

THE FORTRESS

Stronghold of free speech and thought!

May 2021

A SPECIAL IAIJ IN-DEPTH REPORT: A GLOBAL SOCIAL CONTRACT



IAIJ PANDEMIC SPECIAL: REPORTING ON THE COVID 19 PANDEMIC AROUND THE WORLD!

A - maz - ing grace! How sweet the sound, That saved a wretch like me! I

once was lost, but now I'm found, was blind, but now I see.

FOF RECORDS PRODUCES MORE MUSIC DURING THE PANDEMIC THAN EVER BEFORE!



TABLE OF CONTENTS

WELCOME TO THE FORTRESS!
Page 1

NEWS ARTICLES FROM IAIJ JOURNALISTS
Page 2

GENERAL NEWS AND EVENTS AT
FORTRESS OF FREEDOM INC.
Page 9

ANNOUNCEMENTS AT FOF & IAIJ
Page 20

SPECIAL SECTION:
A GLOBAL SOCIAL CONTRACT
Page 22

THE FORTRESS

PUBLISHER:
Fortress of Freedom Inc.

EDITOR:
Samantha Blackwell

CONTRIBUTORS:
Maurice Ali
Samantha Blackwell
Ian Franks
Jessica King
Sotiris Balanos
Shane Murphy
Klaus Baumdick
Laura Tommasone
Mikaela Conroy

The Fortress is dedicated to the preservation of freedom of speech and thought. It is a publication that is accessible to all who desire to tell the news to their fellow citizens, as they see it.

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WWW.FORTRESSOFFREEDOM.COM
WWW.IAIJ.ORG



WELCOME TO THE FORTRESS!



Maurice Ali

This issue is special in that the Covid 19 pandemic had a major effect on the things we like to do at IAIJ. In terms of news reporting, most citizen journalists and bloggers were forced to stay shut in and unable to do much reporting as their status was not as “professionals” and thus not listed as essential workers of our industry. In terms of advocacy, many of the venues we would advocate were shut down to travelers and events except for virtual events. All of this conspired to make the material for our paper small enough that we waited until now to put out the next issue.

But that was the IAIJ side of it and on the entertainment side at FOF we saw unprecedented activity at our record label called FOF Records Inc. located in Toronto (Canada). We actually had to scale back articles on the new bands and acts and music that we were involved with during the pandemic. All music was made to the strict Covid 19 protocols of the day. Even so, musicians unable to perform live switched instead to making new music and it shows in the articles to follow.

Finally we have another in-depth report on the concept of A Global Social Contract that we will hopefully get a chance to advocate when the pandemic eases. When that happens is anyone’s guess but our core activities will resume as soon as humanly possible.

So from all of us at IAIJ and FOF, we hope you enjoy this edition of The Fortress!

Maurice Ali, President

Fortress of Freedom Inc. / FOF Entertainment Inc.

International Association of Independent Journalists Inc.

International Archiving of Independent Journalists Inc.

FOF Records Inc. / More Vision Inc.

NEWS ARTICLES FROM IAIJ **JOURNALISTS**

Inside Looking Out

May 31, 2020

By Ian Franks (Spain)

People all over the world are beginning to breathe collective sighs of relief as lockdown restrictions are gradually eased because the coronavirus pandemic looks to be winding down. Most are relieved that they can go out, meet family and friends, and get back to normal or, at least, their new normal – whatever that means for them! But those of us with disabilities affecting our mobility see things differently. Let me explain.

I have multiple sclerosis which causes me severe mobility issues. I cannot walk, not one step without falling. Every day I spend all my time between my sofa, my wheelchair, and my hospital style adjustable bed, or being transferred between those via a patient hoist, a type of mini crane. Life for people in a similar position to me is just like lockdown has been for everyone. And, by that, I mean living inside looking out.

We spend our days indoors, visitors rarely come, we can no longer go shopping so have to shop online and await deliveries. Our televisions are always on; we binge-watch Netflix.

In my case, I give thanks for computers. My laptop is my lifeline. It keeps me in contact with the outside world. It is the one way I can 'leave' my home – in spirit if not in body. I can use Skype to talk to people in far off lands. Using my cellphone, I can use WhatsApp.

My laptop means I can still write. After a long and successful career as a professional journalist, these days all my articles are written without expectation of monetary reward. I specialize in opinion columns on topical matters. After all, while I no longer report first-hand, I am a seasoned leader writer and opinion columnist. Today I write opinion columns for The Locus, an online publication that prides itself on the truth of independent journalism, and have my own MS, Disability & Living Life blog.

Being inside looking out is the reality for people with a mobility disability. Lockdown or not, it is my reality, my normal. Not 'new' normal, it's been my normal for a while. So, while the world begins to recover from the weeks of regulations, my life continues unchanged. Life's restrictions are my normal. While most people can say goodbye to being cooped up, I cannot.

If you are fortunate enough not to have a disability, then you have had a few weeks seeing the world through our eyes. As you get your normal vision back, please spare a thought for those of us who remain inside looking out.



Ian Franks in his wheelchair on a beach trip he can no longer enjoy.

Disabled and Covid 19

September 8, 2020

By Jessica King (Canada)

The Covid 19 pandemic has changed my life a lot. I normally go to food banks for my meals, but since Covid the food bank was shut down, the volunteers were told to stay home and it hasn't opened up yet. Having to rely on outreach when I have a place makes me feel bad due to not being homeless anymore. Where I am the outreach is only for homeless and having to pretend that I am homeless doesn't feel right to me. But I am disabled and have to do what I have to do to live. I get people have been laid off but being on disability and only getting 100 bucks extra to live off is so unfair. For those in Canada the CERB (Canada Emergency Response Benefit which pays 2,000 a month) helps those with jobs but why not those with disabilities. Although in retrospect I do stay home a lot even without Covid, the only thing that has changed is no food and my support does not take this issue into account. I am not alone so something should be done to help those like me.

Where I live (Niagara Falls in Ontario) nobody cares about Covid 19 in their daily life. No masks are being used here and social distancing is not followed primarily because we have only had one case. So I guess we are just doing something right or we have just been lucky.

Covid-19: The Situation Deteriorates and New Measures Come into Effect!

November 3, 2020

By Sotiris Balanos (Greece)

As the cases of people with Covid-19 had increased, Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis announced new measures to help slow the pandemic. These measures came into effect today bringing remarkable changes.

Now Greece is divided into two zones, the surveillance zone and the danger zone. The surveillance zone constitutes conciliation of the green and yellow zones, the new measures that were added in this zone are the following. From now on members of the public have to wear a mask at all times, there is a curfew from 00:30 to 5:00 am, a 50% telework is announced in both public and private bodies, universities will take their classes online and finally when two or more people (at least three) were travelling on a car they have to wear masks unless they are first degree relatives. As for the danger zone all restaurants and bars are now closed, there is an exemption for restaurants that have the option of delivery or take away. The curfew that was already in place stays. Finally some cities have entered a mini lockdown due to the rage of Covid-19 cases. There is also mention that travelling from one county to another is not prohibited yet with a possible exemption in the cities that will enter in lockdown and hairdressers, hotels, retail stores and schools will remain in operation regardless of the zone they are in.

We all hope that the measures mentioned above will bring the best possible result in this situation.

The Corona Pandemic - Impressions and Opportunities

March 18, 2021

By Klaus Baumdick (Germany)

Granted, I got it right. I live in the country with my wife, six cats and three dogs. In a small village with just 200 inhabitants. Ten years ago I bought the castle there at a reasonable price. The curfews did not affect us, we are almost always either in the castle with over one thousand square meters of living space or in the ten thousand square meter garden.

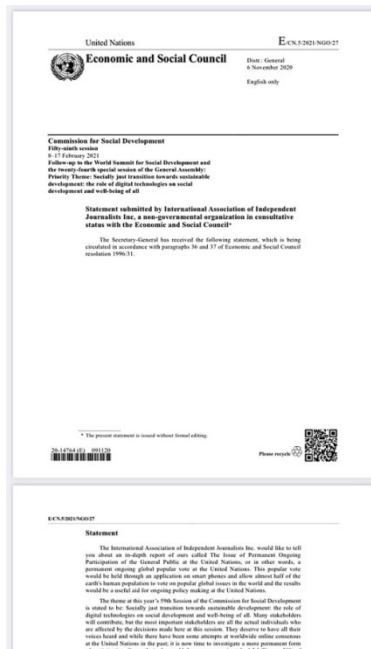
When we do shopping, we notice the pandemic. Then we have to put on the masks. But now I can finally do what I have been trying to get my employers to do for twenty years. I can work from home. Two hours of driving time are saved every day. And if I still feel like it in the evening, I can still do something. I work a lot more efficiently than before in the office. I am more balanced because I can largely determine my working day myself. This is not common in Germany. The German himself wants to submit. But that could change since last year. Or maybe not. Because not everyone has it as good as I do. What do the people who live in the big city do. In a 20 square meter apartment? The ceiling may fall on their heads. There are also many working people who report that they cannot bear their children or their partner all day long. But overall, the pandemic has brought us a long way. Two years ago, working from home was largely unthinkable in Germany. That can't work at all, the employers have said. We have known since last year that it works very well. Not everywhere, undoubtedly the worker cannot take his assembly line home with him. But those who cannot work from home should also benefit. There is now a lot less traffic on the streets. The traffic jams have become much less. And the number of traffic accidents has also fallen dramatically. So life has become more relaxed overall, we could say. But the fact is that many people get depressed and especially children get extremely fat.

Much is changing. Things we didn't even begin to think about a year ago are now a reality. In this pandemic, we have a unique opportunity to conduct research. Not only on the virus, but above all from a psychological point of view. What is happening to the people? How are they changing? What are you doing differently? And for what reasons? And most importantly, how do the different peoples deal with the situation? Anyone who walks through the world with open eyes within the scope of their possibilities at this time can learn things that a year ago they did not even think existed.

Our Statement at the 59th Session of the Commission for Social Development!

April 5, 2021

By Samantha Blackwell, IAIJ Inc.



To view our statement to the 59th Session of the Commission for Social Development, please click on the link below and select English:

<https://undocs.org/Home/Mobile?FinalSymbol=E%2FCN.5%2F2021%2FNGO%2F27&Language=E&DeviceType=Mobile>

For more information on the session, please go to the link below:

<https://www.iaij.com/phpBB2/viewtopic.php?t=1054>

IAIJ: JOURNALISTS IN ACTION AROUND THE WORLD!

Some Thoughts on World Press Freedom Day!

May 4, 2021

By Maurice Ali

World Press Freedom Day arrived on May 3rd of this year and I would just like to make a few comments on the activities of that day.

First, you will note that at IAIJ we sometimes observe the day formally but mostly do not. If you wonder why, I would reply that to us, every day is World Press Freedom Day. As an international journalist association, we don't think about it one day a year but every day of the year! However, the point here is to make the point that World Press Freedom Day is a 365 day thing at IAIJ!

We are a new form of journalist association born through the internet advocating that anyone can be a journalist as a citizen journalist or blogger, and we actually have helped make some inroads in getting citizen journalists and bloggers recognized as legitimate media workers, at least at the United Nations and UNESCO.

We are not a traditional journalist association, but a new kind not afraid to try new things. So the way we do things and the way we advocate are new, but always revolve around freedom of expression. Not just press freedom, because our belief is that anyone can be a member of the press and therefore press freedom is actually freedom of expression for all. It is as basic as that, so in the end it is simply known as freedom of expression. Freedom of expression in all its forms as free expression contributes to increasing the sum total of knowledge and opinion to make the best decisions and get the best answers to all the problems that may befall humanity. Advocating for freedom of expression, in all its forms, is the best way to ensure freedom of the press, and this ultimately results in self-determination for all, and the best part is that it also makes us happy!

Every day is World Press Freedom Day!

IAIJ: JOURNALISTS IN ACTION AROUND THE WORLD!

GENERAL NEWS AND EVENTS AT **FORTRESS OF FREEDOM INC.**

New Music Video From AAVRY KNAPP!

June 8, 2020

By Laura Tommasone FOF Inc. / FOF Records Inc.



Hello Goodbye music video!

FOF Records Inc. and the Fortress of Freedom corporation are pleased to announce that we now have a new music video from AAVRY KNAPP on our YouTube channel at:

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=nUyyDltyAgE>

The music video is for the song Hello Goodbye from AAVRY KNAPP's Daze in My Life album. In addition to this announcement is the possible Youtube show with Dan Strudwick interviewing and showcasing bands/musicians and industry happenings in the world of music. The show is currently in the planning stages and is a collaboration between Dan and FOF. The program is presently called The Dan Strudwick Show and is parked at Youtube as a channel under the same name and can be found here:

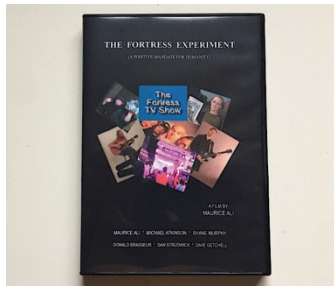
FOF RECORDS: CUTTING EDGE MUSIC!

The Fortress Experiment DVD: What's in the Box!

October 1, 2020

By Mikaela Conroy

When Fortress of Freedom first announced [b]The Fortress Experiment[/b] was on sale as a DVD they actually didn't have the product in their hands. A large package from Amazon arrived at FOF with DVDs, one of which I just purchased and here are some pictures and first impressions of the actual product.



As you can see, it looks like any other DVD you could find at Walmart or Best Buy with shrink wrap and professional graphics on the case:



Inside the disc has graphics that are as good as any you will find out there. Frankly, I was expecting something a little less professional, but this one really surprised me

The DVD sells for 9.99USD and ships from the States. From the FOF office I got it for 15 dollars (CAD). It has features you won't find on-line such as the director's commentary for both The Fortress Experiment and also the short; Real Life: Real Lives. There are also extras, like production photos and closed captioning. So if you are a real FOF devotee I can honestly say this DVD exceeded my expectations and is a worthwhile addition to your DVD collection and as a form of support and a physical reminder of what Fortress of Freedom is all about!

Mikaela

Lucifari's Anarchology Released!

October 27, 2020

By Shane Murphy, FOF Inc. / FOF Records Inc.



The Fortress of Freedom Corporation and FOF Records Inc. have officially released Lucifari's debut album Anarchology! What follows are some of the digital and CD stores you will soon be able to buy the album from:

iTunes, Apple Music, SimfyAfrica, YouTube Art Tracks, Spotify, Amazon Music, Google Play, Deezer, iHeartRadio, Napster, MediaNet, VerveLife, Tidal, Gracenote, Shazam, 7 Digital, Juke, Slacker, KKBox, Akazoo, Anghami, Spinlet, Neurotic Media, Yandex, Target Music, Claromusica, Zvooq, Saavn, 8Tracks, Q.Sic, Musicload, Kuack, Boomplay Music, TikTok, Pandora (but they decide if you are worthy), Amazon On Demand (CDs).

You can buy the album right now from iTunes or stream it on all the popular streaming sites like Spotify or Tidal or Apple Music.

So all of us at FOF congratulate the band for a great album and wish Lucifari continued success as their music gets out there!

<https://lucifari.com>

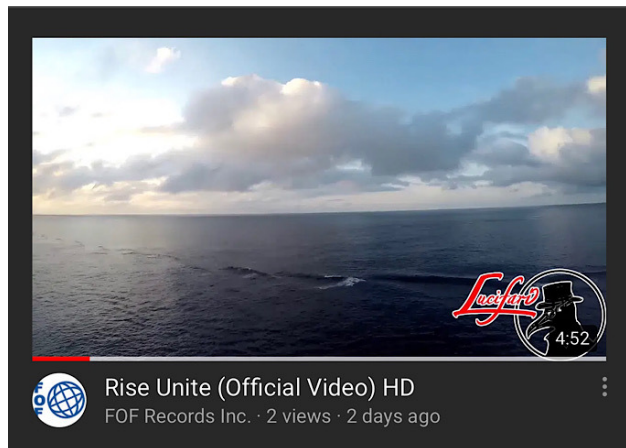
<https://fofrecords.com>

FOF RECORDS: CUTTING EDGE MUSIC!

The Song “Rise Unite” Becomes the Official Anthem for the Positive Mandate for Humanity!

October 29, 2020

By Maurice Ali



It is my pleasure as the founder of the Positive Mandate for Humanity movement, to announce that the song “Rise Unite” has been selected as it’s official anthem! Composed and authored by musician Michael Atkinson, he went in to record the song along with Mihai Trusca, Randy Nolson, Jason Epp and Krista Atkinson and came out with a powerful and rhythmic song that perfectly matches the positive mandate movement.

Listen to the song here:

<https://youtu.be/QLzhzZT4uXE>

The song will be playable on all our websites that advocate the positive mandate including other initiatives we are also involved with. It will be played at our rally’s and events and hopefully other organizations will find a place for this song at their events!

Rise Unite is one song out of a nine song album called Anarchology by the band Lucifari. Their music can be found in all of the popular download and streaming services and retail outlets. One again, let me thank the band Lucifari for giving the world one powerful and “catchy” song, and one great anthem for the Positive Mandate for Humanity movement!

The Brawler's EP Fistfight in a Bottle Released!

December 10, 2020

By Shane Murphy, FOF Inc. / FOF Records Inc.



Fistfight in a Bottle - EP
THE BRAWLERS >

Rock
4 Songs
Released Dec 6, 2020

PURCHASED

Songs Reviews Related

	NAME	DURATION	POPULARITY	PRICE
1	Gangzall Here	02:51		PLAY
2	Animal	04:08		PLAY
3	Whiskey Side	02:46		PLAY
4	Big Bad Wolf	03:24		PLAY

© 2020 Fortress of Freedom Inc. / FOF Records Inc.

The Fortress of Freedom Corporation and FOF Records Inc. have officially released The Brawlers debut EP [b]Fistfight in a Bottle[/b]! What follows are some of the digital and CD stores you will soon be able to buy the album from:

iTunes, Apple Music, SimfyAfrica, YouTube Art Tracks, Spotify, Amazon Music, Google Play, Deezer, iHeartRadio, Napster, MediaNet, VerveLife, Tidal, Gracenote, Shazam, 7 Digital, Juke, Slacker, KKBox, Akazoo, Anghami, Spinlet, Neurotic Media, Yandex, Target Music, Claramusica, Zvooq, Saavn, 8Tracks, Q.Sic, Musicload, Kuack, Boomplay Music, TikTok, Pandora (but they decide if you are worthy), Amazon On Demand (CDs)

You can buy the album right now from iTunes or stream it on all the popular streaming sites like Spotify or Tidal or Apple Music.

So all of us at FOF congratulate the band for a great EP and wish The Brawlers continued success as their music gets out there!

<https://thebrawlers.com>

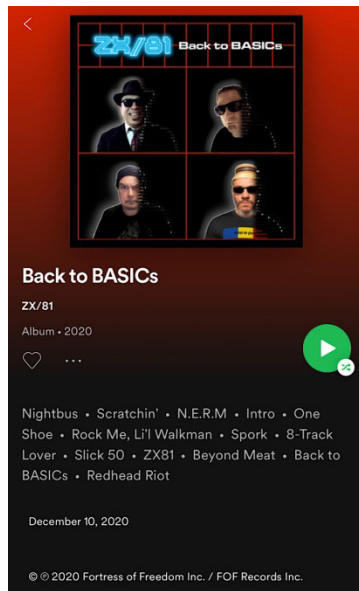
<https://fofrecords.com>

FOF RECORDS: CUTTING EDGE MUSIC!

ZX/81's Album Back to BASICs Released!

December 18, 2020

By Shane Murphy, FOF Inc. / FOF Records Inc.



The Fortress of Freedom Corporation and FOF Records Inc. have officially released ZX/81's debut album [b]Back to BASICs[/b]! What follows are some of the digital and CD stores you will soon be able to buy the album from:

iTunes, Apple Music, SimfyAfrica, YouTube Art Tracks, Spotify, Amazon Music, Google Play, Deezer, iHeartRadio, Napster, MediaNet, VerveLife, Tidal, Gracenote, Shazam, 7 Digital, Juke, Slacker, KKBox, Akazoo, Anghami, Spinlet, Neurotic Media, Yandex, Target Music, Claramusica, Zvooq, Saavn, 8Tracks, Q.Sic, Musicload, Kuack, Boomplay Music, TikTok, Pandora (but they decide if you are worthy), Amazon On Demand (CDs).

You can buy the album right now from iTunes or stream it on all the popular streaming sites like Spotify or Tidal or Apple Music.

So all of us at FOF congratulate the band for a great album and wish ZX/81 continued success as their music gets out there!

<https://zx81.ca>

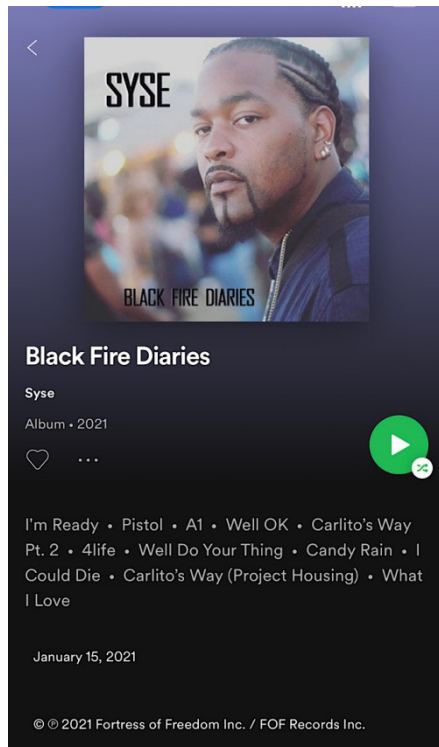
<https://fofrecords.com>

FOF RECORDS: CUTTING EDGE MUSIC!

Syse's Album Black Fire Diaries Released!

January 17, 2021

By Shane Murphy, FOF Inc. / FOF Records Inc.



The Fortress of Freedom Corporation and FOF Records Inc. have officially released Syse's debut album [b]Black Fire Diaries[/b]! What follows are some of the digital and CD stores you will soon be able to buy/stream the album from:

iTunes, Apple Music, SimfyAfrica, YouTube Art Tracks, Spotify, Amazon Music, Google Play, Deezer, iHeartRadio, Napster, MediaNet, VerveLife, Tidal, Gracenote, Shazam, 7 Digital, Juke, Slacker, KKBox, Akazoo, Anghami, Spinlet, Neurotic Media, Yandex, Target Music, Claromusica, Zvooq, Saavn, 8Tracks, Q.Sic, Musicload, Kuack, Boomplay Music, TikTok, Pandora (but they decide if you are worthy), Amazon On Demand (CDs).

You can buy the album right now from iTunes or stream it on all the popular streaming sites like Spotify or Tidal or Apple Music.

So all of us at FOF, congratulations to Syse for a great album and we all wish Syse continued success as his music gets out there!

<https://syse.ca>

<https://fofrecords.com>

FOF RECORDS: CUTTING EDGE MUSIC!

Tabitha's Latest Album Lies Released!

February 4, 2021

By Shane Murphy - FOF Inc. FOF Records Inc.



The Fortress of Freedom Corporation and FOF Records Inc. are excited to announce that Tabitha's new album titled **LIES** is released! The album and all songs can be purchased or streamed on all popular download and streaming websites such as: iTunes, Apple Music, Spotify, Tidal, Pandora, Google Play and many more! The details and specifications of the album are shown below:

Album Title : Lies

Artist: Tabitha

Lyrics written by: Tabitha

Vocals arranged and performed by: Tabitha

Production by: P.soul

More news as it becomes available and congratulations to Tabitha and on the release of the new album!

<http://tabithablair.com>


<http://fofrecords.com>


FOF RECORDS: CUTTING EDGE MUSIC!

Syse's Single Carlito's Way Pt. 3 Released!

March 25, 2021

By Shane Murphy, FOF Inc. / FOF Records Inc.





Carlito's Way Pt. 3 - Single 
Syse >

Hip-Hop/Rap
1 Song
Released Mar 23, 2021

\$0.99

Songs **Reviews** **Related**

	NAME	DURATION	POPULARITY	PRICE
1	Carlito's Way Pt. 3 	03:32		PLAY

© 2021 Fortress of Freedom Inc. / FOF Records Inc.

The Fortress of Freedom Corporation and FOF Records Inc. have officially released Syse's new single [b]Carlito's Way Pt. 3[/b]! What follows are some of the digital and CD stores you will soon be able to buy/stream the album from:

iTunes, Apple Music, SimfyAfrica, YouTube Art Tracks, Spotify, Amazon Music, Google Play, Deezer, iHeartRadio, Napster, MediaNet, VerveLife, Tidal, Gracenote, Shazam, 7 Digital, Juke, Slacker, KKBox, Akazoo, Anghami, Spinlet, Neurotic Media, Yandex, Target Music, Claromusica, Zvooq, Saavn, 8Tracks, Q.Sic, Musicload, Kuack, Boomplay Music, TikTok, Pandora (but they decide if you are worthy).

You can buy the single right now from iTunes or stream it on all the popular streaming sites like Spotify or Tidal or Apple Music.

So from all of us at FOF, congratulations to Syse for a great single and we all wish Syse continued success as his music gets out there!

<https://syse.ca>

<https://fofrecords.com>

FOF RECORDS: CUTTING EDGE MUSIC!

2 New Lucifari Singles Released!

April 1, 2021

By Shane Murphy, FOF Inc. / FOF Records Inc.



The Fortress of Freedom Corporation and FOF Records Inc. have officially released two new Lucifari's songs:

Leave Me on The Moon

Baggarriddim

What follows are some of the digital and CD stores you will soon be able to stream or buy the music from:

iTunes, Apple Music, SimfyAfrica, YouTube Art Tracks, Spotify, Amazon Music, Google Play, Deezer, iHeartRadio, Napster, MediaNet, VerveLife, Tidal, Gracenote, Shazam, 7 Digital, Juke, Slacker, KKBox, Akazoo, Anghami, Spinlet, Neurotic Media, Yandex, Target Music, Claromusica, Zvooq, Saavn, 8Tracks, Q.Sic, Musicload, Kuack, Boomplay Music, TikTok, Pandora (but they decide if you are worthy).

You can buy the singles right now from iTunes or stream it on all the popular streaming sites like Spotify or Tidal or Apple Music.

So all of us at FOF congratulate the band for a great set of singles and wish Lucifari continued success as their music gets out there!

<https://lucifari.com>

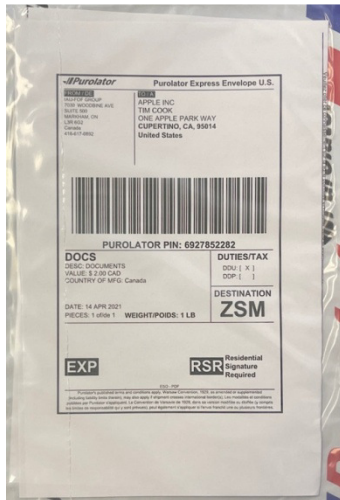
<https://fofrecords.com>

FOF RECORDS: CUTTING EDGE MUSIC!

FOF Sends Letter to Tim Cook of Apple About Metadata and Branding!

April 15, 2021

By Maurice Ali, President - FOF Records Inc.



FOF Records advocacy has sent a letter to CEO Tim Cook of Apple Inc. regarding their policy of restricting changes to song metadata that impact an artist's ability to develop their brand in the current media marketplace.

This issue happened at our label when the artist formerly known as "Tabitha" changed her stage name to "Rudegal Tab". When we tried to redistribute the previous songs under the new stage name, we were told this was not possible due to a new policy change at Apple (about altering song metadata after first distribution on music platforms) that is now being adopted on other platforms. Realize that this is by no means illegal but the policy change does limit and affect all musical artists and their ability to work their brand, and branding is what it is all about in this current music industry. Being banished from large popular music platforms (if you don't agree with their terms of service) makes it almost impossible for musicians to operate in the current music industry, so this is policy change has an impact on all musicians regardless of its legality.

FOF Records Advocacy realizes this issue and has reached out to Apple Inc. to open up a discussion on the issue as they truly may not realize the impact their policy has on musicians in their everyday lives. We sent the letter on April 14 (2021) and will await a reply if there is any reply at all.

More news as it becomes available.

<https://fofrecords.com>

FOF RECORDS ADVOCACY: <https://fofrecords.org>

ANNOUNCEMENTS AT FOF & IAIJ

Covid19

March 14, 2020

By Maurice Ali, President/CEO: International Association of Independent Journalists Inc.

I would like tell everyone at IAIJ as we deal with this pandemic called Covid19, that I, the Board of Directors and the staff at IAIJ will continue to do the work that needs to be done and support our membership in these trying times. Like many modern day organizations, IAIJ can be run at home thorough laptops and smart phones if need be. Having said that, our collective hearts and concerns go out to our members in areas of the world particularly hit hard by this pandemic. As journalists we may want to report on events as they happen in our communities, but remember to be smart, be safe and use your head when going about your lives in these unusual circumstances.

Follow your government's health care officer's advice as each country and community's circumstances are unique so no one strategy is good for all. But some things are universal such as good hygiene by washing hands and using hand sanitizer if that is all available. Keep more distance between you and others and discourage things like social handshakes and kissing, which could transmit the coronavirus. Protect the most vulnerable in your society by doing all the preventative measures to delay the spread of the virus to decrease the strain on your health care system.

There will be plenty of opportunity to write and talk about this pandemic when it is over. Until then keep yourself and loved ones and all those in your community top of your mind and be a help and not a hindrance at this moment in time.

My thoughts are with all of you, take care and stay safe!

IAIJ: JOURNALISTS IN ACTION AROUND THE WORLD!

IAIJ Moving to New Location February 1, 2021!

January 14, 2021

By Samantha Blackwell



7030 Woodbine

Please note that IAIJ headquarters will be moving to:

7030 Woodbine Avenue (Suite 500)

Markham, Ontario, Canada

L3R 6G2

We still call our location as Toronto as the boundary between Markham and Toronto is Steeles avenue and this building is immediately on the other side of that street - so close enough as everyone knows Toronto but most international people don't know where Markham is. As of February 1 please send all mail to this address and probably from that last week of January on due to delivery delays.

IAIJ: JOURNALISTS IN ACTION AROUND THE WORLD!

SPECIAL SECTION:

A GLOBAL SOCIAL CONTRACT

**Maurice Ali,
International Association of Independent Journalists Inc.
May, 2021**

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Abstract

We as individuals must acknowledge that we do not exist in a solipsistic universe but live among others just like ourselves. That being the case, we can live selfishly competing against others for resources to live, or work amongst all of us to have the best lives for all. The best choice would be that which makes us happier and thus the common goal of happiness for all should be the best course. Therefore, working for the betterment of all and by adopting happiness as a social contract goal for the world and humanity as a whole, will communicate better and empathize more on the plight of others in need as we should wish to be treated the same if we were in their situation. The unifying concept behind this new Global Social Contract is therefore the idea of happiness and increasing happiness in all our lives! Thus, each individual has a social contract toward the rest of humanity in all its forms, and that everyone in humanity should have the best interests of each other at heart and be able to help each other and arrive on consensus to issues of interest to all throughout all of humanity in pursuit of happiness. The best concept to bind the wishes of all to this social contract is what is called the “Positive Mandate for Humanity” and states that we should all strive for our freest expression in all its forms as a goal because it makes us happy. The reason we claim the freest expression results in happiness, was based on a thirteen year experiment called The Fortress Experiment that provides the empirical data to back up the claim that happiness in our lives results mostly from the freest expression of ourselves in all aspects of our lives. So the natural extension of this mandate as a foundation for a global society is the improvement of everyone’s life in all its forms and thus increased happiness. If such a social contract were to be embraced, the issue of governance is solved by technology and having goals and pragmatic concerns voted upon by all via a worldwide vote. Such a vote could be conducted on our communication devices as an application and allow all to participate in improving all lives for the betterment of humanity. Thus we have our unifying idea or concept of happiness in which people around the world would find as a valuable reason to opt into this type of society; along with the association built upon our wish for happiness for all that is that background of the Positive Mandate for Humanity, and finally the means for decision making and governance provided by a worldwide vote through smart phones for all of humanity. We also determined the United Nations to be the best venue to make this global society a reality, but not the sole venue. Since the global social contract is a society layered over all other societies and geo-political constructs, those who do not join into this society will find no change in their lives as this global society will impact no change to the way the world currently works, but can provide an invaluable aid to future policy making worldwide on global issues that affect us all. Finally it was determined that the Global Social Contract is the necessary precursor to the first Global Social Constitution.

Table of Contents

A Global Social Contract	Page - 26
How do we Create a Global Society	Page - 27
Happiness as the Core Concept of A Global Social Contract	Page - 28
Are We Alone or Part of a Society?	Page - 29
Cooperation vs. Competition	Page - 30
History of Social Contracts	Page - 31
The Global Citizen	Page - 32
What is the Best Way to Set Up this Global Society and A Global Social Contract?	Page - 33
Positive Mandate for Humanity	Page - 34
Worldwide Vote	Page - 50
Advocacy in the UN System for A Global Social Contract	Page - 74
Combining Everything Together into A Global Social Contract	Page - 75
A Global Social Contract as the Precursor to a Global Constitution for all of Humanity	Page - 77
Recommendations	Page - 78
Conclusions	Page – 80
References	Page - 81
Endnotes	Page - 83

I. A Global Social Contact

Human society is ever evolving. From tribalism to kingdoms and then to countries as the current form of geo-political layout, society is constantly changing. No more is change more apparent than in recent times, but while technology changes, our social development lags behind. The current geopolitical status still works but more and more is failing on the global issues of interest to all. As of the time of this writing, we are a more global people than ever before. We now have friends around the world that we can communicate in real time, and while this new arrangement sometimes works within the current systems informally, in terms of unrest or crisis, we fall back to nation states and xenophobia, or back to earlier societies. One reason for this is because there is no formal global identity, no common global tenets, and no global form of governance. As long as more traditional systems exist, globalization will fail us when we need globalization the most, as in times of crisis or great need for global co-operation.

This paper will try to show one such construct to formalize and thus hopefully legitimize the idea of the global identity with A Global Social Contract all can agree upon regardless of cultural or geo-political manifestations. This paper will show what matters most to humans through an experiment and how the results could offer a common idea and concept for all peoples of the world to rally around thus setting up the necessary association to form a new global society. This paper will then show how issues of consensus and thus governance can be made with a cell phone application that all around the world can use to vote on issues of interest to all. Ultimately this will result in A Global Social Contract and later a possible global constitution.

II. How do we Create a Global Society?

How would you create a society and what are the necessary ingredients for a society?

First of all, for a human society you would obviously need humans and around the globe and we have about 7.8 billion at the time of this writing.

Secondly we would need the opportunity for them to associate. Prior to recent technology, most people around the world were effectively cut off from a global association and relied on smaller associations like the family, community, religion, country, etc. and so on. That is the way it has always been in the past and our life expectations are ingrained in these constructs. Now due to technology, we can have this new form of global identity and new form of global association, and thus a global society! Communication technology has now allowed this global association to occur. In fact it is already happening in small ways, but a larger more formal global society and thus global identity is yet to happen.

Thirdly we would need some unifying idea for people of the world to opt in for. Obviously that unifying idea would have to be some idea that people would opt into out of self-interest. The unifying idea here in this model is “happiness” as concluded from an experiment and concept presented in the Positive Mandate for Humanity concept seen later on in this paper. The next unifying idea would be empathy for others based on the first unifying idea of happiness. These two alone transcend politics and all the other ideas that can be attacked. This unifying set of ideas are a good start for creating a global society.

Fourthly we would need a way to make decisions and create and develop this new society. This can easily be done by technology in the form of a Worldwide Vote primarily through smart phones owned by individuals around the world. The majority of the world own smart phones and an app to vote would facilitate one of the hardest ways to have individuals of the world act individually for a global activity in all its forms!

With these four aspects or ingredients for a society, we can now make a global society a reality. It would not be easy, but the reality is that it could be created and ideally should be created at the United Nations as the most obvious place for this to happen. But there is one more ingredient that would be needed to make this association a formal reality and that is A Global Social Contract. A Global Social Contract like any other social contract that spells out all aspects of this new society as voted upon by all in all facets of its conception.

III. Happiness as the Core Concept of A Global Social Contract

In order for humanity to get behind A Global Social Contract, there must be a unifying idea or concept behind it that gives each individual something they all want, and by empathy, they would want for all others. Happiness is the key and the way to happiness is through a concept called the Positive Mandate for Humanity. We will go into this concept in detail later, but the basic idea behind it is that we all want the freest expression of our mental and physical selves because it makes us happy. Also, by freest expression we mean in all aspects of our lives from the freedom to think and express any ideas we wish, to the social freedom to date and marry anyone you wish, to the freedom of expression in education to go as far in education as your abilities take you, and to freedom of expression in the work world to have your abilities unimpeded by systemic factors to go as far as your abilities take you and to all the more obvious types of expression such as religion and so on.

Every human wants these freedoms of expression and by extension cannot wish them for themselves because it makes us happy, without wanting them for others. So we have here a core idea/concept as the foundation on which to build A Global Social Contract and society. In the following pages we will go into all the parts of A Global Social Contract that can possibly make it into a part of every human as their global identity.

IV. Are We Alone or Part of a Society?

We will start our discussion with whether we are all alone in a solipsistic universe or part of a society. How do we know we are not alone, as in the only being in our universe. Of course we all mostly know that is not true, but as an academic exercise, how do we prove we are among others like ourselves and not in some imaginary world just in our sole mind?

There are many ways to prove this to a satisfactory degree but perhaps the simplest is the best. If I look and behave and act in a certain way, and I see other “things” that look like me, talk like me and act like me, I can ascribe a “being” that is within me to those other entities that are like me in all observable ways.

Now if I accept the argument that there are others just like myself, I would feel uncomfortable to see them in pain or wanting something I took for granted like food, security, water and anything else. Therefore, proving the reality of others like me means you introduce empathy to those other people as you can see that if those others like me are more unfortunate, then I could easily be just like them in the same circumstance. It would therefore be natural for me to wish my happiness on others that don't have this happiness, especially if they had never done me anything bad. This rudimentary form of communal understanding or empathy is the basis for association and thus the creation of what we call society. Because of this we have the basics of society in its most rudimentary way. Through more association we then develop codes of conduct and decision making among others like ourselves as human nature shows itself to be empathetic, and association would show a certain synergy to gain the more unfortunate those items that can make them as happy as we are.

This is how societies usually work with a group having a happier existence than those individuals on their own. Some may question this as an assumption, but further analysis shows this to be mostly true.

V. Cooperation vs. Competition

If you take for granted that society does exist, then should societies be cooperative or competitive with each other? Competitive is basically the way of today with communities reacting to each other and certainly countries. Business is based on competition and the rational is that we all just look after ourselves and try to take as much as we can and not think about others outside our societies. It is not an all or nothing plan as many do give back to those who have less than them for many reasons I don't have to get into here. However, what about cooperation, in that if I have more than I need then should I now give that excess to someone else that has less. In many ways this is the capitalist vs. communist argument. However, that is how it is in many countries and communities apart from each other that don't have political systems that polarized. What would happen if we just think of all of us as this mass of 7.8 billion people without any ties to culture or country or even groups aside from being a global citizen?

There are too many people in the world to worry about as individuals. The "just take care of your little part of the world and the world will be fine" does not work here. What happens is that the problems move up to a massive scale. As a global citizen you think about problems as one. Global warming is a problem for all. The abolition of war is a problem for all, but as major problems become global problems for all, we must build cooperation to get things done and this global cooperative pays dividends as we move into the smaller and more traditional geopolitical manifestations that are still around. A global citizen and global identity puts an end to xenophobia and "us against them" and the more unattractive aspects of competition to the detriment of others. The idea of a "Global Citizen" and global identity for all is a good thing to have finally happen. Technology has made this a possibility, and we cannot go back! A global community must exist in the realm of cooperation and should be a desirable thing to create and grow.

VI. History of Social Contracts

From as far back as Plato there has been talk about a social contract. Basically the traditional idea of a social contract is that individuals give up some rights or property (taxes) in exchange for protection and other social considerations in a society which exists as opposed to the “law of the jungle” with the right to everything if you can do it in competition against others.

These social contracts are usually tacitly accepted, but you can break the contract if you don't follow the rules either by not following society's laws or not doing your part to support the society you contract with (taxes). You can either be exiled as in the early days when society was not all encompassing, or you can be punished by imprisonment and/or reformed. This is the usual form of a social contract, but what of a contract of all individuals in humanity as in A Global Social Contract?

Since this is not a familiar physical social contract with a location and real physical attributes as in the typical community up to a country type of system, this new form of social contract would be like no other. In many ways this may be a social contract that becomes the “judgment” of other social contracts as voted upon by each individual in humanity. It would be a court of public opinion with the public being all of humanity. While this may not work for a fully functioning society like traditional social contracts, this does give humanity as a whole the ability to arrive at consensus and enact altruistic or necessary functions for humanity on a global level. It takes the social contract to the full circle where all of humanity participates in their own individual considerations to each other as beings apart from the jungle, who care about each other to ensure humanity in its entirety has some form of governance and the ability to work on issues that affect everyone globally.

VII. The Global Citizen

The Global Citizen is the weakest element in society but also the most powerful “en masse”! It brings everyone together to show empathy and constructive action on issues that typical geopolitical structures don’t really have a stake in and thus often get neglected to the detriment of all. The birth of the Global Citizen adds an extra layer of civic responsibility and governance in a world that is now accessible to all by physical means and especially technological (electronic) means. It is the next logical step in the development of humanity.

Current geopolitical structures have representatives of masses of people to get things done, but technology has given us the ability to do things at the highest levels without proxy representation in the human sense and get consensus directly from every individual via a global vote by all!

This is all possible at the time of this writing. I have actually made a cell phone app for the Worldwide Vote to make all of this happen. As a Global Citizen all we would need is some idea, concept or philosophy to rally around, and for the purpose of this paper we have the Positive Mandate for Humanity as a guiding light for all of humanity. The unifying idea or concept is not just an intellectual idea but also a visceral one and that is happiness. By finding out the best way to make us all happy, we now have the rallying and unifying concept upon which to bring in all peoples of the world to become formal global citizens and start the procedure for A Global Social Contract. In the remainder of this paper we will get into the more practical matters of this new form of A Global Social Contract.

VIII. What is the Best Way to Set Up this Global Society and A Global Social Contract?

The best way to form a global identity and thus a true global citizen is to have something all people on the earth can believe in and agree with. For me the idea of a Positive Mandate for Humanity is probably the best concept/philosophy for inclusion. But this is not enough, this global community will also need the means to get consensus on ideas and initiatives and the entire practical ramifications to doing things on a global scale. So technology has an immediate answer with a Worldwide Vote through smart phones at some neutral place such as the United Nations.

However, more than anything else, the best way to set up a global society and A Global Social Contract is to have the strongest fundamentals as the foundation of this new society and social contract. Foundations like “happiness” as the unifying concept and a truly fair way all the people of the world could govern this new society. Therefore the key ingredients will now be presented through:

Positive Mandate for Humanity

Worldwide Vote

What follows are the two original papers that form the core ingredients of this new Global Society and the birth of A Global Social Contract.

IX. Positive Mandate for Humanity

(Formerly: A Positive Major Mandate for Humanity

At the United Nations)

1. Introduction

One of the reasons the United Nations (UN) was created was in response to the world wars and an attempt to create a venue where disagreements between nations could be worked out in a neutral setting and hopefully prevent war.ⁱ Over the years since its creation, the United Nations has expanded that mandate and thorough it and its special agencies now tackle poverty, hunger, disease, lack of education and many other problems facing the world. The current initiative called “Sustainable Development Goals” is an example of trying to right the wrongs of the world in many areas (no poverty, affordable and clean energy, climate action, zero hunger, decent work and economic growth, life below water, good health and well-being, industry innovation and infrastructure, life on land, quality education, reduced inequalities, peace justice and strong institutions, gender equality, sustainable cities and communities, partnerships for the goals). While these mandates and initiatives are important and need our utmost attention, there is a gap in those mandates and initiatives, and that gap is the lack of a positive major mandate that does not simply address a negative condition in the world. If all of the UN’s mandates and initiatives were eradicated or solved, what would be our new mandate now that all the negative elements that faced Humanity are gone? We would need a new mandate, a mandate solely based on the positives of Humanity, and we would have to ask ourselves the question of why we did not have a major positive mandate already in place. It would appear we lack that one major mandate that is not derived from a problem in our world, a mandate that is derived from the best part of Humanity’s nature, a mandate that points to Humanity’s future and an open goal to pursue, a reason for being apart from religion.

It is the purpose of this report by the International Association of Independent Journalists Inc.ⁱⁱ to show the advantages of a major positive mandate for Humanity at the United Nations, what that type of mandate would look like, and how it could be adopted by member nations at the United Nations.

2. Methodology

This report will state the reasons as to why a positive major mandate is needed at the United Nations in several sections as follows:

A. Why do we need a positive mandate?

This section will put forth the arguments as to why a major positive mandate is needed at the United Nations.

B. Advantages of a positive mandate

This section will list the general advantages of a positive major mandate regardless of the specific type of positive mandate.

C. Our version of a positive mandate

Saying we need a major positive mandate at the UN is one thing but what would it look like? This section answers the question with our own version of that major positive mandate and updates the advantages specific to that particular mandate.

D. Our positive mandate gives the Universal Declaration of Human Rights a reason for being

A positive major mandate based on freedom of expression mentally and physically gives the Universal Declaration of Human Rightsⁱⁱⁱ an in-line and necessary function for Humanity to attain this positive major mandate at the United Nations.

E. The Fortress Experiment

This section will examine the 13 year “Fortress Experiment”^{iv} that gave participants of a typical community the freest expression of their physical and mental selves and examined all of the outcomes of this activity over thirteen years. The experiment gives our positive mandate the authority to make the claim that people are happier given the freedom of expression and that their lives and communities in every way are not negatively influence by this positive mandate.

F. Bringing a Positive Mandate to the United Nations

This section will investigate the best way to start a discussion of how to go forward with advocacy on behalf of a positive major mandate at the United Nations.

3. Why We Need a Positive Major Mandate for Humanity at the United Nations

We need a positive major mandate for humanity at the United Nations because currently all major mandates are negative based like reduction of war and peacekeeping, eradicating poverty and so on as seen in the current initiative called “Sustainable Development Goals” (no poverty, affordable and clean energy, climate action, zero hunger, decent work and economic growth, life below water, good health and well-being, industry innovation and infrastructure, life on land, quality education, reduced inequalities, peace/justice and strong institutions, gender equality, sustainable cities and communities, partnerships for the goals). It is an example of trying to right the wrongs of the world in many areas. However, if a person looked at the United Nations with totally fresh eyes (for the first time), what would they make of it? They would see a world of warmongers and people in strife from poverty to famine and so on. Where is the shining light at the UN that points to the best aspects of humanity? What points to what humanity is all about and where humanity is headed? Currently there is no such major mandate at the UN, and it is the purpose of this report to show one such possible mandate and how the United Nations could adopt the idea of a positive major mandate and why member nations should endorse it.

A positive major mandate sets the image of humanity in a positive reference opposed to a negative reference. It gives general direction in policy making and thus true self-determination to the human race as a whole. Human beings need to know that they have a purpose all to themselves outside of religion and that this purpose is manmade and also feels right on all levels of cognition. Finally, a positive agreed on mandate brings all peoples of all ideologies, cultures and nations together in agreement on a fundamental goal all can embrace, and a starting off point to agreement on other issues that need attention. It allows for humanity to finally have true self-determination as a species. It directs us to activities and uses of resources we all agree on towards a given end everyone wants to attain. A positive mandate gives humanity a reason for being apart from religion.

4. Advantages of a Positive Major Mandate for Humanity at the United Nations:

Advantages of a positive major mandate at the United Nations;

1. Shows humanity in a positive light.
2. Forces world leaders to think about ultimate common goals and common ground accepted by all is always a good foundation for issue resolution and to come to agreement on other problems.
3. Unites all peoples in the world under one general common goal or direction for humanity.
4. Gives Humanity a formalized version of self-determination apart from religion.
5. With a formalized goal or mandate you have direction and with direction come the means to accomplish it. Remember, that without a stated goal you are floundering, you just exist as a species.

5. Our Version of a Positive Major Mandate for Humanity at the United Nations

Our version of a positive major mandate for humanity at the United Nations is that the ultimate goal of Humanity apart from its religious being, should be the freest expression of Humanity's mental and physical abilities to let individuals and Humanity as a whole to be all that they can be, and that the reason this goal is the correct one is because people are happiest when they are allowed this type of expression in addition to the rational reasons.

Advantages of our version of a positive major mandate for humanity at the United Nations:

1. Shows humanity in a positive light.
2. It encourages creativity of all forms which helps to develop our culture and sciences and philosophy.
3. This type of mandate lends itself to an open ended future of possibilities as there is no specified goal, but the conditions that are required to attain whatever those abilities can reach.
4. Forces world leaders to think about ultimate common goals and common ground accepted by all is always a good foundation for issue resolution and to come to agreement on other problems.
5. Unites all peoples in the world under one general common goal or direction for humanity.
6. Gives Humanity a formalized version of self-determination apart from religion.

7. Gives a reason for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to exist as more than just a declaration, but rather, as a necessary part of a major positive mandate.
8. With a formalized goal or mandate you have direction and with direction come the means to accomplish it. Remember that without a stated goal you are floundering, you just exist as a species.

A. Rational Arguments and the “Happiness Principle”

There are many rational reasons for a major positive mandate allowing the freest expression of Humanity’s mental and physical abilities. It allows all forms of expression to further creativity in all its forms. It allows more ways to solve the problems that Humanity will have to face in the future. It also continues development of our culture by influx of new ideas. In short, it brings to Humanity as a group and as individuals, more ideas and more options to choose from which ultimately impacts our self-determination.

However, when it comes to a mandate as basic as a general one for humanity, rational arguments are not enough. Rationality, like science is a tool, a mental tool but it has its limitations. Like science, rationality can solve a problem but cannot ultimately tell us how to live our lives with any ultimate authority anymore than science can. Science tells us the relations between things but not the actual things themselves. Science is very practical as a tool but has its limitations. Likewise with rational arguments, rational arguments are not enough to define Humanity’s ultimate goal or destiny to be strived for. We as humans must know on a visceral level that this is the right course of action to take. The fact that free expression of mind and body makes us happy is the clearest indication that this goal is the correct one. We don’t need to spell out the ultimate destination of Humanity’s path, but we can set the course and atmosphere to achieve that ultimate goal with a positive mandate like the one we have presented.

6. Our Positive Major Mandate Gives the Universal Declaration of Human Rights a Reason for Being

Adopting the goal of fullest expression of Humanity's mental and physical abilities gives the Universal Declaration of Human rights a reason for being. We need those human rights because they are a necessary part of achieving the goal of Humanity's freest expression of its physical and mental abilities, and the reason why is because it makes rational sense and makes us happy! As it stands now the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is just a declaration, but with a positive major mandate such as our proposal, that declaration is a necessary part of Humanity's ultimate direction in its existence. It solidifies those rights as absolutely necessary to Humanity on its most basic level.

There probably are many rational arguments that could be used to limit the scope of the Universal Declaration of Rights. However, if we had a major positive mandate that necessitated the absolute necessity of those rights and freedoms, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights would be locked down as the defacto set of human rights and freedoms, no longer open for discussion. The world has to see the absolute necessity for those rights and freedoms and a major positive mandate of fullest expression of Humanity's mentally and physically abilities, for all the rational arguments and visceral (makes us happy) feelings, would do just that!

There has to be a reason why we hold certain thing higher on our list of priorities, and a positive major mandate such as the one we propose justifies those universal rights and freedoms we hold in the highest regard.

7. Scope of a Positive Major Mandate for Humanity at the United Nations

A mandate based on the fullest expression of Humanity's mental and physical abilities because it makes us happy, is very broad in scope. As such many social problems are included under its scope and can be addressed and solved through such a mandate.

The problem of social inclusion/social exclusion is one such example. Many issues and problems in society are actually freedom of expression issues. Not being able to vote is an obvious freedom of expression issue. Being denied career and job opportunities base on race, religion and other forms of discrimination curtail your personal ability to express yourself through you work life. Being denied your ability to freely date and marry a life partner because of race religion and other forms of discrimination curtails your ability to express yourself in the way you wish to live in your society. Being denied your ability to practice your religious beliefs because of discrimination is a violation of your self-expression. All of the above examples (and many more that have not been discussed) curtail the fullest expression of an individual and individuals who face such circumstances are not as happy as they would be if they did not have these restrictions.

Free expression makes us happy as we are not restricted or imprisoned by others in how we relate to our environment. Thus, our positive mandate for humanity gives clear and basic direction on how to proceed in many cultural issues and resolve them. It is a true "umbrella" mandate under which many other issues can be addressed. Having such a mandate at the United Nations would expedite programs and initiatives to resolve problems of social inclusion/social exclusion in our world.

8. The Fortress Experiment



The Fortress Experiment was a thirteen year experiment produced by a company called Fortress of Freedom Inc.^v that examined the lives of people in a typical community that had the opportunity to express themselves freely to their community and the world at large. The experiment had controls so that the participants adequately reflected the participants you would find in any community anywhere in the world. These people were given the chance to do what they always wanted to do by letting them express themselves fully to the world. Some went into music, while others went into print or acting and documentary making and so on; we gave these people a second chance to be all they could be.

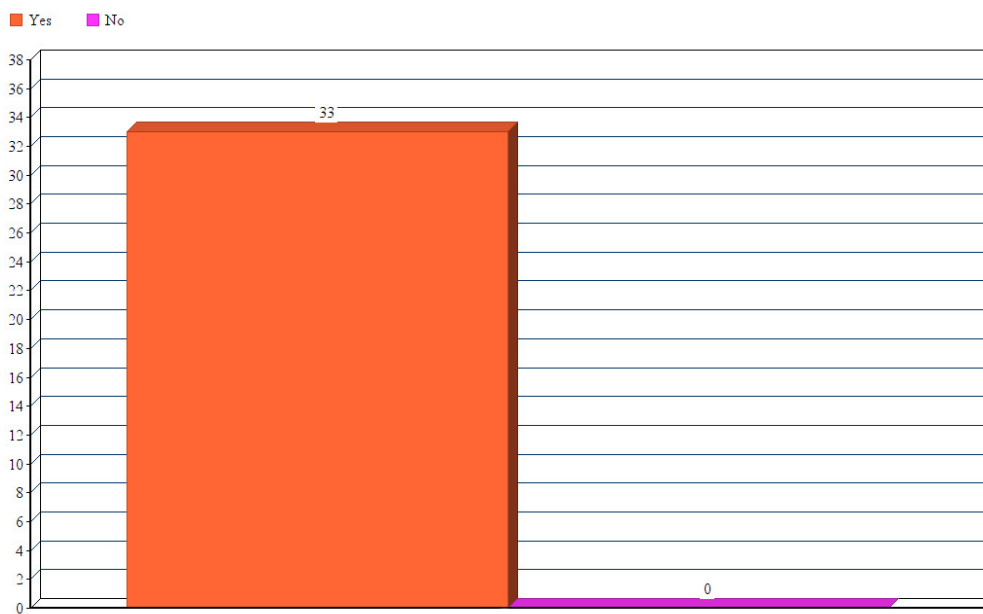
A. The Survey

Question: Were you happier as a result of being able to express yourself to your community and the world at large?

Survey size: 33 Participants

Yes: 33

No: 0



Were you happier as a result of being able to express yourself freely?

Mean

The mean is that single value that describes the middle or average value of the set. In a yes/no survey the mean represents the proportion of respondents who answered "yes".

Mean Equation (binomial): $\text{mean} = np$ (where n is the total number in the survey and p is the percentage that replied "yes".) However for a survey of our kind, the mean is usually represented as the proportion of respondents who answered "yes".

Yes = 1

No = 0

Sample: 33

Yes: 33

Mean = 100%

So the mean value for this binomial variable represents the proportion of respondents who answered "yes" and that proportion is 100 percent.

Variance

The variance is a measure of how spread out a distribution is.

Variance Equation: $\text{Variance} = np(1-p)$

Where n is the total number in the survey and p is the percentage that replied "yes".

The variance of the survey is 0.

Standard Deviation

Standard deviation is a measure of how spread out are the numbers of the survey.

Standard Deviation Equation: $\text{Standard Deviation} = \sqrt{np(1-p)}$

Square root of $(33 \times 1(1-1))$

Standard Deviation of the survey is 0.

Margin of Error

Margin of error is an absolute quantity equal to the confidence interval radius of the statistic.

12

Margin of Error Equation: $\text{Margin of error} = \text{Critical value} \times \text{Standard error of the statistic}$ Where z^* is the value for your desired level of confidence (usually 95%), p is the percentage that replied "yes" and N is the total number of the survey.

World Population: 7,400,000,000

Confidence level: 95%

Sample size: 33

Percentage that replied "yes": 100%

Margin of error for this survey is 17%

Discussion of the survey results

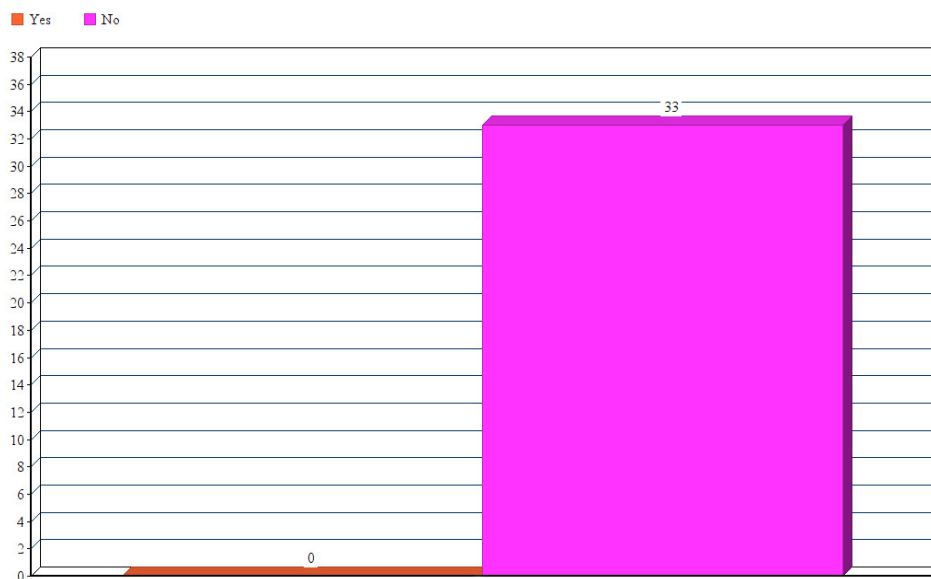
With such a small sample size and 100% positive response to the question of the survey, the statistical variables become mostly a non issue, but we have gone through the motions just to be thorough. The fact is everyone was happier being able to express themselves to the world as they see fit. I am sure with a large enough sample size you may have a no response here and there but I am confident to say that this survey result is indicative of a global poll if it were made on the issue.

B. General Observations

Without question all answered affirmative to being happier for the chance to express themselves at what they do best, to their community and the world at large. This should come as no surprise to anyone but we had to quantify the result as a matter of course. The more interesting result is the fact that nobody changed during the experiment. The person that joined the experiment at the beginning was the same person that came out of the experiment at the end. The end result was that they were happier when doing it and they added to the fabric of whatever area of expression then went into.

C. Nobody Changed but Everyone was Happier

One of the stranger things that came out of The Fortress Experiment is that nobody changed as a result of getting to express themselves to the limit of their ability. Nobody left their families to go pursue their dreams. Nobody changed their jobs as a result. Nobody changed in their personality or behaviors or the way they lived their lives. The person that came into the experiment was the same person that came out.



Did anyone change as a result of the experiment?

What this means for us is that if this policy of allowing people the freest expression of their mental and physical abilities were rolled out on a large scale, the net result would be no disruption of their families, their community, or their nations that they live in. The sole end of it all would be possibly a furthering of their culture or area of interest and most important, they would be happier than they were before.

D. How The Fortress Experiment supports our Positive Major Mandate for Humanity

The Fortress Experiment shows over years of people's lives that freedom of expression makes us happy and that this policy can be deployed on a broad scale without fear of societal upheaval or other radical changes in any society. It just ends up making people happier in their lives and that is something all can agree on as a good thing.

E. Discussion of The Fortress Experiment

More than a simple question on a survey, The Fortress Experiment followed around a group of people for years allowing them to fully express themselves and noted any changes. This experiment has its results represented in years of a person's life, a one of a kind experiment. So even though the numbers are smaller than a typical survey, the actual experiences per individuals of all kinds have a degree of completeness that pushes the boundaries of a controlled experiment that involves people. The conclusion that they are happier when allowed to express themselves fully mentally or physically have more weight in that this is shown through years of their lives, and with the controls this experiment is of a typical community you would find anywhere on earth. The fact that they were all without exception happier in their lives has real force and meaning when looking at possible policy making. The fact that nobody changed internally or externally is comforting for policy makers, that the nations, societies and the cultures they live in are not in jeopardy in any way. So this policy could become reality with little downside. That is the greatest contribution The Fortress Experiment makes for our purposes of a positive mandate for humanity at the United Nations.

9. Bringing a Positive Major Mandate for Humanity to the United Nations

Asking member nations at the United Nations to adopt a major positive mandate is a daunting task. However, the idea of a positive mandate at the UN is such an important issue to bring forth that we have to find a way to lobby the UN and get the issue into the taking points at the UN and possibly get interest in a policy revision to accommodate this mandate. The yearly meeting of the Commission for Social Development would seem to be the proper venue. We would need to introduce the idea at a side event or lobby an official of the commission to look at the issue.

They would have to be shown that our report was not just an academic exercise but based on real facts and experience as shown by our thirteen year experiment called The Fortress Experiment. The strange part about our experiment is that nobody changed. Nobody hit it big or changed their jobs or where they lived. Without exception, they all continued doing what they were doing before the experiment, but they were happier for being able to express themselves to the world at large. What this means as a general mandate on the world stage is that the idea of full expression mentally and physically can be employed on an individual and general basis without disruption of the societies and cultures and countries the people live in. The only difference is that the lives they lead are happier as a result.

So once they see the positive merits of allowing people the freest expression of their mental and physical selves, and that nobody changes with this freedom, and that society carries on with no disruption to families, communities and nations; then we have a chance.

The idea of bringing a positive mandate to the United Nation is daunting to say the least. There seems to be no formal procedure to handle this type of request. However, that should not be construed as a reason not to request it and the Commission for Social Development seems to be the most likely venue to begin. There are many positive reasons for a positive mandate at the UN. The United Nations is more than just an organization devoted to maintaining peace among nations. There is considerable humanitarian action that goes on at the UN and its special agencies such as the Sustainable Development Goals. As the UN evolves into more than it was at its beginning, so must its mandates evolve with the broadening of activities. So we at IAIJ shall lobby as many departments and people at the UN as possible, and hope that this request can become a legitimate talking point and perhaps later have some concrete action in this direction such as an open call for this type of mandate and procedures leading to policy making.

10. Financing a Positive Major Mandate for Humanity at the United Nations

If our positive major mandate were to become a formal mandate at the United Nations it would be able to be funded just like any other mandate. I would think the actual financing of programs would be those that fell under the umbrella of the major mandate as their scope is more specific. These funds and programs are created by a resolution of the UN General Assembly and have a focused mandate. The source of funds mostly come through voluntary contributions and would have a governing body that oversees their activities. Coordination is through ECOSOC and the Chief Executive Board (CEB). At the United Nations, Member States are elected to the governing bodies and the UN Secretary-General normally appoints the heads of the funds, programs and other entities.

11. Positive Mandate: Summary

A positive major mandate at the United Nations has many positive benefits. First it shows Humanity in a more positive light rather than a species which has as its most important function being the elimination of war. There is no doubt that the elimination of war is a very important mandate in addition to initiatives like the Sustainable Development Goals. But it is not the only mandate and initiatives that should define the people of earth. If all of the UN's mandates and initiatives were eradicated or solved, what would be our new mandate now that all the negative elements that faced Humanity are gone? We would need a new one, a mandate solely based on the positives of Humanity, and we would have to ask the question of why we did not have one already in place. Our positive mandate reaffirms the reason why we have the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and that our goal as a species has rational and visceral reasons for selection, as it makes us all happy. A positive major mandate gives Humanity as a whole, true self-determination.

The mandate that we submitted as a model (that Humanity's ultimate goal should be the freest expression of their mental and physical selves) employs both rational and visceral reasons for adoption. Rational reasons alone cannot define Humanity and cannot be the sole reason for adoption. Human beings are feeling creatures and a positive feeling toward a positive goal and mandate for Humanity would seem to be a necessary prerequisite before consideration for adoption could take place. Our mandate does not specify the ultimate goals of humanity, it only specifies the best mindset as the directive to forward Humanity's culture to whatever ends that might lead and the freest expression of Humanity's physical and mental self (because it makes us happy) would seem to be the best direction you could have.

On the strength of the above arguments we at the International Association of Independent Journalists Inc. and on behalf of the general public, submit this appeal for a positive major mandate at the United Nations for your consideration.

X. WORLDWIDE VOTE

(Formerly: The Issue of Permanent Ongoing Participation of the General Public at the United Nations)

1. INTRODUCTION

Participation of the general public at the United Nations (UN) was always looked at as some unattainable ideal, but today current technology can actually make this a possibility and it is the purpose of this report to show how it could be made to work. However, for this report to have any force in becoming policy at the United Nations we would first need a formal request for participation at the United Nations by the general public and then the report to back up the viability of such a request:

Formal Request to Participate at the United Nations from the General Public

'We, the majority of people on this planet earth ask that the United Nations through ECOSOC and the NGO Committee to give us the means to actively participate in all aspects of United Nations activities. The Charter of the United Nations clearly gives us the right in the preamble and following articles to participate at the United Nations on an equal basis with nations large and small and now that practical logistics to such participation are no longer a barrier, we ask that such participation be granted as soon as possible. As stated in the Preamble to the Charter of the United Nations ("in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small') and as stated in Article 8 of the Charter of the United Nations ("The United Nations shall place no restrictions on the eligibility of men and women to participate in any capacity and under conditions of equality in its principal and subsidiary organs."), men and women or in other words the general public shall have no restriction on the eligibility to participate in any capacity and under condition of equality in its principal and subsidiary organs. NGO participation at the United Nations clearly does not properly embrace the totality of general public participation. The general public is not an organization whose membership is limited in any way by type of membership or ideology or any of the usual characteristics of an NGO. General public participation at the United Nations is a special case but must nevertheless be accommodated for if requested. This statement is the formal request by Maurice Ali (International Association

of Independent Journalists Inc.) on behalf of the general public to ECOSOC and the NGO Committee at the “Resumed Session of the NGO Committee” (May 23 to June 1, 2016) at United Nations Headquarters in New York City (New York, United States of America), which would seem to be the proper organs of the United Nations with which to make this request.

We await your reply to be responded to the NGO facilitating this request on behalf of the general public which is the International Association of Independent Journalists Inc. and the statement will be duly broadcast to the world at large by all means possible.”

To allow the general public to participate at the United Nations would require these necessary items. First would be a survey to show that a random sample of the general public actually desire to participate at UN activities if they became available. Then we would have to show that cell phone applications and desktop applications would actually work to provide general public participation at the United Nations. What we would have is a United Nations application that could install on your cell phone, tablet/laptop or desktop that would connect you with the servers and websites of the UN or piggybacked on some of the more popular social media websites. The great thing these days is that, for example with Windows 10 the cell phone app would work with the desktop PC greatly simplifying things. However, in addition to the cell phone applications we would need to show that the infrastructure of the internet could handle the extra load of a 7.4 billion person one day vote. Finally we need to investigate the Charter of the United Nations and how the charter would allow permanent ongoing participation in all aspects of United Nations activities. If all these elements needed for permanent ongoing participation at the United Nations can be met, we will have a most powerful argument to present to the United Nations to finally make permanent ongoing participation of the general public in all activities of the United Nations a reality.

The formal request of the general public to participate at the United Nations in all its activities and the report that supports that request are therefore now formally served to the United Nations bodies at the “Resumed Session of the NGO Committee” (May23 to June 1 2016); a reply as to action taken on this matter will be accepted by IAIJ and duly sent to news agencies and social media around the world as an act of transparency. We now await your reply.

2. METHODOLOGY OF THE REPORT

For the purposes of this report, we will define the “General Public” as “ordinary people in society, rather than people who are considered to be important or who belong to a particular group”.^{vi}

The methodology of the report will systematically go through all necessary elements needed for general public participation at the United Nations in order to see if general public participation in all aspects of the United Nations can be a reality. First we will investigate as to whether the general public is interested in participating actively in all aspects of the United Nations by a random survey. Then we will investigate the most effective means of participation for the general public to involve themselves in United Nations activities; and whether the current level of technology can accommodate that method of participation. Finally, we will investigate whether the general public’s wishes to participate in all aspects of the United Nations is accommodated by the Charter of the United Nations.

The report will gather information in several ways:

A. Survey:

The survey was anonymous and available to the general public through the internet and also through physical solicitation in person mostly in North America.

The survey asked one question: “Do you support the idea of permanent ongoing participation of the general public at the United Nations and in all aspects of United Nations activities?”

B. Cell Phone Application:

We will investigate the possibility of using cell phone applications to vote on UN propositions as the first form of participation and with regard to the technical aspects of hosting a vote by the general public over the internet as the best way to do that. The report will also investigate the actual manufacture of an Android application that would allow the general public to participate at the UN with a cell phone app or desk top application.

C. Internet Infrastructure:

The report will then investigate the internet infrastructure needed to facilitate permanent ongoing participation of the general public at the United Nations and in all aspects of United Nations activities. The report will look at the distribution and hardware necessary to handle the cell phone activity related to a vote on a proposition at the United Nations. We will look at the dedicated hardware solutions as well as piggybacking onto another internet network for the vote to tally in the fastest way possible.

D. Working within the Charter of the United Nations:

We will look at whether the Charter of the United Nations allows permanent ongoing participation of the general public at the United Nations and in all United Nations activities, and how that participation would be formally represented and administered at the United Nations.

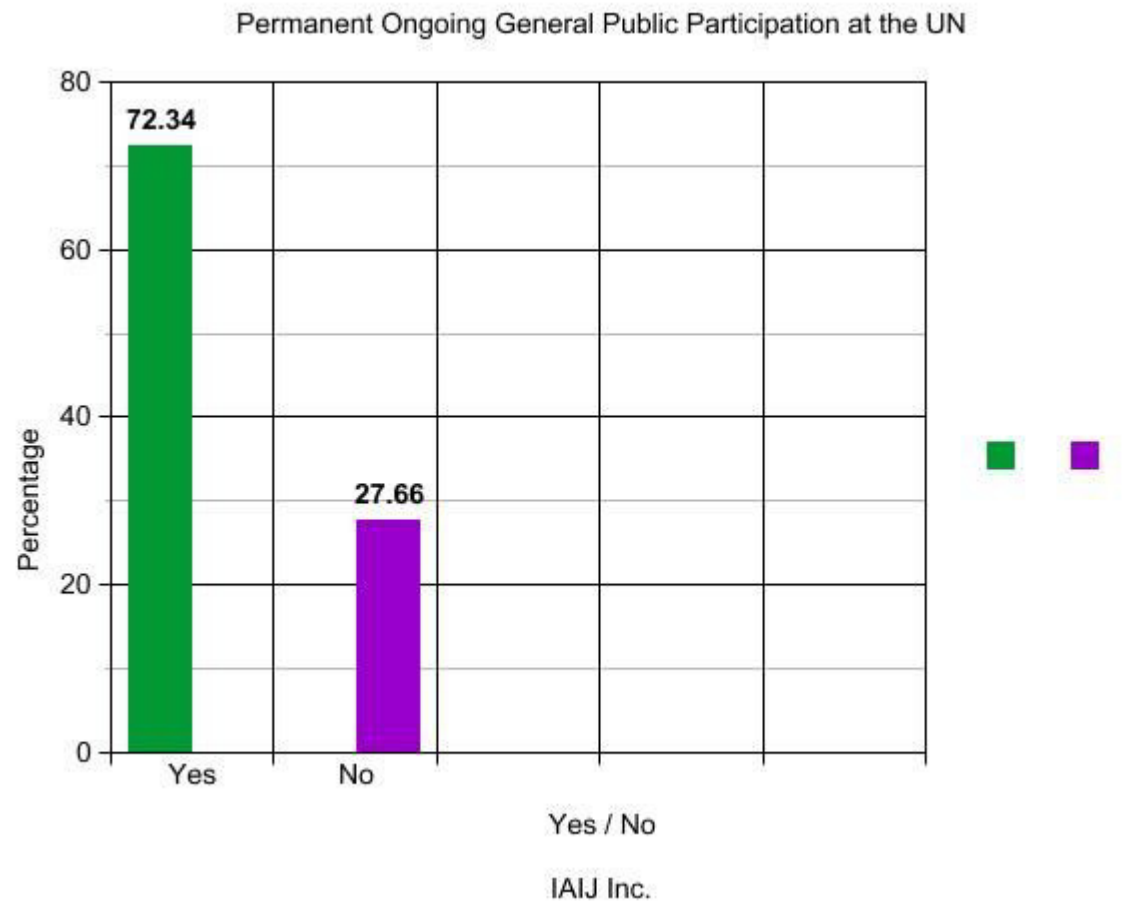
Once all the relevant information is gathered, conclusions will be made along with a list of recommendations.

3. THE RESULTS

A. The Survey

Survey question: Do you support the idea of permanent ongoing participation of the general public at the United Nations and in all aspects of United Nations activities? (Yes/No)

Survey Statistics



Results:

Survey question: "Do you support the idea of permanent ongoing participation of the general public at the United Nations and in all aspects of United Nations activities?" (Yes/No)

Sample size: 839

Yes replies: 607

No replies: 232

Mean

The mean is that single value that describes the middle or average value of the set. In a yes/no survey the mean represents the proportion of respondents who answered "yes".

Mean Equation (binomial): $\text{mean} = np$ (or total of "yes" replies divided by the sample size where n is the total number in the survey and p is the percentage that replied "yes".).

Yes = 1

No = 0

Sample: 839

Yes: 607

Mean = 72.34%

So the mean value for this binomial variable represents the proportion of respondents who answered "yes" and that proportion is 72.34 percent.

Variance

The variance is a measure of how spread out a distribution is.

Variance Equation: $\text{Variance} = np(1-p)$

Where n is the total number in the survey and p is the percentage that replied “yes”.

The variance of the survey is 167.8776.

Standard Deviation

Standard deviation is a measure of how spread out are the numbers of the survey.

Standard Deviation Equation: $\text{Standard Deviation} = \sqrt{np(1-p)}$

Square root of $(839 \times .7234)(1-.7234)$

Standard Deviation of the survey is 12.9568.

Margin of Error

Margin of error is an absolute quantity equal to the confidence interval radius of the statistic.

$$z^* \sqrt{\frac{p(1-p)}{n}}$$

Margin of Error Equation: Margin of error = Critical value x Standard error of the statistic
Where z^* is the value for your desired level of confidence (usually 95%), p is the percentage that replied “yes” and N is the total number of the survey.

World Population: 7,400,000,000

Confidence level: 95%

Sample size: 839

Margin of error for this survey is 4% (depending on variables we got between 3-4% but will go with the higher number).

Final Results of the Survey:

Survey size: 839 responses (one question per individual).

Our survey has a margin of error of 4% and that means that if you ran that survey 100 times, asking a different sample of people each time, the overall percentage of people who responded the same way (72.34% in favor) would remain within 4% of your original result in at least 95 of those 100 surveys. Therefore from our results we would expect further polls to stay between 68.34 percent on the low side and 76.34 percent on the high side. Our sample size is only pertinent to the global response on-line and the physical solicitation in North America. However the sample size is large enough to make guarded conclusions from the empirical data received. The survey was conducted in English which meant there was limited participation in countries where English was not their first language.

Discussion based on the survey:

The participants of the survey responded positively at 72.34% to general public participation in a permanent and ongoing way in all UN activities. We did not separate the results along regional or gender lines. We just wanted a straight tally as to yes or no.

Stated reasons for voting in favor of general public participation at the UN:

1. Show global consensus for policy making to member nations on issues of a global nature.
2. Brings forth the idea of a global community as opposed to just a state structured world.
3. Provides for a more direct conduit for general public sentiment as opposed to the more filtered voice through traditional channels.
4. It lets people show their feelings to certain initiatives at the United Nations peacefully rather than physical forms of protest which can be disruptive as is traditionally the case outside of the United Nations.

Stated reasons for voting against general public participation at the UN:

1. Will slow down work at the United Nations even more.
2. Online voting at the UN will skew results based on nationalistic and nation population size, rather than the one vote one nation concept.
3. The general public may not be as informed on the issues to participate with intellectual understanding and dispassion and may vote emotionally and ill informed with dire consequences.

In conclusion the percentage in favor of supporting the idea of permanent ongoing participation of the general public at the United Nations and in all aspects of United Nations activities is 72.34 percent which as a real number out of the total world population of 7.4 billion people equates to 5.35 billion people. That is a number greater than any individual nation on earth. As a group, these people deserve a voice at the United Nations independent of where they live or which nation they fall under because the general public are the ultimate stakeholders in all UN activities. For practical and pragmatic reasons this was not possible before, but now with new technical innovations currently available, this form of participation is finally possible. They should now have a voice and be able to participate in United Nations activities.

4. The Cell Phone Application

The IAIJ/UN General Public Participation cell phone application is available for download from IAIJ servers.

Go to the link below to download the application:

http://iaij.org/UN_Cell_Phone_App.htm

To install the application follow these instructions:

1. Download the apk on your Android device.
2. Find the app on your device (probably in "Downloads") with a file manager.
3. Click on the apk file and it self-installs.
4. Android will probably stop the installation because the apk is not from Google Play. So just make an exception for the app in the settings which should pop up automatically and it will continue to self install. Accept the permissions and you open the app and are ok to proceed to use the application.
5. Don't see the IAIJ icon? Go to you app drawer, find the app and icon/widget and drag the widget to your home screen.

When installed successfully you click on the IAIJ icon and will be presented with a screen like the one presented below:



The cell phone application used for this study was made with the MIT “App Inventor 2” application for Android cell phones. This cloud based application is only for the Android operating system and was chosen for ease of use. The App Inventor 2 application used application blocks of coding as opposed to straight line by line coding to make an Android application. Therefore, ordinary individuals and many school aged young people can successfully make applications that can be published and even made available on the Google Play Store for download.

Our application was made for the International Association of Independent Journalists Inc. (IAIJ) organization. So the first page when you launch the app is for IAIJ but one yellow button that says “United Nations Participation” redirects you to a second page that has the UN mobile website on the lower part of the screen and the applications to follow UN activities on the upper part of the screen:



Here are the three applications presented to inform and follow UN activities:

UN Audio Channels. Is a United Nations application that lets you listen in real time and recorded audio on events happening at the United Nations. From the Google Play Store:^{vii}

“Be up to date on what is happening in the United Nations and around the world, straight from the source. Listen to the latest news bulletins and features stories, daily radio programs, interviews, daily press briefings and live coverage of many UN General Assembly and Security Council meetings. Available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, and Kiswahili.

You can stream the audio or place an in-app voice call from the following countries: Brazil, South Africa, Switzerland, and United States.

The UN Audio Channel app by AudioNow® Digital allows listeners access to:

- Live stream programming
- Live call-to-listen access to programming
- Recorded programming
- Bandwidth selection, leading to reduced data charges
- Interactive messaging services embedded in the app including: Facebook, Twitter, and Weibo.”

UN News Reader. Is a United Nations application the shows you the news that happens at the United Nations in an archived and real-time manner. From the Google Play Store:^{viii}

“The UN News Reader app for Android directly connects readers with the latest UN news feeds that are available in all six UN official languages - Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

In addition to news feeds it also offers compact information about the UN through links to the UN main web site, Events Calendar, Calendar of Observances, Basic Facts about the United Nations (English version only), UN Multimedia, UN Radio, Twitter, Facebook, Weibo as well as many other features.”

UN Calendar of Observances. Is an application that shows United Nations activities in a calendar configuration. From the Google Play Store:ix

“United Nations observances promote awareness of and action on important political, social, cultural, humanitarian or human rights issues. The free UN Calendar Android app provides details of UN observances, as well as ways to get involved in related events and links to obtain further information. It illustrates how the United Nations makes a difference in peace and security, economic development, social development, human rights, the environment, international law, humanitarian affairs and global health.

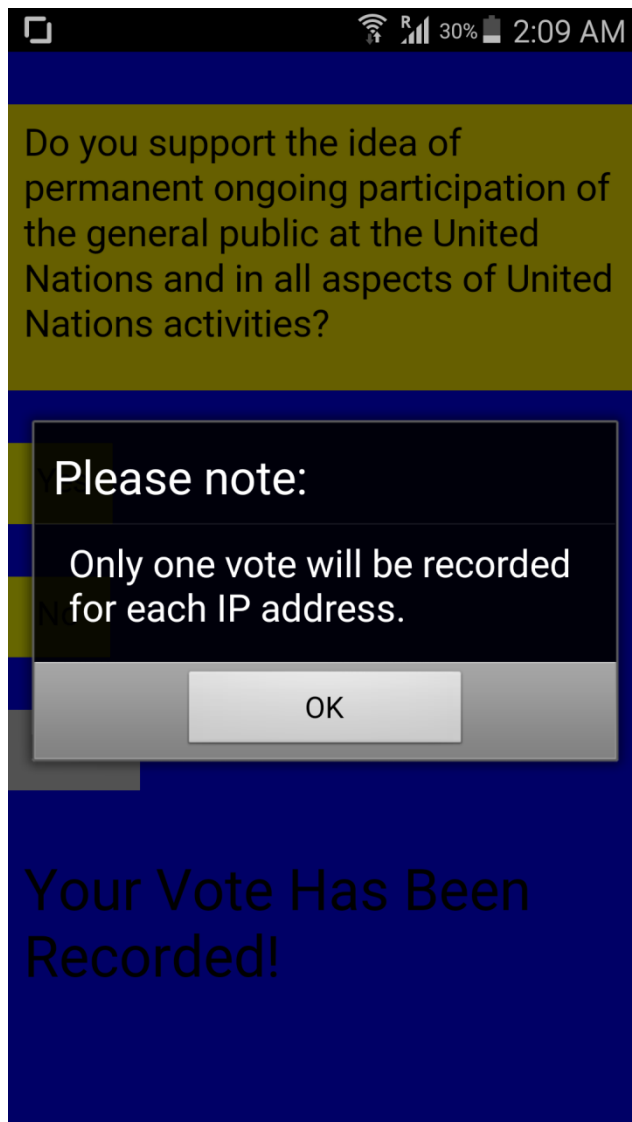
The UN Calendar app features interactive components about UN achievements, links to related videos and photos and options for sharing information via social networking sites. It can store UN observances in the native phone calendar, with the option of a reminder alert. The app can also be used independently, or easily and safely disengaged from the native calendar.

Content is now available in all six UN official languages: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish, as well as Bahasa Indonesia and Kazakh. Simply change the language settings to access the app in your language!”

The United Nations Mobile Website.

The United Nations Mobile Website is displayed with full access to all parts of the UN. This application used the mobile website available from the United Nations.x

The Proposition Page:



A yellow button on the second page with all the UN website and applications is the button that takes you to participate by vote on whatever UN activity is being discussed and allows you by vote tally to show your opinion on the proposition presented. This third page is a proposition page with a “yes” or “no” button. Hitting either will confirm your vote. Only one vote is allowed for each IP address. Vote totals for this test application are by page views for yes or no and filtered for multiple IP votes. The actual method of tallying data for a genuine UN vote would be more elaborate, but for our test purposes this method proved very simple and reliable.

Discussion on Cell Phone Voting Application and Usage:

The specifics of all the aspects of the application and usage are too involved to go into here but that is the general idea. We could have several servers around the world to create the necessary redundancy to have reliability and capacity for worldwide usage. Let’s take, for example, servers located at present IAIJ communication hubs like Canada, United States of America, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, India, Japan and Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China; and with the main hub at a neutral telecommunications hub like Estonia. You also have to advertise these applications, so in addition to all of the above we would need advertising to inform the public of its existence to have a successful launch of the application.

In this very simple way, general public participation by anyone in the world is possible to guide member nations in global policy making by showing raw population approval or disapproval for the proposition under discussion. The application in question was for Android based cell phones but iOS (iPhone) and Windows 10 (phones and desktop applications are the same) applications are easy to make available. Of course the general public cannot have a vote at the United Nations as member nations have, but poll numbers on a proposition are sometimes persuasive in policy making at the international level. General public participation through the use of cell phones and desktop computers is a viable reality in terms of using applications for that purpose.

IAIJ Cell Phone Application Coding:

IAIJ Cell Phone Application Coding for the proposition page can be found at the end of the report in the appendix section.

5. Infrastructure Requirements

If we can make a cell phone application available to the general public for use in participating at the United Nations; the next question to address is whether the current internet infrastructure is capable of handling a vote where all 7.4 billion could vote in a single day. To investigate this we need some facts and figures as follows:

Definition of nomenclature:

- 1 Bit = Binary Digit
- 8 Bits = 1 Byte
- 1024 Bytes = 1 Kilobyte
- 1024 Kilobytes = 1 Megabyte
- 1024 Megabytes = 1 Gigabyte
- 1024 Gigabytes = 1 Terabyte
- 1024 Terabytes = 1 Petabyte
- 1024 Petabytes = 1 Exabyte
- 1024 Exabytes = 1 Zettabyte
- 1024 Zettabytes = 1 Yottabyte
- 1024 Yottabytes = 1 Brontobyte
- 1024 Brontobytes = 1 Geopbyte

Annual (Projected) Global Ip traffic (2016): 1.1 zettabytes (year), 88.4 exabytes (month)^{xi}

Traffic from wireless and mobile devices will exceed traffic from wired devices by 2016. Wired devices will only account for 47 percent of ip traffic.^{xii}

Internet Users (30 Nov 2015): 3,366.261,156 / Percentage of population: 46.4%.^{xiii}

3 exabytes per day

1mb of data for each vote. From the website polleverywhere.com: “Each web client will initially load approximately 780KB. There is an initial load, then the rest of the presentation happens in under 1KB per poll”^{xiv}

Data size of our own question is: 741KB (or about 1MB on average)

Having 7.4 billion users voting in one day equates to .25 of one percent of the total data capacity of the internet for the day in question.

To put this into perspective, realize that Facebook gets approximately 4.5 billion “likes” a day which is sort of a vote so the question of whether the current internet infrastructure can handle the strain of a popular UN vote among the general public must be seen as a yes.^{xv}



Discussion of Infrastructure Requirements for a 7.4 Billion General Public Vote:

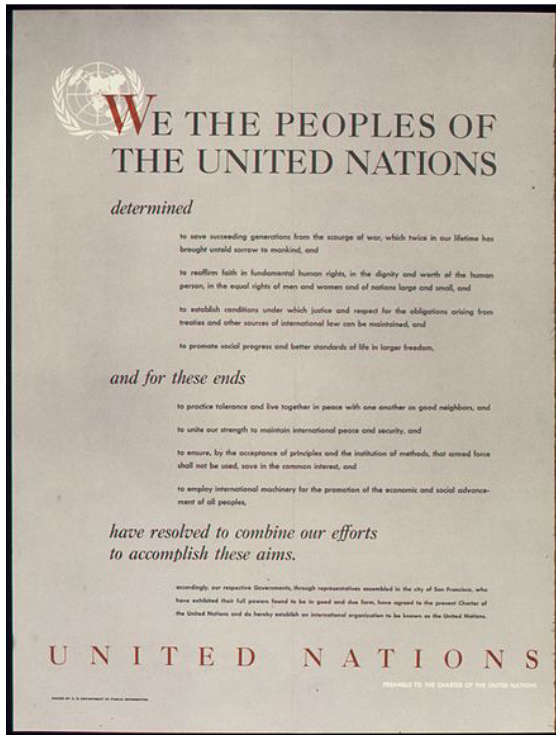
For light use during non critical times we could use a distribution of servers in Canada, United States of America, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Special province of China, Japan, India and Estonia. For more active involvement we would have to utilize servers on preexisting platforms such as Google's Jupiter platform or Facebook where the application could be integrated into the Facebook application itself. As of 2013 Microsoft had over one million servers.^{xvi} IBM has the most servers it would seem but most would not be available for an idea such as ours which leads to Google with 900,000 servers^{xvii} or Facebook which has been estimated at around 180,000 servers in 2012.^{xviii}

We would not expect a vote to be so popular as to have all seven to eight billion people involved but even such a number could be rolled out over a few days at most for global consensus. But realistically both platforms (Google and Facebook) could offer same day use without compromising their core operations.

Finally, even though only about half of the world is currently online, by the time implementation could occur most of the world will be online and most of those through their cell phones as been the case in Africa. It also must be stated that the ability to access the internet must remain available to all in order for this form of participation to work as intended.

In conclusion, if our vote is 1mb per voter, multiplied by 7.4 billion, it would equal one quarter of one percent of all internet traffic in one day. By that figure alone we are confident in saying that the current internet infrastructure is fully capable of handling a one day vote by everyone on earth.

6. Working within the Charter of the United Nations



To accommodate true general public participation at the United Nations, we may have to allow this participation as an in-house entity of the United Nations under the control of “The Economic and Social Council” (ECOSOC) as there is no organization of the general public. So if it has to be an organization then I submit that the United Nations itself is the organization of the general public and as such does not require acceptance through the NGO Committee as the United Nations does not need to vet itself to have status at the United Nations. The general public is the most basic form of association of men and women and has rights to participate as granted in the Preamble of the United Nations Charter and the articles that follow.

Therefore, when looking at the idea of general public participation at the United Nations we shall start with the Preamble to the Charter of the United Nations, a preamble which at its end creates the idea and name: The United Nations:

“Preamble

WE THE PEOPLES OF THE UNITED NATIONS DETERMINED

- to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind, and
- to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small, and
- to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained, and
- to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

AND FOR THESE ENDS

- to practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbours, and
- to unite our strength to maintain international peace and security, and
- to ensure, by the acceptance of principles and the institution of methods, that armed force shall not be used, save in the common interest, and
- to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples,

HAVE RESOLVED TO COMBINE OUR EFFORTS TO ACCOMPLISH THESE AIMS

Accordingly, our respective Governments, through representatives assembled in the city of San Francisco, who have exhibited their full powers found to be in good and due form, have agreed to the present Charter of the United Nations and do hereby establish an international organization to be known as the United Nations.”^{xxix}

Please note this passage in the preamble of the Charter of the United Nations: “to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small”.^{xx} Now please note the section of that passage: “in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small”.^{xxi} So men, women and nations large and small are all equal in rights at this entity called The United Nations. Also note that these “men and women” are plural and general in nature and as such are the general public. That passage is important as the preamble gives broad direction to the articles that follow. Most of the articles relate to “nations’ but the ones that men and women have some relevance reside in Article 8 and the ECOSOC articles (Articles 61-72 and specifically: 71) of the charter and it is there that we find the ability to allow public participation at the United Nations.

Perhaps the architects of the charter held this idea of men and women and nations large and small to be equal as true and noble, but knew all along that the pragmatic implications made it impossible for individuals to participate at the United Nations in the same way as nations could. However, with new technology it is now possible for that statement to finally ring true! All we need is the desire in member nations and the bureaucracy of the United Nations and the embracing of these new technological tools to bring participation of all women and men to all activities at the United Nations. There is no argument of men and women being allowed to participate at the United Nations on an equal footing with nations, that is a given in the preamble. Then note Article 8:

“Article 8

The United Nations shall place no restrictions on the eligibility of men and women to participate in any capacity and under conditions of equality in its principal and subsidiary organs.”^{xxii}

Thus from “Article 8” we have verification of men and women to have no restrictions to participate. Taken in the broadest interpretation that must logically hold valid, the general public which consists of men and women shall have no restriction on eligibility to participate at the United Nations. It then only becomes a matter as to how to practically and pragmatically allow this participation. And note that it says “in its principal and subsidiary organs”^{xxiii} meaning from General Assembly down. Our current practical solution of popular voting on global issues through ECOSOC and that information available to the General Assembly on global matters, would appear to meet the goals of Article 8 allowing a practical method of participation in principle and subsidiary organs of the United Nations.

“Article 71

The Economic and Social Council may make suitable arrangements for consultation with nongovernmental organizations which are concerned with matters within its competence. Such arrangements may be made with international organizations and,

where appropriate, with national organizations after consultation with the Member of the United Nations concerned.”^{xxiv}

Representatives are the general public that vote as this will always be a subset of the entire population or a percentage in favor vote, but even if everyone votes, they are still representatives as it is that single determination of the vote that will reside at the United Nations duly presented by United Nations officials to the General Assembly and its subsidiary organs.

In Article 71 organizations are given the ability to participate at the United Nations. With this utility in mind, can the general public be looked at as an organization? The Macmillan Dictionary defines “organization” as: “a group of people who have a particular shared purpose or interest, for example a political party or charity.”^{xxv} I would say people that want to vote on some proposition at the UN are an organization within the terms of the Article 71. They are there with a particular purpose to vote and participate in the running of human society.

But while we can show that the general public has a right to be involved at the United Nations; how can it function there without being a typical organization with elected officers and staff? The answer is that the organization in question is the United Nations itself. The organizational structure must be the United Nations itself with unrestricted membership for all of the general public. As an organization that vets NGO organizations for inclusion to UN activities, it does not have to vet itself to act in a fiduciary role for the general public to participate in UN activities of all kinds. I would also posit that as per the Charter of the United Nations, it may not even need the endorsement of a UN member nations vote to go forward with general public participation at the UN as the general public is so obviously ensured to be a stakeholder of the highest order at the UN. But in this pragmatic reality the International Court of Justice could probably clarify this functionality if needed. As it stands I see no reason based on the Charter of the United Nations, not to allow ECOSOC the ability to administer and make permanent ongoing general public participation a reality at the United Nations.

In conclusion, the rights of the general public to participate at the UN in its principle and subsidiary organs is a given from the Charter of the United Nations. In the Preamble of the Charter of the United Nations we see men and women which are the general public, are placed on an equal footing with nations large and small and in Article 8 are given unrestricted access to the principle and subsidiary organs of the United Nations. Representatives are the general public that vote as this will always be a subset of the entire population or a percentage in favor vote, but even if everyone votes, they are still

representatives as it is that single determination of the vote that will reside at the United Nations duly presented by United Nations officials to the General Assembly and its subsidiary organs. The only reason this form of participation has not happened in a pragmatic way is that, until now, the technology didn't exist to make it possible. Now that we have the technology, we are obligated by moral and obligatory reasons found in the Charter of the United Nations to make this happen.

Again, if this issue remains divisive at the ECOSOC and NGO Committee level, the report suggests they obtain a ruling from the International Court of Justice.

Discussion of the United Nations Charter and of General Public Participation at the United Nations:

Having the United Nations (and most probably through the ECOSOC organ of the UN) organize and implement this program is the most pragmatic and least divisive method of enabling the general public to participate at the United Nations; especially if it is about voting for global propositions that affect us all. The United Nations is thought to be most fair and a neutral venue of discussion and debate on international issues. Having ECOSOC, for example, oversee the program to enable the general public to participate at the United Nations is the obvious choice for organization and administration of all programs relating to this form of general public participation. Having the general public vote on issues of international importance also helps in the Charter's original purpose as votes against war with other nations is almost always a vote against in the general public of the world (and if anyone disputes that the general public abhor war then I suggest we have an online vote on the matter as proposed in this report to prove the claim), and as such will help with the United Nation's mandate of ending war.

7. WORLDWIDE VOTE: SUMMARY

For permanent ongoing general public participation at the United Nations to become a reality we needed to show that the majority of the general public wanted this participation, that there was a utility to make this possible in a cell phone application, that the internet infrastructure could handle this type of activity, and that the Charter of the United Nations allowed for this participation; and having done all of these prerequisites, this form of permanent ongoing general public participation at the United Nations should become reality. From the report it was shown that even with a small sample size, we attained a result that clearly shows majority support (72.34%) for the idea of permanent ongoing participation of the general public in all United Nations events and activities. That should come as no real surprise, but the idea of this type of participation was always a pragmatic impossibility until now. Current technology along with access to the internet by cell phones or desktop computers makes connecting to almost everyone in the world a reachable reality.

In this report we were able to make a cell phone application that would allow anyone the opportunity to participate at United Nations activities and even vote on propositions. In fact the Android application we developed was constructed on a MIT application program developed for school kids and the general public. Yes, a ten to thirteen year old student could have made the application themselves! Next we showed that the current internet infrastructure would easily allow a global vote in one day or rolled out over several days as needed. With the practical aspects of permanent ongoing participation of the general public at the UN a practical reality, it can only be surmised that the final issue is one of the will to make this happen. In Charter of the United Nations the Preamble clearly includes men and women alongside nations big and small in terms of importance. This preamble is guidance for the articles that follow and opens the door for some type of representation of the totality of men and women outside of traditional organizations to participate at the UN, and the primary organ available to do this is ECOSOC (The United Nations Economic and Social Council) in Articles 61 to 72. There are many reasons to go ahead with permanent ongoing participation of the general public at UN activities. The first is to get general consensus on popular global issues for guidance in developing world-wide policies. The second is that geo-political issues could allow affected citizens an effective outlet for their views and opinions in a non-disruptive and non-violent way as opposed to the physical protest in the past. This type of participation makes people feel more in control of their lives and a true sense of self-determination. In the end, the most powerful arguments would be that the general public have a right to some form of participation in world activities and decision making, and there will be less chance of war as most of the general public abhor war at any cost (and if anyone disputes that the general public abhor war

then I suggest we have an online vote on the matter as proposed in this report to prove the claim), and that was one of the principal reasons for the creation of the United Nations in the first place.

This report and its results should not be taken as the conclusive statement on the matter, but it is hoped that this report can open a formal discussion (and possible action) at the United Nations into the possibility of permanent ongoing participation of the general public in United Nations events and activities. A more involved discussion on every aspect touched on in this report, and consensus by member nations as to the desirability and possible timeline for a slow and measured rollout of such an idea, may be advantageous and could to be attained. However, the idea of permanent ongoing general public participation at the United Nations has arrived. Whatever the outcome, this issue needs a formal investigation and discussion and the resultant possibilities available to be acted on. All we need is the will to start this process. That time has arrived!

Finally as stated in the introduction: This request of the general public to participate at the United Nations in all its activities and the report that supports that request are therefore now formally served to the UN bodies at the *“Resumed Session of the NGO Committee” (May 23 to June 1, 2016) at United Nations Headquarters in New York City (New York, United States of America)*; a reply from the United Nations as to action taken on this matter will be accepted by the International Association of Independent Journalists Inc. and duly sent to news agencies and social media around the world as an act of transparency. If an immediate consensus is not reached, this report recommends that the issue be taken to the International Court of Justice for a final ruling. We now await your reply.

XI. Advocacy in the UN System for A Global Social Contract

The United Nations

A Global Social Contract at the United Nations could help with avoiding war by a popular vote on the matter. It could also be used as a popular vote to help with policy making with regard to the Sustainable Development Goals and other matters of global concern.

The International Telecommunications Union

The Worldwide Vote would depend upon Member Nations of the world at the United Nations, but having members of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) would help immeasurably with the roll-out of the Worldwide Vote.

The World Bank

Having a Global Society popular vote at The World Bank could add another dimension to policy making at this special agency of the United Nations. The overall goal here would be to enhance policy making with a popular vote on global matters of interest at The World Bank. This would only improve policy making by bringing all stakeholders into the policy process.

Other Venues: The World Trade Organization

Similar to The World Bank, having a global society presence of humanity at the World Trade Organization (WTO) could help with policy making by a popular vote on global issues of interest to all as it pertains to activities at the WTO. Therefore the ultimate stakeholders of WTO policy making would finally have a say in the organization in a more enhanced way than presently exists

XII. Combining Everything Together into A Global Social Contract

As we have seen throughout this paper, coming up with a unifying theme everyone can come together from the Positive Mandate for Humanity coupled with the ability to vote globally on issues and governance from the Worldwide Vote, now gives us the foundation and building blocks to create a viable global identity and platform for all to participate for the increased happiness of all!

The core parts of this paper that make the foundation of a society took almost 18 years and started with “The Fortress Experiment” to find out what people really want in life. That took 13 years but I had to be sure about that core idea and concept people could rally behind and aggregate to and associate with. Then we needed a way people could vote and decide amongst themselves and the result was an app in their cell phones. That paper came out in 2017 and is even more relevant today as even more people around the world own smart phones. The third component that concerns this paper is the actual formation of a global society, now that we have some key components.

So we can't discount the necessity for the Positive Mandate for Humanity that offers happiness through self-expression, and the empowerment and individual/global self-determination all at the same time through a Worldwide Vote by everyone on earth. This is new stuff humanity never had before! New ideas and concepts, but as a humanity we have to embrace positive change brought on by new technology. Every aspect of our culture is outstripping the change in our base human nature (which is hard to change), but our societies have to change. This change though, is not in isolation, as our nations and smaller societies are still there, all we are doing is adding an extra global layer to those societies we currently embrace. This type of global society can be created and thrive and not change the everyday person's life in any dramatic way. We can do

this in a measured and seamless way; there is nothing to fear about this, in fact it could be uplifting and optimistic if handled well and at the right venues.

Creating a new society that is beholden to new technology never before needed in any previous society, is daunting in the extreme. But the technology is there and human culture needs to develop as every other aspect in our lives grows and develops by leaps and bounds. The hardest part of all this is going to be breaking through the engrained barriers of tradition and prejudice in order to open up a new world where everyone's happiness will be increased. However, please remember it is not this paper's intention to tell humanity how to live or what its future goals should be. All we are presenting here is the foundation necessary for humanity as a whole to forge its own future by including all the peoples of this world in its decisions. Every idea has to start somewhere and so we have done it here. This paper is only to serve as the dissemination of the base ideas and thus further discussion and more investigation leading possibly to action to facilitate such a global identity and A Global Social Contract!

XIII. A Global Social Contract as the Precursor to a Global Constitution for all of Humanity

Talking about a Global Constitution would seem to be a major change in the lives of everyone on earth, but this change need not be major change at all. Realize that we are only adding an extra layer of involvement over all the usual and time honored customs, lifestyles and laws that all peoples of this earth live under in their individual countries. Nothing here changes, all that changes is some new involvement for all individuals to participate as a global citizen.

The eventual social contract for everyone on earth would be a long drawn out affair that would need to be tested over time. Sure, eventually we may end up with an actual global social formal constitution, but this would be far into the future. So the lives of everyone as these ideas are implemented are not changed and their lives and the operation of their individual nations would continue as they always had. However by adding this extra layer of human involvement, we are initiating human development to handle the more global issues of concern that affect us all. Change and development are necessary for humanity to thrive and grow as our technology changes and therefore aspects of our culture change. Change and development can happen without disruption in society.

So with the necessary caveats addressed, I would say A Global Social Contract is the precursor to a global constitution for humanity. This would be a new form of constitution and thus a truly new form of global governance. Given all the impediments involved, we are looking very far into the future, but maybe not too far. What we do know from this paper is that the necessary ingredients for a Global Identity and A Global Social Contract are here, now, and we should facilitate this human development to whatever direction humanity wants to take. It is not the purpose of this paper to tell humanity what to do, humanity will forge its own future, but with these new ideas for a new identity and society through A Global Social Contract, we truly could form a new global constitution and thus a truly new form of global governance some day.

XIV. Recommendations

1. That this report be advocated at the venues that matter to effect desirable change in having the beginnings of a Global Society and A Global Social Contract.
2. That the idea of happiness as being the one universal concept to bring humanity together, be advocated in the mass media as a popular idea as a starting foundation for public approval on the Global Society and A Global Social Contract.
3. That we should look to likeminded NGOs willing to help advocate the idea of a Global Society and A Global Social Contract to make this idea and concept a reality.
4. That this paper be presented formally to the United Nations for consideration.
5. That a formal discussion at the venues that matter be started as to the efficacy of having the Positive Mandate for Humanity as one of the guiding principles in their policy making.
6. That this paper and its concept of a Positive Mandate for Humanity be just one of an open call for suggestions for a future Global Society and A Global Social Contract.
7. That the process of discussion and vetting of all ideas and concepts for A Global Social Contract at the United Nations, have as its procedure an actual vote by all relevant stakeholders for adoption at the United Nations.
8. That the idea of a Worldwide Vote of the general public at United Nations activities be recognized as a legitimate form expression at the United Nations.

9. That this form of expression through a Worldwide Vote be acknowledged as a legitimate form of participation at the United Nations as enabled through the Charter of the United Nations.

10. That private industry be considered to help make the Worldwide Vote part of the internet infrastructure to make permanent ongoing participation of the general public at United Nations a reality.

11. The importance of the internet cannot be dismissed. The internet should remain free as the ability to access a free internet is vital, for everyone to have the right of freedom of opinion and ultimately self-determination by consensus of everyone on earth and at the United Nations.

12. That the results of consensus on global issues presented to the general public in a Global Society and A Global Social Contract, have some weight in decision making at the United Nations.

XV. Conclusions

We as individuals must acknowledge that we do not exist in a solipsistic universe but live among others just like ourselves. That being the case, we can live selfishly competing against others for resources to live, or work amongst all of us to have the best lives for all. The choice would be that which makes us happy and thus the common goal of happiness for all should be the course and thus working for the betterment of all and by adopting this social contract. The world and humanity as a whole will communicate better and empathize on the plight of others in need as we should wish to be treated the same if we were in their situation. The unifying concept behind A Global Social Contract is therefore the idea of happiness and increasing happiness in all our lives! Thus, each individual has a social contract toward the rest of humanity in all its forms and that everyone in humanity should have the best interests of each other at heart and be able to help each other and arrive at consensus on issues of interest to all throughout all of humanity. The best concept or philosophy to bind the wishes of all to this social contract is what is called the “Positive Mandate for Humanity” and states that we should all strive for the greatest expression in our lives and in all its forms as a goal, because it makes us happy. The natural extension of this mandate is the improvement of everyone’s life, so as to provide them with the best opportunity to fully express themselves in all its forms and thus increase happiness. If such a social contract were to be embraced, the issue of governance is solved by technology and having goals and pragmatic concerns voted upon by all via the “Worldwide Vote”. Such a vote could be conducted on our communication devices and allow all to participate in improving all lives for the betterment of humanity. Ultimately this new society would come to consensus on A Global Social Contract between each individual and the rest of humanity. This would pave the way for a more formal Global Social Constitution cementing the idea of a global identity of everyone in humanity and helping to make everyone’s life happier.

Please note that since we are adding a layer of activity and governance above everything else, this new layer will in no way change anything that happens in the other aspects of our geopolitical and cultural systems. Life will go on as usual for everyone, except in this new and developing layer of society. It is therefore safe to endorse and implement this new form of participation with the approval of member nations of the United Nations, or simply the nations of the world.

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THE END

A POSITIVE MANDATE FOR HUMANITY TV SERIES

HERE ARE SOME HIGHLIGHTS:



Episode 1: Beginning a Positive Mandate for Humanity



Episode 2: The Making of AAVRY KNAPP DAZE IN MY LIFE



Episode 3: FREE WITH PURCHASE



Episode 4: REAL LIFE:



Episode 5: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF DONALD "BOOTS" BRASSEUR



Episode 6: FOFSTOCK



Episode 7: The Free Press



Episode 8: Epilogue



The Lost Episode: The Fortress Variety Show

The TV series which spans almost thirteen years is a "tour de force" of freedom of expression in the new digital age! The series spans the music industry to the press, book publishing and television entertainment, in other words the complete span of media. You may also want to check out The Fortress Experiment which is the movie the series was based on as well as the short Real Life: Real Lives. All videos can be watched on imdb.com and youtube.com.

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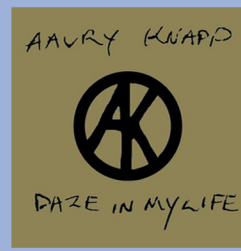
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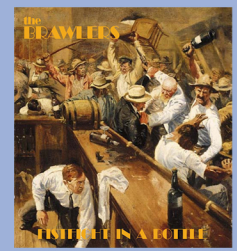
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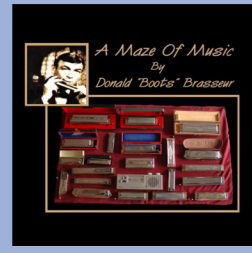
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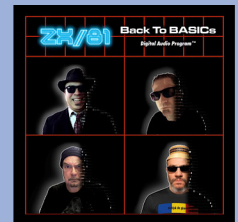
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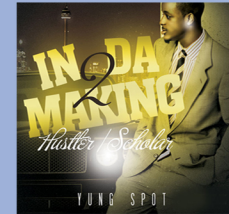
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