

Building Peace through the Media: The Role of the Somali Diaspora

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The Somali online diaspora has been noted to play a dual role in relation to peace-building processes in the homeland. On the one hand, it has been commended for serving as positive change agents as a link between Somalia and the international community; on the other hand, it has been criticized for prolonging clan-based conflicts into the world society and fuelling local conflicts through online media channels. This paper looks at the role that the Somali diaspora plays in relation to journalism and media work towards the homeland. A key question to be asked is how journalism models are interpreted by the professional and semi-professional online diaspora community in relation to democratization processes in Somalia. The paper discusses how new approaches to the peace journalism paradigm are both adopted and negated by various parts of the world-wide Somali journalism community. Perceptions of the Somali diaspora are compared with those of the journalism community in homeland Somalia.