

**Margarit Mirzoyan**

**Capstone Project**

**American University of Armenia**

**Instructor: Maria Titizian**

**THE VIOLATION OF  
CHILD'S RIGHT TO  
PRIVACY  
BY ARMENIAN MEDIA  
OUTLETS**

# OUTLINE

- ✓ **Central Research Question(s)**
- ✓ **Methodology and Results**
- ✓ **Analysis**
- ✓ **Avenues for Further Research**

- **Do Armenian media outlets violate child's right to privacy?**
- **What are the reasons if such tendency exists?**
- **What are the roles of media outlets, civil society representatives, and the government in the solution of this issue?**

**CENTRAL RESEARCH QUESTION(S)**



**Secondary Data Research** to find out about the overall situation

**Media Monitoring** to see the overall picture in media sphere

**Online Survey** to understand the level of awareness among the society

**Semi-Structured Interviews** to get expert opinions

# SECONDARY DATA RESEARCH

There is a center of Information Freedom (FOICA) and also governmental agency of Personal Data Protection that touch upon the issue of child's right to privacy violations.

There's a guideline on child's privacy protection for families, educational centers and media outlets, however, it's in a form of an advisory.

There're several laws and rights in Armenia regarding personal data protection and the overall rights of the child to well-being, however, **there's no specific law about the privacy right of the child in the media sphere.**

# MEDIA MONITORING METHODOLOGY

Media Monitoring among popular media outlets on the case of Avetisyan family mass killing.

- ✓ 1.am
- ✓ armenpress.am
- ✓ lragir.am
- ✓ a1plus.am
- ✓ panarmenian.am
- ✓ civilnet.am
- ✓ hetq.am
- ✓ tert.am
- ✓ azatutyun.am
- ✓ mediamax.am

General Media Monitoring with keywords.

- ✓ Երեխա - Child
- ✓ Բռնություն- Violation
- ✓ Սպանություն- Murder
- ✓ Բռնաբարություն- Rape
- ✓ Մանկատուն- orphanage
- ✓ Ընտանեկան բռնություն- Domestic violence
- ✓ Դեպք, Դժբախտ պատահար – Accident

# **MEDIA MONITORING: AVETISYAN FAMILY CASE**

- **January 12, 2015 six people found dead in their house in Gyumri, Armenia.**
- **Two children among the victims.**
- **Large media reaction and coverage on the case.**
- **Personal information and images of the child victims spread on the web.**

# MEDIA MONITORING RESULTS

- Only 2 media outlets(panarmenian.am, civilnet.am) from the list ( See slide 5) didn't publish the pictures of children.
- All the other media outlets on the list have shown names of the victims, their place of residency and their pictures, which certainly portray their physical appearance.
- Less credible media outlets published the same news (including personal information and pictures of the child victims) several times.
- Some of the popular media outlets also published the pictures of the victims several times (168.am).



# ONLINE SURVEY RESULTS OVERVIEW

- Most of the respondents think that media has no right to expose the personal information of the child (91,5 %).
- Half of the respondents indicated that they've seen such publications (51,4 %).
- Several respondents indicated that if the publication is made for the sake of child's well-being, then the information and pictures can be published.

# INTERVIEWS

Shushan Doydoyan

(President of Freedom of Information Center (FOICA), former Head of Personal Data Protection Agency, RA Ministry of Justice)

Ara Tadevosyan

(Director of Mediamax News Agency)

Aspram Mamikonyan

(School psychologist at “Aregnazan” Educational Center)

# INTERVIEWS

The overall message from the interviews is that the reason for the violation of child's right to privacy is the unprofessional approach of journalists.

The fact that people believe every news they see without checking the source is another reason for this tendency.

And also the fact that parents publicize their children is a massive factor in the emergence of the issue.

However, the experts mentioned that the issue is much bigger than the primary violation of the children's rights.

# CONCLUSION

1. The presence of “lazy journalism” among media outlets
2. Lack of media literacy among the Armenian population
3. Absence of specific law protecting child’s right to privacy in the sphere of media
4. Irresponsible actions of parents

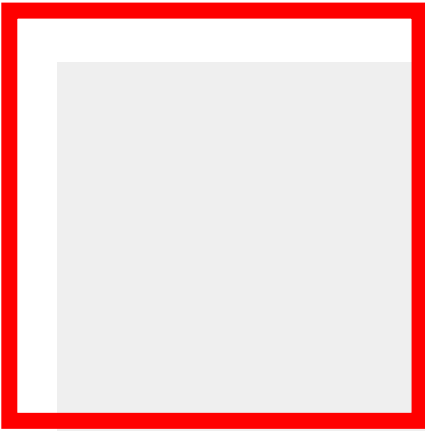
# FURTHER RESEARCH

A further research should be carried to identify the answers for the following questions

- Why the journalists are not well-educated and act unprofessionally? What is the reasons for such tendency in Armenia and how the situation can be improved?
- Why the citizens in Armenia are not well educated in the sphere of media and how the situation can be improved?
- On psychological level, why the parents tend to publicize the lives of their children?

# REFERENCES

- 1) Montague, P. (1988). A Child's Right to Privacy. *Public Affairs Quarterly*, 2(1), 17-32. Retrieved from <http://www.jstor.org/stable/40435666>
- 2) Tavani, H. (2007). PHILOSOPHICAL THEORIES OF PRIVACY: IMPLICATIONS FOR AN ADEQUATE ONLINE PRIVACY POLICY. *Metaphilosophy*, 38(1), 1-22. Retrieved from <http://www.jstor.org/stable/24439672>
- 3) Franklin, B. (2002). Children's right and media wrongs. In *The New Handbook of Children's Rights: Comparative Policy and Practice* (pp. 15-92). Routledge. Retrieved from <http://bit.ly/2yXXPX5>
- 4) Livingstone, S., & Bulger, M. (n.d.). A Global Research Agenda for Children's Rights in the Digital Age. *Journal of Children and Media*. Retrieved from <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/17482798.2014.961496>
- 5) Thomas, N. (2011). Children's Rights: Policy into Practice. Centre for Children and Young People Background Briefing Series, no.4. Lismore: Centre for Children and Young People, Southern Cross University.
- 6) Dennis, E. E., & Pease, E. C. (1996). Children and the Media, Symposium 3. New Brunswick, N.J: Transaction. Retrieved from <https://books.google.am/books?id=d8Nqzr9CaMIC&printsec=frontcover&hl=ru#v=onepage&q&f=false>
- 7) C., A., E., & N. (n.d.). Media Portrayal of Young People – impact and influences. National children's bureau. Retrieved from <http://www.open.ac.uk/researchprojects/childrens-research-centre/sites/www.open.ac.uk.researchprojects.childrens-research-centre/files/files/ecms/web-content/clarke.pdf>
- 8) Mason, G. (n.d.). MEDIA: REPRESENTATIONS OF CHILDREN IN NEWS MEDIA: REVISITING THE OSLO CHALLENGE. Retrieved from [http://urbact.eu/sites/default/files/import/Projects/My\\_Generation/documents\\_media/Media\\_Portrayal\\_of\\_Young\\_People\\_glasgow.pdf](http://urbact.eu/sites/default/files/import/Projects/My_Generation/documents_media/Media_Portrayal_of_Young_People_glasgow.pdf)



**THANK YOU**