

**International House Berkeley**  
**César Leonardo Rojas Ángel**  
*Documentaries for reconciliation*  
**Colombia**

In Colombia, my home country, information is a privilege. In more than 70 years of conflict and after more than 6 millions of victims, there's been a close relationship between violence and silence. The Foundation for Press Freedom (Fundación para la Libertad de Prensa, FLIP) has documented that at least 162 journalists had been killed since the early 80s for reasons related to their work. I worked with this NGO between 2016 and 2018 and I've kept a close relationship with the team and the reporters that I met across the country during those years of advocacy for press freedom, security for journalists and access to information.

Now that I have acquired more experience as a journalist and video producer, I want to develop a project with FLIP to promote video stories in some places where people have recovered part of their liberties as part of the peace process in Colombia. My goal with Documentaries for reconciliation is to teach a series of workshops in four different towns to produce a video story in partnership with local journalists or communicators. This short form documentary would integrate the stories of people who experienced the consequences of Colombia's conflict in any way and now they feel safer to explore and talk about the reasons of violence in their own communities.

This project would be a piece in a bigger puzzle that FLIP has been building for years. Between 2015 and 2018, the organization mapped the presence of media with local information in all the country. The project Cartographies of information (Cartografías de la información) discovered that in more than half of the country (578 towns out of 998 that they visited) there was not a local media that reported about issues related with the everyday life of their audience.

After that, the organization focused part of their work in the implementation of projects to promote local journalism and analyze the causes of what they've called a "silenced country". This effort has materialized in the project 'Consonante', a laboratory of journalism that is proposing a wide participative, open and decentralized newsroom in traditionally isolated areas of Colombia. So far, they've reached 15 towns in 7 departments and their goal is to keep growing. Consonante's team travels to these places to work with local leaders (some of them with no experience in journalism) and develop communication skills. The project provides these communities with tools to tell their own stories.

I would work with Consonante's team. Together we would choose some of the places where they've identified people with some skills, interest or background in video production. Part of this process would imply to ask these students who would be interested in participating and propose them the main goals of the big video production.

In each town a couple of journalists would identify a story to tell. The idea is to talk about how violence has affected and keeps affecting their communities, what has changed and what can be said about it. And then share this reporting with journalists from other towns.

I'm imagining a tour through these towns with local journalists interacting between each other. On the first trip I could meet with journalists in Tumaco, Nariño (south of Colombia), and then travel with them to a second town, like Saravena, Arauca (east of the country). There they could talk about the stories that they have identified and their own experience so that the students in Arauca could travel to a third town to share the collected ideas.

At the core of this project is the possibility of identifying common challenges to overcome violence. But at the same time this could be an empowering experience in which one single project could integrate communicators and voices from different backgrounds.

After many years in which it was impossible to voice their concerns, these communities are finding spaces to talk about their lives, their problems and the challenges ahead to find peace in their territories. This project could be an opportunity to offer a voice to some of the people who are looking for peace in Colombia.

**Name: César Leonardo Rojas Ángel**  
**Project Name: Documentaries for reconciliation**  
**School: University of Berkeley**

Note: all funds in US dollars.

Projects for Peace grant: \$ 10,000.00  
 Additional Funding, if any:  
**Total funding available: \$ 10,000.00**

**TOTAL FUNDS REMAINING:**  
 \$ -

**TOTAL EXPENDITURES:**  
 \$ 10,000.00

Student Expenses					Project Expenses				
Travel (Including Airfare)	Lodging	Communications	Food (Biweekly)	Miscellaneous	Non-Student Travel and Lodging	Direct Equipment and Supplies	Marketing and Event Support	Staffing Costs	Miscellaneous
500	500	100	800	200	500	500		2200	200
250					500	500			
250					500	500			
250					500				
250					1000				
<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>
\$ 1,500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 800.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -	\$ 2,200.00	\$ 200.00

**Total Student Expenses: \$ 3,100.00**

**Total Project Expenses: \$ 6,900.00**