

## WORLD

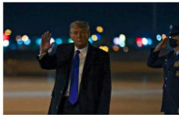
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### Turkey hits at 'Crusades' against Islam in cartoons row with France

Turkey's president said on Wednesday that Western countries mocking Islam wanted to "relaunch the Crusades", heightening a confrontation with France over cartoons of the Prophet Mohammad that have stirred anger in Muslim-majority countries.

10:23AM EDT



### Trump administration sets record low limit for new U.S. refugees

The Trump administration has slashed the number of refugees it will allow to resettle in the United States in the coming year, capping the number at 15,000, a record low in the history of the country's modern refugee program.

9:04AM EDT



### Analysis: Merkel's success overshadowed by ugly battle to succeed her

German Chancellor Angela Merkel's Christian Democrats (CDU) are riding high in opinion polls but their popularity masks serious unease among senior party officials about damaging internal divisions triggered by a delay in voting for a new leader.

10:16AM EDT

Fig.137 Screenshot showing the usual front headlines I face daily. They are mostly related to politicians and the agitation they create to hold on to their power. Actual news of actual human casualties and genocides ought to be scavenged for. This curation of news can in itself agitate people from within especially if they lack a way to make meanings. This way is that of becoming themselves journalists of their own immediate surrounding, thus avoiding the use of the official media channel but building themselves what I came to defined as autonomous media, a way to contrast the belligerent effects of mass media and turn people more rooted with themselves and the places where they live finally being too filled with meanings that they can hardly subscribe to any of the belligerent agendas solicit by the establishment to hold on and expand its power.

## NEWS 05

The reading of casualties is my personal way to be able to focus on actual serious matters without losing much time getting engulfed in political gossip or worldly scandals. Already in the 19th century, the American transcendentalist Thoreau was skeptical about the invention of technologies like the telegraph enabling the new and the old continent to communicate almost instantaneously. He claimed that such technologies would have only shared silly news such as that the Queen of England has the flu. Throughout this work I have completely experienced such an early prediction. Daily I have to scavenge through a lot of gossip talking about the

American president or the English royal family. In addition to it, media channels feel compelled to present new items to keep up a good branding of themselves and along with gossip there are many news items that are gender or race related. It takes me quite some digging before I am able to get to important headlines such as the many casualties due to religious and ethnic violence in poor countries. I am often shocked that such terrible news gets completely neglected.

With time I grew a phobia for the mainstream ideologies that the media is so keen on sponsoring by bringing certain and rather unimportant news forward. While wishing news and the media channels broadcasting them to be based on facts, I can see that they do not refrain in using their power of affecting the public opinion. Many and especially leftist media channels claim to be completely bias-free but it is obvious that even in these channels where bias is less explicit there is an agenda, a sort of irrational belief based on a set of values that favors certain topics over others. Even if one does not read the actual articles the very presentation and selection and generally speaking the curation of news of any frontpage of any media outlet is in itself an explicit declaration of what side of power one is. There is no such thing as neutrality just because media outlets are but the manifestation of power and at the same time its very engine without which power would wither and people would start to relax and be more thoughtful about their realities. Yet too many people are simply enraged by what they scan through the media and rather than trying to use their own social media profiles as ways to report on their own realities and on their own small achievements they simply get intoxicated by whatever media channels want to intoxicate them with.

Mass media is then a systematic way of administrating people with narcotics of different kinds. There could be the narcotic making people more docile, delivering them soft and tender and politically-correct content and there is the media transmitting rage towards some constructed enemy. Digital technology from the beginning allowed potentially anyone to become reporters but so it turned out it only made most people promoters of the establishment and the opinion and products it wants them to propagate. Media in general then is about transmitting or retransmitting something from above even when the person who is transmitting is sharing photos of her children who are likely to be attending an official event such as a swim

competition wearing all the professional gear of the most mainstream of companies. Even if one uses the official media channels to broadcast more original and authentic content and he or she becomes a celebrity, he or she becomes a celebrity within a niche that still requires someone to fill in the celebrity role. Technology creates new forms of expression and media assign the crown of authority of such expression to whoever gets there more noisily.

Media celebrities are then only puppets of much too centralized and top down media who have recently lured us into believing it can be bottom up. The only possible way it can be bottom up is to reject the official media altogether and tinker an alternative media without falling into the temptation to try at one point to bring it back to the official media and make it part of it. I call this media autonomy and I find this an important feature enabling individuals to really conceive a meaning that can make a difference. The only obvious problem with this approach is that it gets practically very hard to let people know about it. In this sense it is vital to make it public not by sending out into the ether but in giving it back in some form to the local environment, to conceive an actual creature that can talk to others and spread its liberating message also merely by means of example. As I have been trying to convey with my life-project, autonomous media is a counter-kind of media creating a temporary umbrella that enables its practitioners to grow their own autonomy without being necessarily turned into the puppets of power, a mainstream that is turning humans and their lives meaningless, a meaningless that in turn can only be filled by the nationalistic aspiration, becoming the fact the blind soldiers of a propaganda machine called journalism.

Here I am not advocating to be against journalists. In this work where I am collecting news of casualties I am in fact the journalist of journalists, I return journalism to my journaling practice, literally that of making an account of my daily life. In reality this practice of mine is far more important to the whole of humanity. Foucault called it technology of the self and in reality it can be seen as one. It is a technology that turns us all into journalists, turns us all into mindful individuals, very aware of their surroundings, rational, observant and because of it also very respectful of not stepping over it. The more people would embrace this practice of personal journalism the less there would be the need for journalists and their power-corrupted media channels. If

it is said that hunter-gatherers were highly egalitarian and ecological, then the solution to get back to an egalitarian and ecological life is in fact that of all turning into data-gatherers, exploring our own environment and gather meaning from it and see and appreciate and celebrate all the little diversities that with time because we learn to appreciate them the can become more and more eventually blossoming through all the standardization that the mainstream broadcasted by the media has brought about, ultimately turning the world into a sustainable ecosystem once again, filled with all the variety it so much necessitates now that the big machine in order to sustain itself has drained all that there was to drain.