UNIVERSITY OF EDUCATION, WINNEBA

PHYSICAL INSECURITY OF JOURNALISTS AND THE ISSUE OF IMPUNITY IN GHANA: A CASE STUDY OF MULTIMEDIA GROUP LIMITED

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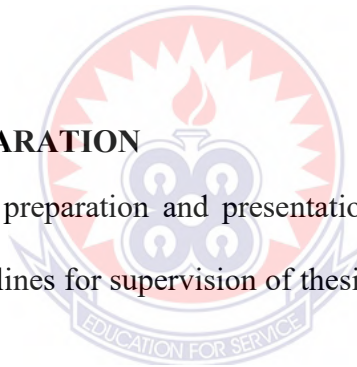**JULY, 2020**

DECLARATION

STUDENT'S DECLARATION

I, Gershon Philip Sowah Doku declare that this thesis, with the exception of quotations and references contained in published works which have all been acknowledged, is entirely my own original work, and has not been submitted, either in part or in whole for another degree elsewhere.

SIGNATURE..

DATE..

SUPERVISOR'S DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the preparation and presentation of this work was supervised in accordance with the guidelines for supervision of thesis as laid down by the University of Education, Winneba.

NAME OF SUPERVISOR: GIFTY APPIAH-ADJEI (PhD)

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DEDICATION

Dedicated to Mrs. Naomi Naadu Doku, Gilbert Nii Anyetei Doku and Ebenezer Nii Ako Doku.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CIA: Central Intelligence Organization

CPJ: Committee to Protect Journalists

FEM: Freedom of Expression Monitor

FHR: Freedom House Report

GIBA*:* Ghana Independent Broadcasters Association

GJA: Ghana Journalists Association

IIMC: India Institute of Mass Communications

KGT: Knowledge Gap Theory

MFWA: Media Foundation for West Africa

NMC: National Media Commission

PTG: Post Traumatic Growth

PTSD: Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

UNESCO: United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation

ABSTRACT

Evidence submits that journalists and other media workers are faced with threats and brutalities due to the nature of their job. The problem is recurring due to the impunity of crimes against journalists. This study seeks to ascertain whether this assertion is true in the Ghanaian context using Multimedia Group Ltd as a case study. The study aimed at investigating the types of acts of physical insecurity journalists at Multimedia often experience, the perpetrators of the acts, support systems available to them when they experience acts of physical insecurity and their perspectives on impunity. Through interviews, data is gathered from five purposively selected journalists from Multimedia and thematically analysed. The study revealed that journalists of the Multimedia Group Limited have been threatened, or physically assaulted and verbally abused and the perpetrators are hardly apprehended. In instances where are apprehended, such perpetrators are hardly prosecuted. Those in the security apparatus, mobs, political and government officials are the main culprits of attacks and threats journalists. It was also revealed that the Multimedia Group Limited provides some support for staff who are attacked It is suggested that journalists should work in pairs and be given security training to access threats and be cautious when working. The study concludes that journalists should be trained in crisis management, assessment and reporting. Finally, journalists should also be given social protection packages from their employers to cushion them when they come under attack.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the study

Journalists across the world have some unique roles to play to enable them bring news and information to the public. They cover and report on issues of public interest to keep the citizenry informed, educated and entertained (Diedong, 2016). Also, they perform their watchdog roles in democracies to ensure that governments are held accountable to the citizenry (Owusu 2012). In the course of playing these unique roles, journalists easily establishes relationship with either the downtrodden, those in the middle class, or those with superior authority. In the performance of their duties, they are either hated or loved. It has been argued that few journalists have gone to bed with some superior authorities, to the extent that they (the journalists) have relaxed the microscopic observation of holding governments accountable to the people (Shardow & Asare, 2016) as demanded by Article 162(5) of the Ghanaian constitution.

In Ghana, chapter 12 of the 1992 Constitution guarantees the independence and freedom of the media, and governments have tried to uphold and protect all those who work in the media (Amegatcher, 1998). For instance, in 2015, the Ghana Independent Broadcasters Association of Ghana (GIBA) challenged the Regulations 2015 (L.I. 2224) of National Media Commission (NMC) because it demanded that media content of broadcast organisations must be approved by NMC before broadcast. GIBA argued that the laws contradicted Article 162 clause 2 of the 1992 Constitution which prohibits censorship.

The Supreme Court agreed with Independent Broadcasters Association of Ghana on the need to strike out regulations 3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12 and 22 of the Regulations 2015 (L.I. 2224) by NMC because they were considered as a form of direct censorship on the part of the Commission. The seven-member panel at the Supreme Court unanimously held that the regulations should be struck out as unconstitutional, null and void because they contradicted Article 162 Clause 2 which provided that there should be no censorship in Ghana (Banaseh, 2015; Hawkson, 2016) and Article 173 which prevent direct control of the commission from directing "the professional functions of a person engaged in the production of newspaper or other means of communication" (p. 86). Also, libel was both criminal and civil offences in Ghana and some Ghanaian journalists were sent to jail for falling foul to the criminal libel law (Anku-Tsede, 2013) but in 2001, the Criminal Libel Law was expunged from the statutes to give more freedom to journalists to operate (Owusu, 2012). However, journalists in Ghana, like their counterparts in other parts of the world, are not safe from attacks and threats (Bisilki & Opoku, 2019).

All across the world, journalists have been the subject of attacks (Jamil, 2017). Even though it has been established that the rule of law and independent media work better in democratic regimes than that of authoritarian ones (Anku-Tsede, 2013), journalists in some advanced and thriving democracies, where the rule of law and freedom and independence of media practice works better are still attacked (Berger, 2017; Relly & Bustamante, 2017; Economic Intelligence Unit, 2019). In the 2019 Freedom House Report, it has been indicated that freedom of the media has been deteriorating over the last decade and in most of the influential democracies, some populists' leaders have overseen

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attempts to throttle down the independence of the media (Freedom House, 2019) and Ghana is not an exception (Media Foundation for West Africa, 2019)

The shooting of a television video crew during a live telecast of a morning show in the United States in 2015 (O'toole, 2015); the killing of George Abanga, a journalist with Success FM in Brong Ahafo Region, Ghana in 2015 (Freedom House, 2017); as well as the killing of Ahmed Suale, an investigative journalist with Tiger Eye PI in Ghana in January 2019 (Committee to Protect Journalists, 2019); and that of Jamal Khashoggi, a critic of the ruling Saudi Royal Family, in the Saudi Arabian consulate in Turkey in October 2018 (Central Intelligence Agency, 2018) are some examples of attacks with impunity. Berger (2017) posits that "media freedom can exist in a country, but journalists may still be routinely killed" (pg. 36) and his assertion aligns with the Ghanaian situation. Ghana is one of the African countries with high press freedom ratings yet Ahmed Suale was killed due to his job as a journalist (MFWA, 2019). He was killed, according to Committee for Protection of Journalists (2019) because his secret identity was exposed on a television network and the audience were incited to attack him (CPJ, 2019). Aside Suale, other journalists in Ghana have also been attacked with impunity.

The International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), the Media Foundation for West Africa, the Ghana Journalists Association (MFWA), and the National Media Commission [NMC] (of Ghana) have all spearheaded the need for journalists to be objective and to be given the free space to operate (Nyarko & Akpojivi, 2017) since physical attacks on them hinder objective coverage and press freedom (UNESCO, 2014). However, some see these as a

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projection of their dirty linen into the public space, therefore, and resort to tactics including verbal and physical attacks to silence the media although Article 162 (4) of the 1992 Constitution posits that journalists should not be punished or harassed for their editorial views or media content.

Physical attack is one of the major challenges confronting journalists in the course of their duties (UNESCO, 2015). Democratic societies need information on issues of interest to make choices but journalists cannot provide coverage on issues of public interest if they are not safe (UNESCO, 2014). Evidence indicate that journalists across the world have become targets of attacks and brutalities in their attempt to search news and information for the public (UNESCO, 2017, Carlsson & Poyhtari, 2017, Woodring & Van Belle 2017). The code of ethics for the Ghana Journalists Association provides guidelines for individuals who are offended by any publication to seek redress (GJA Code of Ethics, 2017). However, many do not follow these guidelines but resort to either physical or verbal abuse to satisfy their anger. Unfortunately, these attacks often go unpunished even though some individual and groups of journalists' safety always condemn these attacks and call for justice for affected journalists. Therefore, a high rate of impunity has characterised the Ghanaian media landscape (Media Foundation of West Africa, 2019). The Media Foundation of West Africa has noted that "lack of accountability for these abuses undermines quality and independent journalism which are keystones for democratic and accountable governance" (Media Foundation for West Africa, 2018, p.8). Also, according to the last quarter edition of the *Free Expression Monitor* by the Media

Foundation of West Africa in 2016, "one of the factors that openly violate media freedom and free expression is impunity" (p.8) and it appears to be getting worse in Ghana (Media Foundation of West Africa, 2019). The report further adds that less than five per cent of all the violations recorded by the organisation since 2014 have been prosecuted even though most of the attacks are carried out by security agencies. For instance, the Media Foundation of West Africa (2016) reported seven media violations (the highest among all the countries being monitored at that period) between July and September 2016 in Ghana. Of these seven violations, only one case was handled to its conclusion. Also, Ahmed Suale, a journalist and also a member of the Tiger Eye P(rivate) I(nvestigations), was killed in January 2019, and a little over a year after his death, the perpetrators of his killing have not been arrested or dealt with (CPJ, 2019).

When journalists are attacked or threatened, the media houses that they belong to, the Media Foundation for West Africa, the Ghana Journalists Association and some civil society groups generally come out to condemn the act and call justice for the victims and prosecution of the perpetrators. The wheels of justice, it is said, grind slowly and it takes a long time for justice to be administered in cases where perpetrators are identified. However, when the perpetrators are not identified or are not persecuted, perpetrators are emboldened to commit more crimes (Braimah, 2014) while the journalists discharge their duties with an aura fear or engage in self-censorship (UNESCO, 2014).

The issue of impunity, when it comes to attacks on journalists, has serious implications for media freedom in democracies. To International Media Support (IMS) (2017), "combating impunity in attacks against journalists remains a major challenge due to lack of political

will, weak institutions overseeing law and order and slow-moving courts" (p.26). The end to impunity against journalists is crucial to the safety of journalists (UNESCO, 2015). In agreement with this assertion, IMS (2017) avows that the impact of protections programmes for journalists as well as safety solutions to journalists' insecurity will be temporal and limited until perpetrators of crimes against journalists are identified and prosecuted.

Elsewhere, groups concerned with journalists' safety have given attention to crimes against journalists and have followed up to ensure that justice is served to journalists who have been victims of attacks. Mention can be made of Freedom Fund for Filipino Journalists (FFFJ) and Alliance of Journalists in Indonesia (AJI) among other media support groups who have successfully used advocacy, legal assistance and independent investigations to end instances of impunity against journalists. Upon the murder of A. A. Narendra Prabangsa, a reporter in Indonesia, the AIJ paid for legal assistance/lawyers to handle the case until all the suspects behind the killing were convicted (IMS, 2017). In Ghana, experience has shown that media support groups have not been forthcoming in the fight against impunity (MFWA, 2019). Often, the Ghana Journalists Association, Media Foundation for West Africa and other actors only come out to openly condemn the crimes against journalists without pursuing such crimes to the end. Like the AJI example, a strong political will and prosecution are needed to prevent impunity from being well entrenched in the Ghanaian media landscape.

Issues of journalists' insecurity and impunity have also been given vast empirical attention, especially in the West. However, they have not received much empirical

attention in Ghana. This study, therefore, seeks to analyse the events surrounding attacks on journalist in Ghana - specifically journalists from the Multimedia Group Ltd - to examine the issue of journalists' insecurity and impunity, and its implications on press freedom and democracy in the country.

1.2 Press Freedom, Physical Insecurity and Impunity against Journalists in Ghana

Ghana is a signatory to different international pacts that guarantee press freedom. It is bound by Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and Article 9 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights because it is a member of United Nations (UN) and African Union (AU). Therefore, the 1992 Constitutions of Ghana provides for freedom of expression and press in Article 21 (1) (a) and Article 162 (a). It also provides for freedom of association in Article 21 (1) (e). To safeguard the rights of journalists as well as the citizenry to security, Article 162 (4) protects editors, publishers and other institutions of mass media from governmental control, harassment or punishment for editorial opinion or media content while Article 162 (6) affords citizens the right to rejoinder when the content of a publication offends them. Aside these, Ghana has other elaborate press freedom provisions at Chapter Twelve of the 1992 Constitution. The Right to Information Law is in existence, media policies of the country also support press freedom and criminal libel law has been repealed. It is expected that these and other provisions relating to press freedom should create a free and safe media environment for journalists to perform their watchdog role without experiencing acts of physical insecurity. Thus, these provisions are expected to create the necessary freedom and

security needed by journalists to carry out their duties and for aggrieved citizens to seek redress through a rejoinder or at the courts.

Unfortunately, instances of attacks on journalists in Ghana abound. Journalists in Ghana suffer from physical attacks (Bisilki & Opoku 2019). For example, a female reporter formerly with *Adom FM,* Afia Pokuaa, was attacked at the District Office of the National Health Insurance Authority at Ablekuma, in Accra on September 2014 in the line of duty. Also, the Media Foundation for West Africa, back in 2015, released a tall list of incidents of attacks and violations against journalists in Ghana (Media Foundation for West Africa, 2015). Besides, during the 2013 independence parade in Accra, a military officer was caught on camera physically attacking a male photo journalist of the New Times Corporation and in the process, destroyed the camera, according to Media foundation for West Africa, 2013 report. (Ghanaweb, in 2018 reported that within 15 months (spanning from January 2017 to March 2018), 17 journalists were attacked in Ghana with some of them from the Multimedia Group. Thus, three out of the17 journalists attacked within the period are journalists from the Multimedia Group. From April 2018 through 2019, other journalists and media workers were subjected to attacks, with some of them from the Multimedia Group Limited (Media Foundation for West Africa 2019).

Another female reporter, Charity Ohemaa Sakyiwaa, of the *Adom FM* was also attacked at the headquarters of the New Patriotic Party, in May, 2018 by Hajia Fati, a known stalwart of the New Patriotic Party. Charity Ohemaa Sakyiwaa had wanted to take a photograph of Hajia Fati when she was fuming with anger at Sammy Crabbe, and preventing him from

collecting nomination forms. Hajia Fati later claimed that she mistook Charity Ohemaa Sakyiwaa for an onion seller because she was not dressed like a journalist.

Moreover, Latif Iddrisu another journalist who is with the Multimedia Group Ltd was brutally assaulted at the National Police Headquarters in March, 2018. Latif Iddrisu was subjected to beatings which left him hospitalized for many weeks when he asked a police officer for the name of a riot control vehicle that has been stationed to prevent supporters of Koku Anyidoho from entering the Criminal Investigations Headquarters. Last but not least, a security detail of former President Mahama also assaulted a journalist, Kwesi Parker-Wilson, at the Pentecost University College in Accra in October, 2018. Kwesi Parker-Wilson who has been with the campaign team of the then aspiring presidential candidate for the NDC, John Dramani Mahama, was negotiating access into an assembly hall where the candidate was having a meeting. He had wanted to ask a couple of questions when the meeting was over but the security detail he was negotiating with assaulted him. Though crimes against Charity Ohemaa Sakyi and Afia Pokua's were redressed, the majority of the attacks have been committed with impunity. For instance, mention can be made of Latif Iddrissu and Kwesi Parker Wilson (both from Multimedia Company Ltd) who were wrongly attacked with impunity.

Increase in attacks against journalists without any redress is an indication of impunity. According to the Media Foundation of West Africa (2016), "one of the factors that openly violate media and free expression right is impunity" (p.8). Impunity against journalists thrives when there is lax in the rule of law and stipulations governing free expression and

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media freedom are not adhered to. In Ghana, there is a weak political will to protect journalists and fight impunity (Media Foundation of West Africa, 2016; 2019). This has negative implications for the sustenance of democracy in Ghana because impunity against journalists undermines free expression and media freedom. This is because it hinders the free flow of information in democracies (UNESCO, 2014). It also endangers the life of journalists because it emboldens not only perpetrators of acts of physical insecurity against journalists to commit more of such crimes but also encourages potential perpetrators of such acts to commit crimes against journalists (Briamah, 2014; Media Foundation for West Africa, 2016; 2018).

It is incongruent for impunity to thrive in democracies because the rule of law (one of the key attributes of democracy) ensures that stipulations in statutes are adhered to. Thus, Article 162 (4) of the 1992 Constitution postulates that the media should not be punished for their editorial content and the citizenry has the right to seek for a rejoinder or a redress at the court in case of defamation. Hence, it is wrong for perpetrators to threaten or undermine the right of Ghanaian journalists to security because of their profession. It is important to note that in the midst of impunity, perpetrators succeed to silence journalists or cause them to practise self-censorship (IMS, 2017). It is for this reason that UNESCO has made countless attempts to address the issue of physical insecurity and impunity against journalists (Briamah, 2014; UNESCO, 2014; 2015).

According to UNESCO, there is also the need for academics in the field of media development and protection of free speech to advice and warn about the nature of the

problem of journalists' insecurity, impunity and possible solutions through research (UNESCO, 2012; 2015).

1.3 Statement of the Problem

The issue of journalists' (in)security is very important, especially in democracies because it is seen as an attack on freedom of expression and/or press freedom - one of the universal rights of every individual (UNESCO, 2014). As a result, UNESCO came out with the United Nations Action Plan on Journalists Security and the Issue of Impunity in 2012 and called on researchers and civil society organizations to carry out inquiries on journalists' safety (UNESCO, 2012; 2015). The UN Action Plan was implemented in 2013 and other actors of journalists' safety have joined UNESCO in the fight against journalists' insecurity and the issue of impunity (UNESCO, 2015).

As a result of attacks on journalists, organizations such as UNESCO, CPJ, Freedom House, Reporters without Borders, the Media Foundation for West Africa have also monitored and given updates on journalists' safety and press freedom locally and across the world. Freedom House and Reporters Without Borders continue to present global reports on the state of press freedom and journalists' insecurity annually. Media Foundation for West Africa has been monitoring violations and violence against journalists in West Africa through its quarterly reports in *Free Expression Monitor* and has been calling for redress or action in some instances. UNESCO has also been collaborating with academic institutions and actors of journalists' safety to organise academic conferences on journalists' safety and the issue of impunity during annual celebrations of

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World Press Freedom Day in May and the End to Impunity against Journalists Day in November. For instance, in May 2018, UNESCO collaborated with the University of Ghana, Legon and other actors to organise an academic conference on journalists' safety as part of World Press Freedom Day celebration.

Besides, in response to the UN's Call for Action, academics in the field of media development and protection of free speech continue to investigate acts of physical insecurity against journalists and the issue of impunity, especially in the Western countries (Tandoc, 2016; Taback& Coupland, 2019; Adams, 2017; Harrison & Pukallus, 2018). For instance, Harrison and Pukallus (2018) studied impunity against journalists in five selected countries in Africa, Europe and Asia. Through semi-structured interviews with 40 selected editors and senior journalists in Bulgaria, Democratic Republic of Congo, India, Mexico and Pakistan, data was collected for the study and thematically analysed. Lack of protection from the government, from media houses and from the police and concomitantly (when several events requiring attention happen at the same time), a feeling of helplessness; continuous direct and indirect threats from government and state-sponsored actors and a feeling of fear; and no legal redress and the feeling of a 'dead-end situation' were some of the themes derived from data. Harrison and Pukallus (2018) concluded that impunity works to achieve self-censorship by the deliberate deprivation of private autonomy brought about by the enforced exile of journalists into a 'space of exception'. The authors added that this situation legitimises the use of violence and intimidation against journalists and had become a persistent feature of governance in

the countries. Harrison and Pukallus's (2018) study proved that the selected nations were running the politics of impunity that allowed only politically compliant journalists to flourish.

In Ghana, research has given some attention to journalists' insecurity as well (Appiah-Adjei, 2020; Braimah, 2014; Diedong, 2017; Media Foundation for West Africa, 2016; 2017; 2018; Nyarko & Akpojivi, 2017; Sackey, Gyekye & Adarquah-Yiadom, 2016). In a paper presented at a UNESCO forum by the United Nations to mark the day of journalists' safety and the issue of impunity in Ghana in 2014, Braimah (2014) examined and highlighted some incidences of press freedom violations in Ghana between 2005 and 2014. Also, Sackey, Gyekye, and Adarquah-Yiadom (2016) identified threats on media personalities who were intimidated, assaulted, abused, manhandled whilst carrying out their journalistic activities to serve the general public in Kumasi. Their study revealed that intimidation, assault, abuse impacted negatively on media workers in the discharge of their functions. Besides, Nyarko and Akpojivi (2017) identified assault and intimidation of journalists in the Greater Accra Region as hindering the free practice of journalism. Diedong (2017) also carried out a single case study of a journalist, who was arrested for taking photographs of a misunderstanding between policemen and some patrons of a night club in Wa. The journalist was attacked and detained in Police custody overnight. Appiah-Adjei (2020) also analysed the contents of newspapers on attacks on Ghanaian journalists to examine how media organisations were countering threats to journalists' safety and media freedom in Ghana through media coverage. The study revealed that the

problem of journalists' insecurity was not given much attention via media coverage and journalists mostly used episodic frames instead of thematic frames in their coverage of the problem. Therefore, the use of the episodic frames in coverage failed to present journalists' insecurity as an issue that needs national attention. This was because threat to journalists happens occasionally at different locations.

Despite all these efforts, there is enough research to suggest that attacks on journalists have increased all over the world (Berger, 2017; Cottle, 2017; Jamil, 2017), even in the developed and democratically advanced countries (Kellam and Stein, 2016; Whitten, Woodring & Van-Belle 2017; UNESCO 2015). A review of the literature shows that studies on journalists' insecurity abound more in other countries than Ghana. It is important to note that the few empirical studies in Ghana have focused on the acts and perpetrators of such attacks and not on available support systems for journalists who may be attacked. Thus, the concentration of research has been on attacks journalists encounter in the course of their duties as well as sources of these attacks. However, there has not been empirical studies on impunity even though Media Foundation for West Africa (2016, p. 8) has noted that impunity is "one of the factors that openly violate media freedom and free expression".

It is equally important to note that UNESCO's assessment of the state of journalists' safety in any country, UNESCO uses the following indicators of journalists' safety: "absence of killing and physical threat, absence of incarceration and arbitrary arrests, absence of impunity in crimes against journalists, exiling to escape repression, absence of harassment

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(both legal and economic) self-censorship in media platforms and the internet" and "destruction or confiscation of equipment and premises" (UNESCO, 2014: 83). This implies that the presence and frequency of these indicators in a country portrays the state of journalists' insecurity. It also implies that the presence of impunity in a country is an indication of insecurity, therefore, there is the need for the issue of impunity to be studied as well. Unfortunately, not much empirical attention has been given to the issue of impunity associated with such attacks and on a particular media house in Ghana. Also, studies into support systems available to journalists when they are attacked are non-existent in Ghana.

However, not much empirical attention has been given to the issue of impunity in associated with such attacks and on a particular media house in Ghana. Also studies on support systems available to journalists when they are attacked are almost non-existent in Ghana. This study, therefore, attempts to fill this gap by using journalists from the Multimedia Group Company Limited as a case study. This study thus, seeks to investigate available support systems and the issue of impunity, the nature of physical insecurities experienced by journalists in the Multimedia Company and to understand why perpetrators of such attacks get away with impunity.

1.3 Research Objectives

The objectives of this study are to:

1a. Identify types of physical insecurity journalists of the Multimedia Group Ltd experience in the course of their duties.

1b. Identify perpetrators of attacks against journalists in the Multimedia Group Ltd.

2. Explore measures by the Multimedia Group Ltd to protect and support journalists of the company against physical insecurity.

3. Examine perspectives of journalists from Multimedia Group Ltd on impunity against of physical insecurity.

1.5 Research Questions
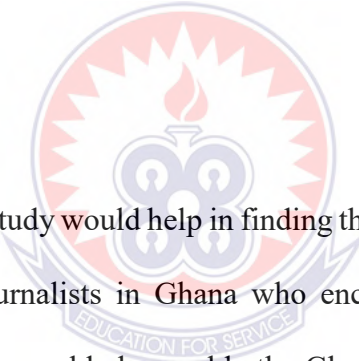
The study was guided by the following research questions:

1a. What are the types of physical insecurity journalists in Multimedia Group Ltd experience in the course of their duties?

1b. Who are the perpetrators of the physical insecurity against journalists at Multimedia Group Ltd?

2. What measures are in place to support and protect journalists in Multimedia Group Ltd against physical insecurity?

3. What are the perspectives of journalists in Multimedia Group Ltd on the issue of impunity against crimes of physical insecurity?

1.6 Significance

The outcome of this study would help in finding out about some of the safety problems journalists in Ghana encounter in the course of their duties as well as the frequency of such problems. This would enable the actors of the journalists' safety to find means of addressing any inherent insecurity issues that affect the journalism practice in Ghana.

Furthermore, the results of this study would help in revealing the sources or perpetrators of attacks on journalists in Ghana. This would enable the government of Ghana and the lawmakers find means of dealing with the sources or perpetrators as a means of ending unwarranted attacks on journalists.

Besides, the results of the study would help in finding the measures that can be put in place to protect and support journalists in Ghana who encounter physical insecurity in the course of their duties. This would also enable the Ghana Journalists Association and the law enforcement agencies to strengthen policies to protect journalists in Ghana. Finally, the results of the study would add to the existing literature on journalists' safety and the issue of impunity in Ghana.

1.7 Scope of the study

Though the study focused on investigating physical insecurity of journalists and the issue of impunity against journalists in Ghana, it was limited to the Greater Accra Region and one media organisation: Multimedia Group Ltd. Also, there are many dimensions to the issue of journalists' insecurity, namely physical, psychological, financial, legal risks, social and emotional, gender-specific and digital risks but this study focusses on physical insecurity. In the context of this study, physical insecurity is operationalised as an act from someone that causes physical harm to a journalist.

1.8 Organisation of the study

The study is organised in five chapters. In the first chapter, the introduction of the study is presented. It includes the background, statement of the problem and objectives of the study. The research questions, significance and organisation of the study are all considered in this chapter. Chapter two presents the review of related literature while chapter three deals with the methodology, the research design, population, data collection, procedure, instruments and analysis. Chapter four consists of presentation, analysis and discussion of findings of the research. Finally, in chapter five, summary, conclusions, recommendations, and suggestions for further research are presented.

1.9 Definition of terms

Impunity*:* The failure to punish people who commit crime, which emboldens others to

commit the same or other crimes

Perpetrator: Anyone with authority or strength, who acts to physically injure another

person (victim), or in a way to put fear in another person.

Physical Insecurity: An act from someone that causes physical and/or psychological

harm to another person

Social Protection Packages Welfare, legal or health care assistance that is activated to

support employees when attacked or injured

Threat*:* Any action, either verbal or physical from one person to another, to put fear
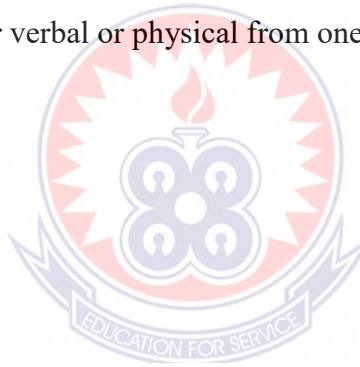
CHAPTER TWO

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2.0 Introduction

This chapter presents a literature review and the conceptual framework for the study. The researcher reviewed relevant materials and publications available on the subject under study. This rationale for the literature review is to ensure that the researcher has a thorough understanding of the topic and is able to identify the trends in journalists' safety literature.

2.1 Empirical Review

This section discusses the research that has been done in journalism and media field of study. The discussions are under these themes: journalists' insecurity; safety and protection of journalists; non-empirical reports and the safety indicators for journalists.

Journalists' Insecurity

Numerous studies have been conducted to examine the problem of journalists' insecurity. For instance, Clark and Grech (2017) in Unwarranted interference, fear and self-censorship among journalists in Council of Europe member states, focused on interference from member states of the Council of Europe member states on journalism practice. Questionnaires were administered to nine hundred and forty (940) journalists from 47 European countries. The responses were analysed quantitatively. The study found that unwarranted interference is experienced to a significant degree among many journalists in

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the Council of Europe member states. Clark and Grech (2017) concluded that despite the unwarranted interference as well as fear of future experiences and subsequent self-censorship, a large number of journalists were resilient and committed to their roles as public watchdogs.

In another study, Arulchelvan (2017) through a quantitative approach used questionnaires to access data on the internal threats and safety of journalists in India. The study focused on their professional work and psychological well-being. The results of the quantitative analysis indicated that (54%) of respondents had encountered threats at least once in their professional lives and 57% of the respondents said that they were at the time of the study (2016) facing threats.

Again, at a UNESCO conference on the safety of journalists in 2016 in Helsinki, De Cock (2016) focused on the impact of attacks on cartoonists. Under the title, Cartoons and press freedom after a newsroom attack: Journalists' professional views and public opinion in Flanders (Belgium), De Cock (2016) focused the explicit beheading of Western journalists by the Islamic State group since August 2014, which was widely circulated on social media and the internet. A multifaceted research design was used to study cartoons in the Flemish Region (Belgium). Data was collected employing an online questionnaire among Flemish respondents (age: 18-83, N = 463 respondents, 41 % men, 59 % women) as well as in-depth interviews with 4 cartoonists of Flemish print news media and 3 editors-in-chief in Belgium (*Flanders* is a quality, a popular and a regional oriented newspaper).

The results of De Cock's (2016) study indicated that cartoons remained important, inspiring and opinion-forming news items but each news brand reflected carefully about publication of cartoons. The cartoonists reported an increased alertness but denied any influence on the content of their work. According to De Cock, a large majority (more than three- quarters) of the public agrees with the statement that there is a limit to making fun of situations and people and a quarter believes the newsroom of Charlie Hebdo took too many risks. The risks taken might be the underlining lead to the attacks. Some journalists also work as cartoonists, and they use fine cartoons or caricatures to add humour to stories.

Nygren, Glowacki, Hok, Kiriailya, Orlova and Taradai (2016) in their study on, Journalism in the crossfire: Media coverage of the war in Ukraine in 2014, focused on the struggle between professional journalists and political and military control of information. By using a content analysis in a comparative study of mainstream media coverage in Ukraine, Russia, Poland and Sweden, Nygren et al (2014) interviewed journalists in the media industry and the findings indicated significant variation in framing of conflict, the portrayal of actors involved, and word choice across national settings. There were also differences in approaches and perceptions. The results brought to the fore some journalistic cultures in each of the four countries which include self-censorship, degree of activist approach among journalists which played great roles in war reporting. The study concluded that coverage of the war in mainstream media correlates strongly with the political-historical context in each country.

Taback and Coupland (2019) also used the mixed-method approach for a global study of journalists' insecurity. The study argued that journalists have become a vulnerable group

in conflict areas because of their profession and that increases their risks of attacks and has wider implications for human security. Therefore, their study focused on attacks journalists encounter as the media report armed violence. The findings of the study revealed that 182 (36%) journalists were attacked by civilians; 153 (30%) were by the Police and 80 (16%) were by armed groups, 45 (95) by the military and 10% of the reports were not responded to.

In fair reporting, journalists must report from both sides in conflict situations. However, some combatants are apprehensive of journalists if the reports are not in their favour. It is the view of this researcher that this should be done along with the best journalistic principles to prevent anger and attacks. Again, Europe, to a large extent, is considered as a continent with the highest forms of democracy, and freedom of the press/media is guaranteed by good enforceable laws (Taback and Coupland 2019). However, when there is interference in the work of the media, journalists are apprehensive of self-censorship and this is an indication of threat to journalism.

Moreover, Anderson (2017) conducted a study entitled Risk and resilience among journalists covering potentially traumatic events, focused on photojournalist in Australia. The study specifically focused on the dangers experienced by Australian news photographers on domestic and international assignment. Anderson used oral history and interviews of 60 photo-journalists to collect data for analysis and found that photo-journalists face psychological trauma after their assignments despite trauma counselling that they go through. Thus, some photo-journalists are victims of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). It was the concluding view of Anderson (2017) that press photographers

continue to work in highly dangerous and precarious vocation, both inside and outside Australia. PTSD requires a period of counselling depending on the level of the trauma. It is the view of this researcher that if PTSD is not treated or managed well, it can have a lasting effect on the victims.

Feinsten and Pavisian (2017) in Psychological wellbeing of Iranian journalists, sought to determine the emotional well-being of journalists working in the Islamic Republic of Iran. They had 114 journalists who responded to their questionnaires, which was analysed quantitatively. The results indicated that fear of arrest, torture, assault, intimidation and family threats were some of the psychological stress Iranian journalists had to contend with in their practice. Some journalists had also stopped working on certain stories because of fear of intimidation, while post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) affected some journalists after witnessing some cruel events or being told of what their colleagues had gone through. Feinsten and Pavisian (2017) concluded that Iranian journalists were confronted with an extraordinary degree of danger. This resulted in journalists administering self-medication to reduce emotional distress with barbiturates (a kind of depressant or sedative drug used to relax the body and induce sleep), which is an additional cause for concern.

Also, Collinson, Wilson, and Thomson (2014) in Violent deaths of media workers associated with conflict in Iraq, 2003-2012 focused their study not only on the violent deaths of journalists but all media workers that were associated with the war in Iraq within ten years. Collinson et al (2014) indicate that such deaths can be a particular concern as they may undermine the development and functioning of an open and democratic society.

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For their methodology, data was systematically collated from five international databases, namely: Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), Reporters without Borders (RSF-Reporters Sans Frontieres), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), the International News Safety Institute (INSI) and the International Press Institute (IPI). Data analyses were carried out to establish the time trends, weapons involved, the nationality of the deceased, outcome for perpetrators and location of death. Results of the study indicated that there were 199 violent deaths of media workers in Iraq and most of them (85%) were Iraqi nationals. Some were killed whilst on assignment on the field (39%) and 28% involved a preceding threat. Common perpetrators of the violence were: political groups (45%), and coalition forces (9%) and unknown perpetrators (29%). Sadly, none of the perpetrators had been prosecuted as of April 2014, the time of the study. Collinson, Wilson, and Thomson (2014) concluded that there was a high number of violent deaths of media workers in Iraq during the war, in addition to the high levels of impunity for perpetrators. This situation suggests a need for urgent preventative measures to protect the safety of media workers (for example by having an effective policing and legal system). Collecting data on media workers could also potentially be a sentinel surveillance system that contributes to a broader surveillance system of societal violence in conflict zones.

In addition, Jamil (2017) conducted a study that focused on the different types of threats that affected the work of journalists in Pakistan. The study used qualitative method survey to collect data from 75 respondents, and the responses were analysed thematically using 9 safety risk factors which were physical risks; psychological risks; financial risks; legal

risks; social and emotional risks; gender-specific risks; digital risks; topic-specific risks; and public risks. In each risk category, journalists had been surveyed about safety threats posed by sources including government, military, local intelligence agencies, political parties, religious or militant organizations, criminals, pressure groups, public and their media organizations. The survey findings revealed that investigative journalists were attacked in most instances, and it was always difficult to directly accuse any particular group or institution in Pakistan. The responses also suggested that journalists experience physical, psychological, financial, emotional, and topic risks most while at work despite the right to freedom of expression. The study concluded that diverse threats to journalists' safety in Pakistan were real. Feedback from the journalists surveyed revealed that journalism is a dangerous profession in the country owing to the physical, psychological, financial, social, emotional and topic-specific risks they face - risks that constrained journalists' right to freedom of expression and affected them most while they were doing their jobs.

Murthy (2018), in a study at India, sought to identify groups that perpetrated violence and death on journalists using data collected within a three month period (September to November 2017). Murthy (2018) posited that journalism training schools should teach their students security and safety techniques, which was absent at the time of the study. The study found that perpetrators of crimes against journalists were militant bodies, Police and military and mysterious or unidentified persons. Murthy (2018) did his research under the topic Safety and security of journalists: Yet awaiting intervention from Indian academy and industry. The focus is an overview of the growing concern about the

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escalating violence against journalists in India. Data was collected from several news reports on violent attacks and deaths of journalists in India. Murthy's (2018) study was inspired by the 2016 press freedom report by Freedom House (2016) to determine the varied ways in which students of journalism could be taught about safety and security techniques. Murthy's (2018) highlighted several dimensions involved in evolving pedagogy for the 'safety and security of journalists' from sociological perspectives. The data was analysed qualitatively and the findings showed the delay to prosecute or no prosecution of those accused of crime against media workers. This earned India 0.08 points and placed it, for the 8th consecutive time, among countries that failed to lift impunity against journalists on the global index.

In another study by Krovel (2017) entitled Violence against indigenous journalists in Columbia and Latin America, semi-structured interview and focus group discussions were employed to gather data on types of attacks on journalists in Columbia and Latin America. The study revealed that indigenous journalists continue to be vulnerable to different kinds of threats and violence, however, the international community had so far paid little or no attention to the safety of indigenous journalists.

In furtherance, sports journalism is another area that has been of interest to researchers in the area of journalists' insecurity. For instance, Sparre (2017) conducted a study on the dangers of sports journalism. The study explored 78 reports of violations of media freedom and the personal safety of sports journalists. He posited that being banned from attending press conferences, seizure of passports or other documents, denial of

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accreditation, verbal abuse, assault, personal and social media harassment, detention, legal pressure and death or threats of death to sports journalists were some of the hazards encountered by sports journalists. Again, Sparre (2017) identified fans, sportsmen/women, coaches, owners and officials of clubs, national and international associations as well as authorities in authoritarian regimes hosting sports and mega sports events as the perpetrators of attacks and intimidations of journalists. The study concluded that sports journalists were subjected to threats against media freedom and personal safety by perpetrators who belonged to a fairly wide range of stakeholders in sports

In a comparative case study within the European Union (EU) project, Media, conflict and democratization, (MeCoDem), Lohner and Banjac (2017) researched on the safety challenges of journalists in reporting on democratization conflicts and their impact on journalistic work. This comparative case study explored journalistic work practices, ethics, roles, and working conditions across a set of democratization conflicts through interviews, with journalists from Kenya, Egypt, Serbia and South Africa. In their findings, Lohner and Banjac (2017) stated that journalists experienced safety threats at personal and organizational levels ranging from insults, intimidation, phone tapping, physical attacks, legal proceedings and imprisonments. They added that journalists also suffered from psychological trauma from witnessing violence. The study concluded that the impact of threat varies from country to country. Lohner and Banjac (2017) suggested adequate training, organisational support, capacity building, making assignments to conflict zones voluntary and reserved for the experienced journalists as well as providing adequate safety equipment and enhancing agreed safety policies in the media organizations. Lohner and

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Banjac (2017) also called for financial compensation and protection of journalists across the world.

Adams (2017), also studied the issue of insecurity of journalists from the feminine dimension. This is because she is of the view that sexist abuse is normal in journalism, as the practice is male-dominated. She used a survey to examine the experiences of women journalists by focusing on the extent of abuse or harm caused to women in the discharge of their duties as journalists. From the analysis of the 102 questionnaires administered, Adams (2017) concluded that the abuse of journalists was damaging their lives and impacting negatively on journalism and society. Adams (2017) concluded that women journalists had become targets of verbal attacks, and some considered it to be normal. She further added that this could have a lasting psychological effect on their overall performance.

In Africa, Grotis (2018) used local and international Non-Governmental Organizations, journalists and organisers of press conferences as participants in a study titled Conflict zones and non physical risks to journalism practice: Notes from Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo. The focus of the study was on journalism and reporting from Goma, a city in the conflict zone in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Grotis (2018) used semi-structured interviews, explorative and auto-ethnography as methods of data collection. Grotis (2018) used Bourdieu's 1992 concept of Doxa, a Greek word meaning common belief or popular opinion as the theoretical framework for the study. Used by the Greek rhetoricians as a tool for the formation of argument by using common opinions, the *doxa* was often manipulated by sophists to persuade the people, leading to Plato's condemnation

of Athenian democracy. Goma, as a city, has peaceful and conflict areas and aid workers, who were assisting with the Ebola outbreak, became the link between journalists and scenes for reporting. Aid workers became the sources for journalists for publicity. The study revealed that international correspondents stepped into spaces of aid and peaceful lands to be protected from the physical and emotional risks of conflict zones. However, when the correspondents were within a conflict area and were protected in bunkers and international hotels, different risk also emerges. While these journalists are under protection, they miss events worth reporting which included the everyday life the people. There was also the risk of losing an emphatic effect of the average everyday descriptions, which could be described as non-physical risks inherent in reporting from conflict zones.

Obijiofor (2016), in his study, *African journalists as an endangered breed,* focused on the problem of physical insecurity of journalists in 13 selected African countries. The countries included those with perceived dictatorial governments and not media-friendly, such as Zimbabwe, Angola, Mozambique, Togo, Kenya, Zaire, and Nigeria among others. He investigated hostility by government officials, lack of funds, poor remuneration for journalists, harsh press laws that obstruct investigative journalism and intolerance of criticism on the part of military and political leaders. Thus, he examined these as part of the underlining factors that moves some people to attack journalists. Obijiofor (2016) argues that despite these challenges journalists have to face in their daily lives; they still have a great obligation to society, to report accurately and fairly. Findings revealed that some of the African politicians were media friendly while in opposition but became unfriendly and promulgated laws that caged the media as soon as they were in power. Some governments

also control the media and gave little or no opportunity to the opposition, and journalists who did not agree with the government on this were targeted for attacks, killings or detention. Obijiofor (2016) concludes by saying that conceptualization of truth, fairness or balance in the news reports are always open to interpretation, especially definition provided by censors who have limited or no knowledge of the standards or value that sustain professional journalism practice. From the study of Obijiorfor (2016), it can be said that almost all the factors that can be linked to the attacks on journalists in Africa are covered in the study.

In Nigeria, Pate and Idris (2017) conducted a study that focused on risks and challenges that journalists and other media workers faced when reporting on Boko Haram's activities, and the safety options journalists had adopted to maintain professional correctness, especially, when reporting from hostile areas. The authors interviewed 9 journalists (5 from the electronic media and 4 from the print media) and analysed the data qualitatively. They found that Boko Haram targeted journalists for not reporting favourably about them. However, in other to have an international outlook, voice notes were sent to the Voice of America (VoA), Deutsche Welle (DW) the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) and Radio France International (RFI) by the group to claim responsibility for attacks or to express their militant or religious opinions. Additionally, Boko Haram used pamphlets, letters and booklets to send advance warnings to their intended targets. Pate and Idris (2017) concluded that Nigerian journalists should be professional in their work and must be encouraged to abide by the professional code of ethics as a safeguard against reprisal and excuses for assault from aggrieved sources.

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In another study, the knowledge gap theory was used by Suraj and Olaleye (2017) in Digital safety among Nigerian journalists to focus on the examination of digital safety among Nigerian journalists through knowledge, attitudes and practice. The study employed a survey method. Twenty active newspaper outlets out of the entire 28 print media houses in Nigeria were randomly sampled using simple random techniques. All 20 active media houses were numbered and listed alphabetically and those with odd numbers were selected, hence, 10 media organizations were selected for the study. For each of the sampled media house, 20 journalists were carefully selected through the assistance of Chief Editors thereby, resulting in a sample size of 200 respondents for the study. The analysis was done using SPSS.

Suraj and Olaleye (2017) found out that most Nigerian journalists were aware of digital threats and had a fair knowledge of digital safety strategies, however, few journalists were aware of advanced digital threats and fair knowledge of digital safety strategies. Nigerian journalists appeared vulnerable to digital risks because most did not encrypt sensitive data, hardly disabled cookies and were careless with passwords. The study concluded that Nigerian journalists did not possess adequate knowledge and digital safety skills required to operate in today's digital environment. The conclusion from this study is the world is advancing very fast technologically and if journalists fail to move with it, or catch up with it, then bridging technological gap in the future will be difficult.

However, Unaegbu (2017) focused his study on gender dynamics in media safety in Nigeria in his study titled Safety concerns in the Nigerian media*: What gender dynamics.* He used interviews as a data collection method. The study established gender-based

discrimination, sexual and violent harassment, abuse at work and outside the work environment, murder and unwarranted arrest and intimidation as some of the challenges faced by female journalists. Nonetheless, sexual harassment as a safety challenge was hardly reported or trivialised. It was also noted that victims were shy to report such events. Unaegbu (2017) concluded that Nigerian journalists were highly endangered and had safety concerns. This was because the conviction rate for perpetrators of gender crimes against journalists was low.

Within the Ghanaian context Nyarko and Akpojivi (2017) in their study, Intimidation, assault, and violence against media practitioners in Ghana: Considering provocation, used the inductive approach for qualitative data analysis to study the spate of assault and intimidation against media practitioners since such acts hinder the independence, growth, and development of the media in Ghana. The study employed interviews as a data collection method and found that attacks on the media were traced to three major sources, namely, security agencies, communities/individual citizens, and supporters of political parties. The study concluded that despite the intermittent incidences of assault of media practitioners in Ghana, the society frowns on these acts to the extent that it receives massive public condemnation whenever they occur and occasionally, police authorities and individuals apologize. The study by Nyarko and Akpojivi (2017) appears to be one of the few studies that have investigated assault and intimidation of media personnel and journalists in Ghana. Though not a seminal study, it can be used as the benchmark for other studies on attacks of media workers in Ghana.

Besides, Sackey, Gyekye, and Adarquah-Yiadom (2016), studied the hostilities on radio journalists and how hostile situations impact on newsgathering, especially in Kumasi in particular, and the Ashanti Region as a whole. The method for data collection was an in-depth interview. The study adopted the qualitative approach using phenomenology as the research design. Data was collected by using an in-depth interview which helped in obtaining rich and accurate data from subjects. Sackey et al (2016) used the cultural violence concept and hostile media effect theory by Reid (2012). The researchers chose the concept because it explains how people commit violent acts and see no wrong with it and the theory because of 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. The researchers used a sample size of five journalists and the data analysis was thematic. Findings of the study suggested that majority of radio journalists in Kumasi experienced hostilities like death threats, verbal and non-verbal assaults and few of the journalists experience hostile treatments like curses and ridicule, seizure of equipment and detention. The study also found out that the majority of the journalists experienced these hostilities from politicians, chiefs and other influential people in the society, as well as police officers and security guards. Besides, the majority of the respondent attributed their treatments to fear of public exposure and objective in their reportage. It was also established that these hostilities on Kumasi radio journalists were caused by the fear of public exposure. The study indicated that hostilities on Kumasi radio journalists negatively affected newsgathering, reporters' level of confidence in going back to communities that they have experienced attacks, and ability to accurately report. In

conclusion, Sackey et al (2016) note that a good number of radio journalists in Kumasi experience hostile treatments but most of them consider these as the hazards of the profession, therefore, some of these reports of attacks and assaults are not reported to authorities.

There is an indication, from the review of literature on journalists' insecurity, that numerous studies on journalists' insecurity abound in the West. However, in Africa in general and Ghana in particular, not much has been done in this regard. Also, most of the studies did not investigate the impunity aspect to this problem. This justifies the significance of this study and adds to the literature on journalists' insecurity in Ghana.

Safety and Protection of Journalists

With regards to the protection of journalists, several scholars have come up with how media organisations and journalists are protecting themselves from insecurities. For example, Jenkins and Tandoc (2017) in a qualitative study used textual analysis to sample 35 articles that were published within January 2015 (the month of the attack on journalists who work at *Charlie Hebdo,* a French newspaper, in Paris). The authors sought to consider journalistic norms and boundaries underlying news organisations' decisions to publish or not to publish information and how such decisions had shaped the journalistic profession. In their findings, they discovered that four main discourses characterised how American news organizations explained their decision to either republish or not republish the controversial *Charlie Hebdo* cartoons. The four discourses were avoiding offence, informing the public, prioritizing safety and expressing solidarity. These discourses ranged from global justifications focusing on journalism's responsibility to the audience

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(particularly avoiding offence and informing the public) to internal rationales focusing on the journalistic community, particularly expressing solidarity with the *Charlie Hebdo* editors and reporters, on one hand, and protecting the safety of their journalists, on the other.

In How unsafe contexts and overlapping risks influence journalism practice: Evidence from a survey of Mexican journalists, Hughes and Marquez-Ramirez (2017) used risks journalists faced after the president declared war on drugs in 2006 as the focus of their study. Three hundred and seventy-seven (377) journalists in 136 media outlets were randomly selected for a quantitative study. They found that 57% of journalists in Mexico engaged in self-censorship while 50% hide information and news leads from their newsroom colleagues. Hughes and Marquez-Ramirez (2017) concluded that journalists use risk reduction practices to remove sensitive topics from the public sphere. Additionally, some journalists publish outside Mexico especially on social media, or publish anonymously or by the use of pen names to escape the risk of attack.

Again, Villareal (2017) in his study, The protection of citizen journalists during armed conflicts: A legal approach, collected data from documents, legal journals, and journalists from media organizations for analysis. The study found out that about 90% of journalists/citizen journalists killed or brutalized were locals or natives of the country or community of the conflict. In his legal opinion, the protection of citizen journalists depends on the application of different legal regimes. Villareal (2017) suggested that the International Human Rights Law (IHRL) and the International Humanitarian Law (IHL)

together with local laws must protect citizen journalists. Villareal concluded with legal arguments supporting the simultaneous application of IHL and IHRL and the protection mechanism available for legal protection of citizen journalists. It can be said from this review that citizen journalists are untrained in journalism or media work and are eyewitnesses to events or they use their mobile and electronic devices to capture useful events and scenes that generally escape the traditional media. However, those engaged in armed conflicts make no distinction between a trained journalist and a citizen journalist. Citizen journalists have proved useful to traditional media and must be protected.

Furthermore, Ataman and Coban (2017) studied ways citizen journalists developed safety tactics against repressive strategies of a neoliberal authoritarian government. With semi-structured interviews, participant observation for three years, Ataman and Coban collected qualitative data for analysis, with the use of alternative new media and alternative journalism theories (Downing 2001, Rodriguez, 2001, Langman, 2005 and Atton and Hamilton 2008). The study found that citizen journalists in turkey employed the following safety tactics; they carried out a risk assessment before going on an assignment; they wore personal protective equipment against attacks, and showed solidarity to targeted journalists. Ataman and Coban (2017) concluded that activist citizen journalists in Turkey had developed safety tactics in an environment of pressure and violence.

From a study by Hoiby and Ottosen (2017), it was pointed out that although the legal protection of journalists at work in conflict zones was adequate in theory owing to UN declarations, in reality, it is not respected. This is because participants of the study had experienced threats to their safety when reporting on conflicts, and to a greater extent with

the period of the study (2012 through 2017). Thus, rules hardly apply in conflicts when tempers have flared up and combatants are seeking revenge or retaliation, and fair reporting do not always satisfy all sides. Thus, journalists become the target of assault, threat or brutality, and this research has proven that.

Within the Ghanaian context, Appiah-Adjei (2020) explored how media organisations and journalists in the country could protect themselves from insecurities through media coverage. Hinging her study on agenda-setting and framing effects of the media, she investigated how the Ghanaian media were raising the profile of physical vulnerability of journalists in their coverage to counter the problem of journalists' insecurity and threats to media freedom in the country. Through thematic analysis of 66 news stories from *Daily Graphic* and *Ghanaian Times* and 5 interviews (with journalists who had been victims of attacks, editors and a senior official from NMC), findings revealed that the newspapers failed to give prominence to physical insecurity of journalists because only 30.60% of total editions gave attention to the issue. Also, the media were unable to present journalist insecurity as an issue that needs national attention because only 10.6% of the news stories used thematic frames. It was discovered that the media gave episodic coverage on attacks on journalists and quickly moved on to the next big story even when no action had been taken against perpetrators of attacks against journalists. Appiah-Adjei (2020) concludes that such coverage from the newspapers "undermines media freedom as it allows journalist insecurity to thrive, hence, failure to advocate journalist safety" (p. 206). She, therefore, suggested that the newspapers must use thematic frames "in their coverage to present the bigger problem of journalists' insecurity to news' consumers because it would make news

consumers appreciate the need to tackle the problem as a national issue than an individual matter" (p. 206).

From the above review of literature, it can be argued that there is a dearth of studies on the protection of media organisations and journalists from attacks as compared to studies on journalists' insecurity. This outlines the gap in literature and supports the thrust of this study.

2.2 Non empirical justification

Other documents, though non empirical studies and available to this researcher, justify a study on attacks, intimidation and assault on journalists in this research. Three of these have been selected for presentation.

Firstly, investigations by Todayonline.com (2014) indicated that a total of one hundred and five (105) media practitioners (journalists) were subjected to severe physical assault in Ghana between January 2012 and July 2014 with about eight-five (85) out of the number sustaining various degrees of injuries. The investigations presented the three Northern Regions of Ghana with the highest number of assault cases on journalists with a total number of 46 followed by Ashanti region 34; Greater Accra region10, Volta region 8, Western region 4 and Central region recording 3. The investigations described the unwarranted assaults on journalists as always orchestrated mostly by traditional rulers, politicians, security apparatus, religious groups, celebrities among others.

Secondly, in 2015, graphiconline.com reported that King George Abanga,a 40-year-old reporter of *Success FM* (a radio station at Goaso in the Brong Ahafo Region), had been shot dead by unknown assailants. The reporter, who also worked for *Peace FM* in Accra,

was returning from Sankore to Goaso at about 5 p.m. on Thursday, September 10, 2015, on a motorbike when he was shot and killed by the assailants. According to the graphiconline.com, the motive of his assailants was yet to be established but it was believed to be connected with his stories on the grievances of some cocoa farmers over stolen fertilisers in the area (Graphiconline.com 2015).

Then on 28th August 2018, the Ghana News Agency (GNA) reported on the alleged orders of Hassan Ayariga (leader of the All Peoples Party), Jerry Azanduna, a Senior Reporter of the GNA was brutalized in the house of the politician in Bawku in the Upper East Region of Ghana. This was after Azanduna was lured to believe that Hassan Ayariga was going to address the press and he must cover it. However, the incident was to teach Azanduna a lesson over a news item Hassan Ayariga found to be unfavourable (GNA, 2018).

Many other journalists from across the regions in Ghana have been verbally abused, physically attacked or threatened, prosecuted for practising their profession which includes an expression of their opinions and holding governments accountable to their citizens through responsible media ethics. Therefore, there is a need for researchers to give empirical attention to the problem of journalists' insecurity in Ghana.

2.3 Conceptual framework

For this study, a conceptual framework was formulated after literatures on assaults on journalists were reviewed to guide and show how and why impunity occurs. A conceptual framework refers to the specific ideas that underpin a study. Swaen (2019) posits that a conceptual framework is used to illustrate what a researcher expects to find through a research study, including how variables the researcher considers might relate to each

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other. Additionally, Latham (2019) cites Miles and Huberman (1994) to elucidate that a conceptual framework explains, either graphically or in narrative form the main things to be studied, which are the key factors, constructs or variables, and the presumed relationship among them. This study utilized the conceptual framework developed from literature reviewed and designed by the researcher to support the investigation into physical insecurity and the issue of impunity of journalists in Ghana using journalists of the Multimedia Group Ltd as a case study. The conceptual framework is explained below under (i) Democracy, (ii) Rule of law (iii) Media/Press freedom (iv) Attack on free press and (v) Impunity

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK
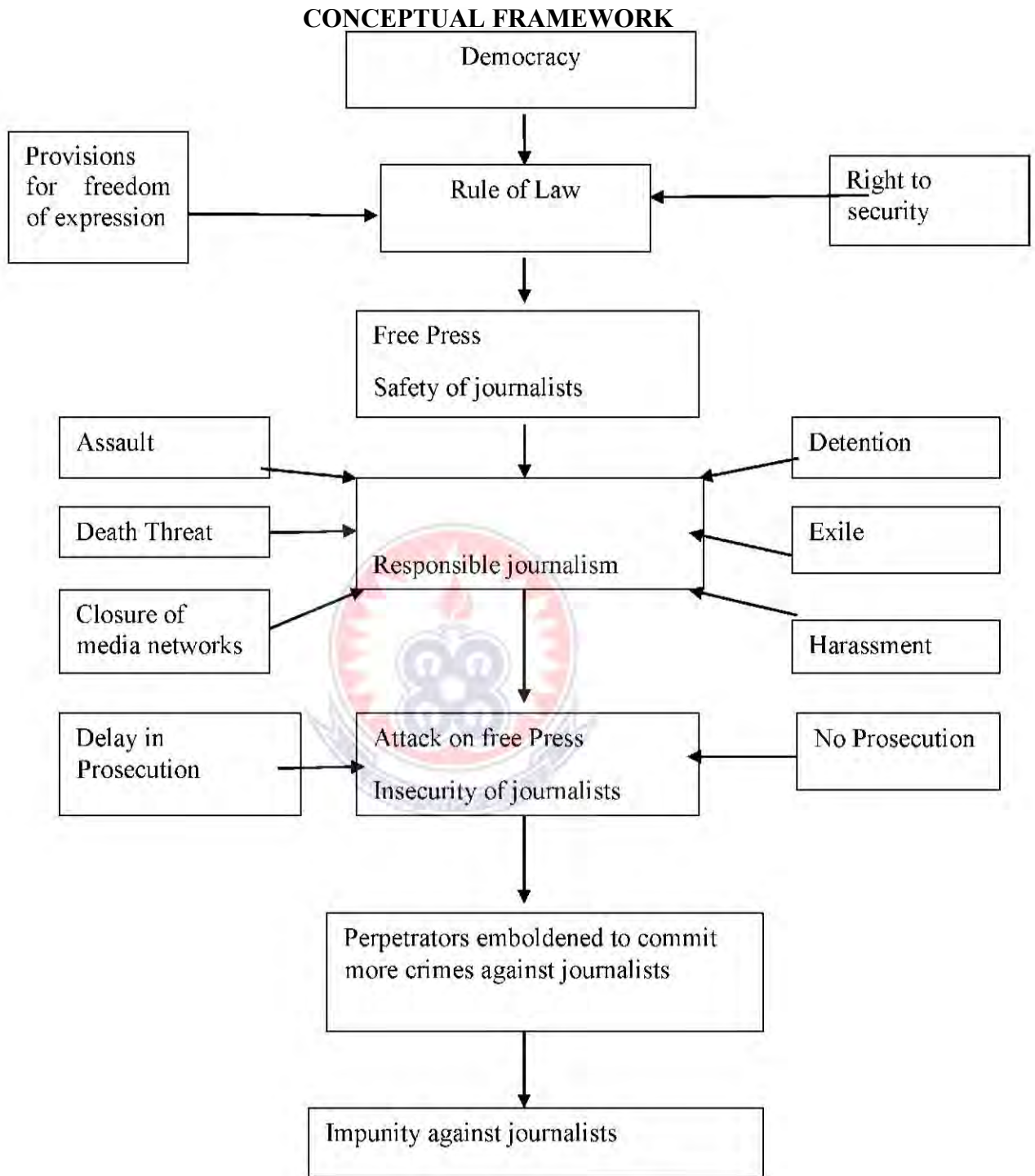
Source: Author (2019)

Democracy

The word 'democracy' comes from the Greek word 'demos', which means people and 'kratos' which means power, so democracy can be defined as "power of the people", or a way of governing that depends on the will of the majority of the people (COE, 2017). For a country to be described as democratic, it must have a government that respects human rights and everyone should be equal before the law. For instance, fundamental human rights like the right to free expression must be guaranteed in democratic states. Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression, which includes the freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of the frontiers or barriers. This underpins the key role that media play in sustaining a thriving democracy like Ghana.

Journalists are at the forefront to seek, receive and to impart information to people through mass communication. And in doing so, impediments must not be put in their way. This can only be guaranteed if democratic institutions are working and others do not interfere with the work of journalists. Freedom of the media has been accepted as an instrument for promoting democracy because it is seen as an integral part of democracy and a catalyst for good governance (UNESCO, 2014; 2015). This is perhaps the reason that provisions that guarantee the freedom of the press are enshrined in constitutions of many democratic countries. Thus, by the provisions, the media are empowered so that they can search and disseminate the truth without fear or favour. This enables citizens in democracies to make the informed decisions and intelligent choices necessary for democracy to thrive.

Democracy is characterised by a free media. This is because democracy is about the empowerment of the citizenry with facts to give them a voice - the making of intelligent choices and informed decisions about governance. Such empowerment can be a reality only when the needed legal provisions and regulatory conditions are available. Some of the conditions include an explicit guarantee of freedom of expression and the press, safe media environment, easy access to diverse sources of information, easy establishment and operation of media organisations among others. The presence of these provisions in constitutions does not necessarily guarantee a media-free environment unless they are implemented according to the rule of law.

Rule of law

Every democracy is governed by a constitution. This is because there is the need to share power and specify how all the actors in a democratic system can correctly exercise their powers. Adherence to the dictates in the constitution governing a state is known as the rule of law. Thus, constitutions outline clear boundaries that separate the powers of the various actors in democratic societies such that the public officials who govern and the citizenry who are governed can harmoniously exist in democratic societies.

To Choi (2019), the rule of law is the mechanism, process, institution, practice or norm that supports the equality of all citizens before the law, secures a non-arbitrary form of government, and more generally prevents the arbitrary use of power. The purpose of the rule of law is to safeguard the welfare of the citizens from possible abuse of the power distributed through the dictates of a constitution by the public officials over the citizenry

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or vice versa. These characteristics of democracy are contained in the 1992 Constitution of Ghana and are implemented to some extent.

According to the undated World Justice Report, there are four pillars to the rule of law. The first one is that there should be a durable system of laws, norms, and community commitments that deliver accountability, in that governments, as well as private actors, are subject to the law (www.worldjusticereport.org). The second pillar is that there should be just laws that are clear, publicized and stable; and are evenly applied to protect the fundamental human rights which include the security of persons and human rights. The third pillar is that there should be an open government, and the processes by which laws are made, administered and enforced are accessible, fair and efficient. The last pillar is that justice should be accessible and delivered timely by competent, ethical and independent representatives who are neutral and easy to reach and have adequate resources that reflect the community which they operate.

When these four pillars are guaranteed, they make the work of the media easier and journalist can function without fear or favour. In Ghana, the rule of law provides for freedom of expression, the right to security and other media laws and statutes that permit journalists to hold public officials to hold the government accountable and allow the public officials and citizens to seek for redress either in the media (rejoinders) or at the law courts (1992 Constitution). These laws are elaborate and publicised and to some extent applied to protect free speech and ensure the right to security. However, it must be noted that when it comes to crimes and impunity against journalists, justice is often not delivered timely by some of the institutions assigned to deliver justice.

It is important to note that the presence of elaborate provisions on media freedom in the 1992 Constitution does not guarantee good media environment unless they are enforced. The trend from analysis of *Free Expression Monitor* by Media Foundation for West Africa indicates that journalists are often attacked by security agents (Media Foundation for West Africa, 2016; 2017; 2018). If journalists do not feel secure to discharge their duties, it becomes an indent on the rule of law. The needed freedom can only become possible when there is adherence to the rule of law. This is because it is the grounds on which the institutions in democracies like Ghana can effectively function to sustain and ensure freedom of the press.

Media/Press Freedom

All over the world, the constitutions of democratic countries explicitly guarantee freedom of expression. While some constitutions provide solely free expression, others provide for both free expression and press freedom. In countries where only free expression is guaranteed, it is considered to imply freedom of the press as well (UNESCO, 2014). Press freedom originates from the idea of freedom of speech or freedom of expression. The core principle underlying this concept is the stipulation of the First Amendment that "Congress shall make no laws... abridging the freedom of speech or the press" (Youm, 2003:72). It is considered as the first condition of liberty necessary for democracy. It is the deserved opportunity for individuals in democratic societies to freely express the convictions and opinions by words of mouth, writing, printing, pictures or any other mode. The right to freedom of expression is best applied when it is from well-informed citizens and one key role of the media is to disseminate information to keep the citizens informed.

Press freedom as a concept is one of the key components of the democratic system because the system is of the view that "the press is not an instrument of government, but rather a device for presenting evidence and arguments on the basis of which" many people "can check on government and make up their minds as to a policy" (Seibert et al, 1956:3). Freedom of the media is the principle that expression or communication through any means, such as printed material, electronic for mass consumption should be a fundamental right that should be exercised freely without interference from any quarters.

Press freedom "refers to the capacity of journalists and editors to work, media outlets to operate, without facing interference to publication or reprisals afterwards"(Berlin, 2003, p. 155). Though interference can take many forms, this study considers interference from the dimension of physical insecurity and impunity. Thus, when journalists are attacked for doing their job, it undermines their capacity to report without fear or favour. Also, impunity causes journalists to either practise self-censorship or be silence. This also affects the capacity of the journalist to perform their watchdog role in democratic societies. The state, which has an overreaching arm and huge authority, has a duty to guarantee and protect free press through the law that is used to govern the country - the constitution. This will provide security for journalists and media workers. When press freedom is guaranteed, it also secures journalists to go about their work without the fear and thought of attack or interference.

In Ghana, the whole of chapter 12 of the 1992 Constitution is dedicated to freedom and independence of the media. In the constitution, both free expression and press freedom are guaranteed, hence, journalists enjoy double freedom. Thus, they were entitled to freedom

of expression as their fundamental human right and an additional freedom by the virtue of their profession as journalists. Article 21(a) of the 1992 Constitution states that "[a]ll persons shall have the right to freedom of speech and expression, which shall include freedom of the press and other media" (1992 Constitution of Ghana, p.101). Article 162(1) again declares that the "[f]reedom and independence of the media are hereby guaranteed" (1992 Constitution of Ghana p.101). Apart from these provisions, Article 162 (4) insulates editors, publishers and other institutions of mass media from governmental control or harassment or from being penalized for editorial opinion or media content. The Ghanaian media are afforded these freedoms because they are entrusted with some obligations: the education, information and watchdog responsibilities. The expectation is that the media would responsibly use these freedoms in their discharge of the entrusted obligations.

According to Duhan (2018), responsible journalism requires freedom to operate, requires neutrality on the part of the journalist; that the journalist must serve as the voice of the masses and finally, all communications must be accurate. A journalist or media network that retracts and apologises for a communication that has been found not to be accurate, can also be described as practising responsible journalism. Responsible journalism, in the view of Diedong (2017), demands that journalists exercise a high sense of obligation in their profession. Thus, integrity and conscience should play a major role in the work of journalism.

When journalists are practising responsible journalism due to available freedoms, they sometimes expose the rot in society. Those who are peeved by these, tend to use the power that they hold to stifle these journalists by assaulting them, issuing death threats

and other forms of harassment. The 2019 edition of *Free Expression Monitor* by Media Foundation for West Africa indicates that Ghana was the third highest country (after Nigeria and Liberia) that recorded violations against free expression. Out of the 19 violations recorded in 2019, 8 were physical assault, 3 were arrest/detention, 2 each of threats, seizures of properties, shutdowns and 1 each of killing and denial of assembly (Media Foundation for West Africa, 2019). Also, security agents perpetrated 9 of these attacks while 6 of them were from individuals, 2 from public officials and 2 from regulatory bodies. In extreme situations, media networks are closed down, some journalists go into self-imposed exile or they are even killed. Mention can be made of the closure of Radio Tongu in February 2020 by the NCA, the self-imposed exile Manasseh Azure embarked on in May 2019 after releasing his documentary *(Militia in the heart of the nation)* and the killing of Ahmed Suale in January 2019. Some journalists have also had time in detention to put some fear into them. These constitute attacks on a free press.

When journalists practice responsibly and are fair to all manner of people, they usually step on the toes of those who are powerful in the society. These include governments and governmental authorities, the security services and charged mob. The powerful in democratic societies who are involved in wrongdoings always go at extra length to prevent journalists from exposing the wrongs committed. This is to prevent such information from getting to the public, but responsible journalism requires the information to get to the citizenry.

Based on the provision in Article 162 (6), those who are peeved by publications from the media can demand for rejoinders as redress or go to the courts. Yet, some powerful individuals take the law into their hand to assault, issue death threats or harass journalists. this undermines the rule of law. When there are attacks on responsible journalism, it leads to attacks on a free press.

Attack on free press

Attack on free press occurs when acts of physical insecurity are used to prevent journalists and media networks from carrying out their duties freely. State and non-state actors often resort to physical attacks, threats and detention/arrest whenever reportage from journalists makes them uncomfortable. For instance, Charity Ohemaa Sakyiwaa of the *Adom FM* was attacked at the headquarters of the New Patriotic Party (NPP), in May, 2018 by Hajia Fati because she (Hajia Fati) was uncomfortable with the fact that she has been caught on camera as she was protesting and preventing an aspirant (Sammy Crabbe) from collecting a nomination form.

Attack on free press does not only silence journalists but also inhibits the free flow of information (Article 19, 2019). Thus, when perpetrators sanction acts of physical insecurity against journalists, the intention is to silence them. However, silencing of journalists creates a sense of insecurity which causes them to engage in self-censorship or keep quiet. This denies the citizenry an opportunity to be informed of issues of public interest (Article 19, 2019). Ahmed Suale was killed because of his job as an investigative journalist. By his death, the perpetrators have succeeded in silencing him. Also, the

citizenry has been denied of an opportunity to get to know of any other investigative piece he might have been working on.

Acts of physical insecurity against journalists due to their work is a crime. As such, it is expected that state security agencies offer protection to journalists and punish those responsible for such crimes. Though every individual in any democratic society has the right to life, to integrity and security, these rights are very important to the journalistic practice. Thus, according to UNESCO (2015), journalists cannot provide the public platform for the exchange of ideas, opinions and information unless they are safe from acts of physical insecurity. Attacks on free press make journalists insecure and these are heightened when there is delayed prosecution or no prosecution.

Impunity

In democracies like Ghana, the rule of law demands that punishments should be sanctioned against perpetrators of crime against individuals, including journalists. The failure of the state to identify, investigate and to prosecute those who commit crimes breed impunity. This is because when perpetrators are not taken through the due process of law, it emboldens others to commit the same crime. This usually occurs when the perpetrators are closely linked to those in authority. Thus, such individuals assume that their links to the powerful in the society absolves them from any crime they are guilty of. Under such circumstances, perpetrators are emboldened to commit more crimes against journalists. In cases when those who perpetuate attack on journalists are identified, investigation prior to trial is truncated or delayed, and it also leads to delay or no prosecution.

The Committee for the Protection of Journalists (2014) reported that only one out ten attackers of journalists successfully get prosecuted, and this leads to more attacks on a journalist with impunity. Impunity results in self-censorship because it causes journalists to consider coverage of certain topics as dangerous (Berger, 2017; Marcesse, 2017) and the citizenry also feel insecure when journalists are attacked with impunity (CPJ, 2014; IMS, 2017; UNESCO, 2014; 2015).

The end to impunity is crucial to the safety of journalists (UNESCO, 2015). This is because one of the major threats to journalists' safety is the issue of impunity (IMS, 2017) and in Ghana, high rate of impunity has characterised the media landscape (Media Foundation for West Africa, 2019). In this regard, Article 19 (2019) posits that "attacks against journalists and media workers, and impunity for these violations and abuses, are one of the greatest challenges to freedom of expression worldwide" (p.4).
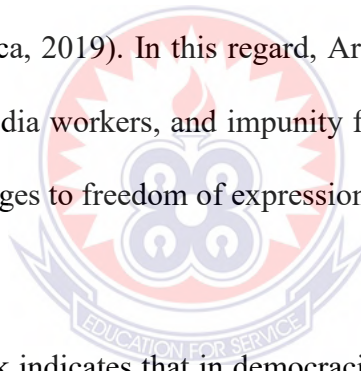
The conceptual framework indicates that in democracies like Ghana, the attribute of rule of law ensures that constitutional provisions on free expression, media freedom and right to security are adhered to in order to uphold press freedom and safety of journalists. This results in responsible journalism because journalists are protected to perform their watchdog role to inform and educate the citizenry and citizens can seek for rejoinder or redress from the courts for false coverage that undermines their integrity. However, in the course of performing their watchdog roles, journalists are confronted with unlawful acts of physical insecurity like threats, assaults, detention, and seizure of property among others as they expose the ills in the society. Such crimes demand for punishment or prosecution

of perpetrators but when there is no prosecution or undue delay in prosecution, it silences and makes journalists insecure. Also, it emboldens perpetrators to commit more crimes against journalists without being punished and this leads to impunity against journalists.

2.4 Safety indicators

According to the Committee for the Protection of Journalists (CPJ) report cited by UNESCO, in nine of out ten murders, no-one is held responsible or punished (UNESCO, 2015). UNESCO (2015) has stated that impunity for the killers of and perpetrators of violence against journalists serves to fuel a cycle of killings and serves to intimidate the broader citizenry and undermines public confidence in the rule of law. UNESCO (2014:82) asserts that "safety issues are central to press freedom". Therefore, actors of journalists' safety and media freedom rely on some indicators whenever they are examining media freedom in countries. For instance, in 2008, the Intergovernmental Council of the International Programme for the Development of Communication endorsed the UNESCO Media Development Indicators (MDI): which is a framework for assessing media development, as a unique diagnostic tool for assessing national media landscapes and identifying media development gaps. These 8 indicators covered a broad set of factors relating to safety as follows:

•Journalists and associated media personnel are not subject to threats, harassment or surveillance

•Journalists and associated media personnel are not physically attacked, unlawfully detained or killed as a result of pursuing their legitimate activities •Media organisations are not forced to close down as a result of pursuing their legitimate activities, or threatened with closure

•Crimes against journalists are prosecuted and there is no climate of impunity

•Media organisations have policies for protecting the health and safety of their staff and freelancers

•Measures of social protection are available to all staff, including temporary and freelance employees

•Journalists do not routinely self-censor because of fear of punishment, harassment or attack

•Confidentiality of sources is protected in law and respected in practice (UNESCO 2015)

These general safety indicators to assist journalists, the general public and governments in the protection of journalists provide the basis for the more detailed Journalists' Safety Indicators which can be used to generate baseline information against which progress in the implementation of the United Nations Plan of Action can then be assessed over some time. These detailed indicators can also be useful for a range of actors to identify priorities and opportunities for joint actions. In this light, UNESCO (2014) has outlined safety indicators that should be considered in the assessment of press freedom. These indicators are "absence of killing and physical threat, absence of incarceration and arbitrary arrests,

absence of impunity in crimes against journalists, exiling to escape repression, absence of harassment (both legal and economic) self-censorship in media platforms and the internet" and "destruction or confiscation of equipment and premises" (UNESCO, 2014: 83).

These indicators were designed to help stakeholders identify potentially salient points of journalists' safety issues and track any changes in these over time. Studies have proved that journalists have been targets of attack and their safety should be of concern to governments all over the world. Comparisons of safety indicators by the two organisations show similarities in the indicators for assessing journalists' safety. This study, therefore, borrows insights from these indicators to study the issue of physical insecurity and impunity against journalists at Multimedia Group Ltd.

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CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

This chapter describes the methodology employed in the study. It includes the research approach, research design, population, sampling and sample size, profile of the Multimedia Group Ltd., , interview, data collection procedures, data analysis and ethical consideration.

3.1 Research Approach

This study employed the qualitative approach of research to investigate the issues of attacks and the issue of impunity against journalists at Multimedia Group Limited. Qualitative research, according to Crossman (2019), is a type of research that collects and works with non-numerical data and seeks to interpret meaning from these data that help understand social life through the study of targeted populations or places. To Brennen (2017), qualitative research allows a more detailed and in-depth engagement with the subjects under study as it brings the investigator into direct contact with the subjects. This approach allowed the researcher to have detailed and in-depth engagements with the issue under investigation through direct contact with journalists at Multimedia Company Limited who have been victims to physical insecurity and impunity. Brennen (2017) further posits that qualitative research strives to understand the meanings of the words and concepts used by the participants. Thus, adopting a qualitative approach ensured access to

the experiences of physical insecurity the journalists encountered in the course of their duties. This helped the researcher to make meaning of the narrations of the participants before and after the attacks, to understand the circumstances under which they were attacked and the aftermath. This study also sought to find out whether the attackers were identified and taken through the legal process of seeking justice for the victims and punishment for the perpetrators. To avoid impunity, perpetrators of attacks must be apprehend and dealt with according to law.

Qualitative research is interested in exploring subjects' perceptions and understandings as they relate to communication (Malik, 2017). Therefore, in this study, the perspectives of journalists from Multimedia Company who have been attacked were explored to find out if the perpetrators committed the crimes with impunity. These were done to help answer the research questions.
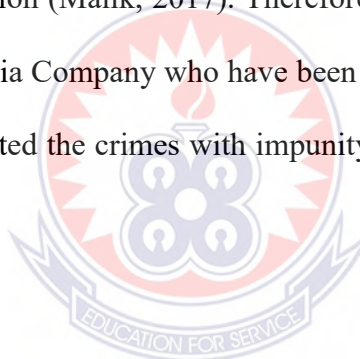
3.2 Research Design

According to Braun and Clarke (2015), a research design refers to an effective plan from which a study will evolve, and how it will be conducted. There are four main categories of research designs to be employed by any researcher, Braun & Clarke (2015). These are descriptive, which seeks to describe the current status of an identified variable. The second is correlation, which attempts to find out the extent of a relationship between two or more variables using statistical data. The third is the causal- comparative (quasi-experimental), which attempts a set-up of cause-effect relationships among variables. The last is the

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experimental research, which uses the scientific method to establish the cause-effect relationship among a group of variables that make up a study. For the purpose of this study, the researcher adopted the descriptive design. This is because descriptive studies are formalized and typically attempt to describe a situation, a problem, a phenomenon, a service or a programme that has been identified as an issue for research (Braun & Clarke, 2015). The descriptive design has the advantage of getting the respondents to thoughtfully and honestly answer the questions posed to them (Braun & Clarke (2015). This study seeks to draw on the thoughtful and honest answers to questions on the problem of journalists' insecurity and the issue of impunity in Ghana so as to examine types of attacks, identify the perpetrators of the attacks, investigate the support systems available to the journalists and examine their perspective on the issue of impunity against them. These, therefore, inform the choice of descriptive category of design for this study.

This study specifically employs case study as a research design. Case studies are in-depth investigations or exploration of a single person, a group, an event or a society. For instance, Annan-Jackson (2017) posits that in case study designs, "one or few instances of a phenomenon are studied in depth" (p. 48). This study narrowed down to a particular media house as a case study within a certain period, thus from 2012 to 2019. Creswell (2013) explains that case studies are distinguished by the size of the bounded case, such as, whether the case involves an individual, several individuals, a group, an entire programme or just an activity. In this research, the experiences were limited to five journalists from the Multimedia Group Limited who had suffered physical insecurity in the course of their duties.

Macleod (2019) explains that in case studies, data can be gathered from interviews. Information or data collected from a participant is mainly from the past, which must include events that are still occurring in the participants' everyday life. In this study, information on past experiences of physical insecurity of journalists are gathered to answer the research questions. Creswell (2013) cites Yin (2009) to indicate that case study research involves the study of a case within a real-life contemporary context or setting. Therefore, physical insecurity and the issue of impunity is studied within the real- life context of the journalism practice at Multimedia Group Limited in Accra.

Creswell (2013) indicates that there are four types of case studies. The first is illustrative case study, which typically utilizes one or two instances of an event to present what a situation is like. The second type, which is exploratory or pilot case study, is condensed and requires a large-scale investigation. Cumulative case study, the third type, serves to aggregate information from several sites and collected at different times. It allows for greater generalisation without additional cost, or too much time being used on new or repetitive studies. Finally, critical instance case study is where there is an examination of one or more sites. This allows for the examination of a situation of unique interest.

Due to the focus of this study, the illustrative case study is adopted. Thus, this study seeks the experiences of five journalists to present the problem of physical insecurity and the issue of impunity at Multimedia Company Limited.

3.3 Population

Banerjee & Chaudhary (2017), state that population is a complete set of people with a specialized set of characteristics, and a sample is a subset of the population. In descriptive studies, it is customary to define a study population and then make observations on a sample taken from it (Lune & Berg, 2016). Study populations may be defined by geographical location, age, sex, with additional definitions of attributes and variables such as occupation, religion and ethnic group (Banerjee & Chaudhary 2017). This study's population was defined by geographical location and occupation: all the media organizations and all the journalists in Accra.

3.4 Sampling Technique

Sampling refers to the process of selecting a representative group from the population under study (Mcleod, 2019). There are two main types of sampling. These are probability and non-probability sampling. In probability sampling, each member of the population has an equal chance of being selected for the study. Yet, in non-probability sampling, each member of the population does not have a known probability of being selected for the study (Mcleod, 2019). In literature, non-probability sampling is often used in qualitative research (Creswell, 2013; Macleod, 2019), therefore, non-probability sampling is used in this study.

It has been noted by Folly (2018) that purposive sampling is a form of non-probability sampling in which researchers rely on their judgment when choosing members of the

population to participate in their study. This sampling method requires researchers to have prior knowledge about the purpose of their studies so that they can properly choose and approach eligible participants. The focus of this study informed the purposive selection of Multimedia Company Limited and the participants for the study. Multimedia Company Limited was purposively selected because it is the largest independent commercial media company in Ghana (multimediaghana.com). Researchers use purposive sampling when they want to access a particular subset of people, as all participants of a study are selected because they fit a particular profile (Folly, 2018). The participants for the study were also purposively selected because they fit into a particular profile: victims of physical insecurity in the course of their duty who are employees of the same company, the Multimedia Group Ltd.

3.5 Sample size

In research terms, a sample is a group of people, objects, or items that are taken from a larger population for a research and according to Singh (2018), it is one of the most important factors which determine the accuracy of a research result. Qualitative analyses typically require a smaller sample size than quantitative analyses. Qualitative sample sizes should be sufficient enough to describe the case study of interest and to address the research questions. Dukes (1984) as cited in Creswell (2013), posits that for case studies, the sample size can range from 4 to 5 participants. In order to fall within the acceptable parameters and avoid information saturation, this researcher purposively selected one media organisation - Multimedia Company Limited - and five participants from that

organisation. While Diedong (2017) used a single journalist at Wa, in the Upper West Region of Ghana as a case study to conclude there was an attack and there was an impunity, this study used five participants from the Multimedia Group Ltd to conduct the study.

3.6 Profile of Multimedia Company Limited

The Multimedia Group Ltd is the largest independent commercial media and entertainment company in Ghana (multimediaghana.com). It was founded by Mr Kwasi Twum, a Ghanaian entrepreneur from a humble beginning of 12 employees. The company currently employs some 700 people across its six radio brands, three online assets and three television stations (multimediaghana.com). The radio brands are Joy FM (the first licensed private radio station in Ghana), Hitz FM, Adom FM which are based in Accra and Asempa FM, Nhyra FM, and Luv FM based in Kumasi. Joy Prime, Joy News and Adom TV are the television stations. Apart from these, myjoyonline.com, multitvworld.com and adomonline.com are its digital or online networks. Akan and English are the languages used on the Multimedia platforms. The Multimedia Group Ltd again stands tall as Ghana's first free multi-channel brand (multimediaghana.com). Journalists of Multimedia have won several awards over the last 24 years including the coveted Ghana Journalists Association's Journalist of the year award.

3.7 Data Collection Method

Data collection is a process of gathering information on a given topic in an established systematic fashion that enables one to answer stated research questions (Kabir, 2016). Moser & Korstjens (2017) assert that the most frequently used data collection methods in qualitative studies are participant observation, interviews, and focus group discussions. In this study, interviews were used to access the needed data.

Interviews

Interview can be defined as a qualitative research method which involves conducting intensive individual interviews with a small number of participants to explore their perspectives on a particular idea, programme or situation (Boyce & Neale, 2006). This is in line with the number of participants that were purposively selected for this study. Interviews, from the perspective of Creswell (2013), are a one-on-one method of data collection for qualitative research, where a participant responds to researchers' questions. Lindolf and Taylor (2002) also aver that interviews must be carried out on individuals whose experiences are central to the research questions. The researcher conducted a one on one interview with the purposively selected respondents who have been victims of physical insecurity and impunity; therefore, their experiences in this regard are central to the research questions.

Interview allows a researcher to probe for detailed information that further explains the issue under investigation. The use of interviews permitted participants to freely respond to questions from the researcher in their own words while the researcher obtained appropriate and relevant data to answer the research questions. An interview can be

conducted through face-to-face or via telephone or by any virtual means (Braun and Clarke, 2014). This study employed the face-to-face interview. This permitted the researcher to observe the body language of the participants that necessitated the need to probe for more details via follow-up questions.

3.8 Data Collection Procedure

These processes were followed to gather data for the study. A letter of introduction from the Head of Department of Communication and Media Studies, University of Education, Winneba, addressed to the General Manager/News Editor of the Multimedia Group Ltd was used to seek approval to conduct interviews at the Multimedia Company. Consents of the selected participants were also sought. That gave the researcher official permission to collect data from the selected staff of Multimedia. The dates for the interviews were agreed upon. The interviews were conducted between the second and third weeks of March, 2019. The interviewees were assured of the confidentiality of their responses before the interviews were conducted. An interview guide that had been designed based on insights from the literature reviewed and the focus of the research questions was used to guide the interview sessions. The guide was designed to elicit participants' responses on their experiences with physical insecurity in the course of their duties, perpetrators of such attacks against them, the support systems available to them when they are attacked and their perspectives on the aftermath of the attacks. During the interview sessions with the purposively selected participants, the interview guide was used to gather data for the

study. Each interview lasted between twenty-two to thirty minutes. The interviews were recorded with a recorder and transcribed and cleaned for purposes of thematic analysis.

3.9 Data Analysis

Thematic analysis was employed in this study to analyse data gathered. It is a method of analysing qualitative data and it is normally applied to a set of texts such as interview transcripts (Caulfield, 2019). Also, Creswell (2013) notes that thematic analysis is a form of analysis which has the theme as its unit of analysis, and which looks across data from many different sources to identify themes. For this study, the researcher closely examined the data collected from the interview sessions and identified some common themes and idea patterns, to make meaning of words or phrases that were repeated.
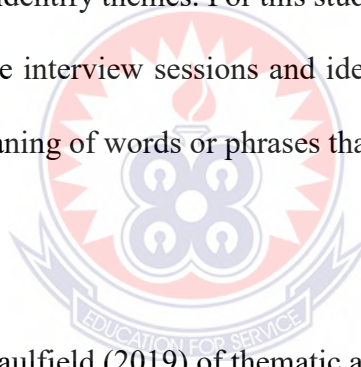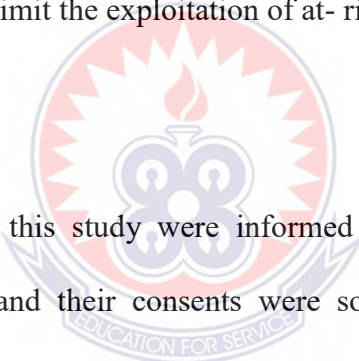
The six steps process of Caulfield (2019) of thematic analysis was followed for this research. The steps are: familiarization, coding, generating themes, reviewing themes, defining naming themes and writing up. Caulfield (2019) further explained that familiarization involves transcribing and coding, and involves highlighting sections of a text, phrases or sentence to describe the context. The process also includes turning codes into themes next step is the turning of the codes into themes. Here, several codes are grouped to form a theme and the themes are reviewed to ensure representation of the data. The themes are then defined and named and then interpreted during a write-up.

3.10 Ethical consideration

Addressing ethical issues is very relevant to acquire knowledge. This is because ethical issues involve an invasion into the privacy of the respondents, since some questions may require respondents to disclose some of their inner thoughts and should be assessed in confidentiality. It also requires the protection of the anonymity of the respondents. Brennen (2017) suggests that, participants must not be forced or coerced to participate in the research since that will not make the work credible because some questions could be subjective to the participant. Brennen (2017) concludes that the overall primary goal of contemporary qualitative researchers is to emphasize the collaboration and cooperation with research participants, as researchers work with participants to build trust and show empathy while striving to limit the exploitation of at- risk individual groups and cultures.

The five respondents for this study were informed about the aim, purpose and the procedures of the study and their consents were sought before the interviews were conducted. Every step was taken to ensure that no physical or psychological harm was committed or inflicted on the respondents. They were told that all the information they would provide would be used for only academic purposes only, to which they agreed to grant this researcher the interview. Thus, this researcher addressed the ethical issues. To protect the identity of the respondents, alpha numeric codes were used to designate each of *them* **MJ-1, MJ-2, MJ-3, MJ-4, and MJ-5**

CHAPTER FOUR

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

4.0 Introduction

This chapter deals with the presentation of findings, analysis and discussion of data. The discussion and presentations were based on the five interviews with the selected journalists in Multimedia Group Ltd to find out about the experiences of the journalists so far as journalists' insecurity and the issue of impunity is concerned. The following research questions guided the study:

1. 1a. What are the types of physical insecurity journalists in Multimedia Group Ltd experience in the course of their duties?

    1b. Who are the perpetrators of the physical insecurity against journalists at Multimedia Group Ltd?

2. What measures are put in place to support and protect journalists in Multimedia Group Ltd against physical insecurity?

3. What are the perspectives of journalists in Multimedia Group Ltd on the issue of impunity against crimes of physical insecurity?

4.1.1 Research Question 1a: What are the types of physical insecurity journalists in Multimedia Group Ltd experience in the course of their duties?

Research question 1a sought to identify the types of physical insecurity that journalists of the Multimedia Group Ltd experienced in the discharge of their official duties. This

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was to enable the researcher gain insights on the gravity of crimes committed against the journalists for analysis. According to UNESCO (2014), indicators of journalists' insecurity are killings and physical threats, incarceration and arbitrary arrests, exiling to escape repression, legal and economic harassment, self-censorship, and destruction or confiscation of equipment and premises. Therefore, this question seeks to examine the presence or absence of these indicators in the media environments of the journalists to establish the state of physical insecurity of the journalists. From the thematic analysis of data gathered and in order of dominance, the participants encountered these types of physical attacks in the course of their duties: physical attacks/assaults, physical and verbal threats, arrest/detention and seizure of equipment. Findings from the analysis are presented in table 1 below:

Table 1: Types of Physical Insecurities Journalists Experienced

Physical Insecurity	No. of Cases Recorded	Percentage
Physical attacks/assaults	7	46.7%
Physical & verbal threats	4	26.7%
Arrest/detention	3	20%
Seizure of equipment	1	6.6%
Total	**15**	**100%**

Source: Field data (2019)

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Physical attacks /assaults

Data gathered in table 1 showed that physical attack was the most dominant type of attack the journalists encountered in the course of their duties. A total of seven cases (46.7%) of physical attacks/assaults were recorded from the data. These consisted of 3 being slapped and a case each of assaulted, being doused with water cannon by the Police while reporting of a demonstration, and attempted mob lynch.

All of the participants admitted that they were physically manhandled and threatened for asking questions about the event/issue they were covering. The participants noted that perpetrators often resorted to physical attacks/assaults whenever they felt the participants were asking so many or unwanted questions. Therefore, such attacks were used to silence them. For instance, a broadcast journalist (who has been reporting on security issues across the country), was reporting on the detention of a political figure at the headquarters of the Police Criminal Investigations Department (CID) in Accra on March 27, 2018, when he was physically assaulted. He indicated that

> I was ready to go live, so I approached a police officer and asked him for the technical name of the crowd control vehicle he was standing by. As soon as I asked the question, he slapped me and pushed me into the crowd of other policemen. Without asking about what I've done, they also joined by slapping, kicking me with their boots and the butt of their weapons. I fell to the ground and they continued the assault ... I had a fractured skull as a result of this attack (MJ3).

Another participant who was assigned to the campaign team of the former President Mahama, and had wanted to gain access to the foyer at Pentecost University College in

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Accra, on 29th October, 2018, to wait and "ambush him with an interview after his meeting". There was a security detail at the entrance so, with a visible branded microphone, he introduced himself to the officer with the intention to enter the premises. The officer denied him access so he tried to explain to the security officer that he was with the press but the officer gave him a heavy slap on his left eye and face for refusing to listen to the orders. MJ2 disclosed that

> .he [former President Mahama] entered the building ... and I wanted to enter. I saw these guys at the gate and I introduced myself to them as a journalist. They denied me access to the foyer.. this young man said he would not allow me. I tried to prevail upon him that I was not a security threat. As I was explaining myself to him, he gave me a heavy slap on my left eye and face, that I was refusing orders. I went blank ... (MJ2).

Also, a participant revealed that at a political event near the home of a presidential candidate of the New Patriotic Party in Accra, his crew and himself were nearly lynched by frustrated affiliates and sympathisers of a political party. Thus,

> when the crew realized that danger was looming, they left in different directions because moving as a group or crew, would make us too visible for an attack. Unfortunately, the agitated foot soldiers realised that I was a journalist and tried to lynch me. Upon sensing danger, I had to run for my life (MJ1).

Such acts of violence against journalists are unlawful and undermine their right to life and security as provided in the 1992 Constitution. Perpetrators can seek redress at the courts if the presence or behaviour of the participants at the various venues were illegal.

Physical and verbal threats

Threat was the next dominant type of attack the participants experienced because of their jobs. From the data in table 1, threat accounted for four (26.7%) out of the 15 cases of violations recorded. This are physical and verbal threats.

The majority of the participants 4 out of 5 (80%) revealed that they often encountered physical and verbal threats in their practice. They noted that for asking legitimate questions that made some people uncomfortable, they were often warned or intimidated. Recounting his experience, a participant revealed that he received a death threat because he asked many probing questions at an event he was covering sometime in 2017 in Accra. He disclosed that:

> ...during the question time, the other journalists were not willing to ask questions and I appeared to be the only one asking all the questions. When all was over, someone I didn't know came to me and warned me that if I cared about my life and that of my family, I should know how to ask questions (MJ3).

Another participant who was on assignment to cover a demolition exercise and its aftermath on 5ᵗʰ September 2014 at Mensah Guinea (an area behind Accra Arts Centre) revealed that

> I was with another colleague near where our vehicle was parked and was asking some of the residents of Mensah Guinea questions about the demolition exercise. Two policemen came over the parked vehicle and pointed their guns at our driver who was in the vehicle and ordered him out .... They asked our driver to raise his hands and they cocked

> their guns at him. The Mayor then got out of his vehicle and demanded
> 'where are your other colleagues?'. Immediately and quietly, I fled the
> scene with my colleague *(MJ5).*

He further added that two of the crew members who were in the community also escaped from being arrested on the orders of the mayor because they got wind of what had happened. By the demands of Article 162 (5) of the 1992 Constitution, it is expected that journalists should hold individuals in public offices accountable to protect the public interest. To fulfill this obligation, they need to ask questions to gather information on issues of public interest and report. The use of threats to intimidate journalists in the course of their duties does not only silence them but also prevent them from holding public official accountable to the citizenry.

Arrests/Detention and Seizure of Equipment

Though physical attacks and threats were the dominant types of physical insecurity the participants experienced, data also revealed instances of arrests/detentions and seizure of equipment. A total of 4 cases were recorded under this theme. It consisted of 3 cases of arrests/detentions (20%) and a case of equipment seizure (6.6%).

Regarding the Mensah Guinea incident, the driver who was arrested at the community had his mobile phone seized and arrested. Also, the two of the crew members who managed to escape arrest at the community ended up being arrested when they followed up with the General Manager of Multimedia Company on the arrest of their driver at the Ministries Police Station in Accra. In this regard, another participant who was part of the crew arrested indicated that

the mobile phone of our driver was seized and he was arrested, charged with offensive conduct and detained at the Ministries Police Station. Together with our General Manager, we followed up to the Police station. Unfortunately, we were also identified, arrested and charged with offensive conduct like our driver (MJ4).

According to Berger (2017), evidence has indicated that there is an insurgent increase in the number of attacks on journalists globally, even in countries where press freedom is guaranteed. This assertion is confirmed by the findings of research question 1a where it was revealed that the majority of journalists experienced physical attacks/assaults whiles on lawful duties. Appiah-Adjei (2020) posits that such acts "pose a severe threat to media freedom and the safety of journalists in Ghana (p.189). A participant was brutally attacked at the CID Headquarters in Accra for carrying out an expected journalistic duty of cross-checking from appropriate sources. Another journalist was mistakenly doused with water from a water cannon when he was covering a demonstration by Law School students in Accra on 7th October, 2019. The experience of acts of physical assaults, threats, arrests and seizure of equipment confirmed the presence of some of UNESCO's indicators of journalists' insecurity even though acts of killing, exiling and destruction or confiscation of premises were not recorded. In the context of this study, the experiences of physical attacks/assault, threats, arrests/detention and seizure of equipment by journalists at Multimedia Group Ltd in the course of their duty is not only an indication of their insecurity (UNESCO, 2014; 2015) but it also "paints a very negative picture so far as journalists' safety and media freedom are concerned" (Appiah-Adjei, 2020, p. 198).

It is also important to note that instances of attacks were recorded even though the 1992 Constitution provides for double freedom for journalists (Article 21(a); Article 162(1); and Article 165) and Article 162 (4) categorically protects the media from harassment or punishment for editorial opinion or media content. This implies that no journalists should be punished for doing their job because Ghana is a democratic state. Hence, the provisions on media freedom and rule of law governing the practice of journalism must be adhered to. The constitution provides for the right to rejoinder or the right to seek redress at the courts in case of defamation. Despite these provisions in the statute, the participants experienced physical insecurities due to their profession. Therefore, this finding aligns with the assertion that "violence against the Ghanaian media are reflections of a poor state of security of journalists" (Appiah-Adjei, 2020, p.189). These experiences do not only endanger the lives of journalists at Multimedia Group Ltd but also attack free speech, press freedom and democracy because they are threats to press freedom in democracies (Berger, 2017; Jamil, 2017).

4.1.2 Research Question 1b: Who are the perpetrators of the physical insecurity against journalists in the Multimedia Company?

Acts of physical insecurity are sanctioned against journalists who suffer violence in the course of their duties because the revelation of "sensitive information. mean risking one's life" (Carlson & Poyhtari, 2017, p.12). These violations against journalists are deliberately carried out by state and non-state actors to obstruct the free flow of information within democratic societies (Berger, 2017; Media Foundation for West

Africa, 2019; UNESCO, 2014; 2015). This research question aims at identifying the perpetrators of the violations against the journalists at Multimedia Group Ltd. Findings are presented in table 2 below:

Table 2: Perpetrators of Physical Insecurities against the Journalists

Perpetrators	Frequency	Percentage
Security agents	10	66.8%
Public official	1	6.6%
Affiliates of political party	3	29%
Unknown perpetrator	1	6.6%
Total	15	100%

Source: Field data (2019)

Security Agents

It is discovered from the data in table 2 that most of the crimes against the participants were committed by security agents. Out of the 15 cases of violations the five participants experienced, 10 of them (66.8%) were carried out by security agents.

Journalists work with information and their means of getting the information is often through questions. However, some people end up being irritated when they are questioned by journalists and attack them. The physical attack at the CID Headquarters in Accra on MJ3 was carried out by policemen. For the sake of accuracy, the Police were the best source he could question for the accurate technical name of the crowd control vehicle yet he was brutally assaulted for doing his job. Even though most of the policemen who

attacked MJ3 knew he was a journalist, they went ahead to beat, kick him with their boots as well as hit him with the butts of their guns for six to seven minutes for asking a question. He intimated:

> I approached a police officer and asked him for the technical name of the crowd control vehicle he was standing by. As soon as I asked the question, he slapped me and pushed me into the crowd of other policemen. Without asking about what I've done, they also joined by slapping, kicking me with their boots and the butt of their weapons. I fell to the ground and they continued the assault ... (MJ3).

Also, the arrests of MJ4 and some of his crew, as well as the physical threat against their driver at Mensah Guinea in their attempts to cover the demolition exercise, were carried out by Police (upon orders from then Mayor of Accra, who led some Policemen in an operation). Apart from this incidence, MJ4 shared another experience where he encountered a physical attack from a security officer during his coverage of the Odododiodoo by-election. He noted that

> a military officer was trying to drive away from the public who were massing at the polling station. I was also at the scene trying to cover the unfolding events. In the heat of it, someone slapped me. I turned and realised that it was a military officer (MJ4).

Besides, it is expected that journalists should be offered protection by security operatives if they are formally introduced or assigned to cover security operations. However, the Police and Military officers failed to offer MJ3 protection when he was covering a security operation on illegal mining in the Asama, a mining town in the Eastern Region in 2018. Sharing his experience, MJ3 noted:

> I covered a story, it was still breaking. I was at the frontline with the
> Police and the Military on one side, and illegal miners on another side...
> There was a crossfire and I didn't get the protection from the police....
> Two illegal miners died. That day, I felt so, so, so empty (MJ3).

The exposure to crossfire without protection could have resulted in the death of the journalists since two illegal miners lost their lives. The security officers, as state agents responsible for the security of the citizenery, failed to offer the needed protection to the journalist even though MJ3 was giving the police and the military coverage.

Public Official

Apart from security agents being the offenders of most of the crimes against the participants in the course of their duties, data also revealed an instance where a public official was behind some of the crimes. All the violations committed by the police against the participants covering the demolition exercise at Mensah Guinea were carried out by the orders of the then Mayor of Accra, Mr Afred Oko Vanderpuiye. According to MJ5, the mayor, Mr Vanderpuiye ordered the policemen who had cocked their guns at the driver to arrest him. Thus, "while we were standing near-by and observing, the mayor, Mr Vanderpuiye told the Police that they should arrest him" (our driver) *(MJ5).* The orders to get the participants and his crew to be threatened and arrested were indications of an abuse of his administrative and political power, by the virtue of his position.

Affiliates of political party

Data for this study also revealed affiliates of a political party as one of the perpetrators of physical insecurity against the journalists. MJ1 and his crew were nearly lynched by party foot soldiers and sympathisers when they tried to cover that political event. Also, the perpetrator who slapped MJ2 during his coverage of the campaign trail of the then President Mahama was a party foot soldier who was posing as a security detail at the gate.

In another instance, a participant who was covering the Afoko - NPP crisis in 2015 at the NPP Headquarters in Accra observed that some people were throwing stones at Mr Afoko and his car. He decided to film the unfolding event and he was verbally threatened a member of the political party. MJ5 indicated that

> I started filming [what was happening]. Not knowing one of the guys [a member of the NPP] had seen me from up there [top floor of the headquarters]. He came down towards me and shouted 'Hey stop! "Hey! Stop!'. So, I told him I was not filming. But at that time, I've filmed some footage so I quickly took the memory card from the camera and gave it to a colleague I went with. Other party affiliates joined him and they asked that we should get out from there (MJ5).

Threatening journalists for doing their jobs is unlawful. Even in instances where they may be trespassing, it is expected that individuals should be lawful (and not lawless) in preventing them from trespassing.

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Unknown Perpetrators

The data analysis also suggested that sometimes, the perpetrators of the act of physical insecurity against journalists are unknown. For example, the verbal threat against MJ3 for being the only one who was asking all the questions at an event was carried out by an unknown person. MJ3 disclosed that:

> … during the question time, the other journalists were not willing to ask questions and I appeared to be the only one asking all the questions. When all was over, someone I didn't know came to me and said that if I cared for my life and that of my family, I should know how to ask questions (MJ3).

The study recorded 15 cases of violations against journalists from Multimedia Group Ltd within the period of study and these acts of physical insecurity were carried out by five different types of perpetrators namely security agents, affiliates of political parties, public officials and unknown persons. Data from table 2 revealed that security agents carried out the majority of these offences against the journalists. This affirms the trend of security agents constantly being the number perpetrators of physical insecurity against journalists in Ghana (Media Foundation for West Africa, 2016; 2017; 2018; 2019). Also, affiliates of political parties and a public official were equally guilty. This affirms the assertion that state and non state actors carry out these acts to silence the media (Berger, 2017; Media Foundation for West Africa, 2019; UNESCO, 2014; 2015). The findings also align with the outcome of the study Collinson, Wilson, and Thomson (2014). Their study revealed

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political group, coalition forces and unknown individuals as common perpetrators of crime against journalists.

Unfortunately, security agents have consistently been the main perpetrators of physical insecurity against journalists especially in Africa and in Ghana. For instance, Media Foundation for West Africa has been monitoring and reporting on attacks on free expression in West Africa in their quarterly reports since 2014 and to date, security agents have been leading perpetrators of physical insecurity against journalists (Media Foundation for West Africa, 2016; 2017; 2018, 2019). Annual press freedom reports from Freedom House and Reporters without Borders have also identified security agents as one of the main perpetrators of crimes against journalists (Freedom House, 2016; 2017; Reporters without Borders, 2016; 2017; 2018).This is ironical because security agents are supposed to ensure the safety of the citizenry including journalists, as well as punish individuals who to commit a crime against others.
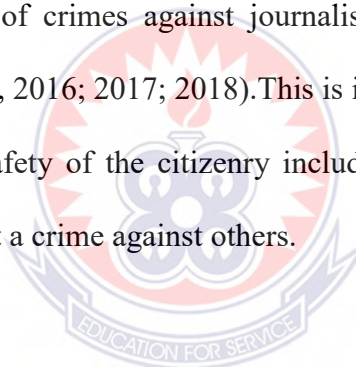
Besides, public officials are required to uphold the rights of the public they are supposed to serve. The power that comes with being in a public office should be used to defend public interest than to undermine it. Coverage of demolition exercise in a public space by journalists is not illegitimate. This is because Article 162 (5) of the 1992 Constitution obligates the media to hold public officers accountable to the citizenry. Therefore, the presence of the participants at Mensah Guinea (an area behind the Accra Arts Centre) to ask questions about the exercise was not offensive conduct. Yet, the driver was threatened

with a gun and arrested. Two other journalists who followed up, later on, were also arrested and they were all charged with offensive conduct.

The 1992 Constitution of Ghana contains provisions that guarantee the right everyone to life, integrity and security. Hence, it can be argued that acts that unjustifiably undermine these rights are unconstitutional because aside these provisions, Article 162(5) provides for the right to rejoinder while the courts are expected to settle issues on defamation. This means that perpetrators should seek for rejoinder or go to court to seek redress than to take the law into their hands. The attack on MJ3 at by the Police at the CID Headquarters in Accra on March 27, 2018, violated his rights to life, integrity and security. This is because the officers used the butts of their weapons, boots and hands to carry out the act, even when the victim was on the ground and pleading. The severity of the attack is determined by the aftermath: fractured skull. Also, slapping an individual for him to go blank, not able to gather his thoughts temporarily while standing still as happened to MJ2 can be life-threatening. Dousing journalists with hot water (MJ5) or exposing journalists to crossfire; caught in between the police and demonstrators was terrible. All the acts of physical insecurities the perpetrators carried out violated the rights of the journalists and did not conform to the demand of the provisions in the constitution that governs the journalism practice in Ghana.

Generally, the "reporting on issues such as politics, corruption, organized crime. can be a life-threatening endeavour" (Marcesse, 2017, p. 45) so UNESCO (2014) has noted that the journalism practice attracts hostility. This may be the reason that one of the key tenets of democracy which demand that individuals - and in this study journalists from Multimedia

Group Ltd - "must be allowed to practice their work without restrictions" when they exercising their right to free expression (Carlsson & Poyhtari, 2017, p. 12) was not adhered to. Thus, journalists need to be free and safe to expose the ills in society because public access to information is key to the sustenance of democracies. It is important to note that in democratic societies like Ghana, it is the "responsibility of the state" to provide unrestricted working environment for such individuals (Carlsson & Poyhtari, 2017, p. 12). As a result, it is ironical for stakeholders like the security agencies and public officials who are obligated to provide security and serve public interest respectively to engage in acts that undermine such obligations. Media Foundation for West Africa (2016) avows that such a "situation has the potential to intimidate journalists and thus, foster self-censorship" (p.9).

It is wrong for security agents, public officials, affiliates of political parties and the general public to assault, threaten, arrest or lynch journalists. The "fact that state actors such as security agents and public officials feature among the top violators of freedom of expression rights" is ironical (Media Foundation for West Africa, 2017, p. 2) and a deviation from the norm. Access to information is crucial in democracies (UNESCO, 2015), therefore, perpetrators obstruct the free flow of information when they resort to acts pf physical insecurity to silence journalists (Berger, 2017; Cottle, 2017; Jamil 2017).

4.2 Research Question 2: What are the available systems in place to support and protect journalists in Multimedia Group Ltd against physical insecurity?

This question sought to find out the kind of protection and support systems that have been put in place to assist those who are attacked or intimidated in the discharge of their duties

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as journalists. When journalists are attacked because of their job, they become insecure and vulnerable. Therefore, they need support systems enable them to cope with the vulnerabilities associated with physical insecurity. The research question 2 seeks to investigate if the journalists in Multimedia Group Ltd have support systems that will enable them to cope with their insecurities. Findings on available support systems to the participants upon their exposure to physical insecurity revealed that they received support from their company*;* professional associations and media rights groups*;* and state security agency.

The themes on available support systems are discussed below:

Support from the Organisation

All the participants admitted that Multimedia Group Ltd offered support to them when they became victims of physical insecurity. The assistance from the organisation to the employees was in the form of insurance packages as well as moral, legal and psychological supports. The participants noted that though there was no formal or structured support scheme in place, the Human Resource Department ensured that assistance was given to victims of physical insecurity whenever the need arises. Thus MJ4 discloses that

> I will say that when something [an act of physical insecurity] happens,
> the company responds.. .but there is no formal programme or package
> for you when something happens. You can be assured that you will not
> be left hanging. Yeah, the HR will respond and whatever help that you
> need, they will try to help (MJ4).

The participants further noted that life insurance package has been instituted for the employees so should they lose their lives in the course of their duties, some relief or benefits from the insurance package would be enjoyed by their families. MJ3 declares that

> At Multimedia, such a package [life insurance package] is available
> for workers. This is an insurance package that covers the employee,
> the spouse and $kids$ .. you have to die for your family to benefit
> from that package (MJ3)

It was also discovered that a health insurance package was available to the employees of the company. So, when some of the participants suffered injuries from the attacks in the course of their journalistic duties, the health insurance package covered the cost of their health care until recovery. In this regard, a participant indicated that:

> On that day [the day he was attacked], the Multimedia Group
> facilitated my movement to the hospital because I was in a bad shape,
> and since then, they have been paying my bills whenever I go to Korle
> Bu for treatment and review. They took care of the cost of my
> medication, my transportation to the hospital. they took care of all that
> ***(MJ3).***

Apart from the HR Department, the Editorial Department also offered moral support in solidarity with their colleagues. They noted that apart from colleague journalists sympathising with them, there have also been instances where top management members in the department had positively responded to their well-being in times of attack. A participant who was part of the crew at Mensah Guinea incident, for instance, indicated their General Manager rushed back to the office when she was informed about the arrest of the driver. MJ5 thus noted that

> I got to the office around 10 pm. We called our boss, Emma
> Morrison, the GM. She came and we told her what has happened,
> that they've arrested our driver because when we got to the office,
> he was still not there. so together with Emma Morrison, we left for
> the Ministries Police Station at about 10:30pm to find a solution to
> the problem at hand ..and she was able to secure bail for the driver
> and us (MJ5)

Data revealed that there were instances where some participants (2 out of the 5)were given

legal assistance when they were attacked. Thus, depending on the nature of a crime

committed against the participants and available evidence, the Legal Department took

legal action to seek justice for the affected participants. For example, the Legal

Department of the organisation pressed charges against Mr Oko Vanderpuiye and the IGP

for the attack on the participants at Mensah Guinea. In this light, MJ4 noted that

> The company was not happy. They immediately gave us a lawyer who
> went with us to the Police Station to ask about what they [the Police] were
> investigating us for. They said they were investigating us for offensive
> conduct. Is there anything that amounts to offensive conduct? . . . from the
> word go, we realized that it [the charge] didn't make sense. So, we decided
> to sue them and our lawyer sued the IGP and the major (MJ4).

Apart from legal assistance, findings showed that the organisation also offered

psychological support to journalists who were attacked in the course of their duties. Some

participants (2 out of the 5) indicated that management secured the service of a

psychologist to give them psychological assistance after they were attacked to enable them

to cope with the associated psychological trauma. Therefore, MJ5 claimed that "the company secured the services of a psychologist to come to talk to us about how to cope with that traumatic experience" (MJ5).

Data gathered also suggested that the company sometimes secure the services of private security organisations to protect the employees and the properties of the organisation. Thus, the security personnel are made to be on standby to protect individual journalists and the company itself when tensions rise. The participants noted that such support is provided during special occasions like elections. For instance, a participant claimed that:

> The Multimedia Group, from time to time gets private security men,
> especially when it's time for elections, to come and man the place.. So,
> these are some of the measures taken anytime the threat level heightens
> *(MJ1).*

The effect of attacks on journalists is worse when such abuses are underestimated by media management (CPJ, 2018). Therefore, the support systems from media organisations help in minimizing the sense of insecurity and vulnerability journalists experience when they are attacked. Findings on the support Multimedia Group Ltd made available to the participants show that it did not underestimate the abuse against the participants.

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Support from Professional Association, Media Rights and Monitoring Organisations

Data gathered revealed that the professional association of the journalists (GJA) as well as a media rights organisation (Media Foundation for West Africa) and the national media monitoring organisation (NMC) also offered moral support to the participants depending on the gravity of the violation. The above organisations condemned the attacks against the journalists and called for the prosecution of the perpetrators. The participants admitted that the Ghana Journalists' Association, Media Foundation for West Africa and NMC issued statements to condemn these attacks against journalists in the course of their duty. Sharing his experience, MJ-2 noted that

> I think GJA and Media Foundation for West Africa.. Those were the two that I saw. The rest should forgive me because I didn't see their statements. Maybe they did and I didn't see. I am speaking based on facts, based on what I saw. GJA issued a statement condemning the acts, and calling for the prosecution of the perpetrators. Media Foundation for West Africa did the same, condemning the acts, calling for the prosecution of the perpetrators (MJ2).

Another participant, MJ3 also stated that the National Media Commission did not only condemn the attack but also sought compensation for him. This was his narration:

> National Media Commission came in trying to let us sit $down$, .. the MNC said 'if you can't identify the men, the guy has suffered, why don't you compensate him so that he can take care of his life!' (MJ3).

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The instances where professional bodies and other actors of press freedom and journalists' safety issue statements to condemn attacks on journalists and call for is good because unlawful acts against journalists need to be condemned. However, following up to ensure that the action has been taken against perpetrators is better. The GJA, Media Foundation for West Africa and NMC have been consistent in issuing such statements when journalists are attacked. Despite this effort, perpetrators continue to commit crimes against journalists. This means that more needs to be done. In the case of the attack on MJ3 at CID headquarters, NMC tried to seek compensation for the participant yet it yielded no fruit. It is important to note that such organisations may be able to hold perpetrators accountable if they join forces in the fight for justice for journalists in such times.

Support from the State Security Agency

Upon data analysis, it was discovered that there were times when the Police also offered protection to some of the participants. Thus, participants who are into investigative reporting are also at risk when they are found out. This was because they appeared to step on toes to bring out hidden information which is of public interest. Therefore, the Police offer advice as to how to keep safe from the perpetrators. MJ1 for instance gives this insight:

> For some of us working as investigative reporters, there were many times we were advised [by Police] to relocate from our homes and to stay in particular places until the danger or threat level went down before we went back to our homes (MJ1).

In democracies, security agencies are supposed to offer protection from unlawful attacks to the citizenry, including journalists. Findings from data suggest that there were instances where they offered protection to some of the participants even though they are often the perpetrators of violations against the participants.

Due to the key roles the media play in democratic societies, there is the need to protect them from hostility. In Ghana, provisions in the 1992 Constitution that is governing journalism practice is elaborate enough to uphold press freedom (Owusu, 2012) and ensure journalists security. There are institutions to ensure that provisions on the right of life, integrity and security, as well as that of free association, are respected. When the security agencies fail to offer journalists protection against unlawful attacks, it shows a lapse in the rule of law because they fail to uphold the right of journalists to life and security.

Also, Article 21(e) provides for the right to join any association or trade unions. These associations fight and seek for the welfare of its members. In this light, UNESCO considers advocacy from professional associations in their assessment of press freedom. This is because it is an indication of "autonomy for professional journalism" (UNESCO, 2014:64). This means that the GJA must advocate for the security of journalists as well as their welfare when they are attacked. Using the Ghanaian experience as a basis, it can be argued that advocacy from GJA on physical insecurity of journalists has often been in the form of issuing statements of condemnation and this approach has failed to seek justice for affected journalists. For instance, when Ahmed Suale was killed, the GJA issued a

statement of condemnation but it has failed to advocate for justice for Suale a year after his murder.

Journalists feel vulnerable and insecure when they are attacked for doing their jobs. The effect of attacks on journalists is worse when such abuses are underestimated by media management and minimized by authorities and others who are best positioned to provide support. Support in the form of legal, moral, psychological and medical assistance to journalists who are victims of acts physical insecurity go a long way in helping them to deal with their insecurity and vulnerability.

4.3 Research Question 3: What are the perspectives of journalists in Multimedia Group Ltd on the issue of impunity against crimes of physical insecurity?

According to UNESCO (2015), the end to impunity is crucial to the safety of journalists. This is because one of the major threats to journalists' safety is the issue of impunity (IMS, 2017) and in Ghana, high rate of impunity has characterised the media landscape (Media Foundation for West Africa, 2019). For instance, more than a year after the killing of Ahmed Suale, no arrest or prosecution has been made. This research question sought to solicit for the perspectives of respondents on the issue of impunity. To answer the question, data on journalists' perspectives were analysed. The total number of cases of physical insecurity the participants encountered in the course of their duties was compared to the total number of cases redressed. Then perspectives of the participants were solicited to corroborate the findings. The following themes were identified from the

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analysis of data gathered: insufficient redress of experiences of physical insecurity and lack of redress of crimes against journalists. Findings are presented in table 3 below:

Table 3: The Issue of Impunity among Journalists in Multimedia Group Ltd

Physical Insecurity	Cases Recorded (N, %)	Cases Redressed (N, %
Physical attack/assault	7	3
Physical & verbal threats	4	0
Arrest /detention	3	3
Seizure of property	1	1
Total	**15**	**7**

Source: Field data (2019)

Data gathered indicated that out of the 15 violations cases recorded, 7 were redressed. Thus, 4 of the recorded violations of assault on journalists were left unpunished just like the 4 cases of threats. However, 3 of the 7 cases of physical assault received redress in the form of apologies while the 3 cases of arrest/detention were settled at the court and the ruling was in favour of the participants. The phone of the driver, which was seized, was later given back to him.

Insufficient redress of attacks

Looking at the data in table 3, there is the indication that nearly half of the recorded cases (7 out of 15) were redressed. This paints a picture that contradicts evidence in the literature that impunity against journalists is high (CPJ, 2014; Media Foundation for West Africa, 2019; UNESCO 2015). However, perspectives of the participants supported evidence in literature (than the indication from table 3) because all the participants admitted that impunity is high even in instances where there is redress. Thus, they noted that such instances of serious attacks always draw some form of reaction from the authorities but the perpetrators are not given deserving punishments. With the exception of the cases of arrests (where the company sued and the court ruled in the favour of the participants) and the seizure of the mobile phone (that was later given back to the driver), apologies for the physical attacks were seen by the victims/participants to be not good enough.

MJ2 was slapped by a party foot soldier who was acting in the capacity of a security detail. Upon reporting the incident, the Special Assistant and spokesperson to the former president took the participant to the former president. The former president rendered an apology and tried to identify the culprit but it yielded no positive result. MJ-2 indicated that

> … so the former president personally rendered an apology. He then asked me if I could identify the guy who assaulted me. Unfortunately, he was not present in the room, so I told him your guy is not here. I told him I would be able to identify him if he was able to assemble his security details, but that never happened.. (MJ2).

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He added that

> . the attacker, [the security detail of the former president] was
> not identified to face the law so there is the likelihood that he
> might visit such an action on another journalist. As I speak to
> you now, justice has not been served. That slap temporarily
> made me insecure, but that would never prevent me from doing
> my work (MJ2).

It can be argued that the former president could have easily assembled his security detail
for the inspection if he had had the strong will to seek justice for the participant. It can be
inferred that less effort was put into holding the perpetrator accountable to his action. This
finding supports the assertion by Media Foundation for West Africa(2018a) that "lack of
accountability for these abuses encourages further abuses" because "impunity is
entrenched when violators of human rights are not held accountable" (p. 8).

This physical attack on MJ3 by armed police officers was without provocation and their
actions caused harm and injury to the participant who was on his normal duties.
Unfortunately, this happened at the CID headquarters in Accra yet the Police claimed they
could not identify their officers who assaulted MJ3 and punish them because their CCTV
did not capture that particular incident. This was what he said:

> I reported to the Cantonments Police, PIPS also came over to my office,
> they gave me a paper to fill and write my statement which I did ....
> National Media commission came in trying to let us sit down ... but the Police
> insisted that they cannot identify the officers who assaulted me because their
> CCTV cameras didn't capture it (MJ3).

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He also noted that

> I received beatings from the policemen. When I was down to the ground, they continued with the assault on . The perpetrators are still in uniform working, walking free and nothing has happened. Not a dime in a form of compensation, for me to take care of myself. I am still walking with the impact; I still have to go for rehab. I do not wish any journalist will go through my experience (MJ3).

The IGP later on apologised for the attack on the participant after condemnation from GJA, Media Foundation for West Africa and other international organisations (CPJ, IFEX) but MJ3 was left to his fate and his employers have to take the responsibility of his care. The Legal Department of the company could not sue immediately, but sued later after attempts to compensate MJ3 by the Police failed.

Perpetrators of crimes against journalists are emboldened to commit more of such crimes upon the realisation that they can attack their targets without ever facing justice (Berger, 2017; Media Foundation for West Africa, 2017; 2018; UNESCO, 2015; 2014). There is a mismatch between being inflicted with a fractured skull and being compensated with an apology from the perpetrators. The gravity of the attacked demanded compensation for the participant and a punishment to deter potential perpetrators. This is because in a landmark case in Niger, a student who was brutalised by three officers from the anti-riot squad of the Police was given a compensation of 15 million CFA (US$ 26,993) and each of the officers was sentenced to a year of imprisonment (Media Foundation for West Africa, 2017). Though Multimedia Group Ltd could not sue for the harm caused to seek justice from the court for MJ3, only an apology from the Police is inadequate. It is equally important to

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note that though no legal action had been taken against the perpetrators at the time of data collection, Multimedia Group Limited later on sued the IGP and the case is still pending.

Lack of Redress of Crimes against Journalists

Besides, data in table 3 revealed that a little over half of the cases were not redressed at all. One of the key characteristics of democracy is the rule of law. To Choi (2019), rule of law is the mechanism, process, institution, practice or norm that supports the equality of all citizens before the law, and secures a non-arbitrary form of government, and more generally prevents the arbitrary use of power. The essence of this attribute is to prevent abuse. This is the reason that punishments are sanctioned against unlawful individuals. It is equally important to note that the free and safe media is critical to the sustenance of the rule of law in democracies that is why they are given protection by some provisions in constitutions, assigned the watchdog role and are referred to as the fourth estate.

However, the media's performance of the watchdog role, as stipulated by Article 162 (5) of the 1992 Constitution, come with hostility (UNESCO, 2014) because "reporting on issues such as politics, corruption, organized crime can be a life-threatening endeavour" (Marcesse, 2017, p. 45). Therefore, state actors and non-state actors use acts of physical insecurity to silence.

All the acts of physical insecurity that the participants experienced in the course of their duties were unlawful. Therefore, it contradicts the essence of the rule of law in Ghana. Also, all the acts were committed before and not after the participants had had the opportunity to publish their story. This does not only question the motive behind the attacks but also confirms a high level of impunity in Ghana. This is because if the acts of

physical insecurity had been experienced after the participants had published their stories, then the perpetrators would have been in the position to determine whether the stories were negative to their image (and seeking for redress through rejoinder or at the court would have been the lawful option). However, the perpetrators carried out their unlawful acts because they knew they could get away with the crimes and the majority of them got away with it totally or with an apology.

From the conceptual framework, democracies are expected enforce rule of law, which also provides for the right to security and freedom of expression. However, when journalists work responsibly but are threatened, detained or harassed in any way, it can best be described as attack on free press which makes journalists insecure to discharge their duties. When the state apparatus fail to investigate crimes against journalists, or there is delay or no prosecution of perpetrators of crimes, it leads to more violations against journalists and establishes impunity. Impunity has been established in this research because eight out of the fifteen violations on the five respondents have not been redressed although reports were made.

According to Media Foundation for West Africa (2018),

> The fight against FOE [freedom of expression] violations is multifaceted. Deterring perpetrators from the act is at the core of the fight. Therefore, when abuses against FOE go unpunished or uncompensated for (depending on the nature of the violation), it goes a long way to embolden perpetrators rather than to deter them. It also nurtures a culture of impunity and silences dissidents (p.8).

No punitive action or an apology is not enough to deter individuals who attack/assault journalists from repeating such acts. This is because IMS (2017) has indicated that the impact of protections programmes for journalists as well as safety solutions to journalists' insecurity will be temporal and limited until perpetrators of crimes against journalists are identified and prosecuted. The logic in the above assertion is realised upon comparison of the aftermath of the attack on MJ-3 to the landmark case in Niger. Thus, the likelihood of the perpetrators in Niger repeating that unfortunate act after serving their jail term would be slim while the offenders in the MJ-3 case are likely to repeat that act.

The Committee for the Protection of Journalists (2014) has reported that only one out ten attackers of journalists successfully get prosecuted, and this leads to more attacks on journalists with impunity. Globally, one of the main factors fuelling the cycle of violent crime against journalists for exercising their right to freedom of expression is impunity (UNESCO, 2015) and this is not an exception when the Ghanaian situation is considered (Media Foundation for West Africa, 2016; 2017; 2018; 2019). This is because the "persistence of impunity for crimes against journalists is a real threat to the quality and independent journalism which is a prerequisite for inclusive, transparent and accountable governance" (Media Foundation for West Africa, 2018b, p 8). The issue of impunity puts democratic societies at risks. This is because the kind of news that the public needs to know is the ones that the perpetrators silence. Information is essential to individuals in democratic societies in order to make informed decisions and intelligent choices in every aspect of their lives. Access to reliable and quality information is only possible when journalists are free and safe from acts of physical insecurity. Therefore, an attack on the

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media is also an attack against the right of individuals in democratic societies to pursue and

access information. This is an attack on both the rule of law and on democracy.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0 Overview

The chapter presents the summary and conclusions drawn from the study on physical insecurity and the issue of impunity against purposively selected journalists at Multimedia Group Ltd. It also focused on recommendations, limitations of the study, and suggestions for future research,

5.1 Summary

The problem of physical insecurity and impunity against journalists has become a global concern. It has been established that consistently, journalists are experiencing attacks from perpetrators of violence against journalists because of impunity. The problem is seen as a threat to freedom of expression in democracies. Therefore, this study aimed at investigating physical insecurity and impunity issues Ghanaian journalists encounter in the course of their duties using Multimedia Group Ltd as a case study. Specifically, the study aimed at investigating the types of physical insecurity journalists at Multimedia encounter when carrying out their journalistic duties. It also sought to identify the perpetrators of physical insecurity against journalist, explore the strategies put in place to protect and support journalists who suffer from acts of physical insecurities as well as examine their perspectives on impunity against journalists.

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To achieve these objectives, these research questions were asked:

1a What are the types of physical insecurity do journalists in Multimedia Group Ltd in the course of experience their duties?

1b. Who are the perpetrators of the physical insecurity against journalists in the Multimedia Group Ltd?

2 What are the available systems in place to support and protect journalists in Multimedia Group Ltd against physical insecurity?

3. What are the perspectives of the journalists in Multimedia Group Ltd on the issue of impunity on crimes against journalists in?

Through a review of relevant literature on concepts such as democracy, rule of law, free press, the safety of journalists, responsible journalism, and attack on free press. When the attackers on free press are not made to face the law, they are emboldened to commit more crimes and it results in impunity against journalists. Based on these, a conceptual framework was developed to serve as the bases for the analysis of data gathered for the study. The framework indicates that in democracies, the attribute of rule of law ensures that constitutional provisions on free expression and right to security are adhered to so as to uphold press freedom and safety of journalists. This results in responsible journalism because journalists are protected to perform their watchdog role to inform and educate the citizenry and citizens can seek for rejoinder or redress from the courts for false coverage that undermines their integrity. However, in the course of performing their watchdog roles, journalists are confronted with unlawful acts of physical insecurity like threats, assaults,

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detention, and seizure of property among others as they expose the ills in the society. Such crimes demand for punishment or prosecution of perpetrators but when there is no prosecution or undue delay in prosecution, it silences and makes journalists insecure. Also, it emboldens perpetrators to commit more crimes against journalists without being punished and this leads to impunity against journalists.

The research approach was qualitative and the design was a case study. This allowed the researcher to study physical insecurity and the issue of impunity within the real-life context of the journalism practice at Multimedia Group Limited in Accra. Through interviews, data on past experiences of physical insecurity of the journalists and the aftermath are gathered to answer the research questions. The period of study was between 2012 and 2019. The experiences of five purposively selected participants were used to study the issue under investigation. Data gathered was thematically analysed.

Findings revealed that within the period of study, the journalists experienced physical attacks/assaults, physical and verbal threats, arrests/detention and seizure of property in the course of their duties. Findings also showed that security agents, a public official, affiliates of political parties and an unknown individual were the perpetrators of the acts of physical insecurity against the journalists. Findings for research question two established that Multimedia Group Ltd, GJA, Media Foundation for West Africa, NMC and state security agencies provided insurance packages as well as legal, moral and psychological support to the journalists after encountering acts of physical insecurity in the course of their duties. It was discovered that impunity against the journalists was high as few cases of physical insecurity were properly redressed while most of the cases were not redressed.

5.2 Key findings

Using the indicators of insecurity by UNESCO (2014) as a guide, analysis for research question one was carried out.

- Findings indicated that physical attacks/assaults, physical and verbal threats, arrests/detention and seizure of property were the types of physical insecurity the journalists experienced. Upon tabulation of recurring themes, physical attack/assault emerged as the most dominant type of physical insecurity the journalists encountered with a percentage of 46.7% (of the total cases recorded). This was followed by physical and verbal threats with 26.7%, arrest/detention with 20% and seizure of equipment recorded 6.6%. Physical contact with the intent to cause bodily injury; verbally threatening of a journalist, and detention are issues that make journalists feel insecure. The recorded acts of physical assaults, threats, arrests and seizure of equipment confirmed the presence of some of UNESCO's indicators of journalists' insecurity even though acts of killing, exiling and destruction or confiscation of premises were not recorded.

- Also, analysis of data identified state and non-state actors as perpetrators of the crimes against the journalists. Security agents were identified as the main perpetrators for the acts of physical insecurity against the journalists since they were responsible for 10 out of the 15 (66.8%) cases recorded within the period of study. Affiliates of political parties followed by being responsible for 3 (29%) of the recorded cases with a public official and an unknown individual being responsible for a case each (6.6%).

- For research question two, findings indicated that the journalists received support from Multimedia Group Ltd, GJA, Media Foundation for West Africa, NMC and state security agencies after experiencing the acts of physical insecurity. Depending on the type of physical insecurity experienced, Multimedia Group Ltd offered insurance package as well as legal, moral and psychological assistance to support the journalists. Thus, insurance and welfare packages in the form of compensation and payment of medical bills from the organisation cushioned the journalists when they were attacked. Some participants were also assisted with legal representation at the court while some had assistance from a psychologist. GJA, MWFA and NMC offered moral support by issuing statements to condemn the acts of physical insecurity and call for action against the perpetrators. The Police also advised the investigative journalists among the participants on how to keep safe from perpetrators. These perpetrators commit such acts with all the force they can marshal, without considering the effects on the victims.

- It was discovered, from the analysis for research question three, that the participants were confronted with the problem of impunity. Results showed that 7 out of 15 cases recorded were redressed. Though there was the indication that nearly half of the recorded cases (7 out of 15) were redressed, perspectives from the journalists still indicated that impunity against them was high. This was because instances of serious attacks always drew some form of reaction from the authorities but the perpetrators were not given deserving punishments to deterthem from

committing the crimes. This situation allows impunity and emboldens the perpetrators to commit more crimes against.

5.3 Conclusion

From the research study, the following conclusions were drawn:

1. Some journalists of MGL suffered attacks in the form of, intimidations, assaults, threats and detention as a result of their work. This means that acts of physical insecurity against journalists in Ghana are real. The experiences of physical attacks/assault, threats, arrests/detention and seizure of equipment by journalists at Multimedia Group Ltd in the course of their duty is not only an indication of their insecurity (UNESCO, 2014; 2015) but it also "paints a very negative picture so far as journalists' safety and media freedom are concerned" (Appiah-Adjei, 2020, p. 198).

2. Perpetrators of the acts of physical insecurity against the journalists were security agents, a public official, affiliates of political parties and an unknown individual. The "fact that state actors such as security agents and public officials feature among the... violators of freedom of expression rights" is ironical (Media Foundation for West Africa, 2017, p. 2) and a deviation from the norm because adherence to rule of law prohibits lawlessness against journalists.

3. Further, the journalists who suffered attacks received support such as medical care as well as legal, moral and psychological assistance from their employer. They also received moral support from GJA, Media Foundation for West Africa and

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NMC. Journalists feel vulnerable and insecure when they are attacked for doing their jobs. The effect of attacks on journalists is worse when such abuses are underestimated by authorities and others who are best positioned to provide support. Support in the form of legal, moral, psychological and medical assistance to journalists who are victims of acts physical insecurity go a long way in helping them to deal with their insecurity and vulnerability.

4. Perpetrators were hardly identified and prosecuted and those identified were not properly punished, thus impunity is established. According to UNESCO (2015), the end to impunity is crucial to the safety of journalists, "therefore, when abuses against FOE [freedom of expression] go unpunished or uncompensated for (depending on the nature of the violation), it goes a long way to embolden perpetrators rather than to deter them. It also nurtures a culture of impunity and silences dissidents (Media Foundation for West Africa, 2018a, p.8).
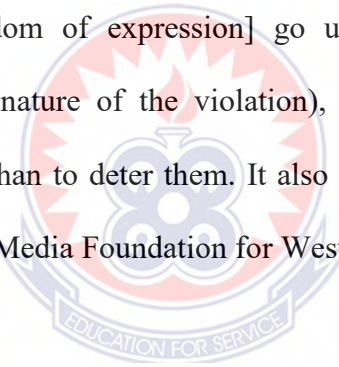
5.4 Recommendations

1. It is recommended that all journalists should be trained in issues on their security, as that will help them understand threat level at any given time and not to over expose themselves to attacks or threats.

2. Journalists should also be trained in crisis management and reporting. This will give journalists some insight into crisis situations and reporting can be tailored in such a way that journalists will not be victims of threat or assault.

3. Cases of crimes against journalists must be investigated and perpetrators must be prosecuted for justice to be served than redressing such crimes through apologies. Prosecution and deserving punishments will serve as a deterrent to 'others who may have the intention of attacking other journalists.

5.5 Limitations of the study

Every study has some limitations and this study is not exclusive. Study limitations can exist due to constraints the researcher encountered during the period of study. During the data collection period of this study, there was a difficulty in getting all the participants at the agreed time for the interviews. Interview appointments had to be rescheduled several times and this delayed the scheduled period for data collection. The researcher had to make countless unproductive trips to Accra during data collection. At some stage in data collection, two female journalists who had previously agreed to be part of the study refused to take part. One of them, who had earlier agreed to be interviewed on telephone, kept changing the date for the interview several times, until she told this researcher to interview other journalists. The other female journalist also said that she cannot be part based on legal advice. This was because the case of assault on her was in court at the time. This accounted for five (instead of seven) participants for the study. It must be stated, however, that these challenges did not affect the data collection process.

5.5 Suggestions for further research

It emerged from the study some that journalists from the MGL have been threatened with death, assaulted and detained in the course of performing their job functions. Since these

journalists have families, whatever happens to them will have some effects on their families. A future study can find out the effects of physical insecurity and the issue of impunity on these families, especially the spouses and children.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: Letter of Introduction

UNIVERSITY OF EDUCATION, WINNEBA
FACULTY OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION
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10th January, 2019

The News Editor
Joy FM/ Multimedia Company
Accra

Dear Sir/Madam,

LETTER OF INTRODUCTION

We respectfully write to introduce to you **Mr. Gershon Doku,** a graduate student of the Department of Communication and Media Studies, University of Education, Winneba.

Mr. Gershon Doku is an M.Phil. Student with Registration number **8180580001** in the Department and is undertaking his research work on '*Occupational Hazards in the Media Industry in Ghana: Attacks on Media Staff of the Multimedia Company*' and will need to collect data from your organisation.

We shall be grateful if you could give him the necessary assistance.

Thank you in anticipation of your kind assistance.

Yours faithfully,

Mr. Kwesi Aggrey
Ag. Head of Department

www.uew.edu.gh

APPENDIX B: Interview guide

Interview guide

Part I

A. *(Establish Rapport)* by introducing myself and where I am coming from and how I have enjoyed his/her news reports.

B. *(Purpose)* this academic exercise is to explore information about the security of journalists in the discharge of their duties in Ghana, the extent of attacks, sources and perpetrators, and measures put in place towards the protection of journalists Ghana.

C. *(Motivation)* following several attacks on j.ournalists, some even paying with their lives, your information to this study help both student journalists and experienced practicing journalists to be security conscious. It is a privilege to have you.

D. *(Time Line)* The interview should take about 20 minutes.

Part II

General demographic information

1. Family (Tell me about your family)

2. Education (Tell me about your education)

3. Job experiences (As a journalist, are there some experiences that you can relate
to me)

4. Hobbies (What are your hobbies, and what do you at your leisure time?)

Part III

1. What is your relationship with those that attacked you?

2. Were you visibly identified as a journalist on the day of attack?

3. What was the sform of attack you were subjected to?

4. Who carried out the attack? Do you know the person?

5. What happened to you after the attack?

6. To whom did you report the attack to?

7. What form of medical treatment did you receive?

8. How did your employers, the Multimedia Group Limited receive the news of the
attack? Did they make any attempt to support you?

9. Was the person who attacked you punished for the crime against you?

10. Do you often experience physical insecurities in the course of your duties?

11. As an employee of Multimedia, do you enjoy some social protection packages to
reduce the impact of risks and attacks?

12. To the best of your knowledge, has Multimedia ever been threatened with closure because of an angle of a story or a certain reportage?

13. Have you ever engaged in self censorship because of threat or attack?

14. What roles did the GJA, Media foundation for West Africa, CPJ and other professional groups play to assist you?

15. Do you feel secured as you carry out your duties as a journalist? What about other journalists?

16. What advice do you have for journalists so that they do not experience what you went through?

17. Is there any other information you will like to add or share with me?