

Abdirisak Aden

Ministry of Information, Transitional Federal Government, Somalia

Abdirisak Aden received a BA in Politics and International Relations from the University of West England. Currently, he is a Communication Advisor for the Ministry of Information, Transitional Federal Government (Somalia). Together with the Ministerial team, he has set up Radio Mogadishu, which continues to inform and educate the Somalis locally and in the Diaspora. Through this work he has gained vast experience in establishing media in a war-torn country. He has written a case study titled Establishment of media in war torn society-Radio Mogadishu, which illustrates the possibility of establishing strong media in a country that lacks media regulations and a regulatory body. Prior to working with the Ministry he ran a media consultancy company.

Akpojivi Ufuoma

University of Leeds, United Kingdom

Akpojivi Ufuoma is a third year PhD student of the University of Leeds, United Kingdom where his research is on the thesis titled "Media Freedom in Young Democratic Societies: Cases of Nigeria and Ghana". His research interests include democracy and the democratization process in developing countries, African media development, and citizenship and media policy in developing societies. He holds a Master of Arts degree in Communications Studies from the University of Leeds, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Mass Communication from Delta State University, Abraka, Nigeria.

Aliya Sagynbekovna Abdraimova

Media Policy Institute, Kyrgyz Republic

Aliya Sagynbekovna Abdraimova is the Senior Media Lawyer at the Media Policy Institute, Kyrgyz Republic and the former public assistant of the Parliament's Deputy Kulikova G. She has a B.A. in Law from American University, Central Asia. Her current responsibilities include representing mass media interests in the government, parliament, courts and other state bodies, as well as in front of the population; developing amendments and recommendations to media legislation; and creating media law advocacy campaigns, conferences, round-tables and other events on pressing media law issues. She hopes to gain an understanding and perspective of the legislative process via the UK experience in lobbying, promotion of democracy, and freedom of speech, with the aim of enhancing the impact on the development of Kyrgyzstan through realization and implementation of projects promoting good governance and the importance of civil society through media, better understanding of the advocacy process for its successful application in home country; developing new and useful projects aimed at advancement of democracy in Kyrgyzstan; and improving protection of human rights and freedom of speech.

Alongkorn Parivudhipongs

Chulalongkorn University, Thailand

From Bangkok, Thailand, Mr. Alongkorn Parivudhipongs, or AL, is currently a lecturer at the Department of Journalism and Informatics, Faculty of Communication Arts, Chulalongkorn University. For over ten years, he worked as a feature writer and a reporter for an English-language newspaper, the Bangkok Post. He was a Fulbright scholar with an MA in new media from Michigan State University and an Erasmus-Mundus alumnus with training in Journalism and Globalization from Europe. His research interests include journalism practices, media reform, education, creative industries and popular culture.

Amer Dzihana

Mediacentar Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Amer Džihana holds an MA degree in journalism from the Faculty of Political Sciences in Sarajevo (2005) and an MA degree in Public Policy from the Central European University, Budapest (2010). Currently, he is working as an analyst and research coordinator at Mediacentar Sarajevo. He was a Visiting Research Fellow at the Centre for Media and Communication Studies - CEU Budapest in 2009/2010. He published policy studies about the transformation of Bosnian public service broadcasting and the implementation of the Freedom of Access to

Information Act in Bosnia and Herzegovina. His research interests include: public service broadcasting, media and conflict, and relations between media policy and public life.

Anna Leonova

Moscow State University, Russia

Anna Leonova was born in the Moscow region (Odintsovo) where she now lives, studying at Moscow State University (Faculty of Journalism), working as a free-lance journalist, launching different communication projects and doing research on professional journalist associations in Great Britain, Russia and Italy. She has attended a variety of educational courses as a journalist, researcher and manager. Her passion is the study of foreign languages and she is fluent in English and Italian and conversational in French and Serbian. She has more than 200 publications in different Russian media. She currently writes for "The Journalist" magazine about international journalism and for some regional media. She has also launched a personal project doing media consulting for small enterprises. Anna is a member of the Russian Union of Journalists, a participant in different scientific and professional conferences, and co-founder of the International League of Young Journalists.

Ana Maria Rosa

University of Vale do Rio dos Sinos, Brazil

Ana Maria Rosa is part of the Communication, Political Economy and Society Researching Group (CEPOS), at the University of Vale do Rio dos Sinos, in Brazil. She is in the process of obtaining a Master's degree. Journalist since 2004, she started her research activities developing multimedia contents to support distance education at the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul. She had an international academic experience in Argentina, during 2003, and has been a specialist in Linguistics Advice since 2008. Currently, she is researching the uses of interactive television, focusing on what kinds of content can be developed to include people in the production of television and how this media can be changed to be more all-encompassing and to show more variety about the world, diminishing the creation of patterns and stereotypes.

Ms. Antonina Cherevko

International Media Support, Ukraine

Ms. Antonina Cherevko is a media lawyer who currently works for International Media Support coordinating its media program in Ukraine. Antonina graduated from the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy (Kyiv, Ukraine) in 2005, and obtained a Master's of Law with a specialization in media law. She took the International Human Rights Summer Course in Warsaw, Poland in September 2003 and the Project Management Course at the Austrian Study Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution (ASPR) in November 2007. In the beginning of her professional career (2002-2005), Antonina worked as a legal consultant and trainer for the Open Society Foundation in Ukraine and for the IREX U-Media Legal Defense and Education Programme. Later, she joined the OSCE office in Kyiv, Ukraine to work on the rule of law project from 2005 to 2008. In May 2008, Antonina became Programme Officer at International Media Support (IMS) and is currently coordinating IMS activities in Ukraine aimed at reforming Ukrainian media legislation, furthering democratic development of Ukrainian media and creating a fair and pluralistic media market in the country. Antonina enjoys working and learning in a multi-cultural environment and values openness and diversity.

Ms. Arinolah Elizabeth-Nite Omollo

Glasgow Caledonian University, Scotland

Arinolah is a Commonwealth student completing an MSc. in Construction Economics with a general flair for International Economic Development. She is a woman with technical aptitude and an interest in policy formulation with a passion for generating new knowledge. In 2007 she graduated with 1st class honors (under DFID/ Windle Trust International Scholarship): Economics major; sociology minor complemented by Certified Public Accountant Part 2 and Diploma in Management of Information Systems. Arinolah worked as Finance and Human Resource Manager – Micro-Finance INGO; Project Officer- Carter Centre; Data Assistant- Carter Centre

and as a volunteer with different institutions. Today, Arinolah is still determined to achieve her dreams to be one of the African women to influence policies in the continent. She is representing South Sudan and Kenya. And above all to be a Doctor in Economics!

Baha Halassa

Telecommunications Regulatory Commission, Jordan

Baha Halassa was born in Amman in 1980. He studied Communications and Electronics Engineering at Philadelphia University. He is currently working as Telecom Regulatory Officer in the Telecommunications Regulatory Commission in Jordan. He got his Project Management Certificate from the International Association of Programs and Projects Management (IAPPM) in 2006. Baha was named "Innovative Engineer of the Year" in 2007 by the Jordan Engineers Association. He was awarded the Philadelphia University Academic Excellence Award and Shield of Honor for being the first among students graduated on the same major of the eleventh group, and the Microsoft Prize for the Most Creative Project for the Jordanian e-Government Program. He has effectively participated in advancing ICT policy and strategy, media and ICT convergence, and providing ICT services for persons with disabilities.

Blessed Ngwenya

Centre for Socio-Legal Studies, University of Oxford, England

Mr. Blessed Ngwenya is a student at the Centre for Socio-Legal Studies (CSLS) at the University of Oxford. He graduated with an MA Cum Laude from the University of the Witwatersrand in South Africa. Ngwenya's research interests include media policy and history, public broadcasting and radio industry. He has also worked in radio and founded U-fm, a community radio station in South Africa.

Chris Mhike

Zimbabwe Media Commission

Chris Mhike is a lawyer practicing in partnership at Harare-based law firm, Atherstone & Cook Legal Practitioners. His practice covers a wide range of legal fields but is substantially rooted in human rights law, and media law. He has in that vein represented numerous journalists and media houses in Zimbabwe, and acted as a resource person for local and international media organizations in the discourse, training and research projects relating to media law and policy, and international media law.

Mhike is also a qualified journalist who trained in Mass Communication before working as a journalist at The Herald and later at Daily News. He has also regularly contributes editorial and opinion pieces to local and international publications.

A member of the International Media Lawyers Association (IMLA), and past Chairperson of the Zimbabwe Association of Community Radio Stations (ZACRAS), Mhike was a Councilor of the Voluntary Media Council (VMCZ) where he served in the Council's Media Complaints Committee, prior to his recent appointment to the Zimbabwe Media Commission (ZMC). At the ZMC, he heads the Legal Affairs Committee.

Christian Vaccari

University of Bologna, Italy

Cristian Vaccari (Ph.D., Università IULM, Milan, 2006) is an Assistant Professor in Political Communication at the Faculty of Political Science "Roberto Ruffilli" of the University of Bologna. He studies political communication in a comparative perspective, with a particular focus on new media. He has authored and coauthored three books in Italian and his scholarship has been published in Political Communication, New Media & Society, European Journal of Communication, Journal of Information Technology & Politics, and French Politics, as well as in various international edited volumes. He has been a visiting scholar at Columbia University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and American University.

Dennis Deqiang Ji

Communication University of China

Dennis Deqiang Ji is a PhD candidate majoring in media and society at the Communication University of China in Beijing, PRC. He holds a master's degree in communication theory and a bachelor's degree in journalism studies. His recent research interests include media policy, the political economy of digital television in China, and new media and Chinese work-unit society. He has published papers on media literacy, intercultural communication and media and the Olympics. He is also the author of several book chapters including, "Journalism Reform in Modern China: 1979-2008" (2008) and "The Ecology of Public Opinion in Modern China" (2009). He has worked for nearly three years as the editor-in-chief of China Media Studies, an academic website founded in 2001, dedicated to becoming an online public platform for academic exchange in media research. He has also volunteered as the secretary of the Chinese Association of Communication since 2007.

Gulmira Kuzhukeyeva

Internews, Kazakhstan

Gulmira Kuzhukeyeva has worked at Internews Network since June 2008 in the Kazakhstan office. Gulmira takes final responsibility for monitoring and analysis of media legislation in Central Asian countries, legal consultations to mass media and journalists (access to public information, copyright, labor law, contract law, defamation, Internet etc.), preparing legal commentaries on the media legislation of Kazakhstan, and membership in the expert working groups engaged in the development of concepts and draft regulations. Gulmira is also in charge of organizing regional conferences, seminars, and round-tables in the media legislation sphere, assisting with update of the content of the Internews media law project web-site, including updating the media law database for all five Central Asian countries, providing on-line legal consultations and putting together news about the project's events. In her work Gulmira mainly focuses on such topics as libel, access to government information, internet regulation and copyright law. Gulmira Kuzhukeyeva graduated from Kazakh State Law University, Almaty, with a bachelor's degree in international law and public service. She is the author of publications in the field of civil, non-commercial information legislation.

Dr. Jaafar Nsour

Jordan Audiovisual Commission

Dr. Jaafar Nsour is the director of administration and finance at Jordan's Audiovisual Commission (AVC). He transferred from the Jordan radio and Television Corporation in mid-2003, the year of establishment. He was also a member of the joint advisory board for the Jordan Media Strengthening Project. The board was comprised of key media share holders and was formed for the purpose of providing policy advice to USAID on the implementation of the project. Mr. Nsour has also written many articles in local weekly newspapers. He is member of an AVC committee to study and analyze applications for granting broadcasting licenses. He is a part time lecturer at Al-Balqa Applied University, Jordan and holds a BA and masters degrees in political science and a PhD in economics.

Ms. Jane Wambui Thuo

Association of Media Women in Kenya

Ms. Jane Thuo is the Executive Director of the Association of Media Women in Kenya (AMWIK) where she has worked for the last 6 years and where she started as a Programme Officer and a Programmes Manager. She holds a Masters degree in Communications from Daystar University and B.Ed Arts (Honours) from Moi University. She is also a part time Lecturer on Communication and Development at the University of Nairobi's School of Journalism and recently enrolled for her PhD at the university.

At AMWIK she is credited with increasing the programme base of the Association and has successfully developed programmes covering themes like child labor, child abuse and sexual exploitation, gender and governance, gender-based violence, female genital mutilation, human rights, peace, and reconciliation all from a media and communication perspective. Previously she worked as a Fundraising and Communications Officer with African

Medical Research Foundation (AMREF-Kenya) where she coordinated media and publicity campaigns such as the "Stop Flying Toilets" campaign. She also worked with Noel Creative Media as a Public Relations Coordinator. She has been the Writer and Editor of the Flying Doctor Society of Africa quarterly newsletter. Jane also worked for the Public Service, where she had a short stint teaching under the Teacher Service Commission (TSC).

Jonathan Stray

Freelance Journalist

Jonathan Stray is a freelance journalist and a veteran computer scientist, based in Hong Kong. He has contributed to the New York Times, The International Herald Tribune, Foreign Policy, Wired.com and CNET. He was formerly a senior computer scientist in the Advanced Products Development group at Adobe Systems, Inc. and once ran a successful technology startup, but left Silicon Valley in 2009 to pursue journalism full time. He follows new media closely, consults for various media companies, and covers the future-of-journalism beat for the Nieman Journalism Lab at Harvard University. His research interests include how ideas flow between cultures, the public interest issues surrounding identity and privacy online, and journalistic uses of information visualization. He holds a Master of Computer Science from the University of Toronto and a Master of Journalism from the University of Hong Kong.

Lana Hijazi

Journalist and Film Director, Gaza

Lana Hijazi, 23 years old, is a journalist and film director. She lives in the Gaza Strip and has BA in Media studies from Al-Azhar University, Gaza. During the last war on Gaza, she directed the documentary film titled "The War Hates Children". Following the war she directed another documentary titled "Correspondents in Gaza". She wrote the script and narrated "Hadeel", a documentary film that won the judge's committee award in the Al-Jazeera 3rd Documentary Film Festival. In 2009, she participated in the "NUFF" workshop, held by Gaza and Norway, regarding the siege and blockade. She has worked as a communication officer for three projects in cooperation with "Save the Children" and "PCDCR". She has attended three courses on human rights and subsequently worked as a human rights defender with many local institutions that focus on the suffering of Gaza residents and violations of human rights. Her skill as a director has been polished by the internationally-known directors Pia Holmkost and Maurice Jacobsen. She is currently participating in the media training program being conducted by InterNews Agency.

Naile Krasniqi

Independent Media Commission, Kosovo

Naile Krasniqi has been working in the media regulation field since 1999 when she joined the Media Affairs Department of the OSCE Mission to Kosovo. She has been the Chief Executive Officer of the Independent Media Commission (IMC), Kosovo's Broadcast Regulator, since November 2006. During this time she has led important processes for the development of media sector in Kosovo, such as an introduction of the secondary legislation for broadcasters and cable operations, conclusion of the long-term licensing process and initiation of the drafting strategy for digital switch-over. Naile has finished a degree in English Language and Literature at the Prishtina University (BA) and has earned a Master of Education Degree from the University of Calgary with a specialization in Educational Leadership.

Nesrine Abdel-Sattar

Oxford Internet Institute, England

Nesrine Abdel-Sattar is currently reading a Doctorate of Philosophy in 'Information, Communication and the Social Sciences' at the Oxford Internet Institute, University of Oxford, with a scholarship from the Citadel Capital Foundation. Prior to coming to the Oxford Internet Institute, Nesrine led communication-for-development projects for a number of inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations in her home country - Egypt - and in the UK. She headed communication campaigns for UNICEF, SureStart, CARE International and recently

the International Development Research Centre (IDRC). She developed communication strategies and advocacy campaigns for issues ranging from water in the Middle East to Avian Flu in rural Egypt.

Nesrine holds a BA in Journalism and Mass Communication from the American University in Cairo (2000), and an MA in Mass Communication (distinction) from the University of Leicester, UK (2004). Nesrine plans to join the Ministry of Information in Egypt upon finishing her degree.

Pietro Tesfamariam

EU Election Observation Mission for 2010 Election in Sudan

Pietro Tesfamariam holds an M.A. in Political and Social Communication and a B.A. in Communication and Society with a major in international communication and media development from the University of Milan, Italy. He has been working as media analyst and researcher in election related projects in a media research institute in Italy, Osservatorio di Pavia, and this year he joined the EU Election Observation Mission for 2010 Election in Sudan as Deputy Media Analyst. Prior to that, Pietro worked in Uganda as a Communications officer with UNDP and as a Programme manager for an Italian NGO.

Rakan Baibars

Regulatory Commission of Jordan

Rakan Baibars is a Jordanian certified lawyer with a masters degree in law and intellectual property rights from the University of Jordan. He worked as a legal advisor for various entities in different sectors including professional services, media, and utilities; he now works in the Telecommunications Regulatory Commission of Jordan (TRC) as the Head of Dispute Resolution. Legal aspects of intellectual property rights, ICT, media policy, and regulation are his particular areas of interest; he has executed various research works and participated in different workshops and conferences covering the mentioned disciplines.

Roberto Suárez Candel

Hans Bredow Institute for Media Research, Germany

Roberto Suárez Candel (born 1978) holds a PhD in Social Communication (2009) from the Pompeu Fabra University (Barcelona – Spain). In his doctoral dissertation, he analyzed the public policies addressing the implementation of Digital Terrestrial Television within the European Union and compared the cases of Sweden and Spain. From 2002 until January 2010, Roberto Suárez worked as a researcher and associated lecturer at the Department of Communication of the Pompeu Fabra University. Since February 2010, Roberto Suárez has worked as a Marie Curie Post-doctoral Fellow at the Hans Bredow Institute for Media Research in Hamburg, Germany. He is in charge of the project "Redefining and repositioning Public Service Broadcasting in the Digital and Multiplatform Scenario: Agents and Strategies – An international comparative analysis within the European Union". Roberto Suárez's research interests are: Communication Public Policy & Law, Public Service Media, Digital and Hybrid Television, and Media structure and economics. He also has experience in the audiovisual production market (Cinema, TV & Advertising), where he worked as a production assistant from 1999 to 2001.

Roxana Radu

Central European University, Hungary

Roxana works at the Center for Media and Communication Studies at Central European University (CEU) as workshop coordinator and researcher. She holds a BA in Political Science from the University of Bucharest (Romania) and an MA from CEU (Hungary). As part of the 2010 European Capacity Development Programme in Internet Governance, Roxana conducts advanced research on e-voting in the European Union. She is also a research fellow of the Education Support Program at the Open Society Institute. Her research interests include: political participation via online mechanisms, e-government policies, media and democratization, and Balkan politics.

Seyram Avle

University of Michigan, United States

Seyram Avle is a PhD student in Communication Studies at the University of Michigan where she studies the interplay between globalization, policy, and communication technologies. Specifically, she is interested in how the global flows of media, ICTs, knowledge and high-skilled labor impact socio-economic conditions in developing regions. Her current project looks at the role of “glocal” networks and expertise in media and telecommunication industries in transitioning countries.

Shameem Reza

University of Dhaka, Bangladesh

Shameem Reza teaches Mass Communication and Journalism at the University of Dhaka. He has taught various courses, including Communication Policies and Planning, International Communication, Development Communication, Freedom of Information and Access, Media Advocacy and Public Education and Comparative Media Systems. He is interested in media policies, laws and regulations in the South Asian region in general and Bangladesh in particular. Broadly, his research interests lie in the arena of communication policies, public service broadcasting, community media, children and media, globalization, crisis communication and issues concerning freedom of information and access. Mr. Reza did his BA (Hons.) and MA at the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism, University of Dhaka. He also obtained a masters degree in Media Education from the University of New South Wales (UNSW), Australia. As a Ford (ASIA) Fellow (2006-07) at the Institute of Malaysian and International Studies (IKMAS), University Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), Reza conducted studies on Children, Global Media and Communication Policies in Malaysia.

Slma Shelbayah

Brenau University, United States

Slma Shelbayah is a broadcast journalist who focuses on international topics, specifically related to the Middle East, Arabs, Muslims, New Media, Democratization and Globalization. As Adjunct Faculty at Brenau University, she teaches numerous courses in Communication and Business. Her experience includes a background in broadcast media for 3 years and university-level instruction for almost 5 years. Recently, she developed and directed a study abroad program in Egypt with students with a focus on language, culture and communication. Ms. Shelbayah spends much of her time public speaking and workshop training at various engagements connected to her interests. For community involvement, she enjoys engaging in interfaith and cultural awareness opportunities. As a passionate language learner, Ms. Shelbayah speaks English, Arabic and Spanish and enjoys learning more languages as she considers them important in seeking successful communication across language barriers. She has earned her B.A. in Journalism, M.A. in Applied Linguistics of Arabic and Spanish and is currently working on her Ph.D in Communication.

Vivian Wu Wei

International Center for Communication Development, China

Vivian Wu Wei is from Beijing and holds a Bachelor's degree of English Literature from People's University in Beijing and a Master's degree of International Communication from Peking University. She started her career in international business and also worked for governmental institutions, a financial website and for China Central Television and Beijing Television. In 2003 she became a Beijing-based media and law reporter for the South China Morning Post (SCMP), Hong Kong's leading English-language news daily. During the six years at the SCMP, she regularly covered sensitive issues including China's muckraking media, censorship, government corruption, judicial and political scandals, media-related lawsuits, social justice and human rights stories with the byline Vivian Wu. As one of the very few Chinese citizens who writes for an overseas English newspaper, she presents a unique but relatively neutral perspective on China's media landscape, and is a chain winner of press awards in Hong Kong and the Asia-Pacific region. She is currently a full time media adviser to the International Center for Communication Development (ICCD) and an analyst on China's media issues to international conferences and news outlets.

William Youmans

University of Michigan, United States

William Youmans is a PhD candidate in the department of Communication Studies at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. His focus is on international and political communication, particularly transnational news media, including international broadcasting, that involves the United States and the Arab world as producers or consumers. Specifically, he has researched Alhurra, the American government's Arabic language satellite network; he is writing his dissertation on the American market penetration of Aljazeera, English. His educational background includes an undergraduate degree in political science from Michigan, and a law degree from UC-Berkeley. He presented at conferences sponsored by the Middle East Studies Association, the American Sociological Association, International Communication Association, and the Communication and Media Research Institute (CAMRI) of the University of Westminster, London. His articles have been published in the UCLA Journal of Islamic and Near Eastern Law, Westminster Papers in Communication and Culture, and the Middle East Journal of Culture and Communication. His teaching experience includes a graduate seminar on human rights in the Arab world at the Center for Contemporary Arab Studies, Georgetown University; introductory courses on political economy theory at the University of California, Berkeley; and media and public affairs courses at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Yioryos Nardis

University of Michigan, United States

Yioryos Nardis is currently pursuing a PhD in the Department of Communication Studies at the University of Michigan. He is examining contemporary issues of European Union media policy and regulation, particularly in light of the recent ratification of the Lisbon Treaty (the European Constitution). Prior to entering the PhD program, he was employed as a Press Officer at the Embassy of Cyprus in Washington, DC. He holds an M.A. in International Communication from the School of Telecommunications at Ohio University and a B.A. in Telecommunications from the Pennsylvania State University. He currently resides in Ann Arbor, Michigan with no wife, children or pets.