

Reading: Violence Against Journalists and Censorship in the News

In many countries around the world, journalists face increasing threats to their safety. The role of a journalist is to report on the truth and keep the public informed, but this duty often comes with great personal risk. In recent years, violence against journalists has escalated, particularly in areas of conflict or where corruption runs deep. Many reporters have been silenced through intimidation, physical violence, and even murder, simply for doing their job.

Some governments and powerful organizations use censorship to control what is published in the news. They do not want certain stories to come out, especially those that reveal corruption, human rights violations, or illegal activities. Journalists in these situations are often forced to stop reporting or face serious consequences. This type of censorship not only harms the journalist, but also limits the public's right to know what is happening in their country.

Journalists who continue their work despite threats show incredible bravery. They often work in secret, publishing stories that hold the powerful accountable. In many cases, they rely on anonymous sources and risk their lives to make sure the truth is known. Some reporters have been missing for years after publishing critical articles. While international organizations call for their protection, the violence against journalists continues in many parts of the world.

Comprehension Exercises:

Exercise 1: Present Simple

Complete the following sentences using the correct form of the present simple tense:

1. Journalists ___ (report) the truth and keep the public informed.
2. Violence ___ (increase) against reporters in recent years.
3. Many reporters ___ (work) in dangerous areas.
4. Some governments ___ (use) censorship to control the news.
5. Journalists often ___ (face) threats for publishing certain stories.

Exercise 2: Present Perfect

Fill in the blanks with the present perfect form of the verbs in parentheses:

1. Many journalists ___ (be) silenced by violence and intimidation.
2. Governments ___ (use) censorship to stop important stories from being reported.
3. Some reporters ___ (disappear) after publishing critical articles.
4. International organizations ___ (call) for better protection of journalists.
5. Journalists ___ (risk) their lives to ensure the public knows the truth.

Exercise 3: Present Continuous

Rewrite the sentences in the present continuous tense:

1. **Journalists report on important stories.**
→ Journalists _____ on important stories.
2. **Violence against reporters increases every year.**
→ Violence against reporters _____ every year.
3. **Many governments use censorship to hide corruption.**
→ Many governments _____ censorship to hide corruption.
4. **Reporters risk their lives for the truth.**
→ Reporters _____ their lives for the truth.
5. **Journalists around the world fight for freedom of speech.**
→ Journalists around the world _____ for freedom of speech.

Opinion Exercise:

Write a one-page opinion essay on the following topic:

"The Role of Journalists in Society and the Impact of Violence on Freedom of the Press."

In your essay, consider:

- **Why is it important for journalists to report freely?**
- **How does violence against journalists affect society?**
- **What can be done to protect journalists and ensure freedom of the press?**

Instructions:

- **Use the present simple, present perfect, and present continuous tenses in your essay.**
- **Structure your essay with an introduction, body paragraphs, and a conclusion.**
- **Provide examples to support your opinion.**