ASSESSING JOURNALISM STUDENTS' PERCEPTION OF MEDIA VIOLENCE ON JOURNALISTS :A CASE STUDY OF UGANDA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

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S21B04/025

A DISSERTATION TO SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT FOR THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE AWARD OF A BACHELOR OF JOURNALISM, MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION OF UGANDA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

September, 2024

UGANDA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY
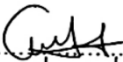A Centre of Excellence in the Heart of Africa

DECLARATION

DECLARATION

The work presented in this research is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, original except as acknowledged in the text. I hereby declare that it is my personal accountability of the research conducted, and has never been submitted to any academic institution of higher learning for any academic award.

GUM ANDREW

S21B04/025

Signature : ....

Date :......28./.07./.2024.

APPROVAL

APPROVAL

This is to certify that this research of **GUM ANDREW** under registration number **S21B04/025** has been carried out under my supervision and guidance and the research is now ready for submission to the School of Social Sciences of Uganda Christian University with my due approval.

Signed........................

Date.....28/07/2024...

MRs. ACAYE FRANCIS

DEDICATION

I dedicate my study to my mother, who has been the pillar of my academic career with her unfailing support and encouragement. Her unending selflessness and faith in my abilities have motivated me to pursue excellence and tenacity. My friends, your support has been vital; your understanding and encouragement have helped me stay focused and grounded during this journey. I am incredibly appreciative of all the ways you have helped me succeed and grow. In addition, I am incredibly grateful to my sisters, whose unwavering support and our shared times of joy and difficulty have been a source of inspiration and strength. All of you have been extremely helpful to me in my academic pursuits, and my work is a reflection of your love and care.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Mr. Achaye Francis and Mr. Ssenoga Geoffrey for their unwavering support and direction during my research trip. This study has greatly benefited from their perceptive comments, helpful critiques, and persistent support. Their commitment to helping me succeed academically has had a significant influence on how I approach learning and research.

Additionally, I would like to thank Eddie Ojara and Kucel Newton for their tremendous assistance with my studies. Their readiness to share their skills, resources, and knowledge has improved my comprehension and made this research much more successful. Their willingness to work together and commitment to my academic success has been greatly appreciated.

Your encouragement and support have been a source of inspiration and drive for me, and every one of you has been crucial in my academic success. I am appreciative of your beneficial influence on my academic path and research, as well as the chance to learn from such renowned people. I am grateful for your steadfast support and for playing a crucial role in my academic endeavours.

LIST OF ACRONYMS

UCU: **Uganda Christian University**

UN: **United Nation**

FDG: **Focus Group Discussion**

FH: **Freedom House**

UNESCO: **United Nation Educational, Scientific Cultural Organisation**

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ABSTRACT

This study investigates the perceptions and experiences of journalism students at Uganda Christian University regarding media violence and its impact on their professional choices. Through a detailed survey of 108 students, the research explores the prevalence of violence against journalists in Uganda, the frequency of related news reports, and how such violence influences students' career decisions.

Key findings reveal that a significant majority of respondents have not personally witnessed or experienced violence against journalists, though a notable minority has. The data indicates that violence against journalists is reported infrequently in the media, but a substantial proportion of students believe it adversely affects freedom of speech and expression. Concerns about violence significantly influence career choices, with many students prioritizing safety in their professional decisions.

The study underscores the need for enhanced safety training in journalism curricula, greater advocacy for journalist protection, and stronger government measures to ensure journalist safety. Enhancing safety procedures, raising public awareness, and encouraging cooperation between media outlets and legislators are among the recommendations. Subsequent studies ought to concentrate on comprehensive safety protocols, the influence of safety measures on the caliber of journalism, and contrasts with other areas. This all-encompassing strategy seeks to encourage the creation of a more safe and productive media environment in Uganda while addressing the difficulties experienced by journalists.

CHAPTER ONE

1.0 Introduction.

When covering protests, reporting from crisis zones, or examining delicate subjects, media professionals—including journalists—often come into contact with various forms of violence. These professions may experience serious physical, psychological, and emotional effects from this exposure to violence. (Kim & Shin, 2022)

1.1 Background of the study.

The media is essential in influencing public opinion, encouraging openness, and keeping the powerful accountable. However, there are several obstacles for media professionals in Uganda, such as intimidation and violence. Print, broadcast, and online media are all present in Uganda, and journalists there cover a vast range of topics, from social and economic concerns to politics and government. Notwithstanding this crucial role, media workers in Uganda frequently deal with intimidation, assault, and harassment while doing their jobs.(Nyarko & Akpojivi, 2017)

This research proposal aimed to delve into the perceptions of journalism students regarding the exposure to violence encountered by media professionals in Uganda, shedding light on the attitudes, concerns, and expectations of the next generation of journalists in the country. The life of a journalist has become dangerous in many parts of the world(Ross, 1999), it has been registered by many organizations and reported about by different agencies in Uganda, majorly the Human Rights Network for journalist in Uganda advocates for the rights of journalists who experience violence cases while performing their task and duties.(International & Report, 2014)

When journalist are attacked, they are not only beaten but their equipment's like voice recorders, video cameras, still photos cameras are destroyed alongside in order to get rid of the evidence especially while recording the police or the army beating people during elections or peaceful protects in Uganda and Africa as well.(Nyarko & Akpojivi, 2017)In their quest of removing the footages from camera, most cameras are confiscated or destroyed in order to get rid of the evidence. (Le Cam et al., 2021)

Lately, Irene Abalo Otto, a former journalist, spent her days lying in bed, resting her injured foot, which has had a profound impact on her life. She was at the pinnacle of her journalism career, working for the prominent Nation Media Group in Uganda when a fateful afternoon in February 2021 changed everything. She was Sent to cover a press conference, which ended up being attacked, resulting in a severe leg injury that continues to cause her pain. To this day, she

relies on a foot and ankle support and faces difficulties walking and driving. The physical and emotional trauma from that incident forced her to abandon both her job and her studies.(*When Attacked on the Job, Many Journalists Stay Silent*, n.d.)

The range of grievances reported included physical assault, unlawful arrest and detention, interference with radio stations, seizure and destruction of equipment, restrictions on access, and cyberattacks. The report underscored a concerning trend, indicating that a significant portion of these assaults occurred in the context of elections and political campaigns, highlighting the vulnerability of journalists during crucial democratic process.(Ozawa et al., 2023)

Physical assaults frequently take place against journalists while they are out in the field covering stories for their respective media organizations. Additionally, other forms of violence, such as cyberattacks, are directed at journalists at various stages, including during the course of their work. It is evident that individuals who perpetrate these acts of violence against journalists in Uganda often include members of the police force and military personnel. This situation has significantly eroded and had a detrimental impact on the working environment for journalists.(Kim & Shin, 2022). On this ground the research will seek at understanding how journalism students basically in Uganda Christian University perceive this type of violence

It has been recorded that female journalist experience large number of violence especially if they are reporting from the war zone areas mainly sexual violence.Sexual violence is mostly used to silence and intimidate women journalists, and adds that women are additionally exposed to attacks because their work challenges gender stereotypes.(Høiby, 2016). Understanding this form of violence is key for both male and female journalist therefore this work will focus at assessing the level of awareness and understanding among journalism students about the various forms of violence, including physical, and online threats, and attacks.(Kim & Shin, 2022)

While a substantial number of attacks against journalists often remain undisclosed, the Human Rights Network for Journalists — Uganda, a nonprofit organization established in 2005 to champion the rights of journalists, has provided compelling statistics. In 2021, they documented 131 cases involving human rights violations and mistreatment of journalists and media professionals. Notably, during the height of the pandemic in 2020, these figures were even higher, with 174 cases reported. Furthermore, in 2019, an additional 165 cases were brought to attention.(*When Attacked on the Job, Many Journalists Stay Silent*, n.d.)

Basing of such facts, its vital for journalism students to understand and picture what happens in the real time practice world and how they interpret such acts in different situation is the reason to why this research is intended.

Journalists like other profession in Uganda are supposed to enjoy the freedom of expression as its provided by the constitution of Uganda. The freedom of media is seen in the Article 29(1). 'Every person shall have the right to freedom of speech and expression, which shall include freedom of the press and other media"(Kimumwe. P, 2014) and the right to seek receive and access information, which is the core of a free media, is also provided for in article 41, which states that; "Every citizen has a right of access to information in the possession of the State or any other organ. (Kimumwe. P, 2014) but this has risen question like to what extent are media practitioners free during their work time.

1.2 Problem Statement.

The exposure to violence encountered by media professionals in the course of their duties is an escalating concern in developing countries, with incidents of physical assaults, verbal threats, and attacks becoming increasingly prevalent.(Nyarko & Akpojivi, 2017) This issue raises questions about the safety, mental well-being, and overall job satisfaction of journalists.(Le Cam et al., 2021) Understanding the perceptions of journalism students regarding this violence is crucial, as their future careers will likely entail similar risks.(Groves et al., 2016)However, there is a gap in knowledge regarding how journalism students perceive and prepare for the challenges associated with violence in the field.(Kim & Shin, 2022)

1.3 Purpose of the study.

The purpose of the study is to examine how journalism students perceive and interpret the violence media practitioners under go through.

Research Questions and Hypothesis.

1.4 Objectives

To explore the perception of journalism students towards pursuing a career in journalism, considering the potential risks of exposure to violence

To assess the level of awareness and understanding among journalism students about the various forms of violence, including physical, and online threats, and attacks.

To assess journalism students' understanding of the ethical dilemmas and responsibilities associated with reporting on violence.(International & Report, 2014)

1.5 Research Questions and Hypothesis

What factors influence journalism students' decision to pursue o a career in journalism, given the prevalence of violence in the field?

To what extent are journalism students in Uganda aware of the exposure to violence encountered by media professionals during their duties?

What is the level of understanding among journalism students regarding the ethical dilemmas and responsibilities associated with their career?

1.5.1 Hypothesis 1: Journalism students in Uganda are likely to have varying levels of awareness regarding the exposure to violence encountered by media professionals during their duties, with some having limited knowledge due to lack of comprehensive reporting.

1.5.2 Hypothesis 2: Media professionals in Uganda are exposed to various forms of violence, including physical attacks, threats, and online harassment, which pose significant risks to their safety and well-being.

1.5.3 Hypothesis 3: Journalism students' mental and emotional health is likely to suffer if they are exposed to violence while performing their tasks; this could lead to worry, anxiety, and reevaluating their career choices.

1.6 Scope of the Study

1.6.1 Geographical

The study will be conducted in the larger geographic setting of Uganda, an East African country known for its violent media coverage. In particular, the analysis in this study focuses on how Uganda Christian University journalism students perceive media violence. Through investigating their perspectives and comprehension of these difficulties, our goal is to acquire an understanding of how the upcoming generation of journalists views these important matters.

1.6.2 Content Scope

This study, which focuses on Uganda Christian University journalism students, attempts to understand how the next generation of media practitioners views these important topics and

how they can affect Ugandan journalism in the future. Through an analysis of these students' viewpoints, this research provides insightful information on the unique difficulties experienced by media professionals in Uganda. It also clarifies how the next generation of journalists might handle and overcome these difficulties.

1.6.3 Time Scope

This research study will take place between July 2023 and May 2034. This long time span makes it possible to provide a thorough analysis of Uganda Christian University journalism students' attitudes and views of media violence in Uganda.

1.7 Justification

Any democracy must have a free and unrestricted press because it gives the people essential information and acts as a check on authority. This freedom is directly threatened by media violence against journalists, so it's critical to comprehend how upcoming journalists will see and handle these difficulties. The results of this study will highlight the extent to which press freedom is in jeopardy and offer insightful information to advocates and legislators who fight to preserve democratic norms.

The views of journalism students will influence the media landscape going forward, as they represent the next generation of media professionals. We are able to better prepare students for the realities of their profession by looking at their perspectives on violence against journalists. This research can help shape curriculum modifications that incorporate safety training, ethical instruction, and a strong sense of professionalism and social responsibility in journalism education. This, in turn, ensures that these future journalists are well-equipped to report ethically, even in challenging circumstances.

This research's advocacy and awareness component is equally essential. Students studying journalism are frequently at the vanguard of social and political movements, lending their voices to effect change. Gaining an understanding of their perspectives on violence against journalists can result in campaigns for advocacy, increased awareness, and cries for justice. This study could serve as a catalyst for constructive change, encouraging society to uphold press freedom and confront the problems that jeopardize it. It supports the larger endeavor to preserve a strong, independent media and preserve the democratic principles that rely on it in this way.

1.8 Significance of the Study

Examining the viewpoints of journalism students on violence against journalists is extremely important. These students will influence the direction, ethics, and values of the media industry as future professionals in the field. Knowing their opinions on this matter helps them advocate for press freedom, maintain media ethics, and be ready to cover potentially hazardous occurrences.

Through examining their viewpoints, we can acquire significant understanding of the changing obstacles encountered by journalists and modify journalism training, media establishments, and regulations to more effectively tackle these issues. In the end, this study is an important step toward preserving democracy, press freedom, and the ethical standards of journalism. The knowledge gathered from this study has the potential to significantly alter journalism's ethics, values, and practices, which will have a long-term effect on the media's place in society.

1.9 Theoretical framework

1.9.1 Cultivation theory

Cultivation theory, developed by George Gerbner in the 1960s, is a communication theory that explores the long-term effects of television on viewers' perceptions of the social world. The theory suggests that prolonged exposure to television content, especially in the portrayal of certain themes and messages, can shape and cultivate viewers' attitudes and beliefs about the real world(Shrum, 2017)

Referring to the research, this theory will help in understand how journalism students interpret this violence when they watch them on television and what are basically their reactions.

1.9.2 Agenda-setting theory

Proposed by Maxwell McCombs and Donald Shaw in the 1960s, agenda-setting theory argues that the media has the power to shape the public agenda by highlighting certain issues, which then influences the public's perception of what's important(Zain, 2009). The theory is grounded in the idea of salience—what stands out becomes significant in our minds.

Understanding how the media shape people perception is very key in this study therefore I will delve into understanding the perception created by the media especially on the student's studying journalism

1.9.3 Cognitive Dissonance Theory

Cognitive Dissonance Theory, developed by Leon Festinger in the 1950s, explores the psychological discomfort that arises when an individual holds conflicting beliefs, attitudes, or values(Harmon-Jones & Harmon-Jones, 2007). In the context of media violence, Cognitive Dissonance Theory can be applied to understand how individuals reconcile their awareness of violent media portrayals with their own beliefs and values, especially when it comes to journalism(J. Cooper, 2012)**.**

1.9.4 Social Learning Theory:

Albert Bandura's Social Learning Theory offers a framework for comprehending how people pick up violent attitudes, behaviours, and norms through modelling, imitation, and observation in the context of media violence(E.Grusec, 1992). This theory will help in digesting how the journalism students relate their behaviours to what they learn and watch on television concerning the media violence.

1.9.5 Perception theory:

Perception theory explores how individuals select, organize, and interpret information from their surroundings. It's like a mental filter that shapes our understanding of reality. Our perceptions are influenced by our past experiences, cultural background, personal beliefs, and cognitive biases(Gordon, 2004).

In the context of communication, perception theory is crucial because it helps us understand how people process and make sense of messages. What one person perceives from a message might differ significantly from another, leading to diverse interpretations(R. Cooper, 2014).

Understanding perception is vital for gathering information concerning media violence and how it affects the students of journalism in general. Additionally, it enables journalism students to foresee and manage possible differences in how their communications will be understood. Additionally, it clarifies the difficulties caused by media violence in a multicultural and ever-changing society(Gordon, 2004).

CHAPTER TWO
LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction:

This chapter represents the reviewed literature related to the concept of media violence against journalists in Uganda. In the landscape of contemporary journalism, media violence against journalists stands as a formidable challenge, undermining press freedom and democratic discourse in various regions across the globe(Benítez, 2017) The perpetration of violence against journalists takes many forms, ranging from physical attacks and verbal abuse to online harassment.(Harlow et al., 2022)

These acts not only hinder the journalists' ability to fulfil their vital roles as purveyors of information but also cast a chilling effect on the broader media environment.(Anderson et al., 2015) While media brutality affects journalists universally, it is paramount to understand how different segments of society, particularly journalism students, perceive and respond to this phenomenon(Ozawa et al., 2023)

Examining how journalism students view media violence against journalists in Uganda is important because it can provide insight into how journalism education, press freedom, and media resilience are changing in the country. Like many other countries, Uganda has struggled with media violence issues that have far-reaching effects on the journalism profession as well as the larger democratic landscape(*When Attacked on the Job, Many Journalists Stay Silent*, n.d.)This study aims to clarify the complex relationship between education, career goals, and the realities of media violence by focusing on the perspectives of journalism students.(International & Report, 2014)This approach offers a distinctive perspective on the complex difficulties that Uganda's future generation of journalists must overcome.

2.1 Media landscape in Uganda.

The early history of mass media in Uganda is marked by the influence of missionaries who played a pivotal role in its establishment in the early twentieth century. These early forms of media primarily took the shape of religious newsletters However, it was not until 1912 that Uganda saw the emergence of its first commercial newspaper, the "Uganda Herald," which was published in English and targeted mainly at a European audience (Crystallography, 2016)

The media landscape in Uganda has always been closely intertwined with the country's political structure(M. B. Chibita, 2010). This highlight that the media in Ugandaoperated in an alignment to the pollical structure set in place by different pollical players or system in Uganda. Uganda faced civil conflicts during President Milton Obote's rule in the 1960s and 1980s and

multiple coup d'états under President Idi Amin's dictatorial regime in the 1970s, during which free expression was heavily curtailed (M. Chibita & Fourie, 2007).

Despite enduring decades of political and economic, Uganda has witnessed progress over the last 25 years under President Yoweri Museveni(M. B. Chibita, 2010)When Museveni assumed the presidency in 1986, he promised a free press, leading to a surge in the number of media outlets and greater journalistic freedom(Tangri & Mwenda, 2010)Vary many media begrun newspapers began reporting on corruption scandals involving government officials (Tripp 2004). The 1990s saw media liberalization, and in 1995, the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda enshrined freedom of expression as a fundamental right.

Today, Uganda's media landscape is home to three English-language dailies, with the government-owned "The New Vision" having the highest circulation, approximately 30,000 copies per day, followed by the independent paper "The Monitor" with a circulation of around 26,000 (Goretti 2007). Weekly papers such as "The East African," "The Weekly Observer," and "Sunrise" coexist alongside "around a dozen TV networks, most of them privately-owned," state-run radio, and more than 200 private radio stations (BBC 2017, para. 1). "Radio Uganda," the public radio station, broadcasts in 28 languages (Chibita 2009) and holds a substantial advantage as it covers the entire country, unlike FM stations that have limited broadcast ranges. With government support and funding, "Radio Uganda" can gather news from across the nation, particularly through Information Officers stationed in various regions (Goretti 2007, 4).

Despite the constitutional guarantee of free speech and the proliferation of media outlets, the government continues to impose restrictions on journalists. Journalists have been detained, and media houses have been temporarily shut down by the government. Reporters and editors face charges of libel, sedition, treason, defamation, and other vaguely-worded laws when they become too critical of the ruling party (Mwesige 2004; Kalyango and Eckler 2010). Those not formally charged frequently experience threats, intimidation, and violence from government officials (Reporters without Borders 2020). These pressures have led to increased self-censorship among journalists (Dicklitch and Lwanga 2003; Kalyango and Eckler 2010).

Beyond government interference, several other factors have hindered Uganda's media industry since its inception, including limited foreign investment, inadequate formal journalism training, and scarce resources (Isoba 1980). Insufficient training has resulted in unprofessional behaviour, such as accepting bribes. Additionally, journalists are poorly compensated, which can lead to media content being geared toward the interests of advertisers rather than the "public interest" (Goretti 2009, 121–122).

Despite these challenges, Ugandan journalists are said to be going through a process of "journalistic domestication," which involves overcoming growing pains and ultimately establishing their own journalistic norms and professional practices (Sobel Cohen and McIntyre 2020, 666). Freedom House (2017) has described Uganda as having "one of the more vibrant media scenes in east and central Africa" (para. 5-6), and noted that "Museveni has received international praise for cultivating a 'relatively liberal media climate'" (Tabaire 2007, 204). However, it's important to note that much of the discussion about the "liberal" media environment in Uganda refers to the presence of numerous private media organizations in the country, rather than journalists' ability to report freely. Critics argue that Uganda, as a semi-authoritarian state, implements just enough democratic policies to appear democratic and appease international donors, while ultimately aiming to maintain power.

2.2 Media Violence Against Journalists in Uganda.

In Uganda, violence against journalists has grown to be a serious problem that needs to be addressed. Journalism have been greatly impacted by the long-standing and urgent problem of media violence against journalists(Le Cam et al., 2021). Investigating delicate subjects, covering political campaigns, or covering events frequently exposes journalists to various forms of violence and targets them(Wilson, 2012). A variety of actors, such as security services and political figures and their allies, may launch these attacks.

According to Irene Abalo Otto, a former journalist, sustained a serious leg injury during a press conference when she was attacked by a military police officer. This incident forced her to give up her journalism career.(*When Attacked on the Job, Many Journalists Stay Silent*, n.d.)Unfortunately, such attacks often go unreported due to a lack of confidence in the justice system

The article cites data from the Human Rights Network for Journalists — Uganda, which reported numerous cases of human rights violations and abuses against journalists in the country, with a significant increase during election periods. These abuses include assault, unlawful arrest, equipment damage, censorship, and cyberattacks.

Journalists, in the line of duty, face various forms of intimidation and violence from different quarters, including security forces, politicians, and their supporters. Many journalists, intimidated by their attackers and disillusioned by the lack of justice, either leave the profession or choose safer careers to avoid harm.

While there are laws and avenues for pursuing justice, the article emphasizes that successful prosecutions of these incidents are rare. In response, some journalists have united to fight against the offenders collectively, achieving positive outcomes in some cases.

The article also underlines the lasting physical and psychological impact on journalists who have been victims of such violence. Irene Abalo Otto, for example, now works from home and misses the fieldwork she once enjoyed. The pervasive media violence in Uganda is an issue that jeopardizes the safety and freedom of journalists and is a significant concern for press freedom in the country.

Joshua Mutale was documenting a demonstration by women opposing an increase in police brutality when the incident occurred. Armed with a recording device in one hand and a set of earphones in the other, Mutale was focused on capturing the voices and stories of these women, a task fundamental to his role as a journalist. Little did he anticipate the sudden and shocking turn of events that would unfold before him(Nyarko & Akpojivi, 2017)

As he was immersed in his work, a policeman, hardly identifiable, suddenly appeared on the scene. In a startling and unprovoked act, this officer unleashed pepper spray directly into Mutale's eyes using a hand spray. The painful and disorienting effects of the pepper spray incapacitated Mutale, causing him to fall to the ground. Fortunately, his fellow journalists who were present rushed to his aid, helping him cope with the effects of the attack(Nyarko & Akpojivi, 2017)

In 2020, at least Ten journalist were beaten by military police when they were covering the opposition leader Robert Kyagulanyi, known as 'Bobi Wine,' as he delivered a petition to the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Kampala. His petition was a protest against human rights abuses and abductions of his supporters surrounding the contested presidential election.

During the period of elections, journalist often suffer in the hands of police while doing their work and during the eve of 2016 general elections where the government employed a lot of crime preventers who could act under the ideal of protecting crimes in Uganda(Royal & Society, 2023). These were the police who were causing chaos to journalist are were even arrested and put under charges for no good reason.

2.3 Types of Violence Against Journalists:

Journalists in Uganda, like their counterparts in many parts of the world, face a multitude of challenges and forms of violence in the course of their work(Ozawa et al., 2023). These challenges encompass physical violence, verbal abuse, online harassment, sexual harassment,

and censorship(Høiby, 2016). This research delves into these segments to shed light on the complex and sometimes hard environment in which journalists operate in Uganda.

2.3.1 Physical Violence:

The use of force or other physical acts intended to harm or injure another person is referred to as "physical violence" (Krantz & Garcia-Moreno, 2005). One of the most evident and alarming forms of assault against journalists in Uganda is physical violence. Journalists often find themselves in the middle of heated circumstances, like political rallies, protests, and conflict zones. In these settings, they are the targets of physical attacks from several angles. (Jackson & Ashley, 2005)

For instance, during the preparations for the 2021 elections in Uganda, there have been complaints of security personnel physically beating journalists covering opposition demonstrations. Moses Bwayo was detained, beaten, and sent in police jail in November 2020 while he was photographing opposition leader Robert Kyagulanyi's arrival at his party's office. Bwayo's career was shattered. Similarly, journalist Ashraf Kasirye was shot by the police in December while covering a Kyagulanyi demonstration and sustained injuries. This physical violence can take many different forms, including beatings, shootings, and even the deployment of tear gas or rubber bullets. These tragedies serve as a reminder to journalists of the dangers associated with covering politically controversial events.

2.3.2 Verbal Abuse:

Journalists are abused both physically and verbally in Uganda. Many persons, including members of the public, politicians, and government officials, may be the source of this. Anxiety and intimidation of journalists is a typical objective of verbal abuse, which promotes a culture of fear and self-censorship.

The police chief, Martin Okoth Ochola, intimidated individuals during a press conference in January 2021, shortly before the elections. Declaring quite frankly that "we shall beat you journalists for your own sake." Such remarks not only encourage an environment of impunity but also create a hostile environment for journalists who are merely carrying out their duties.

This increases the level of insecurities within the working arena of journalism because they feel as if they are not protected by the law since Martin Ochola who is the chief in command of the police therefore this affect journalist while performing their work(Ek et al., 2013)

2.3.3 Online Harassment:

Journalists in Uganda, like those across the globe, are subjected to cyberbullying, hate speech, and harassment on social media platforms and other online spaces because of their reporting or

affiliations with particular media outlets(Blackwell et al., 2017).The digital age has given rise to new kinds of harassment, one of which is online harassment.

According to report on online violence against women journalists, conducted by UNESCO and the International Centre for Journalists (ICFJ) in late 2020. The survey had over 900 validated participants from 125 countries, and the findings primarily focus on the responses of the 714 women-identifying participants(Posetti et al., 2020).

The report aligns with the UN Secretary General's statement that women journalists, particularly those covering topics like politics, law, economics, women's rights, gender, and feminism, are more likely to be targets of online violence(Posetti et al., 2020). The key impacts mentioned are the disproportionate severity of online violence against women journalists and the correlation between certain subject areas and the frequency of attacks

Online abuse comprises spreading false information about the journalist, threatening messages, and hate speech. It not only negatively impacts the mental health of journalists but can also have real-world repercussions like physical attacks or legal harassment Legal Harassment(Walulya & Selnes, 2023)

2.3.4 Presss Censorship:

Press censorship is the practice of restricting, managing, or preventing the media from disseminating information, frequently carried out by governments or other authorities. Both state and non-state actors have the ability to impose censorship, which can take many different forms.(Cain, 2014)

The state and non-state actors have the ability to censor content, which can restrict media and freedom of speech. Suppressive measures used by governments to restrict media freedom include punitive laws, threats, sanctions, and physical authority. These measures are collectively referred to as state censorship(Cain, 2014)

In Uganda, critical media outlets run the risk of closure, license suspensions, and sanctions. The government frequently uses security forces to apprehend journalists who refuse to comply. Governments can also employ strategies such as hacking media websites, obstructing news sites, surveilling journalists electronically and online, and limiting or prohibiting internet access to impose state censorship on contemporary media(Cohen & Mcintyre, 2020).

According to (Waisbord, 2020) on mob censorship, which is a form of bottom-up non-physical violence perpetrated by unaffiliated individuals or groups, often in the context of online harassment of journalists. Mob censorship can involve attacks, trolling, abuse, and harassment of journalists, particularly on social media platforms. Unlike state and market censorship,

which are often influenced by specific interests or entities, mob censorship is characterized by actions from social media users or vigilantes(Waisbord, 2020).

Government representatives who wish to control the narrative and determine what can and cannot be reported may exert influence over media outlets. In order to essentially silence media outlets, authorities may also revoke their licenses or shut them down. Threats against media owners or financial pressure in the form of advertising boycotts can occasionally be used to control media content. (Cohen & Mcintyre, 2020).

2.4 Implications and Consequences:

There are important ramifications to the many sorts of assault and harassment Ugandan journalists face. They primarily jeopardize press freedom and the media's watchdog function in society. When journalists are subjected to violence and harassment, their ability to hold people in positions of authority accountable is jeopardized. (Cohen & Mcintyre, 2020).

Journalists are forced to self-censor due to the atmosphere of fear created by these violent and harassing acts. Because they fear for their safety, they could refrain from reporting on particular subjects or occurrences, which reduces the breadth and depth of news reporting. (Waisbord, 2020)

These actions also weaken public confidence in the media. When journalists are targeted and silenced, the public's access to accurate and diverse information is curtailed, leading to a decline in trust in media outlets and journalism as a profession(Cain, 2014).

2.5. Journalism Education in Uganda:

Journalism is a field of work and a profession that involves collecting, reporting, and analyzing news and information to inform the public. Journalists, also known as reporters or newsmen/women, play a crucial role in providing the public with accurate and timely information about current events, issues, and developments in society. Here are some key aspects of journalism(Zelizer, 2005)

In Uganda, for you be considered as a professional journalist you needed to having studied journalism at diploma level or degree in any of the renowned institution in Uganda like Uganda Christian University, Makerere University, and other renown university in Uganda or outside Uganda. For someone to operate withing the sphere of journalism or media field should have studied in any related field to journalism.

In Uganda, a person who is interested in a career in journalism and wants to become a professional journalist or media practitioner is known as a journalism student. These individuals usually enrol in journalism programs at universities, colleges, or journalism

schools, where they study the theoretical and practical aspects of reporting, writing, and communicating news and information.

2.6 Obstacles Ugandan journalism students must overcome

2.6.1 Access to Internship Opportunities:

Although getting practical experience through internships is crucial for journalism students, there may not be as many excellent internship options as there once were. This could affect their ability to use theoretical information in real-world situations.

2.6.2 Limited Resources:

Many journalism programs in Uganda might not have as much funding as they could have, for example, if they don't have access to contemporary technology, media production equipment, or library resources. This might have an impact on the training and experience students receive in the actual world.

2.6.3 Safety Concerns:

Ensuring the safety of journalism students studying sensitive themes like political instability or corruption is a big challenge when it comes to investigative reporting.

2.6.4 Digital Transformation:

Journalism is evolving along with digital technology. New technologies, internet journalistic methods, and social media reporting may be challenging for students to become used to. Keeping up with the rapid changes in the media industry requires constant learning.

2.6.5 Limited Networking Opportunities:

Establishing professional networks is crucial for students studying journalism. However, a lack of industry contacts and networking opportunities may make it difficult for them to break into the workforce.

2.6.7 Media Regulation and Freedom of the Press:

The Ugandan press freedom and regulatory framework may have an impact on journalism students. Striking a balance between open reporting and following legal requirements can be challenging.

2.7 Perception of Media Violence:

In common terminology, perception is defined by Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English as "a) the way you think about something and your idea of what it is like; b) the way that you notice things with your senses of sight, hearing etc.; c) the natural ability to understand or notice things quickly."[1] In philosophy, psychology, and cognitive science, perception is the process of attaining awareness or understanding of sensory information. The word "perception"

comes from the Latin word's perception, perception, and means "receiving, collecting, action of taking possession, and apprehend

2.8 Gaps in Research:

Numerous studies have been conducted discussing the kinds of violence that media professionals encounter, but they don't go deeply into comprehending the communities, individuals, and political party supporters. Subsequent investigations may explore the reasons behind these assaults and the trends they adhere to. Targeted interventions can be informed by knowledge of the underlying causes and recurring themes in attacks on media practitioners.(Nyarko & Akpojivi, 2017)

When attacked while performing their duties, many journalists stay silent because they fear to spread the information and their lives from the people who are always after them. This has greatly contributed to the increments in the concept of media violence(*When Attacked on the Job, Many Journalists Stay Silent*, n.d.)

While researching about the online attacks on journalist, some of the attacks include comments that denigrate women's bodies and discredit journalists' reportage, it doesn't delve deeply into the specific forms and tactics of online harassment. Further research could explore the nuances of these attacks, identifying patterns and variations in the types of harassment women journalists face**.**(Walulya & Selnes, 2023)

CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH DESIGN

3.1 Study Area.

The study will be carried out in Uganda Christian university main campus which I located in Mukono. Uganda Christian university is a private institution which offer a number of course around campus

3.2 Study population size.

The population size of students pursuing journalism at Uganda Christian university is estimated as 150 by.

3.2.1 Sample size determination.
Sample Size Calculation

the sample size nnn can be calculated using the formula

$$n= \frac{N*Z^2*p*(1-p)}{(N-1)-E^2+Z^2*p*(1-p)}$$

In this Case

- NNN is the population size (150)

- ZZZ is the Z-score; at a 95% confidence level, this corresponds to the desired degree of confidence (usually 1.96).

- ppp is the population's estimated proportion; 0.5 maximizes the sample size, making it a safe choice if the true proportion is unknown.

- EEE is the margin of error (commonly set at 0.05 for a 5% margin of error).

Therefore

$$n= \frac{150*1.96^2*0.5*(1-0.5)}{(150-1)*0.5^2+1.96^2*0.5(1-0.5)}$$

$$n= \frac{150*3.8416*0.25}{149*0.0025+3.8416*0.25}$$

$$n= \frac{144.06}{0.3725+0.9604}$$

n=   <u>144.06</u>

      1.3329

n= 108.1

According to calculation, the approximate sample size of the population is 108 people who should be considered to achieve a 95% confidence level with 5% margin of error.

3.4 Sampling Method

Stratified Random Sampling:

Stratified random sampling is a useful strategy because of the size of the population, the requirement for representativeness across various year groups, and maybe additional demographics. This is how I will determine the Stratified random sampling

Divide the population into different strata (e.g., year of study: Year 1, Year 2, Year 3).

1. Determine Stratum Sizes: basing on this, I will determine the total population of year 1, year 2 and year 3 to identify which number of people should I Identify in each class group in order to get the real time result.

Year 3   <u>(70)</u>   x 108 = 50.4

      (150)

Year 2   <u>(50)</u>   x 108 = 36

      (150)

Year 1   <u>(30)</u>   x 108 = 21.6

      (150)

3.5 Questionnaire Development.

In order to gather information and enough data, the research will have data collected through questions formulated in the questionnaire. This may include key concepts like age, year of study, and perception questions like how often do you hear about media violence.

3.5. 1 Sources of Data.

Primary Data

The primary data for this research will be collected from the students of journalism at Uganda Christian university Main campus Mukono.

Secondary Data.

The secondary data will be identified from the research document, articles and peer review papers in order to give a proper understanding of what the research is basically all about.

3.6 Data collection Methods.

Basing of the nature of ten research, data will be collected through distribution of questionnaire to different group of students pursuing journalism. This will be done both physical and electronic or online. I will distribute the questionnaire to different people physical and send questions through the Google forms for people who can't access the physically form in order get questions answered

Secondly data will be collected through analysing different research published papers concerning Violence against journalist in different parts of the Africa scaling down to Uganda which is at the fore front of this investigation

3.6.1 Structured Interview.

The stracture interview was sechuded for the Year ones who have just joined campus. This concept helped to bring the year on board to engage in discussions inorder to get the information we wanted therefore stactured interview was done.

3.6.2 Data Analysis

The following techniques will be applied to the analysis of the gathered data.

1) Frequency Distributions: To show the frequency of various answers and to summarize the data basing on responses of students in different year.

2) Central Tendency Metrics: I calculated the mean, median, and mode for important variables in order to have real important information which shows the perception of different peoples doing journalism.

3.6.3 Deductive Statistics:

1) T-tests and ANOVA: To find any significant differences, the mean scores from various groups the research was conducted in consideration of this key format (such as study year and gender) was compared.

2) Correlation Analysis: To look at how certain variables, such awareness levels and how violent media is perceived, relate to one another was taken into account in order to generate data

3) Regression analysis: To find variables that predict students' awareness and perceptions I employed this analysis ideal to rate the understanding and students' level of awareness concerning violence against journalists.

Ethical consideration

During data collection, students were asked for their willingness to answer the questionnaires or not, those who were not interested in answering the questionnaire were left to go therefore seeking concerns before anything was key and that's one of the major ethical ideal used.

Confidentially was also registered as the information which ere asnwerd by students were never shared to anyone outside this research.

Limitation.

Students' willingness to answer the questionnaire delayed the process of carryong out this research.

Chapter 4 Presentation of Result

4.0 Introduction.

During this research, i use the SPSS software to analyse that which I collected from the public. SPSS is one of the best Data Analysis tools that can be used to give meaning to the data. The data was solely collected within Uganda Christian University among the student's pursuing degree in journalism media and communication.

4.1 Descriptive analysis of the demographic characteristics of respondents.

The researcher established a demographic characteristic of the respondents to show clearly what type of data he is dealing with in the diagram below.

Table 1 showing the characters of respondents

Item	Description	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Gender	Male	44	40.75
	Female	64	59.25
	Total	**108**	**100.0**
Age	18-20 years	28	25.9
	21-25 years	80	74.1
	26-30 years	0	
	Above 30 years	0	
	Total	**108**	**100.0**
Academic Year	Year 1	26	24.1
	Year 2	36	33.3
	Year 3	46	42.6
	Total	**108**	**100.0**

4.2 Personally experienced or witnessed violence against journalists in Uganda

Table 2 Showing rate of which people experienced violence.

	Frequency	Percent %	Valid percent %
Yes	16	14.8	14.8
No	92	85.2	85.2
Total	108	100.0	100.0

The information supplied sheds light on the frequency of violence against journalists in Uganda and is based on witness or personal experience reports of such incidents. 92 respondents, or

85.2%, said they had not directly seen or witnessed violence against journalists, compared to 16 (14.8%) who said they had witnessed or experienced it first-hand out of 108 respondents. Values for frequency and % provide a clear picture of the circumstances. The large proportion of respondents (85.2%) who said they had never witnessed or experienced violence raises the possibility that, although violence against journalists does occur, it may not be frequent within the sample. The minority of 14.8% who have either witnessed or experienced violence, however, is noteworthy and raises concerns about a problem in Ugandan media.

4.3 News reports or discussions about violence against journalists in Uganda
Table 3 showing News report

	Frequency	Percent%	Valid percent %
weekly	7	6.5	6.5
Monthly	15	13.9	13.9
Rarely	86	76.6	76.6
Total	108	100.0	100.0

The information given reflects opinions on how frequently news stories or conversations about violence against journalists occur in Uganda. Of the 108 respondents, most (79.6%) said they had only infrequently encountered these kinds of conversations. This implies that the majority of people do not frequently discuss or hear about violence against journalists in the news or in public. However, just 20.4% of respondents said they deal with these problems on a weekly or monthly basis, suggesting that a smaller portion of the public is more immediately aware of this kind of violence.

This violence has a substantial effect on Uganda's freedom of speech and expression. Fear and intimidation sparked by violence against journalists might result in self-censorship and less media coverage of delicate subjects.

4.4 Belief that Violence Affects Freedom of Speech and Expression

Table 4 showing how Violence affects freedom of speech

Respondents percrotions	Frequency	Percent%	Valid percent %

Strongly agree	50	46.3	46.3
Agree	38	35.2	35.2
Neutral	10	9.3	9.3
Disagree	10	9.3	9.3
Total	108	100.0	100.0

There is broad agreement among respondents when it comes to their views on how violence against journalists affects the right to free speech and expression. 50 out of 108 respondents, or 46.3 percent, "Strongly Agree" that violence has an impact on the freedom of speech and expression. This high percentage suggests that the sample group has serious concerns.

Following closely, 38 respondents (35.2%) "Agree" with the statement. When combined with the "Strongly Agree" group, this makes up a majority of 81.5% of the respondents. This indicates a widespread belief that violence negatively impacts freedom of speech and expression. Those who agree, while not as emphatic as the strongly agreeing group, still recognize the adverse effects of violence on these freedoms. This consensus suggests that the issue is widely acknowledged and may be a significant concern in the community or demographic represented by the sample.

10 responders, or 9.3% of the sample, are still "Neutral." This group's ambivalence or ambiguity regarding the effect of violence on the right to free speech and expression is reflected in their neither agreement nor disagreement with the statement. According to this group's stance, there is room for differing opinions and a need for a more nuanced understanding even though there is a strong belief in the negative impacts of violence.

Lastly, 10 more respondents (9.3%) "Disagree" with the statement, holding the opinion that the right to free speech and expression is unaffected by violence. According to this minority opinion, some respondents either do not think that there is a link between speech repression and violence or think that other variables have a greater bearing on issues related to freedom of expression.

Approximately 82% of participants said they "Agree" (35.2%) or "Strongly Agree" (46.3%) that violence against journalists has an impact on the right to free speech and expression. This suggests that there is a general understanding of the damaging effects that violence can have on the media landscape. On the other hand, just 18.6% of respondents said they "Disagree" or were "Neutral" on this matter, indicating that a small percentage of people do not believe that violence poses a serious threat to the right to free speech. This information suggests that the general worry about safety and freedom of expression may have a major influence on journalism students' career decisions in Uganda with regard to how violence against journalists influences such decisions.

4.5 Extent of Influence on Career Choices Due to Violence

Table 5 Showing how Violence affect Career Choice

Respondents	Frequency	Percent %
Very high extent	40	37.0
High extent	30	27.8
Moderate extent	20	18.5
Low extent	10	9.3
Very low extent	8	7.4
Total	108	100.0

According to research on how violence against journalists affects career decisions, a considerable proportion of participants (37%) express that violence has a highly important impact on their career decisions. This implies that the possibility or actuality of violence plays a significant role in these people's decision-making when it comes to their profession choices. They probably pick occupations where they feel safer or where there are less chances of violence.

18.5% of the respondents, or a moderate fraction, said that violence has had a moderate impact. This implies that although violence is a component in their professional decisions, it is not the

main one. These individuals may consider the potential of violence in addition to other variables like interest in the field, employment availability, or compensation.

9.3% of the sample reports that violence has little to no impact on their professional decisions. These respondents' minimal consideration of violence suggests that they are either confident in their ability to manage or mitigate the risks or that other reasons outweigh their concerns about violence.

The smallest percentage (7.4%) says that their career decisions are greatly influenced by violence. Because they believe they can handle any potential risks or because they perceive their chosen industries to be low risk, these respondents probably feel that violence has little to no influence on their decisions.

4.6 Career Path consideration

Table 6 showing how many people will choose career on journalism basing on Violence

Respondents' choices	Frequency	Percent%
Print Journalism	17	15.7
Broadcast Journalism	30	27.8
Digital Journalism	20	18.5
Investigative Journalism	17	15.7
Public Relations	24	22.2
Total	**108**	**100.0**

The information on 108 respondents' career path choices offers a perceptive look at trends and preferences in the media and communication industries. Public relations, print journalism, broadcast journalism, digital journalism, and investigative journalism are the professional options selected. Every category showcases people's varied preferences and interests in different facets of communication and journalism.

Print Journalism

Despite the issues facing the business, print journalism—chosen by 15.7% of respondents—remains an important professional choice. The comparatively smaller percentage illustrates how traditional print media has been losing ground as a result of the emergence of digital platforms. However, this ruling emphasizes the print media's enduring value and power. Those who choose this course of action most likely value the depth of study and the longevity that print offers.

Broadcast Journalism

With 27.8% of respondents preferring to work in broadcast journalism, this is the most popular option. This selection highlights how well-liked and powerful television and radio are as sources of news. Broadcast journalism is an efficient and captivating way to reach a wide audience by fusing audio and visual narrative.

Digital Journalism

Of the respondents, 18.5% chose digital journalism as an example of the growing importance of online news platforms in the contemporary media landscape. The digital sphere offers unparalleled opportunities for creative storytelling by including multimedia elements such as movies, music, and interactive graphics. Digital journalism was likely drawn to responders because of the immediacy and flexibility of internet platforms, which allow for speedy news distribution and real-time audience participation.

Investigative Journalism

15.7% of respondents chose investigative journalism, indicating a significant interest in in-depth and impactful reporting, much like print media. This field requires a dedication to uncovering hidden truths and bringing powerful entities accountable, often involving great risk and difficulties. Those who pursue investigative journalism do so because they are driven

by a passion for justice and the truth and are willing to commit significant time and effort in thorough research and reporting.

Public Relations.

Public relations, which involves managing relationships and communication between organizations and their publics, was selected by 22.2% of respondents as their area of interest. A strong interest in media relations, reputation management, and strategic communication is evident in this career decision. People who choose public relations probably believe that it provides stability and a variety of difficulties, which sets it apart from typical journalism professions. The comparatively large proportion suggests an understanding of the role that communication plays in influencing public opinion and the allure of collaborating across industries, from the corporate to the nonprofit sector

4.7 Influence of Safety Concerns on Career Choice
Table showing influence of safety on career decisions

Respondents opinions	Frequency	Percent%
A great deal	46	42.6
To some extent	34	31.5
Not much	18	16.7
Not at all	10	9.3
Total	108	100.0

According to data on how safety concerns affect professional decisions, a sizable percentage of respondents consider safety to be extremely important when making decisions. In particular, 42.6% of respondents said that safety issues have a "great deal" or "somewhat" influence on their employment decisions, while 31.5% said it had some impact. This indicates that more than 70% of respondents said that safety played a significant or moderate role in their choice of career. Conversely, 16.7% feel that safety issues influence them "Not much," and 9.3% feel

it   has   no   impact   at   all.
These answers demonstrate a substantial correlation between professional decisions and safety concerns, indicating a high degree of awareness regarding the risks involved in journalism in Uganda.

4.8 Confidence in Media Organizations' Ability to Protect Journalists

Table 8 showing how people have confident in Media Organisation.

Respondents	Frequency	Percent%
Very confident	26	24.1
Confident	36	33.3
Neutral	20	18.5
Not confident	26	24.1
Total	108	100.0

Have you ever reconsidered pursuing a career in journalism due to concerns about safety and security?

A mixed picture emerges from the data on trust in media companies' capacity to safeguard journalists. According to the data, 24.1% of respondents are "Very confident" and 33.3% are "Confident," indicating that 57.4% of people have a good or neutral opinion of the efficacy of media organizations' defensive measures. But 24.1% of respondents are "Not confident," suggesting that a sizeable portion of respondents have reservations about the effectiveness of the safety precautions offered. Furthermore, 18.5% of respondents are still classified as "Neutral," indicating a lack of conviction or ambiguity regarding the media companies' ability tosafeguard.

This distribution points to a lack of confidence in media companies' ability to protect journalists. Their professional decisions may be influenced by the substantial percentage of unconfident respondents. When paired with earlier research demonstrating a significant impact of violence on journalists.

4.9 Reconsidering pursuing a career in journalism due safety concerns

Table 9 showing people reconsidering pursing career in journalism due to violence

	Frequency	Percent%
Yes	34	31.5
No	74	68.5
Total	108	100.0

According to statistics about respondents' revaluations of their career choices in light of safety concerns and violence against journalist, 31.5% of respondents had done so, whereas 68.5% had not. This suggests that a sizable number of people are directly impacted by safety worries, which may have an influence on their decisions and aspirations for their careers.

Concerns regarding the safety and security of journalists are evident in the fact that more than 30% have changed their minds about pursuing a career in media. The previous data, which indicated that many respondents thought safety issues greatly impact their employment decisions, supports this concern. The difference between those who have changed their minds and those who haven't implies that, although some people place a high value on safety, a greater percentage of people may either

4.10 Safety measures for journalists improve quality journalism

Table 10 Safety Measures to improve journalism

	Frequency		Percent (%)	Valid Percent (%)
Strongly Agree	56		51.9	51.9
Agree	32		29.6	29.6

Neutral	12		11.1	11.1
Disagree	8		7.4	7.4
Total	108		100.0	100.0

The survey data pertaining to the perception that safety precautions for journalists enhance the caliber of journalism offers a convincing perspective on the relationship between journalists' well-being and security and their professional output. The replies are classified as "Agree," "Neutral," "Strongly Agree," and "Disagree," indicating the different levels of agreement among the 108 participants.

The vast majority of responders, 56 out of 108 (51.9%), "Strongly Agree" that journalist safety precautions raise the caliber of reporting. This strong affirmation is indicative of a general understanding that there is a direct link between the caliber of journalism and the safety of journalists. Journalists are more willing to cover conflict areas, go after in-depth stories, and cover delicate subjects without fear of retaliation when they feel safe. Because of their increased confidence, journalists are able to cover topics more thoroughly and accurately, delving deeper into the subjects at hand.

While to a lesser extent, 32 respondents (29.6%) said that they "Agree" with the proposition. When combined with the "Strongly Agree" group, this shows that more than 80% of respondents agree that safety precautions improve the caliber of journalism. Those that concur probably understand that good journalism is a result of several elements, safety being just one of them. Nonetheless, the combined majority agreement shows a common understanding that protecting journalists from threats, violence, and intimidation is crucial to ensuring that they can carry out their duties without being subjected to unjustified interference or censorship.

12, or 11.1% of the sample, are classified as "Neutral," denoting a lack of agreement or disagreement with the statement. This neutrality may stem from the belief that other components—such as professional training, editorial independence, and information accessibility—are equally, if not more, significant in determining the standard of journalism.

In conclusion, 8 respondents (7.4%) selected "Disagree" with the statement, meaning they do not believe safety precautions have a significant impact on the caliber of journalism. This minority view may result from the belief that editorial policies, institutional backing, and personal ethics are more important to the integrity and quality of journalism than safety considerations. Those who disagree might also think that, under some conditions, an

excessive focus on safety could lead individuals to self-censor or avoid significant but dangerous tales.

4.12 Government Measures to Protect Journalist

Table 12 showing people opinion relating to measures put in place by government.

	Frequency	Percent(%)
Strongly Agree	5	4.6
Agree	10	9.3
Neutral	15	13.9
Disagree	56	51.9
Strongly Disagree	22	20.4
Total	108	100.0

Data on their sentiments indicate a discernible level of dissatisfaction with government measures to protect journalists. A very small percentage of respondents—just 4.6% selected "Strongly Agree," and 9.3% selected "Agree"—believe that the government is now taking sufficient measures to safeguard journalists. On the other hand, a substantial 20.4% "Strongly disagree" and 51.9% "Disagree" were expressed regarding the notion that the government is effectively shielding journalists. Moreover, 13.9% of respondents rate themselves as "Neutral," reflecting skepticism or disinterest in the administration's plans.

According to the data, there is a definite and widespread discontent with the government's efforts to safeguard journalists. With more than 70% of respondents "Disagreeing" or "Strongly Disagreeing" with these measures' efficacy, it is clear that there is substantial skepticism regarding the suitability of government actions to protect journalists. The low percentage of respondents who indicated they "Agree" or "Strongly Agree" (13.9%) indicates that there is little faith in these metrics' efficacy.

This distribution suggests a widespread perception that the government does not provide sufficient protection for journalists. The large proportion of respondents who disagreed or strongly disagreed points to a notable discrepancy between the demands of journalists and the

perceived efficacy of governmental initiatives.

4.13 Participation in activities that advocate for journalist to be violence free

Table 13 showing how students participate in activity that advocate for reduction of violence

	Frequency	Percent (%)
Yes	20	18.5
No	88	81.5
Total	108	100.0

Based on statistics about involvement in journalist safety advocacy actions, just 18.5% of respondents reported being part of such campaigns, compared to a significant 81.5% who did not. This discrepancy implies that although there is some activity, most respondents do not actively participate in campaigns to promote the safety of journalists. In light of this, it is imperative to stress how important it is to teach journalism students about safety and security protocols. The low level of activism suggests that some students of journalism might not be actively involved in promoting their own or their colleagues' safety. For this reason, it is crucial to provide journalism students with thorough instruction on security and safety. Such instruction can improve their awareness and equip them with the skills necessary to navigate and mitigate hazards.

4.14 Journalism Students Training Requirement

Table 14 showing training requirement for journalist.

	Frequency	Percent (%)
Extremely Important	60	55.6
Very Important	40	37.0

Moderately Important	8	7.4
Total	108	100.0

For journalism students, the majority of respondents (55.6%) believe that training is "extremely important." This resounding majority indicates that there is broad agreement on the crucial role that thorough training plays in the growth of journalism students. The high percentage indicates a perception that thorough training is crucial to providing students with the abilities, information, and moral foundation required for a fruitful career in journalism.

There is broad agreement that journalism students should be trained on safety and security procedures, according to research on the subject. In particular, 37% and 55.6% of respondents, or 92.6% of the total, believe it to be "Very Important" and "Extremely Important," respectively. Just 7.4% of respondents think it is "Moderately Important," and none of them gave   it   a   worse   ranking. The strong support for safety and security education highlights how important it is in preparing journalism students for their future employment. With the data on activism and government initiatives indicating a high level of worry about safety, training provides students with the necessary abilities to manage risks, potentially lessening the harmful effects of violence and enhancing   their   performance.

4.15 level of press freedom in Uganda

Table 15 showing level of press freedom in uganda

	Frequency	Percent (%)
High extent	20	18.5
Moderate extent	30	27.8
Low extent	36	33.3
Very low extent	22	20.4
Total	108	100.0

Diverse perspectives can be seen in the data regarding Uganda's perceived press freedom. In particular, 18.5% of respondents think press freedom is present to a "High extent," while 27.8% think it is present to a "Moderate extent." Still, a sizable 33.3% believe press freedom is at a "Low extent," and 20.4% believe it is at a "Very low extent."

A greater percentage of respondents (27.8%) say that violence has a "Moderate Extent" influence on their employment decisions. This implies that although these people consider violence to some extent when choosing a vocation, they do not consider it to be the primary determinant. Instead, they might think about violence in light of other factors like hobbies, future employment, or job satisfaction.

The majority of participants (33.3%) think that violence has a "Low Extent" impact on their professional decisions. This implies that while violence may be considered, it has minimal influence on their career decisions. These respondents may prioritize other factors over concerns about violence, such as opportunity, skills, and career objectives. This high figure suggests that violence does not substantially influence the career paths of many people.

24% of the respondents believe that violence has a "Very Low Extent" impact on their professional decisions. This implies that these people consider violence to be essentially unimportant while making employment decisions. Other than violence, these elements are probably going to have a much bigger impact on this group's career prospects. This answer confirms the idea that worries about violence are subordinated to one's career or personal interests.

The data presents a varied picture, with different people experiencing different effects of violence on their employment choices. While worries about violence have a big impact on some people, they have no effect on others. This variation emphasizes how crucial it is to realize that a variety of factors interact to impact job selections, and while violence may be a major issue for some people, it is not always the main factor.

4.16 Intimidation or harassment while practicing journalism

Table 16 showing rate of which journalism students have interacted with harassment

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Yes	0	0	0
Valid No	108	100.0	100.0

No Responses: According to the data, when asked if they had ever been the target of intimidation or harassment while working as journalists, every responder (108 out of 108) gave the "No" response. This indicates that no participant mentioned having these problems.

Consequences: The total lack of "Yes" replies indicates that, in this specific sample, no one has reported experiencing intimidation or harassment because of their journalism. This could mean that the respondents have not experienced these kinds of problems or that they believe their workplaces are safe and free from these kinds of outside pressures.

4.17 School of Journalism prepare students for these challenges

Table 17 showing rate how school of journalism prepare students for challenges

	Frequency	Percent
Very high extent	10	9.3
High extent	30	27.8
Moderate extent	40	37.0
Low extent	18	16.7
Very low extent	10	9.3
Total	108	100.0

There are differing opinions on how well Ugandan journalism schools prepare its students for the hazards and difficulties of the field. In particular, 27.8% of respondents feel that preparation is done to a "High extent," while 9.3% of respondents feel that it is done to a "Very high extent." On the other hand, 37% of respondents think the preparation is done to a "Moderate extent," 16.7% to a "Low extent," and 9.3% to a "Very low extent." This distribution shows that while some respondents believe journalism schools prepare students well for dealing with difficult situations, such as violent situations, a sizable portion believe the preparation falls short. The significant proportion of participants who evaluate the preparedness as "Moderate" to "Very low extent" indicates a perceived deficiency in

CHAPTER FIVE: SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

This chapter summarizes all findings reported in chapter four according to questions of the study, draws conclusions, suggests recommendations and also proposes some areas for further study.

5.2 Summary of the findings

5.2. 1 Personally Experienced or Witnessed Violence Against Journalists in Uganda

According to the research, 85.2% of participants had not directly witnessed or experienced violence against journalists in Uganda. This implies that the majority of the sample does not commonly experience violence against journalists. But 14.8% of respondents said they have either witnessed or experienced such violence, bringing attention to a serious problem. While the low number of first-hand interactions does not inherently lessen the severity of the issue, it does suggest that, although violence may not be common among this group, a sizeable minority is nonetheless concerned about it.

5.2.2 News Reports or Discussions About Violence Against Journalists in Uganda

Based on the responses, 76.6% of participants said they infrequently hear or see news stories about violence against journalists. This sporadic interaction implies that most people do not find violence against journalists to be a prominent topic of discussion or coverage in the media. Merely 20.4% of participants engage in these conversations on a weekly or monthly basis, suggesting a restricted yet discernible cognizance of the matter. The rarity of these stories may be a factor in the general public's ignorance of the seriousness of violence against journalists in Uganda.

5.2.3 Belief that Violence Affects Freedom of Speech and Expression

Respondents' perceptions of how violence affects their ability to express themselves freely are strikingly positive. Significantly, 81.5% of respondents agree or strongly agree that attacks on

journalists have an impact on the right to free speech and expression. According to this consensus, the majority of respondents think that violence severely limits journalists' freedom to report freely and honestly. To completely comprehend the connection between violence and freedom of expression, it may be necessary to have more in-depth conversations or obtain more information, as indicated by the 18.6% of respondents who are neutral or disagree.

5.2.4 Extent of Influence on Career Choices Due to Violence

Respondents' professional choices are influenced by violence against journalists to differing degrees. A noteworthy 37% indicate that the likelihood of violence has a very high degree of influence, indicating that it is a major factor in their professional choices. Another 27.8% of respondents say that violence has a high degree of influence, indicating that it plays a significant role in their decision-making. On the other hand, 7.4% of respondents believe that violence has very little influence on their professional choices. This discrepancy highlights how differently people feel about violence and how it affects their professional trajectories

5.2 5 Career Path Consideration

Diverse interests in the media and communication industries are revealed by the professional paths chosen by the respondents. Broadcast journalism is the most often selected field (27.8%), with public relations coming in second (22.2%). 15.7% of respondents are drawn to print journalism, 18.5% are drawn to investigative journalism, and 15% are drawn to print journalism. This distribution demonstrates the wide range of interests and inclinations among journalism students about many facets of media work. The fervent interest in public relations and broadcast journalism points to a desire for prominent and exciting positions in the media and communication.

5.2.6 Influence of Safety Concerns on Career Choice

For many of the responders, safety concerns have a major impact on their employment decisions. Significantly, 42.6% of respondents say that safety issues have a significant influence on their employment decisions, while 31.5% admit that safety worries have some impact. This suggests that for more than 70% of respondents, safety is a key issue when selecting a job route. On the other hand, 16.7% and 9.3% say that safety issues have little to no impact, indicating that for some people, other considerations take precedence over safety worries.

5.2.7 Confidence in Media Organizations' Ability to Protect Journalists

There is differing opinions about how well media outlets can safeguard journalists. A considerable 24.1% of respondents are not confident, and 18.5% are indifferent, despite the fact that 57.4% of respondents express confidence (24.1% very confident and 33.3%

confident). This distribution suggests that opinions on the efficacy of the safeguards that media organizations provide for journalists are not in agreement. The varying degrees of confidence point to a possible disparity in the perception of security and assistance for journalists.

5.2.8 Reconsidering Pursuing a Career in Journalism Due to Safety Concerns

Concerns about safety have caused a noteworthy 31.5% of respondents to reevaluate choosing a profession in media. This suggests that a sizable percentage of people consider safety concerns while making professional decisions. The remaining 68.5% have not changed their mind about their job choices, indicating that even while many people have serious safety concerns, most people are not discouraged from pursuing a career in journalism.

5.2.9 Safety Measures for Journalists Improve Quality Journalism

The information shows a significant conviction that safeguards for journalists improve the caliber of journalism. 29.6% of respondents agree and the majority (51.9%) strongly think that safety measures improve journalism. This consensus is a reflection of the knowledge that the quality and depth of reporting are directly correlated with the safety of journalists. 7.4% disagree, and a smaller minority (11.1%) are neutral, suggesting that while safety is crucial, other variables also affect the caliber of journalism.

5.2.10 Government Measures to Protect Journalists

There is a general dissatisfaction with the government's efforts to safeguard journalists. The majority of respondents—72.3%—either strongly disagree (20.4%) or disagree (51.9%) with the sufficiency of government protective measures. The percentage of responders who agree or strongly agree that government actions are effective is just 13.9%. This substantial dissatisfaction points to a discrepancy between the real government measures and the perceived needs for journalist protection

5.2.11 Participation in Activities That Advocate for Journalists to be Violence-Free

Merely 18.5% of the participants engage in lobbying endeavors that guarantee a violence-free environment for journalists. This low level of participation suggests that, although there is some involvement, most respondents are not actively involved in this kind of campaigning. This shows that there is a need for increased awareness and participation in ensuring the safety and protection of journalists.

5.3.12 Journalism Students Training Requirement

Regarding the significance of training for journalism students, there is broad agreement. 92.6% of respondents think that training is very important (37.0%) or extremely important (55.6%). This resounding consensus highlights how important training is in equipping journalism students for their future employment, especially in handling safety and security issues.

5.3.13 Level of Press Freedom in Uganda

Perceptions of press freedom in Uganda are varied. While 18.5% view press freedom as high, 27.8% see it as moderate. A significant 33.3% believe it is low, and 20.4% view it as very low. This diverse range of opinions indicates a complex and potentially challenging environment for press freedom in Uganda.

5.3.14 Intimidation or Harassment While Practicing Journalism

None of the interviewees mentioned being harassed or intimidated while working as a journalist. The absence of occurrences mentioned could indicate that the sample operates in a safe environment or that the respondents have not personally dealt with these problems.

5.3.15 School of Journalism Preparation for Challenges

There are differing views on how well journalism programs prepare students for the demands of the industry. 37% think that the level of preparation is moderate, compared to 27.8% who think it is done to a high degree and 9.3% who think it is done very high. Notably, 26% believe that preparation is done to a very low or low degree. This variation shows that opinions about how well the existing training programs are prepared students for issues they will face in the real world vary.

5.4 Conclusion

The study shows that there are many moving parts when it comes to how violence affects Ugandan journalism students. Although a significant 14.8% of participants had firsthand experience with violence against journalists, the majority of respondents—76.6%—perceived the occurrence of such violence as rare. Despite this, there is broad agreement—81.5% of respondents—that violence has a detrimental effect on the freedoms of speech and expression. 37% of respondents have a very high impact, indicating that safety issues have a substantial influence on their work decisions.

Even though safety has a big impact on career trajectories, only 18.5% of people actively advocate for journalist safety, and a big portion of them are unhappy with the steps the government is taking to safeguard journalists. The research also reveals a perceived lack of readiness on the part of journalism schools to address safety issues. Overall, despite the fact that safety concerns have a significant impact on the impressions and decisions journalism students make about their careers, there is still a noticeable divide in activism, trust in institutional protections, and educational preparedness.

5.5 Recommendation

Better Safety teaching: Journalism schools must include comprehensive safety and security teaching in their curricula. This training should provide useful methods for managing risks, handling violence, and ensuring individual safety. Students prepare for real-world scenarios with regular workshops and role plays.

Increase Advocacy: It is necessary for professionals and students to be more involved in the struggle for the protection of journalists. It may be more beneficial to promote active participation in initiatives and campaigns aimed at safeguarding journalists in order to solve safety issues.

Improve Government Measures: The study shows a significant degree of dissatisfaction with the current measures that the government has put in place to protect journalists. Media organizations, advocacy groups, and journalists should work together to press for stricter laws and enforcement mechanisms in order to ensure the safety of journalists.

Promote Collaboration: Increasing collaboration across media outlets, public bodies, and international organizations can help to create a network of support for journalists. Through sharing best practices, support systems, and resources, overall security and safety can be raised.

Encourage Public Awareness: Increasing people's understanding of the challenges that journalists confront can contribute to a more positive environment. Campaigns for public awareness and educational programs can help inform the public about the importance of press freedom and the risks that journalists confront.

5.6 Area for Further Improvement.

Thorough Examination of Safety Measures: Additional research on certain safety measures and their efficacy is needed. Developing safer procedures can be aided by understanding which protocols are effective and which ones require improvement.

Effect of Safety Concerns on Journalism Quality: Examine the ways in which safety concerns influence journalism quality. Gaining knowledge about the connection between journalistic integrity and safety might help one better understand how safety concerns affect reporting methods.

Long-Term Research: Perform longitudinal research to monitor how perspectives and experiences evolve over time. This can help provide a clearer picture of how safety issues develop over time and affect journalistic careers and practices.

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APPENDICES

QUESTIONNAIRE SAMPLE MY RESEARCH STUDY:

Dear respondent,

I am Gum Andrew a student of journalism media and communication at Uganda Christian University conducting research on "examine how journalism students perceive and interpret the violence media practitioners under go through". I assure total confidentiality of the information given to me during this research. This research will contribute to the award of my bachelor's degree in BAJC so I humbly ask you for your cooperation.

1. What is your gender?

- Male

- Female

- Other (please specify)

2. How old are you?

- 18-20

- 21-25

- 26-30

- 31-35

- 36 or above

3. What is your current academic year in Uganda Christian University's journalism program?

- Year 1

- Year 2

- Year 3

4. Have you personally experienced or witnessed violence against journalists in Uganda?

- Yes

- No

5. How frequently do you encounter news reports or discussions about violence against journalists in Uganda?

- Daily

- Weekly

- Monthly

- Rarely

- Never

6. Do you believe that violence against journalists affects freedom of speech and expression in Uganda?

- Strongly agree

- Agree

- Neutral

- Disagree

- Strongly disagree

7. To what extent do you think violence against journalists influences journalism students' career choices in Uganda?

- Very high extent

- High extent

- Moderate extent

- Low extent

- Very low extent

8. What career path are you currently considering within the field of journalism?

- Print journalism

- Broadcast journalism

- Digital journalism

- Investigative journalism

- Public relations

- Other (please specify)

9. How much do concerns about safety and security influence your career choice in journalism?

- A great deal

- To some extent

- Not much

- Not at all

10. How confident are you in the ability of media organizations in Uganda to protect journalists from violence?

- Very confident

- Confident

- Neutral

- Not confident

- Not at all confident

11. Have you ever reconsidered pursuing a career in journalism due to concerns about safety and security?

- Yes

- No

12. How do you perceive the overall safety of journalists in Uganda?

- Very safe

- Safe

- Neutral

- Unsafe

- Very unsafe

13. Do you think the government in Uganda takes sufficient measures to protect journalists from violence?

- Strongly agree

- Agree

- Neutral

- Disagree

- Strongly disagree

14. Have you ever participated in any activism or initiatives aimed at advocating for the safety of journalists in Uganda?

- Yes

- No

15. How important do you think it is for journalism students to receive training on safety and security measures?

- Extremely important

- Very important

- Moderately important

- Slightly important

- Not important at all

16. Do you believe that improved safety measures for journalists could positively impact the quality of journalism in Uganda?

- Strongly agree

- Agree

- Neutral

- Disagree

- Strongly disagree

17. How do you perceive the level of press freedom in Uganda?

- Very high

- High

- Moderate

- Low

- Very low

18. When working as a journalist or participating in journalistic endeavors, have you ever experienced any kind of intimidation or harassment?

- Yes

- No

19. In your opinion, how well do Ugandan journalism schools educate their students for the risks and difficulties that come with working in the field, especially violence against journalists?

- Very well

- Well

- Moderately

- Poorly

- Very poorly

20. How might the safety and security of journalists in Uganda be improved, in your opinion?……………………………………………………………………………………
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Thank you for your participation! Your responses will contribute to valuable insights into the impact of violence against journalists on journalism students' career choices in Uganda.