

GHANA INSTITUTE OF JOURNALISM

**HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSE: A CONTENT ANALYSIS OF THE DAILY GRAPHIC
AND THE GHANAIAN TIMES (2012)**

BY

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DECLARATION

I declare that this is my original work and it is not any work that has been presented for a degree in any other University and that any work done by others cited in the work was duly acknowledged.



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Almighty God for giving me life to be able to do this work. I thank my supervisor, Maximus Attah for his guidance and patience.

DEDICATION

I dedicate this work to Joseph Nii Nai Adjei, Daniel Adjetey Sowah, Bryan Adjei and Chanel Adjei.

ABSTRACT

The study which is a comparative content analysis used quantitative content analysis of the *Daily Graphic* and the *Ghanaian Times* from January to December in the year 2012 to assess the coverage of human rights abuse in Ghana. Human rights are widely considered to be those fundamental moral rights of a person that are necessary for a life with human dignity. States are expected to protect citizens by creating environments that allow law enforcement agencies to function effectively. The data collected were presented in tables. Out of the total of 2258 stories coded in the *Daily Graphic*, 2247 or 99.51 percent were non-human rights abuse stories while 11 or 0.49 percent were human rights abuse stories. In the *Ghanaian Times* out of the 1909 stories 1889 or 98.95 percent were non-human rights abuse stories while 20 or 1.05 percent were human rights abuse stories. For both papers, there was a total of 4167 stories out of which 4136 or 99.25 percent were non-human rights abuse stories while 31 or 0.74 percent were human rights abuse stories. Some of the stories occurred in some regions than others. Civil rights abuse got the highest coverage with all stories being straight news. The greatest number of the stories were placed in the inside pages while many of them had no picture accompaniment. In most cases the reporter was the main speaker. The page usually allocated the stories was small, which is one-and a third ($1/3$) of the page size and below, suggesting that the issue was not a priority for the newspapers. The study made many recommendations by suggesting that much page must be given to the human rights abuse stories. Also, the newspapers must report human rights abuse and promote human rights through editorials, commentaries, features and letters to the editor. Policy makers and human rights organizations must publish human rights issues in newspapers through editorials, features and commentaries to make the reader see human rights as an important issue so that the reader can give it more attention.

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Ghana, a former colony of Britain which had her political independence in 1957 has had several changes in both civilian democratic and military governments. Under the fourth republic, there have been six successful general elections with power changing hands from three civilian regimes. According to Frempong (2012), the 2008 general elections and its successive handover meant Ghana has attained what Huntington (1991) called the two turnover test of democratic consolidation. The research assessed the coverage of human rights abuse in Ghana as reported by the Ghanaian press using a content analysis of the *Daily Graphic* and the *Ghanaian Times* in the year 2012, 19 years after the adoption of the 1992 constitution.

The Austrian Development Agency (2011) noted that protection of human rights is primarily the responsibility of individual states, although the international community and international organizations have a role to play in human rights protection. Kegley and Wittkopf (2004) argued that human rights are recognized by the international community as inalienable and valid for all individuals in all countries and that states must protect the rights, freedoms and safety of their citizens through the creation of democratic laws, law enforcement agencies to promote and to protect peace, stability and their citizens.

Human rights are so critical that the United Nations has made them part of its core responsibilities. The United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of

Human Rights in 1948 as a common standard of achievement for all states and people such that every organ of society uphold and teach to promote respect for the rights enshrined in the document and thus United Nations member states must ensure measures to protect them (Robertson, 2007, Nowak, 2005). The document contains various rights and freedoms some of which are right to life, property, intellectual property, privacy, religion, vote, and assembly as well as equality before the law and protection from slavery, torture and arbitrary arrest. Article two of the Declaration states:

Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty.

The 1992 constitution of Ghana commands limited government (constitutionalism) in order to protect rights and stability and it embraces the international proclamation of human rights protection. Thus chapter five of the constitution has several rights for the citizens irrespective of race, religion, gender and other social statuses. The constitution also dictates that all actions of state institutions and individuals must not infringe the rights in the constitution.

Article twelve clause one states:

The fundamental human rights and freedoms enshrined in this chapter shall be respected and upheld by the Executive, Legislature and Judiciary and all other organs of government and its agencies and, where applicable to them, by all natural and legal persons in Ghana, and shall be enforceable by the Courts as provided for in this Constitution.

Article twelve clause two states:

Every person in Ghana, whatever his race, place of origin, political opinion, colour, religion, creed or gender shall be entitled to the fundamental human rights and freedoms of the individual contained in this Chapter but subject to respect for the rights and freedoms of others and for the public interest.

The rights are categorized as political, social, economic and civil rights. Examples of them include right to life, right to own property, right to religious freedom, freedom of speech and expression, equality before the law, freedom of movement and association, right against discrimination, right to fair trial, right to education, women and children's rights.

There are several laws and bills besides the constitution that protect human rights and freedoms.

Some of them are:

- Domestic Violence Act, 2007 protects citizens from domestic violence especially children and women.
- Criminal Code (Amendment) Act, 2003 spells out what constitute criminal offences.
- Persons with Disability Act, 2009 protects rights of persons with disability.
- Intestate Succession Bill, 2009 to provide for intestate succession and for related matters.
- Property Rights of Spouses Bill, 2009 to protect property rights of spouses during or after termination of marriage.
- Right to Information Bill, 2009 to protect the right to information provided by the constitution.
- Whistleblower Act, 2006 protects whistle-blowers.
- Children's Act, 1998 protects rights of children.
- Public Order Act, 1994 protects the rights of demonstrators and give the right to demonstrate without prior approval from the police.

Besides the above laws and bills, there are institutions and organizations that protect human rights in Ghana. Some of them are Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice

(CHRAJ), Ghana Police Service, the courts, Ghana Prison Service, Domestic Violence and Victims Support Unit (DOVVSU), civil societies, human rights organizations and the media.

Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) was established by the 1992 constitution of Ghana and Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice Act, 1993 to investigate complaints of violations of human rights and freedoms, injustice, corruption and other related matters.

Several international human rights institutions and organizations have been established to protect human rights in the international community and to ensure that governments protect the rights of their citizens. The following institutions are some of the international human rights institutions that protect human rights. International Criminal Court (ICC), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), ECOWAS Community Court of Justice, African Union Court of Justice.

The International Criminal Court deals with issues of human rights violations in the international community and crimes against humanity and it has adjudicated several cases since its establishment (Kegley and Wittkopf, 2004, Novak, 2005). The ECOWAS Community Court of Justice investigates and adjudicates human rights issues in West Africa (Ebobrah, 2008). Amnesty International 'campaigns for the release of prisoners of conscience, effectively those imprisoned solely for their beliefs, colour, sex, ethnic origin, language or religion, but only where the victims have neither used nor advocated violence' (Robertson, 2007, p.12).

Human rights protection is so important that Eglehart (2009), Fried (2004), Zunes (2000), Slater and Nardin (1986), Waal (1991), Knox (2008), Osborn (2010) argue that human right must be protected and that culture, disability, sex, race, HIV status should not be a barrier to freedom and protection. The media has a role to play in human rights protection. Media's role must be played effectively and efficiently to ensure human rights protection and perpetuation of human rights programmes by giving equal attention and coverage to such issues just like it gives to other equally important matters of society (Nwankwo, 2011). Bratic and Schirch (2007), James (2004) and Puddephatt (2006) explained that the media must function effectively as information provider and interpreter, watchdog, gate keeper, policy maker, diplomat, peace promoter and bridge builder.

Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) conducted studies on the state of human right in Ghana in the years 2009, 2010 and 2011. Reports from the studies revealed that there were high rates of human rights violations in Ghana. Thus this research sought to assess the coverage of human rights abuse by the *Daily Graphic* and the *Ghanaian Times* in the year 2012.

Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) joins the international human rights community to celebrate the United Nations Human Rights Day on 10th December each year. The commission's former deputy commissioner, Richard Quayson presented a speech in 2010 on the state of human rights in Ghana on the United Nations International Human Right Day. The speech summarised the commission's 2010's report on the state of human rights in Ghana. The commissioner said that certain human cultural practices in Ghana dehumanize people usually women, children and the disabled hence the commission works with government.

human right institutions, NGOs, civil society and the media to enable the commission to carry out its mission effectively. He added that the commission undertakes research to determine the improvement made in the actualization of economic, social and cultural rights in communities across the country (Quayson, 2010). The research focuses on the following thematic areas, right to basic education, harmful cultural practices, children's rights, right to health and extremely deprived communities (CHRAJ, 2009, 2010, and 2011). Quayson concluded that Ghana was not making quality improvement in the above thematic areas and thus there were abuses committed by security agencies against citizens. The commission's 2011 report claimed that it had registered about 16,2794 complaints over the past five years and about 82 percent of them were resolved mostly through mediation.

1.2 Purpose of the Research

A complete human right violation free society is yet to become a reality in the world in general and Ghana in particular. Although the level of human rights violation in Ghana is better than some states in Africa, Europe, Asia and the rest of the world, much need to be done to control or end all forms of violations that occur. There are violations within government, ministries, home, workplace, church, mosque and the local communities. What is shocking is the fact that sometimes journalists and other media practitioners have their rights violated in the form of assault, arrest and forced prosecution, stated (Alidu, 2014). The security agencies have been accused severally for infringing on the rights of some citizens. Since the media has a role to play in the development process of the state specifically in human right protection, this research sought to assess the coverage of human right abuse by the *Daily Graphic* and the *Ghanaian Times* in the year 2012.

1.3 Statement of the Problem

Ghana is the first state in the sub Saharan Africa that gained her independence on 6th March, 1957 and she has had many changes in both civilian and military governments (Alidu, 2014). Ghana has not experienced any violent conflicts like her neighbouring states but there has been gross human rights violations such as restriction on press freedom, torture, abduction, public flogging, disproportionate and coercive use of state security institutions, police brutalities, mob justice, child sexual abuse, child labour and discrimination against women, girls, the disabled and HIV/AIDS affected people under the Convention People's Party (CPP), National Liberation Council (NLC), National Redemption Council (NRC), Supreme Military Council (SMC) I and II, Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC), Provisional National Defence Council (PNDC), the National Democratic Congress (NDC) and the New Patriotic Party (NPP), argued Alidu (2014), CHRAJ(2011) and Quayson (2010).

The Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labour of the United States Department of State reported in 2013 that there are various forms of violations in Ghana and that the critical ones are exploitative child labour, harsh prison conditions and trafficking in persons. Other forms of violations identified were police brutalities of citizens, arbitrary arrest of journalists, pre-trial detention, violations against women and children, female genital mutilation, discrimination against the disabled, HIV/AIDS affected people, lesbians, and gays. In his analysis of the Ghanaian media landscape and how unethical practices of journalists undermine progress, (Owusu, 2011) wrote that there are now many media organizations in the country that audience can select from and that the current situation is better than the post-independence era and thus media plurality has become a feature of the Ghanaian society but in the practice of journalism some journalists in Ghana violated many ethical principles in the performance of

their duties. Amunsunu (2009), Botwe (2000) and Amponsah (2012) revealed that the print media in Ghana allow some issues to appear more in their newspapers than other issues. Many studies have been conducted on human rights but most of them focused on human rights institutions, organizations and defenders as well as war and human rights abuse. Studies on the role of the media in human rights promotion are not many. When the relationship between the media and human rights is examined in literature the case of the positive use of the media to promote human rights are virtually unknown. Virtually known literature on the media are the case of negative use of the media to promote war and propaganda, media and democracy, political communication and positive use of the media in society. The goal of the studies was to respond to the gap in literature by studying the coverage of human rights abuse by the *Daily Graphic* and the *Ghanaian Times* in the year 2012. The Ghanaian media can use its plurality and the current media freedom to promote and to protect human rights as well as to name and shame human rights violators by giving more coverage to human rights abuse stories and human rights protection and promotion programmes and issues. Reporting such abuses constantly and repeatedly will not only expose them and bring out how people are treated in their daily lives but will also make the readers to give them much attention and see them as important. It is in line with the above that research sought to assess the coverage of human rights abuse by the *Daily Graphic* and the *Ghanaian Times* in the year 2012.

1.4 Research Objectives

The purpose of the study was to find out:

- The number of human right abuse stories that appeared in both newspapers.
- The number of non-human rights abuse stories that appeared in both newspapers.
- The number of times the same story appeared in both newspapers.

- The types of human rights abuse that were covered.
- The region in Ghana that had the most coverage.

1.5 Research Questions

- How many human rights abuse stories appeared in both newspapers?
- How many non-human right abuse stories appeared in both newspapers?
- How many times the same story appeared in both newspapers?
- What types of human rights abuse were covered?
- Which region in Ghana had the most coverage?

1.6 Significance of the Study

The media is a major player in the sustenance of human rights protection in Ghana. Thus efficient and effective media will name and shame perpetrators of human rights violation. Hafner-Burton (2008) noted that naming and shaming is effective in enforcing human rights laws and norms domestically and internationally. The study will add to existing knowledge in matters of media and human rights coverage. It will serve as resource in human rights discussions in the media. It will assist media organizations and human rights agencies in decision making in matters of human rights. Knowledge of the study will serve as a resource and a guide for future researchers who want to do research on the media and human rights issues.

1.7 Organization of the Study

The dissertation was divided into five chapters. Chapter one was titled introduction and it was subdivided into subsections namely background, purpose of the research, statement of the problem, research objectives, research questions, significance of the study and organization of the study. Chapter two was titled literature review and it reviewed works that are related to the study. Chapter three was titled method chapter and it has subsections namely chapter overview, content analysis, unit of analysis, population of the study, sampling year, sample size and sampling instrument. Chapter four was titled data collection and analysis and it has subsections namely, content analysis data, number of human rights abuse story that appeared, non-human rights abuse stories that appeared, the same story that appeared in both newspapers, types of human rights abuse covered, region with the most coverage, type of story, page placement, visual illustration, main speaker and column size. Chapter five was titled summary, limitations, recommendations and conclusion and it has subsection namely summary, limitation, recommendation and conclusion.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 The Media and Human Rights

Bratic and Schirch (2007) explained that the media's role in society is to act as information provider and interpreter, watchdog, gatekeeper, policy maker, diplomat, peace promoter and bridge builder. The media as information provider and interpreter means it must provide and interpret critical information like issues about the weather, inflation, human rights abuse and natural disasters to people. The information must cover the political, social, cultural, religious, economic and physical sectors of the society. The interpretation should be deeper and understandable. In another way, the media must provide feedback to the public by acting as watchdog over the government by revealing hidden stories to the public through rigorous investigations. The gatekeeper role of the media is to maintain a balance view and to act to set agenda and to filter issues as well as to influence policy makers because the media according to Bratic and Schirch is a tool that policy makers can use to carry out their messages. Another way to let peace to prevail is the media acting effectively to provide grounds for negotiations by publishing press releases, rock concerts, and radio programmes. Example is Studio Ijambo in Burundi that provided peace oriented media messages and programmes for Burundi and Rwanda the then conflict societies and the African continent (Bratic, 2008).

The media in the view of Locksley (2009) is a combination of content such as music, films, radio, television, advertisement and electronic games along with their technological devices and it must educate, inform and entertain effectively. The extent to which the media can

function effectively in the performance of its function depends on content. Therefore the content must be readily accessible and meaningful to a greater percentage of society and the information provided must be adapted and disseminated in languages and forms that diverse people in society can comprehend and act on (Ibid). In consonance with Bratic and Schirch (2007), Locksley considered the media as a critical player in the development process. He called for media plurality and transparency where plurality means a two way participatory process and a variety of media providers with variety of contents, which can enable high level of information access and dissemination to diffuse knowledge. He further explained that factors like irrelevance and packaging influence the media in diverse forms. A wide range of content is given by the media but individuals sample just a few of the content that they see important to them although the media package and 'assemble an array of relevant and irrelevant material in one offering to attract a mass audience' (p. 17). The newspapers for example divide the newspapers into sections such as business, health, advertisement, food, politics, travel, tourism, having in mind that consumers will not consume all the sections, Locksley concluded.

How can the media use its hegemonic power in the modern society to promote and to protect human rights as well as to name and to shame human rights violators? The hegemonic role of the media in the modern society can be utilized effectively to assist Ghana to meet its international, regional and domestic human rights obligation. Nwankwo (2011) examined the role of media in promoting human right with focus on why it includes human right coverage as part of its programme. The researcher interviewed five journalists on the BBC documentary 'chocolate' the bitter truth. The study found out that the media has a role in human rights promotion and that human rights programmes must be made attractive because audience perceive human rights programmes as being boring. Thus the media has a critical role to play in educating people on human rights. Similarly, Brown and Mintyf (2005) undertook a study

on media coverage of charitable giving after the 2004 Tsunami using international donations after the tsunami as a case study to show that disaster coverage by the media impact on donations to relief agencies. The findings revealed that additional stories in the major newspapers raised donations. In addition, it found evidence of donor fatigue as well as facts that tax incentives are good in raising charitable donations.

Newspaper coverage can have a positive or negative impact on the image of an individual. Freyenberger (2013) studied the role of framing of Amanda Knox in worldwide newspapers during the four years she was imprisoned in Italy. It used a content analysis of 500 world newspapers to determine the tone, story placement, page placement of Amanda Knox. The findings of the study revealed that the mention of Amanda Knox was more negative in the UK and Ireland reportage. In Australia, New Zealand, Thailand, South Korea and Chinese newspapers, 25 percent of story placement of Amanda Knox was prominent. Page placement of Amanda Knox was more prominent in Australia, New Zealand, Thailand, South Korea and China representing 14 percent because 'the news story must be read in order for one to be influenced by the frame of the story and page placement plays a major role in how prominent a story is to the reader' (p.38). Thus Freyenberger argued that newspaper coverage can have a positive or negative impact on the image of an individual. Thus the Ghanaian media can use its reportage to name and to shame human rights violators as well as to promote human rights related matters.

The hegemonic role of the media in the modern society is so critical that most states, governments and non-governmental organizations want to use it to champion their values, ideas, beliefs and agendas. The media was used to propagate propagandas during wars:

Yugoslavia, Nazi Germany, World War I (Bratic, 2008). In 1994, the conflict in Rwanda made the Hutus commit atrocities against their Tutsi neighbours. One of the reasons was through broadcast messages that incited violence on Radio-Television Libre des Mille Collines (RTLM), Bratic (2006). Alternatively, the media has been used positively in various ways to bring peace and reconciliation. In 1995, Studio Ijambo (wise words) in Burundi according to Bratic (2006) was established by Search for Common Grounds to produce variety of peace oriented messages in Rwanda, Burundi and Africa. It had the slogan "Dialogue is the future". It had large audience and run programmes on social affairs, news, dramas, documentary and children. In recent times, a study on the portrayal of Black men and women in the images and texts of advertisement featured in Black oriented magazines by Hazel and Clarke (2008) used a comparative content analysis in the *Essence* and *Jet* magazines for 2003 and 2004. The study found out that black people were portrayed both positively and negatively and there was domination of ideologies of racism and white supremacy in the adverts featured in the black magazines. Thus it is not enough to increase positive portrayal of black people but negative portrayal must decrease and eliminated eventually, the researchers suggested.

Another issue of the media is that it has the power to influence (Sleeves & Kellow, 1998). The print media and newspapers aided the spread of propaganda due to technology and government endorsement during the first and second World Wars. The British government for instance established War Propaganda Bureau to support multiple agendas while the United States also established a Committee for Public Information during World War I (Bratic, 2008). The messages were spread using posters, pamphlets and movies. All were aimed at supporting the conflict. Dimitrova and Stromback (2005) revealed in their study that compared the coverage of the 2003 Iraqi war by the Swedish Newspaper, *Dagens Nyheter* and the United States Newspaper, *The New York Times* revealed that the coverage in the New York Times supported

the war while the Swedish Newspaper opposed it. This confirms the view that the media play a critical role in modern societies.

Ostini and Fan (1999) researched into media coverage of human right in China and East Asia. The essay used four Chinese speaking region of the world namely the People's Republic of China, Hong Kong, Singapore and Taiwan. It used three major types of human rights which are civil and political, social and economic, due process. Also, it linked the rights to individuals and businesses. The study found out that civil and political rights were prominent in regions that were exposed to the West and regions with less exposure focused on social and economic rights. Due process was highly discussed in the media and the coverage that used the term 'human right' involved rhetorical response to western criticism without bringing out specific ideas about rights.

Other studies have been conducted to find out the prevalence many newspapers give to human rights issues as well as other equally important issues in society. The findings revealed that the media give prominence to issues that meet the news value of the organization. What one media house will choose as news may be different from another media house. According Potter (2006), a lot of things happen in the world but not all of them find their way into newspapers or on air. The question is then asked, 'what makes a story newsworthy to be published or broadcast? Chomsky and Herman (1988) and Parsons, Scott and Landesberg (2009) explained that the political economy of the media and physical, cultural, economic, governmental, media, and technological barriers influence what comes out as news hence not everything that happen is published. Media organizations and journalists use a 'set of criteria ... to measure and therefore to judge the news worthiness of events' (Franklin et al., 2005:173). Any story chosen for publication meant it is newsworthy and attractive to the audience (Ibid).

Ousioutch (1993) in an essay on human rights coverage by the media analysed the content of human rights coverage in the New York Times, Time Magazine, and CBS Evening News for ten years (1978-1987). The study wanted to find out what rights and which countries got media attention. It concluded that three news channels brought similar view of human rights especially civil and political rights with little attention to economic, social and cultural rights. Place coverage focused on a small number of states primarily in two small regions which are east and Latin America.

Qian and Yanagizawa-Drott (2013) provided evidence of government distortion of news coverage among independently-owned media in a democratic regime. It studied USA news coverage of human rights abuse committed by foreign government during the Cold War especially those associate with UN Security Council and the level of political alliance with these states and the USA. The findings showed that states without USA alliance got more coverage while states with USA alliance got decreased coverage. It concluded that USA news was influenced by both USA government driven distortion and reader demand.

Amunsunu (2009) used research to find out whether incumbency in Ghana is a factor that influence press coverage of political campaigns. The study found out that there was bias in the prominence and nature of coverage. The *Daily Graphic* gave more prominence to the incumbent in the 2004 election and the *Chronicle* gave prominence to the opposition than the incumbent in the 1996 election. But the *Chronicle* changed the report in the 2004 election by favouring the incumbent.

In another study, Botwe (2000) studied media coverage of nutrition issues using a content analysis of the *Daily Graphic* from 2006 to 2007. The study found out that the newspaper gave limited attention to nutrition issues. Thus out of the 1024 issues selected only 35 were nutrition issues and none of them appeared on the front page. The study concluded that more attention was given to other categories of news.

Also, Amponsah (2012) examined the coverage of presidential campaigns by the *Daily Graphic* using the NDC and NPP from 1992 to 2004. The research revealed that advocacy was the most common topic of the campaign coverage discussions of the candidate's policy position and got more attention than discussions on their character. Also, positive statements were the most common in the news followed by negative (attack) statements and then defences. Source of statements for the articles came from candidates followed by reporter supports and others.

Laar (2010) assessed the coverage of reproductive health (RH) issues namely family planning (FP), abortion and HIV in the *Daily Graphic*. The study found out that RH issues were not given much prominence. Less than one percent of the coverage was given for each FP, abortion and HIV. Laar concluded that reproductive health issues were given less prominence thus the newspaper gave less priority to reproductive health issues in its coverage.

Ramos, Thomas and Ron (2007) in an essay sought to find out what influence the Northern media coverage of events and abuse of human rights. It also wanted to find out whether international NGOs have impact and if so when are they most effective. The study used the Economist and Newsweek from 1986 to 2000 covering 145 states. The research found out the following; the two media covered human right abuses issues more frequently when they occur

in states with high level of state repression, economic development population and Amnesty International attention. The findings revealed that political openness, number of battles death, civil societies affected the coverage although not much. Another conclusion from the findings was that Amnesty International Press releases had less impact on the coverage when discussing abuses in states that are central to the zone of concern. Amnesty International advocacy may be effective when addressing issues in less noticed states. This is because of saturation of coverage of abuses in highly mediatized states.

Although Amoah (2007) used only a content analysis of the *Ghanaian Times* to assess the types, nature and prominence the newspaper gave to human rights abuse, findings from the research revealed that newspaper gave little prominence to the subject the study sought to investigate. Out of the 2787 stories in the 50 issues selected between October 1999 and October 2003 only 53 stories were human right abuse stories. The author put forward that the newspaper's journalists and editors blame the situation on logistic constraints. Story placement of the coded human rights abuse stories showed that only 49 percent of the 53 stories got front page placement. Besides, most of the stories were on child abuse, gender-based violence and sometimes brutalities by law enforcement agencies. In another category, 98 percent of the stories were straight news. Amoah recommended that the paper needs to be reorganized to include a human rights desk to tackle such issues. Also, the public have to be engaged in discussions on the subject through feedback mechanisms like news featuring, commentaries, editorials, educative articles and columns. Basing the argument on the above, the study sought to use only the two newspapers in Ghana, the *Daily Graphic* and the *Ghanaian Times* to assess the nature of coverage they gave to human rights abuse stories in the year 2012.

CHAPTER THREE

METHOD

3.1 Chapter Overview

This chapter provide information on the research method employed, highlighting content analysis, the unit of analysis, population of the study, sampling year, sample size and sampling instrument for the study. The *Daily Graphic* and the *Ghanaian Times* were selected because they are the most widely read and circulated print newspapers in Ghana with a daily circulation number of about 200,000 and 150,000 respectively and both are distributed in all the ten regions of Ghana (Maja-Pier ,1996) [cited Laari,2012]. The *Daily Graphic* according to Amponsah (2012) is the oldest and largest Ghanaian newspaper and has a record for impartiality and neutrality, independence from government control and it is ‘constitutionally protected by the National Media Commission (NMC) in its editorship and management’ (p.5).

3.2 Content Analysis

Content analysis is defined by Kerlinger (2000:12) as ‘a method for studying and analysing communication in a systematic, objective and quantitative manner for the purpose of measuring variables’. It is used to determine the content of written, recorded or published communication via a systematic, objective and quantitative procedure (ibid). Content analysis shows that, inference of the connection between intent and content can be made validly, (Baxter & Babbie, 2004). It does not allow personal bias to affect the findings and summary becomes easy because of its quantitative nature. It enabled the research to enumerate news stories of the *Daily Graphic*

and the *Ghanaian Times* to find out how many times human right abuse stories were reported by both newspapers.

3.3 Unit of Analysis

The study examined news stories in the *Daily Graphic* and the *Ghanaian Times* from January to December 2012 to assess the coverage of human rights abuse by the two newspapers.

3.4 Population of the Study

The population for the study was the *Daily Graphic* and the *Ghanaian Times*. Both newspapers are published six times a week from Monday to Saturday.

Population for the *Daily Graphic* (January to December)

The *Daily Graphic* is published six times a week from Monday to Saturday. Total issue for this newspaper for the year was 288. It was obtained by multiplying 42 weeks (in 12 months) by six weeks (six issues in a week). There are four weeks in a month and since the study used 12 calendar months, four weeks was be multiplied by 12 months to get 48 weeks.

Mathematically,

Let

X=number of weeks in 12 months.

Y=number of days the newspaper is published.

Z=total issues published in 12 months.

If $X=48$ and $Y=6$, $Z=?$

Then, $Y=24*6$, $Y=288$.

Total issues for the *Daily Graphic* was 288.

Population for the *Ghanaian Times* (January to December)

The *Ghanaian Times* is published six times a week from Monday to Saturday. Total issue for this newspaper for the year was 288. It was obtained by multiplying 48 weeks (in 12 months) by six weeks (six issues in a week). There are four weeks in a month and since the study used 12 calendar months, four weeks was multiplied by 12 months to get 48 weeks.

Mathematically,

Let

X =number of weeks in 12 months.

Y =number of days the newspaper is published.

Z =total issues published in 12 months.

If $X=48$ and $Y=6$, $Z=?$

Then, $Y=24*6$, $Y=288$.

Total issues for the *Ghanaian Times* was 288.

Total issues for both the *Daily Graphic* and the *Ghanaian Times*

Total issues for both newspapers was 576. It was obtained by adding the population for the *Daily Graphic* which is 288 and the population for the *Ghanaian Times* which is 288.

Mathematically,

Let

H= total number of issues for *the Daily Graphic*.

J=total Number of issues for the *Ghanaian Times*.

K=total number of issues for both newspapers.

If H=288 and J=288, K=?

Then, $K = 288 + 288$, $K = 576$

Composite sampling method was used because it demonstrates superiority to random sample and consecutive day sample when dealing with newspaper content (Riffe, Aust and Lacy, 1993, cited in Amununu, 2009). It is important for studying twelve months of published newspapers. All the months from January to December in the year 2012 was numbered until each month got a number. January 2012 served as the starting month and December 2012 served as the last month. January was numbered first, February was numbered second, March was numbered third, April was numbered fourth, May was numbered fifth, June was numbered sixth, July was numbered seventh, August was numbered eight, September was numbered ninth, October was numbered tenth, November was numbered eleventh and December was numbered twelfth. After selecting the first month the third month was selected followed by the fifth month then the seventh month which was followed by the ninth month and lastly the eleventh month. The months sampled were January, March, May, July, September and November. There are four weeks in a month and all the weeks were numbered from the first week to the last week. Week one was numbered first, week two was numbered second, week three was numbered third and week four was numbered fourth. The first and the third week were selected from each month. This is because only four weeks are in the month and the pattern for the selection is the first

item then the third item that follows in an interval of two. The days in the week were numbered such that each got a number. Since both newspapers are published on six days in a week from Monday to Saturday, Sunday was excluded. Monday was numbered first, Tuesday was numbered second, Wednesday was numbered third, Thursday was numbered fourth, Friday was numbered fifth and Saturday was numbered sixth. The first day was selected followed by the third and the fifth days. Thus Monday, Wednesday and Friday were selected. In each sampled month the first and third week were selected while the first, third and the fifth days in each week were selected. Monday, Wednesday and Friday were selected from the first and third week in January, March, May, July, September and November.

3.5 Sampling Year

The study examined news stories in the *Daily Graphic* and the *Ghanaian Times* from January to December in the year 2012 to assess the reportage of human rights abuse stories by both newspapers.

3.6 Sample Size

For the *Daily Graphic*

Sample size for the *Daily Graphic* was 36 (six issues in a month for six sampled months).

Mathematically,

Let,

S= number of sampled months.

L= number of sampled weeks.

Q= number of sampled days.

U= number of sample issues for the newspaper

If $S=6$, $L=2$, $Q=3$

Then, $U = (Q*L)*S$,

$$U = (2*3)*6$$

$$U = 36$$

Sample size for this newspaper was 36.

For the *Ghanaian Times*

Sample size for the *Ghanaian Times* was 36 (six issues in a month for six sampled months).

Mathematically,

Let,

P= number of sampled months.

B= number of sampled weeks.

W= number of sampled days.

I= number of sample issues for the newspaper

If $P=6$, $B=2$, $W=3$

Then, $U = (B*W)*P$,

$$U = (2*3)*6$$

$$U = 36$$

Sample size for this newspaper was 36.

For both the *Daily Graphic* and the *Ghanaian times*

Sample size for both newspapers was 72. Thus addition of sample size for both newspapers (36 +36).

Mathematically,

Let F= sample size for the *Daily Graphic*.

D=sample size for the *Ghanaian Times*.

T= total sample size of the two papers.

$$T=F+D$$

If, F=36 and D=36

Then,

$$T=36 +36$$

$$T=72$$

Total sample size for the study was 72 and each selected story was analysed for page placement, visual illustration, the main speaker in the story and column size.

- **Type of story:** whether the story was straight news, feature, editorial or letter to the editor.
- **Page placement:** where the story was placed in the newspaper page (front page, centre spread, back page, other pages).
- **Visual illustration:** whether the story was accompanied by pictures.

- **Main speaker:** the main character who narrates the story.
- **Column size:** space allocated for the story in the page (small, medium or large).

3.7 Sampling Instrument

The sampled data was collected using the following instruments.

Selected dates used to collect the data for both newspapers:

- January: 2,4, 6, 16, 18, 20
- March: 5, 7, 9, 19, 21, 23
- May: 7, 9, 11,21, 23, 25
- July: 2,4, 6, 16, 18, 20
- September: 3, 5, 7,17, 19, 21
- November: 5, 7, 9, 19, 21, 23

The region that had the most coverage:

- Upper East Region
- Ashanti Region
- Central Region
- Greater Accra Region

The types of human rights abuse covered was listed under abuses of:

- Political rights
- Civil rights
- Economic rights

- Social rights

The number of non-human rights abuse stories was selected under:

- Political news
- Sports news
- Business news
- International news
- Health news
- Security news
- Education news
- Human rights Promotion news
- Others

Type of story was analysed on:

- Straight news
- Editorial
- Commentary
- Feature/ opinion
- Letter to the editor
- Other (specify)

Page placement was categorized into:

- Front page
- Centre spread
- Back page
- Inside pages

Visual illustration was categorized into:

- Picture
- No picture

Main speaker who narrates the story was categorized into:

- Victim
- Culprit
- Reporter
- Security officer
- Other (specify)

Column size was analysed based on full size of the newspaper page:

- Small (1/3 of the page size)
- Medium (1/2 of the page size)
- Large (full page)

CHAPTER FOUR

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

4.1 Content Analysis Data

The study used a content analysis of the *Daily Graphic* and the *Ghanaian Times* in the year 2012 to assess the coverage of human rights abuse stories. All the stories were coded based on the coding sheet. All news stories such as straight news, features, letters to the editor, editorials and commentaries in both the *Daily Graphic* and the *Ghanaian Times* were coded. Advertisements and classifieds were excluded. Due to the purpose of the study, limited time and space all the news stories were categorized into two namely human rights abuse stories and non-human rights abuse stories. Both categories were subdivided. The total number of stories that were coded for the *Daily Graphic* was 2258 out of which 2247 representing 99.51 percent were non-human rights abuse stories and 11 representing 0.49 percent were human rights abuse stories. Thus it can be inferred that the *Daily Graphic* gave very little coverage to human rights abuse stories in the year 2012. The total number of stories coded in the *Ghanaian Times* was 1909 out of which 1889 representing 98.95 percent were non-human rights abuse stories while 20 representing 1.05 percent were human rights abuse stories. It can also be surmised that the *Ghanaian Times* also gave very little coverage to human rights abuse stories. Comparing both newspapers in terms of the coded human rights abuse stories it can be said that the *Ghanaian Times* did better than the *Daily Graphic* by improving the coverage by 0.55 percent of the total stories coded. In both the *Daily Graphic* and the *Ghanaian Times* the total number of stories coded was 4167 out of which 4136 representing 99.25 percent were non-human rights abuse stories and 31 representing 0.74 percent were human rights abuse stories. Thus both

newspapers gave very little coverage to human rights abuse stories. The non-human rights abuse stories were given very high coverage in both papers.

4.1.1 Number of Human Rights Abuse Story that Appeared

In the *Daily Graphic* the total number of human rights abuse stories that appeared was 11 representing 0.49 percent of the total stories which was 2258. It can be inferred that the paper gave very little coverage to the issue. The *Ghanaian Times* had 20 stories coded as human rights abuse stories representing 1.05 percent of the total number stories which was 1909. In a comparative way the *Ghanaian Times* covered the issue 0.55 percent more of the total stories than the *Daily Graphic* because it reduced its coverage by 0.55 percent of the total stories. Both newspapers had a total of 31 stories coded as human rights abuse stories representing 0.74 percent of the total number of stories for both papers which was 4167. Both papers gave little coverage to human rights abuse.

4.1.2 Non-Human Rights Abuse Stories that Appeared

The non-human rights abuse news stories were categorized into nine namely politics, sports, business, international, health, security, education, human rights promotion and others.

Political news contained news on political parties, elections, ministries, district assemblies, metropolitan assemblies, municipal assemblies, chieftaincy, legislature, judiciary, voting, electoral commission, other state political organizations, political organizations and institutions.

Sports news included both local and international sports such as football, volley ball, boxing, athletics, golf and other sports. Business news included news stories on banking, finance,

commerce, forex trade, trade, business organizations, labour, human resource, and other form of businesses and business activities. International news comprised news on African, Asia, European American countries, international organizations, intergovernmental organizations, United Nations, African Union, ECOWAS and other countries in the rest of the world and institution and organizations that are not local. Health news incorporated news on hospitals and health institutions, health workers and practitioners, Ministry of Health, medicine and other health institutions and activities. Security news included news on disaster, crime, accidents, security agencies, law and order, flood, fire, armed robbery, fraud and other issues, activities and organizations that effect security.

Education news involved news on Ministry of Education, schools, education fund, scholarships, education workers, teachers, lectures and other forms of academic institutions and activities.

Human rights promotion news stories included news on human rights protection and not human rights abuses. They were made up of news stories on affirmative action, children protection, women empowerment, girl protection, human rights rallies, forums, programmes and any activity and organization that seek to promote and protect human rights. Others were news stories on religion, festivals, entertainment, nationalism, construction, development, donations, Christianity, Islam and other news stories not that were not listed in the above.

Table 1: Non-Human Rights Abuse Stories in the *Daily Graphic*

Type of Non-Human Rights Abuse Story	Number Coded	Percentage
Politics	435	19.36
Sports	335	14.91
Business	244	10.86
International	297	13.21
Health	125	5.56
Security	204	9.08
Education	201	8.94
Human Rights Promotion	74	3.29
Others	332	14.77
Total	2247	100

Table 1 shows the distribution of non-human rights abuse stories coded in the *Daily Graphic*. From Table 1 it can be seen that some news categories got more coverage than others. Out of 2247 non-human rights abuse stories coded, politics got the highest coverage representing 19.36 percent and it was followed by sports, representing 14.91 percent and then others (14.77 percent), international (13.21 percent), business (10.86 percent), security (9.08 percent), education (8.94 percent), health (5.56 percent) and lastly human rights promotion (3.29 percent). Thus the newspaper gave the most coverage to politics and the least coverage to human rights promotion. Human rights promotion got more coverage than human rights abuse stories representing 11 and 74 stories of the total number of stories coded in the newspaper respectively. Although, human rights abuse got little coverage human rights promotion got better coverage out of the total stories.

Table 3: Non-Human Rights Abuse Stories for both papers

Type of Non-Human Rights Abuse Story	Number coded	Percentage
Politics	748	18.09
Sports	763	18.45
Business	461	11.15
International	498	12.04
Health	201	4.86
Security	458	11.07
Education	338	8.17
Human Rights Promotion	104	2.51
Others	565	13.66
Total	4136	100

Table 3 shows the distribution of non-human rights abuse stories coded in both papers.

The table shows that out of 4136 stories coded for non-human rights abuse, sports got the highest coverage representing 18.45 and it was followed by politics (18.09 percent), others (13.66 percent), international (12.04 percent), business (11.15 percent), security (11.07 percent), education (8.17 percent), health (8.87 percent) and lastly human rights promotion (2.51 percent). Thus sports got the highest coverage whereas human rights promotion got the least coverage. Human rights promotion got more coverage than human rights abuse representing 104 and 31 coded stories respectively out of the total number of stories which was 4136. The human rights promotion stories were mostly on women empowerment, children, women and girls protection.

4.1.3 The Same Story that Appeared in Both Newspapers

Table 4: Same Story in Both Papers

Same story	Number coded	Percentage
Appeared	2	6.45
Did not Appear	29	93.54
Total	31	100

Table 4 shows the distribution of the number of times the same human rights abuse story appeared in both papers. From the table it can be seen that out of the 31 coded human rights abuse stories, 29 of them representing 93.54 percent did not appear in both newspapers. Only two stories appeared in both papers representing 6.45 percent. Although the dates used to collect the data for both papers are the same, only 6.45 percent of them appeared in both papers.

4.1.4 Types of Human Rights Abuse Covered

The human rights abuse news stories were grouped into four namely political, civil, economic and social rights abuse. The political rights abuse contained stories on abuse of political rights such as rights to participate in the electoral process in the state, legal rights such as fair trial and due process. Civil rights abuse contained abuse of civil rights such as freedom of speech and assembly, press freedom, freedom from servitude and slavery, equality in public places, protection from discrimination and rights to privacy. Economic rights abuse incorporated abuse of economic rights like rights to work, own a property, rights to social security and rights to own a business. Social rights contained abuse of social rights like rights to adequate housing.

food, health, education, water and sanitation as well as the rights to participate in and enjoy cultural life.

Table 5: Types of Human Rights Abuse Stories in the *Daily Graphic*

Type of Abuse	Number coded	Percentage
Political Rights Abuse	0	0
Civil Rights Abuse	8	72.72
Economic Rights Abuse	3	27.27
Social Rights Abuse	0	0
Total	11	100

Table 5 shows the categories of human rights abuse reported in the *Daily Graphic*. Out of the 11 stories coded in the newspaper, civil rights abuse which had eight coded stories representing 72.72 percent got the highest coverage and it was followed by economic rights abuse which had three stories representing 27.27 percent. Political rights abuse and social rights abuse did not get any coverage. Thus no story on the two occurred in the newspaper. Much attention was given to civil rights abuse.

Table 6: Types of Human Rights Abuse Stories in the *Ghanaian Times*

Type of Abuse	Number coded	Percentage
Political Rights Abuse	0	0
Civil Rights Abuse	18	90
Economic Rights Abuse	1	5
Social Rights Abuse	1	5
Total	20	100

Table 6 shows the categories of human rights abuse reported in the *Ghanaian Times*. It can be seen from the table that out of the total number of 20 stories coded for human rights abuse, civil rights abuse got the highest coverage making a total of 18 stories representing 90 percent. Both economic rights abuse and social rights abuse got one story each representing five percent each. Thus they got the same level of coverage. Political rights abuse did not get any coverage. In each of the two newspapers civil rights abuse got the highest coverage.

Table 7: Types of Human Rights Abuse Stories for papers

Type of Abuse	Number coded	Percentage
Political Rights Abuse	0	0
Civil Rights Abuse	26	83.87
Economic Rights Abuse	4	12.90
Social Rights Abuse	1	3.23
Total	31	100

Table 7 shows the categories of human rights abuse reported in both papers. Civil rights abuse occurred 26 times representing 83.87 percent of the total number which is 31. The next item that got the second coverage was economic rights abuse which had four coded stories representing 12.90 percent and it was followed by social rights abuse which had 3.23 percent while political rights abuse did not get any coverage. Thus when all the stories in both papers were summed up civil rights abuse was the highest followed by economic rights abuse and then social rights abuse. Majority of the news were rape, assault, defilement and child trafficking stories. The victims in the stories were mostly women, children, girls, foreign business nationals, teachers, prisoners, mothers, pastors, court witnesses and police officers. The

perpetrators of the acts were police officers, armed robbers, farmers, fathers, wives, mothers and pastors.

4.1.5 Region with the Most Coverage

Ghana has ten administrative regions with ten regional capitals but only the Upper East, Ashanti, Greater Accra and the Central regions were used for the regional coverage of the human rights abuse stories. All the stories coded were analysed to determine which region had the most coverage of the human rights abuse stories.

Table 8: Region with the most coverage in the *Daily Graphic*

Region	Number coded	Percentage
Upper East Region	2	28.57
Ashanti Region	0	0
Greater Accra Region	4	57.14
Central Region	1	14.28
Total	7	100

Table 8 shows the categories of the coverage of human rights abuse in each region in the *Daily Graphic*. Out of the seven stories coded for human rights abuse in the four regions, Greater Accra region had four stories representing 57.14 percent. The Upper East region had two stories representing 28.57 percent bringing it to the second position. Central, region had one story representing 14.28 percent. Ashanti Regions did not have any story. Thus most of the stories were stories that occurred in the Greater Accra region.

Table 9: Region with the most coverage in the *Ghanaian Times*

Region	Number coded	Percentage
Upper East Region	0	0
Ashanti Region	6	50
Greater Accra Region	3	25
Central Region	3	25
Total	12	100

Table 9 shows the categories of the coverage of human rights abuse in each region in the *Ghanaian Times*. Out of the 12 stories coded for human rights abuse in the four regions, Ashanti region had six stories representing 50 percent. Greater Accra and Central Regions had three stories each representing 25 percent each. The Central region did not have any story. Thus most of the stories were stories that occurred in the Ashanti region.

Table 10: Region with the most Coverage for both papers

Region	Number coded	Percentage
Upper East Region	2	10.52
Ashanti Region	6	31.58
Greater Accra Region	7	36.84
Central Region	4	21.05
Total	19	100

Table 10 shows the categories of human rights abuse reported in each region for both newspapers. Out of the 19 stories coded for human rights abuse in the four regions, most of them occurred in the Greater Accra region representing 7 stories or 36.84 percent and it was

followed by Ashanti region (31.58) then Central region (21.05 percent) and lastly Upper East (10.52 percent). Thus when both data from the two newspapers were combined, Greater Accra got the highest coverage. Thus more attention was given to human rights abuse that occurred in the Greater Accra region than the other regions.

4.1.6 Type of Story

The human rights abuse news stories were grouped to determine the type of story used to report the incidents. Straight news are news stories that are reported just as they occur and do not include reporters' opinion. Editorials are stories in the newspapers used by the newspapers to express their view point on an issue. They represent the editors' opinion on an issue and usually seen as the voice of the public. Commentaries are the stories in the newspapers written by journalists that express the view point or opinion of the journalists on an issue. Commentaries are factual. Feature/ opinion is an in-depth story that analyses an issue and goes beyond just passing of information to educate and entertain the public. Letters to the editor are letters written by any individual, organizations to the editors of the newspapers for publication. Other (specify) are any news that did not fall into the mentioned categories.

Table 11: Types of Story in the *Daily Graphic*

Type of story	Number coded	Percentage
Straight News	11	100
Editorial	0	0
Commentary	0	0
Feature/Opinion	0	0
Letter to the Editor	0	0
Other (specify)	0	0
Total	11	100

Table 11 shows the categories of the types of story that were reported in the *Daily Graphic*. From the table it can be seen that none of the stories that occurred were editorial, commentary, feature/ opinion or letter to the editor. All the stories that were coded were straight news. This suggests that it was not a priority to the newspaper.

Table 12: Type of Stories in the *Ghanaian Times*

Type of story	Number coded	Percentage
Straight News	20	100
Editorial	0	0
Commentary	0	0
Feature/Opinion	0	0
Letter to the Editor	0	0
Other (specify)	0	0
Total	20	100

Table 12 shows the categories of the types of story that were reported in the *Ghanaian Times*. From the table it can be seen that none of the stories that occurred were editorial, commentary, feature/ opinion or letter to the editor. All the stories that were coded were straight news. This suggests that it was not a priority to the newspaper.

Table 13: Type of Stories for both papers

Type of story	Number coded	Percentage
Straight News	31	100
Editorial	0	0
Commentary	0	0
Feature/Opinion	0	0
Letter to the Editor	0	0
Other (specify)	0	0
Total	31	100

Table 13 shows the categories of the types of story that were reported in the both newspapers. From the table it can be seen that none of the stories that occurred were editorial, commentary, feature/ opinion or letter to the editor. All the stories that were coded were straight news. This suggests that it was not a priority to the newspapers.

4.1.7 Page Placement

The newspapers page were grouped into four namely the front page, centre spread and back page to see prominence the newspapers gave to the stories in terms of page placement.

Table 14: Page Placement in the *Daily Graphic*

Page Placement	Number coded	Percentage
Front Page	4	36.36
Centre Spread	0	0
Back Page	1	9.09
Inside Pages	6	54.54
Total	11	100

Table 14 shows the how the human rights abuse stories were placed in the pages in the *Daily Graphic*. It can be seen from the table that out of the 11 stories coded, six of them representing 54.4 percent were placed in the inside pages. The front page got four stories representing 36.36 percent followed by the back page which had one story representing 9.09 percent. The centre spread did not get any story.

Table 15: Page Placement in the *Ghanaian Times*

Page Placement	Number coded	Percentage
Front Page	9	45
Centre Spread	0	0
Back Page	1	5
Inside Pages	10	50
Total	20	100

Table 15 shows the how the human rights abuse stories were placed in the pages in the *Ghanaian Times*. It can be seen from the table that out of the 20 stories coded, 10 of them representing 50 percent were placed in the inside pages. The front page got nine stories

representing 45 percent followed by the back page which had one story representing six percent. The centre spread did not get any story. Thus in each newspaper most of the stories were placed in the inside pages which was followed by the front page.

Table 16: Page Placement for both papers

Page Placement	Number coded	Percentage
Front Page	13	41.94
Centre Spread	0	0
Back Page	2	6.45
Inside Pages	16	51.61
Total	31	100

Table 16 shows how the human rights abuse stories were placed in the pages in both newspapers. It can be seen from the table that out of the 31 stories coded, 16 of them representing 51.61 percent were placed in the inside pages. The front page got 13 stories representing 41.94 percent followed by the back page which had two story representing 6.45 percent. The centre spread did not get any story. Thus when the data in both newspapers were added most of the stories were placed in the inside pages followed by the front page.

4.1.8 Visual Illustration

Table 17: Visual Illustration in the *Daily Graphic*

Picture Accompaniment	Number coded	Percentage
Picture	3	27.27
No picture	8	72.73
Total	11	100

Table 17 shows the picture accompaniment for each story in the *Daily Graphic*. From the table it can be seen that out of the 11 stories, most of them representing eight or 72.73 percent had no picture accompaniment while three of them representing 27.27 percent came with pictures.

Table 18: Visual Illustration in the *Ghanaian Times*

Picture Accompaniment	Number coded	Percentage
Picture	7	35
No picture	13	65
Total	20	100

Table 18 shows the picture accompaniment for each story in the *Ghanaian Times*. From the table it can be seen that out the 20 stories, most of them representing 13 or 65 percent had no picture accompaniment while seven of them representing 35 percent came with pictures. In each of the two newspapers most of the stories had no picture accompaniment.

Table 19: Visual Illustration for Papers

Picture Accompaniment	Number coded	Percentage
Picture	10	32.26
No picture	21	67.74
Total	31	100

Table 19 shows the picture accompaniment for each story for newspapers. From the table it can be seen that out of the 31 stories, most of them representing 21 or 67.74 percent had no picture accompaniment while 10 of them representing 32.26 percent came with pictures.

4.1.9 Main Speaker

The main speaker in the stories are in five categories. The victim is the person or persons who suffered from the abuse. The culprit is the one who violated the rights of others or the one who commits the abuse. The reporter is the journalist. If news story had many narrators the main speaker was classified as the reporter. The security officer is the police, immigration officer or any other security officer(s). Others (specify) are those who did not fall into the mentioned categories such as doctors, eyewitnesses among others.

Table 20: Main Speaker in the *Daily Graphic*

Main Speaker	Number coded	Percentage
Victim	0	0
Culprit	0	0
Reporter	6	54.55
Security officer	3	27.27
Other (Specify)	2	18.18
Total	11	100

Table 20 shows the categories of the main speaker in the story for the *Daily Graphic*. Out of the total of 11 stories from the table, reporter got the highest which is six representing 54.55 percent and it was followed by security officer representing three or 27.27 percent then other (specify) which had two or 18.18 percent. Victim and culprit had zero. Thus in most of the stories reporter happened to be the main speaker.

Table 21: Main Speaker in the *Ghanaian Times*

Main Speaker	Number coded	Percentage
Victim	2	10
Culprit	0	0
Reporter	8	40
Security officer	5	25
Other (Specify)	5	25
Total	20	100

Table 21 shows the categories of the main speaker in the story for the *Ghanaian Times*. Out of the total of 20 stories from the table, reporter got the highest which is eight representing 40 percent and it was followed by security officer and other (specify) representing five or 25 percent for each then victim which had two or 10 percent. Culprit had zero. Thus in most of the stories reporter happened to be the main speaker.

Table 22: Main Speaker for Papers

Main Speaker	Number coded	Percentage
Victim	2	6.45
Culprit	0	0
Reporter	14	45.16
Security officer	8	25.81
Other (Specify)	7	22.58
Total	31	100

Table 22 shows the categories of the main speaker in the story for both newspapers Out of the total of 31 stories from the table reporter got the highest which is 14 representing 45.16 percent and it was followed by security officer representing eight or 25.81 percent then other (specify) representing seven or 22.58 percent. Victim had two representing 6.45 percent. Culprit had zero. Thus in most of the stories reporter happened to be the main speaker.

4.2 Column Size

The newspapers' pages have been grouped into three. The page size of the *Daily Graphic* is 29cm wide and 40cm long (29cm x 40cm). The page size of the *Ghanaian Times* is 28cm wide and 37cm long (28cm x 37cm).

Table 23: Column Size in the *Daily Graphic*

Size	Number coded	Percentage
Small (1/3 of Page Size and Below)	9	81.82
Medium (1/2 of page Size)	2	18.18
Large (Full Page Size)	0	0
Total	11	100

Table 23 shows the column size allocation for the coded stories in the *Daily Graphic*. From the table it can be seen that out of the 11 stories, nine of them representing 81.83 percent had small which 1/3 of page size and is below and it was followed by medium which had two or 18.18 percent which is above 1/3 of the page to half the page size. None of the stories had full page.

Table 24: Column Size in the *Ghanaian Times*

Size	Number coded	Percentage
Small (1/3 of Page Size and Below)	19	95
Medium (1/2 of page Size)	1	5
Large (Full Page Size)	0	0
Total	20	100

Table 24 shows the column size allocation for the coded stories in the *Ghanaian Times*. From the table it can be seen that out of the 20 stories 19, of them representing 95 percent had small which 1/3 of page size and is below and it was followed by medium which had one or five percent which is above 1/3 of the page to half the page size. None of the stories had full page.

Table 25: column Size for Papers

Size	Number coded	Percentage
Small (1/3 of Page Size and Below)	28	90.32
Medium (1/2 of page Size)	3	9.68
Large (Full Page Size)	0	0
Total	31	100

Table 25 shows the column size allocation for the coded stories for both newspapers. From the table it can be seen that out of the 31, stories 28 of them representing 90.32 percent had small which 1/3 of page size and is below and it was followed by medium which had three or 9.68 percent which is above 1/3 of the page to half the page size. None of the stories had full page.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, LIMITATIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION

5.1 Summary

The study which is a comparative content analysis used quantitative content analysis of the *Daily Graphic* and the *Ghanaian Times* from January to December in the year 2012 to assess the coverage of human rights abuse in Ghana. Findings from the study revealed that the *Daily Graphic* and the *Ghanaian Times* gave very little prominence to human rights abuse stories. Despite the low coverage, some prominence occurred through page placement. All the human rights abuse stories that appeared were straight news stories suggesting that the issue was not a priority for the *Daily Graphic* and the *Ghanaian Times*. As already explained in the previous chapters, the value of a news depended on the importance the media attached to it. If the newspapers publish the issue repeatedly and give it prominence by page placement, the reader will see them as important and will give it much attention. On the contrary, if the newspapers do not publish the issue repeatedly and give it prominence by page placement the reader will not see it as important and will not give it much attention. For the *Daily Graphic*, the issue that got the highest coverage was political news stories as sports news stories got the highest coverage in the *Ghanaian Times* suggesting that the reader will see each issue in each newspaper as important and will give them much attention. Both newspapers gave very little prominence to human rights abuse stories suggesting that the reader will see them as less important and will not give them much attention. It also explains the kind of journalism in Ghana. Reporting the abuse will not only bring out how people are treated in their daily lives but will also name and shame human rights violators to deter people from violating the rights of others.

5.2 Limitations

The study is limited in the following ways:

- The months sampled for the study were January, March, May, July, September and November leaving out February, April, June, August, October and December. It could be that human rights abuse stories could occur more in the months excluded from the study.
- The study was conducted without the use of a theory to help explain the research data.
- The study is quantitative and only describes the data hence does not give qualitative explanation to the data.
- The study did not use any hypothesis to serve as a guide and explanatory to the data collected.

5.3 Recommendations

From the findings of the research the following recommendations came up:

- Both the *Daily Graphic* and the *Ghanaian Times* gave very little coverage to human rights abuse. Thus the two media organizations must assign adequate journalists to cover human rights issues. The assigned journalists must be given adequate human rights reporting training and resources to enable them to cover human rights issues effectively and efficiently.
- Although human rights promotion was given more prominence than human rights abuse, the former should be given more attention.
- It came out from the data collected that none of the human rights abuse stories coded were commentary, feature/ opinion, letter to the editor, editorial. Thus the print media

can use the journalism typologies to report human rights violations as well as to educate people about human rights protection and promotion. These typologies can give way to individuals and organizations to give in-depth writings on human rights.

- Most of the human rights abuse stories were assigned one-and a third (1/3) of the full page in the two newspapers. The two newspapers can increase the column-inches they assign to full page.
- Human rights organizations and policy makers can promote and protect human rights by publishing issues of human rights and human rights abuse in the print media so as to educate the public.

5.4 Conclusion

Human rights are widely considered to be those fundamental moral rights of a person that are necessary for a life with human dignity. Human rights are so critical that the United Nations has made them part of its core responsibilities. Although Ghana is a democratic country in Africa human rights violation remain a serious problem in the country. The study which sought to assess the coverage of human rights abuse by the *Daily Graphic* and the *Ghanaian Times* from January to December in the year 2012 found out that the issue was given very little coverage by both papers. The Ghanaian media and the print in particular can use their gatekeeping function to name and shame human rights violators and to promote and to promote human rights by allowing more human rights stories to appear in their publications.

APPENDIX

HUMAN RIGHT ABUSE: A CONTENT ANALYSIS OF THE DAILY GRAPHIC AND THE GHANAIAAN TIMES (2012)

Coding Sheet

Name of newspaper:

Date of publication:

Newspaper number:

Total number of stories:

Total number of human rights abuse stories:

Total number of non-human rights abuse stories:

Region with the most Coverage

Region	Tally	Number	Percentage
Upper East Region			
Ashanti Region			
Greater Accra Region			
Central Region			
Total			

The Types of Human Rights Abuse Covered

Abuse of	Tally	Number	Percentage
Political rights			
Civil rights			
Economic rights			
Social rights			
Total			

The number of non-human rights abuse stories covered

Type of non-abuse story	Tally	Number	Percentage
Political news			
Sports news			
Business news			
International			
Health news			
Security			
Education			
Human Rights Promotion			
Other (specify)			
Total			

Type of Story

Type of story	Tally	Number	Percentage
Straight news			
Editorial			
Commentary			
Feature/ opinion			
Letter to the editor			
Other (specify)			
Total			

Page Placement

Page placement	Tally	Number	Percentage
Front page			
Centre spread			
Back page			
Inside pages			
Total			

Visual Illustration

Picture Accompaniment	Tally	Number	Percentage
Picture			
No picture			
Total			

Main speaker

Main speaker	Tally	Number	Percentage
victim			
Culprit			
Reporter			
Security Officer			
Other (specify)			
Total			

Column size

Size	Tally	Number	Percentage
Small (1/3 of the page size)			
Medium (1/2 of the page size)			
Large (full page)			
Total			

The Same Story that Appeared in Both Newspapers

Same story	Number	Percentage
Appeared		
Did not Appear		
Total		

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