

We are indebted to Nicole Stremiau, of the Stanhope Centre for Communications Policy Research, for all her hard work in preparing this transcript from the audio recordings of the event.

**The Alistair Berkley Memorial Lecture
held at the LSE on Friday 21st May 2004**

“Media, the Law and Peace-building: from Bosnia and Kosovo to Iraq”

TIM ALLEN (DESTIN, LSE):

I would like to welcome you all here to the sixth Alistair Berkley memorial event. Alistair Berkley was a former student here at the London School of Economics and he was a Law lecturer when he was killed in 1988. Every two or three years the Development Studies Institute (DESTIN) organises an event in his memory. A few years ago we held one on ‘Children in Extreme Circumstances’, the transcript of which can be downloaded from the DESTIN website (www.lse.ac.uk/destin).

The Development Studies Institute was established in 1990 to promote interdisciplinary postgraduate teaching and research on the processes of development. Over the years it has developed an interest in crisis states and complex emergencies. Partly because of that it has become the location of a major research centre known as the Crisis States Programme, which many of you know a great deal about already. This programme is undertaking research on crisis states in many parts of the world, working with partners in developing countries, and is developing a greater interest in issues relating to the media. This is the first of a number of events in which the Crisis States Programme is going to be looking the issue of media in situations of war and peace-building and we hope to have a major international conference later in the year, details of which can be found on the Crisis States website (www.crisisstates.com). Indeed the proceedings of this event will eventually find its way on that website.

The third host today is the Stanhope Centre for Communications Policy Research (www.stanhopecentre.org), which was developed to provide a forum for open dialogue and scholarship related to media, law and policy around the world. It has been working very closely with the Crisis States Programme and many of our students have spent time there. The Director of Stanhope, Professor Monroe Price will be one of our discussants later on. James Putzel, Director of the Crisis States Programme will be chairing the discussants session.

Today’s event is called *Media, the Law and Peace-building: from Bosnia, Kosovo to Iraq*. Our intention is to discuss and debate media policy in extreme situations, ongoing war, and peace-making. In particular, our concern is for the controls on the activities of journalists and freedom of speech. Should

certain kinds of language and argument be constrained in war zones, so as to prevent possible resort to hate speech? Or should journalists be allowed to say what they want? Who has the right to impose such constraints and what should be the role, if any, of public service broadcasting? How can local media be developed, in a media world dominated by the international news agencies? How are journalists compromised by the positions they find themselves in?

These are controversial issues and today is also controversial in that we have Simon Haselock with us, who currently works with the Coalition Provisional Authority in Iraq. Not surprisingly, many colleagues here at the LSE have felt that the day should not pass without making it clear that there is antipathy to what has been happening in Iraq. I would like to thank the organisers of the demonstration outside, both for making their voice heard and for being supportive about this event taking place and I have been asked to read a statement prepared by members of staff at the London School of Economics representing the anti-war group.

http://www.crisisstates.com/download/berkley/berkley_antiwar.pdf

I should also mention that Alistair Berkley's parents, who cannot be with us today because they are visiting one of the programmes they support in Uganda, have been extremely supportive about organising this event throughout and they have expressed their view that this is exactly the kind of event they would like to have associated with their son's memory.

The Lockerbie bombing was the worst mass murder in modern British history and there are still too many unanswered questions about it. The Lockerbie families group have released this press statement today.

http://www.crisisstates.com/download/berkley/berkley_lockerbie.pdf

A meeting has been organised for Monday between the families of those killed in the Lockerbie bombing and Tony Blair.