

# HEATHER BOURBEAU

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## Summary of Qualifications

Over 15 years experience reporting, researching, and analyzing political, economic, and climate factors in international conflict, economic development, humanitarian aid, and human rights. Wrote and edited for national and international publications. Led communications strategies for multilateral organizations. Wrote speeches, op-eds, and analysis for California and UN officials. Created and promoted strategic partnerships between private and public sectors. Worked in Central Eastern Europe, Cuba, Egypt, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Middle East, and Mexico.

## EXPERIENCE

12/07 to 1/11 **Independent United Nations Contractor**

7/14 to Present **Nairobi, Kenya; New York, NY; San Francisco, CA**

- Prepared Annual Report on Children and Armed Conflict in Somalia presented to the Security Council in accordance with SCR 1612 for **UNICEF Somalia** (2008 and 2009). Researched security, political developments, as well as international responses and child protection measures. Analyzed interviews with victims and victims' families.
- Reviewed draft assessment, situational analysis, and raw data; conducted additional research; and wrote report on needs, resources, and gaps in services for vulnerable children and youth in Kitgum, Northern Uganda for **UNICEF** implementing agency, World Learning.
- Researched and wrote brochure highlighting best practices for integrating HIV/AIDS issues into humanitarian programming for **UNDP HIV Group**.

11/11 to 6/14 **Assistant Deputy Director, Office of Public Affairs (Exempt)**  
**California Department of Public Health**

- Provided managerial, administrative, and technical expert guidance for OPA. Supervised staff of 12 that responded to over 120 media queries each month.
- Worked with Governor's Office on climate change communications strategy.
- Determined overall media strategy for CDPH. Spearheaded transition to more proactive media outreach. Executed highly sensitive, controversial or emergency comms strategies.
- Served as the liaison with other state and federal agencies and department for public health advisories, recalls, and other cooperative or sensitive actions.

1/11 to 7/11 **Political Affairs Officer**

**United Nations Mission in Liberia, Monrovia, Liberia**

- Monitored and analyzed political developments, trends that impact on democratic processes, peace, and stability in Liberia and the sub-region.
- Contributed to the drafting of Code Cables, Situation Reports, Weekly Reports, position papers, and talking points in coordination with other sections of UNMIL and UN agencies.
- Liaised with government officials, political parties, civil society organizations and key political actors in Liberia with particular regard to legislation and the run-up to 2011 general elections.

5/08 to 10/08 **Communications Specialist, UNDP**

**New York, NY**

- Drafted communications materials for Growing Inclusive Markets report launch in over 25 countries, including website content, press kits, fact sheets, talking points, speeches, and op-eds for UNDP Administrator Kemal Dervis and other officials.
- Helped edit and re-vise the look of the final report, website, and summaries.

7/07 to 11/07 **Public Information Consultant, World Food Programme**

**United Nations, New York, NY**

- Liaised with news media, informed media, and wrote news releases and talking points.
- Part of small communications team that developed outreach on North American publicity campaigns and projects with corporate donors; worked on visibility efforts with FEED bags and FreeRice.com; and helped define the focus of WFP going forward.
- Created a visibility strategy for the documentary "Darfur Now".
- Coordinated strategic partnerships with Chefs for Humanity and Chronicle Books.

- 11/05 to 5/07 **Contributing Writer, “Not On Our Watch”**
- Wrote one-third and edited the entire bestselling book *Not On Our Watch: The Mission to End Genocide in Darfur and Beyond* with Don Cheadle and John Prendergast (Hyperion, May 2007).
- 1/99 to 7/07 **Freelance Writer/Editor**  
3/93 to 4/97 **New York, NY; Washington, DC; Berkeley, CA**
- Publications include: *Economist*, *The Financial Times*, *Foreign Affairs*, *Foreign Policy*, *The New York Times*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Slate*, and *Wired*.
  - Organizations include: Catholic Relief Services, Center for Investigative Reporting, Committee to Protect Journalists, Foreign Policy Institute, PEN International, UNHCR, and USAID/USDA (“Food Security in the Greater Horn of Africa”).
  - Covered political and social trends, elections and women’s rights in Czechoslovakia, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Mexico, Poland, and the United States; sports diplomacy and economy in Cuba; economic developments and financial markets in Israel, West Bank, and Jordan; and international relief efforts and the mining industry in Madagascar.
- 7/03 to 7/05 **Reporter/Researcher, Vanity Fair**  
**New York, NY**
- Researched stories such as “Path to War,” “Order the Fish: America’s Beef is Rotten,” “Tom DeLay’s Hard Drive,” and “The New Establishment.”
  - Worked with legal team, editors, and writers to fact check, ensure legalities, and light edit.
- 9/99 to 3/00 **International Policy Reporter, TheStreet.com**  
**New York, NY**
- Covered international political and economic developments with a particular focus on emerging and converging economies.
  - Reported from the WTO Ministerial in Seattle and IMF and World Bank Annual Meetings.
- 5/98 to 1/99 **Reporter, AP Dow Jones**  
**New York, NY**
- Reported on U.S. corporate bond, Treasury, and equity markets.
  - Worked with *Wall Street Journal* bond reporters to produce pieces for “Credit Markets”.
- 5/97 to 5/98 **Reporter, Financial Times**  
**Washington, DC**
- Reported on foreign policy, trade, technology and economic trends. Articles included “Amateur wrestlers get to grips with a thaw in US-Iran hostilities,” “Gingrich and spirit of Ulan Bator,” “Women still Clinton’s biggest fans,” and “Net gains for rural poor.”
  - Conceptualized, researched, and organized out-of-town reports for senior editors.
- 2/94 to 2/96 **Creator and Executive Director, Women in Multimedia**  
**Berkeley/ San Francisco, CA**
- Created and directed Women in Multimedia, a non-profit organization of 300 members that supported women's leadership and equal participation in digital media.
  - Chaired board of directors, coordinated volunteers, and developed mission statement and program calendar.
  - Conceptualized, planned, and coordinated the inaugural panel discussion, "Women in Multi-Media," held at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts in San Francisco.

## **EDUCATION**

The Johns Hopkins University, School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS)  
MA, International Affairs, concentration in International Economics

University of California at Berkeley  
BA, Mass Communications, French Minor

## **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- UNA Fellow in the press section of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Washington, DC.
- Effective Electoral Assistance Certificate from the Joint EC-UNDP Task Force & International IDEA.

## **LANGUAGES**

French: working proficiency, German: advanced, Spanish: beginning.