



## **Pambazuka News Strategy for 2005-2008**

*Prepared by*

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**“Pambazuka News is for me a real site of a politics from the point of African peoples... it is a site which allows militants for a better Africa to find and proclaim the conditions of that politics on the basis of fidelity to the daily defense of peoples' rights and resistance to inhumanity. The newsletter allows people to read the infinity of situations facing African peoples in view of sorting out possibilities of the ways out.” – Pambazuka News subscriber**



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## **1. Pambazuka News: A fact sheet**

### **What does it mean?**

'Pambazuka' is Kiswahili for 'dawn' or 'arise'.

### **What is the vision?**

'Pambazuka' represents the 'new dawn' that we aspire to for the region, based on social justice and respect for the value and rights of all people.

### **How is Pambazuka News going to achieve this grand vision?**

Information is power. We will establish the newsletter as the most influential social justice information service on the African continent, with a readership in the hundreds of thousands. This will facilitate the development of a critical mass of informed citizenry participating in the process of change.

### **What is Pambazuka News?**

Pambazuka News is an information and advocacy service for social justice in Africa. Every week we produce an e-newsletter on Africa that is replicated on a corresponding website. The newsletter contains commentary and analysis of critical issues facing the continent, debate, opportunities for advocacy and links to news in over 20 content categories.

### **Why the emphasis on a text-based email newsletter?**

Web access is extremely problematic in Africa, but email access is more widespread. We have therefore kept the format of a text-based email in order to facilitate ease of download and maximise our reach.

### **How long has the newsletter been around?**

Attend any meeting with a social justice theme on Africa anywhere on the African continent and the chances are you'll find someone who is subscribed to Pambazuka News. The newsletter is four years old, has nearly 18 000 direct subscribers and is growing at a rate of 30 percent per annum.

### **What's interesting about Pambazuka?**



Pambazuka News fulfils the information needs of social justice organisations in Africa and distributes news on behalf of them. Pambazuka News has acted as an advocacy tool and been adopted by civil society organisations in campaigns on media freedom and the rights of women. Pambazuka News has developed innovative tools to further our aims, such as an SMS facility that enables people to sign petitions using their mobile phones and receive free SMS updates on campaign progress.

### **Who is behind Pambazuka News?**

Pambazuka News is produced by Fahamu, an organisation with a proven track record in using information and communications technology to further the cause of social justice.

### **What do other people say about Pambazuka News?**

Pambazuka News has won two awards in 2005 as recognition for the work that it does.

In the PoliticsOnline and the 6th Worldwide Forum on Electronic Democracy competition, Pambazuka News was recognized as one of the top 10 individuals, organizations and companies 'who are changing the world of Internet and politics.' Visit <http://www.pambazuka.org/index.php?id=29839> for more information.

Pambazuka News won the non-profit category of the sixth annual Highway Africa awards for the innovative use of new media. The awards are given annually at the Highway Africa conference in Grahamstown, South Africa, to recognize and promote the creative, innovative and appropriate use of new media technology in Africa. The judges had this to say about Pambazuka News: "This site was exceptional and clearly head and shoulders above the rest of the entrants and is world-class in terms of its rich content and excellent design."

### **How do I join the Pambazuka experience?**

Visit [www.pambazuka.org](http://www.pambazuka.org) to read our latest articles or send an email to [editor@pambazuka.org](mailto:editor@pambazuka.org) asking to subscribe to the service.. Order our book, 'African Voices on Development and Social Justice' to read a selection of our editorials from 2004.



## 2. Introduction:

Christy A. Masamba's email to Pambazuka News from Kinshasha in the Democratic Republic of Congo was ecstatic. "Your work is very important for me because I have difficulty in getting real information about the human rights situation in the world and you give me an opportunity to express my point of view and to know what others are thinking." From Swaziland, Jabu Dlamini was no less enthusiastic, saying that: "I am not afraid of storms, for I am learning how to sail my ship". Pambazuka News, he wrote, "addresses social concerns which engulf us in the region and motivates one to do something about the social issues around us". Thousands of miles away in Nigeria, Joseph Ochogwu wrote an email to Pambazuka News saying: "Pambazuka remains the only African centred on-line resource for researchers, development workers, proactive government workers and civil society in Africa. Through its service, it has been able to bring about an African wide connected assertiveness among relevant stakeholders on critical issues confronting the continent."

Pambazuka News began four years ago as an email distribution list and has since grown into a weekly electronic publication with an explicit focus on social justice. Feedback from the nearly 18 000 strong army of subscribers to Pambazuka News is a critical component of the weekly newsletter. The hundreds of letters we have received since the inception of the newsletter inform us, educate us, invigorate and encourage us. They tell us in a very profound way, as Christy A. Masamba, concluded in her email, that information is not neutral. It has the power to inform people about what is happening and thus give them the power to take action. This notion is evidenced by the extent to which the newsletter and website have been adopted by civil society organisations not only as a platform to articulate their 'voice' but also through its use in campaigns. This has seen a broad coalition of civil society organisations campaigning for women's rights use the newsletter to produce special issues for use in lobbying at African Union meetings and the development and hosting of an online petition hosted on the Pambazuka News website that is complemented by an SMS function designed to include those in remote areas who may not have access to email or the internet. In 2005, Pambazuka News has also acted as a platform for the Africa leg of the Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP), a coalition of 70 civil society organisations campaigning on issues of debt cancellation, unfair trade and more and better aid. As part of this work, SMS has been used to gather messages from across Africa in support of the campaign.

Why does Pambazuka News exist? Perhaps a part of why we exist is best expressed through the words of one of our readers, Jaques Depelchin, who sent us an email to tell us that it is possible to practice what he called fidelity to humanity. "If Africa has been accepted as the cradle of humanity, then, it seems



to me, one should do everything one can do to make sure that it does not become part and parcel of turning the planet into a grave. How? It is a challenge for us all."

This introduces the relevance of the broader situation within which Africa finds itself. Africa is struggling with a complex crisis that keeps its people poor and its nations weak. The burden of unpayable debt that soaks up money that should go to health and education; the epidemic of HIV/AIDS that is taking the lives of an entire generation; and the unfair trade policies that keep Africans from being able to sell their products at world prices and earn their own way out of poverty. This is to say nothing of the negative effects of poor governance and leadership, or Africa's historical legacy of exploitation and foreign interference.

Today, 70% of its people live on less than US\$2 a day and more than half of sub-Saharan Africa's 600 million people still live on less than \$1 a day. Two hundred million go hungry every day. This year at least a million Africans, most of them young children, will die of malaria. More than 28 million Africans, many of them young children, are living with HIV/AIDS. Forty per cent of children never go to school in Africa – the only region in the world where the number of children out of school is rising.

Partly in response to these circumstances, recent years have witnessed the emergence and flourishing, across Africa, of numerous organisations of civil society, including non-governmental organisations, membership organisations, professional associations, religious groups and movements. The period has also seen a significant growth in the number concerned with promoting and protecting human rights. Human rights activism is not, of course, new to Africa. It has been a feature of all democratic struggles in the region both during and since colonial times. In the last decade there has been a proliferation of self-proclaimed human rights organisations whose explicit purpose is to investigate, monitor and report on violations or abuses of human rights and to advocate on their behalf. Greater numbers of African organisations have become actively involved in public discussion about policies that affect Africa – at local, national, regional, and international levels.

For its part, the international community has set, as a priority through the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the target of reducing by half in 15 years the number of people living in extreme poverty. But the willingness of governments to sustain the momentum for achieving this goal will much depend on the existence of a vibrant civil society – including grassroots and community based organisations – to debate, discuss and engage in advocacy at the local, national, regional and international levels. It will depend on the capacity of such organisations to develop and maintain the space in society where there is



respect for human rights and human dignity, where the voice of the most disadvantaged is heard.

Current developments in technology are making it possible for people to organise collective action on a scale never possible before. The Internet, the sharing of resources, email services, online databases and information sources, open publishing, sharing of computer resources (p2p etc), the convergence of technologies – such as internet, mobile phone, SMS, radio, TV broadcasting - are all potential technologies of co-operation that can be harnessed by emerging popular democratic movements to network, build capacity and respect for human rights, share information, debate, discuss, build alliances for joint advocacy, share resources, ideas, culture, music, art, and software. African citizens are often excluded from discussions on the potential power of these new technologies, which makes Fahamu's and Pambazuka News's role as a catalyst, disseminator and educator in this field even more important. These new technological developments have the power to help build a participatory base of active citizens that will hold governments and policy makers accountable, and thereby contribute to good governance.

But there are no easy answers to Africa's problems, as the debates that play themselves out in the weekly letters section of our newsletter attest to. The gap between the rhetoric of global and national leaders and the reality of action taken in key areas that dictate and control poverty remains extremely wide, despite an international focus on Africa during 2005.

We believe, however, that there is a broad constituency in Africa and beyond that wants to see change and are working towards the end of social justice. All of these constituencies - be they international organisations, non-governmental organisations, community based organisations, faith based organisations, parliamentarians or government workers, have one thing in common: the need for information and a place where they can interact, share ideas, debate and even take action. By supporting the information needs of various constituencies we believe that we are not only providing a forum for that community to articulate their dreams and share information, but also facilitating the building of a movement for social justice.

Through our weekly newsletter and website we have aimed to act as an information portal for social justice in Africa, carrying critical commentary intended to broaden the message about the underlying causes and structural reasons for poverty while at the same time providing links to relevant information in key content areas in order to meet the information needs of social justice organisations in Africa.



We believe that the future of Pambazuka News will depend on the extent to which we can successfully engage key constituencies in the social justice movement and ensure that they have access to relevant information that serves to inform, educate and mobilise.

### 3. Background

Pambazuka News means 'awaken' or 'arise' in Kiswahili. The service is published by Fahamu ([www.fahamu.org](http://www.fahamu.org)) and is a weekly electronic newsletter and complementary website for social justice in Africa with a subscriber base of nearly 18 000. With an annual growth rate of 30 percent, it is expected that by the end of 2005 the newsletter will have a subscriber base of 20,000. Pambazuka News is widely forwarded and reposted and it is estimated that the newsletter therefore reaches between 60-70,000 people on a weekly basis. This number excludes those who read the newsletter online at [www.pambazuka.org](http://www.pambazuka.org) or at [www.allafrica.com](http://www.allafrica.com) where the newsletter appears in full each week.

Although the newsletter has been in existence for four years, 2004 was a breakthrough year where we were able to successfully marry our information dissemination function with direct advocacy. This resulted in:

- Support for the campaign for the ratification of the Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa. A coalition including Femnet, Equality Now, Oxfam GB, Credo for Freedom of Expression and Associated Rights, Fahamu and 16 other regional organisations have been campaigning for the ratification and domestication of this protocol., which, once it comes into force, offers significant guarantees for women's rights in Africa.

Pambazuka News produced two special editions on women's rights for broader dissemination and for lobbying at African Union meetings. One of these editions was also produced as a pamphlet and in .PDF version and entitled 'Not Yet a Force for Freedom'. Pambazuka News acted as a platform for the news and views of the coalition campaigning for the ratification of the protocol.

Lastly, we developed and hosted a petition on the Pambazuka News website in support of women's rights. This has also involved the development of an SMS function that enables people to sign the petition by SMS and receive SMS updates about the campaign. News about the petition has been covered by VOA, BBC, Reuters, SABC, UN-IRIN and African radio and newspaper outlets in at least 20 countries.

Support for the campaign is ongoing during 2005 and beyond.



- Support for the campaign for the Remembrance of the 10th anniversary of the Rwandan genocide by producing a special issue that profiled the genocide through a series of ten editorials. Pambazuka News also acted as a forum for the distribution of news and information on the commemorations.
- Running a series of eight editorials that highlighted the Role of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund in Africa on the occasion of their 60<sup>th</sup> birthdays.
- The restructuring of the newsletter to include space for broader debate and the development of the Pambazuka News web portal to streamline content and include tools such as RSS functionality and SMS tools.
- Producing an editorial book entitled 'African Voices for Development and Social Justice' profiling key editorials carried in the newsletter during 2004. The book is distributed internationally through African Books Collective.



#### **4. Pambazuka News: Strategy for 2005-2008**

We are seeking support for a range of activities centred both on specific short-term activities and the broader long-term development of Pambazuka News. We recognise that in order to be effective we need to be able to respond to short-term information needs, but also to have a longer-term vision of our role in advocating for social justice in Africa. Planned activities include a focus on trade justice during 2005 and beyond; developing editorial content, including the release of French and Arabic editions; establishing content relationships with organisations of civil society; broadening our constituencies; developing new information tools like SMS and radio and ongoing and new support for civil society campaigns.

##### **4.1 Focus on Trade Justice**

One of the most important meetings of 2005 for Africa will be the World Trade Organisation Ministerial meeting in Hong Kong. It is at this meeting that negotiations will take place and decisions will be taken that will have an enormous impact on the lives of African people, especially in the area of agriculture. Yet for millions of Africans the process where decisions are taken that will quite literally determine life or death, will remain a mystery.

Pambazuka News will focus on raising awareness of trade issues amongst our readership in the lead-up to the Hong Kong meeting and beyond. This will be done through:

- The production of two special issues on Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) in June and July.
- The production of a special issue on the Hong Kong Ministerial.
- The development of an SMS service with the aim of developing a subscriber base to send information alerts to on trade justice.
- Extending our information network to include news on trade justice and translating and distributing complex reports on trade to our audience.
- In 2006, producing a series of four special issues on trade justice and recording podcasts on trade justice.

##### **4.2 Support for Global Call Against Poverty campaign**

Fahamu and Pambazuka News have been involved with a coalition of African civil society organisations demanding debt cancellation, trade justice to reform unfair trade rules, a major increase in the quantity and quality of aid, and that national efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve the Millennium goals be implemented in a way that is democratic, transparent and accountable.



Our support for this campaign will involve carrying news about the campaign throughout 2005 and supporting mobilisation around key dates such as Africa Day on May 25, Day of the African Child on June 16, the African Union Heads of State summit in July, and the United Nations Millennium Development Goal summit in September.

#### **4.3. Support to the campaign for the ratification of the Protocol on the Rights of Women.**

As mentioned earlier, Pambazuka News will continue to support the campaign for the ratification of the Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa. With 13 countries having ratified, it is only a matter of time before the 15 ratifications required for the Protocol to come into force are achieved. But once the crucial number of 15 ratifications are registered with the African Union, the campaign will continue as the long process of domesticating the Protocol's provisions in national laws begins. We therefore anticipate that our support for this campaign will continue throughout 2005 and beyond.

We will support the campaign through:

- Continuing to raise awareness about the protocol through carrying news and editorials about the coalition
- Producing a series of special issues around key meetings such as sittings of the Pan African Parliament and meetings of the African Union.
- The continued hosting of a petition on the Pambazuka News website that can be signed by SMS, email or online;
- The use of SMS tools to send information about the campaign to subscribers of the service and for use by the campaign during relevant events and meetings.

#### **4.4. Development of a radio version of Pambazuka News**

The wide reach of radio and its ability to cross the urban/rural divide make it a potentially potent tool to support the information dissemination work that Pambazuka News is doing. New technologies such as podcasting opens up further possibilities for making use of audio. We would like to investigate the feasibility of hosting and recording a pilot radio programme that could then be recorded and made available for download from the Pambazuka News website or distributed through CD-ROM to radio stations throughout Africa. Our experience would form the basis of further radio work beyond 2005.

#### **4.5 Content Development**

Developing content is a key aspect of the information dissemination function of Pambazuka News. In the period 2005-2008, we will aim to develop a broad base



of social justice and human rights organisations who use the newsletter to disseminate their news, write editorials and contribute to the discourse on Africa's development.

In order to expand our ability to respond to events and cover materials during 2005 and beyond we will seek to:

- Establish an editorial advisory board: This board will comprise experts and activists in Africa who can both contribute to the development of the newsletter, but also help advise on editorial policy, commission articles, and stimulate discussions internally about the way forward for Pambazuka News.
- Extending the list of nearly 100 organisations who have used Pambazuka News to distribute their news by developing relationships with other key constituencies, such as faith based organisations.

#### **4.6. Development of French / Arabic versions**

In order to maximise our impact, Pambazuka News cannot continue to be produced only in English. While we have attempted to include French material where this is feasible, the newsletter needs to expand into French and Arabic areas of Africa in order to ensure that we service the social justice community in these communities and reflect their views in the newsletter. It is anticipated that this process will take place between 2005-2008.

#### **4.7. Development of Pambazuka News website to strengthen its role as a forum for debate.**

In March 2004, a new Pambazuka News website was launched with the intention of making the website more user friendly. Development of the website is an ongoing process that will take place over the next three years and has begun with an update of the website in October 2005. Further features we would like to add include:

- A 'Debate Africa' blog page that has as its focus an issue of the month and enables website visitors to add their comments through a website feedback form or through SMS;
- 'Focus Area' pages that pull stories from the existing database and display under content headings to complement the six theme areas of the special editions to be produced throughout the year;
- The development of a function that enables the website to host a series of online chat forums where campaign members can brief participants and field questions over various aspects of Africa's development, focusing on



the theme areas for the 'Social Justice Readers' series. The transcripts of these sessions would be published on the website and distributed through Pambazuka News.

## **5. About Fahamu**

Fahamu has a vision of the world where people organise to emancipate themselves from all forms of oppression, recognise their social responsibilities, respect each other's differences, and realise their full potential.

Fahamu is committed to serving the needs of organisations and social movements that aspire to progressive social change and that promote and protect human rights. We believe that civil society organisations have a critical role to play in defending human rights, and that information and communications technologies can and should be harnessed for that cause. We are committed to enabling civil society organisations to use the internet to promote social justice.

Formed in 1997, Fahamu uses information and communication technologies as a tool for social change by developing supported distance learning materials for human rights and civil society organizations; innovative ways to make information and learning for change accessible; being a catalyst for critical social debate; producing social justice e-newsletters; and undertaking social policy research on Africa. Fahamu's weekly electronic newsletter on social justice in Africa, Pambazuka News, reaches more than 70,000 readers each week.

Fahamu comprises a small core of highly skilled and experienced staff based in Oxford (UK), in Durban and Cape Town (South Africa). We also have an international network of Associates. Our work is also made possible through the commitment of volunteers and interns.

Pambazuka News is a project of Fahamu.

Fahamu is registered as a company limited by guarantee in the UK (4241054). Fahamu Trust is registered as a charity (1100304). Fahamu is also registered as a trust in South Africa (IT 372/01).

Fahamu's work has been supported by the following: Article 19; Australia Aid; Commonwealth of Learning; Commonwealth Secretariat; DANIDA; DFID; European Union; Ford Foundation; Foreign and Commonwealth Office; Foundation for Human Rights (South Africa); Geneva Foundation; International Development Research Centre; JG & VL Joffe Charitable Trust; New Field



Foundation; NOVIB; Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights; Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa; Oxfam GB; SIDA; TrustAfrica; University of Oxford; University for Peace; and many individual donors.

## **6. Fahamu Team working on Pambazuka News**

**Firoze Manji**, a Kenyan, has more than thirty years of experience in international development, health, and human rights. He previously worked as regional representative for health sciences in Eastern and Southern Africa for the Canadian International Development Research Centre (IDRC) in Nairobi. Prior to that he was chief executive of the Aga Khan Foundation (UK) and was Africa programme director at the International Secretariat of Amnesty International. He is currently visiting fellow at Kellogg College and associate tutor in International Human Rights for the Department for Continuing Education, University of Oxford. He has published on health, social policy, human rights and political sciences, and has authored a number of textbooks and interactive training manuals for NGOs and human rights organisations in Africa. He is editor of Pambazuka News ([www.pambazuka.org](http://www.pambazuka.org)), and senior editor of the Learning for change series published by Fahamu in association with the Department for Continuing Education, University of Oxford. A member of the editorial board of *Development in Practice*, he is also a member of the steering committee of the Network for Equity in Health in Southern Africa. Originally trained as a dentist (BDS) in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, he holds an MSc and PhD from the University of London. He is co-director of Fahamu.

**Patrick Burnett** is the news and information coordinator for Fahamu. He is a co-editor of Pambazuka News and is responsible for the weekly production of the newsletter. Based in Cape Town, South Africa, Patrick studied journalism at Rhodes University in the Eastern Cape, where he graduated with distinction in 1998 before taking a job as a reporter for an independent news agency. He subsequently worked as a news editor and media analyst before joining Fahamu in 2002. He researches news and information about Africa for the newsletter, commissions editorials, compiles the newsletter and liaises with volunteers.

**Mark Rogerson** works for Fahamu as a multimedia technologist and programmer. In addition he is a lecturer in electronic media on the MA in Electronic Media course at Oxford Brooke's University. Mark has 6 years experience in multimedia and web production.

**Judith Charlton** is a graphic designer who has worked for many years designing for print and more recently in electronic media. She is Fahamu's in-house designer responsible for all the wonderful designs for our publications, websites, CDROMs, cards etc.



**Becky Faith** has nine years experience in creating multimedia and internet applications as a creative director and project manager. Becky's interest in human rights and development issues led her to become involved with Fahamu as a production manager, overseeing the development of Fahamu's websites and Learning for change materials.

**Karoline Kemp** is a Commonwealth of Learning Young Professionals Intern who is spending a year working with Fahamu in Cape Town, South Africa.

**Mandlakazi Motsoeledi** is a student intern currently gaining work experience with Fahamu and who is studying at the University of Cape Town.

Volunteers supporting Pambazuka News

**Christina Clark** volunteers for Fahamu and is based in Oxford, United Kingdom. She is currently doing doctoral research on the political roles of displaced youth at the Refugee Studies Centre, University of Oxford. Previously, she was Africa programme coordinator at the Child Soldiers Coalition and has worked in various capacities at the Canadian International Development Agency. Christina has volunteered extensively with refugee and youth organisations in Canada, Africa and the UK.

**Elizabeth Onyango** is trained in international human rights law. She is currently based in Rwanda.

## 7. Further reading and documentation

1. Pambazuka News reader survey: March 2003. Contact [editor@pambazuka.org](mailto:editor@pambazuka.org) for a copy of the report.

2. Not Yet A Force for Freedom: Available from <http://www.fahamu.org/pamphlet.pdf> For further petition details see <http://www.pambazuka.org/petition>;  
<http://www.pambazuka.org/petition/smssocial.php>;  
<http://www.pambazuka.org/petition/alerts.php>

3. For details on the special issue on the Rwandan genocide, see <http://www.pambazuka.org/index.php?issue=150>

4. See <http://www.pambazuka.org/index.php?issue=178#2> for the contents list and corresponding URLs of articles dealing with the World Bank and International Monetary Fund.



## 8. Comments on the 200<sup>th</sup> edition of Pambazuka News

1. I consider Pambazuka News an indispensable source of news and analysis for anyone interested in Africa. I've enthusiastically recommended it not only here in Canada but to all my contacts and listservs around the world. It's an invaluable service, and I never fail to put aside time for it each week. I'd be lost without it. – Gerald Caplan

2. Thursday evening/Friday morning is Pambazuka time. A weekly source of information and inspiration, offering a wealth of facts and a variety of opinions on a wide range of relevant issues. Pambazuka News has become a regular part of my intellectual diet in office, through which I access insights into African affairs otherwise difficult to obtain. I am particularly proud to have the honour to be associated as one of the active contributors to this truly African discussion forum. It offers me a forum to share my analyses and views with thousands of committed activists, who all have the people of Africa at their heart and in their mind. - Viva Pambazuka!" - Henning Melber, Research Director at the Nordic Africa Institute, Uppsala/Sweden

3. On the occasion of the 200th edition of Pambazuka News, I must congratulate you all for your continued commitment and dedication by giving the readers excellent analytical editorials and information, not merely related to Africa, but relevant to the rest of the world, also. – Reggie Gomes

4. I find the Pambazuka News extremely well done. It contains a lot of interesting reading and useful information. Please continue! - Bosse Hammarström

5. I would like to congratulate the editorial team of Pambazuka News on the important land mark of reaching 200th edition. The online magazine has become required reading and a reliable reference point, but above all a very useful forum not just for those who are interested in social justice and social change in Africa but those directly engaged in the struggles. It is an interface between, to paraphrase a Philosopher not often quoted these days, Karl Marx, 'those who interpret the world' and those who have taken up the challenge of 'changing it'. A confluence for scholarship and activism that does neither sacrifice the rigor of analysis nor the optimism of commitment. Aluta continua. - Tajudeen Abdul-Raheem

6. Congratulations on reaching the 200th issue of Pambazuka News. Being in the publishing business, I know what it means not only getting material to publish but also getting it right and disseminating it in time to beat the deadlines. All people interested in African issues must, as I do, find Pambazuka News an indispensable resource for clear, concise and engaging discussions as well as



background analyses to contemporary African issues. Now that we have published Pambazuka's editorials for 2004 (African Voices on Development and Social Justice), it is an added resource for researchers and activists wishing to keep up with events. Pambazuka News is to be congratulated for a job well done.  
- Walter Bgoya, Mkuki na Nyota Publishers, Tanzania.

7. Bon Anniversaire, I'm glad to wish to Pambazuka News many, many good things and a long long life in cyberspace - Your work is very important for me because I have some difficulty to have real information about the human rights situation in the world and you give me more opportunity to express my point of view and to know what others are thinking. Information is power and when you send to us the news it is like you send to us some power, the power to know what's happening. I'm from a French country, but the effort I make to understand what you write and to say what I want to tell makes me so happy, it's a good exercise!!! May God bless all staff of Pambazuka news. Kisssssssss from Kinshasa in DRC (the heart of Africa) - Christy-A. Masamba

8. There is no richer source of breaking information and analysis about Africa than Pambazuka. Thanks for your 200 gems, they are required reading at our Centre for Civil Society in Durban! - Patrick Bond, director, CCS (<http://www.ukzn.ac.za/ccs>)."

9. Pambazuka News is for me a real site of a politics from the point of African peoples, from a distance from African states; it is a site which allows militants for a better Africa to find and proclaim the conditions of that politics on the basis of fidelity to the daily defense of peoples' rights, people's resistance to inhumanity and thus to the fidelity to the equality of humanity. The site allows people to read the infinity of situations facing African peoples in view of sorting out possibilities of the ways out. – Ernest Wamba dia Wamba

10. We have found Pambazuka to be an invaluable source of commentary and news about Africa from an African point of view. We are proud to be associated with your initiative and wish you every success in the coming years. - Sarah Hobson, Executive Director, New Field Foundation

Ends.