CHRISTIAN SERVICE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION

HOSTILITIES AGAINST KUMASI RADIO JOURNALISTS AND THEIR IMPACT ON NEWS GATHERING

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DECLARATION

We have read the University College's regulations in respect to plagiarism and are certified that this report is entirely our own work and does not contain unacknowledged work from any other source; we also declare that we have been under supervision for this report herein submitted.

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DEDICATION

We are pleased to dedicate this piece of work to the Almighty God for seeing us through these four years of our university education. This work is also dedicated to our families for their constant love and immense support, to our supervisors for their invaluable assistance, and to all our hardworking lecturers who provided the needed guidance, support and encouragement in helping us to unearth our potentials

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ABSTRACT

Media hostilities is any unpleasant situation where media personalities are intimidated, assaulted, abused, manhandled whiles conducting their journalistic activities to serve the general public. The purpose of the study was to assess hostilities on Kumasi radio journalists and their impact on news gathering. The study adopted the qualitative method as the research design. Data was collected by using in-depth interview which helped tremendously in obtaining rich and accurate data from subjects. The major findings of this study showed that majority of radio journalists in Kumasi experience hostilities like death threats, verbal and non-verbal assaults and minority of radio journalists in Kumasi experience hostile treatments like curses and ridicule, seizure of equipment and detention. The study also found out that the majority of the journalists were greeted with hostilities by politicians, chiefs and other influential people in the society, as well as police men and security guards. In addition, the majority of the respondent attributed their treatments to fear of public exposure and objective in their reportage. The study finally reached the conclusion that, hostilities on Kumasi radio journalists affect news gathering negatively, through accuracy of information, time of delivery and their sense of judgment and evaluation of news stories.

TABLE OF CONTENT

CHAPTER 4: DATA ANALYSIS, FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

CHAPTER 5: SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATION

CHAPTER ONE

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Journalism plays a central role in democratic societies by enabling people get access to the information they need, in order to take part in the democratic process. The recent clamour over Africa for a Free Press and subsequent passage into law of the Freedom of Information Act in many countries, such as Nigeria, underscores the fact that the journalist is indeed an agenda setter; journalists chart a course for development, honesty, and the people's participation in governance. Just like a lover goes to lengths to find a gift that he thinks his partner would appreciate and need, the journalist goes to lengths to uncover, dig out or sort for information just for the consumption of the public (Titi, 2012).

The public has a kind of hunger or thirst for information, which needs to be assuaged; the media organization that satisfies this need best earns the trust and attention of the people. This trust yields benefits for the medium, as audiences have more confidence investing their resources in it.

1.1 BACKGROUND

The 2010 Annual Report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to freedom of expression (11th August, 2010 A/65/284) defined journalists as "individuals who are dedicated to investigating, analyzing and disseminating information, in a regular and specialised manner, through any type of written media, broadcast media, (television or radio) or electronic media. With the advent of new forms of communication, Journalism has

extended into new areas, including citizen Journalism" (Centre of Government & HR, 2012).

At the global level, journalists continue to extend the frontiers of journalism through quality informative and educative content dissemination to the public. Through news and media, journalists reveal information which otherwise remains concealed. As such, they are dubbed eyes and ears of a nation. However, journalism has become a really tough work in some countries especially where armed violence occur. In several countries of Asia, Middle East and Africa, journalists have to surmount to inconceivable barriers while collecting news of armed conflict. The situation is so intense that journalists sometime become hostages, as they are sometimes kidnapped, beaten brutally and in some cases even shot to death. But without their help, it is quite impossible for the rest of the world to know the actual scenario of conflict and the nature and lives of people in regions of conflict. During armed violence, journalists are often considered unwanted as they play the role of witnesses whose presence is perceived as problematic for the perpetrators or parties in the fight. This, therefore, becomes the basis for most of the violent acts against journalists reporting from conflict zones.

Under article 79 of the Additional Protocol to the Geneva Conventions (1949) "journalists engaged in dangerous professional missions in areas of armed conflict shall be considered as civilians". Thus, all international humanitarian laws applicable to civilians also apply to journalists. Similarly, Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted on December 10, 1948 states that Journalists have the right to "seek, receive, and impart information." This right is restated in the International

Covenant on Civil and Political Rights which has been signed or ratified by more than 140 states, and in several regional conventions and charters, such as the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and the African Charter of Human and People's Rights (UNHRC Study Guide, 2013).

Journalists and other media actors play a number of roles that are vital towards the attainment of a democratic society. They inform the public about matters of societal interest, comment on them and hold public authorities and other powerful forces up to scrutiny. These roles explain why they are often referred to as public watchdogs. An interference with their right to impart information or ideas has obvious societal repercussions, as there is simultaneously an interference with the public's right to receive information or ideas. By the same token, whenever journalists and other media actors, are murdered, tortured, attacked, abducted, detained, threatened, harassed or intimidated on account of the discharge of the their professional activities, it opens up to the violations of individual rights to life, liberty, security of the person. McGonagle, (2013)

In the December 2014 newsletter of Reporters without Boarders, it was reported that 62 Journalists and 19 netizens and citizen Journalists were also killed. 178 Journalists were imprisoned and more than 800 Journalists have been killed in their line of duty in the past 10 years; but 90% of these crimes have never been solved.

1.1.2 News gathering,

According to Curtis (2011), journalists investigate and report on events, issues and trends for the mass audience of print, broadcast, and online media. This includes newspapers, magazines and book, radio and television stations, networks, blogs, social and mobile media platform. They write hard news stories that are short, timely and focused report on what has just happened and feature stories that are soft, not as timely yet with topical news. Any journalist, whether covering hard or soft news, needs to gather information in preparation for writing, just as all writers have to conduct research and gather information before they can start writing. Curtis' proposition reveals the importance of data gathering or newsgathering to the journalists. It is through their methodical research and newsgathering means that they are able to discover relevant and newsworthy information that they disseminate to the public. It is therefore unjustifiable, while in the process of newsgathering that journalists are abused and maltreated for the sake of uncovering and exposing the malice inherent in society.

In Ghana, the 1992 Constitution, chapter 12, guarantees freedom of the press and independence of the media. According to the 2011 Press Freedom Report by Freedom House, the media in Ghana is considered as "free". Freedom House ranked the media as "free" in only four other countries in Africa in 2011. Of the 197 countries and territories assessed during 2013, a total of 63 (32 %) were ''rated Free'', 68 (35 %) were rated ''Partly Free'', and 66 (33 %) were rated ''Not Free''. This marks a shift toward the ''Not Free'' category compared with the edition covering 2012, which featured 63 Free, 70 partly Free, and 64 Not Free countries and territories.

1.1.3 Assaults on Journalists

In a news report by *Today,* September (2014), 105 journalists were assaulted in Ghana between 2012 and 2014, with about eighty-five (85) out of the number sustaining various degrees of injuries. The investigation by *Today* showed that the three northern regions, (Upper East, Upper West and Northern) in Ghana recorded the highest numbers of assault cases (46 cases) on journalist followed by the Ashanti Region (34), Greater Accra Region (10), Volta Region (8), Western Region(4) and Central Region recording (3). The unwarranted assaults, according to *Today*, were mostly orchestrated by traditional rulers, politicians, security apparatus, religious groups and celebrities, among others.

Similarly, a feature report written by Isaac Amissah on *Ghanaweb* on 17th September 2014 cited an incident that happened to three journalists from *Adom Fm* who was beaten by some officials of the Ablekuma District National Insurance Scheme on Thursday, 11th September 2014. These journalists went there to report on the frustrations and complaints of persons who had been queuing since 3am to go through biometric registration but were denied access by the authorities. The authorities seized their phones, wrestled and dragged them into a gutter, leaving one of the journalists, Afia Pokuah with bruises all over her body and clothes nearly torn into shreds. No actions were taken against the culprits, following this report.

Such reports on assaults on journalists are not limited to the capital alone. Pockets of assaults and indecent handling on reporters have been reported in other regions of the country. For instance, in Kumasi, some journalists have suffered hostile treatments from the public.

Recently, the Ashanti Regional correspondent of the *Daily Graphic*, Daniel Kenu on Friday September 5, 2014 was brutally assaulted by Baffour Gyan, the elder brother of the Ghana Black Stars' captain Asamoah Gyan and their manager, Samuel Anim Addo at the Baba Yara Sports Stadium in Kumasi. After the incidence Baffour Gyan was arrested, detained and taken to court and the victim Daniel Kenu later withdrew the case from court and was sacked for not consulting his bosses before withdrawing the case but was later reinstated.

A journalist named Muftaw Mohammed, who works for *Metro FM* in Kumasi, was, on April 2014, arrested and detained for taking pictures of some personnel from the Motto Traffic and Transport Unit (MTTU) of the Ghana Police Force for allegedly taking money from commercial drivers. The Police held Mohammed and his iPad was seized. The MTTU officers forcibly deleted the picture before he was released. Such cases in Kumasi show that journalists are not safe and as such their rights are being infringed on even by law enforcement agencies.

The question then is, if journalists are not even safe in the hands of the law enforcement agencies how much more in the hands of a civilian who may be ignorant of the law?

In an interview with *Today,* some journalists in Accra expressed concern about the seeming lack of tolerance on the part of some sections of the security agencies in Ghana towards journalists when they are discharging their professional duties. To this end, the visibly angry media practitioners have called on the security agencies to recognize the important role the media play in the democratic development of the country and accord them the necessary respect. Regulatory bodies like the National Media Commission

(NMC), the Ghana Journalist Association (GJA), and the Media Foundation for West Africa (MFWA) have condemned such crimes. Yet, the situation has not seen any change. Also, the Editors' Forum (EFG) supported calls for investigation into the circumstances leading to the assault, indecent handling and arrest of the *Daily Guide* journalist, Gifty Lawson, and two of her colleagues. According to the statement on *Ghanabusinessnews.com*, assaults of any kind to prevent the media from carrying out their responsibilities to the society were an infringement on the people's right as well as the freedom of expression guaranteed under the 1992 Constitution and constituted a setback for the advancement of society as a whole.

1.2 PROBLEM STATEMENT

The Media is said to be the Fourth Estate of the Realm. This could be interpreted to mean that the journalist is a crusader and a guardian of the people's right and progress in the society. Where the executive, legislative or judicial arms of government fail the people, the media is the last hope of the common man. Ideally, every journalist is supposed to enjoy the protection of right to life and the freedom of speech and expression as enshrined in Chapter Five of the 1992 constitution of Ghana in order to serve the public interest.

However, the different threats journalists have faced over the past decades have not allowed the thriving of a free press, and therefore the right to proper and accurate information still has not been granted in Ghana. The accuracy, impartiality and the social responsibility of the media has been under question for more than a decade now (Carolina and Herrera, 2014)

People hide behind some authorities and attack journalists without any punishment to deter other people from doing same. Arm chair journalism is gradually evolving in Kumasi as a result of fear and panic that these attacks have sparked among journalists. The few journalists who are willing to stand up and fight for their rights also face threats and criticisms from the public. This is forcing journalists to rely on information on the internet and make follow up calls for clarifications and verifications on those information on the internet to make their news stories. Field reporting is gradually going down as a result of hostilities against journalists. Our study therefore examines why journalists in Kumasi are subjected to hostile treatments and the impact such treatments have on Journalists' ability to gather accurate news for the public consumption.

1.3 PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The purpose of the study is to find out the factors that account for hostilities against radio journalists in Kumasi and the impact of such hostilities on news gathering.

1.4 OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this study are to find out, the kinds of hostilities that journalists face, the causes of such hostilities and the effects of such hostilities.

1.4.1 Research Questions

In view of the research objectives, the following research questions would serve as a guide to the study:

   a) What kind of hostilities do journalists face in Kumasi, Ashanti Region in the

discharge of their duties?

b) What are the causes of such hostilities?

c) How do such hostilities affect news gathering?

1.5 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The study would contribute to current literature on press freedom in Ghana. It would also benefit journalists because when the findings come out, authorities would take up the matter and help the Journalists feel safe. This would be achieved through the publication of this research online, in journals and newspapers and other media of communication.

Also, copies of our findings would be sent to the office of the Ghana Journalist Association (GJA), and other regulatory bodies like the National Media Commission (NMC), and the Media Foundation for West Africa (MFWA)

In addition, the research is expected to draw the attention of other students, researchers and scholars, the need to focus on the issues concerning the human rights of Journalists. The findings of this research would give more insight into how journalists struggle to access information from the public, and would add a voice to how relevant the freedom of information bill yet to be passed by parliament is to the journalism profession.

1.6 SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The study looks at the hostilities on journalists and the impact it has on news gathering. The study focuses on some selected journalists in the Kumasi Metropolis who have encountered hostile treatments.

1.7 LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

There is a limited resource in terms of available finances and time for the study. In view

of that we have to limit our scope. A relevant literature on this work is relatively few as

many previous researchers do not focus much attention on the Journalists or the media.

CHAPTER TWO

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK AND REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2.0 Introduction

This chapter assesses other available documented literature and theories which are of relevance to this study. It also captures a cross section of views and positions on the subject matter, as held by different scholars.

2.1 Review of Related Studies

Heyns and Srinivasan (2013), expound that Journalists play a central role in fostering a society based on the open discussion of facts and the pursuit of the truth. This is opposed to one based on rumour, prejudice, and the naked exercise of power. As a result, Journalists are often, literally in the line of fire and deserve special protection. This article considers the characteristics of deadly attacks on journalists over the last two decades and examines how the applicable legal and policy frameworks can be used better or improves a higher level of protection. Impunity, often a by-product of the politicized nature of Journalistic activities, is seen as the major cause of continuous attacks on Journalists. The conclusion is drawn that one of the key elements of a strategy to better protect Journalists is to "elevate" the issue on a number of fronts: to move prevention and accountability from the local to the central level within domestic jurisdictions, while simultaneously heightening the level of international engagement with this issue.

Carolina and Herrera (2014) conducted a study titled ''Press under burden: five threats to Colombian Journalism''. In this study, they used mainly a qualitative investigation, which is the same design for this study. It followed an inductive view of the relationship between theory and research and the stress was on the understanding of the social world through an examination of the interpretation of that world by its participants (Bryman, 2001). Within the field research it identified three main ways to get information and data: ethnographic protocols; participant observation; interviews; and focus groups. Our study therefore adopted interview as the method for data collection.

Also, in the same study, the hypothesis established that due to the constant violent acts and threats to the press in Colombia,it makes it difficult for the transformation of the society towards a free press and even a peaceful environment. The cultural violence in which Colombia is immersing from long time ago is reproducing over and over again. The study adopted the cultural violence concept by Johan Galtung to put the study into perspective.Carolina& Herrara, concluded that all the threats coming from the various armed conflicts acted against the media as institutions and journalists as individuals have a very negative effect in the daily business of the media in Colombia. For these reasons, they presumed that the transformation of society towards a free and fair press will turn complicated.

Katju (2013), in his article aimed at addressing media freedom and media responsibility in India was primarily aimed at setting the records straight regarding an article by Arindam Sen Gupta, a senior journalist. Gupta's basic idea was that the government was trying to muzzle the media, and thereby violate the freedom of the press guaranteed by

Article 19 of the Constitution and blamed Katju for proliferating the government's agenda. However, Katju stated that, he consistently supported media freedom, and condemned attacks on the media, overtly or covertly citing examples of the cases of when media persons were attacked in Maharashtra, J&K, Himachal and when media freedom was sought to be covertly suppressed in Bihar, etc. which he had strongly criticized some Congress governments in this connection.Katju fervently expressed his support for freedom of speech not for popularity or as a fashion but because he genuinely believed in it. Without freedom to think, to speak, write, discuss, and dissent, there can be no progress. It was because there was freedom in England that it progressed, whereas countries like Spain, where freedom was stifled by the Inquisition, lagged far behind.

2.1.2 Topics, Gender, Media, local/foreign correspondent and Kind of work Involved

In terms of the kinds of work performed by those killed over the past two decades, print and broadcast reporters by far represent those most affected, at a combined total of fifty-three percent of the casualties.According to the Committee to Protect Journalists report (2013), cases involving Print reporters / writers constituted 30%, photographers 8%, editors 16%, columnists / commentators 9%, camera operators 12%, broadcast reporters 23%, internet 5%, radio 20%, television 28%, print media 54%.In addition, a total of 94 percent of those killed were men, while 6 percent were women. However, women are exposed to other forms of gender specific violence that may not be lethal.

Furthermore, often the media spotlight is on international reporters, especially in situations of armed conflict or large-scale violence. However, local journalists are most

often the ones in harm's way. Out of those killed, 87 percent were local journalists, 13 percent foreign. An overall 16 percent were freelance journalists. Heyns and Srinivasan, (2013) state that, in just over two decades between January 1992 and February 2013, 971 journalists suffered violent deaths directly related to their work. In 88 percent of murder cases, amounting to 588 deaths, there has been total impunity. The twenty deadliest places during that period, according to CPJ, were as follows: Iraq, 151 killings; Philippines: seventy-three, Algeria: sixty; Russian Federation, fifty-four; Pakistan, fifty-one; Somalia, forty-nine; Colombia, forty-four; Syria, thirty-two; India, twenty-nine; Mexico, twenty-eight; Afghanistan, twenty-four; Brazil, twenty-four; Turkey, twenty; Bosnia and Herzegovina, nineteen; Sri Lanka, nineteen; Rwanda, seventeen; Tajikistan, seventeen; Sierra Leone, sixteen; Bangladesh, thirteen; and Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory: twelve.14 Some of the most telling figures are provided below, as recorded by CPJ.

Also, contrary to popular belief, journalists (mostly local ones) covering domestic issues are more at risk than war correspondents. Coverage of local politics, human rights, organized crime, and corruption often focuses on figures of authority or wielders of power, who do not appreciate the scrutiny. Reliance on local authorities for prevention and protection becomes more challenging. Human rights 16%, crime 15%, corruption 20% war 35%, politics 42%

2.1.3 Context of Killing, Harassment and Obstruction on Journalists

Moreover, murder is the predominant method used for journalists' killings, at approximately 68%. In addition, 19% of cases took place in the context of crossfire/combat and 13% occurred during dangerous assignments. The overriding problem is therefore deliberate and targeted killing rather than accident.A case study of attacks on journalists and freedom of expression in Syria expatiates that except for those hand-picked by the government; journalists have been banned from reporting in Syria and those who have entered the country regardless have been targeted. Within a month of the protests taking off, at least seven local and international journalists were detained, and at least one of them was beaten. Citizen journalist, Mohammed Hairiri, was arrested in April 2012, tortured in prison, and sentenced to death in May 2012 for giving an interview for Al Jazeera.

Similarly, the Jordanian Salameh Kaileh was tortured and detained on 24th April, 2012, at Barzah, a Damascus suburb in deplorable conditions before being deported. According to Salamah, he was arrested because of a conversation he had on Facebook with a friend outside Syria about his position on the revolution and his opinion about the Muslim Brotherhood. A study made by the Committee to Protect Journalists (2014, March), stated that in total, at least 60 journalists were killed globally in 2014 in relation to their work, compared with 70 who died in 2013.

2.1.4 Measures by international bodies and countries

According McGonagle (2013) the UN Plan of Action was prepared during the first UN Inter-Agency Meeting on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity in September 2011; the UN Chief Executives Board endorsed it in April 2012. With a view to the operationalisation of the Plan of Action, an Implementation Strategy has been devised for 2013-2014. The key objective of the Plan of Action is to work "toward the creation of a free and safe environment for journalists and media workers in both conflict and non-conflict situations, with a view to strengthening peace, democracy and development worldwide.For instance, the human rights situation in Iran remained extremely poor by 2012. The government heavily suppressed freedom of speech, using intimidation and arbitrary arrest as tools of oppression and control. Several prominent human rights defenders remained in prison – some alleging torture and others suffering serious health issues for which they were denied adequate medical treatment. The death penalty was again widely applied, particularly for drugs offences, and, in many cases, in contravention of international law. The majority of the recommendations in the UN Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review for Iran in 2010 remained unimplemented.

In the same year, Iran introduced further restrictions on Internet use, including regulations controlling public Internet cafes. A national internet network was introduced to control the flow of information, and websites continued to be filtered. Cyber-security forces arrested and intimidated Internet users, bloggers and journalists. As such, domestic media remained tightly controlled to prevent reporting on certain topics. Many journalists were arrested for reporting on poor prison conditions and also lack of access

to appropriate medical care. BBC Persian employees reported that their families in Iran continued to be harassed, arrested and interrogated.

On the African terrain, Myers (2015), in championing press freedom, stated that when many people think of Africa, they conjure an often atrocious record on press freedom. For instance, Eritrea is at the very bottom of Reporters without Borders 2014 World Press Freedom Index. Somalia is the second worst country in the world, after Iraq, for its high numbers of unsolved murders of journalists, and ranks as the fifth deadliest country in the world. Overall, 56 journalists have been killed in Somalia since 1992. Sudan, Djibouti, and Equatorial Guinea are also near the bottom. Ethiopia, Rwanda and Gambia rank near the top of all countries from which journalists flee, worldwide. Two other forbidding spots on the African map are Swaziland and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Myers further expounds that, in all these countries and more, journalists – particularly those who investigate corruption and state-sponsored violence or give a voice to opposition politics – live in fear of arbitrary arrest, receive death threats from politicians and armed groups, and are regularly harassed along with their families.

Irrespective of these challenges, Africa in fact is not worst, Sub-Saharan Africa ranks better than Asia, the former Soviet bloc and the Middle East, according to both Reporters Without Borders and Freedom House; The bright spots in terms of media tolerance continent in the world to be a journalist include Cape Verde, Ghana, Sao Tome and Principe, Mauritius, and Namibia. According to the two organizations, for many years, Francophone countries in West Africa, such as Mali and Senegal, produced a record of free expression that was the envy of other parts of the continent and indeed the world. Such countries rank relatively well because their constitution's guarantee freedom of

expression, they have many vibrant and diverse media outlets, their media complaints bodies generally act independently of government, private newspapers and broadcasters generally operate without official intervention. There is little or no official surveillance, and there are few specific government restrictions on the Internet (Myer, 2015).

According to Myer, (2015) some African journalists from Uganda, Rwanda and Angola cited some reasons for their hostile treatments. The report revealed that, journalists suffer regular threats and intimidation, sometimes there are verbal attacks against journalists by the security apparatus, especially the police and the intelligent services over stories they deem critical against the state.In addition, Myer found out that journalists in such countries suffer from hostile treatments like, detention, conviction, ban and threats, verbal and non-verbal abuse. Journalist like Yusuf Mugenzi from Rwanda stated that he is immune to threats, they have become something normal.

Myer (2015) concluded some journalists in Angola and Uganda are supported in their struggles with legal and material help from local and international advocacy groups. Organizations such as Human Rights Watch, Reporters Without Borders, Committee to Protect Journalists and African organizations such as the Human Rights Network for Journalists in Uganda, help them materially and legally, and are constantly lobbying for their rights and changes to legislation. Financial support from international donors often channelled through African NGOs and civil society group – is also crucial. It helps counteract some of the hidden censorship provoked by exorbitant taxes levied on media outlets and of corrupt practices that effectively either silence journalists or buy their loyalty. Other home – grown African bodies such as the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights are important, too. Earlier this year, this court handed down a powerful

first judgment on press freedom by ruling that criminal defamation laws cannot include custodial sentences or sanctions that are disproportionate, such as excessive fines. Human Rights Watch recently declared this ruling a victory for press freedom in Africa. The history of the press – freedom struggle in Africa over recent decades shows that change comes from a mix of factors. Conflict and political changes are often backward steps but can also sometimes be positive opportunities. African civil society is growing gradually stronger, helped by world bodies and pressure groups both on the continent and beyond. International aid and diplomatic pressure for journalists' rights can have influence too.

However, with regards tonews gathering a study byBamigboye (2012), deduced that public interest plays a major role in news reporting and gathering in both *Voice of Nigeria* and*Radio Nigeria.*The study revealed that the public only patronizes a medium which derives certain benefits in terms of information or how rewarding listening to such a station would be. Even though the government sponsors both media agree that undue government interference in news broadcast could affect or reduce listenership. Some of the respondents therefore opine that it is better to ensure that there is balance in all news stories, and that journalists should ensure objectivity in their news broadcasts. They all also agree that what drives a media or ensures that they remain in existence and in business, is how well they incorporate public interest into their news gathering and reporting. From all the responses, it can be deduced that, in the case of *Voice of Nigeria* and *Radio Nigeria*, things happening around government, or the people's reaction to government policies or inaction, largely determine what is of interest to the public

In the Ghanaian case, Acquah, Arthur and Opoku-Mensah (2012) conducted a study on the challenges female journalist face in the field of journalism in some selected radio stations in Kumasi. The study employed the qualitative and quantitative research method using questionnaires and interviews for gathering data. The population for their study entailed all twenty – three (23) commercial radio stations, which through convenient sampling and purposive sampling the study selected sixteen radio stations from the population since their study entailed female journalists in Kumasi radio stations. Some of the findings of the study indicate that, 97.5% of female journalists in radio stations in Kumasi prefer covering soft news, while 2.5% of female journalists preferred covering hard news. The study found that most of the female journalists face major challenges such as discrimination and sexual harassment from influential people in the society when they go on assignment. Furthermore, a few among them revealed that they were sometimes insulted and heckled when trying to strive for news as journalists.

2.1.5 Reported Threats on Journalists

With regards to reported cases of threats on journalists, the National Reconciliation Commission received an anonymous letter on 1 April, 2003 containing death threats against KwekuBaako, editor-in-chiefof the Crusading Guide newspaper, and Baby Ansah, Editor of the Daily Guide.Similarly, an intruder forced his way into the offices of the *Ghana Palaver* newspaper on 23 April, smashed equipment and asked to speak to the editor, Jojo Bruce Quansah. "Tell that man to stop writing rubbish, if he doesn't stop his filth, we will deal with him, we will wipe him out." the intruder threatened,though Quansah was present during the incident, and said he was fortunate the intruder did not recognise him.

Moreover, NiiAdjetey Sowah , the correspondent of *The Independent* in the South East of the Volta region, was threatened with death in a telephone conversation on 25 May, 2003 from Chris Azawuda, a local leader of the ruling New Patriotic Party (NPP), because a published article that accuses Azawuda of embezzlement.

2.1.6 Press freedom in Ghana

Ghana adopted a new law on 11 June requiring both domestic and imported publications to be registered with the National Media Commission (NMC) within 30 days of the first issue's appearance. Refusal or omission was punishable with a fine or up to 12 months in prison.According to the Reporters without Borders Annual Report (2004) echoed the press freedom assessment of 2003 by stating that Ghana seeks to assess the level of freedom journalists' experience. It expounds that Ghana is one of the African countries that has most respect for press freedom. The news media are able to operate freely despite isolated threats and harassment from individuals or local political leaders.

2.2 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

There are various types of communication theories but for the purpose of this research we looked at two communication theories, the Cultural Violence concept and the Hostile Media Effect Theory.

2.2.1 Cultural Violence

Johan Galtung, a Norwegian sociologist, founder of the peace and conflict studies introduced this concept in 1990. The Culture of Violence is defined "as any aspect of a culture that can be used to legitimize violence in its direct or structural form". Cultural violence, hence, are those aspects of the culture, exemplified by religion and ideology, language and art, empirical science and formal science, that makes direct and structural violence look and feel right or not wrong (Galtung, 1990). According to Galtung, the study of cultural violence highlights the way in which the act of direct violence and the fact of structural violence are legitimized and thus rendered acceptable in society. One way cultural violence works is by changing the moral colour of an act from red or wrong to green or right, or at least to yellow or acceptable; an example being ''murder on behalf of the country as right, on behalf of oneself wrong''. Another way is by making reality opaque, so that we do not see the violent act or fact, or at least, not as violent. Obviously this is more easily done with some forms of violence than with others.

Galtung also said the visible effects of direct violence are described as; the killed, the wounded, the displaced, the material change but the invisible effects may even be more vicious: direct violence reinforces structural and cultural violence. Galtung claims that, the cultural and structural aspects of the conflict are invisible; they in fact play the most important role during the prevention and rehabilitation stages of a conflict. The theory states that, it is cultural and structural violence that cause direct violence, using violent actors who revolt against the structures and using the culture to legitimize their use of violence may be the lesser evil, at least in the longer term, than the structural and cultural damage wrought. Violence can start at any corner in the direct-structural-cultural

violence triangle and is easily transmitted to the other corners, with a violent structure, institutionalized and the violent culture internalized, direct violence also tends to become institutionalized, repetitive, ritualistic (Galtung, 1990).

We chose this theory because it explains how people commit violent acts and see no wrong with it. People who commit this hostile treatment have a perception that they are entitled to act in that manner. It also gives some of the examples of such violent treatments as stated in our research.

2.2.2 The Hostile Media Effect

The hostile media effect, according to Reid (2012), is a phenomenon in which Parties on an issue perceive the same content as biased against their side.

History and Orientation

The hostile media phenomenon was first identified by Vallone, Ross and Lepper (1985), who had pro-Arab and pro-Israeli students observe identical news broadcast in which the responsibility of Israeli troops for the *1982* massacre of civilians in Lebanese refugee camps was hotly debated.Vallone and his colleagues found that both groups of partisans thought the taped broadcast was biased in favour of the opposing side. Two cognitive mechanisms were found to underlie the hostile media effect. First, pro-Arab and pro-Israeli students differed in their perceptions or recollections of the program's content. They essentially "saw" a different program slanted against their views.   Secondly, even if parties found the program to be perfectly balanced in its presentation of facts and arguments, they considered such coverage to be inappropriate and unfairly biased toward

the opposition because they believed their side's claims in the controversy were more [valid] than the other sides. This hostile media phenomenon was replicated and refined in similar studies by Perloff (1989) and Giner-Sorolla and Chaiken (1994).

Assumptions

Vallone et al. (1985) proposed that partisans bring to the media a polarized world view that is created, over time, by biased assimilation. Biased assimilation is a phenomenon in which people uncritically accept information that confirms their views, but ignores or discounts contrary information (Lord, Ross, & Lepper, 1979).

Also, when partisans compare their polarized worldview with balanced media reports, the contrast information is perceived as highly discrepant from their position, and the reports are thus perceived as biased. This suggests that the more extreme one's attitude, the more extreme one's judgment of media bias, as is the case *(*Giner-Sorolla & Chaiken, 1994; Schmitt, Gunther, & Liebhart, 2004; Vallone *et al,* 1985).

This theory was used in our study because the perception that certain media coverage is bias to a particular party may give that party the chance to be hostile to such media organisations. It explains why people take delight in assaulting, manhandling and kidnapping journalists in order to prevent them from gathering news. Also, it explains why such acts are done with impunity.

2.3 Summary of Chapter

This chapter reviewed various researches that have been done which are of significance to this study, as well as the theories which served as a guiding principle to place this study in a proper perspective.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

This chapter discusses the research design and procedure that was used for this study. It also provides the description of the population, sampling process, data collection instruments, and data analysis and presentation plan. Issues of ethical concern in this study were also addressed.

3.1 Study design

Burns and Grove (2003) define a research design as a blueprint for conducting a study with maximum control over factors that may interfere with the validity of the findings. Parahoo (1997) also argues that a research design is a plan that describes how, when and where data are to be collected and analysed. According to Opoku-Amankwa (2009), research investigations that are primarily seeking non-numerical forms of data are called qualitative method of research.Qualitative research is characterised by its aims, which relate to understanding some aspect of social life, and its methods, which, in general, generate words, rather than numbers, as data for analysis (Cochran and Patton, 2002). Researchers who use a naturalistic procedure to examine people's feelings and beliefs, viewpoints, opinions, or ways of life, find qualitative data in variety of sources and are interested in appreciating the 'meanings' attached to them. In this study, the qualitative research design was used because it was considered as suitable because of the main purpose or objective of this study, which was to describe and analyse the kind of maltreatment Journalists in Kumasi face and the impact it has on newsgathering. This study adopted the qualitative research design because of its uniqueness in assessing and categorizing research outcomes in much more descriptive and analytic manner.

3.2 Research method

Rajasekar, Philominathan and Chinnathambi (2013) explain that a research method isbasically planned, scientific and value-neutral. It includes theoretical procedures, experimental studies, numerical schemes and statistical approaches amongst few others. Research methods help to gather samples, data and find a solution to a problem. Particularly, scientific research method calls for explanations based on collected facts, measurements and observations. According to Tull and Hawkins (1984), research method offers a specification of procedures for collecting and analyzing the data necessary to help identify a problem or to help solve the problem at hand.

3.3 Study population

A population is the total of all the individuals who have certain characteristics or qualities and are of interest to a researcher. Also, a population is the total number of subjects, people, concepts or phenomena the researcher is interested in studying or researching about. The population of this study consisted of all the radio journalists in Kumasi who have experienced hostile treatments from the public.

3.4 Sampling process

Fridah (2002) defines sampling as the act, process, or technique of selecting a suitable sample, or a representative part of a population for the purpose of determining parameters or characteristics of the whole population. The sample method involves taking a representative selection of the population and using the data collected as research information. A sample is a subgroup of a population (Frey, *et al,* 2000). It has also been described as a representative "taste" of a group (Berinstein, 2003). The sample should be

representative in the sense that each sampled unit will represent the characteristics of a known number of units in the population (Lohr, 1999). In this study, non-probability sampling was used because the study aims to discover certain significant and accessible information for more in-depth analysis of a particular group; that is, the Radio Journalists in Kumasi.

According to Battaglia (2011), non-probability sampling does not attempt to select a random sample from the population of interest rather subjective methods are used to decide which elements are included in the sample.Non probability sampling does not allow a researcher to generalize the outcome of a research to other groups or situations, but it is valuable for studying particular groups of people or phenomenon. The non-probabilistic purposive sampling technique was used in this study to select the five radio journalists who had experienced hostile treatments in Kumasi. Purposive sampling deals with selecting a sample on the basis of a researcher's own knowledge of the population, its elements, and the nature of the research objectives (Babbie, 1990). With purposive sampling, the population is non-randomly selected based on particular characteristics (Frey, *et al.* 2000). The individual characteristics are selected to answer necessary questions about a certain matter or product (MacNealy, 1999). The researcher is then able to select participants based on internal knowledge of said characteristics. This method is useful if a researcher wants to study a small subset of a larger population in which many members of the subset are easily identified but the enumeration of all is nearly impossible (Babbie, 1990).

The reason for the selection of these five Journalists was based on the premise that the five selected Journalists have been in the field of journalism for at least five years. In addition, they have experienced different kinds of hostile treatments and such gave the study the needed information to come out with our findings. The study coincidentally interviewed five males as the study population. The study realized that only the male victims availed themselves for the study and also the interviewee's falls within the specified characteristics.

3.5 Data collection instrument

In the study, data was collected through the use of in-depth interview guide, which enabled the researchers to address the objectives of this study. An in-depth interview is an open-ended, discovery-oriented method that is well suited for describing both program processes and outcomes from the perspective of the target audience or key stakeholder. An in-depth interview is a conversation with an individual conducted by trained staff. The goal of the interview is to deeply explore the respondent's point of view, feelings and perspectives (Matovelle, 2003). According to Boyce and Neale (2006), in-depth interviewing is a qualitative research technique that comprises conducting exhaustive individual interviews with a small number of respondents to explore their perspectives on a particular idea, program or situation. For instance, selected respondents can be asked about their thoughts, opinions, perceptions, experiences and expectations about an issue or event that is of research importance. Data for this study was collected through in-depth interview with five radio journalists who were victims of hostilities. These people were interviewed because they have experiential cues regarding the issue under study, and their experiences could shed light on the study phenomenon. An interview guide was prepared to enable the researchers ask specific questions that address the objectives of the

study. Each interview with the five victims lasted for about 15 minutes. The interviews were conducted in the comfort of the offices of the five victims. We chose the office as the setting because we wanted them to feel comfortable to give us accurate information.

3.6 Data analysis

The data collected was analysed manually. The in-depth interview was recorded by notes taking and with the help of a recorder. The recorded data was subsequently transcribed for analysis. The data collected was then grouped according to the questions asked; issues of similarities and dissimilarities of the questions and answers were compared and emerging themes searched for. The emerging themes were then discussed in relation to the research objectives.

3.7 Ethical consideration

Consent of the five radio journalists were sought through a written letter before collecting data for this study. Personal details of the respondents were not included in the interview to assure anonymity. They were assured of confidentiality that this study would be used strictly for academic purpose. A copy of the findings of this study was given to each of the respondents.

3.8 Summary

This chapter has discussed the research method that was used for this study and how data was collected. It has also outlined how data for this study was analysed as well as how it would be presented. Issues of ethical concern that underpin the study have also been addressed.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA ANALYSIS, FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

4.0 Introduction

This chapter discusses the demographics of the respondents for this study and provides responses from the respondents on specific questions that were asked during the interview. It also focuses on presenting and interpreting findings of the data collected on Radio journalists faced with hostilities in Kumasi. The findings were grouped under the study objectives. The data for this study was collected through interviews.

4.1 Demographics of Respondents

The table below describes the demographics of the interviewees who have been sampled from various selected radio stations. The study interviewed five journalists from five Kumasi Radio Stations, namely, Metro FM, Kessben FM, Love FM, Angel FM and Fox FM. The table below describes the gender of all respondents, the position held and the number of years they have been in the journalism profession

Table 4.1: Demographics of Respondents

News outlets	Position	Number of years	Gender
Kessben FM	News editor	16 years working experience	Male
Angel FM	News editor and reporter	5 years working experience	Male
Fox FM	News producer and reporter	9 years working experience	Male
Luv FM	News reporter	8 years	Male
Metro FM	News editor, online manager, head of interactive media.	10 years working experience	Male

4.2 Subjects' Perception of Media Hostilities

The study evaluated subjects' perception or classification of what constitutes media hostilities. As people who have experienced one form of abuse on the journalistic field before, it was important to ascertain their conception of the constituents of media hostilities. Notable responses from most of the respondents range from any unpleasant situation where media personalities are intimidated, assaulted, and manhandled while conducting journalistic activities; others include actions and behaviour of the group that has negative perspective about the media. As indicated by the respondent from Metro FM;

> Media hostilities is any unpleasant situation where media personalities are intimidated, assaulted, abused, manhandled whiles conducting their journalistic activities to serve the general public.

4.3 Respondents' View on Hostilities against Radio Journalists in Kumasi

Subjects were in addition asked to share their thoughts on hostilities on journalist in Kumasi. In view of their experience in the field of journalism in Kumasi, the study thought it wise to ascertain their views on such hostilities. Most of the responses showed that hostilities occur when there is political influence of program. Others expressed their concern that these hostilities directed at journalists were on the ascendancy. Also they indicated that, the act is rampant and that it should be toned down if not completely stopped, fearing for his life every single day of the working days. They in addition strongly condemned hostilities on journalists, stating that;

> It was irritating in the line of carrying out our civil responsibilities and duties of informing and educating the society and the general public. We are mostly caught in distressing hostile situations are reporters and radio journalists because of our exposure to the public

in the process of carrying out our duties and responsibilities of the journalism profession.

4.4 Hostile Treatments Experienced by Radio Journalists

Furthermore, subjects stated that they faced hostile treatments like death threats, verbal and non-verbal assaults, with other minor incidents of curses, ridicule, seizure of equipment and detention.

4.5 Sources of Hostile Treatments

Again, in ascertaining the sources of hostile treatments meted out against Kumasi radio journalists, subjects attributed their hostile treatments as coming from chiefs, politicians and other influential people in the society. Other subjects attributed it to policemen and security guards.

4.6 Causes of Hostile Treatment against Journalists

The study further examined the causes of hostilities on Kumasi radio journalists from the responses derived from respondents. The major causes of hostilities identified by respondents include, fear of public exposure. Others also attributed the attacks to being objective in reportage and fear of being disgraced by the report. As stated by the respondent from Kessben FM;

> Generally, it is because the other parties do not want such issue or news to be made public. It is usually for the fear of being disgraced or have their image tarnished and as such will go to any extent to make sure such issue remains hidden. There was an instance where we did a news story on the Asante palace and since the palace wasn't happy to hear that in the media, there

were threats to burn Kessben FM and that caused the injury of one of the staff member of Kessben FM. Some of them are also not willing or have the difficulty to admit their fault and as such, would want to stand by their word which is likely to contradict with what is being broadcasted from the angle they stand.

4.7 The Effects of Hostilities on News Gathering

The study, in examining how hostile treatments on journalists affect the discharge of their duties and responsibilities, the respondents revealed that the hostilities they undergo do not deter them from going back into the communities to gather news.Others stated that they are affected in the discharge of their duties and responsibilities. They further attributed it to, issues ranging from restriction of their movement and road block in discharging journalistic duties, to fear of returning to the area where they have been assaulted.

4.8 Ability of Journalists to Obtain Information Regardless of Hostilities

The study identified from the responses of the respondents in trying to ascertain whether they are able to obtain the needed information for their stories that, most of them are unable to gather the necessary information in the process of such hostile treatments. The respondent from LUV FM stated that;

> In a situation whereby there is equipment or gadgets seizure, we are unable to proceed and get all the needed information to serve the public. We cannot report an inaccurate story; therefore, we try to get all the necessary information irrespective of such hostile treatment.

However, the news editor at Angel FM stated that;

I have been in the industry for too long to know when a journalist is
            withholding information or news, if that is the case; I send them
            back to the news field to gather everything before it is presented.
            I always advice my journalist to do what is right, it always pays.

4.9 Ability to Deliver Reports in time in view of Hostilities

Notable responses indicate that, subjects were unable to deliver their reports on time.

Their explanations range from delay of information sometimes by a considerable amount

of time through detention, to inability of assessing information due to such hostile

treatments.Some of the respondents, however, affirmed and explained that they always

update their newsroom with the story; therefore even if they are delayed from reaching

the office as a result of such hostilities, he delivers the story on time through email.

4.10 Effects of Hostilities of Journalists Senses of Judgement and Evaluation

The study analysed the responses of respondents on the effects of hostilities on their

sense of judgments and evaluation. Most of the respondents accepted the fact that it

affects their sense of judgment and evaluation. The respondent from Metro FM indicated

that;

  Hostilities affect my sense of judgment and evaluation because of reasons
           including the temptation of presenting the information with
           emotions. Also, threats, mode and intensity of the hostile
           treatment cause fear in some of us to present the news to favour
           the other party involved or just present part of the news for fear
           of our lives.

However, others indicated that because of their experience and immunity to the hostile

treatments, it did not affect their sense of judgment and evaluation. The reporter from

LUV FM stated that;

> I have a responsibility to provide accurate and credible information to the society, therefore, it will be unethical for me to deny the society with such rights, so I still go to such places to gather news item or information and also apologies were rendered to me by those who have been hostile towards me. Once this done, I decide to let sleeping dogs lie and return to such places for information.

4.11 Reasons given by Respondents to or Not to Report Stories

In seeking information as to whether subjects were tempted not to present stories at all, most of the responses showed that, journalists are not tempted not to report stories that provoked hostilities. They attributed it to the fact that they always present accurately, because the public deserves accurate information and because of news worthiness and relevance of the information to the public.Others indicated that they are sometimes tempted not to report such stories, attributing it the reasons such as '' poor security on the side of their media house, I always tempted to drop issues or stories that turn to make the party involved unhappy''. Another reason was that;

> Some of the media houses do not have a pension scheme that provides a sense of security for our future, we are always going to put our lives first above the job because there is no plan ahead to secure our future when we are injured or provide for our family when are no more.

4.2 DISCUSSIONS OF FINDINGS

4.2.1 Subjects' Perception of Media Hostilities

The study evaluated subjects' perception or classification of what constitutes media hostilities. Notable responses from most of the respondents range from any unpleasant situation where media personalities are intimidated, assaulted, and manhandled while conducting journalistic activities; others include actions and behaviour of the group that

has negative perspective about the media. The definition of media hostilities by most of the respondents is in agreement with the studies' operational definition of media hostilities, as any form of seizure, assault, maltreatment, abuse and harassment meted out against journalists to prevent them from embarking on their duties. This indicates that hostile treatments can be either verbal or non-verbal and that whatever is done to prevent journalists from getting the necessary information is an act of hostilities against journalists.

4.2.2 Respondents' View on Hostilities against Radio Journalists in Kumasi

Subjects were in addition asked to share their thoughts on hostilities on journalist in Kumasi. In view of their experience in the field of journalism in Kumasi, the study thought it wise to ascertain their views on such hostilities. Most of the responses showed that hostilities occur when there is political influence of program. Others expressed their concern that these hostilities directed at journalists were on the ascendancy. Also they indicated that, the act is rampant and that it should be toned down if not completely stopped, fearing for their lives every single day of the working days. The study reviewed as per the responses given, most of the responses clearly stated that hostile treatments occur during the political periods or the hostile treatments are influenced by the politicians and are on the ascendancy. These responses do not fully reflect the 'Reporters without Boarders Annual Report', (2004) which echoed the press freedom assessment of 2003 by stating that; Ghana seeks to assess the level of freedom journalists experience and expounds that, Ghana is one of the African countries that has most respect for press freedom.

4.2.3 Hostile Treatments Experienced by Radio Journalists

Furthermore, subjects stated that they faced hostile treatments like death threats, verbal and non-verbal assaults, with other minor incidents of curses, ridicule, seizure of equipment and detention. The study findings revealed that the hostile treatments are mostly verbal or non-verbal and physical. They include death threats, manhandling, verbal abuse and the like. This supports the findings that, some of the hostile treatments are so serious to the extent of giving death threats. It is also consistent with Myer, (2015) who expounds that journalists in Uganda, Congo and Rwanda also suffer from hostile treatments like, detention, conviction, ban and threats, verbal and non verbal abuse.

Similarly, it supports the Jordanian example, whereby a journalist called Salameh Kaileh was tortured and detained on 24th April, 2012, at Barzah, a Damascus suburb in deplorable conditions before being deported. According to Salamah, he was arrested because of a conversation he had on Facebook with a friend outside Syria about his position on the revolution and his opinion about the Muslim Brotherhood. Furthermore, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists (2014, March), in total, at least 60 journalists were killed globally in 2014 in relation to their work, compared with 70 who died in 2013.

4.2.4 Sources of Hostile Treatments

Again, in ascertaining the sources of hostile treatments meted out against Kumasi radio journalists, subjects attributed their hostile treatments as coming from chiefs, politicians and other influential people in the society. Other subjects attributed it to policemen and

security guards. It was made clear that politicians were the main culprits in subjecting journalists to hostile treatment. This establishes that the very personalities entrusted to protect the rights of journalists and the society at large like the police and security guards are also engaged in subjecting journalists to hostile treatment.

4.2.5 Causes of Hostile Treatment against Journalists

The study further examined the causes of hostilities on Kumasi radio journalists from the responses derived from respondents. The major causes of hostilities identified by respondents include, fear of public exposure. Others also attributed the attacks to being objective in reportage and fear of being disgraced by the report. Data analyzed on the causes of such hostile treatments against journalists revealed that journalists faced hostile treatment because shady characters and corrupt individuals usually of high social status didn't want their inconspicuous activities to be exposed to the public. The researchers realized that hostile treatment aimed at journalists were means the individuals who have authority and a great deal of financial muscle employ to suppress gallant and commendable efforts of journalists to bring to light questionable activities of such individual for the benefit of the general public. In support of these findings, Myer (2015) revealed that some African journalists from Uganda, Rwanda and Angola suffer regular threats and intimidation, sometimes there are verbal attacks against journalists by the security apparatus, especially the police and the intelligent services over stories they deem critical against the state.

4.2.6 The Effects of Hostilities on News Gathering

The study, in examining how hostile treatments on journalists affect the discharge of their duties and responsibilities, the respondents revealed that the hostilities they undergo do not deter them from going back into the communities to gather news. Others stated that they are affected in the discharge of their duties and responsibilities. The ability for a journalist to defy odds and go beyond the hostile treatments to get that story the society will benefit from makes a good journalist. Journalists are therefore advised to carry out the all-important duty of information dissemination and agenda setting, with public interest at the back of their minds, by utilizing the instruments of ethical standards, wisdom and utmost discretion in the course of their duty. Others who indicated that it affects news gathering negatively attributed it to, issues ranging from restriction of their movement and road block in discharging journalistic duties, to fear of returning to the area where they have been assaulted. This underscores the fact that journalists play important role in the democratic process of every society by setting the agenda for public discourse through the information they gather on the field.

4.2.7 Ability of Journalists to Obtain Information Regardless of Hostilities

The study identified from the responses of the respondents in trying to ascertain whether they are able to obtain the needed information for their stories that, most of them are unable to gather the necessary information in the process of such hostile treatments. This indicates that even though journalists are obliged to give the public truthful, accurate information and any information that will benefit the public, they are unable to fulfil this obligations because of hostile treatments meted out against them. This sometimes forces the journalist to resort to arm chair journalism. This claim is further explained by Curtis

(2011), which says any journalist whether covering hard or soft news needs to gather information in preparation for writing just as all writers have to conduct research and gather information before they can start writing. Curtis' proposition reveals the importance of data gathering or newsgathering to the journalists. It is through their methodical research and newsgathering means that they are able to discover relevant and newsworthy information that they disseminate to the public. It is therefore unjustifiable, while in the process of newsgathering; journalists are abused and maltreated for the sake of uncovering and exposing the malice inherent in society.

4.2.8 Ability to Deliver Reports in Time in View of Hostilities

The study identified that, most of the subjects were unable to deliver their reports on time. They explained by stating delay of information sometimes by a considerable amount of time through detention and inability of assessing information due to such hostile treatments. This indicates that, these hostilities deny a news story of one key element. That is timeliness; news stories must be timely in other to serve its purpose. This is so because information that was meant to be disseminated to the public in order to prevent an urgent situation, if delayed through the doings of some selfish individuals in the society can cause problem to the entire society. Other responses, however, affirmed and explained that they always update their newsroom with the story; therefore even if they are delayed from reaching the office as a result of such hostilities, he delivers the story on time through email.

4.2.9 Effects of Hostilities of Journalists Senses of Judgement and Evaluation

The study analysed the responses of respondents on the effects of hostilities on their sense of judgments and evaluation. Most of the responses accepted the fact that it affects

their sense of judgment and evaluation. Journalists are supposed to be objective in their reportage and as such their sense of judgments and evaluation should only be affected on merit but not based on some external influence like hostile treatments. The moment journalists are affected in this manner, it manipulates the news stories and as such news disseminated to the public becomes distorted. This further supports McGonagle (2013) assertion that, an interference with their right to impart information or ideas has obvious societal repercussions, as there is simultaneously an interference with the public's right to receive information or ideas. By the same token, whenever journalists and other media actors, are murdered, tortured, attacked, abducted, detained, threatened, harassed or intimidated on account of the discharge of the their professional activities, it opens up to the violations of individual rights to life, liberty, security of the person.

4.2.10 Reasons Given by Respondents to or Not to Report Stories

In seeking information as to whether subjects were tempted not to present stories at all, most of the responses showed that, journalists are not tempted not to report stories that provoked hostilities. They attributed it to the fact that they always present accurately, because the public deserves accurate information and because of news worthiness and relevance of the information to the public. This falls in line with Bamigboye (2012) which states that Journalism plays a central role in democratic societies by enabling people get access to the information they need, in order to take part in the democratic process and that the public has a kind of hunger or thirst for information, which needs to be assuaged; the media organization that satisfies this need best earns the trust and attention of the people. This trust yields benefits for the medium, as audiences have more confidence investing their resources in it. Others indicated that they are sometimes tempted not to report such stories

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

5.0 Overview

This chapter gives a summary of findings of the study, conclusion and recommendation based on the analysis conducted in the previous chapters.

5.1 Summary

With our three main objectives, which sought out to find firstly, the kind of hostilities Kumasi radio journalists face? Secondly the causes of such hostilities and lastly to find out the effects of such hostilities on news gathering, the study employed the qualitative method of research to aid the study in achieving such objectives. Purposive sampling method was used in sampling respondents for the study.

According to the findings of the study most of the radio journalists in Kumasi experience hostilities like death threats, verbal and non-verbal assaults and other hostile treatments like curses and ridicule, seizure of equipment and detention.Again it was revealed that out of the five journalists interviewed, in most cases journalists were greeted with hostilities by politicians, chiefs and other influential people in the society as well as police men and security guards.

In addition, the major reasons for hostilities on journalists, from the study, are fear of public exposure through their reportage. From the study, it was also revealed that a

greater number of radio journalists are not able to get all their information in the midst of such hostile treatments. However, others are able to get all their information regardless of such hostilities. From this, it can be said that journalism must be practised in a free and fair society where the journalist has freedom and access to information without any inhibition or prejudice.

Also the study revealed thatwhereas some of the journalists are able to deliver their report on time irrespective of the hostilities that they experience on the field, some journalists are unable to report their stories on time. As to whether such hostile treatments affect their senses of judgment and evaluation, the study found that in most cases it does affect their sense of judgments and evaluation. The studies also found out that in most cases journalists were not tempted not to report their stories. However, others are sometimes tempted not to report their stories because of the level of verbal threats they receive from their sources.

5.2 Conclusion

In summation, the study discovered that a substantial number of radio journalists in Kumasi experience hostile treatments like death threats, verbal and non -verbal abuse, but most of them consider these as the hazards of the profession, so some of these attacks and assaults mostly are swept under the carpet. It was also deduced that hostilities on Kumasi radio journalists are caused by the fear of public exposure. The study finally reached the conclusion that, hostilities on Kumasi radio journalists affect news gathering negatively, reporters' level of confidence in going back to communities that they have experienced attacks, and ability to accurately report.

5.3 Recommendations

In view of the study outcome, it is our recommendation is that the society embrace the journalism profession and understand the role journalists play in contributing to the development of the country. Besides, owners of the media firms must provide better conditions of service in terms of security and other incentives that would protect the future of the journalist even when the journalist is on pension.Also, the government should ensure that the right to information bill is passed in parliament to allow journalists have access to public information without going through any hustle.Lastly, future researchers should be encouraged to further look at impunity on hostilities of journalists in Ghana.

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INTERVIEW GUIDE

This interview guide is in two sections. The first sections deals with general assessment of the interviewees in relation to the journalist profession. The second section deals with items that help in eliciting responses that are aimed towards addressing the objectives of the study.

SECTION A

1. Can you tell us a little bit about yourself?

2. For how long have you been practicing as a journalist, and in which media have you plied your profession?

SECTION B

3. How do you define media hostilities?

4. What are your thoughts on hostilities on journalists in Kumasi?

5. What kinds of hostile treatments have you faced?

6. What is your specialty as a journalist?

7. What type of people greeted you with such hostile treatments?

8. What caused such hostile treatments against you?

9. In which way(s) do these hostilities affect the discharge of your duties and responsibilities as a journalist?

10. Are you able to get all your information regardless of such hostile treatment?

10. Were you able to deliver your report on time?

11. Do such hostilities affect your sense of judgment and evaluation of what stories to cover?

12. Were you tempted not to report the story at all? Why?