

How terrorist attack survivors view their interactions with the media

December 1 2014

Among survivors of the 2011 Utøya Island terrorist attack in Norway, most perceived contact with media as a positive experience. Among those who allowed themselves to be interviewed by the media, 13% found the experience distressing and 11% regretted participating.

Taking part in media interviews was not associated with post-traumatic stress reactions among survivors, but negative evaluations and regrets about participation were.

"Media representatives need to understand that they may add to the burden of [survivors](#) if they are not sufficiently careful, and clinicians should be aware of media exposure as a potential additional strain on victims," said Dr. Siri Thoresen, lead author of the *Journal of Traumatic Stress* study.

More information: Thoresen, S., Jensen, T. K. and Dyb, G. (2014), Media Participation and Mental Health in Terrorist Attack Survivors. *J. Traum. Stress.* [DOI: 10.1002/jts.21971](https://doi.org/10.1002/jts.21971)

Provided by Wiley

Citation: How terrorist attack survivors view their interactions with the media (2014, December 1) retrieved 5 May 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2014-12-terrorist-survivors-view-interactions-media.html>

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