

The Northern Gale

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American News Coverage Vs. The World

Henry North | News Editor

Friday, November 13, 2015, the date of the terrorist attacks on Paris, France, where 130 people lost their lives and another 368 people were injured. Every news network in the United States covered this incident extensively, making sure no one was left unaware of the horrors that unfolded.

However, there were a few other terrorist attacks that went almost completely without notice by those same networks. Twenty one people died in a bombing on the same day in Iraq and the day before another 42 people lost their lives in Lebanon from similar attacks. Over the next couple of weeks, attacks occurred in many places, including Bosnia, Niger, Mali, Egypt, and Tunisia just to name a few.

Not once did the major headlines bat an eye and these attacks were swept under the rug except for on social media and other internet sources. A similar instance happened on Tuesday, March 22, 2016 in Brussels, a terrorist attack that was covered all over the news and while more attacks happened elsewhere in the world, they were essentially ignored.

Biased News continued on pg. 5

Surveying The Populace

Zachary Scott | Staff Writer

To further analyze how people feel about the American news networks and their current state of foreign affairs coverage, I took to social media to see how different people felt about news media. I presented people with a survey which could be filled out anonymously, a copy of which you can see here.

While 100% of those surveyed knew of the terrorist attacks on Paris, only 70% were also aware of other terrorist attacks that occurred elsewhere around the same era of time. Similarly, 100% of the surveyors knew of the terrorist attacks on Brussels, but only 80% of them also knew of the attacks that occurred around the date of the Brussels attacks in other countries. Most of the surveyors claimed to have seen the Paris and Brussels attacks on the news, but as for attacks on other countries, for the ones who were aware of them, they had heard of them via social media websites.

When surveyors were asked about the current state of the US's media coverage of global issues, many stated that it was biased and one sided. By one surveyor it was said to focus "primarily on western issues" while another claimed it was "European centric." When asked about the ethicality of presenting certain global issues with more importance than



SACK, STEVE. SACK CARTOON: BRUSSELS COVERAGE. 2016. STAR TRIBUNE. WEB. APRIL 21, 2016.

others, approximately 70% of those surveyed agreed that doing such things is an unethical practice.

One voice compared the news coverage to the practice of choosing what to follow in a religious text and ignoring the other parts. Another stated that there is "no such thing as objectivity in journalism. ... Every media outlet has an agenda that they

are trying to push based on audience demographics and financial gains." Of the other 30% of surveyors, the ethicality lied in the fact that some news sources don't have the capability to report everything that happens and must have a focus on particular concerns.

To bring back a focus on the "Lives Matter" campaign that has been

occurring over the past year, surveyors were asked to relate it to the issues with media coverage. A general consensus was that all people should be helped, regardless of their race.

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Analysis Of News Media

Zachary Scott | Staff Writer

Anna Lekas Miller of Rolling Stone came up with a potential hypothesis when questioning why terrorist attacks on Beirut, Lebanon were being ignored in comparison to those in Paris. It is possible that because "bombs and violence are considered routine in the Middle East," their appearance in Europe is more shocking to people; however, this doesn't change the fact that these constant bombings don't just affect the cities where they happen. Citizens of the Middle East have to flee their homes and illegally cross borders until they can eventually claim asylum. As Miller says, "all of these tragedies are 'an attack on all of humanity.'"

The assistant professor of journalism and new media at Northeastern University, John Wihbey, also gave his insight on the various terrorist attacks that have occurred over the past months and the media's responses to them. News media, especially in America, tends to give less attention to some countries due to cultural bias and acts of xenophobia. "Editors and reporters decide what is newsworthy ... by thinking about what directly impacts their audience."

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