

MEDIA AS PLATFORMS OF HATE/XENOPHOBIA



IwasTOLD

Media and Information
Literacy courses

MEDIA AS PLATFORMS OF HATE/XENOPHOBIA

- From Hitler to Stalin, many oppressive regimes have employed media to incite hate and xenophobia.
- 1993-94: RTLM (Radio Television Libre des Milles Collines) played a significant role in inciting Rwandan genocide.





- **Social media platforms** have amplified hate journalism and eased the job of hate/xenophobic groups.

Reasons:

- (a) There is little gatekeeping [editors].
- (b) Traditional media generally want to maintain their credibility. Social media users can stay anonymous and spread lies, conspiracies, hate and harassment.

MEDIA AS PLATFORMS OF HATE/XENOPHOBIA

Hate journalism is a form of violence.

Violence has two forms:

- (a) visible [wars, clashes, genocides, lynching].
- (b) structured or 'invisible' [stereotypes, otherification, conspiracy theories, discourses, construction of enemies].

Before going to war/attack on target groups, they are dehumanised through hate media.

MEDIA AS PLATFORMS OF HATE/XENOPHOBIA

If the balance of forces tilts in favour of hate groups and warmongers, the result will be hate becoming mainstream. If hate groups control political economy of media, media outlets will tend to become platforms of hate/xenophobia and will contribute to violence.



To counter hate media: **Another media are possible.**

To build alternative it is necessary to build a strong civil society so that balance of forces can be achieved. Alternative Media at grassroots level can help build strong civil society. Achieving a strong society implies: grassroots Alternative Media becoming mainstream and marginalizing hate media.