

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REPORTING ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN AUDIOVISUAL MEDIA

Information about the military-civilian dictatorship, trials for crimes against humanity and their judgment.

Divulging the process of truth-seeking, justice and memory that is carried out throughout the country due to the crimes against humanity committed during the last civilian-military dictatorship is a way to strengthen the rule of law. Due to its national and international significance, it is a right of the whole society to access updated, accurate information on their development.

It is advised to use language that is proper, precise and respectful of human rights.

1. Use the term “military-civilian dictatorship” to speak about this time in our recent history because it is no longer possible to ignore the participation of the economic, business, bureaucratic, media, judiciary and ecclesiastic sectors, as confirmed by research and the judicial decisions in recent years.
2. Refer to those who were not democratically elected as “de facto presidents”, which is another way of contributing to strengthening democracy.
3. Adequately explain the criminal nature of crimes against humanity, particularly the disappearance of people, the appropriation of children and identity substitution. Crimes against humanity are those that the international community considers to be very serious and which have legal consequences such as imprescriptibility.
4. Make visible and acknowledge those who were detained for political reasons, which were over 10,000, even before the coup d'état on March 24th, 1976. Detention for political reason implied torturing the detainees and had consequences that are still part of our society. In case of baby-theft: a) it is incorrect to use the term “adoption” when there was no legal procedure, and the expression “parents” to refer to people who actually changed and kept secret the child’s identity for decades. b) Put events in their historical context so that society and those affected may grasp how State terrorism worked and its present consequences at an individual and collective level. c) Properly explain what crime people appropriation is to raise awareness and therefore contribute to finding the grandchildren of those families that are still looking for them. d) Call the victims of appropriation by their biological full name to respect their privacy and avoid exposing them publicly until they wish to do so. This also contributes to

preserving judicial investigations since it avoids the broadcast of information about the people that may have participated in their appropriation. Divulging this information and other that may allow the identification of those possibly criminally responsible poses problems to the investigations. e) Avoid spectacularization and revictimization, and always respect the victims of all human rights violations and their relatives.

REPORTING ON OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

It is advised to:

1. Allot more airtime to current human rights topic, which usually have biased, infrequent coverage, especially in for-profit audiovisual media, and prioritize human rights violations in the public agenda.
2. Make visible the voices of the victims and their problems. Victims and those communities affected seldom have the space to divulge their cases. In general, the media pays attention to these issues when the problems are irreversible or when the protest methods that are resorted to are the ones that the very media often criticize. There is a big difference in time and resources allotted to divulging cases of institutional violence or the state of persons deprived of their liberty, who are generally underprivileged, compared to the vast, reiterative broadcast of property crimes.
3. Avoid the simplification and reproduction of stereotypes and prejudice against groups that are vulnerable due to their ethnicity, social status, identity, physical characteristics, age, faith, background or because of an illness. On occasion, audiovisual media stigmatize instead of celebrate diversity in our democratic, plural society. Senior citizens, youngsters, people with disabilities, the LGBTI (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex) community, native peoples, afro-descendants and migrants, among others, are some of the groups affected by discriminatory reporting.
4. Make all social groups visible. Many of those who make up our society are not portrayed or mentioned in audiovisual media and are only referred to in discriminatory terms, that is why it is necessary to include them in the agenda, making visible and contextualizing their demands, acknowledging their contribution to a diverse society and praising them. Native peoples, afro-descendants, migrants and those with mental disorders, among others, are examples of this.
5. Report in an egalitarian, respectful, responsible, non-discriminatory way on topics related to women, especially when covering the different forms of violence that affect them. The use of sexist language and the frequent objectification in the media show unequal treatment and disregard, which are

present in patriarchal societies and which is necessary to transform. To ensure an inclusive outlook, it is necessary to resort to gender perspective when reporting on reality. It is fundamental to use language that constructs a culture in which women are not products, but people in a fair, egalitarian society, whose rights are recognized and appreciated.

6. Respect children and adolescents' right to freedom of expression. They have full rights and may speak and voice their opinion on any topic, without restrictions or discrimination. It is advisable that audiovisual media include their opinions, outlooks and views to enrich the ways to see life and the world in, which is stated in the Audiovisual Communication Services Law. Include children and adolescents' opinions in a responsible, respectful way, informing them of what they are being asked about and in what context the interview is going to be aired, respecting those terms when broadcasting their opinion, as well as their decision not to answer.

7. Respect children and adolescents' right to privacy. Current regulations state that it is mandatory to respect human dignity and children and adolescents' personal rights. Their image must be used in a responsible way, avoiding its broadcast when it affects their dignity and integrity. Personal information and that which allows their identification must be dealt with in a way that respects their privacy, and always with the aim of safekeeping the children and adolescents' greater good when they participate in the events reported on.

8. Report on crime avoiding the portrayal of people in a dangerous, threatening, inhuman way. This representation tends to follow the stereotype of young, underprivileged males that come from marginalized areas, which news reports file under the "insecurity" category (which is often associated to urban crimes against life and private property). Do not criminalize young, underprivileged males, who are subject to prejudice on a daily basis.

THE DEFENDER OF THE PUBLIC WOULD LIKE TO THANK AND ACKNOWLEDGE THE HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS THAT CONTRIBUTED TO THIS DOCUMENT

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