alternative to the state-owned media monopoly**. It became popular and quickly developed a loyal audience among the young Rwandans who later formed the bulk of the **Interahamwe militia**.

- **As the written press is not very accessible** because of the cost of a newspaper and the **high illiteracy rate** in rural areas, the RMC quickly became **the only means by which citizens could be informed**.
- Villages outside the **RMC transmission** areas became victims of violence generated by villages that have actually received radio transmissions (Arab telephone effect).
- It is estimated that **10% of all violence committed during the Rwandan genocide resulted from hate radio programmes broadcast by the RMC**. The hate messages broadcast on this radio spread across villages and regions, creating a climate of suspicion between neighbours, friends and total rejection.

- During the genocide, the RMC acted as a **source of propaganda** by inciting hatred and violence.
- It **reported on massacres**, victories and political events in order to **promote its anti-Tutsi agenda**. In an attempt to **dehumanize** and degrade, it described the Tutsis and the RPF as "**cockroaches**" during its broadcasts.

- The music of a certain Simon Bikindi was frequently broadcast on the RMC radio.
- His two leading hits, "Bene Sebahinzi" ("Son of the Peasants' Father") and "Nanga Abahutu" ("I Hate the Hutus"), which were later interpreted as inciting hatred and genocide.



➤ **Ladies and Gentlemen....**

➤ It should be noted with regret, that three figures emerged among the media men who used the airwaves of Radio A Thousand Hills in its preponderant role in spreading hatred that led to the **Rwandan Genocide.**

There are other examples in Africa where the Media has played a negative role!

- You must have heard about the **“Anglophone separatist crisis in Cameroon”**
 - A local TV station in Cameroon was suspended by the country’s regulator because its journalists described the Anglophones as “rats” and called for their annihilation.
- During the **crisis in Côte d'Ivoire** the media, including the state-run media took sides.
- There are many other partisan media houses in many countries in Africa where there are sociopolitical upheavals.
- These media through hate speech fan the flames of conflict

- However, the media have not only played a negative role in the African society.
- Learning from the past, **the United Nations Organization (UNO)** has set up radio projects to **build peace in conflict areas.**

For example there is a peace radio station in Côte d'Ivoire (**UN PEACE RADIO**)



- **Onuci FM** was created by the United Nations following the long **crisis in Côte d'Ivoire** after the death of President Houphouët-Boigny.
- To ensure continuity, Onuci Fm became “**La Radio de la Paix**” (**Peace Radio**) on 22 February 2017. It is run by the **Félix Houphouët-Boigny Foundation** *for Peace Research in Yamoussoukro*.
- This initiative is part of the transfer of the residual activities of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire in order to consolidate the achievements in the field of communication. It was recommended by the former Secretary-General of the United Nations, **Mr. Ban Ki-Moon**, in his special report on the 31st March 2016 to the Security Council, which accepted it.

- **Radio Peace** meets the professional requirements that guarantee editorial independence, inclusiveness and impartiality in the treatment of information.
- Its missions are to promote social cohesion, reconciliation between the different social strata, gender and respect for human rights at the service of peace in Côte d'Ivoire.



Another example is **Radio Ndeke Luka** in the Central African Republic



- **Radio Ndeke Luka** has been broadcasting since 2000. It has taken over from the UN radio **MINURCA**. Funded by the “Fondation Hironnelle”, it plays a positive role in the reconstruction of the Central African Republic by broadcasting educative programmes, political debates and interactive magazines in French and Sango focusing on human rights, youth, the status of women, health and good governance.
- At the height of the conflict in Bangui, it had become, according to its editor-in-chief Jean-Claude Ali Syllas, *“the police officer, the doctor, the judge. The population came directly to the radio to denounce the abuses, ... the dead in the courtyard..., the wounded unable to go to the hospital came to get help in front of the studios”*.

- **Ladies and gentlemen,** despite the efforts made to maintain peace in our societies and the resources deployed by the United Nations, it must be said that the traditional media have shown their limits. The human being, motivated to spread hatred now uses the social media to create division.



Hate speech through social networks

- Indeed, gone are the days when **Facebook, YouTube and Twitter** were hailed for their role as **catalysts for freedom of speech and democracy**.
- These platforms have undoubtedly contributed to the democratization of the public sphere. Individuals can attract tens of thousands of subscribers and get millions of views without having to go through radio, TV, news agencies. Activists too can organize, disseminate information and mobilize people more easily than ever before, as we have seen with the Yellow Vests in France, the revolutions in Sudan and Algeria.



- However, politicians use social networks to spread hateful ideas. Those in power create false profiles across social networks to distill hatred and turn social groups against each other to better assert their power.
- In Bulgaria, political representatives issued discriminatory and xenophobic statements targeting LGBTI persons and Roma;
- In Myanmar, senior army officials and government spokespersons shared messages on Facebook against the Rohingya;
- In the Philippines, authorities have used troll networks against those who criticize them. And this is only a small part of what we are experiencing on a daily basis.

The African Union of Broadcasting's advocacy for peace

- Concerned about this situation, the **African Union of Broadcasting** has made the fight against hate speech on the web its main focus. From the 25th to the 29th of March 2019, the AUB organized the 12th ordinary session of its General Assembly at the in Marrakech, Morocco with the theme: “**The influence of New Media on the African Audiovisual Industry**”.
- This initiative, which brought together the best audiovisual media professionals from Africa, Asia and Europe, paved the way for a constant and sustainable reflection.

- All over the world, peace and stability are threatened by people lurking in the shadows who produce false information on a daily basis or Fake News that is echoed on social media networks. The AUB, for its part, believes that the fight that has begun must not stop there!
- The media as a means of mass communication must continue to play the role of a **watchdog**. And all this cannot be achieved without the effective involvement of our governments, which are responsible for implementing strong **cybercrime** legislation and promoting peace within and beyond national borders.

Thank you for your kind attention!

