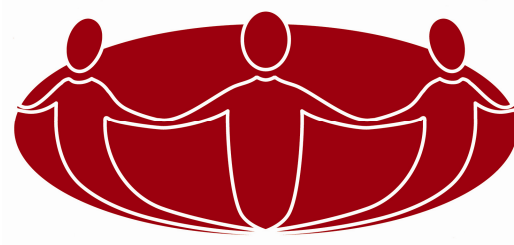


CJPD Project Proposal

The Role of the Media in the Conflict in Sri Lanka

Centre for Just peace and Democracy



www.cjpdonline.org

Bahnhofstrasse 13, 6020 Emmenbrücke, Switzerland
phone: + 41 41 260 2601, email: info@cjpdonline.org

PROJECT PROPOSAL FOR THE EVALUATION OF THE ROLE PLAYED BY THE MEDIA IN REPORTING ON THE CONFLICT IN SRI LANKA.

Proposed Project

In the words of Hastings, a noted war correspondent during the second world war "*when one's nation is at war, reporting becomes an extension of the war effort*".

This is largely true in respect of the war in Sri Lanka. The media in Sri Lanka is polarised along nationalistic lines. As such the reporting of events, interpretation of the root causes of the conflict and reasons attributed to the failure of the cease-fire tend to reflect nationalistic perspectives.

It is proposed that a study is undertaken to explore the way in which the dominant print media reported developments during crucial stages of the conflict-the period of the Cease-Fire Agreement (February 2002 to date).

The purpose of the study is to demonstrate how events were reported by the

- The Sinhala print media¹
- The Tamil print media²

Aim:

To demonstrate how different perspectives have influenced the reporting of events at crucial stages of the conflict in the period between the signing of the Cease Fire Agreement in 2002 to date.

Objectives:

To understand the role played by the media in disseminating information.

To enable Sinhala and Tamil journalists to help understand the perspectives of each other.

Methodology

- A joint interactive seminar involving 5 representatives each from Sinhala and Tamil media
- Papers to be submitted in advance by all participants prior to the seminar on the following topics based on how it was reported/interpreted by their papers.

- The CFA and Peace Talks
- The restoration of Normalcy

¹ This is not confined to the Sinhala media reporting in the Sinhala language but includes Sinhala reporters/journalists writing in the English language.

² This is not confined to the Tamil media reporting in the Tamil language but includes Tamil reporters/ journalists writing in the English language.

- High Security Zones and the resettlement of the displaced
- The role of the paramilitaries
- ISGA Proposal and P-Toms agreement

- The proceedings of the seminar to comprise presentation of papers, clarification and exchange of views.
- The papers submitted and summary of discussions to be published and circulated to parties to the conflict and other stakeholders.
- International reporters who have reported on the conflict to be invited as observers.

Output:

Documentation of papers presented and seminar discussions/ deliberations.

Anticipated Outcome:

- An understanding of the views of the 'other' by journalists reporting on the conflict
- A resource for researchers, parties to the conflict and other stakeholder