



Theogene Tuyisenge

Age: 23 years

University of Rwanda, Nyarugenge campus

Place of residence: Kigali city

Tel: + 250789363607

Email: tuyisengetheo15@gmail.com

Freedom of expression

Many times people say “ I want to be free” when people are not imprisoned they say they are free, when they go to pray in any religion they feel they are free, people usually say they are free when none order them to do what they do not want. The term “freedom” indicates liberty. When people they can say what they feel in any means without feeling fear of what they are saying this is what is called” freedom of expression.” Freedom of expression is the fundamental for human right that provide support to all other human rights. The environment in which the media and journalism operates and how information is flowing indicates the degree of freedom and even the legal that provide freedom of expression in that environment. To assess this freedom of expression, the organizations like Human Right Watch look at the legal status of freedom of expression and how these legal are implemented, they also look at media freedom operates and how information is translated or put into practice, they look also if the media are not blocked like what happened in Burundi when all private media were banned and closed and how journalists are protected.

All people everywhere have right to freedom of expression and when talking about freedom of expression understand freedom to seek information, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art, or through any other media of his/her choice. The right to freedom of expression includes freedom to seek and receive information. It is a a core right in a country that adopted democracy as the promotion to be open in participation of decision making this process is unreachable without adequate access to information. Let us take an example sometimes the exposure of human rights violations may be assisted by the disclosure of information held by State entities. Ensuring access to information can serve to promote justice and reparation, in particular after periods of grave violations of human rights.

Freedom of expression in many countries especially countries in African, it is still a big problem because journalists are being threatened and deprived from searching for information. Killing journalists because they say something to the boss it is not freedom. The good indicator of lack of freedom of expression in a given state is when journalists are using someone’s tongue instead of saying what they gathered; they say what have been taught by someone in good position.

Freedom of expression indicates the level of democracy in a given country. When understand freedom of expression directly reflects to the media, how journalists express their ideas in words and in image. All people everywhere have right to vote, to come together, and share ideas, and other rights but these rights cannot be achieved if freedom of expression is not implemented. All countries have to promote, implement, and even protect freedom of expression because it is a core for all other rights which lead to peace, development, stability of the governments. So how to take care of freedom of expression in newspapers, broadcasting media and even internet media and protect the journalists?

In our days, the business of media is in good evolution means in digital system, internets, radios and televisions, newspapers etc. people can get information anytime everywhere across the world. All these media provide the society with knowledge, without freedom of expression all these benefits of media cannot be reached because freedom of expression it is where all ideas, views, opinions and people's thoughts are revealed. The availability of private media lead to the development any given country because if people can say their opinions without fear its good indicator of democracy, in these days there is evolution in media and many are private media. Availability of private media plays an important role in promoting or put in practice of human rights. Let us take example, someone violates human right and if the journalists report what happened, everyone who is listening , watching or reading to the news will be shocked and shout that that person have to be punished for violating someone's right. But this can be possible in a country that has freedom of expression because in country that does not allow freedom of expression, where journalists are being threatened, jailed it is impossible because journalists use someone's tongue in order to make headlines.

Freedom of expression as a core to other human rights, it is not easy to implement especially in Africa where there is war every day. People hold opinions, thoughts, suggestions but they cannot express them oral or visual because of being frightened. Every time Human Right Watch point that there is no freedom of expression in some countries of Africa but always the governments replied that it is not true by providing facts like “ we have many private media, either online or offline and they have freedom to collect and express information everywhere around the world” of course private media either newspapers, radios, televisions, websites there are but when analyzing them it is almost like governments media because they still use government tongue to collect and publish information and who goes beyond what the governments want will be jailed, media are banned and journalists are threatened every time. Freedom of expression helps people to know there rights and then be aware of the laws that can protect them.

As technologies is advancing, people are using websites or social networks to know information and this information , communication and technology is play a role in promoting and fulfilling human rights. As international day of human right is approaching, the organizations like UNESCO have to adopt freedom of expression in every country when journalist rights are being violated, where human rights are being violated, where people use someone's tongue to express opinions and thoughts. The organization like Human Right Watch has to put pressure on government to elaborate laws that protect journalists. Freedom of expression is important in every society in order to fulfill human rights. Human rights are nothing if they cannot express what they feel, think and suggest something and if journalists are being threatened and media are banned everyday this is not freedom of expression. Freedom of expression is to provide what you feel without fear.