

Ethics and Moral Courage in the “Collateral Murder” Video

In this analysis I will argue that examining the implications from a standpoint reveals significant concerns regarding the actions displayed in the "Collateral Murder" video.

Deontology, which is based on theory, emphasizes the significance of moral duties, principles and intentions when evaluating the morality of actions. The video prompts inquiries about the obligations and responsibilities of the personnel involved. While the pilots and gunners may have been operating in a combat situation where they perceived threats the principle of non-maleficence suggests that they have an obligation to avoid causing harm to civilians. The indiscriminate use of force and failure to positively identify targets raise doubts about whether their actions align with this principle. Furthermore, the video sheds light on issues related to respect for dignity and how civilians are treated during times of war. According to principles individuals should not be treated solely to an end. As autonomous beings deserving dignity and respect. The footage demonstrates a lack of consideration for the lives lost among Iraqis, including children, which raises concerns about how civilians treated during armed conflicts. Moreover, questions arise regarding fidelity and maintaining confidentiality due to the disclosure of classified material, through WikiLeaks. This challenges our understanding of upholding confidentiality as a duty based on principles. The unauthorized sharing of information can have consequences for national security and diplomatic relationships. It also raises concerns regarding the responsibility of individuals who have access to data to keep it confidential. To sum up, taking a deontological perspective uncovers issues in the actions portrayed in the "Collateral Murder" video. The principles of avoiding harm, respecting individuals, and maintaining loyalty highlight breaches of obligations and duties during warfare and the handling of classified information. This analysis emphasizes the need for deliberation on the ramifications of military

operations and the responsible utilization of information, to protect national security and uphold human rights.

One key idea explored in Jeroen Vandekerckhove's work revolves around the concept of whistleblowing and its ethical importance, within organizations. Whistleblowing refers to when an employee or someone with insider knowledge reveals information about illegal or harmful practices within a company to authorities or the public. Vandekerckhove emphasizes that whistleblowing serves as a mechanism for uncovering wrongdoing, ensuring accountability, and protecting the interest. However, it also poses risks and challenges for those who blow the whistle. Applying this concept to the "Collateral Murder" case it becomes clear that WikiLeaks' release of the video can be regarded as an act of whistleblowing. The person who leaked the video aimed to expose what they perceived as behavior and potential war crimes committed by US military personnel. By making the video available to everyone this whistleblower sought to draw attention to the incident, promote transparency and hold those accountable for their actions. This case raises considerations regarding whether one should blow the whistle or not.

Whistleblowers often confront professional risks such as retaliation, social stigma, and potential legal consequences. The individual who revealed the "Collateral Murder" video weighed these consequences against their belief, in their duty to expose perceived misconduct. Whistleblowing in this scenario demonstrates a dedication to the public's wellbeing and an effort to inform them about the realities of warfare and its impact on civilians. Taking an approach, it can evaluate the actions in this case based on duties and principles. From this standpoint whistleblowing can be viewed as aligning with obligations related to transparency, accountability, and the preservation of human dignity. The principle of transparency highlights the significance of disclosing information that serves the interest and encourages a responsible society. By revealing the

"Collateral Murder" video the whistleblower fulfilled this duty by shedding light on aspects of conduct during armed conflicts. Moreover, accountability is relevant here well; whistleblowing aimed to hold accountable those US personnel involved in these actions. By making the video accessible to all the whistleblowers, it aimed to challenge any sense of impunity and promote a sense of responsibility for actions consequences. Additionally, respect for dignity is vital when analyzing this case. The video depicted the loss of civilian lives, including children, during that military operation. The act of whistleblowing has shown us how important it is to recognize and honor the dignity and rights of civilians affected by conflicts. It challenges any dehumanization and disregard for life. Based on my assessment and analysis I believe that the act of whistleblowing in the "Collateral Murder" case can be seen as justifiable from a standpoint. The whistleblowers actions align with principles such as transparency, accountability, and respect for dignity which are crucial in promoting ethical behavior during warfare and maintaining a responsible and knowledgeable society. While there are risks involved in whistleblowing it plays a role in exposing abuses of power and fostering a culture of accountability and ethics within organizations.

In Oxley and Wittkowers' work they discuss the concept of courage. This refers to individuals' willingness and ability to act morally when faced with adversity, pressure, or risk. Moral courage involves standing up for principles and values in challenging or unpopular situations. Oxley and Wittkower emphasize how moral courage promotes behavior and creates a culture of integrity and accountability. When applying the idea of courage to the "Collateral Murder" case it becomes clear that the whistleblower who leaked the video displayed significant moral courage. Despite facing retaliation, consequences, and public scrutiny the whistleblower chose to reveal the video as a way of standing against perceived unethical conduct. This act

required bravery. The "Collateral Murder" case also raises questions about whether military personnel involved in the incident demonstrated courage. Did they have the bravery to question orders prioritize safety and challenge violations of ethical principles during their operation? These are considerations when discussing this case. Overall Oxley and Wittkowers work highlights how crucial moral courage is, for upholding ethics and fostering a culture of integrity. The "Collateral Murder" case serves as an example where this concept can be analyzed in detail. When it examines the actions of all parties involved in combat situations from the perspective of courage it becomes clear that there are complexities at play. It is crucial for individuals to uphold their values in challenging circumstances. By using the approach and considering the concept of courage It can evaluate the actions taken in this case focusing on whether the parties involved upheld or violated ethical duties and principles. From this perspective It can view the act of whistleblowing by the person who leaked the video as a demonstration of courage. The whistleblower showed their commitment to truthfulness, transparency and accountability despite harm and personal risk. By sharing the video, they fulfilled their duty to inform the public and expose ethical violations in military operations. On another note, when assessing the actions of personnel depicted in the video it is essential to consider whether they displayed courage in their behavior. Did they have a willingness to challenge orders or explore approaches when civilians were at risk? Did they prioritize safety and dignity within a complex and unpredictable combat situation? Evaluating their actions through the lens of courage can help us understand any ethical deficiencies or commendable conduct during this incident. Based on the assessment and analysis it would have been the thing to do in the "Collateral Murder" case, for the personnel to prioritize protecting innocent civilians and upholding ethical principles. Even though combat situations are inherently challenging and chaotic, individuals should have the courage to question orders that

might cause harm to people. It is important to value accountability, integrity, and human dignity. Additionally, whistleblowing can be seen as ethically justified and commendable since it promotes truth telling and transparency which are crucial for ensuring accountability and informed decision making in society. The whistleblowers act contributed to a public discussion about the realities of warfare and the ethical dilemmas faced by military personnel. Encouraging courage, in both civilian settings can establish a culture of responsibility, integrity and ethical behavior that helps prevent abuses of power and human rights violations.

In this analysis of the "Collateral Murder" video it explored the aspects by applying the approach and considering moral courage. The video depicted an incident, in Baghdad where civilians were killed by US Apache helicopters raising ethical concerns. Using deontology, it assessed these actions based on duties and principles. The act of whistleblowing, done by an individual who leaked the video aligned with principles such as transparency, accountability, and respect for dignity. This whistleblower demonstrated courage by speaking out against potential wrongdoings and fulfilling their duty to inform the public. It also raised questions about whether the military personnel involved showed courage during this operation. Evaluating their actions, it pondered whether they prioritized values and took measures to protect civilians in such a combat situation. To conclude, the "Collateral Murder" case sheds light on the considerations in warfare and highlights how crucial moral courage is in fostering accountability and transparency.

Whistleblowing played a role in exposing violations of ethical standards and encouraging public discourse. Course it is important to acknowledge objections that arise concerning national security concerns and managing classified information. This case underscores the need for education and support, for acts of moral courage. To reach the resolutions for ethical dilemmas and foster a fair and compassionate society it is crucial to prioritize ethical thinking and engage

in open discussions. The "Collateral Murder" video serves as a reminder of the importance of acting during times of conflict and safeguarding the wellbeing of innocent civilians.