

News Media Production/Reflection

Student

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Course

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Communication is the mechanism of swapping information among individuals and it comprises of various modes that permit messages or information to be transmitted from one entity to another, and such means comprises of print media, television, mobile phones and internet among others. The most applicable methods used by all nations is the print media and television for the reason that it embraces different audience across the digital divide since not every citizen is privileged to have access or in the knowhow of getting relevant news from the internet. However not all news or information is reported to the audience by these media forms as you will find that concerns that are very essential being suppressed for no apparent good reason. Therefore in this study, a news report that accounts on the unreported killings resulting from use of drones in the U.S that a mainstream media ineffectively recounted on will be created in a well-adjusted, unbiased and correct news report and finally show lessons learnt from this process of preparing this bulletin.

Following the several terrorist attacks experienced in most countries of the world in the past, the United States authority started using drones to counter terrorism predominantly in Pakistan, Yemen and Somalia (Yenne, 2014). However, in their attempt to strike the radical groups, many are the times they fail to spot their exact target and in the process several innocent citizens ends up losing their dear lives. Perceptibly, whenever such occurrence takes place, the media is supposed to recount on every detail pertaining the loss of lives for both the terrorists and non-combatants. On the contrary, both the print media and television broadcasts fail to unearth the exact number of the casualties. For example, during President Obama's regime, a drone strike hit a wedding celebration in Yemen 2016, and claimed lives of twelve people; and

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one more under President Bush that attacked a religious school in Pakistan in 2006, killing over sixty children (Gardner, 2013).

During these two incidents, the main stream media did not give the exact number and identity of the casualties as they have a tendency of relying solely on the authorized government information which on its own doesn't allow such affairs to be conversed in public in their effort to defend state security. According to New America Foundation, estimations vary between 260 and 305 noncombatants in Pakistan; the bureau of investigative journalism reported 474-890. these two explanations are relatively higher than the low number of death that the government and the media recounted. The massive data disparity elicited severe uncertainties in regard to transparency in the stated news. The facts of this story according to Bureau of Investigative Journalism data, only four percent of the overall 2,379 general public slayed by United States lethal airstrikes in Pakistan as of October 2014 included terrorists, the rest 89% of the victims were non-combatants (Gardner, 2013). This was re-counted after a one year research that gathered information from different informants to offer a summary of drone raid wounded persons.

Thus, these two sides of this issue shows that reported killings are based on an estimated value and not the accurate figures. Generally, the coverage of use of lethal attacks to counter terrorism in some countries like Pakistan, Yemen and Somalia is characterized by selective coverage my mainstream media houses for the reason that they are reliant on of the information acquired from the government sources and should be treated as a top secret as per the government policy. This type of approach will possibly be embraced by the current Head of State, Donald Trump and other subsequent head of states in the future whether Republican or Democrat (Serle, 2015).

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In the process of formulating this report, firstly, I developed a consultative practice that amplified my consciousness on the concerns of reporting the subject at hand and then gathered relevant information that appeared useful in this study. I have learnt a few lessons that will be described in this and the subsequent paragraphs as follows; There have been a lot of inconsistencies in broadcasting the victims occasioned by the drone murders for the longest time it has been in use because their approaches differ and this result to each of them having diverse estimations of identity and total number of persons executed. Next, the United States government has been reluctant in providing the accurate information of the casualties because of what they term as protecting the national security (Gardner, 2013). Moreover, they humiliate fourth estate reporting and human rights groups that puts forward evidence of civilian casualties.

As a student, I do not support the methodology used by the government and mainstream media houses to provide incorrect and unstable information that concerns the lives of its citizens. Their policy of secret unrecognized murder is not only illegitimate but threatens its resident's peace. Threatening the investigative reporters makes them cowed and hence not executing their professionalism efficiently because of fear even if their findings are right. To be in the good books of the rule of law and ethics of journalism, any information that is not in line with the government policies is suppressed. I came across a few challenges while selecting the person and the extent of the content to quote in the course of this report. Several unmanned aircraft article authors sought anonymity because this issue is very sensitive to the security of the government. The books they have authored have rich contents in regard to the topic under study; however, great caution had to be exercised while quoting their words to avoid reporting from unfair and incorrect sources. Another challenge was sieving the information professionally in order to deliver quality appropriate for writing.

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In restricting this update report to 600 words, I have stumbled upon several challenges such as researching the information from various sources each with its varied contents in relation to this study. I committed most of my time in getting the relevant information from the most trustworthy sources which at the end of it all required the contents to be analyzed and reported in a professional and ethical manner. Time management is another challenge I came across while formulating this report because there was a lot required to be done within a very short time. Additionally, engaging dissimilar audiences to get their opinion about this issue consumed most of the time because building each other's trust took a tad long. I was terrified to handle this case of targeted killings and in the manner presenting this report in an accurate and well balanced manner turned out to be a challenge.

In conclusion, the manner in which main stream media houses report various issues especially the ones involving the government is believed to be incorrect, unjust and not well balanced. Many are the times they do not unearth information that law abiding citizens requires to know. Other times they chose to broadcast such news at odd hours when they are well aware that most viewers are at that time are asleep or held in other activities. For example this issue that involves loss citizen's lives should be handled in a humane approach for the reason that many people at that time mourning their loved ones and would prefer their remains to be identified and interred appropriately as a sign of last respect (McMullan, 2015). Therefore the government ought to gather and release estimations of the drone attack victims and examine trustworthy reports of civilian deaths by media and Human Right organizations organizations, and make compensation to families appropriately. This way, the media houses will be at liberty to broadcast the information to the audience without fear of intimidation from the arms of the

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government while exercising their duties correctly in an ethical manner as outlined in their code of conduct.

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