



Emergency Situations In Modern Media

Elmuratova Rukhsora Talibzhonovna

Lecturer at the School of Translation Studies, Linguistics, and International Journalism, Uzbekistan

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Abstract: In this article, observing the processes occurring in the world media and the news disseminated within the framework of political, economic and social topics in the difficult conditions that have developed in the modern world, current problems associated with emergency situations are identified. In particular, the increase in the number of emergency situations associated with natural disasters, man-made disasters, environmental problems has led to an increase in the number of materials on the topic of emergency situations in the media. On the issues of covering emergency situations by the media in our republic and securing it with regulatory legal acts.

Keywords: State, society, political, emergency situations, society, social, environmental, economic, man-made.

Introduction: Nowadays, the activities of mass media are regulated by a number of international legal documents adopted by the international community. These include:

- the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,
- the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights [1],
- the International Telecommunication Convention and its Regulations [2],
- the Geneva Convention on the Use of Broadcasting for Peaceful Purposes [3], and
- UNESCO's Declaration on the Fundamental Principles Concerning the Contribution of the Mass Media to Strengthening Peace and International Understanding, to the Promotion of Human Rights, and to Countering Racism, Apartheid and Incitement to War [4].

These and other documents outline the rights and freedoms, responsibilities, and duties of the media.

For instance, Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of

Human Rights states:

"Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers."

However, Article 29 of the same document emphasizes:

"In the exercise of his rights and freedoms, everyone shall be subject only to such limitations as are determined by law solely for the purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and of meeting the just requirements of morality, public order and the general welfare in a democratic society." [5]

Several criteria may justify such limitations: they must be established by law; they must aim to ensure the proper recognition and respect for others' rights and freedoms, and serve the legitimate interests of morality, public order, and general welfare in a democratic society [6].

After gaining independence, Uzbekistan laid the foundation for ensuring the rights and freedoms of mass media. The country ratified many international legal standards concerning the media sector. Ensuring the safety, rights, and inviolability of journalists in their professional activity has become one of the key objectives of state and society.

As a result of ongoing political and social reforms in Uzbekistan, principles of openness, freedom of speech, and access to information are being guaranteed. Furthermore, steps have been taken to allow the media to function as a genuine "fourth estate". Based on this, a series of legal and regulatory documents has been adopted in Uzbekistan to protect media freedom.

In particular, Article 67 of Chapter XV of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan states: "Mass media is free and operates in accordance with the law. It bears responsibility for the accuracy of the disseminated information as established by law. Censorship is not permitted." [7]

In line with the Constitution, the following laws were enacted:

- the Law on Mass Media of December 26, 1997 (updated on January 15, 2007) [8],
- the Law on the Protection of Journalistic Activity of April 24, 1997 [9],
- the Law on Publishing Activity of November 26, 2021 [10], and
- the Law on Establishing Press and Mass Media Workers' Day of September 3, 1993 [11].

Significant initiatives have also been undertaken to liberalize and democratize media activities, and to expand their role in deepening political, social, and economic reforms. Examples include:

- the Presidential Decree No. PF-3680 of November 16, 2005, "On the Establishment of the Public Fund for Support and Development of Independent Print Media and News Agencies" [12],
- the Presidential Resolution No. PQ-1672 of December 30, 2011, "On Additional Tax Benefits and Privileges to Support the Development of Mass Media" [13], and
- the Presidential Resolution No. PQ-4366 of June 27, 2019, "On Additional Measures to Ensure Media Independence and to Develop Information Services of State Bodies and Organizations" [14].

This resolution led to the creation of a new system. Specifically, to ensure transparency in the activities of state bodies and organizations, information services were newly reorganized in line with modern standards over the past year in many ministries and agencies, and for the first time in 201 district and city hokimiyats (local governments).

These services are organizing press conferences, briefings, and media tours to provide reliable information on social developments. They promptly respond to current issues and events, regularly update their websites, social media accounts, and messenger channels.

In recent years, nearly 290 private and institutional online publications with large audiences have been established in Uzbekistan. These outlets publish key official news and legal documents in Uzbek, Russian, and English, among other content [15].

In order to implement the Development Strategy of New Uzbekistan for 2022–2026, approved by Presidential Decree No. PF-60 of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated January 28, 2022, and to strengthen the protection of the legitimate interests of the mass media, comprehensively support their activities, enhance the capacity and competitiveness of personnel, and further develop the field of journalism, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan adopted Resolution No. PQ-294 dated June 27, 2022, "On Measures to Support the Mass Media and Develop the Field of Journalism."

When observing global media developments and the dissemination of news, it becomes apparent that in today's complex global environment, urgent issues related to emergencies (EEs) are emerging within political, economic, and social domains. In particular, the increasing number of natural disasters, man-made

accidents, and environmental problems has led to a rise in the amount of media coverage devoted to these issues. In Uzbekistan, the legal and regulatory framework provides a basis for media coverage of emergencies.

For instance, according to Article 5 of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On the Protection of the Population and Territories from Natural and Man-Made Emergencies" dated August 17, 2022:

"State power and administrative bodies, self-government institutions of citizens, as well as heads of enterprises, institutions, and organizations must ensure timely and reliable notification of the population through mass media and other communication channels about the current state of protection against emergencies, the measures taken to ensure safety, forecasts and facts regarding upcoming and occurred emergencies, and methods and means of protection. If officials withhold information, fail to provide it in a timely manner, or knowingly disseminate false information, they will be held accountable in accordance with legal regulations."

Furthermore, in Clause 9 of Chapter 4 titled "Enhancing Public Preparedness for Emergency Prevention and Fire Safety, and Ensuring Active Participation" of the Cabinet of Ministers Resolution No. 754 dated September 9, 2019, "On Improving the Procedure for Training the Population on Emergency Preparedness and Civil Protection," the following is specified:

"Information-analytical and thematic television programs shall be broadcast, roundtable discussions shall be held on relevant topics, radio programs shall be aired, and articles shall be published."

This resolution outlines the tasks of the mass media in forming and developing the knowledge and skills of the population regarding emergency protection and civil defense.

The Cabinet of Ministers Resolution No. 515 dated August 26, 2020, "On Further Improving the Emergency Situations Prevention and Response System (FVDT) of the Republic of Uzbekistan," defines the following roles for the National Television and Radio Company of Uzbekistan and the Agency for Information and Mass Communications under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the functional substructure of FVDT for protecting the population and territories:

- Broadcasting information on emergency threats and incidents through radio and television;
- In cooperation with interested functional and territorial substructures of the FVDT, organizing public awareness campaigns regarding immediate actions to

take in emergency zones;

- Broadcasting television and radio programs on emergency protection issues by order of the Ministry for Emergency Situations and regional substructures of FVDT;
- In collaboration with the Ministry of Health and the Red Crescent Society of Uzbekistan, producing specialized broadcasts to train the population in basic mutual and self-help medical assistance.

Uzbekistan is rapidly integrating into the global information space. Today, citizens have unlimited access to information and data accumulated by the international community. The quality of the information we receive and use has a profound impact on our life choices and socio-political activity.

Currently, reforms in the information environment are aimed at defining the priorities of cooperation with the press, improving economic mechanisms for media oversight, eliminating closed information sources, and reducing administrative pressure on editorial offices by government authorities. In this context, the parliament is taking steps to adopt a series of laws aimed at ensuring the openness and transparency of executive bodies, ongoing national reforms, and the domestic and foreign policy of the state.

One such law is "On the Openness of Activities of State Power and Management Bodies," adopted on May 5, 2014. This law undoubtedly contributes to the transparency and expansion of the national information space, enriches Uzbekistan's image in the global information environment, and enhances the content, form, and methods of national media output.

Over the past twenty years, technological advancements have greatly expanded the scope of the media, information sources, and providers (libraries, archives, the internet, etc.), giving citizens the opportunity to access and exchange vast amounts of data. As a result, citizens can now assess the reliability of information and fully exercise their right to express opinions freely.

Today, with the high level of development of information technologies and the widespread dissemination of information to all layers of society through various channels (television, radio, press, internet, etc.), the concept of "mass communication" is being actively used alongside that of "mass media." The term "mass communication" has become central in modern linguistic processes and represents a new reality. It reflects the current model of the national language, in which literary and non-literary domains constantly interact.

Under such conditions, mass communication becomes a

unique platform that enables the interaction of various language tools. Because mass communication is inherently absorptive and integrative, it encompasses all linguistic means that convey socially significant topics, narratives, and evaluative meanings.

Mass communication implies not only the dissemination of information but also the establishment of reciprocal communication between information sources and their consumers, i.e., feedback-based information exchange. Citizens thus have the opportunity not only to receive information but also to express their opinions on political, economic, social, and cultural developments in society, significantly influencing the formation and development of public opinion.

In conclusion, it can be stated that the rights and freedoms of the mass media operating in our country to report on emergency situations are currently ensured by existing legal and regulatory documents. However, it is important to emphasize that the rights and responsibilities of journalists regarding unrestricted access to emergency sites, the ability to obtain information from relevant authorities, and the conduct of journalistic investigations should be reconsidered.

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