

National Security Vs. Freedom of Press: A Comparative Analysis of Whistleblower Protection Laws and their Impact on Investigating Journalism

Zainul Abdeen and Dr. Rajeev Kumar Singh

Amity Laws School, Amity University, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, India

Abstract: *The interconnection between freedom of the press and national security is a highly debated and intricate topic in contemporary democratic societies. This research paper discusses the inherent conflicts between these two imperatives, with particular emphasis on the function and efficacy of whistleblower protection laws in different legal systems. Whistleblowers tend to be important sources of investigative journalism, revealing government malfeasance, corruption, and abuses of power. But their revelations can be at odds with state interests, particularly when they involve classified information. Using comparative legal analysis, this paper explores how various nations reconcile the protection of whistleblowers with national security interests and freedom of the press. It explores legal systems of liberal democracies like the United States, the United Kingdom, European Union states, and beyond, noting statutory differences in protection, enforcement means, and sources and journalists' legal risks. Through a comparison of international guidelines and national implementations, the analysis assesses to what degree present whistleblower legislation furthers or limits investigative journalism. The essay contends that robust legal safeguards, when balanced with press freedom guarantees, improve democratic accountability and transparency without undermining legitimate national security goals. Ultimately, this study makes a contribution to the current international debate regarding transparency, democratic government, and the right of the public to know.*

Keywords: National Security, Freedom of the Press, Investigative Journalism, Whistleblower Protection, Comparative Law, Government Transparency, Press Freedom

