

Underdeveloped Countries in the News: The Underrepresentation and
Misinformation of the Beirut Port Explosion

Jane Emilie Sidawi

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By: Jane Emilie Sidawi

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Signed by the final Examining Committee:

Dr. Alessandra Renzi - Chair

Timothy Schwab - Supervisor

Dr. Alessandra Renzi - Examiner

Dr. Brian Lewis - Examiner

Approved by **Elizabeth Miller - Chair of the Department - 2023**

Pascale Sicotte - Dean of Faculty

Abstract

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Jane Emilie Sidawi

This thesis explores the notion of underrepresentation and misinformation when looking at underdeveloped countries in the news looking specifically at the Beirut port explosion that took place on August 4, 2020. With a focus on social media, more particularly the platform of Instagram, this research is based on the fast-paced news propagation found on Instagram while noting the lack of information as well as misinformation of the Beirut port explosion. This is also related to the underrepresentation of the countries that is linked to misinformation. This thesis is merely a start as awareness is only the start for change.

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Dedication

To my best friends in the whole wide world. To the ones who have cried with me, laughed with me, danced with me and screamed with me throughout this whole process. To the ones that have dedicated their whole lives to the family. To the ones that love unconditionally. To the ones to whom I owe it all. To my parents and sister: Michael, Christine and Kate. My love for you is unexplainable.

To my Lebanon, بحبك يا لبنان

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Introduction

I was born and raised in the beautiful country of Lebanon surrounded by the Mediterranean Sea, by the mountains, by the forest and by the rich history of the country. Moving to Montréal, Canada at the age of 12, the richness and the culture of Lebanon are deeply ingrained within me wherever I go. Unfortunately, the country has been going through hardships, whether it is wars, bombings, mandating, or economic crisis, the country has not had the chance to recover from one tragedy to the next. On August 4, 2020, at 6:08 p.m., life stopped for Lebanon and its citizens. And for many, life has unfortunately permanently stopped. August 4, 2020, one of the biggest non-nuclear explosions in history took place in the port of Beirut, wiping away a large part of the city. The explosion was the cause of the death of over 200 people, with over 6,500 people injured and over 300,000 homes destroyed. There is nothing that can ever prepare a person, an immigrant, to make a call back home to ask if relatives, friends, and loved ones are still alive. Nothing could have ever prepared me to know that my cousin was nowhere to be found amidst the chaos. Just hearing the voice of a loved one after a traumatic experience such as this explosion is not something that anyone can ever prepare you for. Homes destroyed, people still suffering injuries up until today, over three years after the fatal explosion, people still mourning the victims, and the country still in shock since August 4, 2020. Not one Lebanese person is able to speak about the explosion without the guilt and the fear of the unknown that the government is able to hide and jeopardize their population's lives. August 4, 2020, will always be a day of mourning for all Lebanese people, living in Lebanon or abroad. Nothing can or will ever be able to replace or even mend the hearts and the city after such an atrocious tragedy.

This thesis answers the following questions:

1- How was the Beirut port explosion on August 4, 2020, covered by the Canadian news organizations on Instagram in comparison to the coverage of Lebanese news organizations on Instagram?

2- How important is social media, mainly Instagram, with news coverage when it comes to tragedies in underdeveloped countries, specifically the Beirut port explosion, and how was it perceived within the various Canadian news organizations?

3- How is misinformation linked to underrepresentation when it comes to underdeveloped countries, specifically in the case of Lebanon within Canadian news organizations?

While browsing the news about my country and the explosion that happened, information was not exactly the same as what has been happening on the streets, updates were not the same as the updates I was receiving from my family and friends, as well as from Lebanese news organizations. This divide has been apparent with all news pertaining to Lebanon. Therefore, this thesis looks at how the news relayed information about the Beirut port explosion while comparing Lebanese news organizations to Canadian news organizations. By examining three Lebanese news organizations and three Canadian news organizations, the research consists of the analysis of posts and highlights that these organizations have posted about the Beirut port explosion while examining the language, the text and the visuals of the posts. The analysis will focus on three specific posts. This research takes place on the social media platform of Instagram due to the wide and extensive use of the platform as well as the very wide range of options that it offers its users. The first chapter of this thesis looks at social media and its rise in today's society. It examines its rapid spread and provides information about the platform of Instagram. The second chapter provides information about news organizations and their adoption of social media. Many, if not all traditional news organizations have adopted social media and its various platforms to their advantage in order to reach a wider audience at a quicker speed. The third chapter looks at misinformation and the underrepresentation of underdeveloped countries in the news.

Misinformation and underrepresentation are linked together when it comes to underdeveloped countries. This notion will be further explored in this chapter. Methodology is discussed in the fourth chapter looking at critical discourse analysis and visual discourse analysis while also exploring the notion of scrolling back and accumulating the data necessary for the findings. The final chapter, Chapter Five, will bring forward the findings of the six news organizations examined as well as the analysis of three specific posts. The information accumulated will then prove the misinformation and the underrepresentation of the port explosion that took place in Beirut, Lebanon.

The goal of this thesis is to shed light on this matter. As Noam Chomsky explains, any change begins with awareness. “So there’s a whole series of things which have to happen, and they *begin* with awareness; you don’t do anything without awareness, obviously—you don’t do anything unless you’re aware that there’s something that ought to be done, so that’s the beginning almost by definition. [...] But of course, awareness is only the beginning, [...]” (Mitchell and Schoeffel, p.186-187) Awareness is only the start; this thesis is only the start.

Chapter One: Rise of Social Media

Today more than ever, societies, communities, friends, and families are constantly connected. The rise of social media has aided with connecting people together, whether through sending memes to a person sitting across in the same room, or even video calling a loved one living across the globe. With the evolution of social media and its platforms, it is important to fully comprehend what these platforms offer and how to navigate them in order to then be able to analyze their contents and various modes of utilization. As José Van Dijck states in their book “The Culture of Connectivity: A Critical History of Social Media”: “Particularly now that a generation is coming of age for whom social media simply seems to be a given—an infrastructure they do not question—it is important to make explicit the ideological structures that undergird microsystems and their ecology.” (Van Dijck ch8, p.21) This chapter will then provide an overview of the basics of social media as a start, looking at Web 2.0, what algorithms are and the way they work, as well as the various uses of social media in today's society.

Parallel to the very quick and constant growth of social media was the rise of Web 2.0. The second generation of the Web is mainly recognized due to its connectedness: the various easy tools that it offers users to connect, create and collaborate. “Implicit within Web 2.0 was a shift to make clear that the internet was a platform, as understood within computing discourse [communication between humans through the use of computers and networks], and not just or mainly new, or additional, ‘channel’ within the traditional media (Allen, 2008).” (Allen p. 264) The internet is then only a tool for users to create, connect and collaborate with other users. The new development of Web 2.0 was regarded as the “principle way to describe emerging trends” and aid with emerging trends. (Allen p. 262) Growing parallelly, social media and Web 2.0 are understood through each other. In the first chapter of their book “The Culture of Connectivity: A Critical History of Social Media”, Van Dijck defines social media as:” ‘a group of Internet-based

applications that build on the ideological and technological foundations of Web 2.0, and that allow the creation and exchange of user-generated content' (Kaplan and Haenlein 2010; 60), from a new online layer through which people organize their lives. Today, this layer of platforms influences human interaction on an individual and community level, as well as on a larger societal level, while the world of online and offline are increasingly interpenetrating." (Van Dijck, Chapter 1, p. 2) This interconnectedness of both, social media and Web 2.0 deepens our understanding of both.

According to The University of Maine's "Social Media Statistics Details", there are over 4.48 billion people using social media worldwide as of September 2021. (The University of Maine) Its quick growth allowed creators and companies to invest and produce different platforms while making sure that connectedness is at the forefront of it all. However, as companies, their main focus is the growth of the company itself. Yet, as mentioned, there is a deep connection between the company and its users: the company creates features that encourage the users to utilize the application or platform for a longer time or even encourage their friends and connections to use the platform as well. Therefore, creating all those user-friendly features benefits the company at the same time. Undoubtedly, "*Connectivity* quickly evolved into a valuable resource as engineers found ways to code information into algorithms that helped brand a particular form of online sociality and make it profitable in online markets-serving a global market of social networking and user-generated content." (Van Dijck, Chapter 1, p.3) Codes, algorithms, and platforms then all have the sole focus of connectedness at the forefront of their development. This creates the cycle of growing their company while growing communities. Through this interweaving of both, the communal connectedness as well as the technological connectedness, companies stress the social and human connectedness of their platform, while users "emphasize human connectedness when explaining a platform's value in their lives." (Van Dijck, chapter 1, p.10). Moreover, due to the interconnectedness of both, the community and the platform itself, "social

media platforms, rather than being finished products, are dynamic objects that are tweaked in response to their user's needs and their owner's objectives, but also in reaction to competing platforms and their larger technological and economic infrastructure through which they develop (Feenber 2009)." (Van Dijck, chapter 1 p. 5) Both, the platforms and the communities, are evolving simultaneously while being intertwined.

While this notion of connectedness is at the forefront of social media platforms, users... people then become increasingly connected to their society, by liking, posting, commenting and other ways that platforms allow through their various features. However, then comes the question of popularity and followers. By looking at the social media platform of Instagram for instance, features such as liking, sharing, commenting, or following allow users to connect and create this social community of people, whether they personally know each other or not. "Popularity as a coded concept thus becomes not only quantifiable but also manipulable: boosting popularity rankings is an important mechanism built into these buttons. People who have many friends or followers are touted as influential, and their social authority or reputation increases as they receive more clicks. Ideas that are 'liked' by many people have the potential of becoming trends." (van Dijck, Chapter 1, p. 11) It is unlike the "real world," where people value the quality of their connections and their social circle rather than the quantity of the people that surround them. (van Dijck, ch1, p. 10) People base their relevance and their importance on their follower count, of course, when wanting to be popular and attract attention.

When looking at the social media platform of Instagram, it offers its users many features to connect with each other while also being able to express their thoughts and bring forward topics they want to shed light on, or even just post their daily activities. At the start, Instagram was known to be a photography app where photographers used the platform to showcase their talents with other photographers. Throughout the years, Instagram evolved to where it is today: one of the top social media platforms. From just being able to share photographs on one's feed, to being able

to create short videos, post stories, go live, and many more features that encourage users as well as creators to express themselves through visuals and text. “With the impressive amount of 1 billion users worldwide—more than Twitter, Snapchat, and Pinterest combined (We Are Social, 2019)—Instagram has become one of the most important social networking sites globally and in the process has transformed the role of photographs and photography in visual cultures. [...] Launched in 2010 by Kevin Systrom and Mike Krieger as a ‘free iPhone application designed for sharing pictures with friends’ (Laestadius, 2017, p. 573), Instagram has steadily integrated many new features over the years, such as short videos (2013), stories (2016), shoppable posts (2017), and IGTV [Instagram Television] (2018) (Wikipedia, 2019).” (Caliandro and Graham, p. 1-2) With a financial value between US\$25 billion and US\$50 billion, Instagram has evolved to where it is today, with an abundance of users. It is constantly growing and developing more and more features encouraging its users to spend more time on the app creating and connecting with others. Therefore, one’s feed, their homepage, is then filled with content that their friends and connections post and create. One will see stories, posts, IGTVs, and live streams when their followers post or go live.

Many languages are being used while creating posts and writing captions for each post. There is not one universal language used on social media platforms since people utilize the language that they are most comfortable using. This evidently contributes to the constant growth of platforms by attracting a larger audience and users from all around the world. However, there would still be a divide between cultures, countries and societies due to the language barrier that is present when people write captions in their languages. To fix this, the social media platform Instagram launched a translation feature in 2016. “The feature translates captions and comments automatically on the language they are written in and the language setting of the person who is viewing it. It can also be seen by clicking **See Translation** button below the text.” (Larassati, Anisa, et al., p. 554) The feature was also added to stories that include text. Through the addition

of the easily accessible translation option on Instagram, people are now exposed to wider content from various parts of the world. Therefore, this not only connects people closer to each other, but it also brings in multiple new ways of understanding the world and acknowledging new cultures and ways of living. However, this may cause problems when it comes to more than the text itself. As mentioned previously, Instagram was originally just a platform for photographers to share images. Therefore, today, with images and text combined in one post, both should be considered in order to fully understand the message or idea of the creator and the user of the account. In their book "Translation and Social Media: In Theory, in Training and in Professional Practice," author Renée Desjardins states that "[...] given that *Instagram* gives primacy to visual content, proceeding in this manner might lead to significant oversights. [...] This example illustrates the limitations of translation when it is understood exclusively as *interlinguistic verbal translation*. The intersemiotic and multimodal nature of UGC [User Generated Content] on platforms, such as *Instagram*, underscores the necessity for definitions of translations that allow translators to consider 'semiotic events' as a whole." (Desjardins, p.45) Therefore, no matter how much people are able to easily connect with others around the globe through the translating feature, there is still the context factor that Instagram and the automated translation feature would not be able to grasp and translate just through the text. Yet, it still is a valued feature for all users since it helps with spreading content globally with no restrictions without having the information concentrated in the same area it was created.

In order to understand the functionality of platforms, the algorithm must be explained and looked at. What is an algorithm from a technological perspective and how does it work? In their article "Psychology of Fake News," Gordon Pennycook and David G. Rand define the term algorithm as "steps or calculations performed by a computer (given a set of rules) to solve a problem or complete a task. In the context of social media, algorithms are used to determine what content users see." (Pennycook and Rand, p. 289) With social media, the algorithm then takes

on a specific role, different from the calculations and the mathematical side that it originated from. As Jean-Luc Chabert states in the introduction of their book "A History of Algorithms: From the Pebble to the Microchip" that "In the end, the term algorithm has come to mean any process of systematic calculation, that is a process that could be carried out automatically." (Chabert, p. 2)

The algorithm on social media is formatted for the users through the users' help since it progresses through the use of each social media user. It is the way that users view each social media platform, the feed and the explore page that they scroll through on a daily, or even hourly basis. The algorithm determines what viewers see, which content they consume and in which order they receive the information. Algorithms are programmed generally for all users, however, they are also programmed for each user specifically. This means that there is a general formula for how the algorithm functions: how to determine what people like, which order to show posts and content, showing things in chronological order or not (Instagram has changed their algorithm recently from chronological order to basing it on what people like). This general formula is then applied to every single user while also understanding the user's likes and dislikes, their preferences and their interests. Through that then, people will tend to have a more enjoyable time while utilizing the platform, which then ultimately encourages them to use it more and more. Therefore, the cycle of users and the company co-existing simultaneously while adapting to each other also applies to the algorithm. Consequently, the algorithm is a really important factor when it comes to analyzing and understanding social media.

Furthermore, through the use of algorithms, companies are able to take advantage of the information accumulated. "Data mining refers to the process of finding interesting patterns in data that are not ordinarily accessible by rudimentary queries and associated results with the objective of using discovered patterns to improve decision making." (Petrushin and Khan, p. 14) Other than the likes, shares and comments that are tracked, the way people scroll, what they spend time looking at, how long they spend time looking at something, blocking a genre of content on their

feed, anything accumulates information for companies. This information, as mentioned, will aid the companies in understanding what and how to display content on their feed to provide a better enjoyable experience for each person while also benefiting from it, selling the user the experience. As explained through the introduction of the book "Social Media Mining: An Introduction," that while data mining, specifically on social media, is capable with helping us understand interactions, it also provides "necessary tools to mine this world for interesting patterns, analyze information diffusion, study influence and homophily, provide effective recommendations, and analyze novel social behavior in social media." (Zafarani et al., p. 6-7) All this accumulated information, benefiting companies, creates a better experience on social media for users. However, it is difficult to implement or restrict any regulation when it comes to data privacy within social media or the digital world in general due to the differences in systems internationally or even nationally. (Petrescu and Krishen, p.1) Data mining within algorithms is inevitable due to all the technological advancements we are living through as societies.

Working simultaneously with the algorithm, hashtags are part of captions or even found in stories on Instagram where, through the use of the pound sign followed by any word, people are able to further connect with posts using the same hashtags. "In other words, a hashtag has the potential to redirect a reader, but it also affords the possibility of seeing what other UGC posts are indexed under the same hashtag." (Desjardins, p. 49) However, unlike hypertext, where, by clicking on the link one is then directed to related content, when one clicks on a hashtag, they are then directed to the word that they clicked on only. Therefore, hashtags may not fully encapsulate the contents of the post, but look at just one word that the creator has selected as a hashtag. Furthermore, in the book "#HashtagActivism: networks of race and gender justice," the authors explain that "[...] hashtags can be thought of as what psychologists and scholars of public opinion might call schemas; they recall complex, nuanced experiences and claims, histories and presents, and theories of social belonging in a succinct, easy to digest, and repeatable form." (Jackson et.

al., p. 199) The easy use of hashtags as well as the various platforms that utilize them allow an easier connection between topics and discussions. It facilitates global discussions and conversations revolving around any topic. As Aleksandra Laucuka states that hashtags have the potential to obtain comprehensive and objective information as well as unbiased opinions. Their wide and accessible use allows a diverse and global connection and conversation, bringing in multiple ideologies and opinions. By plugging into global and international conversations and discussions, hashtags can then be used within news organizations to drive their news and their coverage of national and international conversations and breaking news with the help of hashtags. However, hashtags may not even relate to the post at all, as mentioned, they work simultaneously with algorithms in order to gain more viewership to their posts. Accordingly, users may decide to use popular hashtags that do not relate to the posts' contents or meaning in order to appear on searches of hashtags that are known to be widely shared which then ultimately brings the post forward to a larger number of users and viewers. When it comes to news organizations, they might utilize hashtags that are unrelated to the covered news (eg.: hashtags containing the name of their organization) to maximize the viewership of their posts. This can then take part in the cycle mentioned previously, where the platform, the companies and the users are all co-depending on one another's usage of the platform to their advantage.

When it comes to social media, it is important to understand how it is constituted and how it functions. This chapter gave a brief introduction to the various ways that social media functions: how popularity happens, how people interact, what Instagram as a platform is and what it offers, as well as a brief understanding of the algorithm while touching on hashtags and their relation to algorithms and popularity. Moreover, this chapter touched on language on social media, looking at how text translations are now easily and quickly accessible as well as its main defaults that may set it back. The quick rise of social media in today's society allows it to become the very core

of all our connections, with a very small number of people who are isolated from its use. Social media became the 'go-to' for social, political, and many other topic references.

Chapter Two: News Organizations on Social Media Platforms

News organizations and journalists have adopted and adapted social media and its rapid access and exposure to their advantage. This chapter will look at the switch from traditional media outlets, such as the television and newspapers, to social media platforms. This chapter will also bring forward the idea of horizontal news and vertical news to give a better understanding of how news aggregators work and how news is spread around outlets, accounts, and organizations.

When thinking about the news, people used to look at the traditional ways that news is distributed, whether that is on the television on news organization channels, or on published and distributed newspapers as well as websites. However, with the rapid growth of social media platforms and the impressive speed at which information is transmitted to a wider audience, news organizations began leaning toward those platforms in order to reach a wider audience and gain a new source of income, popularity, and growth. Looking at the social media platform of Instagram, the “Photo-sharing app [...] is set to overtake Twitter as a news source, research suggests. [...] 11% [of people that took part in the survey that Reuters Institute Digital News conducted] use it for news, putting it just one point behind Twitter.” (Rajan) Twitter is usually known for its straightforward way of publishing news through a tweet that reaches followers within seconds of its creation. However, unlike Instagram, Twitter offers a limited amount of features: Tweets with a limit of 280 characters (recently, Twitter created a monthly subscription of \$8 per month, which grants subscribers many additional features, including a character count of 4,000 per tweet), as well as sharing visuals, with a limit of 4 images per post and videos with a limit of 512MB. This could be seen as positive since one should be able to bring a concise idea forward through the limited character restriction, however, the many interesting features that Instagram

provides its users to share, create, and express their thoughts and news are more appealing to the public. As of today, the following are features that Instagram offers its users: the original photo and video posting on ones feed; IGTV, where people create and post longer videos on their feed; Reels, similar to IGTV, reels are shorter videos created and posted on one's feed as well as appearing on a separate tab created just for reels; Stories, where users can share photos, videos, repost posts that only are available for viewing for 24 hours; Live, where people are able to go live and document important events or just segments of their lives as they are happening. Those are the creative features that Instagram offers. However, other functions are available throughout the visuals, such as people being able to sell products by adding links and prices to posts, photographs and videos posted on companies' profiles, paying for sponsored posts, where sponsored posts appear on the home feed of people that are not following you. This feature is mostly utilized by companies wanting to grow their follower count and direct traffic to their profile and their product as well as the website affiliated with them. All these features attract news organizations to take advantage of the visuals that usually are more appealing to the eye. In the article "Instagram Might Be Better Than Twitter for News," author Lahiru writes the following:

The attraction towards something like Stories is fairly straightforward. Particularly for the news. Instead of 20-minute segments, news items are segmented into 15-second chunk. Media companies like *Bloomberg* and *CNBC* use Stories as a mechanism to offer news previews. These previews eventually help gain website traffic with a 'swipe up to see more' call-to-action at the end of every set of Stories. Other organizations like CNN and BBC also use Stories as a means of live updating breaking stories (Lahiru)

For those reasons, the various features as well as the attraction towards the visual, Instagram gains leverage over the platform of Twitter when it comes to news organizations conveying their information and breaking news stories.

Looking at news organizations on Instagram and social media in general, it is important to note that social media platforms become an extension of the traditional ways that each company is used to conveying their information. That is not to say that social media might not overtake or surpass traditional news media completely in the future due to its rapid spread of information as well as its readily use at any moment. Interactions with news organizations become easier and more accessible to all users and followers. However, traditional media will remain a consistent and constant source of news in general. Nic Newman writes the following in the article “The rise of social media and its impact on mainstream journalism: A study of how newspapers and broadcasters in the UK and US are responding to a wave of participatory social media, and a historic shift in control towards individual consumers”: “Social recommendation has begun to play a significant role in driving traffic to traditional news content. Most organizations are devoting significant resources to exploit social networks to drive reach. Over time, social media sites could become as important as search engines as a driver of traffic and revenue.” (Newman, p. 2-3)

Through social media platforms, more specifically Instagram, when viewing one’s profile page, the bio section at the top of the profile allows users to give a brief description about themselves, the company, or the product found on that specific profile. When it comes to news organizations, they use bios to their advantage by linking their website, which then gives viewers easier access to the website. Through that, they then ultimately create more traffic and clicks on their website. This can also be done through Stories, where links can be added directly to the story or by using the “swipe-up for more information” feature which directs users to the specific page mentioned in the story or any link that they want to bring forward. These features are available for all Instagram users. As Renée Desjardins writes while quoting Marc Prensky that “Social media are the ‘voice’ of the Millennial Generation, the voice of those who are ‘digital narratives’ (Prensky 2001, p.2).” (Desjardins, p.73) Therefore, by posting and reposting news segments that were either created specifically for social media or a chunk from the daily news on television, news organizations are giving a new life to their organization as well as to the news itself.

Social media has then opened new opportunities for journalists in general. Established, freelance or beginner journalists are taking advantage of these platforms in order to advance in their careers and spread their name in the field, as it is easier and quicker to do so within the online world. David Beers writes in the article “The Public Sphere and Online, Independent Journalism” that “The Internet may allow cheap and infinite space for independent journalism, but that does not guarantee large audiences for any one source.” (Beers, p. 123) There is always the possibility of not going viral, or getting views on any of the posts, discussions, or photographs that people may post. However, even though journalists may not attract attention or a significant viewership to their articles or reports, the Internet and social media provide platforms for journalists to bring forward their ideas regardless. This opens more discussions as well as different perspectives that otherwise would not have been accepted, read, or seen through traditional media. Beer proclaims that in Canada, there are very few large corporations that take hold and control mainstream news media (Beers, p. 110) Therefore, with this huge hold that the large news organizations and corporations have upon news in general, social media becomes an outlet for journalists that are not as integrated within the field.

It is important to understand how information and news flows and what news aggregators are. Whether on the Internet or through traditional news distribution and media, information flows vertically and horizontally. Noah Giansiracusa explains this notion right at the start of their book titled “How Algorithms Create and Prevent Fake News: Exploring the Impacts of Social Media, Deepfakes, GPT-3, and More.” Giansiracusa uses the following example: when one of the organizations, particularly a well-known news organization such as the Washington Post, breaks a big story, all other news organizations such as the New York Times, will then cover that story within hours. This is horizontal propagation. This type of propagation happens due to the competition for readership between news organizations: when the second news organization cannot claim credit for breaking the news, yet they do not want to lose their readership to another

news organization. When a big story is broken through a big well-known news organization, other smaller news organizations will utilize their information for their own posts. This also is a way to preserve their readers while they do a small amount of work. This is also referred to as the vertical downward flow of information. As for the upward flow of information, smaller blogs and organizations can break the news and it can end up all the way at the biggest news organizations. The propagation of news makes news in general very accessible and easy to acquire information. (Giansiracusa, p. 2-3) Whether it is vertical or horizontal, news can be propagated amongst most, if not all, news organizations, disregarding the ranking or the number of followers and viewers each organization accumulates. Moreover, this is an often occurrence, where journalists may reach out and utilize other journalists' and organizations' information for their own story and coverage of any news. By posting their posts and stories to news aggregators, beginner or even mid-level bloggers and journalists get the chance to have their content picked up and used by larger organizations. This then benefits both, the journalists and the organization, where the journalists working with news organizations save time and funds while also covering an important story and keeping their followers and viewers engaged. This also directs traffic to their profile which then ultimately generates more views and clicks to their websites. It is also important to note that, not only do news organizations rely on each other for stories and information about things to cover, news is also selected according to what the organization deems important and eye-catching for its audience. In "The Handbook of Journalism Studies," Deidre O'Neill and Tony Harcup state that "news must be selected and packaged in a format that is audience-oriented and commercial by being entertaining and reflecting popular tastes." (Wahl-Jorgensen, Hanitzsch, p. 166) They explain further in the chapter that by selecting topics, the media then fulfills their "societal purpose" of instilling the economic, social and political agenda set in place by the groups and organizations that dominate the society and the state through their ideologies and their views. This notion will be further discussed in the next chapter while looking at misinformation and

underrepresentation of underdeveloped countries in the news. However, all of this is necessary in order to have a better understanding of how news propagation and news selection works.

As for revenue, directing traffic toward the organization's website and Instagram profile is one of the ways that news organizations generate money from social media. Another very popular and utilized way of generating profit from social media and websites is selling subscriptions. These subscriptions not only profit the organizations, they also profit the readers, where they can be assured of exceptional journalism. This, however, creates a divide between what readers deem as quality journalism. Although, as just mentioned previously, all news organizations rely on each other as well as news aggregators for news propagation, which then raises the question of "quality journalism" and its source. This creates distrust with news organizations as well as the social media platforms. This will be explained further in the next chapter.

News organizations are now present on various if not most social media platforms. Throughout this chapter, this transition of why and how traditional news organizations have expanded onto the social networks was discussed including the advantages of each platform. Social media also provides platforms for journalists where they are able to share stories and news they are otherwise unable to share due to the limited integration of journalists and bloggers through larger news organizations. This provides the public with more news and different perspectives and voices that they might have not been able to see or hear otherwise. Social media also provides news organizations with a new source of income in order to keep their profiles and websites as well as their journalists. It was also noted throughout this chapter how news is propagated, looking at the vertical and horizontal propagation. This method is important to better understand the ways that the news works behind the scenes. Not all organizations are able to afford journalists covering all the various news happening locally, nationally and internationally. Therefore, the propagation methods have been widely used within the news realm, whether through newspapers or other news platforms. However, the addition and integration of the news

on social media platforms has provided easier ways to acquire and utilize these methods to the news organizations' advantage.

Chapter Three: Misinformation and Underrepresentation of Underdeveloped Countries in the News

The news world is detailed. As mentioned in the previous chapter, there are a lot of factors within the news, whether that is the length of a news segment or even the delivery of any story. There are specific steps that news organizations complete prior to posting their news coverage. It varies from one organization to the other, yet, behind each news organization is a hierarchy of steps and regulations to abide by. However, through that, and through the hierarchy of news that has been discussed previously, misinformation occurs. This chapter will define misinformation while explaining how news arrives to that point. This chapter will also explore the idea of the underrepresentation of underdeveloped countries in the news while also linking it to misinformation when it comes to underdeveloped countries since both are connected.

Misinformation and disinformation are two terms that are very similar in definition, yet one detail differentiates them. In their article “Psychology of Fake News,” authors Gordon Pennycook and David G. Rand define misinformation as “information that is false, inaccurate, or misleading. Unlike disinformation, misinformation does not necessarily need to be created deliberately to mislead. Misinformation is sometimes used to refer exclusively to inaccuracies that are accidental; however, because it is difficult to ascertain the intentions of the unknown individuals who create falsehoods that spread on the internet, [...]” (Pennycook and Rand, p. 389) misinformation and disinformation are very close in definition.

When it comes to information, it is not as easy to distinguish disinformation or even misinformation. Pennycook and Rand write the following: “The source is another important cue that may be used when evaluating news. Participants are more likely to believe information provided by people whom they view as being credible [...], and a large literature from political

science has robustly demonstrated the impact of elite messaging, in particular, on public opinion [56].” (Pennycook and Rand, p. 393) There is an obvious influence from news organizations and journalists through their popular opinions as well as their follower count, as mentioned in the previous chapter. This influence obviously affects people’s belief and their confidence in the source and ultimately in the news and information relayed. Yet, due to being underfunded and understaffed, smaller blogs tend to rely on their surroundings for information. They publish material based on information from their community and their surroundings without necessarily fact-checking them. (Giansiracusa, p. 6) As it was previously touched on in chapter two, the hierarchy of information in the news propagates horizontally as well as vertically. Therefore, the concern of information, the quality and the concrete information that is brought through within large or small organizations may not always be accurate or vice-versa. When information is picked up by news sources or organizations online, it is important to keep this notion in mind while weighing the position of the organization itself as well as its popularity and influence on the rest of its followers and readers.

However, if we’re looking at a search engine, for example, it is not as easy to follow trustworthy news, unless intentionally searching for a source. Giansiracusa writes in their article that Google’s search algorithm does not distinguish information from misinformation, therefore, everything shows up on Google, true or false. Instead, google picks sites that are more generally reliable and that are pertinent to the search and positions them higher up in the results. (Giansiracusa, p. 146) This then raises the question of the extent that news organizations, sources and Google are able and are ready to go to while gaining monetary compensation from clicks as well as ads. As Andrew Chawick and Cristian Vaccari write in their survey report titled “News Sharing on UK Social Media: Misinformation, Disinformation, and Correction” that “Much of the political news that is shared on social media is produced by professional news organizations. Clearly there is a problem of trust in social media platforms,

but there is also a problem of trust in news more broadly.” (Chadwick and Vaccari, p. 23) There is always the blame on social media and online news organizations as well as news propagated on social media pointing that it is not always right and that it is “on social media.” Unfortunately, social media has this underlying connotation of not being a trustworthy source due to its excessive use by everyone and the content variety found on the platform.

Moreover, age plays a large role in social media analytics. The study shows that “[...] the younger side of this cohort – ages 18 to 24 – being especially likely to report using Instagram (76%), Snapchat (75%) or TikTok (55%).” (Auxier and Anderson) Whereas, a very apparent 63% difference with adults 65 and older with their use of those social media applications. This apparent age divide plays a role in the lack of trust when it comes to social media as a source for anything. The question of trustworthy news and news organizations is tied to the hierarchy of news ensuring the reception of the same news due to the horizontal and vertical news propagation. Nevertheless, it often is incorrectly tied to the distrust in social media’s spread of other misinformation.

When looking at underrepresentation in news, and specifically in news on social media, it is important to make clear that news organizations publish and post news and stories selectively while understanding their followers and their readers. As social media expanded and extended to where it is today, companies and specifically organizations pay attention to their followers and accumulate information to grow and expand their company’s audience on social media by examining a follower count, tracking the success of posts and news that they share through looking at the number of likes, comments, and shares. This helps organizations have a grasp on the preferences of their followers as well as what brings the organization more views, clicks, likes, and shares. This also means that organizations might publish news that does not please their followers in order to attract attention and talk around the post or news that might not be fact-checked prior to posting, which ultimately accumulates shares, comments, and

interactions with the posts which increases their popularity as well as their revenue. However, it is important to note that some social media platforms, mainly Instagram and Facebook which are applications operated by Meta Platforms, do have fact-checking when it comes to information. Meta states through Facebook that they work with third-party independent fact-checkers that “review and rate the accuracy of stories through original reporting, which may include interviewing primary sources, consulting public data and conducting analyses of media, including photos and video.” (Meta) Their goal is to fight and limit misinformation on their platforms. However, they do not remove the content from their platforms. Instead of removing content, Meta “significantly [reduces] that content’s distribution so that fewer people see it, label it accordingly and notify people who try to share it.” (Meta) Therefore, while disinformation and misinformation are still present on social media news, we can understand that fact-checking has already taken place and the misinformation is not as significant to report. Furthermore, when explaining that news organizations might spread disinformation and news that their followers might not agree with, this provides a way for organizations to accumulate shares and talk about their posts since people are creatures of habit: the habits of social media sharing of news and posts, whether people agree with them or not, will still be applied in any context. This then applies to fake news on social media. As the study conducted by the University of Southern California brings forward that “habitual users of social media share both true and fake news.” (Madrid) It becomes a habit to share news that they find online whether true or not. This could be due to political biases or the lack of critically processing the information prior to sharing. All this attributes to the ability of spreading fake news online at a rapid speed. This notion is one of the very main reasons that may answer the questions concerning underdeveloped countries in the news. However, it cannot be denied that minorities are either excluded from coverage or selectively included. Marilyn E. Gist provides an example in their article “Minorities in Media Imagery: A Social Cognitive Perspective on Journalistic Bias”: News coverage of minorities is often negative and controversial. Coverage can vary from crime, drugs, poverty, and broken

homes among many other negative contexts. On the other hand, when minorities are covered in a more positive way, the context would be regarding achievements of minorities through the aid of non-minorities, such as white volunteers tutoring minorities, breaking away from gangs, etc. (Gist, p. 53-54) As explained, the selectiveness of which news to bring forward and to portray is very apparent within minorities as well as underdeveloped countries. This selectiveness not only is negative towards the country or the community, but it is also harmful towards the general public and readers of the news. This taints the way people read the news and their views on certain topics, cultures, communities and countries in general. Moreover, this selectiveness of news or even commitment to bringing forward news from underdeveloped countries raises multiple questions. In their book "Globalization and Media: Global Village of Babel," Jack Lule writes that "Minute by minute, over the course of the day, Nike's stock prices updated. Minute by minute, over the course of the day, thousands of children died from starvation. There was no ticker for them. No news of them." (Lule 111) This makes clear what is deemed important within the news. While the lives of lost children are not tracked, this supports the idea that news and organizations in general, track, post, and talk about topics that people want to hear about or know about or topics that are more controversial or disagree with the general public's agreement to bring in more engagement. They do not bring forward critical and important information if they do not believe that their audience will engage with it.

There is a profound connection between underrepresentation and misinformation. It becomes a cycle: when topics, such as topics emerging from underrepresented countries, do not get the proper attention and portrayal in the media, this then might not encourage interaction with the post. The lack of interaction does not encourage news organizations to cover more news and stories from whatever country that did not bring them revenue from their posts. However, this is not the only reason that both underrepresentation and misinformation are linked. As it has been mentioned and repeated throughout this thesis, it is important to understand the news and its

organization as a whole in order to fully grasp why and how stories are spoken about. One of the very main issues that has to be explored within the news is newsrooms. When the newsroom does not represent the diverse cultures and countries, it will then be clear and it will be translated through the news that they decide to publish and to bring to the public's attention. Gist writes "When 95 percent of those [newsroom management/anchors] who make the decisions are nonminority and upwardly mobile, it is likely that the product will reflect their values and perspectives more than it will those of the more diverse area in the newsroom seeks to serve." (Gist, p. 57) This significant divide in the newsroom can be translated into the posts and the news that each news organization decides to bring forward, or even the way and the language used in the post and the articles. This is consequential while covering news about underdeveloped countries, where the lack of interest or the language or even the insufficient or incorrect information affects the news, and most importantly the readers and followers. Gist concludes that

Statistical and anecdotal evidence suggests that minority advancement is stymied unless the diversity it represents is removed, unless minority perspective aligns with that of the dominant culture. In practice, what many organizations manifest in their search for 'qualified' minorities for management positions is that they want people who differ in terms of EEO [Equal Employment Opportunity] statistics, but who think and act in concert with the dominant culture's perspective. Thus, the cycle continues of judgements being made by those with one perspective even though that perspective may blatantly neglect or misrepresent large segments of a diverse community. (Gist, p. 60)

Through this, we can clearly understand the cycle that this has created, where through the selectiveness of the news by the newsroom, which often if not always is constituted with a very small percentage of minorities that potentially conform with the mindset and the ideologies of the rest of the newsroom, affects the representation and the exposure of underdeveloped countries, or even communities in the news. Then, this lack of interest from the newsroom will ultimately result in less attention to the story and its details and information, which then links misinformation

to underrepresentation. This also touches on the lack of foreign correspondents and overseas offices. While the lack of interest in newsrooms affects stories and exposure on underdeveloped and foreign countries, another factor also revolves around the budget allocated towards foreign correspondents and overseas offices. Maintaining overseas offices can cost over \$250,000 per year, excluding critical places such as Iraq and Afghanistan which cost much more. (Sambrook, p. 12) This budget is to cover rents, salaries, allowances, security if needed, and other factors. The lack of foreign correspondents or overseas bureaus inevitably impacts what is covered and reported and how. Less attention will be awarded to foreign news since the organization does not have personnel, which will force the news organization to retrieve the information through news aggregators, as explained previously. The combination of these factors sheds direct light on the underrepresentation as well as the misinformation that follows underdeveloped countries in the news.

Finally, it is also important to take a look at timelines when it comes to news organizations and their procedures of publication and propagation. As previously explained, specifically on social media platforms, news organizations generate profit from views, likes, comments, shares, and all kinds of interactions with a post. Therefore, the more posts and news, the more that organizations generate profit. Accordingly, organizations tend to produce news and posts as often as possible in order to obtain more profit, clicks, views, and traffic towards their website and organizations in general. As Jack Lule describes it in their book, "International events that do receive attention in news are most often dramatic, sensational, eye-catching incidents. Terrorist attacks, airline disasters, earthquakes, hurricanes, tsunamis, coups, celebrity death, and other spectacles get intense, hyperventilated coverage, which lasts only until the drama is sucked dry and the media have moved on to the next happening." (Lule 113) Whatever attracts the readers' attention, whether true, false or misinformed, becomes the "next happening" that brings in views, reads, discussions, up until they have found the next "important" topic to bring to the cover and

post about. This notion is then heightened through the use of various social media platforms for the reporting of news, social media's advantage is its speed. While television is able to do the same when breaking news occurs, it would take print media longer to produce, print and distribute their information. News on social media has the advantage of spreading at a very rapid speed: posting in a matter of seconds, the use of hashtags inserts the post within a global discussion, and the sharing between friends and people's stories attracts more attention. Therefore, the timeline of social media is sped up from previous modes of news propagation which allows news organizations to bring forward more news daily.

Combining misinformation with underrepresentation and vice-versa is not evident. It is important to examine them separately in order to understand how they are linked. Large news organizations acquire their news from understaffed and underfunded journalists and news organizations in order to fill in the gaps in stories they are covering or have to cover. This plays a role when it comes to the underrepresentation of underdeveloped countries within the news but also newsrooms since minimal time and attention is allocated to stories about those countries which also ultimately results in misinformation. The understaffed and underfunded journalists also result in misinformation about underdeveloped countries in the news, again due to the limited diversity and ideologies and interest in those topics. While adding a timeline and the rush to always cover the "next happening" and keeping their blog, Instagram profile, website or any other platform that news organizations acquire constantly with news, posts, and stories, misinformation becomes more and more present while underdeveloped countries have less and less space in their coverage.

Chapter Four: Methodology

In this thesis, findings were examined through critical discourse analysis as well as visual discourse analysis. Both discourses allow a more broad yet focused understanding of new posts accumulated from the social media platform of Instagram. While critical discourse analysis aids with the understanding of the text, visual discourse analysis provides an understanding of the visuals in unison with the text combined through each Instagram post.

Both Critical Discourse Analysis, as well as Visual Discourse Analysis, utilize a semiotic approach. Semiotics, as a theory, looks at the overall structure of organizations of art as a language including the social contexts in which it may be produced. Semiotics theory, according to Albers, studies signs and systems, systems that do not have written or visual language to read or view to understand. Semiotics theory looks at distinct languages, such as music, maths, movement, dance, and others. It offers a way of thinking about meaning when it comes to languages other than written, oral or visual. It gives meaning to those different sources and systems that are not as easily explainable as a text. Therefore, semiotics is underlined within both, critical discourse analysis and visual discourse analysis since they look at everything surrounding language, text, visuals, and their combination.

Critical Discourse Analysis

As Hilary Janks writes in their article “Critical Discourse Analysis as a Research Tool,” “Critical discourse analysis (CDA) stems from a critical theory of language which sees the use of language as a form of social practice.” (Janks, p. 329) As mentioned in chapter one, language is vital, not only when it comes to social media and news, but also when it comes to understanding any text or even visuals. Therefore, it is very important to understand the language as well as the impact that it will have on societies and cultures in general. As Theo van Leeuwen clearly states in the book “Discourse, of Course: An Overview of Research in Discourse Studies,”

“Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) is based on the idea that text and talk play a key role in maintaining and legitimizing inequality, injustice and oppression in society.” (Renkema, p. 276) This understanding of language then aids with the understanding of the inequalities and changes that affect societies in general. Further, van Leeuwen states that critical discourse analysts make it clear that CDA can be found anywhere and everywhere. They are looking to bring forward an explanation of how and why texts are formulated the way they are and how and why they change as they do. As Halliday mentioned that by looking at social, economical and political motives, we can grasp an understanding of CDA and its changes. (Renkema, p. 278-279) Paying attention to texts while attempting to fully capture the intent of the posting is vital in understanding the way that words and language may affect societies, in this case, underdeveloped countries and their image on social media platforms.

This thesis adopts critical discourse analysis as described by Norman Fairclough. Fairclough’s view adopts three interrelated processes of analysis and six interconnected aspects of analysis. It is first important to understand and dissect the object, whether that is verbal, visual or text. When examining the object, which in this case is the Instagram post, it is important to understand the socio-historical conditions that govern the process while also understanding the production and reception of the object by the public. These three processes are then integrated through the analysis of the text, which then leads to the processing of the analysis as well as paying attention to the social context within the posts. This allows a thorough analysis of each news post by assessing the significance of each part of the post: text on image, caption, hashtags, etc. By looking at posts on Instagram, captions will be examined for the language used and possible explanations while also noting the use of hashtags which deduce the information and the language used to bring forward the news about the explosion. Moreover, the language will be examined to better understand the approaches and the possible intent of the news organization. Comments from followers as well as responses, tags, hashtags, and location tags will be

examined for analysed posts. This will provide a thorough analysis of posts, understanding the divide in language, the cause and the effect of it.

Visual Discourse Analysis

Similar to the Critical Discourse Analysis, Visual Discourse Analysis is important for this research in order to have a complete overview of posts accumulated from Instagram, since visuals are at the forefront of Instagram posts. Peggy Alberns explains Visual Discourse Analysis as well as the four different principles of language in general that deeply affect Visual Discourse Analysis. Alberns states that, just like discourse analysis in general, visual discourse analysis does not only focus on the visual and the text that it may include or may merge with, but it also looks at the micro and the macro conversations that surround it, including the communicative events and social impact it may cause. The detailed view of visuals in general aids this research with a full understanding of everything surrounding the visual, whether that is a photograph, a video, a reel, a story, or any other visual that news organizations post on Instagram about the Beirut Port Explosion. Furthermore, Alberns explains the four different principles of language informed by James Paul Gee's Work in discourse analysis. First, it is important to note that visual language touches on creating and reflecting on the specific context within which it was created. Second, Alberns notes that the language might differ due to the situation assembled on the spot as well as the previous experience and context given. This might all change the understanding of the piece. Third, language revolves around social languages: what the artist communicates might differ from what is understood due to the different tools, education and knowledge of the artist in comparison to the viewer. Finally, "There are units of analysis within visual text, including structural, semantic, artistic, tactile, and visual." (Alberns, p. 85-86) The four different principles, as much as they are important separately, they also are all interrelated and merge together for a full overview of visuals to text. The main concept from Alberns' explanation of the four different principles relies on all the different factors that may affect visuals in general. The familiarity with

the context of the visual when looking at an Instagram post is important, since the level of familiarity will ultimately provide the different possibilities of understanding. Moreover, the level of understanding of the context is as important as the general knowledge and understanding of previous experiences as well as a situated grasp revolving around the visual. Further, as Albers states that social language is just as important as well, where different cues and clues affect the overall understanding of the visual through personal and cultural base awareness. These cues, as mentioned, may vary from the type of medium to the location where one may view each visual, whether alone or with friends. All these factors affect the understanding of each visual. Therefore, visual discourse analysis combined with critical discourse analysis is vital when it comes to obtaining a full understanding of posts that news organizations provide on Instagram.

To obtain the information needed when it comes to the posts, I scrolled back through Instagram profiles of news organizations. While scrolling back through all the posts of news, it was possible to not only point out the posts about the Beirut Port explosion but also count how many posts the organization has posted since August 4, 2020, the date of the explosion in order to show the little coverage that the explosion received when it came to Canadian news organizations. Moreover, by the combination of CDA and VDA, the posts collected will be examined while looking at the captions as well as the hashtags. It is also important to take into account that posts and stories can be deleted or can expire. Therefore, it is essential to acknowledge the ephemerality of the platform while examining the whole profile. As Tim Highfield and Tama Leaver state in their article “Instagrammatics and digital methods: studying visual social media, from selfies and GIFs to memes and emoji,” “Methodological considerations of temporality also need to respond to visual social media that reject or work beyond traditional ideas of timelines, of definite start and end points (Maeder & Wentz, 2014; Poulaki, 2015).” (Highfield and Leaver, p. 55) This timeline that is attached to stories or even posts should be considered when examining news on social media. Since stories can get saved on a user’s profile through the

highlights feature, examining the saved posts and stories that the news organizations have decided on keeping will give a better understanding and a glimpse into what the organization deems important enough to save on their profile.

This research looked at three different Lebanese news organizations as well as three different Canadian news organizations on Instagram. The following are the news organizations examined in this research.

The Lebanese news organizations on Instagram are the following:

- LBCI News (@lbcilebanon)
- Megaphone (@megaphonenews)
- 961 (@the961)

The Canadian news sources on Instagram are the following:

- CBC News (@cbcnews)
- Read the Maple (@readthemaple)
- Global News (@globalnews)

Both LBCI and CBC News are traditional news organizations that have adopted Instagram and social media as part of their news propagation. Megaphone News and Read the Maple are independent news organizations. Global News and the 961 are more general news organizations that include various approaches such as entertainment, suggestions of places to visit, sports, and many others. Therefore, this research looks at different types of news organizations which provides a more nuanced understanding.

Critical Discourse Analysis and Visual Discourse Analysis are essential when looking at other posts in comparison to the ones about the explosion. Moreover, the theory of semiotics also takes a place in this research, where, included in both CDA and VDA, will aid with creating a more

in-depth analysis and understanding of each tiny detail and aspect of every single post as well as every detail that surrounds each and every news organization's profile on Instagram.

Chapter Five: Findings - Beirut Port Explosion in the News

In previous chapters, the theoretical information that revolves around underdeveloped countries in the news was explored and researched: the various features of social media, specifically Instagram, the explanation of misinformation when it comes to underdeveloped countries as well as their underrepresentation in the news. This chapter will combine those notions through the analysis of various news organizations on Instagram. Part one will provide an overview of the selected news organizations while giving information about their posts since the explosion. Part two provides an analysis of three posts by Global News, CBC News and Megaphone News. The analysis will bring forward dissected information by utilizing critical and visual discourse analysis. This analysis will shed light on the difference in coverage of the Beirut Port explosion.

With over 2,700 tons of ammonium nitrate that were badly stored for years in the port, as soon as a small fire began close to Warehouse number 12, which contained the ammonium nitrate, the port exploded. Everything stopped. Over 200 lives were lost, over 6,500 were injured and more than 300,000 homes destroyed. Up until today, Lebanon is living through this trauma and fear of the unknown. Every single Lebanese person is a victim of this explosion, whether dead, injured, homeless or even Lebanese immigrants as they have lived through the trauma from afar. Almost three years after the explosion, Lebanese people are still suffering the injuries, mourning the dead, and suffering the mental trauma that has undoubtedly affected every single Lebanese person.

Part One: An overview of the news organizations

LBCI is the Lebanese Broadcasting Corporation International. It is a traditional news organization that adopted the platform of Instagram as part of its organization back in September 2013. Since then, they have accumulated over 1.2 million followers with over 30,500 posts. On the very front of their profile on Instagram, the organization has highlights that are saved on the profile, highlights ranging from special television shows to actual news. One of the highlights is titled “The Truth Till the Last Breath,” translated on Instagram in the highlight from Arabic. The highlight contains political news about the explosion as well as “special coverage of the second anniversary of Harbor Bombing in the voices of the victims’ families” (Image 1). The use of the term “bombing” is in reference to the explosion: the same term is used to refer to the terms “bombing” and “explosion” in Arabic. Although this may cause confusion, it is an incorrect translation, where the translation feature on Instagram disregarded the context of the story. When examining the language used on Instagram and hashtags used in the highlight feature translate to “The Truth till the last breath,” just as the title of the highlight itself. Yet, the hashtag was not translated through the translation feature, which questions the extent to which the translation feature is applied to urging Instagram to include the feature in all linguistic aspects. The highlight on LBCI’s profile then provides information about the second anniversary while also giving voice to the victims’ families and the population in order to voice their thoughts, concerns and fears.

Scrolling back until August 4, 2020, LBCI has posted 12,506 posts since August 4, with 265 posts just about the explosion itself. The first post about the explosion was posted on August 4. On August 7, 2020, LBCI took the decision to not broadcast any speeches or conferences from any political party or members as posted on their Instagram page. The following is the caption using the translation feature on Instagram: “The Lebanese International Broadcasting Institute has decided, starting today, to suspend the direct transmission of speeches, conferences, chats and data, and this step was made in its radio statement at four o’clock in the afternoon [...] And

we will tell the people in conclusion: While you wait for the speeches of your leaders [...] There are mothers who are waiting for their children to come back [...] The priority is for them not you.” (Image, 2, LBCI) From then on, the organization dedicated its news time to locating the missing and updating the population on the latest happenings around the explosion. Further, they posted a video showing all the different countries that have shown their support during the hard times that Lebanon is passing through while lighting up parts of their cities with the Lebanese flag. LBCI also posted videos calling out names on the news of students who are waiting at a University for shelter, updating their parents on their safety. Names were written down for the news reporter to call out providing information if the person is safe, injured, needs medical attention or just sending out a message to the parents about the safety of their lost children. They also reported about the situations at different hospitals, talking briefly with one of the doctors amidst the chaos for updates about hospital capacity, the intensity of the injuries, asking for blood donations, and so forth. Moreover, the organization paid tribute to every single person who lost their life due to the explosion (Images 3, 4, 5) Within the first week, LBCI was able to provide quick information and updates to their followers, whether Lebanese or not. As for the visuals, the organization posted various videos of the explosion from different angles and different views that the population captured. They also posted news segments that were broadcast from their news on television. Up until today, LBCI is still posting about the explosion whenever new information arises. And as mentioned, they have since accumulated 265 posts about the explosion, from videos of the moment to explanations about the ammonium nitrate itself.

As for independent news organizations, Megaphone News produces “explainer multimedia content that covers current affairs and social and cultural commentaries, in formats adapted for the digital media.” (Megaphone News) Since their start on Instagram, the account has accumulated over 132,000 followers. Since it is an independent news organization, “Megaphone is politically independent and [their] finding does not impose editorial restrictions, thus ensuring

[their] editorial line remains uncompromised.” (Megaphone News) Moreover, the organization just began through volunteers working after hours and it eventually grew to where it is today. Their funding today is based on grants as well as through their donation program which allows readers and viewers to provide monetary support. Looking at the organization’s page, there is a highlight about the explosion. Titled in Arabic, it looks at the fourth of August after a year, commemorating the first anniversary of the explosion. Although the highlight’s title is in Arabic, the content posted and accumulated in the highlight is both, in Arabic and in English. This highlight portrays the marches that happened that day, where the Lebanese people marched towards the port in remembrance of the tragic event and in memory of the lost ones. It also contains articles about therapy after the explosion deeming it important and providing different exercises and questions for people to adopt during that time. (Images 6, 7) Their highlight provides accumulated information about the explosion over the course of that year. When scrolling through their Instagram page in search of posts about the explosion, it is clear that the organization provides different kinds of information revolving around politics and actuality in Lebanon, keeping up to date with all topics deemed important to the organization. The latest post about the explosion was posted on March 1, 2023, about a fact-finding mission into the Beirut Port explosion. Up until today, the organization is still searching for facts and information that revolves around the explosion. It is also important to note that the investigations about the explosion were on hold for a couple of years, only restarting at the beginning of 2023. Leading up to resuming the investigation, Megaphone News provided all the information happening within the government, the judge, as well as the lawyers that were involved.

After scrolling back, the organization has 6,125 posts since August 4, 2020, where 555 posts are about the explosion. Megaphone News then posted a significant number of posts about the explosion, with posts varying from the victims’ families and their demands and responses, to the investigation battle that has been ongoing since the explosion took place. It is worth

mentioning the language used throughout their profile and posts, where the majority of captions and visuals contain both Arabic and English provided by the organization. For the posts that are only posted in the Arabic language, the translation feature provided by Instagram then becomes significant and provides a good translation of the caption. Yet, the organization still provides English subtitles found on their Facebook or YouTube, as they would state in the caption or the comments. (Images 8, 9) The first post about the explosion was posted on August 4, 2020, stating that an explosion took place. Further, it is important to note the visual significance that can be observed on the Megaphone News' profile. While scrolling, posts revolving around the explosion became more apparent due to the visuals. For example, when talking about Judge Bitar, the judge who is pushing for the investigation of the explosion, the organization uses the same photograph of Judge Bitar in order to create a motif and utilize this repetition to the advantage of their news about information pertaining to the blast. (Images 10, 11, 12) Among other posts, the organization does a lot of live streams where they utilize the live feature provided by Instagram. They "go live" showing their followers whatever is happening at that moment. Profiles are able to save the live video on their profile in order to preserve it, just as they can preserve stories through the highlight feature. Megaphone News has multiple live videos posted on their profile about the explosion, whether that is talking to the victims' families while they protest next to judges' houses or bringing their viewers to the streets during the march on August 4 to commemorate the memory of the explosion and the victims. (Image 13) All the different features and approaches that Megaphone News has utilized provide their viewers and readers with a wide range of information as well as different approaches, while also keeping a motif in order to attract and facilitate the search.

The final Lebanese organization is the 961. 961 is primarily the Lebanese country code when calling home. The news organization on Instagram is a digital platform that brings Lebanese people political news, actual news, and entertainment news, in addition to articles and information about things happening around the country, suggesting activities to do, and new restaurants to

try. (Images 14, 15, 16) The organization has accumulated over 123,000 followers with over 11,500 posts since its launch. It is important to note that the 961 is a Lebanese news and entertainment organization fully in English. Every post, story or article is written in the English language to cater to a larger audience. When it comes to the Beirut port explosion, the organization posted content varying from the initial blast and explanation of what has happened, to posting about the global support that Lebanon has received, from countries to celebrities posting and sharing links for donations. The 961 posted about any country that has donated monetary help or sent physical aid or any other form of help. (Images 17, 18, 19, 20, 21) They also posted about any celebrity that shared information about the explosion, whether they just shared the news on their social media, shared the donation link with their followers, or even donated to Lebanon. (Images 22, 23, 24) Moreover, the organization launched a phone application, the “missing” app, where people can locate the lost and reunite families together after the blast as well as other donation links and ways to help. The application was featured on one of their posts on Instagram in hopes of giving it better exposure to then be able to help and reunite more families together. The latest post about the Beirut blast was posted on March 9, 2023, looking at the 38 countries that demanded a fair Beirut Blast Investigation. By scrolling through their profile, the organization has posted 622 posts about the explosion with 7,989 posts since August 4, 2020. The posts counted about the explosion exclude any artistic photographs from the area. The counted posts are informative posts that the organization has created, with links in the bio to the associated article. The first post was made on August 4, 2020, informing the followers that hospitals are requesting blood donations. On August 4, the organization posted 10 times about the explosion. In only one day, the 961 was able to update their followers 10 times, providing hospital information as well as updates about the situation in and around the port. Through their posts, the organization guides their viewers and followers to their blog and website through each post on their Instagram page. When looking at the visuals alone, just as Megaphone had a motif with images repeating to signal discussion or information about the explosion or the investigation

occurring around it, the 961 also utilized repetition of images and motifs when posting about the explosion. There is always an image of the port in flames or the moment of the explosion on one side of the image combined with a relevant image of the information. For example, Images 25 and 26 contain the same image of the port with smoke surrounding the silos. One contains an image of a choir referring to the Paris choir paying tribute to the people of Lebanon, and the second contains an image of a Pepsi can referring to the company Pepsi donating one million dollars to assist relief efforts in Beirut. The repetitive use of the same images or any image of the explosion itself, or even the same image of Judge Bitar (just like Megaphone News did) provides the public and the readers with a quicker understanding of what the posts are about. As mentioned, the 961 is still posting about the explosion, whether that is posts commemorating the passing of time with posts about the one-month, one-year, two-year anniversary of the blast, or posts updating their followers and viewers of the latest information regarding the explosion looking at the judges as well as the investigation regarding the blast.

As for Canadian news organizations and their exposure to the Beirut port explosion, CBC is a traditional news organization that has adopted Instagram and various other social media platforms within their organization. With over 651,000 followers since its debut on Instagram back in August 2012, CBC brings news from Canada and around the world to its followers and viewers. When looking at their profile for information and posts about the Beirut blast, CBC does have two highlights saved on their profile. The first is titled “Beirut Blast” dated from 139 weeks ago (at the time of conducting the research). Through this highlight, a CBC reporter brings news from the grounds of Beirut, providing initial information about the blast a day after: information about the injured, the homeless, and the dead (up until that point) with information that there was ammonium nitrate badly stored at the port for many years. The second highlight is titled “Beirut Recovery” two weeks after the first highlight, where a CBC reporter looks at how people are recovering after the blast, while the COVID-19 pandemic was taking over the country as well as a deep economic

crisis. The reporter speaks with families that have been affected by the explosion giving them the platform to raise their voices about the corrupt country and the effects of the explosion. The highlight ends with the reporter concluding and providing information and including a “Swipe-up” option in order to direct the readers and viewers to their website for the article that brings the same information as the highlight. It is important to acknowledge the fact that the organization has left those highlights on their profile for the viewers to have as a reminder or simply as information sources about the explosion up until that point. While scrolling back on their feed to accumulate the posts about the blast, the organization posted five times about the Beirut blast, with 2,183 posts since August 4, 2020. The first post was on August 5, 2020, a day after the explosion happened, and it is a video of the same reporter in the first highlight with around two minutes of footage of the explosion and the same information that was relayed in the highlight about the injuries, fatalities and the ammonium nitrate. The second post from August 9 is about a vigil that was held in Toronto on August 8. It informs the viewers about the vigil and the country’s situation and provides updated information about the explosion. The third and fourth posts are both about families and kids who have been affected or lost their lives due to the explosion. The third post is a video of the parents of Alexandra, the youngest victim of the explosion, speaking about their loss, providing information about the moment that the explosion took place and the panic that set within them while also speaking up about the corruption that engulfs Lebanon and its government. The fourth post is about a young girl named Sama who has lost her eye due to the explosion. CBC gives information about the little girl and her family as well as their tight financial situation as Syrian refugees living in Lebanon. The images in this post are of Sama and her family. (Images 27, 28) The posts are a month apart, from August 14 to September 15. And finally, the last post talks about Lebanon, over a month after the explosion from the people’s voices and concerns. Posted on September 16, 2020, the post contains images from the city and images of the people who were interviewed. It is important to note that the last two posts are the same as the ones in the story highlight titled “Beirut recovery.” This then means that those posts

are part of the same article that CBC has posted about the explosion since there was a “Swipe-up” link at the end of the highlight. With the five posts that CBC News has posted about the explosion and the highlights that were shared that contain the same information and visuals as some posts, the organization was able to bring forward news about the explosion while also being able to connect with some Lebanese citizens who were affected by the explosion. After the last post created on September 16, 2020, there is no content about the Beirut port explosion on the CBC News Instagram, whether that is posts on their feed or any saved highlight. CBC posted basic information about the explosion. Although no misinformation was included, CBC did not follow up about the explosion or the country, although Lebanon has been in an economic crisis since the explosion. Also, CBC did not provide any donation links or ways to help the country in times of need.

Global News is a news organization that brings Canadians breaking news, information, and issues from Canada and around the world. The organization posts about politics, breaking news, as well as celebrity and entertainment news for their followers. Since the creation of their Instagram account back in September 2014, the organization has accumulated over 318,000 followers with over 5,313 posts in total. By looking at their Instagram profile, the organization does not have any highlights saved about the Beirut port explosion. Yet, they have highlights titled “Cats of IG,” “Pets of IG,” “Cat Day,” and many other related ones. They do not allocate a highlighted story for the explosion, which brings forward what the organization deems as important to save on their profile. By scrolling back on their profile, the organization has 2,201 posts since August 4, 2020, with only three posts about the explosion at the Beirut port. The first was posted on August 5, 2020, a day after the explosion erupted, displaying pictures of the debris after the explosion with images of the streets as well as images of the destroyed port with parts of the silos still standing. The next two posts, one on August 5, 2020, and the other on August 6, 2020, are both videos. The first is a video of the moment that the explosion happened during a

woman's wedding photoshoot. The video is from the videographer's point of view, we can see, hear and feel the fear emanating from everyone present in the video. The caption describes everything happening in the video, from visuals to sounds and comments made while filming. Additionally, the last post shows a woman playing Auld Lang Syne on the piano in the middle of her destroyed home with debris and rubble surrounding her. The last two posts did not provide any information about the explosion, why and how it happened. All three posts did not include ways of aiding the country or links for sending donations to the country or the Lebanese Red Cross in times of need. "It was unclear what caused the blast, which appeared to have been triggered by a fire and struck with the force of an earthquake. There is no evidence the Beirut explosion was an attack." (Global News) It is true, that there was no evidence that the explosion was an attack, yet there was already information about the ammonium nitrate that had been badly stored in the port for years. As viewed through Megaphone News, the organization posted about the ammonium nitrate on the day of the explosion on August 4, 2020, and LBCI posted about it on August 5, 2020. They both posted about how the material reached the port and how the fire escalated and eventually created the explosion in the port wiping away most of the city. While Global News first posted about the explosion on August 5, 2020, more information was available about the explosion, including information about the victims, the number of deaths as well as the cause. The organization had the available feature that Instagram provides in order to change or edit the caption in order to correct their information. They also were able to do the correction or even provide the correct information through the two other posts that followed the first one which included the misinformation. Yet, they did not. Not only did Global News not correct the misinformation that they brought forward to their followers and viewers, but the organization also only posted three posts about one of the biggest non-nuclear explosions in history that took place in the Port of Beirut, underrepresenting the country and the tragedy. This will be discussed in further detail through the analysis.

Finally, the final organization examined is Read The Maple. Read The Maple is an independent Canadian News Organization that has around 70,000 followers and over 2,500 posts on Instagram. On their Instagram profile, the organization provides a link in their bio that groups all other links to which the organization wants to draw attention. This link can include an easier way to access their website, specific posts and coverage, or a place to donate to the organization. All four links that they have provided are to support the organization, whether that is to subscribe to their newsletter or to listen to their podcast. One of the links is: "Support Our Journalism" which leads to a page where viewers and followers are encouraged to pay a monthly or a yearly fee to subscribe to the organization. In return, the subscribers will get a daily report of stories and news, access to their news and stories archives, as well as many other features. Through that, they are able to fund their writers and new stories they might acquire from independent writers and journalists. Their focus is mainly on updating their followers on local and national news stories across the country as found on their "About" page: "Ultimately, we believe in journalism that thoughtfully reports the injustices of the present, while also charting a way forward to a just future." (Read the Maple) As their mandate explains, they cover present injustices, paving the way for a better and just future. However, through scrolling back on their profile and examining their posts one by one, with 1,328 posts since August 4, 2020, the news organization did not post about the Beirut Port Explosion at all. Just like the Lebanese news organizations, an independent news organization was picked in order to have an overview of different types of organizations. Yet, none of their posts on their profile refer to the explosion in any way. Moreover, their highlights section only includes an "Announcement" highlight where they announced the rebranding of their organization. Nonetheless, Read The Maple did post about the Ukraine conflict explaining the historical backdrop as well as its roots. However, other than the historical facts, the organization tied the information to the connection between Ukraine and Canada, where Canada sent Ukraine over \$700 million back in 2014. The goal of their post about Ukraine is to provide more information while also explaining Ukraine's connection to Canada. The Ukrainian conflict began on February

24, 2022, and Read The Maple posted about it on March 1st, 2022. If the main reason that the organization posted about the Ukraine conflict was due to the monetary help that Canada provided during their hard times, Canada also did the same with Lebanon. Canadian-Lebanese trade racks up to over \$160 million of merchandise trades per year. Moreover, “in the immediate aftermath of the August 4, 2020 explosion of the Port of Beirut, Canada provided \$30 million in emergency humanitarian assistance and early-recovery support, and then announced another \$20 million in August 2021 to support the economic recovery of Beirut.” (Government of Canada) The government also encouraged Canadians to donate to Lebanon, where Canadians raised over \$4 million for Lebanon with the government matching that amount (Image 29) The Canadian Parliament held a minute of silence for the Beirut Victims. (Image 30) Canada also launched an immigration task force to support the Lebanese people in their times of crisis after the explosion. (Image 31) Canada also offered to join the investigation of the Beirut explosion. (Image 32) In addition, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau issued a statement on August 6th, 2020, two days after the explosion where he stated his deep shock and devastation about the news of the explosion. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau also mentioned the monetary humanitarian assistance that Canada provided to the country. Therefore, if the reason why Read the Maple has posted about the Ukrainian conflict in relation to the Canadian support and involvement within the country, then there is no reason as to why they did not post about the Beirut Port explosion since the Canadian-Lebanese relation is very similar, although definitely to a smaller monetary scale in terms of humanitarian assistance.

Part two: Analysis

It is important to also analyze, more in-depth, posts after the information about the news organizations as well as their posts, or lack of posts, about the Beirut Port explosion. The following analysis of one post by Megaphone News, one post by CBC News and one post by Global News will portray the divide between the Canadian news organizations and Lebanese news

organizations while supporting the claims about the misinformation and the underrepresentation regarding the Beirut port explosion. The language used within the three posts solidifies the difference in the information that organizations are providing their followers. While Global News and CBC News write with empathetic language, Megaphone News writes with more frustration through an accusatory tone. This, through the analysis, will explain the misinformation and the underrepresentation when it comes to Lebanese news on Canadian news outlets. Since they do not post about the situation in Lebanon as often, this tragedy comes as a surprise because they empathize with the population rather than feel frustrated and angry as will be seen through Megaphone News' post.

Global News' first post about the explosion was posted on August 5, 2020, a day after the tragedy. The post has accumulated 923 likes, with 48 comments and the location set to Beirut, Lebanon right under the username. The title "Lebanese confront devastation after massive explosion in Beirut" is written on the first image of the series of five images. Looking at the caption, Global News mentions the date, however, not the exact date: "Residents of Beirut awoke to a scene of utter devastation on Wednesday, a day after a massive explosion [...]." It would aid with the information given to provide a specific date for their followers, other than the one that Instagram provides at the bottom of each post. It is also important to note that Instagram has changed its date format to the number of days or weeks that have passed since the post was uploaded instead of providing an exact date. This is introduced to the applications on mobile phones, yet people using their laptops and browsers can still view the actual date. It is a date that has marked everyone, all Lebanese people, residing in Lebanon or abroad, this is a date that can never be forgotten. Omitting it from the caption of the only post that Global News has provided information about the explosion does not acknowledge the day of the tragedy and shows more detachment from the effects of the event. By scrolling through their posts, Global News does not include exact dates to their posts, excluding some anomalies and irregularities. For example,

Global News did not add the exact date for the start of the war between Russia and Ukraine on most of their posts that provide information about the situation. However, in one of their posts, they bring forward the story of a Ukrainian couple who got married in the bomb shelter. In that post, they provide the date when “Russia invaded Ukraine on Feb.24 [...]” (Global News) The rest of the posts about the war all include dates brought forward through days of the week. However, this brings forward their editorial choices and regulations. As mentioned, dates are important grounding information that situate people within space and time that they are viewing the information as well as the information brought forward itself. Dates are specifically important when it comes to major tragedies to mark the date that affected many. However, this observation of the irregularity of adding the date raises the question of importance. While the war between Russia and Ukraine warranted a date in one of the posts that Global News posted, the rest did not, just like the post about the Beirut port explosion. As is clear and important through any sort of writing, and especially when it comes to journalism, the five Ws have to be answered in the piece: who, what, where, when, and why. While Global News mostly answered all of them through their post, misinformation of the “why” as well as the vague “when” emphasizes the irregularities and the negative connotation it brings to the post. Moreover, Global News vaguely includes the number of victims and people missing twice. In the first part of their caption, they write: “[...] killing at least 100 and wounding thousands.” In the third part, they start by saying: “Scores of people were missing [...]” The term score is usually used within the context of keeping track or accumulating numbers. It is used to identify a group of 20 things or more. When referring to the missing people as “scores,” Global News is then referring to the missing people as things or simply a number accumulated. Right after the mention of the “score” of missing people, Global News mentions the Instagram account page that people have initiated to post photographs of the missing. They also mention the radio presenters calling out the names of missing and wounded people throughout the night. Options of tagging people on images or adding the user handle of accounts through the use of the @ symbol or tagging them on the image are ways that users

mention other accounts. This gives recognition and credit or just shares their images with their friends that are present through them. There was no attempt from Global News to include or tag those accounts that were created to help with the missing, even though they mentioned the name of the account: "Locating Victims Beirut." Although Global News is based in Canada and has mostly Canadian followers, the tagging of the Instagram page will lead to more views and clicks on the profile of "Locating Victims Beirut" which will also lead to reaching other Instagram users and profiles through their profile. This would also aid with donations and more information about the situation, information that Global News did not provide. Moreover, when looking at the comments left on this post, the second top comment asks about donations: "@nicolelising: where can we send \$ donations?" to which Global News did not respond at all. At that point, there were many non-governmental organizations as well as the Lebanese Red Cross that were accepting monetary donations in order to aid as many people as possible. All their information was readily available and circulating on Instagram and other social media platforms. Yet, Global News did not provide any of this information as a reply to the comment left on their post. According to the Canadian Principles for Ethical Journalism and the Ethics Guidelines provided by The Canadian Association of Journalists, there is no mention of not replying to comments or interacting with readers/viewers of any informational news that they send out. They do mention the following: "We don't give favoured treatment to advertisers and special interests. [...] We don't report about subjects in which we have a financial interest. We don't participate in movements and activities that we cover." (The Canadian Association of Journalists) Those statements are considered the closest to soliciting support towards donation links through a reply in the comments. In the diversity section of the Principles for Ethical Journalism, they mention that "We seek to capture in our stories the diverse values, viewpoints and lives of the people in our communities." They further add in the accountability section that "We will answer to the public for our reporting and conduct." Therefore, according to the Ethics and Principles of Journalism, there is no mention or restriction of responding to comments, especially when offering help to communities in need.

Through the analysis of other similar posts on Global News' feed, indeed, they do not answer any comment, yet none of the comments ask questions seeking to help out the crisis posted about. Global News may have a policy in place of not responding to any comments, yet when the information relayed is sufficient and brings forward the necessities, viewers and readers will not need to ask to help the country in need, just as seen through the lengthier post about the Iran protests that contained the right and exact information to suffice the readers and help them understand the exact situation. In the case of the post about the explosion at the port of Beirut, Global News, as seen, provided minimal information including some misinformation. It also lacked a tag for the Instagram user helping the lost and wounded.

The last part of the caption is as follows: "It was unclear what caused the blast, which appeared to have been struck with the force of an earthquake. There is no evidence the Beirut explosion was an attack." As mentioned previously in this chapter, Global News had many sources that provided information about the actual cause of the explosion on the same day of the tragedy. Yet, they posted a day after with the wrong information. Finally, in the last part, Global News writes: "Click the link in bio to read more." As explored previously, organizations utilize Instagram as another source of reaching a wider audience while also profiting from their account. The idea of directing their audience to their website and accumulating clicks was also mentioned in chapter one, where links in bios as well as direct mentions of their websites are ways of increasing clicks, views, and ultimately their income. This is exactly what Global News has done. By mentioning that there is more information about this in their bio, they are taking advantage of this situation to have more clicks and views on their website, which ultimately brings them more money. Just like the rest of their posts, Global News always mentions the link in their bio to entice people to click it and read more about the information or the post. It is understandable that news organizations strive to make profit out of their posts and their news circulation. Whether hinting towards their website on their televised news through headlines or doing the same through their

Instagram posts, website clicks drive monetary profit for the organization. Therefore, it is indeed the same practice as they would similarly apply to their televised news for example. However, just like their website, their televised news provides all the necessary information, since the website provides the segments of news. This then differs from news shared on Instagram. On Instagram, as seen, Global News has posted a very small segment of the information about the Beirut port explosion and left the rest of the information to be discovered and read on their website. This notably demonstrates the difference between news propagation on their different platforms. This also draws a closer look and questions the organization's extent to which they are able to apply their editorial choices when it comes to tragedy. As analyzed previously, Global News maintains consistency in omitting the dates of their news segments on Instagram, where minimal exceptions are possible.

When examining the language that Global News utilized to bring forward the explosion, it is clear that they are bringing it through an empathetic lens. This can be understood through the use of vocabulary such as “utter devastation,” “help,” “locating loved ones,” “relatives pleading,” and more. This creates a more sensitive and empathetic approach from Global News towards their readers. While bringing forward this news delicately, Global News makes sure that they remain sensible within the context of the many deaths and injuries that they are reporting about. Global News brought forward their post with a sense of shock that translated into empathy. This then plays a large role in the reception of the news by the readers and their viewers. Their news, written with specific vocabulary plays on the sentimental narrative to capture the people’s attention and secure their viewership. “[...] scientific advances can help us better understand what we have intuitively known for a long time—that journalistic stories can produce empathic responses in readers [...]” (Sillesen et al.) This process is known as “experience sharing.” Global News is drawing a closer attachment between their post and their readers through the use of familiar words that readers have mostly experienced. When the subject approaches “relatives pleading”

and “locating loved ones,” they are drawing a closer connection to their reader to grasp their attention and secure a full and further reading of their post.

CBC News posted five times about the Beirut blast, with two highlights on their profile still there up to the present day: the first bringing preliminary information and the second talking about life after the blast looking at the country’s recovery. One of the five posts, posted on August 14, 2020, looks at the Naggear family and the loss of their young three-year-old daughter, Alexandra. Containing a video, the post has 117,555 views with 325 comments and the location is set to Beirut, Lebanon, just like the post from Global News. The video posted is part of an interview that CBC conducted with Tracy Awad Naggear and Paul Naggear, Alexandra’s parents. Separated by dots, the caption is split into eight parts. The first part states the age and name of the young girl as well as the hopes of the parents. Right at the start of the second part, CBC makes sure to mention that “Alexandra was a Canadian citizen, just like her mother who is a former Montrealer.” They continue by mentioning that Alexandra was the youngest Canadian victim of this blast. Alexandra was in fact the youngest victim of this blast. With the additional information that Alexandra was Canadian, CBC demonstrates their devotion to bringing in more views and clicks, since they are bringing forward information about the explosion in Lebanon through a Canadian lens. This informs Canadians that even though the explosion did not affect Canadian territories, it still affects Canadian citizens. As seen through the post, CBC made sure that the information about the child being Canadian was right at the start of the post, grabbing the attention of Canadians very rapidly. They brought forward the information through the confirmation that she was a “citizen” as well as drawing a closer intimate connection to Montréal by specifying that her mother is a Montrealer. Just as mentioned in the article “The Reporting of International News in Canada: Continuity and Change, 1988-2006,” it is a common practice to report about foreign news while circling around Canadians. They touch on the coverage of 9/11, where, although Canada was not touched as a territory, “a number of Canadians were among the

civilians killed, [...]” (Sutcliffe et al., p. 132) With this approach, Canadian news organizations are touching home, looking at foreign tragedies as affecting Canada and Canadians. While it is understandable, it brings forward the question of importance as well as bias. This first observation questions the intention and integrity of bringing forward the news about foreign tragedies while mentioning Canada. The self-referential practice raises the concern of the editorial choices: foreign news is only deemed important to cover and deserves the attention that is focused on Canadians and Canada. This not only questions the interest of news organizations but also points at how organizations then disregard the fact that Canadians do have an interest in Lebanon or any other foreign country. Their lack of accurate coverage may affect the interest and the information that interested Canadians receive. Moreover, due to the underrepresentation of underdeveloped countries within Canadian news organizations, when tragedies or important news arises from foreign and underdeveloped countries, there may not be interest in the coverage due to the fact that readers are not accustomed to certain coverage or even topics. Their interest may lie elsewhere, local or national, yet they may not be accustomed to this news.

CBC also mentions the date by writing the following: “[...] the Beirut blast earlier this month [...].” Just like Global News, CBC did not mention the exact date of the explosion. Out of the five posts that CBC News posted about the explosion, only one post from September 15, 2020, contains the abbreviated date (Aug.4). Just as observed within the post that Global News created, the lack of a concrete date diminishes the tragedy itself. Out of the five posts about the explosion, only one warranted the abbreviated date in their caption. As indicated through the analysis of Global News’ post, the five “W’s” are fundamental within any journalistic piece, or any written piece. Lebanese people, even three years after the explosion, mourn on this day. It is a day that has taken the lives of over 200 people while also destroying a large part of the capital that has yet to be rebuilt as it was. Similar to Global News, CBC News’ editorial choice of omitting

the full date, August 4, 2020, yet providing an abbreviated version of it on one of the five posts highlights the irregularities within their editorial choices.

Parts three and six of their post include quotes from the parents of Alexandra. The first quotes the mother, where she explains the difficulty of the situation as well as their hope and outcome from this situation. When comparing the text to the video visual of the post, the text does not match what Tracy and Paul are saying in the video. This leads us to understand that the quotes written in the caption are part of a larger interview. Moreover, through their editing choices, they omit any questions being asked from any reporter, yet they do provide credits for the reporters at the end of the caption. These details indicate that there is a longer interview that CBC News has produced with Tracy and Paul. However, there is no mention in the caption of the longer video, except for the credits of the reporters at the very end. One has to search online, on CBC's website and navigate through it to get to the full interview to be able to watch it all. Just like Global News, this urges people to then search for the rest of the interview, however, this time, with no indication of where to find it. Again, this is another way that the organization is enticing their audience to click on the link in their bio or even go visit their website to generate more clicks and thus, more money. This raises the question of the difference in news propagation on their various platforms. The lack of attention to detail while posting this post on their Instagram with the absence of information that leads to the rest of the interview not only raises the concern about their editorial choices and their irregularities but also sheds light on their interest in the topic. Just as explained, Instagram provides an "edit" feature to their users, where they can correct, edit, or change their captions even after they post. CBC News had that option available, where they were able to edit and add further information to the rest of the interview, yet they kept it as we see it today. CBC News does mention the link in their bio for selected posts. In a post where they conducted an interview with actor Elliot Page, they provided exact locations for the full interview: "Stream the full interview now at cbcnews.ca or on The National's YouTube channel," since this post was in

collaboration with CBC The National. (CBCNews) This irregularity further raises the concern of their editorial choices as well as their editorial concerns and priorities. While the “edit” option is available for use, the disregard for the link or the mention of the longer video permits a critical approach to what CBC News deems important to edit or add additional information about the rest of their interview.

The death and the loss of the young girl are mentioned three times throughout the caption: at the start where CBC writes that the parents hope that Alexandra’s death will be a catalyst for change; in the second part when they state that the child was the youngest Canadian victim; and in the middle, where they are explaining the mother’s recollection of the moment the explosion happened as she covered her daughter from the shockwaves and the debris falling on them to later on discover that little Alexandra was hit in the head and that caused her to die. CBC News also mentions in the caption that Paul and Tracy Naggear are speaking out against the corruption that Lebanon has been going through. They bring forward the corruption of the government that has rarely if ever, been mentioned when news organizations posted or talked about the explosion on Instagram. The mention of the government is brought up again at the end of the caption when CBC News relays Paul’s statement of the solidarity of the Lebanese people, picking up their country yet again “with almost no help from the local government [...]” “The Handbook of Journalism Studies” explains the adoption of narratives through the news while mentioning that “narratives are more accommodating in potentially allowing a wide range of voices and viewpoints.” (Wahl-Jorgensen and Hanitzch, p. 262) While the comment about the government sheds minimal light on the corruption and the negligence of the Lebanese government, it also opens a new sentimental narrative and point of view. It brings in the community factor that unites the people while also provoking feelings of empathy and solidarity from the readers. The addition of the neglect of the government is abrupt and is not followed by any explanation of the struggles and the endurance that the Lebanese people have been passing through for years. Therefore, this additional unexplained detail about the lack of help from the local government touches the

readers. By bringing this forward, specifically in the post where CBC mentions the Canadian victim, they are also creating a sense of urgency nationwide. News narratives allow an emotional approach to their report while disregarding the neutrality that they claim. Finally, the last part of the caption on the post by CBC News, separated by three dots this time, gives credits to CBC News for the video and reporting credits to Verity Stevenson and John McFarlane as well as tagging @cbcmontreal. While they tag their own organization in Montréal, CBC News is promoting their organization only. As mentioned, tagging a user provides an easier way to contact the user while also accumulating more clicks and views of their profile. CBC News only tagged themselves in their own post. Both Paul Naggear and Tracy Awad Naggear are on Instagram and they share a lot of information about the explosion in their stories. Their stories could bring a new perspective on the explosion to CBC News' followers and viewers. Regardless, it is a way to give credit to both parents or even the reporters of the interview. However, by going through their page, CBC rarely tags people. Yet, when comparing to the interview with Elliot mentioned previously, they did not tag Elliot, however, they tagged the interviewer, since she appears in the edited interview they posted. This selective tagging that CBC has shown through their posts highlights the irregularities within their editorial choices warranting criticism which raises questions of "who" and "why" tag. They also added four hashtags: #cbc #cbcnews #beirut #Lebanon. As explained in Chapter One, hashtags aid users in looking up other posts about anything by typing the pound sign followed by the word of the topic they want to search or anything related to it. By including these hashtags, CBC News facilitates the search for its own network first, then adds a hashtag for Beirut and one for Lebanon. While hashtags bring attention towards the organization, they most importantly insert the organization within a global discussion about the topic at hand. They facilitate searches about a topic through the use of the word or topic they are searching for rather than searching for a specific news organization. However, by providing a hashtag for their own organization, CBC News are plugging their post within the global discussion in parallel with Lebanon and Beirut.

The caption assures that the viewers are aware of the terms “Canadian,” “victim,” and “Beirut explosion” that are mentioned up front, even if people opt out from reading the rest. There are also credits for the photographs which were submitted by the Naggear family. CBC News provides a warning right after this image where they specify that “this video contains disturbing details.” Throughout the video of the parents speaking about the situation, there are images of the disaster as well as images of Alexandra mixed with clips of the interview. All images but one were submitted by the Naggear family, as stated at the bottom right of the video when showing the images. One image was by Patrick Baz taken from Getty Images. It is a picture of Alexandra mounted as a poster and held by a protester. This image was used at the moment that Tracy Naggear was voicing the hope that the death of her daughter would bring to the Lebanese people during those hard times. Their choice of editing within this context enforces the sentimental and emotional connection that CBC enforces within this post. From the choice of words to their editing decisions, they are striving to evoke emotions in order to emotionally connect the reader to the post. When having the photograph of Alexandra held by a protester during one of the marches that took place after the explosion, it accentuates what Tracy is saying at that moment. Protesters are holding their daughter’s image through a march that is filled with anger towards the government yet with hope for their future as a connected community. There is a sense of hope that is introduced through their editing choice, especially that this is placed at the end of the video. After such a tough interview, CBC ended on a hopeful note.

The video also includes captions as well as identification of the two people right at the start. The dialogue in the video posted is not the same as the quotes written in the caption urging the viewers to look for the rest of the video if they are seeking more information or wanting to hear the rest of the tragic story. Similar to Global News, CBC News covered this story through an empathetic lens, using vocabulary such as believe, hope, help, catalyst, speaking out, solidarity, and much more to emphasize the pain and suffering of the population. As mentioned previously

through the analysis of Global News, empathy is a valid approach when covering news as such, specifically, when including wounded people and relatives of victims in their interviews and captions. It is a delicate topic and an even more delicate interview just 10 days after the explosion and the loss of their young child, Alexandra. The editing choices of the interview as well as the vocabulary choices enforce the understanding of the post through this empathetic lens. “Experience sharing occurs because your brain engages overlapping neural systems for your own representation of an uncomfortable state and for the perception of other people experiencing this state.” (Sillesen et al.) CBC News, just like Global News, is utilizing this approach to play with the psychological factor of humans when it comes to regarding the pain of others. Humans, as social creatures, are capable of understanding and feeling others’ pain through the power of our brains. Through the use of empathetic vocabulary, CBC News is firmly touching on their readers’ sensitivity and relying on the psychological effect of feeling others’ pain. This attaches the readers to the story, which ultimately attaches them to the news organization relaying this information, that is CBC News.

Global News and CBC News both wrote their posts about the Beirut port explosion through an empathetic lens. CBC News is a government-owned news organization that has journalists in over 40 cities across Canada as well as offices around the world (CBC News, About) Global News is part of Corus Entertainment, a Canadian media and content powerhouse. As part of a privately owned organization, Global News has 21 local newsrooms covering coast-to-coast stories including national and international stories. (Global News, About) This difference in ownership is apparent through their circulation of news about the Beirut Port explosion. While Global News provided the information through news aggregators and news agencies, CBC News had its reporters in Lebanon covering the news. This can be solidified through their stories where their reporter opens with: “I am Rebecca Collard near Beirut port, a massive explosion here yesterday sent shockwaves through the city [...]” (CBC News Stories) In the same set of stories, reporter

Rebeca Collard posted a video of her destroyed apartment located 2.5 km away from the blast. Global News's posts did not show their reporters on the ground relaying the news. However, even with their difference in coverage, their approach was the same: through an empathetic lens. Both their approaches looked at the explosion with a sensitive and empathetic vocabulary that is more approachable to their readers and viewers. Their approaches are in a sense ways that they secure their Canadian viewership through their different editorial choices, which ultimately raises many biased opinions. As Global News is owned by Corus, Corus focuses on creating content as found in their brief "About Us" section: "Corus is a leader in creating high quality content for audiences around the world." (Corus) Unlike CBC News, Corus, as an entertainment company, focuses on providing content as fast as possible to its viewers. This applies to the mandate from Global News, where they also mention the speed of their news. However, the connection of both, an entertainment company and a news organization highlights their similarities as well as questions their connection and implication within the news.

The first post about the blast by Megaphone News was posted on August 4, 2020. The video accumulated 12,764 views with only five comments. The caption of the post contains both languages: Arabic and English. This clarifies that the caption is translated and available in both languages. Just as explained in previous chapters, Instagram does provide a translation feature when it comes to foreign languages. However, Megaphone News still provided the information in their captions in both languages. Moreover, their caption began in Arabic and the second section was written in English. The caption provides preliminary information about the blast, as the post was created and posted online on the date that the explosion happened. Megaphone News opens with the number of victims, that at the time was still unknown, yet they give priority to the lost lives. As mentioned in the previous analysis of the Canadian news organizations, providing the date when it comes to tragedies such as this explosion is crucial. It situates the reader, as well as grounding the story within a specific time in history. Although Megaphone News does not provide

the concrete date of the explosion within their caption, they do provide exact dates of the upcoming days with the information and specifications from the government regarding COVID-19 restrictions and mourning day, as will be explored shortly. Megaphone News, however, does provide the date in their video. The video is marked with the date on the top left, Megaphone News' logo on the top right, and the title appearing at the bottom throughout the video: "Lebanon stricken with catastrophe," in both Arabic and English. The date is stamped throughout the whole video right at the top, grounding their video and their caption through time. The video is an accumulation of various snippets of videos showing the streets of Beirut. We can see and feel the heaviness and the pain of the people through the screen. None of the videos portray any disturbing images, other than the destruction of the city, people distraught, and the constant sound of ambulances, beeps, and the sound of broken glass. This accumulation of those videos with the addition of the natural sound that they have kept brings forward their editorial choices. All the videos accumulated within this post, are all shot through a shaky hand while someone is walking through the streets of the city. It is understood that Megaphone News provided this information to their followers and the public the same day as the explosion, therefore their filming and editing had to be speedy as well. However, this editing choice of keeping the handheld phone filming while walking through the street brings in the human factor and the sentimental approach. Their approach gives a point of view of the scene as if the viewer is walking through the destroyed streets of Beirut looking around. It creates a connection between the organization and the viewers.

The first part of the caption, just like the previous posts analyzed, provides the preliminary information about the explosion: the unknown number of victims, the situation of the hospitals, where hospitals are overwhelmed, and they are transporting patients to neighbouring regions as well as the debris-covered streets as a result of the explosion. The second part begins by bringing forward information about the cause of the explosion. Megaphone News makes sure to clarify that "until the truth comes out," specifying that they do not have the full information about the

cause, yet they have preliminary information from official sources. This editorial choice of still bringing the information for their readers even if it is not complete deepens this connection and trust between the reader and the organization that the organization is bringing forward the latest news and providing all the information that they currently have. Their sources state that “a fire [...] spread in the Beirut port, reaching explosive material that was confiscated in 2014 and never discarded.” This is the truthful information hinting at the confiscated ammonium nitrate stored at the port. This information was already available to the news organization within the same day, if not within the hour of the explosion. This statement is then followed by the frustration targeted at the government for their negligence that allowed this tragedy to occur: “Even if the story is true, then negligence and corruption are the culprits of this new catastrophe.” Although they do not mention it, they are directing this anger and pointing the blame at the negligence of the government. This creates a layer of intensity while also enforcing the narrative that touches people's emotions, whether that is sadness, pain or anger. This psychological effect, as explored earlier, creates a closer bond between the organization and the readers, where the feelings and the thoughts projected about the government are then met through their use of words and anger throughout the organization. They follow by providing official information about the upcoming days, with an official mourning day announced as well as measures for the COVID-19 pandemic. This information provides a closer tie to the Lebanese population living in Lebanon due to the specific information it provides its readers. By informing their followers and readers of the upcoming regulations, Megaphone News is providing information that many may not have received through traditional news due to the disaster at hand. This may then lead to the re-sharing of this post on Instagram or between friends to propagate this information quickly. Lastly, they include two hashtags: Lebanon in both English and Arabic. The hashtags, unlike CBC News, prioritize only Lebanon without including hashtags mentioning Megaphone News. This then plugs Megaphone News within the global discussion about Lebanon happening on social media, also sharing their post with people who do not follow them. Just as with CBC, this ultimately allows

more clicks and views on Megaphone News' profile for further information about the explosion and the organization. However, due to the addition of the Arabic hashtag, Megaphone News not only plugs their post within a global and international discussion, but it also provides a specific and more Arab-centric discussion.

Megaphone News utilized terms such as the truth, official sources, negligence, corruption, culprits, and catastrophe. Those terms emphasise the anger language that the organization brought forward this news through their Instagram post. Just as explored through the Canadian News organizations, the various vocabulary approaches that organization utilize while bringing forward their news affects their viewership and their readers. While previously, the empathetic voice was able to bring viewers closer to the tragedy and the organization while relaying the information, bringing the information forward through anger will also evoke emotion within the reader. However, not the same emotion, yet it still creates a connection within the discourse. These terms clarify the divide of language between Megaphone News and the Canadian News organizations explored previously. Although this is a fair and understandable approach when covering news where fatalities are part of the discussion, it is also important to note that empathy does not encapsulate the feelings nor the intensity of the tragedy. Global News and CBC News wrote about the Beirut port explosion with an empathetic voice because they do not know the pain and suffering from the corrupt system since we do not see them post about it. Lebanon has been going through tough times for years with protests and civil wars due to the divide of the population following a corrupt government. Yet, Global News and CBC News' followers and viewers do not hear about those incidents, unless they research them. As Marilyn E. Gist writes "[...] because of the underrepresentation of minorities in the news [...], there was a lack of coverage of issues considered important within the minority communities." (Gist, 55) The underrepresentation of Lebanon as an underdeveloped country resulted in not only a different approach to the relaying of the news through the Instagram profiles of Canadian news organizations but also missing

information as well as misinformation. While Global News only covered the explosion, they have lacked coverage about Lebanon when it comes to the corruption, the protests, the civil wars and the economic collapse that the country has been going through for years now. All of this accumulated, with an explosion added, Lebanese people are not only mourning their country, but they are also most importantly resenting and fighting their government. After years of neglect and corruption, the explosion was due to improperly stored tonnes of ammonium nitrate in the port of Beirut. Officials and the government knew about it. This explains the anger and frustration of the people. With the lack of previous information and representation of Lebanon, Global News brought forward their post with a sense of shock that translates into empathy. As one of the biggest non-nuclear explosions in history, the Beirut Port explosion was brought forward by those organizations due to its massive impact on the country, the hundreds of deaths and thousands of injuries. Empathy is a valid approach. Yet, with empathy comes the right research and the right information to post. With empathy also comes providing ways of helping the people and the country, it could simply be through replying to a comment with a link for donations. "This state of journalistic affairs in which grabbing the reader's attention with flashy headlines and salacious content is more important than quality, and fidelity to truth is a mere afterthought, might sound familiar to the historically minded individual." (Giansiracusa, p. 8) When the main goal is to capture the attention of the reader, information might be cultivated rapidly with the goal of a speedy posting to attract views, reads, likes, shares, comments and other available features, as mentioned previously. Megaphone News, a local independent news organization has been living through the pain and suffering of the population while relaying the information on Instagram for everyone to see and read. Their frustrated voice tone comes from years of accumulated negligence and corruption that Global News and CBC News have rarely covered or cared for to the same extent as the Lebanese organizations. This difference in approach makes us question the different ways that we can change news circulation within Canadian news organizations. It also brings forward the ongoing lack of attention and importance that Canadian news organizations award to foreign

news, specifically from underdeveloped countries. Steps have to be taken in order to change this cycle of news propagation from underdeveloped countries, whether that is through alterations in journalists' training or by investing in more foreign relationships across countries. Yet, this apparent divide of news between the Canadian news organizations and the Lebanese ones brings forward the various editorial choices as well as the lack of attention and little importance that ultimately resulted in the underrepresentation and misinformation of the Beirut port explosion within the posts found on Instagram by Canadian news organizations.

Conclusion

Misinformation and underrepresentation both follow underdeveloped countries, even in tough, fatal and traumatic times. This thesis explored this notion by examining six different news organizations on Instagram while comparing Lebanese and Canadian coverage of one of the biggest non-nuclear explosions in history which took place on August 4, 2020, in the port of Beirut, Lebanon.

Social media occupies a very large part of our daily lives, altering our societies due to the rapid speed of information as well as its various and accessible functions. This thesis focused on the social media platform of Instagram, exploring the different features that it offers all its users to create and share information with their friends, family or even total strangers that share the same interests and ideologies. Through the understanding of the rise of social media in today's society, this research also examined the use of social media platforms by traditional news organizations including the advantages that social media platforms, specifically Instagram, provide news organizations. The shift from traditional news propagation to adopting Instagram helps organizations build larger audiences, spread the news at a much quicker speed as well as redirect traffic to their other sources of news. This shift and adoption of Instagram and other social media platforms also play an extra monetary function for the organization, where through likes, comments and shares, they create a flow of money. Through the use of hashtags, news organizations are able to integrate themselves within a global discussion surrounding the topic which also brings more views and exposure, ultimately generating revenue. An explanation of how news is propagated is also provided, where horizontal and vertical news propagation is looked at and explained thoroughly. It can also be understood through the difference between the news provided by Global News as well as news provided by CBC News: Global News brought forward their news through news aggregators whereas CBC News provided their news through

their correspondent based in Lebanon. When it comes to both misinformation and underrepresentation, this thesis provided an overview of both in relation to each other, where it is easy to be misinformed and the underrepresentation of countries and minorities is very apparent. The findings and the analysis of this thesis prove that underdeveloped countries are underrepresented in the news while also including misinformation within the little information provided.

This thesis answered the first question regarding the coverage of the Beirut port explosion of August 4 through three different Canadian news organizations in comparison to three Lebanese news organizations as well as through the analysis of three specific posts. This research also answered the question of the important role that social media has, more importantly, Instagram, when it comes to an underdeveloped country in the news, one where a tragedy has taken place. The question of the difference between the Lebanese and Canadian news organizations was examined, where the divide was apparent through the analysis of the language as well as the visuals demonstrating the lack of attention and interest in coverage from the Canadian news organizations. All the tools provided through Instagram allow news organizations to provide their information to a larger audience at a quick speed. This brings various advantages to the organizations, therefore social media becomes important to all news organizations, whether covering local news or world events and crises. It also becomes a source of information to the public, where followers and users are able to acquire their news and information at an outstanding speed staying up to date. Finally, this thesis was able to provide an explanation of the connection between misinformation and underrepresentation, specifically when looking at the Beirut port explosion. As mentioned in Chapter Three, the decisions taken in a newsroom heavily affect the engagement of the audience, whether through traditional news media or social media. This was explored through the analysis, where the choices and decision of language affect the way the posts are viewed: the addition of a link to the bio, lack of resources and help provided bring

forward the editorial and newsroom choices of what and how to post. Organizations follow the response of their audience, however, when not enough effort is put in while covering an important event or crisis from a different country, the audience will not react or engage as necessary. This, as mentioned, creates a cycle for news propagation of just following the trends, as explained through the first chapter while exploring social media. Yet, Lebanon is not a trend. The explosion is not a trend. The lives of the people are not trends. Massive theories, such as decolonizing the media, are ways in which possibilities of change and improvement happen within the journalistic system. Yet, with such topics, we find an immense amount of closely related problems that will affect the overall media progression within this topic: politics, economy, education, etc. While all these moving parts are yet to be brought forward, it is important to understand the magnitude and possibilities that need to happen prior. As mentioned at the start of this thesis, awareness is the most important step toward change, it is necessary. Awareness is necessary for proper attention to the victims and the lives lost. Awareness is necessary when it comes to news related to underdeveloped countries in respect to the country, its culture, its history, and its population.

Image Index

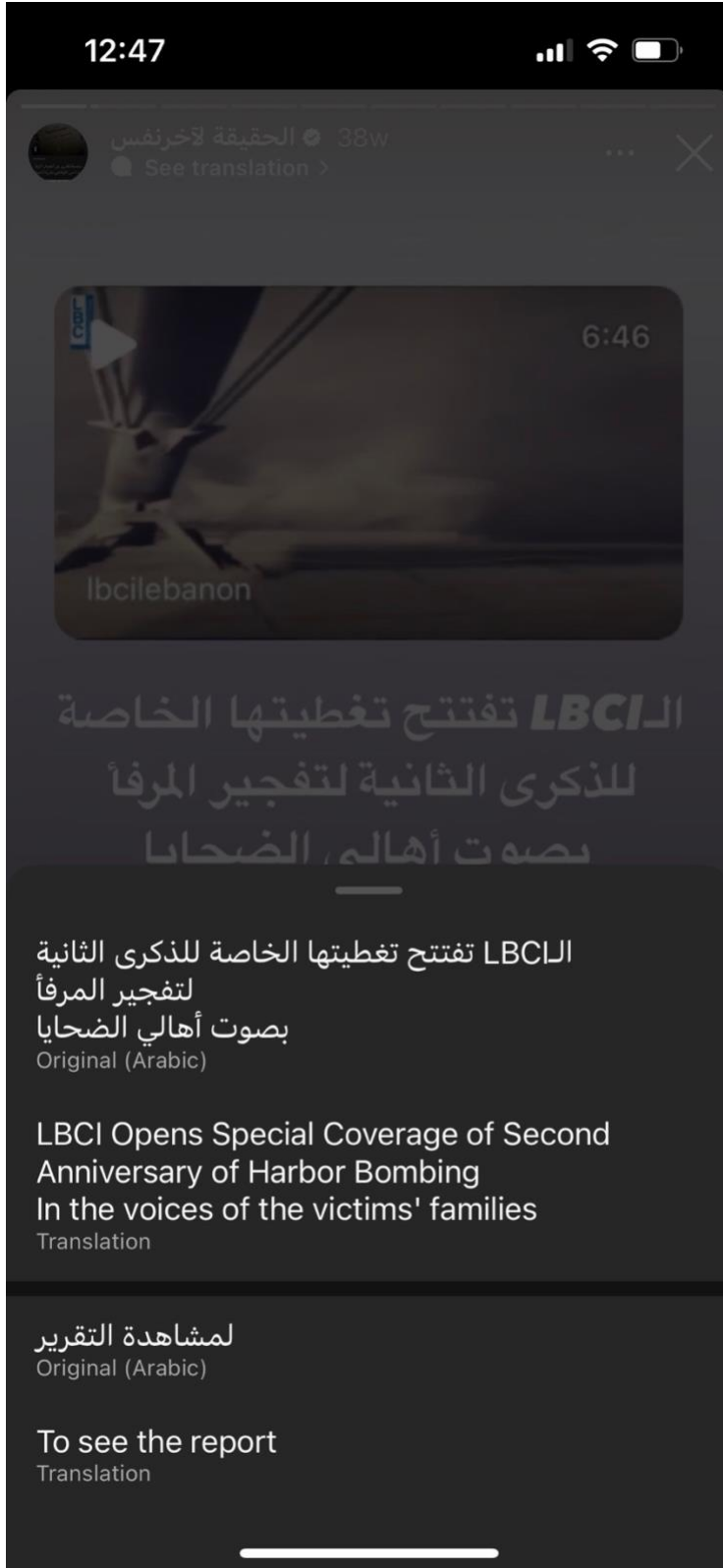


Image 1



Liked by  and **others**

lbcilebanon The Lebanese International Broadcasting Institute has decided, starting today, to suspend the direct transmission of speeches, conferences, chats and data, and this step was made in its radio statement at four o'clock in the afternoon:

Because after April 4th is not the same as before.
Because after the earthquake is not the same as before
... لأن إهمالكم وتخاذلكم هو أحد الأسباب الرئيسية لِمَا وصلنا إليه
Because after 4th app is required

" فعل وليس حكي "

Achievements not of speeches

Actions, not words.

No speeches, conferences, chats, and live statements from today:

Change so we can change

Let your achievements do the talking... And do not distract people with words.


And we tell the people in conclusion:

While you wait for the speeches of your leaders on fire than customs... There are mothers who are waiting for their children to come back hotter than ashes... The priority is for them not you.

[View all 2,807 comments](#)

farixtube 



carlahaddadofficial  Bravo @lbcilebanon proud of u



August 7, 2020 · [See original](#)

Image 2



LBCILEBANON
Posts

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Abdel Halim El Ali Salem
Abdel Kader Bloso
Abdo Tanious Ata
Ahmad Ameira
Ahmad Ibrahim Kaadan
Alexandra Najjar
Ali Abdo Ayoub
Ali Hussein Zeineddine
Ali Ismail El Sayed Chahata
Amina Salim Karbik
Antoine El Barmaki
Aram Sarkisian
Arlet Meglangit
Armand Tayan
Asmahan Miled Faroukh
Unknown
Unknown

Ayman Homsy
Ayman Ibrahim Al Eid
Ayman Mostapha
Ayman Nouredine
Ayman Obeid
Ayman Sleiman
Baby-Linn Serohijos
Boulous Gemayel
Chacke Sadek
Charbel Mata
Charles Hapokian
Chawki Allouch
Christelle El Adem
Cilda Kino
Claudia Khalil Lakkis
Unknown
Unknown



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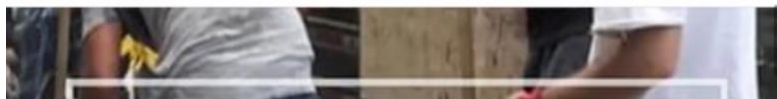


Image 3



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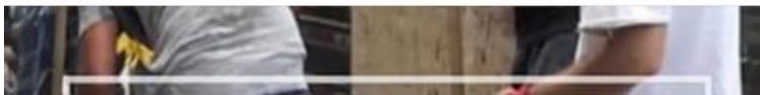


Image 4



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Khalil Badih Aoun Mjais	Mary Farhat	Nawal Hamdan	Sr. Sophie Khosrafian
Khalil Issa	Mary Khalil Touk	Nazar Nazarian	Taha Tsouni
Latifa Moustapha	Mazen Raja Zouheid	Neamathallah Mekheiber	Tanios Mekhayel El Murr
Laurette Owaida Richa	Mehdy Hassan Rami	Nicol Majid Helo	Therese Merhi Antoun
Layla Metre Khoury	Mireille Germanos	Nicolas Youssef Chedid	Warijan Oghos Tassonian
Lina Abo Hamdan	Mizan	Paulette Hashem	William Azar
Lina Najjar	Mohamad Alaedine	Perlita Mendoza	Wissam Faisal
Liza kezbekyan	Mohamad Ayrout	Rawan Misto	Yehya Azam Hamwi
Mahmoud Ali Saliid	Mohamad Al Sibaa	Rezol Mounir Sekder	Youssef Lahoud
Mahmoud Khaled	Mohamad Mahmoud	Robert Youssef Semaan	Youssef Saleh
Majida Kassab	Mohammad Al Hussein	Rushi Jamal	Yvette Gergi Mayneh
Margot Tabbal	Mohammad Damaj	Sabah Merhej Nassour	Zeina Chamoun
Maria Pia Abo Sleiman	Mohammad Ali Abbas	Sahar Fares	Zeina Ramzi Ragi
Mariam Hochar	Mohammad Doughan	Samir Boulous Karam	Zeina Zakkour
Marie Saad	Nawal Atieh	Unknown	Ziad Mostafa Al Sobh
Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown



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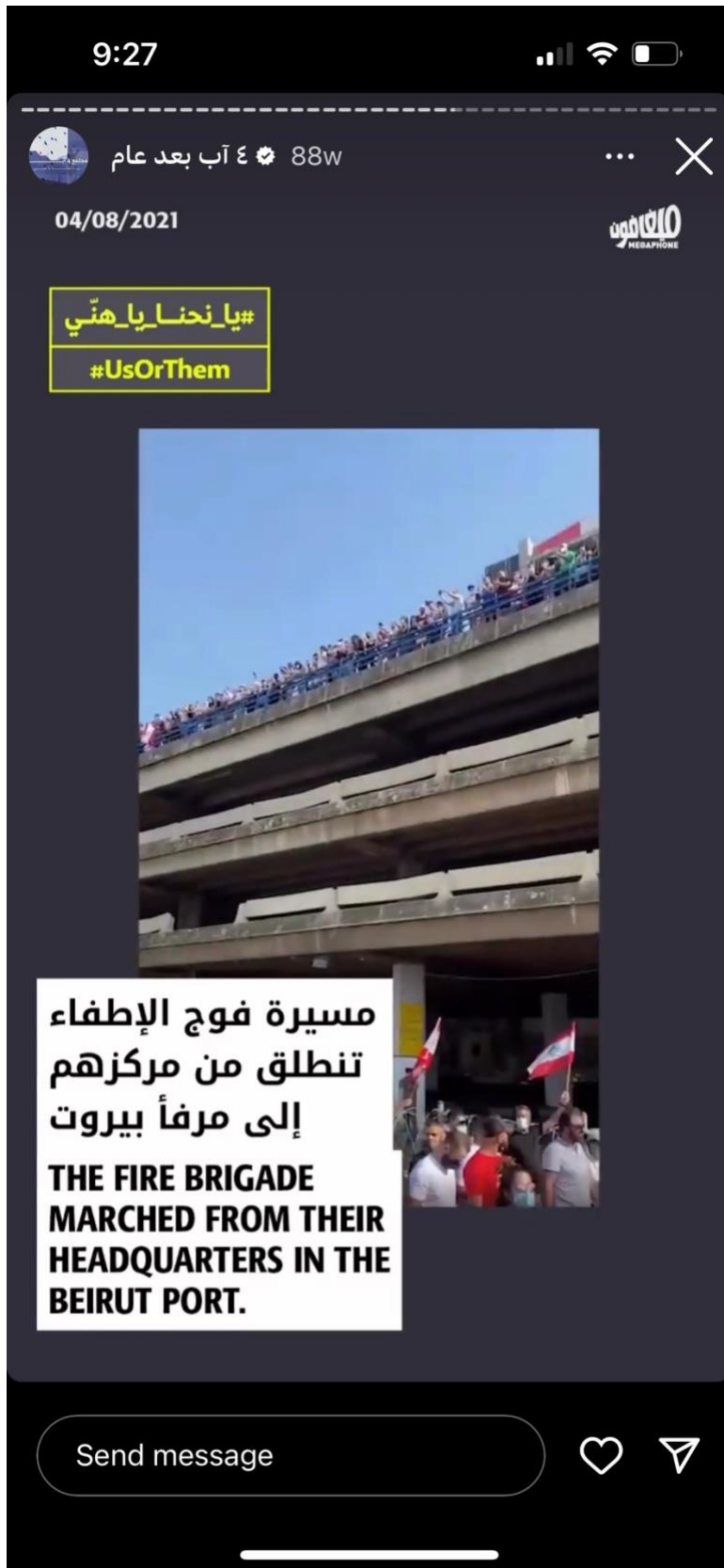
lbcilebanon



Image 5



Image 6



هيك طار الدعم - مين المسؤول وشو ناظرنا؟ megaphonenews
· كيف انهدرت مصريات الدعم؟ وشو الأزمة الإجتماعية اللي
ناظرنا؟

#مصرف_لبنان #اقتصاد #لبنان_ينتفض #لبنان

** English subtitles can be found on our Facebook and
YouTube pages.

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megaphonenews English subtitles can be found on
our Facebook and YouTube pages. 

Image 8

English caption in the comments section 

#BeirutPortExplosion #Beirut #PalaisdeJustice
#انفجار_مرفأ_بيروت #قصر_العدل #بيروت

View all 4 comments

January 12 · See translation



megaphonenews 



Image 9



Photo



megaphonenews



Liked by aouayda and others

عن مضمون التقرير الذي LBCI كشفت الـ megaphonenews أعدته مخابرات الجيش بعد دراسة وتحليل 4 أقراص مُدمجة سلّمتها السلطات الفرنسية إلى القاضي طارق بيطار، تضمّنت خلاصة التحقيقات الفرنسية في انفجار مرفأ بيروت.

وقد استبعد التحقيق فرضية التفجير من الجوّ بواسطة صاروخ، موضحاً أن الأصوات التي سمعها الشهود قد تكون ناتجة عن قوّة العصف قبل الانفجار. كما اعتبر أن فرضية «أن يكون الحادث قضاء وقدرًا منطقيّة»، بحيث أن أعمال التلحيم كانت بمثابة شرارة أو أنّها «أدّت الـ قصص كفاً، تسبّب اشتعال المواد المحمّدة فـ

Image 10



Photo



megaphonenews



14/09/2021



بيطار ما زال وراء دياب مذكرة إحضار ثانية
BITAR ISSUES SECOND SUBPOENA FOR DIAB



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أصدر المحقق العدلي طارق بيطار، اليوم الثلاثاء، مذكرة إحضار ثانية بحق رئيس الحكومة السابق حسان دياب، للمثول أمامه في 20 أيلول المقبل بصفة مُدعى عليه. وأحال بيطار المذكرة للنياحة العامة التمييزية المُلزَمة تنفيذها تأتي المذكرة الجديدة بعد 4 أيام من تشكيل الحكومة الجديدة، وبعد 18 يوماً على إصدار أوّل مذكرة إحضار بحق دياب، عندما كان لا يزال رئيساً لحكومة تصريف الأعمال. سبق لدياب أن امتنع عن المثول أمام المحقق العدلي بحجة أنّ «المجلس الأعلى، لمحاكمة الرؤساء والوزراء هو المرجع الصالح ولا

Image 11



Photo



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15/10/2021



الثقة لبيطار والعدالة للضحايا
CONFIDENCE IN BITAR
AND JUSTICE
FOR THE VICTIMS



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بعد أحداث الطيونة أمس الخميس والاستغلال السياسي للاشتباكات، شدّد أهالي ضحايا انفجار المرفأ في بيان لهم على «تنزيه قضيتهم عن أي تطييف أو تسييس». ومع أنّ أحداث الطيونة جاءت على خلفيّة اعتصام في قصر العدل موجه ضدّ قاضي التحقيق، إلا أنّ أهالي ضحايا انفجار المرفأ أعلنوا وقوفهم إلى جانب الضحايا الذين سقطوا خلال الاشتباكات، مطالبين معهم بما طالبوا به لأنفسهم منذ اليوم الأوّل: العدالة ومحاسبة كل من تورطت يدها بإراقة هذه الدماء.

Image 12

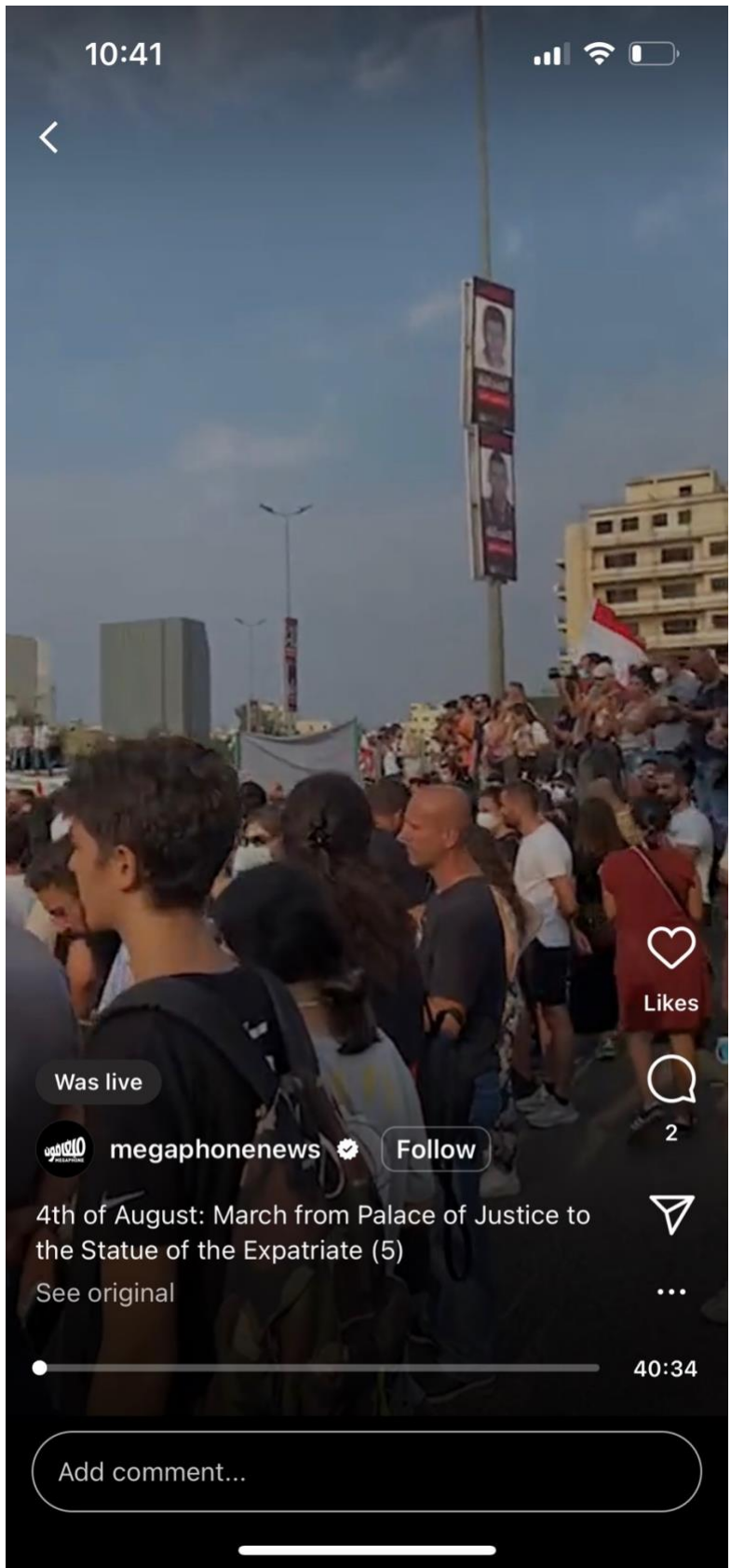


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