

CIACA Model United Nations IV Chair Report

Chair Report

Forum: Press Corps

Topic: The Question of Addressing Media Bias and Objectivity

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Introduction

The Press Corps committee at CIACAIV is a specialized committee that does not follow the standard MUN procedure of debating on a resolution. Delegates will act as journalists representing international news outlets, whose responsibility is to report on major developments across all committees without personal bias by interacting with delegates from other committees. Journalists have the option to request an interview with delegates of their chosen committee, call for a press conference with the chairs' permission, and continuously submit articles to accurately report on the conference's progress. To ensure an accurate reflection of the editorial stance of the assigned news outlet, journalists are required to do prior research before the conference and write a position paper outlining the outlet's perspectives and real-world examples that highlight this. This is crucial for journalists' ability to recognize and analyze different forms of media bias that exist, to evaluate the level of objectivity in their coverage, and to comprehend how news outlets' agendas influence news presentation.

The Press Corps committee parallels the United Nations Correspondents Association (UNCA). Since its establishment in 1948, UNCA has operated as an essential body of 200 journalists worldwide, leading to accessible news for 6.9 billion people. Members of the UNCA cover developments across the United Nations' committees, attend press conferences with UN diplomats, and transcribe all of this information into concise reports for the public. Despite many obstacles, these journalists are the liaison between the public and the UN, safeguarding transparency by conveying events, perspectives, and key decisions from all committees. This committee's mission is to maintain objective reporting, provide balanced coverage, document this conference's history, and honor the principles of press freedom in alignment with the UNCA's legacy.

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Definition of Key Terms

Press

All forms of media, such as newspapers, magazines, broadcasting networks, and others that deliver information and news to the public.

Press Conference

An event where journalists and media representatives gather to ask questions and obtain information from the interviewee.

Media

Communication platforms such as television, radio, social media, and online channels connect individuals and distribute information to the public.

Media Bias

When news agencies, organizations, or journalists present information that reflects their personal beliefs or opinions. This may lead to one-sided reporting that can polarize audiences and complicate social/political issues.

Sensationalism

A media technique that emphasizes information in a shocking or attention-grabbing way.

Information Imbalance

A situation where one side of a conflict has greater access to media platforms. This leads to unequal representation in the global narrative.

Misinformation

False or misleading information is spread, which can distort public understanding and even exacerbate conflicts.

Propaganda

Deliberate misleading information by governments or organizations to influence public opinion or promote specific agendas.

Conflict Framing

The way a conflict is portrayed in the media casts parties as “aggressors”, “defenders”, or “victims”.

Ethical Journalism

Journalism in which the reporting process adheres to the values of integrity, responsibility, equity, and respect for human rights.

Background Information

In the twenty-first century, being able to control the narrative can be as powerful as controlling the territory. The version of events that reaches the public and international community first and how it's framed can distort whether a country is seen as either a victim deserving sympathy or an aggressor deserving condemnation for its crime. This selective framing often reflects the biases of the media's owners or affiliated governments, such as political affiliations, ideological leanings, national interests, or commercial pressures, resulting in an uneven portrayal of global events. As a result, humanitarian efforts, diplomatic negotiations, and even the way wars are fought are significantly impacted by media coverage.

A prime example of how information imbalances influence international narratives is the recent information war that happened during the Thai–Cambodian border dispute. Objectively, Thailand's diverse and accessible media environment, combined with the presence of Thai nationals working for major international outlets, has significantly influenced global narratives surrounding the recent border conflict, which led to portrayals of Cambodia as being the aggressor. In the digital age, online platforms and social media make these biases worse by using sensational headlines and emotionally charged content to drown out balanced, evidence-based reporting. For instance, CBC produced statements such as “A total of 11 civilians—including an eight-year-old and a 15-year-old—as well as one military personnel member have been killed in Surin,” focusing on consequences for Thailand, with less emphasis on the broader context of the conflict.

Beyond this, similar patterns can be seen all over the world. Competing narratives in conflicts such as the Israeli–Palestinian dispute, the Russia–Ukraine conflict, and the India–Pakistan Kashmir dispute show how selective and biased reporting can complicate diplomatic negotiations, obstruct humanitarian action, and polarize citizens on both sides of the conflicts. The unchecked spread of propaganda has created a pressing need for systems that protect accuracy and transparency. This issue urgently calls for a collaborative effort among governments, journalists, and international organizations to work together to achieve a collaborative goal of promoting ethical depiction of narratives for the international community.

This topic emphasizes the impact of media narratives on global diplomacy, which has a potential chain reaction on a planetary scale. Media bias and selective storytelling not only influence public perception but also

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have repercussions on diplomacy, peacebuilding initiatives, and humanitarian efforts. At its core, the discussion centers on how journalists can leverage the media's influence to build bridges and resolve conflicts, rather than deepen divides. Unwavering commitment to journalistic integrity, transparency, and the amplification of diverse viewpoints is necessary to address these challenges. Ultimately, the integrity of world peace depends on the media's ability to inform, not agitate, the international community about the intricate conflicts occurring around the world.

Major News Agencies in CIACAMUN IV

Agency Name	Description
 African News Agency (ANA)	ANA is Africa's largest news syndication business, established in Cape Town after the collapse of the South African Press Association (SAPA) in February 2015. Its primary mission is to provide unbiased news of Africa, written by Africans striving to narrate news that truly illustrates what is currently shaping the continent. It is built on key thematic pillars, from conflict and economy to culture and lifestyle, business, entrepreneurship, SDGs, and marginalized communities. ANA is partnered with over 40 media organizations across Africa and aims to reshape how African stories are told and shared. Despite its lofty ambition, such as opening bureaus in New York, London, Dubai, Shanghai, Kenya, Nigeria, and Egypt, it has faced scrutiny when unable to do so, facing organizational instability marked by employee layoffs, and accepting bribes to facilitate positive media coverage for the government.
Agence France Presse (AFP)	AFP is a global news agency based in Paris, France, and one of the world's leading and oldest

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	news organizations. Founded in 1835 as Agence Havas, it was reestablished as Agence France-Presse (AFP) in 1944 after the liberation of Paris. It's known for its rapid and reliable news coverage, neutrality, and commitment to delivering unbiased news. As one of the oldest global news agencies, it adheres to rigorous journalistic standards, avoiding sensationalism or politicized narratives and preventing unnecessary escalation of international conflicts. AFP operates bureaus in major French cities and world capitals, offering services in multiple languages and specialized reports, including photojournalism and African affairs.
Al Jazeera Media Network 	Al Jazeera is a global news network based in Doha, Qatar, and one of the Arab world's most prominent media organizations. It was founded in 1996 by Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani. It gained international recognition for its uncensored reporting and bold debates. It's known for its 24/7 Arabic programming, and later, its English-language branch launched in 2006. Al Jazeera offers a mix of news, talk shows, and educational programs. It has built its reputation on offering alternative perspectives, particularly from the Global South, and challenges the Western-dominated narrative. However, it is criticized for being influenced by Qatar's political interests but still continues to maintain a strong presence in global journalism despite regional controversies.
British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC)	The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) is a publicly funded UK broadcaster founded in 1927. The BBC is renowned for its commitment to impartiality, though it has faced criticism for potential biases in coverage of post-colonial and

	geopolitical issues. Based in London, it held a monopoly on radio and TV broadcasting until the 1950s. As a globally trusted source, its reporting can shape and influence international public opinion on conflicts or global crises. The BBC operates domestic and international services, including the BBC World Service in over 40 languages. Funded by television license fees, it remains impartial and does not air advertisements. The BBC is known for globally successful programming like Doctor Who and Mr. Bean, and it continues to be a key player in global media.
Der Spiegel 	Der Spiegel (German for “The Mirror”) is one of Europe’s most influential magazines. Founded in 1947, it has a distinctive reputation for its aggressive, vigorous, and well-written writing in revealing political misconduct and scandals. Born out of postwar efforts for press independence, it has ultimately fortified press freedom in Germany after the Spiegel Affair in 1962, after the editorial offices and the executives were raided by police. After the legal case collapsed, this scandal led to widespread public backlash against government overreach, and this moment became a landmark for freedom of the press in West Germany, cementing Der Spiegel’s role as a fearless watchdog. With one of the world’s largest newsroom fact-checking operations, Spiegel maintains high editorial standards and is one of Europe’s largest publication centers. Nevertheless, the magazine has faced fabrication scandals on different occasions. In 2018, a reporter, Class Relotius has falsified his facts, persons, and quotations in at least 14 articles and depicts crude anti-Americanism and anti-Trump, showing

	long-held ideological bias. Additionally, in 2022, the magazine published 3 different articles and a podcast regarding the death of a refugee girl named "Maria" at the Greece–Turkey border, accusing Greece of failing to aid the refugees; however was debunked as the largest fake news breakdown.
France 24 	France 24 is France's state-owned international news channel, broadcasting in French, English, Arabic, and Spanish. Today, it is available 24/7 globally and is rooted in live news, magazines, debates, and investigative reporting. This is possible due to the news channel's dedicated network of roughly 160 to 200 correspondents across the globe. In 2024, roughly 570 million people can receive at least one version of France 24. Monthly, the channel has gained over 20 million visits, with video views reaching 150 to 190 million, and 70+ million followers across social platforms like YouTube, Facebook, X, Instagram, and WhatsApp. France 24 aims to offer a distinctly French perspective on global news, bringing clarity into international affairs; with its slogan "Liberté, Égalité, Actualité" ("Liberty, Equality, News"), the channel emphasizes debunking fake news, while fostering nuanced news coverage.

Middle East Eye 	Middle East Eye (MEE) is an independent, UK-based news outlet founded in April 2014. It focuses on news in the Middle East, North Africa, and the broader Muslim world. The operation was spearheaded by director Jamal Bessasso; however, the ownership of the news outlet remained undisclosed. This led to allegations that the organisation is funded by the government of Qatar due to its pro-Qatar stance while being critical of Israel, Egypt, and UAE policies, though the organisation itself denies this. MEE emphasizes news that goes beyond the standard reporting, as its coverage includes breaking regional stories such as the fall of eastern Aleppo, investigations into Jamal Khashoggi's assassination, and reports on migrant fighters joining conflicts. Its reports have been cited by the International Criminal Court, UN agencies, NATO, EU bodies, as well as respected NGOs and think tanks such as Human Rights Watch, Oxfam, Chatham House, and others.
Reuters 	Reuters, a global news agency founded nearly 170 years ago, operates with a commitment to integrity, independence, and freedom from bias, as outlined in its Trust Principles. It has a dedicated fact-checking unit within its editorial department, focused on verifying visual materials and claims from social media. Its investigative journalism often exposes corruption or human rights abuses, indirectly influencing diplomatic relations. The findings are published on Reuters' website. Reuters is also a signatory of the International Fact-Checking Network (IFCN) and adheres to its Code of Principles, inviting readers to report any breaches to the IFCN.

Sky News 	Launched in 1989 as Britain’s first 24-hour news channel, Sky News quickly gained recognition for its live event coverage, political analysis, investigative reports, and human-interest features. The news channel has positioned itself as an urgent first-responder to global events such as the Gulf War coverage, Ebola, the Rohingya crisis, 7/7 London bombings. Despite competition with the BBC, Sky News remains one of the UK’s most decorated broadcasters, with BAFTAs, International Emmys, and multiple Royal Television Society “News Channel of the Year” awards to its name. The channel’s editorial mission is to cover the UK and world “with clarity, speed, and accuracy”, with coverage topics including politics, business, climate, science & tech, and breaking world affairs, complemented by documentaries, investigative specials, and interactive debates. Despite a strong record for accuracy, Sky News has been accused of bias, particularly during UK general elections, Brexit debates, and high-profile political scandals, with sensationalist framing and impartiality in political interviews.
TASS Russian News Agency 	TASS, Russia's first unified news agency, was founded as the St. Petersburg Telegraph Agency in 1904. It publishes around 3,000 news items daily in six languages and operates with over 1,700 employees across 62 global offices. It offers international and domestic events coverage, with the content available on its website and social media. TASS reflects the Russian government’s perspectives, often promoting narratives that align with national interests—for example, framing global events in ways that support Russian policies, such as its narratives on NATO

	or Ukraine.
The Guardian 	The Guardian is a leading UK daily newspaper, founded in Manchester in 1821 as the weekly Manchester Guardian and became a daily newspaper in 1855. It moved to London in 1964 and dropped "Manchester" from its name in 1959. The Guardian has evolved into a globally recognized, liberal-minded newspaper anchored in journalistic independence. It is known for its literary and artistic coverage, foreign reporting, and investigative journalism (such as human rights and global inequalities), often placing pressure on the government to adopt more ethical policies. In the present, its digital expansion brings in over a billion page views monthly, reflecting wide international engagement; however, this journey isn't free from backlash as critics question its sourcing practices, perceived bias, and weaker investigative focus in recent years. Most notably, the Guardian's trust has acknowledged and begun compensating for its founders' links to slavery by paying £10 million to restorative justice efforts, showing a significant act of accountability.
The Hindu 	Founded in 1878, The Hindu is one of India's most enduring and trusted English-language newspapers. Owned by the Kasturi family for generations, this newspaper business has been publishing secular editorial values in politics, business, and culture. However, the Hindu has faced criticism and accusations of being left-leaning, elite language, and making occasional editorial missteps. Despite criticisms, many readers, including civil servants, continue to value The Hindu for its depth, clarity, and

	editorial quality. In recent years, due to leadership resignations, there have been disagreements over who should steer the paper's editorial policy and what ideological stance it should take, highlighting the challenge of preserving The Hindu's traditions while adapting to the changing expectations of its readers.
The Times of Israel 	Co-founded by journalist David Horovitz and U.S. investor Seth Klarman, The Times of Israel is a prominent online newspaper covering news on Israel, the Middle East, and the global Jewish community. Founded in 2012 and headquartered in Jerusalem, it has news and analysis in multiple languages, including English, Arabic, French, Persian, and Hebrew. The Times of Israel maintains a centrist or center editorial stance, striving for independent coverage. Offering extensive analysis and opinion content alongside regular news reporting through its multi-author blog platform, which welcomes opinion from outside writers. This led to diverse viewpoints, but has led to controversy when inflammatory posts, such as one advocating genocide, were published by guest bloggers. Furthermore, this news channel offers multimedia content, including podcasts such as The Daily Briefing, Times Will Tell, and Paralyzed Nation, which has led to the outlet reaching over 8 million unique monthly users in 2025, accounting for 25 million visits and 75 million pageviews per month.

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Xinhua News Agency



Xinhua News Agency, founded in 1931 as the press outlet of the Chinese Communist Party, is headquartered in Beijing and has offices worldwide. Initially set up in Jiangxi province and later moved to Yan'an, it provides news services for both Chinese and international media. Operating under government control, Xinhua's content reflects official policies and promotes state programs. Xinhua plays a pivotal role in crafting China's image abroad, such as emphasizing its leadership in global initiatives like the Belt and Road Initiative or downplaying controversies like Xinjiang's human rights issues. While the agency faced strict censorship during the Cultural Revolution, these controls were loosened in the 1970s.

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