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JOURNALISM AND PUBLIC ORDER: SERVING DEMOCRACY

Obstacles to fostering freedom of expression include tensions and sometimes confrontational interactions between security forces and journalists. One of the major sources of tension occurs when journalists are trying to access information. For instance, the police can doubt the legitimacy of journalists' sources, whereas journalists often find the information from the police limited or not delivered in time for their deadline. There is a discrepancy between journalists' need for information and the ability of security forces to provide them with the necessary kind of information and authorisation.

Any measures the State takes, which limit freedom of expression, either directly or indirectly, are prima facie interferences with this right. In some cases, it is legitimate for States to prohibit certain acts as inciting others to crime or exposing others' private lives, which are founded on a strict test established in international law. This threepart test indicates that restricting freedom of expression must: be provided by law; pursue a legitimate aim; and be necessary and proportionate.

It is important for security forces to know the international norms on freedom of expression, because it defines the ways in which they must treat journalists and citizens' right to freedom of expression. In effect, security forces may act in ways which limit freedom of expression – for example by refusing to let journalists enter premises where a crime is being investigated – but they may only do so where they act in accordance with a clear law that permits them to do so.

During the UNESCO programmes where security forces and journalists exchange their experiences, they often find their jobs have many aspects in common. They both work long hours, have little time to spend with their partners and families and experience high levels of psychological pressure. They also often work in high-risk situations, where mistakes are at the expense of the public, and both professions are regularly subjected to criticism by the public. These shared working circumstances cultivate empathy and can serve as a foundation for establishing a good working relationship.

To guarantee fundamental freedoms such as freedom of expression and access to information in a society, it is vital to reinforce the capacities of security forces to ensure journalist safety. It is therefore essential that security forces and journalists establish professional relationships, which is conducive to a safe and independent environment for journalists, enabling all citizens to enjoy their right to freedom of expression and access to information.

What is Journalism? UN bodies, including UNESCO, use a broad definition of the term “journalist”. UNESCO uses the term journalists to cover traditional reporters as well as “media workers” and “social media producers who generate a significant amount of public-interest journalism”. The General Comment No. 34 on Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) provides the following definition: “Journalism is a function shared by a wide range of actors, including professional full-time reporters and analysts, as well as bloggers and others who engage in forms of self-publication in print, on the internet or elsewhere, and general State systems of registration or licensing of journalists are incompatible with paragraph 3.” In clear, according to international norms, the status of journalist cannot be restrained only to holders of a professional card. Finally, the UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/70/162 adopted on 17 December 2015 on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity also outlines a broad definition of journalists by acknowledging that: “journalism is continuously evolving to include input from media institutions, private individuals and a range of organizations that seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, online as well as offline, in the exercise of freedom of opinion and expression, in accordance with article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, thereby contributing to the shaping of public debate”.

Role and Activities Journalists and police officers both play an important role in society as protectors of democracy and the rule of law. Although their missions and means of working are different, both overlap in terms of their areas of operation. To achieve their respective goals, they must cooperate and understand each other’s responsibilities and constraints. Journalists provide a link between security forces and citizens, who read, watch or listen to the media. It is therefore important for security forces to be transparent, honest and credible in order to maintain public confidence and their own legitimacy.

Journalists are citizens whose work is to inform society about matters of public interest. In doing so, they exercise their right to freedom of expression and help to guarantee the right of all citizens to be informed. Journalists disseminate information to the public and inform them with relevant information, which directly implies their right to ‘seek’ information. They have to investigate, and to seek and collect information relating to the subjects they are covering. This often involves sensitive affairs, such as corruption, war and conflict. International norms provide protection for journalists and others who provide the public with information of public interest, to refuse to reveal their confidential sources of information.

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CAREERS IN PSYCHOLOGY AND LAW

The field of psychology and law involves the application of scientific and professional aspects of psychology to questions and issues relating to law and the legal system. There are a number of specialties that psychologists may pursue within the larger area of psychology and law. This field encompasses contributions made in a number of different areas research, clinical practice, public policy and teaching/training among them from a variety of orientations within the field of psychology, such as developmental, social, cognitive, and clinical.

While mental health professionals and behavioral scientists have been involved with the legal system in a variety of ways for many years, the decade of the 1970s witnessed the beginning of more formalized interactions. These interactions included the establishment of the first psychology-law program at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, the formation of the American Psychology-Law Society (now Division 41 of the American Psychological Association), the initiation of an interdisciplinary journal (Law and Human Behavior) and a book series (Perspectives in Law & Psychology). Additionally, the American Board of Forensic Psychology was established in 1978 for the credentialing of psychologists specializing in forensic issues. Since that time the field has grown steadily, with an increased number of pre-doctoral and post-doctoral training programs, more journals and books devoted to psychology and law, the development of a specialized set of ethical guidelines for forensic psychologists, a regular conference held every March in addition to the annual summer meeting at the American Psychological Association convention, the involvement of psychologists in filing amicus briefs before the U.S. Supreme Court on issues relevant to psychology and law, and the presentation of a regular workshop series in clinical-forensic psychology by the American Academy of Forensic Psychology.

For psychologists who are primarily researchers, educators, consultants to courts, and policy-makers, licensure or certification is usually not necessary. While such licensure might occasionally enhance the credibility of a psychologist before an individual court, many psychological scientists do not need to obtain licensure