



UPF - Universal Peace Federation Report on event held by Bonn local UPF group

United Nations International Day of Peace 2019

Sunday, 22 September 2019

The first part of the UPF event in Bonn to commemorate the International Day of Peace 2019, dealt with the significance and influence of media reports and the development of conflicts and wars; the second part considered this year's UN motto: „*Climate Action for Peace*“.



Rémy Mallet, a young blogger and journalist from the Ivory Coast who has a Master's degree in „International Media Studies“ from the *Deutsche Welle Akademie* (media training academy, in cooperation with the Universities of Bonn and Bonn-Rhein-Sieg), gave a presentation entitled „**Peace or War Journalism?**“.

He listed points representing peace journalism: peace-truth-humane-solution oriented, and contrasted them with characteristics of war journalism: violence-propaganda-elite-victory orientated. A short video clearly illustrating these points was shown. Mr. Mallet then presented the results of an analysis he had made of twitter reports written by various international sources about the Boko Haram organisation, regularly labeled as „an Islamic terrorist group“ (Wikipedia). Almost 60 % of the tweets which he analyzed fell into the category of „war journalism“, in that their focus was on violence and its consequences, did not mention the background and development of conflict, and described winner-loser scenarios rather than considering the possibility of peaceful „win-win“-strategies for all concerned. Only 6% of the tweets could be seen as reports in the spirit of peace journalism. The interest of the audience had clearly been stimulated by this topic which provoked numerous questions and comments. In the ensuing guided discussion the financial and economic aspects of media organizations were considered, as well as the enormous changes, expected to greatly increase in the future, brought about by social media.

The afternoon program continued with information about the origins of the International Day of Peace, the 17 goals for sustainable development of the UN, and this year's motto for the Day of Peace: *climate action for peace*, which is integral to development goal 13.

