

# Conflict Reporting



## ☞ Overview:

- ☞ Conflict reporting is considered to be the most dangerous form of journalism. Army or Law Enforcing Agencies seizes control over land or situation while media helps consolidating it.
- ☞ From the war zone, reporting is very dangerous and one has to take special care while reporting the events, or analyzing the facts.

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## ☞ Overview: (Continued)

- ☞ Whenever a reporter covers rallies and mob demonstrates he should be aware of that some time mob takes out their frustration on the media. In war zone or in mob rallies attack or violence comes from unexpected directions and reporter should be vigilant to take safety measures

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## ∞ HISTORY OF CONFLICT REPORTING:

∞ The history of conflict reporting is not only interesting but thrilling as well. Before modern media, history of the war was returned after the end of conflict. The first known war reporter was “Herodotus” who wrote accounts of Persian war. He did not participated in the event but he recorded the accounts of various Military General and produced them in book form.

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## ∞ HISTORY OF CONFLICT REPORTING:(Continued)

∞ Among recent war, the Kosovo war received a great deal of coverage as did the Gulf war. With the development of Modern Media and hi-tech equipment now it is comparatively easy to cover war/conflict areas and disasters. Instant and live reporting is possible due to satellite uplink and speedy communication.

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- ∞ **How to get facts:**
- ∞ While reporting in Conflict Zones, a reporter found three types of facts:
  - ∞ **Sweet facts** (People helping each other/human interest angles).
  - ∞ **Better facts**  
(Casualty/Looting/Robbery/Killing/Bloodshed/Crying)
    -
  - ∞ **Official facts** (spokesmen briefing)

From these facts a reporter has to file a story. He has to judge what type of facts he has to take to balance the story.

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## ∞ SECURITY MEASURES:

- ∞ While working in conflict zone a reporter has to take security measures on priority. The purpose of reporting in Conflict zone is to fetch news but not at the Cost of one's life.

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## ∞ HIGH PRESSURE ENVIRONMENT:

∞ Only such reporter is able to be a good war reporter who has the experience of working in high pressure environment. The working in war zone is a challenging job. A person who has no experience to work in pressure, he would not be able to perform good in war/disaster zones.

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## ☞ SOLO REPORTING :

- ☞ In conflict zone always move as a team. Solo reporting venture in conflict zone is not advisable. If any accident happens to you than there should be someone who can be helpful in providing first aid or to inform the situation and call help/rescue.



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## ☞ FIXER:

☞ In war zone the reporter is a stranger who has to seek guidance about the routes, geography, and about the behaviour of the people. For this purpose a war reporter has to hire a fixer.

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## ∞ SAFETY OF JOURNALIST:

- ∞ No set of principles, no training course and no handbook can guarantee safety of a journalist in conflict zone.
- ∞ In war zone, apart from security measures, a reporter can be targeted if he is in the wrong place at the wrong time it will be his bad luck.

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## ∞ SAFETY OF JOURNALIST: ( Continued)

- ∞ For safety measures the journalists should be careful while filming because camera some time appears as a weapon.
- ∞ Journalist should know safe and unsafe areas and the behaviour patron of local population.

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## ∞ TIPS FOR JOURNALIST :

- ∞ In war and disaster zone journalists must carry First-Aid-Kits with them.
- ∞ Always wear helmets when you are recovering in the conflict zone area.
- ∞ Body Armor, also protect the body injury.
- ∞ Always staying in Touch with your News room.

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## ∞ TIPS FOR JOURNALIST : (Continued)

- ∞ You must carry required clothing/Dry Food and drinking water with you.
- ∞ For safety reasons Label prominently all your clothing including helmets that clearly identify you are from press.
- ∞ You should never carry weapons with you.
- ∞ Take special measures to protect your valuable belongings from theft.

# REFERENCES



- ∞ Introduction to News Reporting: Virtual University of Pakistan
- ∞ Keeble, R. (2000) The Newspapers Handbook (2nd edn), London: Routledge



THAT'S ALL  
Thank  
You