



# Citizen Journalism

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## Background / Context

- 10<sup>th</sup> September 2009, Uganda Riots
- Media Blackout



**#kampala**

**Along came Twitter[ers]**



#kampala

Along came Twitter[ers]

Okay. We're like running for our lives.

11:05 PM Sep 10th from txt

 Delete



**solomonking**

Solomon King



#kampala

## Along came Twitter[ers]

@uginsomniac, @ugandataalks,  
@camaraafrica, @mugumya, @appfrica,  
@dailymonitor, @citizenuganda,  
#uganda, #ugandawitness



## What is Citizen Journalism?

Street / Participatory / Democratic Journalism



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Existing: Talk-shows, letters to editor



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The internet has changed the playing field



## **The impact of Citizen Journalism on our society.**

**“ ... journalism finds itself at a rare moment in history where, for the first time, its role as gatekeeper of the news is threatened by not just new technology and competitors but, potentially, by the audience it serves.**

We Media - How audiences are shaping the future of news and information



**The impact of Citizen Journalism on our society.**

We can know what's happening, right NOW.



## **The impact of Citizen Journalism on our society.**

We can know what's happening, right NOW.

We can tap into the hive mind



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We can know what's happening, right NOW.

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We cannot be censored (yet).



[flickr.com/photos/pictureperfectpose](https://www.flickr.com/photos/pictureperfectpose)

**But... We need to be careful.**

Citizen Journalism can be negative



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Journalistic Ethics



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Example: Fort Hood



## **Finally... This is only the beginning**

We need technology and tools

blogspirit.ug , ugandawitness.net, UTL Twitter

Professional journalists



**Thank you!**