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Analysing Ethics Journalism and Ethical Journalism in the Light of Ankara Attacks

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**Analysing Ethics, Journalism and Ethical Journalism in the Light of Ankara and Paris Attacks**

Citizen Journalism has become essential phenomenon by technological improvement. Thanks for internet and blogs (Like Twitter, Facebook) people can achieve informations what is goin on on the world easily. It distinguished citizen journalists, who do not work for any press agency, and this situation make situations and ethics changed on journalism. This phenomenon could be seen as new, but it has place on history.

This essay contents that citizen journalism should be as ethically commited as any other type of journalism. Some could claim that citizens have received no analogous training as journalist, and thus should not be supposed to be as ethical as professional journalists. On the other hand, in this essay it will be mentioned that this is not the case using the example of the contemporary terrorist attacks in Ankara and Paris Bataclan.

For doing so, in the following Ankara Attack will be present , and then turn to Paris Bataclan attack. As a final point attacks and ethical dilemmas of citizen journalists and mainstream journalists will be contrasted.

If definition of citizen journalism will be given firstly, it would be really helpful to considering if citizen journalism is profitable or not.

“Citizen journalism refers to any type of news gathering and reporting -- writing and publishing articles about a newsworthy topic, or posting photographs or video of a newsworthy event -- that is done by members of the general public rather than the professional news agencies commonly referred to as "mainstream media." Citizen journalism has been in existence at least since Thomas Paine wrote self-published pamphlets like Common Sense that stoked the fires of independence in 1776 [source:Glaser]. But any conversation about citizen journalism in the modern age is mostly a conversation about the transformative effect of the Internet on the democratization of information.”

As it can be seen, citizen journalism have been existing for 240 years, which means that it is older than mainstream journalism which has shown itself during early 20th century. But in this essay, main concern will be type citizen journalism which is after 1990s.

First example will be about Ankara Attack in 10 November 2015, people from Turkeys all cities went to Ankara for asking peace, members of ISIS attacked them with two bombs and lots of people died there. What happened after this attack shows that citizen journalism is really important for understanding what happened there.

“Two powerful bombs exploded at a peace rally near the main train station in Ankara on Saturday morning, killing at least 95 people and wounding 246 others in the deadliest attack in the Turkish capital in recent memory. The number of casualties announced late Saturday by the prime minister's officer was lower than the figures given earlier by the Turkish Medical Association. That agency said 97 people had died and more than 400 were wounded. The prime minister's office said 48 victims were in intensive care.”

People in Turkey, who is not from Ankara, learned what happened there from Twitter users, who published photographs, videos and status about terrorist attack. After the attack, government made publication ban about this attack, because of that, people who does not use social media could not bring information about this event easily. Citizen journalists

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played really important role for explaining the truth. Although role of citizen journalists role can not be deniable, there were some ethical problems about publishing photos and videos. Publishers of those elements did not care about privacy of people. They did not ask to victims of terrorist attacks if they can publish photos, videos or not. Sharing those materials was really important for letting others know how bad situation was, but still has problems. Even though there was ethical problem like this on the attack, mainstream media and news also did some other unethical things. Mainstream media publishers, tried to manipulate situation about Ankara by saying missing number, they tried to blame participants of this peace rally. They tried to camouflage security forces’ mistakes and their manners (They attacked to people who survived from this attack, and blocked the way of ambulances).

Second example will be about Paris Bataclan theatre attack, which caused more than 100 people death

“The Paris area reeled Friday night from a shooting rampage, explosions and mass hostage-taking that President François Hollande called an unprecedented terrorist attack on France. His government announced sharply increased border controls and heightened police powers as it mobilized the military in a national emergency. French television and news services quoted the police as saying that around 100 people had been killed at a concert site where hostages had been held during a two-hour standoff with the police, and that perhaps dozens of others had been killed in apparently coordinated attacks outside the country’s main sports stadium and four other popular locations in the city. But estimates on the total number of dead varied.”\(^3\)

Paris attack is founded out by Twitter users as Ankara attack, because people, who were at Bataclan on this time, also shared what is going on there. As it can be seen, in Paris attack, more information were provided by mainstream media because France government did not put any publish ban after attacks and everything was really transparent, people who wanted to follow news on running account, could watch. It can be said that ethical dilemmas are as not sharp on Paris attack as Ankara attack.

**Conclusion**

According to Society of Professional Journalists, there are four ethic codes:

“Seek Truth and Report It
Minimize Harm
Act Independently
Be Accountable and Transparent"\(^4\)

On Ankara attack, ethics of journalism has been violated on lots of ways, professional journalists could not seek truth and report it because of prohibition, they tried to minimize harm but it is kind of doubtful, they could not act independently because of political situation, they could not be accountable and transparent and they could not be because they were not independent. Although citizen journalists gave truths, acted independently and even they were transparent, they failed to minimize harm for sharing peoples’ photographs and videos without blurring their face or without blurring blood, and they were not really accountable because they acted as how they felt. While Paris attack is scrutinized, it could be seen that, they tried to find truths and reported, minimised harm, acted independently, which is always

\(^3\) [http://www.nytimes.com/2015/11/14/world/europe/paris-shooting-attacks.html?_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2015/11/14/world/europe/paris-shooting-attacks.html?_r=0)

\(^4\) [http://www.spj.org/ethicscode.asp](http://www.spj.org/ethicscode.asp)
doubtful according to writers opinion because it is their job they make money from publishing news but it should be acceptable for all community so it sometimes make journalists feel under press which could cause Halo effect, try to and they were accountable and transparent.

References