

Comparing Mainstream Media to Alternative Media

The tragedy that this comparison will discuss is the 2017 bombing of buses in Syria. The Syrian bombing incident was covered by CNN and Activist Post. The first source, CNN, is a mainstream source, while the latter is an alternative source. While CNN attempts to trivialize this incident with unsubstantiated information, Activist Post includes several witness reports, higher numbers of casualties with proof, and even criticizes mainstream outlets.

Firstly, although both sources state that there were 126 casualties, Activist Post states that, of those 126 people, at least 80 of them were children while CNN, and most MSM outlets, claim that only 68 children died. A witness reported on Activist Post saying, "The 'rebels' brought a bus full of crisps. They tried to gather as many kids as possible around the vehicle. Then we heard a really loud explosion. A lot of children were killed, many were injured," proving that there were a lot of children in the area of the incident. Additionally, the quotation was also supported on Activist Post by the fact that it was the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights that alleged that 80 children died in the incident. On the other hand, CNN does not provide a source for its information.

Moreover, Activist Post criticizes and ridicules mainstream media with facts and logic. Many mainstream media outlets blame the bombing on the Syrian government. However, Activist Post refutes them by pointing out that these MSM outlets have not given a reason as to why the Syrian government decided to suicide its own supporters. Activist Post's Eva Bartlett also characterizes MSM as hypocrites because of their trivializing numbers. This includes the UK Independent which stated that at least 24 people were killed. This information is ridiculous because "the blast hit the Rashidin area on the outskirts of Aleppo, where dozens of buses ... from pro-government villages were waiting to enter the city."

Furthermore, journalist Vanessa Beeley reports on Activist Post that the terrorist group responsible for the bombing was Ahrar al-Sham while CNN states that Ahrar al-Sham solely tweeted that some of its members died in the incident and they are investigating the perpetrator.