

One other item belongs in this category. It is both appropriate and useful for countries to pass laws providing civil recourse if a media defames or injures an aggrieved party; such laws may even serve to protect journalists since if one can sue a journalist, it may be less tempting to wreak physical vengeance on him or her.

3. Training journalists: *landscapes:*

Capacity-building in the craft of journalism should be one of the priorities of developing countries. In countries where the state controls the media and uses it as a tool of propaganda, by definition questions of the rights and responsibilities of journalists, let alone the skills needed to do their job, are not an issue. Reaching out in such countries to the journalists who are fighting for free expression strikes a blow for democratization and the struggle for human rights.

Once the process of democratization has begun, as the state lifts its heavy hand from media control, journalists will soon learn that it takes more than freedom to communicate effectively; it takes skills as well. On the one hand, journalists need to be weaned away from the habit of being government propagandists; they need to learn the implications of being able to report without government intimidation. On the other hand, especially in the private sector, they must learn not to use the cloak of a free press to peddle mere gossip and rumour. Without proper training, the private press in some countries has too often succumbed to the temptation to confuse political diatribe with news. And journalists in private and public media alike need to understand the important distinctions that characterize news, current affairs, and opinion.

Training journalists abroad has been an integral part of the CCPJ as well as other Canadian organizations, helping them understand their rights and responsibilities. Often with CIDA's assistance, it has carried out this mandate by exporting Canada's expertise as communicators through direct media training as well as Internet technology. It has organized a conference bringing together government and the media in Cambodia, trained Malawians to distinguish between state and public broadcasting (see below), and helped create Peru's first freedom of expression organization, the Institute for Press and Society. Other Canadians have aided Bosnians in setting up an independent network of broadcasters against the state broadcaster, and been involved in several different assignments in South Africa.

The old cliché about giving a person a fish versus teaching her how