The Risks of a Journalist

English is the dominant language for international communication. The English-speaking media therefor plays a major role in spreading news all over the world. Journalists from different international media companies travel all around the world in their chase for fresh news. Some countries welcome journalists from anywhere, sadly others make their best effort of stopping or ban them from the country. There are even places where journalists are killed for what they write. Why are journalists and photographers attacked or killed for what they write, and why do some countries censor international media?

On Wednesday, February 22. 2012, two western journalists were killed in a bombing by President Bashar Assad’s regime (Reals, 2012). This is just an example of what risks an international journalist has to live with. Statistics from cpj.org show that almost 1000 journalists have been killed in the period between 1992 and 2012, with a rising in the total average per year after 2003 (cpj.org). More and more journalists have died in the later years, which probably is connected to outbreak of terrorism and civil wars in the Middle East. It also might be connected to America’s official war against terrorism, making the media interested in what is happening in the war zone and thus risking the life of their employees.

Many of these journalists died because they just where on the wrong spot at the wrong time, as the two western journalists who died in the bombing probably where, but there are also people or groups who target the media directly because want their own actions to be kept a secret. Another statistic from cpj.org says that Iraq has the most journalist casualties. In fact they have more than double the amount of any other country in the world (cpj.org). This is not very surprising though, considering the war and terrorism that has been raging in Iraq, however, most of the journalists killed are not researching war, but rather politics. A great deal of those killed also worked on cases themed as either crime or corruption (cpj.org). This tells me that someone did not want them to write about what they found out.

As for what is the reason behind censor and banning of specific international media, you do not need to be a rocket scientist to understand that the government has something to hide, which they don’t want their citizens to find out. Take North-Korea for example. Most of the internet and TV channels are censored away because they don’t want the people of North-Korea to find out what the outside world is like. North-Korea even has their own TV channels which spreads lies about the state of the country and claims their leader has done great thing like inventing the pizza and winning an Olympic gold medal. Other countries, run by militant groups are known to not let journalists past their borders because they don’t want the situation of their citizens to be known throughout the world.

Throughout the world there are many reporters dead or attacked, mostly reporting the situation in war zone, politically unstable country or researching crimes and corruption. Many of these deaths are probably just accidents, but some are possibly also targeting the press directly. This is because they don’t want them to write about their actions. Many countries also censor media from outside their borders and also stop any attempt for reporters to get into their country. This is because they don’t want the outside world to know anything, happening inside their borders and they don’t want their citizens to know what it is like outside.

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