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Media Ethics

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### Chapter 3 Homework

The media ethic that is introduced in chapter 3 is the ethical issue of reliable sources. In my understanding you cannot tell accurate news without accurate and solid sources otherwise it is just assumptions and storytelling. News is meant to be based on facts and accuracy in order to inform the public. Chapter 3 provides multiple examples of how ethical issues surrounding valid and accurate sources arise where sources are either hard to reach or sources are biased and do not give a full clear picture of what is going on.

The example that stood out to me in chapter 3 that I wanted to reflect on is number 11 *Crisis in Darfur*. In this example we can see the multiple conflicts within the country of Darfur that make it hard to get a clear picture of what is actually going on. The very first sentence of the example mentions how people claimed to never let a genocide like the Rwandan genocide that took place in the 1990s happen again. The crisis in Darfur is described as being a genocide like that although there being multiple differing accounts. This part stuck out to me because it is mentioned that there are varying accounts to this yet they double down on one. The description continues and you can see how this situation would be entirely difficult to report on. The report says that the Sudanese government is reluctant to admit it's partial responsibility in what is happening in the country but that regardless of the commentary from the government what is happening in Darfur is certainly genocide. This to me seems like conclusions being made

without all the details of what is happening as all parties are not able to comment on these events.

The article piece continues to recount events that are happening within the country and somehow places blame on the government but does not mention solid sources leaving an unclear account of what is actually happening. This leaves people confused and not knowing entirely what to do or how to help. Some could possibly not know what stance to even take. It is hard to report and get clear sources on these situations taking place in Darfur due to the inability to get into the region to conduct investigation and obtain information from sources. Chapter 3 talks about how it is nearly impossible to get visas for journalists to this region due to the existing and rising conflict.

Although it is difficult to obtain valid and concrete details and sources to the chaos of the situation not reporting at all is worse. This is where this ethical issue becomes the issue. If it was not important to report the events and tragedies then the issue of not having good sources is not a problem because you can just drop the story. However, dropping the story seems irresponsible too. In the information that I did get about the situation and events taking place in Darfur I realize that there is an issue. In my understanding the people that have the best chance of getting involved in a situation like this where it is hard to speak to all parties of the conflict in order to get a clear picture of how exactly to go about the situation, is the governments of the world. If the governments of the world are not doing anything letting the people know may stir the governments to get more involved. Overall this situation is a tricky one as it is harder to tell if efforts being made are effective or not.

