

1/1/2019

Reviewer's comments:

This submission is not ready for publication and it is unclear to me that this is the best approach to provide insight and meaning into this topic. While I applaud the relevance of the topic and its attempts at originality, it needs serious re-thinking. As you can see below, I have gone through the paper in detail raising questions concerning the quality of research, soundness of argument as well as making suggestions about the writing and organization. My aim is to encourage and help the author/s.

In reviewing this academic paper submitted to the Communication and Journalism Review I have applied the recognized criteria:

Scholarship and Style: (1) Relevance of topic; (2) Originality; (3) Quality of Research; (4) Soundness of argument; (5) Writing; and (6) Organization.

- (1) This is an important and highly relevant topic though perhaps too ambitious for such a short project.
- (2) It provides an interesting angle and attempts to utilize data from various sources to shed light on the thesis.
- (3) While considerable effort has been undertaken in creating a profile of journalists killed in the top 10 countries, the data generated from the variables in the second half of the research needs to be reexamined to ensure that the input data is from primary sources and is complete.
- (4) There are difficulties with the argument and the relation between the profile of the journalists generated in the first part and the variables in the second part: Types of Government, GDP, Literacy, Press Freedom, Impunity Index, Human Development Index and Trust in Government. Why were these variables picked? What are limitations? Because the input data may be flawed there are problems identified with the cluster analysis. The discussion and concluding argument are riddled with assumptions and unverified claims.
- (5) Writing was convoluted. See document for suggestions. The document needs proper citation and APA style both in the document and in the references.
- (6) See documents for suggestions.

A cross- national investigation on the factors affecting the killing of journalists

Abstract:

This study looked into the factors affecting the killing of journalists in different countries. With [data from United Nations agencies], Reporters Without Borders, and Committee to Protect Journalists among others, this study employed data mining techniques and correlation analysis to find patterns among countries with the highest number of journalists killed. [Results reveal] that most of those who died are videographers and internet-based journalists assigned to conflict areas and war zones. This paper hopes to contribute to understanding the causes of media killings and consequently, provide a nuanced understanding of its rise in many countries.

Keywords: Media killings, Media Violence

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1.0. INTRODUCTION

Freedom of expression without the threat or acts violence is a basic human right. It is enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights' Article 19 (United Nations, 1948). Journalists use this freedom to collect, analyze, and present information. The murder of journalists across the globe violates this right. The 2017 report of the Special Rapporteur on freedom of expression (Kaye, 2017) affirmed this. The study investigated the factors contributing to the journalists' murders.

The International Programme for the Development of Communication's (IPDC) 2018 DG Report on the Safety of Journalists and the Danger of Impunity (IPDC, n.d.) gave an overview on the journalists' killings based on the data collected by UNESCO. Amnesty International's (Amnesty International, 2014) "A bullet has been chosen for you" discusses stimuli for violence such as deadly censorship. Reporters Sans Frontières (RSF, n.d.) and the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ, n.d.) defend the freedom of expression and provide databases of the record and cases of killings.

However, the researchers observed that current studies limit its focus on a local scope. Other literature and articles relating to journalist killings were focused on specific locations or cases. Journalism and Mass Communication Quarterly's December 2015 issue was Iraq-centered. Meanwhile, Carlo Lauria's articles in the Committee to Protect Journalists website were concentrated on Latin American countries.

Hence, the researchers came up with a cross-national investigation involving the top 10 countries with high media killings for the five- year period (2011-2015). The study sought to look at the profiles of murdered journalists by identifying patterns in the occurrence of such phenomena. The researchers utilized accessible data on the web through data mining.

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<https://globalfreedomofexpression.columbia.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Kaye-Report-March-2017-AHRC3522.pdf>

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2.0. THEORETICAL/CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

Figure 1 represents the process of investigating the factors affecting the murder of journalists in the ten countries with the highest records of journalists killed from 2011 - 2015.

The researchers identified the Social Responsibility, Social Conflict, and Pluralist Theory of Power to explain the reasons for the killings of a journalist.

First is the **Pluralist Theory of Power** (cite APA) which states that a variety of groups that compete in the society (some of which are more powerful than others) hold the power. Since no one group or class can dominate all other groups (because of checks and balances built into a democratic system of government), a “plurality” of competing interest groups, political parties and so forth is seen to characterize democratic societies.

This theory would be helpful in explaining the possible reasons why an individual or group resorts to violence and the underlying cause for doing such.

Another is the Marxist-based **Social Conflict Theory**. According to Mack and Snyder, conflict is a struggle not only for status but also for scarce resources and significant social change (Himes 1980, 12). In this context, control of material resources and accumulated wealth, control of politics and the institutions that make up society, and one's social status relative to others (determined not just by class but by race, gender, sexuality, culture, and religion, among other things) is understood as power. This puts danger to journalists in their pursuit for truth which may not be of favor to those in power.

One other theory that the researchers find fit to explain the research is the **Social Responsibility Theory** by Wilbur Schramm, Siebert and Theodore Paterson (Siebert et al.,

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1984). The theory advocated some obligation on the part of the media to society. A judicial mix of self-regulation and state regulation and high professional standards were imperative. Social Responsibility theory thus became the modern variation in which the duty to one's conscience was the primary basis of the right of free expression.

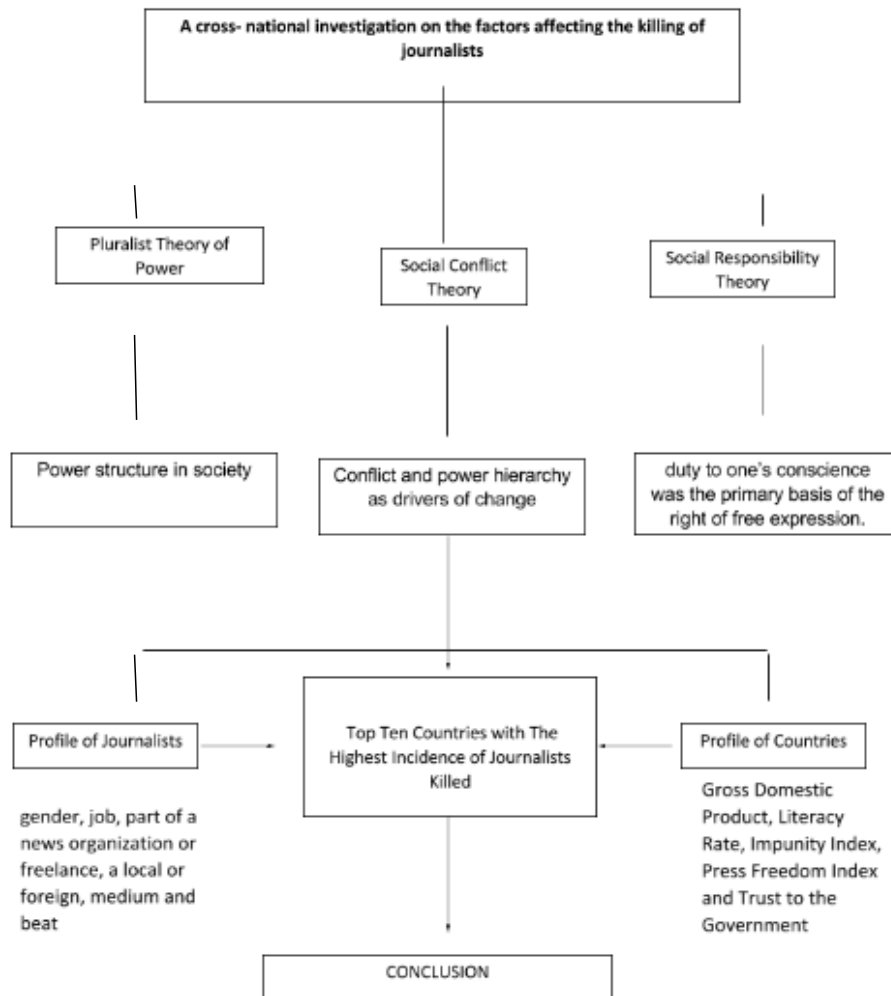
The Social Responsibility Theory can become the basis of the role of a journalist to the society. It becomes the point of reference as to how and what they should be for the society. The theory helps in explaining the roles of journalists and why is there a need for them to perform these roles.

Figure 1. Theoretical/ Conceptual Framework

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3.0. METHODOLOGY

The study utilized a quantitative research method in gathering and analyzing the information obtained through data mining. A qualitative approach, meanwhile, was applied to non-quantifiable data to deepen the understanding of the matter investigated. This was utilized in the analysis and interpretation of the results.

The researchers identified a period that is sufficiently representative of the situation under review that would allow the researchers not only to study facts but also trends. Hence, the study identified the top ten countries with the highest recorded number of journalists killed from 2011 to 2015.

Data relating to variables identified under the profile of the journalists slain were then gathered. The variables examined for the profile of the affected journalist included (1) gender, (2) position in the media organization, (3) medium of employment (print, radio, television, and new media), (4) beat or the field covered, (5) if the journalist is a local or a foreigner in the country, and (6) part of a news organization or freelancer. The region of the country where the killing occurred is also noted.

These information were then analyzed. The p-value of each of the profiles of the killed journalists was identified to distinguish significance.

4.0. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In selecting the units from the population of interest, the researchers choose the top ten countries with the highest number of recorded media killings from 2011 to 2015. The media killings included in this study refer to the murdered journalists, whether the motive is confirmed to be job-related.

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Table 1. Ten Countries with the Highest Number of Media Killings 2011-2015

Year	Syria	Pakistan	Iraq	Philippines	Somalia	Brazil	Mexico	India	Bangladesh	Yemen
2011	0	11	7	5	2	6	7	2	0	2
2012	38	8	3	5	14	5	6	4	3	0
2013	31	8	10	9	4	4	3	4	1	0
2014	19	4	6	4	4	3	3	2	3	2
2015	16	1	5	7	3	8	5	4	6	6
Total	104	32	31	30	27	26	24	16	13	10

Source: CPI data

Based on data from the Committee to Protect Journalist, the top 10 countries with the highest number of slain journalists from 2011- 2015 are Syria, Pakistan, Iraq, Philippines, Somalia, Brazil, Mexico, India, Bangladesh, and Yemen respectively.

Syria tops the list with 104 recorded slain journalists. One major factor for Syria's rising death toll for killed journalists is its ongoing civil war. CPJ's statistics supported the link which shows that 93% of the slain journalists covered the war. In another report, CPJ revealed that journalists' deaths in Syria far outnumbered those in the rest of the world.

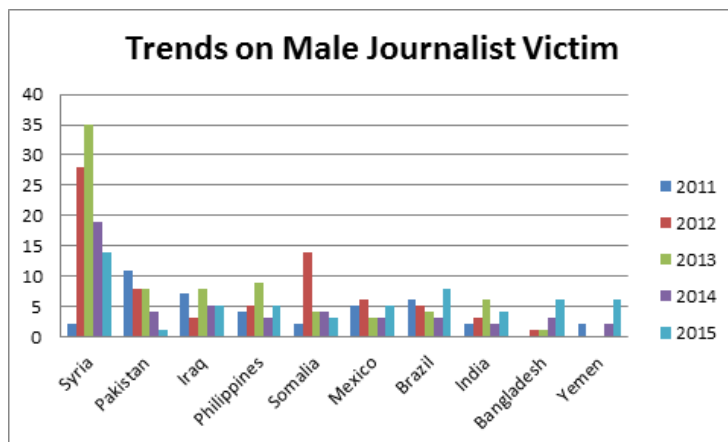
Trend Analysis on the Profile of the Journalist

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Variables relating to the profile of the journalist fatalities were identified. The figures below show the trends on the identified variables relating to the profile of the journalists,

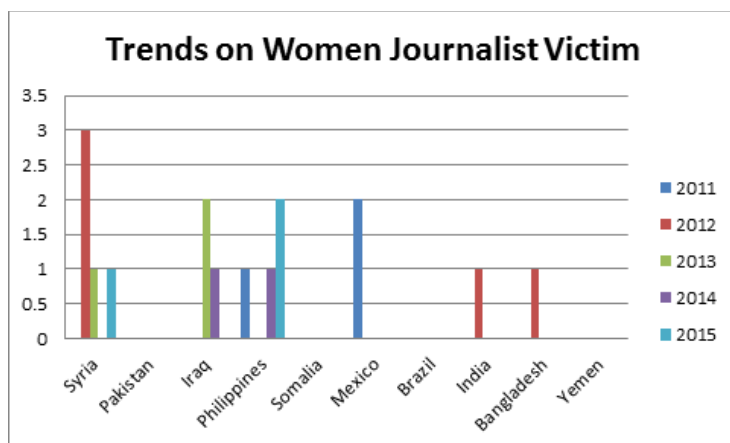
Figure 2. Fatalities of Male Journalists: 2011-2015



Source: CPJ data

Figure 2 shows the trend of male journalists killed between 2011- 2015 in each country. As observed in the graph, Syria is consistent with being at the top regarding the number of male journalists killed between 2012- 2015, while Yemen had no reported killings of male journalists from 2012- 2013, followed by Bangladesh with no reported male journalists slain in 2011.

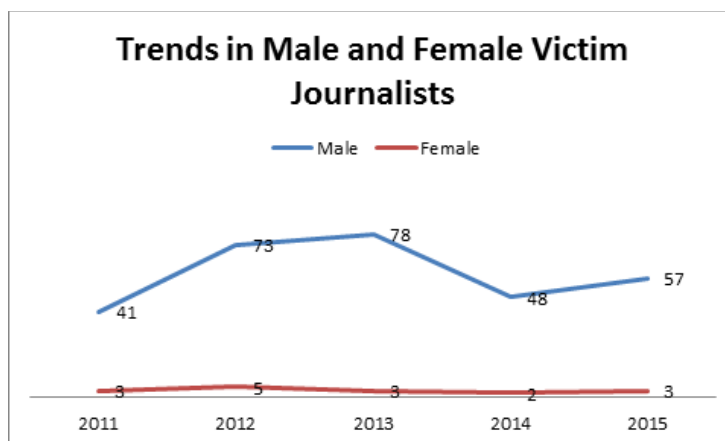
Figure 3. Fatalities of Female Journalists: 2011-2015



Source: CPJ data

The graph above presents the number of female journalists killed between 2011- 2015 in the top ten countries. Just like male cases, Syria has the highest number with three reported killings in 2012. Pakistan, Somalia, Brazil and Yemen, on the other hand, have no reported cases of slain female journalists throughout the period.

Figure 4. Fatalities of Male and Female Journalists: 2011-2015



Source: CPJ data

Figure 4 represents the trend among the reported cases of slain men and women journalists from 2011- 2015. The graph clearly shows the difference of the number of killings between genders.

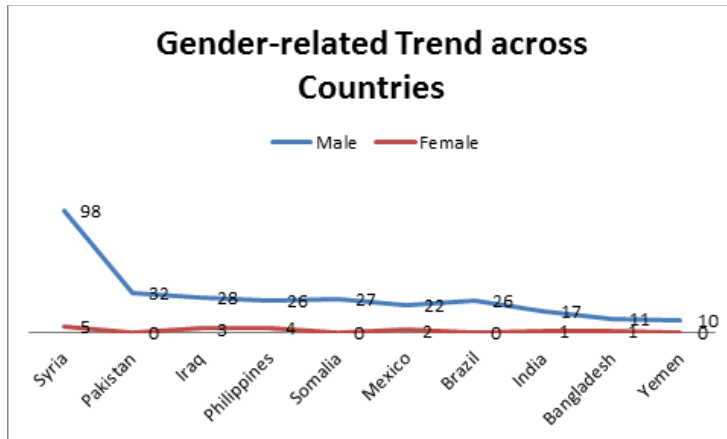
What can be observed is that the number of female journalist fatalities within 2011- 2015 ranged only from 2-5, with an average number of 3. Meanwhile, there are more male journalist fatalities in all the observed years ranging from 41-78, with an average number of 59. Aside from the reason, that more men are assigned to dangerous beats like politics, crime, and war; this trend may be the result of a larger population of men than women covering conflict and war in these countries.

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This sentence makes no sense. Are you saying that male journalists in these countries were killed on average, 19 times more than female journalists? In isolation this kind of statement is meaningless. What this graph appears to show is that over the five year period the number of women killed in these countries remained fairly static, between 2-5 whereas substantially more male journalists died on the job with a median of 57 or average of 59 male deaths.

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Figure 5. Fatalities Gender-related: 2011-2015



Source: CPJ data

The above graph presents the trend of the number of killed male and female journalists across the ten countries.

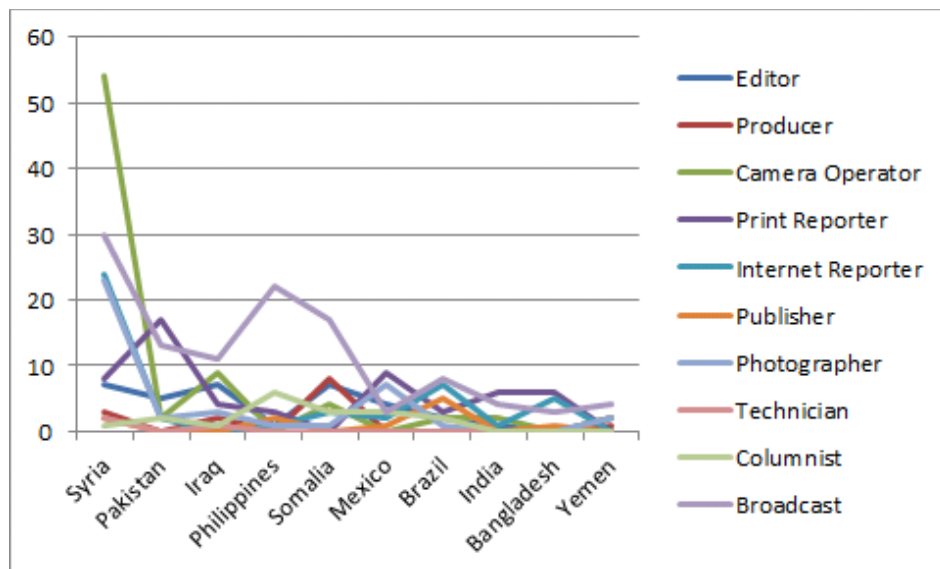
It shows how Syria has the most number of killed male and female journalists. Syria's top status could be explained by its ongoing civil war that started in 2011. On the other hand, Yemen has the lowest number of cases for both genders noting that it also has the least cases of killed journalists among the top 10. Considering that Yemen has the least number of slain journalists among the top ten countries with 10 cases, it having the lowest for both male and female slain journalists is an understandable scenario.

Aside from these and the fact that the number of slain male journalists being higher than the female slain journalists in all ten countries, there is no other observable trend shown in Figure 5.

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Figure 6. Fatalities' Jobs per country: 2011-1015

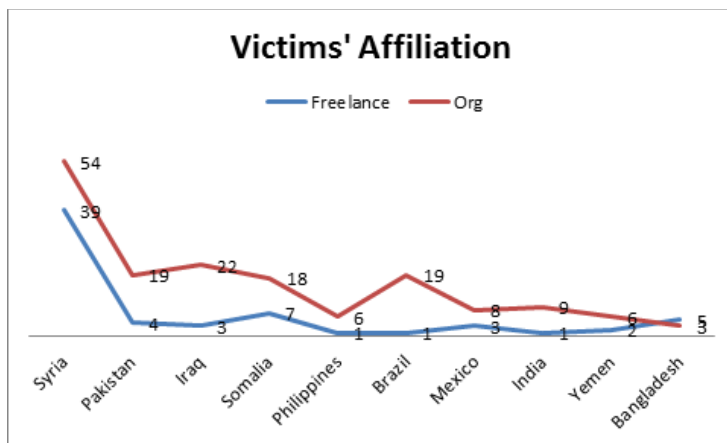


Source: CPJ data

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You might consider another less messy, more accessible graphic representation

The above graph showcases the trend in the jobs of the slain journalists among the top ten countries. The most significant observation in Figure 6 is the astonishing number of cases of camera operators killed in Syria. Compared to other media jobs like producer and technician which ranked the lowest with either one to five cases in different countries, there were 54 reported cases of camera operators killed in Syria alone.

Figure 7. Fatalities per Victims' Affiliation: 2011-2015



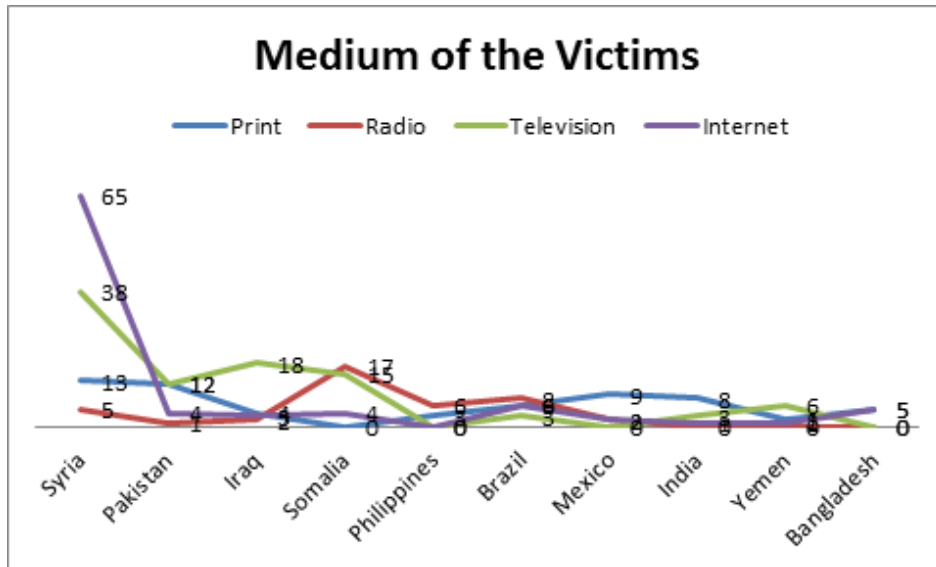
Source: CPJ data

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Figure 10 presents the number of journalists affiliated with an organization and those who worked freelance. The turnout posits that there are more slain journalists who belong to media organizations in the last five years, with Bangladesh slightly presenting otherwise. The low number of freelance journalists in these continents explains the low turnout in the above graph. Most of the journalists killed in these ten countries belong to media organizations, in which they are offered secure careers and benefits, as compared to freelancing.

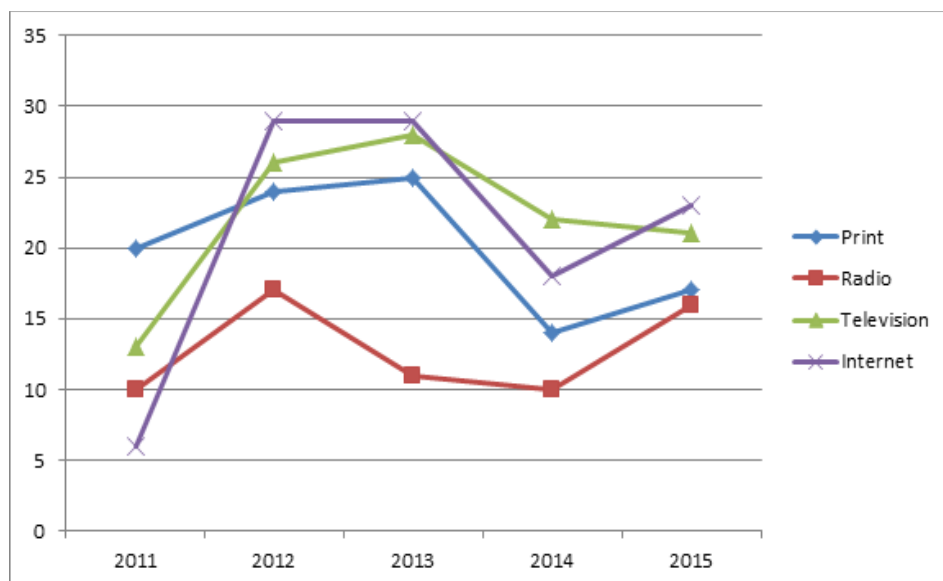
Figure 8. Fatalities per Medium per country: 2011-2015



Source: CPJ data

The graph above shows the medium used by slain journalists among the ten countries over the last five years with the internet as the primary medium used by slain journalists in Syria, which also ranks the highest in the total number of slain journalists. Moreover, journalists on radio are less likely to be victimized in the majority of countries excluding Somalia, Philippines, and Brazil which hold consistent data showing for five consecutive years radio is the primary medium used by slain journalists in those countries.

Figure 9. Fatalities per Medium per year: 2011-2015



Source: CPJ data

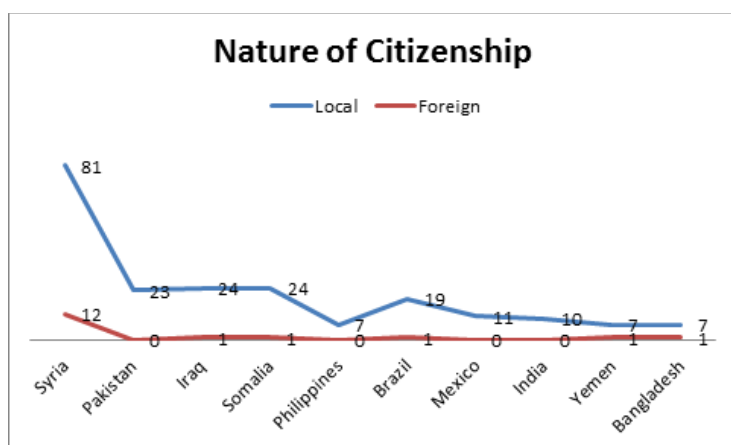
The above line graph shows the dramatic rise of the internet as the primary journalistic medium in the ten countries collectively, from the lowest in 2011 to the highest in the following years. It is also of note that television closes in at the second spot consistently, excluding 2014, while radio maintains less usage.

Escalation of the conflict in Syria contributed to the sudden increase of the number of slain journalists using the Internet from 2011 to 2012. While the Syrian revolt started in March 2011, violent attacks escalated rapidly the following year. It was in 2012 that the international community for immediate resolutions pressured the country.

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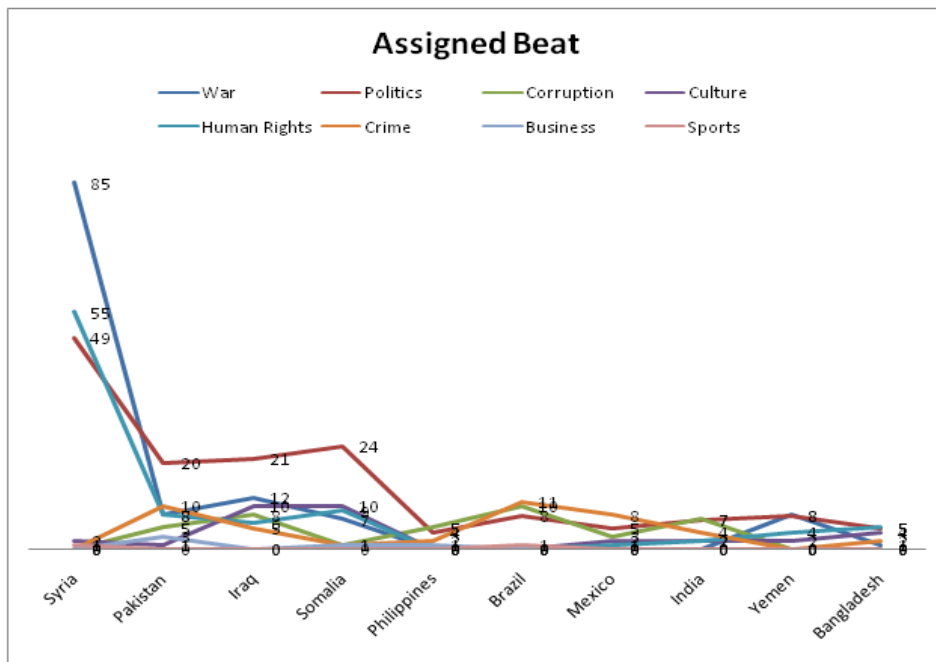
Figure 10. Fatalities per Citizenship: 2011-2015



Source: CPJ data

This figure categorized slain journalists based on citizenship. The data consistently shows that more locally-based slain journalists in their respective countries, with Syria inputting the highest numbers. Although there is a steady low register of slain foreign journalists, it is important to highlight Syria's input in such a category. The graph shows that over the past five years there have been 12 foreign journalists killed on Syrian soil.

Figure 11. Fatalities' Assigned Beat



Source: CPJ data

Figure 11 presents the assigned beats covered by the slain journalists of the top ten countries. War and conflict stories have been covered by most of the slain journalists in Syria, as reflected in the graph above, followed by events involving human rights. Journalists tackling politics are more likely killed in Pakistan, Iraq, Somalia, and the Philippines. Filipino journalists writing corruption stories are also more likely to be killed as politics and corruption are noticeably close in the above data.

Table 2. Media practitioner's profile and its correlation with the number of recorded media killings

Predictor	Pearson value	p-value	Interpretation
Gender			
Male	-0.0413	0.812	not significant
Female	2.5348	0.05	Significant
Medium			
Print	-0.1936	0.753	not significant
Radio	0.3105	0.518	not significant
Television	0.3976	0.479	not significant
Internet	-0.3061	0.527	not significant
Job			
Local	0.3795	0.201	not significant
Foreign	-1.0820	0.312	not significant
Affiliation			
Freelance	-0.3179	0.704	not significant
Employed	0.2354	0.745	not significant
Beat			
War	0.5658	0.422	not significant
Politics	-0.3944	0.68	not significant
Corruption	0.4623	0.519	not significant
Culture	1.832	0.332	not significant
Human Rights	-0.544	0.531	not significant

Crime	-0.1864	0.727	not significant
Business	2.841	0.531	not significant
Sports	2.749	0.703	not significant

The tabular presentation above records the test of hypothesis when the researchers associated the profile of the victim journalists with the number of killings. Consequently, the increase in female victims (Pearson value of 2.5348) as depicted by this positive slope significantly contributes to the rise of media-related violence. While the rest of the predictors (profiles) have not significantly supplied the increase in the cases of the recorded and unconfirmed cases, utmost consideration should be given especially to the increased (positive slopes) cases as depicted by the positive Pearson values.

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5.0. CONCLUSION

Based on the consolidated report on the cases of journalists killed in the last five years (2011-2015), various findings were identified in relation to the profile of journalist slain per country.

There were more slain camera operators than any other specific jobs in the media industry. Least slain media jobs, on the other hand, were producers and technicians which are mostly office jobs. Meanwhile, there were more slain journalists who were part of a news organization compared to freelancers, and more slain journalists who are locally- based than foreign correspondents. There were also a high number of slain journalists who were covering stories relating to war and conflict, human rights, politics, and corruption in different countries.

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The researchers also conclude that there is a significant rise of killings of the female journalist from 2011- 2015. There is a correlation between gender and media killings. Among the various personal profiles, gender showed a significant difference in relation to the dependent variable, which is the media killing. Further study is required to determine why this is occurring.

6.0 REFERENCES <This is incomplete. Use APA style>

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