

[Seventh Media Monitor: "Fifth Bonus Post"]

On October 12, 2016, a TV Patrol report on a rape-slay case of an 8-year-old in Cavite went viral after the video netizens allegedly saw the "ghost" of the victim in the video report, crouched down and crying, which was posted online on October 6, 2016. Netizens described the split-second that the figure was seen as "creepy," and even "hair-raising", while others dismissed it as a simple editing trick. The figure isn't the ghost of the victim, but a witness to the crime scene. According to an interview with ABS-CBN News, the unidentified woman claims to have heard crying as she changed her clothes near the bridge where the crime took place. She was caught on video as she told investigators that she saw several pieces of clothing which is possibly where the crime was committed. The victim's body was found floating near the Las Pinas-Bacoor boundary. Two of the rapists are now in jail, while the other two were shot by cops as they allegedly tried to steal one of the official's guns in the police car.

I think that the report on this matter was ethical because as stated in the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas Code of Ethics, Article 13, Section 1, "Programs featuring superstitious and pseudoscientific beliefs and practices, such as supernatural powers, foretelling of the future, astrology, phrenology, palm-reading, numerology, mind reading, hypnotism, faith healing or similar subjects shall be careful not to induce belief in them. Care shall be taken to prevent the exploitation of people who may be easily swayed by such superstitious and pseudo-scientific beliefs and practices." and the report gave both sides of the story; it was balanced. It showed the opinions of those who did believe that the figure was a ghost, but at the same time, it also proved that the figure was actually a witness, and they did so with proof by doing an interview with the woman herself. It did not lead on people to actually believe that what they saw was a ghost, it proved it, and it had a balanced way of reporting it.

Reference:

Domingo, K. (2016, October 13). "Not a ghost: The truth behind that viral TV Patrol video"
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[http://news.abs-cbn.com/news/10/13/16/not-a-ghost-the-truth-behind-that-viral-tv-patrol-v](http://news.abs-cbn.com/news/10/13/16/not-a-ghost-the-truth-behind-that-viral-tv-patrol-video)
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