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The legal frameworks for protecting the rights to image publication in Saudi and Sudanese journalism: Expounding the views of stakeholders

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Abstract

The protection of people's rights in the use of their photos in journalism publishing has been thoroughly examined in this research, with press freedom to access public data repository resources taken into account. Participants in the research were chosen from a cross-section of sectors in Sudan and Saudi Arabia. A total of 832 participants from a seven stakeholder groups in the two nations made up the sample. In Saudi Arabia, 56.85% (473) of the sample came from the six designated stakeholder groups (photojournalists, media editors, staff of governmental agencies, legal experts), whereas in Sudan, 43.15% (359) participated. Using relevant statistical tools, the study made key findings. According to the findings, approximately 50% of Saudi stakeholders and 86% Sudanese participants don't think that consent is required from people before their pictures are utilised in journalistic works. Over 81% of respondents from both Sudan and Saudi Arabia agree that protecting citizens' rights should be done in accordance with the legal framework of the country, but that journalists should be free to use digital resources in their publications. More than 80% of respondents agreed that photojournalists should put the public interest first while taking and publishing photos. It is thus concluded that state authorities must establish legal and ethical norms outlining the duties and obligations of photojournalists. Important considerations like privacy invasion, user permission, and public safety should all be baked into these rules.

Keywords: image, journalism, publication, right



Public Interest Statement

This paper examined the legislative frameworks that regulate the rights of image publishing in the field of journalism in Saudi Arabia and Sudan. It provided valuable views from a number of significant stakeholders involved in this topic. This study made a substantial contribution to the field by addressing a fundamental void in the current body of research, specifically focused on the safeguarding of persons' image rights within the realm of media. The study is of utmost significance for both the academic and practical sectors, shedding light on the legislative framework that governs journalism in these specific places.

Introduction

The swift progression of technological advances and the ubiquitous nature of visual resources have given rise to a multitude of challenges and discussions concerning the safeguarding of individual rights in the field of journalism. An important issue to consider pertains to the safeguarding of privacy rights, specifically with regard to the unauthorised dissemination of personal information in the absence of consent or proper contextualization (Allen, 2003; Good and Lowe, 2020). The objective of this study is to examine the legal structures that regulate the dissemination of images in the realm of journalism, with a particular emphasis on the jurisdictions of Saudi Arabia and Sudan. Furthermore, the goal is to gain insight into the intricate relationship between preserving the constitutional right to privacy of one's image and maintaining the tenets of journalistic freedoms, which are essential to the principles of democracy.

Both Saudi Arabi and Sudan have established legal frameworks for the regulation of the use of peoples' images in journalism publication. In Saudi Arabia, the Saudi Press and Publication Law which was implemented in 2000 has been the legal framework for the use of peoples' images in media publication. Also, in Sudan, the Sudanese Press and Publication Law that was enacted in 2009 is another legal framework to regulate the action of the media in the use of people's images.

The debate on the rights of citizens and media freedom in Saudi Arabia and Sudan is further complicated by intricate dynamics. The distinct sociopolitical circumstances of each nation play a significant role in shaping the journalism landscapes and safeguarding the fundamental rights of citizens, such as their constitutionally guaranteed privacy (Tait, 2017). The present study acknowledges the significance of examining the effects of photojournalism practises in the aforementioned countries and their potential consequences for the protection of civil liberties. Through an analysis of the current legal structures and their practicality, valuable insights can be gleaned regarding the preservation or potential infringement of individual rights in the context of the promotion of media liberty.

The basis for this study is founded on the need to address the disparity between legal structures and their tangible execution. The assessment of the successful implementation of extant legislation in protecting the civil rights of individuals is imperative, as is the identification of prospective avenues for enhancement. The objective was to obtain significant insights into the viewpoints, difficulties, and intent of individuals who are directly involved in the convergence of media freedom and individual rights. This was achieved by collaborating with prominent stakeholders in journalistic work and citizenship spheres, such as media professionals, professionals in law, and members of civil society organizations. Through this investigation, we hope to add to the ongoing conversation about establishing stronger legal frameworks to protect citizens' rights to image publication in Saudi Arabia and Sudan, ultimately fostering a culture that values both press freedom and individual privacy.

Literature Review

The intersection between protection of citizens' rights to their image publication and the freedom of the press has attracted plethora studies from the legal perspectives, from members of the civil society organizations and from the main players in the journalism sector (Coleman, 2011). It is pertinent to review researchers' perspectives on photojournalism, international legal frameworks for protecting citizens right from usage of their images in media publications, socio-political situations in Sudan and Saudi Arabia, and a discussion of theoretical basis to situate the research.

Photo-Journalism and the Rights of Citizens for Image Publications

The significance of photojournalism in modern journalism cannot be overstated, as it serves as a means of visually documenting and conveying narratives that contribute to our comprehension of present-day occurrences (Grayson, 2015; Hinzo and Clark, 2019; Mortensen, 2014). The rise of technological innovation and the widespread availability of social media websites have led to a notable increase in the utilisation of pictures and videos in various forms of publications. In the present day, photojournalists possess the capacity to capture and distribute impactful visual representations that have the potential to elicit affective responses, initiate dialogues, and impose responsibility upon individuals in positions of authority. The incorporation of pictures in journalism has emerged as a crucial aspect of narrative construction, facilitating news outlets to foster a more profound connection with their readership and furnish pictorial corroboration to substantiate their journalistic endeavours (Newton, 2020; Relly, 2014; Tilak, 2020).

International best practises have been established to provide regulations which recognises and safeguards individuals' rights with regards to the publication of their personal pictures in media publications (Ward, 2019; Steams, 2013). Numerous nations have implemented legislation or formulated directives that delineate the entitlements and obligations of photojournalists and the individuals depicted in the photographs. The instructions that follow prioritise the acquisition of legitimate permission from people prior to the capture and dissemination of their pictures, especially for situations where the subjects may be vulnerable to harm, prejudice, or infringement of their privacy (Georgiou and Zaborowski, 2017; Gregory, 2019). Furthermore, guidelines frequently emphasise the significance of precisely depicting the context and significance of images, guaranteeing that they are not extracted from their original context or altered to deceive the viewers.

A complicated situation arises from the intersection between the freedom of the press and the protection of citizens' rights regarding image publication. Preserving the freedom of the press to capture and relay information on significant incidents is of equal significance as safeguarding the confidentiality and human rights of individuals. Achieving an optimal equilibrium between these two essential objectives necessitates careful contemplation (House, 2017b; Jackson, 2005). The observance of journalistic ethics and adherence to professional standards are crucial in effectively navigating this intricate landscape. The responsible and ethical practises of photojournalists and news organisations entail a careful consideration of their potential consequences for individuals vis-à-vis the public's constitutional right to information.

Regrettably, there have been occurrences where media outlets have resorted to unethical conduct by disseminating individuals' photographs without their explicit authorization. These actions are in violation of individuals' rights, as they exploit their privacy and have the potential to cause feelings of anxiety and harm to their image. Global legislation and resolutions have been established to safeguard individuals' entitlement to the utilisation of their pictures in media publications as a measure to counteract such abuses (Newton, 2013; Dorivan and Boyd, 2021; Deibert, 2019). The right to privacy and the safeguarding of personal data are acknowledged by the "Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the European Convention on Human Rights". Furthermore, some countries have enacted particular legal frameworks, including the

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) within the European Union, that delineate unambiguous directives for the utilisation of personal information, encompassing visual representations, in media releases. The aforementioned laws establish a legal structure that enables the imposition of responsibility on media entities and facilitates the pursuit of remedies for people who believe their rights have been infringed upon.

International Legal Frameworks for Protecting Citizens Rights from Image Publication in the Media

The safeguarding of citizens' rights, such as the rights they have to privacy and authority over the utilisation of their pictures in media publications, is significantly dependent on international legal frameworks. Numerous pivotal instruments and regulations offer directives and safeguards in this context, encompassing the "Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)", the "International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)", the "European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR)", and diverse regional and national statutes and ordinances (Lauren, 2011; Good and Lowe, 2020; Johnson et al., 2021).

i. The "Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)" is based on the principle that all individuals are entitled to certain basic rights and freedoms, including the right to life, liberty, and security of person, freedom of thought, conscience, and religion, and the right to education, work, and social security (Kanter, 2009; Lauren, 2011; Pandir, 2020). The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which was ratified by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948, acknowledges the entitlement to privacy and individual autonomy. Although not explicitly mentioning the utilisation of visual representations, the concept of privacy rights encompasses safeguarding individuals from unconsented and unauthorised exploitation of their pictures in media outlets. The twelfth article of the "Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)" establishes a fundamental principle for safeguarding privacy by prohibiting any form of unwarranted intrusion into an individual's personal life.

ii. The "International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)" is a legally binding international treaty that outlines the civil and political rights of individuals. The "International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)", which was ratified by the "United Nations General Assembly: in 1966, provides a more comprehensive elaboration of the fundamental rights and freedoms enshrined in the "Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)". The right to privacy is explicitly addressed in Article 17 of the "International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)", which prohibits any unlawful or arbitrary interference with an individual's privacy, family, home, or correspondence (Good and Lowe, 2020). Although the International Covenant on Human Rights does not specifically address the utilisation of photographic images, its stipulations can be construed as encompassing the safeguarding of individuals' visual representations against media organisations' unsanctioned usage.

iii. The "European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR)" is a legally binding international treaty that was established to protect and promote human rights in Europe. The "European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR)", which was ratified by the "Council of Europe" in 1950, serves as a regional mechanism for safeguarding human rights across Europe. The eighth article of the "European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR)" ensures the entitlement to the protection of family and personal affairs, home, and correspondence. The safeguarding of individuals' pictures has been construed by the "European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR)" as encompassed within this entitlement. According to the "European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR)", the act of disseminating a person's picture without their explicit consent may potentially infringe upon their fundamental right to privacy, particularly when the picture is utilised in an approach that encroaches upon their personal life.

iv. The legal frameworks at both regional and national levels: Numerous nations have implemented distinct legal statutes and provisions aimed at safeguarding the entitlements of individuals with regards to the utilisation of their pictures by media entities. The legislation pertaining to this matter may exhibit

some degree of disparity across different nations, yet its fundamental objective is to achieve a harmonious equilibrium between the unfettered dissemination of ideas and opinions, and the entitlement to maintain confidentiality and seclusion. Certain nations mandate the acquisition of complete permission or a valid rationale for utilising an individual's likeness to accomplish business or editorial objectives. Furthermore, legal statutes may offer redress in the form of monetary compensation or court orders to prevent further unauthorised use of an individual's likeness, in cases where their rights have been infringed upon.

Socio-Political Contexts in Saudi Arabia and Sudan; Overview of Citizen's Rights Protection

It is pertinent to provide a background assessment of the socio-political system and structure in the two nations, to situate the discourse in the protection of the rights of citizens from the publication of their images in journalism practice. Saudi Arabia operates a closed socio-political system in which the political structures and systems of journalism practices are rooted in the policies and frameworks established by the central governance (Alnajrani et al., 2018; Almanian, 2017). There are different laws and regulations that guide the operations of media organizations in Saudi Arabia; however, the freedom of the press and the use of resources for media publication has remained controversial, mainly in terms of the enforcement of the laws and maintenance of the freedom of the press. The Saudi Press and Publication Laws that was implemented in 2000 has remained the major operational framework in the nation to guide the operational standards and ethics in journalism in Saudi Arabia. However, the recent innovations in technology and the broadened scope of photojournalism has been a subject of debate in connection to the tenets of the Saudi Press and Publication Law 2000.

In recent years, Sudan has undergone notable political transitions. In 2019, a revolution occurred in the nation resulting in the ousting of the then incumbent President Omar al-Bashir who had held the position for a considerable period. Sudan has undertaken measures towards the process of democratisation, which encompasses the formation of a transitional government (House, 2017a; Yassin et al., 2018). Although certain advancements have been made in safeguarding human rights, there are still obstacles that need to be addressed. Sudan has a documented record of impeding freedom of expression as well as press independence, particularly during the tenure of al-Bashir. The dissemination of visual content by journalists in Sudan may encounter impediments, given the potential for governmental oversight of media platforms and the utilisation of legal mechanisms to stifle dissenting perspectives. Despite some favourable advancements, the task of safeguarding individuals' rights pertaining to the dissemination of their pictures persists as a continuous hurdle (Yassin et al., 2018).

Theoretical Foundation of the Study

To critically expound on the intersection of journalistic practices in photojournalism and the rights of individuals to the publication of their images, it is pertinent to explore various theories to be able to situate the analysis. This research is set to attain an in-depth awareness of the legal frameworks that safeguard citizens' rights regarding the publication of their images in journalism by examining three theoretical foundations, namely privacy theory, public interest theory, and ethical frameworks in journalism. The aforementioned theories serve as a foundation for scrutinising and assessing the equilibrium among personal privacy rights, the liberty to express oneself, and the communal concerns linked to journalistic methodologies.

Privacy theory has been expounded and applied in different studies in journalism. Theoretical underpinnings of privacy are fundamental in comprehending the legal structures that safeguard individuals' rights against the dissemination of their visual representations in journalistic pursuits (Georgiou and Zaborowski, 2017; Tilak, 2020). The concept of privacy is considered a fundamental entitlement of human beings, which has been acknowledged by multiple international agreements and legal frameworks.

Privacy theory underscores the significance of personal autonomy, the ability to exercise control over one's personal information, and safeguarding oneself against unwarranted intrusion. Privacy theory, as applied in the field of journalism, posits that individuals possess a justifiable anticipation of privacy, even in areas accessible to the public, with respect to their visual representations. The act of disseminating an individual's image without their express permission may be regarded as a violation of their personal privacy (Ward, 2019). Legal frameworks that are based on privacy theory frequently mandate that journalists must secure informed consent or establish a valid public interest rationale prior to publishing identifiable images. The aforementioned frameworks achieve a harmonious equilibrium between the unfettered exercise of one's right to self-expression and the safeguarding of the privacy rights of individuals.

Public interest theory also offers insights on journalism's practices and the rights of the citizens, striking a balance in journalism practices. According to the theory, journalism performs a pivotal function in a democratic society by catering to the public interest. The statement acknowledges that there exist situations in which the dissemination of visual representations of persons, even in the absence of their explicit authorization, may be deemed legitimate on the grounds of serving the common good (Stein, 2013; Deibert, 2019). An instance of this could be the recording of occurrences that hold significance for the general public, the revelation of illicit activities or misconduct, or the dissemination of information pertaining to matters of substantial importance. Legal frameworks that are based on the public interest theory frequently grant journalists specific privileges and safeguards when disseminating images that are in the public interest. Notwithstanding, these frameworks necessitate a meticulous evaluation of the plausible detriment to persons and a commensurate equilibrium of conflicting entitlements and concerns (Croteau and Hoynes, 2013; Newell, 2013).

There also exist journalistic ethical frameworks that serve as guiding principles for journalists to navigate moral dilemmas that arise when deciding whether or not to publish certain images. The aforementioned frameworks comprise a spectrum of ethical principles and codes of conduct that provide guidance for journalistic practices. The fundamental ethical principles encompass veracity, precision, impartiality, harm reduction, and reverence for confidentiality. The ethical principles of journalism recognise the significance of acquiring consent whenever feasible and exercising caution regarding the possible adverse outcomes of disseminating images without authorization. Journalistic ethical frameworks frequently extend beyond legal mandates and promote conscientious and answerable conduct. Journalistic codes of ethics function as a supplementary layer to legal frameworks, compelling journalists to contemplate the ethical ramifications of disseminating an individual's likeness and endeavor to maintain professional standards.

Research Questions

The following study questions are posed to guide the direction of the study:

1. What are the views of the stakeholders on ensuring privacy and dignity of citizens in terms of their image publication in Journalism practices in Sudan and Saudi Arabia?
2. What are the perceptions of stakeholders on balancing the press freedom and citizens' rights in photojournalism?

Problem Statement

The dissemination of news stories and the engagement of readers are significantly influenced by the utilisation of images in modern journalistic practices. Nonetheless, this particular practice gives rise to significant ethical and legal considerations with respect to safeguarding the rights of individuals. The act of distributing photographs of individuals in the field of photojournalism has the potential to violate their privacy, dignity, and freedom of choice. Consequently, there exists an urgent requirement to institute legal structures that

achieve a nuanced equilibrium between the necessity of journalistic procedures and the protection of the populace's rights. The fundamental right to privacy and dignity is a crucial aspect of citizenship, and its infringement can occur when individuals' images are disseminated "without their consent or in a manner that causes harm or distress" (Good and Lowe, p.39). It is imperative that journalistic practises adhere to the fundamental rights of individuals, as the unapproved or tactless utilisation of citizens' images may result in substantial adverse ramifications on their personal and occupational spheres. It is imperative to investigate the legal structures that safeguard the rights of individuals in photojournalism, in order to establish a set of principles that prioritise the preservation of privacy and dignity, while simultaneously upholding the fundamental tenets of journalism (Newton, 2020). This study aims to narrow the divide between journalism practises and the rights of individuals portrayed in photojournalism by investigating the legal frameworks that safeguard citizens from the dissemination of their images. The engagement of significant stakeholders can offer valuable perspectives on achieving a harmonious equilibrium that acknowledges the importance of journalism while simultaneously safeguarding the core rights and honour of individuals. The outcomes of the research will ultimately aid in the creation of all-inclusive legal structures that endorse conscientious, moral, and answerable conduct in the domain of photojournalism.

Designs/Methods/Findings/Results

Various methodological processes were followed in this study, and they are explained in the following sections.

Study Community

To ensure a balanced representation of participants, a diverse range of stakeholders were engaged in the study, primarily to gain insights from different perspectives and offer a comprehensive understanding of the legal frameworks for photojournalism and the impacts to citizens' rights. As such, the data as collected from a group of photojournalists, media editors, personnels of governmental agencies, legal experts, members of civil society organizations, and citizens both in Saudi Arabia and in Sudan. The participants were selected after proper informed consent and debriefing of the study objectives were achieved. Participation was fully on voluntary basis, and ethical policies set out for the study were followed.

Study Sampling

The sample includes a total of 832 respondents drawn from the seven stakeholder groups from the two countries. The sampling procedure was cross-sectional purposive sampling, wherein the participants were drawn from different sections and participation was based on the purpose of the study and the inclusion based on the identified study groups. About 56.85% (473) of the study sample were drawn across the six stakeholders in Saudi Arabi, while 43.15% (359) respondents were drawn from the six identified stakeholder groups in Sudan. The table below provides a summary of the demographic variables in the two countries.

Table 1: Stakeholder Groups of Respondents from Saudi Arabia

Categories	Frequency	Percentage
Photo-journalists	15	3.17%
Governmental officials	19	4.02%
Legal experts	67	14.17%
Members of civil society organizations	152	32.13%

News media editors	59	12.48%
General citizens	161	34.03%
Total	473	100%

Table 1 provides insights into the distribution of the sample size across the study stakeholders groups. The table indicates that over 34% of the study population from Saudi Arabia are general citizens, which is followed by 32.13% who are members of different civil society organizations, mainly international civil society organizations.

Table 2: Stakeholder Groups of Respondents from Sudan

Stakeholders	Frequency	Percentage
General citizens	163	45.41%
Legal experts	21	5.84%
Government officials	17	4.73%
News editors	37	10.31%
Photo-journalists	23	6.40%
Members of civil society organizations	98	27.31%
Total	359	100%

Study Approach

This research is a quantitative analysis of the views of experts on the legal frameworks and their implementation for the protection of the rights of citizens in their image publication in journalism practices in Saudi Arabia and Sudan. A simple survey design was used to elicit adequate data from the study respondents through the use of questionnaire.

Data Collection Procedure

Due to the diverse nature of the respondents' groups, data was collected through the use of questionnaire that was distributed electronically across the respondents. The questionnaires were designed with five-points Likert scale, ranging from strongly agree (1) to strongly disagree (5). The questionnaire was segmented into different sections according to the main research questions.

Data Analysis Procedure

Analysis was conducted using relevant statistical means. Results were presented in descriptive statistical tables, which contain the Likert scale values, and the mean for each question. The descriptive statistical tables were generated through Jamovi after uploading of the relevant data.

Results

Three key research questions were developed in the study, and they form the basis for data collection and the result presented here.

- A. What are the views of the stakeholders on ensuring privacy and dignity of citizens in terms of their image publication in Journalism practices in Sudan and Saudi Arabia?

Table 3: Results of the Stakeholders from Saudi Arabia on Research Question One

Questions Items	SA	A	N	D	SD	Mean
The journalistic protocols implemented in Saudi Arabia effectively safeguard the privacy and dignity of individuals when featuring their pictures in media publications.	4.87%	7.82%	27.27%	30.66%	29.38%	2.41
The extant policies and guidelines implemented in Saudi Arabia guarantee that the permission of citizens is acquired prior to the dissemination of their images in journalistic productions.	7.39%	12.89%	29.39%	34.47%	15.86%	2.28
Media outlets in Saudi Arabia exhibit a responsible stance in upholding the privacy and dignity of their citizens by exercising prudence in the dissemination of their images.	9.94%	13.31%	31.50%	36.16%	9.09%	1.95
Saudi Arabia requires more robust measures and regulations to safeguard the privacy and dignity of its citizens in instances where their images are utilised in journalistic practises.	27.90%	41.65%	13.31%	12.47%	4.67%	3.95

Table 3 provides insights into the views of stakeholders from Saudi Arabia on the issue of ensuring that privacy and dignity of citizens in terms of their image publication in Journalism practices in Saudi Arabia are evident in journalism production (House, 2017b). The table indicates that the stakeholders are aware of the poor practices in the Saudi Arabian journalism in terms of protection of the rights on the publication of their images. Over 59% of the stakeholder from Saudi Arabia affirm that the journalistic protocols implemented in Saudi Arabia effectively safeguard the privacy and dignity of individuals when featuring their pictures in media publications. Over 27% chose to remain neutral to this question, with less than 13% that accept the proposition. This is an indication that ethical principle in photo-journalism is rarely observed when it comes of the protection of citizens right in the use of their pictures for media publication. In the same vein, over 49% of the stakeholders from Saudi Arabi rejected the claim that the extant policies and guidelines implemented in Saudi Arabia guarantee that the permission of citizens is acquired prior to the dissemination of their images in journalistic productions. This finding is indicative of the limited legal frameworks in Saudi Arabia to protect the use of pictures of people by photo-journalists in media publications. The observation that over 29% of the respondents remained neutral in response to the question points to the limitation of freedom of speech in Saudi Arabia despite the ethical projection in the study.

Table 4: Results of the Stakeholders from Sudan on Research Question One

Question Items	SA	A	N	D	SD	Mean
The journalistic protocols implemented in Sudan effectively safeguard the privacy and dignity of individuals when featuring their pictures in media publications.	9.19%	14.48%	4.74%	55.15%	16.44%	2.02
The extant policies and guidelines implemented in Sudan guarantee that the permission of citizens is acquired prior to the dissemination of their images in journalistic productions.	4.74%	8.64%	4.17%	61.00%	21.45%	2.01
Media outlets in Sudan exhibit a responsible stance in upholding the privacy and dignity of their citizens by exercising prudence in the dissemination of their visual representations.	2.51%	4.74%	8.08%	64.35%	20.32%	1.85
Sudan requires more robust measures and regulations to safeguard the privacy and dignity of its citizens in instances where their images are utilised in journalistic practises.	31.48%	54.32%	13.37%	0.83%	0	4.59

Despite the difference in governmental systems, the rights of citizens have been subjected to discussion, mainly from the perspectives of Privacy Theory and Public Interest theory wherein the rights of citizens are discussed in the context of policies and actions that are taken to protect the interest of the public. However, the establishment and enactment of laws that protects the rights of citizens concerning the use of their images in media publication. In Sudan, over 71% of the surveyed stakeholders refuted the claim that the journalistic protocols implemented in Sudan effectively safeguard the privacy and dignity of individuals when featuring their pictures in media publications, indicating limitations in legal frameworks to safeguard the rights of the citizens. This finding may be the reason over 82% of the Sudanese that participate in the study rejected the claim that the extant policies and guidelines implemented in Sudan guarantee that the permission of citizens is acquired prior to the dissemination of their images in journalistic productions. Overall, 85.90% of the surveyed Sudanese affirm that Sudan requires more robust measures and regulations to safeguard the privacy and dignity of its citizens in instances where their images are utilised in journalistic practises. These measures ad regulations will not only focus on the protect the rights of the citizens within the framework of Privacy Theory, but will also make necessary regulations that guarantee freedom of the press and interest of the public, within the framework of the Public Interest Theory.

B. What are the perceptions of stakeholders on balancing the press freedom and citizens’ rights in photojournalism?

Different question items that were included in the questionnaire were derived from the above research questions, and the results are presented in tables 5 and 6 below.

Table 5: Result of the Views of Participants on Balancing Press Freedom and Citizens’ Rights in Photojournalism

Question Items	SA	A	N	D	SD	Mean
Protecting the rights of citizens must be within the legal framework of the nation, but the press is free to use digital resources in their publication as part of their press freedom	32.16%	49.33	11.21	5.18	2.12	4.52
It is imperative for photojournalists to include precise and contextual data in conjunction with pictures publications.	31.83%	44.72	13.41%	7.85%	2.19	4.17
Photojournalists should put the public interest first when taking and posting photos, as a good reason to share private or possibly dangerous photos, making sure that the photos serve a real purpose in explaining to the public.	33.51%	46.95%	14.02%	4.31%	1.21%	4.38
The establishment of legal and ethical guidelines by governmental institutions is necessary to define the duties and obligations of photojournalists, which should cover significant topics including invasion of privacy, consent, and the public interest.	29.15%	41.35%	18.22%	9.16%	2.12%	3.86

To create a balance on the freedom of the press and the protection of the rights of the citizens in the use of their images in journalism publications, there is a need to consider different factors. This may be the reason over 81% of the study participants affirm that protecting the rights of citizens must be within the legal framework of the nation, but the press is free to use digital resources in their publication as part of their press freedom. The advancements in technology have provided avenues for photojournalist to access images through public digital data repositories such as the social media platforms and other internet sources. In doing this, over 75% of the study samples from Saudi Arabia and Sudan accepted that it is imperative for photojournalists to include precise and contextual data in conjunction with pictures publications. Also, over 80% affirm that photojournalists should put the public interest first when taking and posting photos, as a good reason to share private or possibly dangerous photos, making sure that the photos serve a real purpose in explaining to the public. Furthermore, the establishment of legal and ethical guidelines by governmental institutions is necessary to define the duties and obligations of photojournalists, which should cover significant topics including invasion of privacy, consent, and the public interest. This finding is affirmed by over 61% of the study population and rejected by merely less than 12%.

Discussion

There are different findings that are significant in this study, mainly the focus on the roles of the governmental institutions in creating functional legal framework to ensure that both the photojournalists are protected in terms of the freedom of the press and the rights of the citizens are protected in terms of usage of their images in journalism publications. The survey results from Saudi Arabian stakeholders suggest that they

have knowledge of inadequate practises in Saudi Arabian journalism regarding the safeguarding of their rights concerning the publication of their images. According to a survey, (59%) of the stakeholders from Saudi Arabia rejected the proposition that the journalistic protocols in place in the country are successful in protecting the privacy and dignity of individuals when their pictures are featured in media publications. Approximately 27% of respondents opted to remain neutral towards the question, while a minority of less than 13% expressed acceptance with the proposition. This finding suggests that there is a lack of adherence to ethical principles in photo-journalism, particularly in regards to protecting citizens' rights when their pictures are used for media publication. According to the data, almost half (49%) of the stakeholders in Saudi Arabia disagree that the current policies and guidelines in place ensure that citizens' permission is obtained before their images are used in journalistic productions. The implication of this finding is that there is limited regulations and governmental policies in Saudi Arabi to protect the use of pictures of people by photojournalists in media publications.

In the same vein, it was found that about 45.67% of the respondents from Saudi Arabia refuted the claim that media firms in Saudi Arabia are effectively protecting the privacy and rights of citizens when it comes to the use of their images without consent. Another dimension to this insight is the constrained nature of freedom of the press in Saudi Arabia. This suggests that there is limited degree of freedom of speech and press freedom. According to the data, a majority of the participants (68%) agreed that Saudi Arabia needs to implement stronger measures and regulations to protect the privacy and dignity of its citizens when their images are used in journalistic practises.

According to the survey conducted, focusing on the Sudanese respondents, a significant majority of stakeholders (71%) disagreed with the assertion that journalistic protocols in the country adequately protect the privacy and dignity of individuals whose pictures are featured in media publications. This suggests that there may be shortcomings in the legal frameworks that are meant to safeguard the rights of citizens. The study revealed that a significant percentage (82%) of Sudanese participants rejected the notion that current policies and guidelines in Sudan ensure that citizens' permission is obtained before their images are used in journalistic productions. This finding could potentially explain why this percentage of participants held this view. According to the survey results, a significant majority (85.90%) of Sudanese respondents believe that Sudan needs to implement stronger measures and regulations to protect the privacy and dignity of its citizens when their images are used in journalistic practises. The proposed measures and regulations aim to safeguard both the privacy rights of citizens, in line with the Privacy Theory, and the interests of the public and freedom of the press, as per the Public Interest Theory.

A significant concern was the process of producing a balance between the freedom of the photojournalists to use resources available to them for media reportage and the protection of the human rights. In order to achieve a balance between the independence of the press and safeguarding the civil rights of individuals with regards to the utilisation of their images in journalistic publications, it is imperative to take into account various factors. The study findings indicate that a significant proportion of the participants (81%) believe that safeguarding citizens' rights should be carried out in accordance with the legal framework of the country. However, the press should be allowed to utilise digital resources in their publications as a manifestation of their press freedom. The progressions in technology have facilitated opportunities for photojournalists to obtain images via publicly accessible digital data repositories, including social media platforms and other online sources. The study revealed that a significant proportion of the sample population from Saudi Arabia and Sudan, specifically over 75%, acknowledged the crucial role of photojournalists in providing accurate and contextual information alongside visual media in their publications. Furthermore, a significant majority of over 80% of respondents assert that photojournalists ought to prioritise the public interest when capturing and disseminating photographs. This is deemed a valid justification for disclosing

private or potentially hazardous images, provided that they serve a genuine purpose in elucidating matters to the public. The formulation of legal and ethical protocols by state authorities is imperative in delineating the responsibilities and commitments of photojournalists. These guidelines should encompass crucial aspects such as privacy infringement, consent, and the welfare of the general public. This finding is supported by a majority of 61% of the participants in the study, indicating the importance of the legal frameworks and guidelines for the journalists to function.

Conclusion

This study has gone through a detailed analysis of the protection of the rights of citizens in the use of their images in journalism publication, which was considered in the light of the freedom of the press to utilize resources available from public data repository. The study gained insights from stakeholders drawn from different sectors in Sudan and Saudi Arabia. The sample includes a total of 832 respondents drawn from the seven stakeholder groups from the two countries. About 56.85% (473) of the study sample were drawn across the six stakeholders (photojournalists, media editors, personnels of governmental agencies, legal experts) in Saudi Arabi, while 43.15% (359) respondents were drawn from the six identified stakeholder groups in Sudan. Various findings were made. The study reveals that over 59% of the stakeholders from Saudi Arabia, and 71% of the respondents from Sudan rejected the proposition that the journalistic protocols in place in the country are successful in protecting the privacy and dignity of individuals when their pictures are featured in media publications. The data also indicates that 49% of the stakeholders in Saudi Arabia and 81% of the Sudanese participants disagreed that the current policies and guidelines in place ensure that citizens' permission is obtained before their images are used in journalistic productions. The study findings indicate that 81% of both the Sudanese and Saudi Arabian respondents affirm that safeguarding citizens' rights should be carried out in accordance with the legal framework of the country; however, the press should be allowed to utilise digital resources in their publications as a manifestation of their press freedom. The findings also indicate that over 80% of respondents assert that photojournalists ought to prioritise the public interest when capturing and disseminating photographs. It is thus concluded that the formulation of legal and ethical protocols by state authorities is imperative in delineating the responsibilities and commitments of photojournalists. These guidelines should encompass crucial aspects such as privacy infringement, consent, and the welfare of the general public.

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Conflict of Interest

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