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**Matric Number: I7/sms04/03I**

**Date: 3rd June 2020**

**QUESTION 2**

**Challenges a Foreign Correspondent is likely to face in recent times, especially with corona virus, racism and other fears in view**

1. **Restrictions to International Flights and Travel:** In recent weeks, many countries around the world, have imposed travel restrictions to help curb the spread of the coronavirus. Airport closures, the suspension of all incoming and outgoing flights, and nationwide lockdowns are just some of the measures countries are adopting in an effort to help contain the pandemic.

Therefore, it has also affected foreign correspondents because they can no longer travel to foreign countries to cover news.

1. **Police Brutality, Wars and Ripples:** Police brutality or police violence is legally defined as a civil rights violation where officers exercise undue or excessive force against a subject. This includes, but is not limited to, physical or verbal harassment, physical or mental injury, property damage, and death. For example, Two Australian Journalists were assaulted by the American police. However, Prime Minister Scott Morrison has instructed Australia's embassy in the US to investigate after two Australian journalists were assaulted by police during a protest outside the White House.

The incident, which came amid a string of police attacks on media during the protests triggered by the killing of George Floyd, earlier led Federal Opposition Leader Anthony Albanese to call for Australia's ambassador to the US to make an official complaint. The US ambassador to Australia Arthur B Culverhouse Jr later said in a statement that the embassy takes the mistreatment of journalists seriously, "as do all who take democracy seriously". Channel 7 News US correspondent Amelia Brace and cameraman Tim Myers were reporting live on Sunrise on Tuesday morning when police in riot gear moved in to clear the protesters from the area about 6:25pm Monday (local time) before the curfew at 7:00pm. After the protesters were removed, President Donald Trump emerged from the White House to speak to media in front of a church across the road. Amid a stampede, footage shows one officer shoving Myers with a shield before punching him while another officer swings at them with a baton as they try to escape. A third officer appears to try to hold his colleagues back and let the journalists go. It is understood Mr Morrison was unaware of the incident when he spoke to Mr Trump this morning. Mr Morrison has since spoken to Channel Seven and assured them of the Government's support should they wish to pursue a formal complaint. The Prime Minister has also asked the Australian embassy in Washington DC to investigate the incident and provide further advice on registering Australia's strong concerns with the responsible local authorities. Space to play or pause, M to mute, left and right arrows to seek, up and down arrows for volume.

Source: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-06-02/channel-7-journalists-assaulted-police-george-floyd-protesters/12312056>

1. **Seizure and Destruction of Media Equipment**: Foreign Correspondents see the seizure of smartphones by judicial and police as a violation. Therefore they will not be able to cover or report new without this equipment. In July 2018 Palma-based news agency Europa Press Mallorca published details of a secret police report that formed part of the investigation into Cursach’s business affairs. On 11 December, following orders by judge Miguel Florit, National Police officers investigating the leak of the police report seized documents, mobile phones and computers belonging to editors Kiko Mestre of the regional daily Diario de Mallorca, and Blanca Pou of Europa Press. The action was considered an attack on freedom of the press for not respecting the right of journalists to protect the identity of their sources. Professional secrecy for journalists is recognised by the Spanish Constitution in Article 20. “Judge Florit seems to have forgotten that journalists have not only the right, but the duty to protect our sources,” said Kiko Mestre. “Otherwise, investigative reporting would not exist.” The seizure of the journalists’ equipment has given rise to protests among journalists at the regional, national and international levels. As Mestre tells Index on Censorship: “Journalism professionals have come together as never before. This is a one-of-a-kind case in Spain and does not only affects Blanca and me but the essence of journalism.” On 14 December almost 200 journalists from Mallorca gathered in Palma city in defence of the citizens’ right to information. During the protest, representatives of the Union of Journalists of the Balearic Islands (SPIB) and the Association of Journalists of the Balearic Islands (APIB) read a joint statement describing the judicial action as a “direct attack on the free exercise of journalism”.
2. **Exposure to Racism:** Foreign Correspondents are exposed to racism and racist comments and also feel their way of life is under threats. journalists are sometimes casual victims of prejudice and political manipulation. Too often, ignorance and a lack of appreciation of different cultures, traditions and beliefs leads to media stereotypes that reinforce racist attitudes and strengthen the appeal of political extremists. Hate speech laws have been seen as a legitimate antidote to racism, in so far as they protect vulnerable groups from objective harm, such as incitement to hostility, discrimination or violence. But in some countries hate speech laws go beyond protection from objective harm and prohibit any statements which are perceived as offensive. After the experience of the Balkan wars of the 1990s and the Rwanda Genocide, no journalist can doubt the capacity of media to do great harm when it is under the control of fanatical and ruthless forces and the codes of reporters and editors are filled with warning to guard against forms of speech that degrade, intimidate, or incite violence or prejudicial action against others. The European Court has famously concluded that free speech extends also to statements which “shock, offend or disturb.”1 However, some countries have in place laws that invite a collision between judges and journalists over where to draw the line.
3. **Language Barrier**: The problem of language barrier is common even during this corona virus pandemic because Foreign Correspondents are required to report events in countries outside their homes, and languages in this foreign country are most definitely different from what is spoken in their own country. This is where an interpreter is required but due to the lockdown and movement restrictions it will be hard to find an interpreter. Although as a Foreign Correspondent there is a need for you to process bilingual skills or you should have atleast a working knowledge of the language of the country of assignment. This way you can interact with people or also have a better understanding of things happening in that country.

1. **Restrictions to Publish news:** Even during this pandemic some countries have restricted Foreign Correspondents to cover or report cases, events or news. The fundamental right to seek and disseminate information through an independent press is under attack, and part of the assault has come from an unexpected source. Elected leaders in many democracies, who should be press freedom’s staunchest defenders, have made explicit attempts to silence critical media voices and strengthen outlets that serve up favorable coverage. The trend is linked to a global decline in democracy itself: The erosion of press freedom is both a symptom of and a contributor to the breakdown of other democratic institutions and principles, a fact that makes it especially alarming. Experience has shown, however, that press freedom can rebound from even lengthy stints of repression when given the opportunity. The basic desire for democratic liberties, including access to honest and fact-based journalism, can never be extinguished, and it is never too late to renew the demand that these rights be granted in full.

**QUESTION ONE**

**How is the portrayal of the Global South by the Global North news Organizations/Media?**

Global Northern countries are those nations that are economically developed such as the USA, the UK, Canada, Western European nations and developed parts of Asia; Global Southern countries are those that are less economically developed such as nations in Africa and some parts of Asia.

The coverage of the Global South countries in Global North media is insufficient, superficial and often distorted. There is also an unbalanced flow of news. They usually portray Global South as hungry diseased people. They most times cover only the barbaric and negative news leaving the positive news. Examples of such news include:

**A two-day-old baby has died of Covid-19 in South Africa:** A two-day-old baby has died of coronavirus-related condition in South Africa, the government said Thursday. The baby was born preterm with lung difficulties and had to put on a ventilator, according to a statement from the health ministry. "The mother had tested positive for COVID-19, and the child subsequently tested positive for COVID-19 as well. It is important to appreciate the complexities of the underlying condition of prematurity," the statement read. The baby is among the 27 coronavirus deaths announced Wednesday, bringing the total number to 339, according to the ministry. (With more than 18,000 cases, South Africa has the highest number of coronavirus patients on the continent.)

**This is an example of insufficient news from CNN. They deliberately avoided the number of recovered cases in South Africa instead the only recorded the number of COVID I9 cases and deaths.**

**Source:** <https://edition.cnn.com/2020/05/21/africa/south-africa-baby-death-coronavirus-intl/index.html>

Another Example is:

**Nigeria's campus cults:** Buccaneers, Black Axe and other feared groups: Roland\* was a first-year student when he joined the Buccaneers, a secret, illegal student society in Nigeria. A brutal initiation ritual was held late at night in the forest. Older members, singing, dancing and drinking, formed a ring around him and other blindfolded initiates, beating them severely until the early hours of the morning. The ritual was supposedly to purge the initiates of weaknesses and instill bravery in them. "The moment you go in there and come out, you are a different person," Roland told the BBC.

These societies, also referred to as confraternities and campus cults, have names like Vikings, Black Axe, Eiye (a word in the local Yoruba language for bird), and the Buccaneers. They have a chain of command similar to militia groups, use code words and have insignia bearing the favorite weapon of the cult, along with its color. Members are promised protection from rival gangs, but it is mostly about power and popularity. These secret societies are banned in Nigeria and hundreds of members have been arrested and prosecuted over the years. Nevertheless, they continue to operate, especially on university campuses, where they still attract new members.

**Source:** <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-52488922>

**This is how Global North media portrays Global South.**