

Political changes in Algeria and the journalist's professional performance

التغيرات السياسية في الجزائر والأداء المهني للصحفي

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Abstract:

This study aims to shed light on the performance of the Algerian journalist who was closely associated with the political changes in Algeria. Since the independence in 1962, the political scene has seen a series of facts and events; in which a group of presidents took part in each stage; the speeches were addressed to the journalist. Until 1988, under the one-party system, the journalist practiced his profession as a defender of the revolution's ideology as its official spokesman.

The official speech did not ask the journalist to be smart or not even know how to write but he was asked only to be part of the struggle and the defense of the socialist revolution.

As for the beginning of political pluralism in 1990, which resulted in media pluralism, the official press considered it to be the struggler, the national and the state helper. While the media scene since 2019 until today has known journalists closely associated with advertising and speaking on behalf of the authority as a means of pressure. The study found that limiting the tasks of the journalist to struggle, mobilization, and recruitment had a significant impact on the level of the quality of journalism itself. News journalism has left its place to the press of opinion, commentary, and statements, further weakening the level of journalism and the personality of the journalist, which increases the likelihood that the journalist will be subject to the whims of officials.

Keywords: professional performance, political system, employee, struggler, fighter, state helper.

الملخص:

تهدف هذه الدراسة إلى تسليط الضوء على أداء الصحفي الجزائري الذي ارتبط ارتباطا وثيقا بجملة التغيرات السياسية في الجزائر فمنذ الاستقلال عرفت الساحة السياسية جملة من الوقائع والأحداث ، تقلد من خلالها الحكم مجموعة من الرؤساء في كل مرحلة حملت خطابات موجهة للصحفي في غاية 1988 ظل نظام الحزب الواحد، اين مارس الصحفي مهنته كموظف مناضل مدافع عن أيديولوجية الثورة و ناطقا رسميا لها ، فالخطاب الرسمي لم يطلب من الصحفي أن يكون ذكيا و لا حتى أن يعرف كيف يكتب و لكن كان يطلب منه سوى أن يكون في اطار النضال و الدفاع عن الثورة الاشتراكية، أما مع بداية التعددية السياسية في سنة 1990 التي نتجت عنها تعددية إعلامية حيث اعتبرت الخطابات الرسمية الصحفي على انه المكافح و الوطني و عون الدولة، في حين عرفت الساحة الإعلامية منذ 2019 الى غاية اليوم صحفيين مرتبطين ارتباطا وثيقا بالإشهار ويتحدثون باسم السلطة باعتبارها وسيلة ضغط.

هذا وقد توصلت الدراسة الى ان حصر مهام الصحفي في النضال و التعبئة و التجنيد كان له الأثر البالغ على مستوى نوعية الصحافة في حد ذاتها ، فالصحافة الإخبارية تركت مكانتها لصحافة الراي ، التعليق و البيانات ليزداد ضعف مستوى الصحافة و شخصية الصحفي و هو ما يزيد من احتمال خضوع الصحفي لأهواء المسؤولين.

الكلمات المفتاحية: الأداء المهني ، النظام السياسي، الموظف ، المناضل ، المكافح، عون الدولة.

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Introduction

To determine the nature of the journalist's performance and the size of his freedom, you just have to look at the type of political system. The Algerian journalist's performance has been accompanied by the nature of the government's political system and the scale of events. The phase of the one-party system has seen three significant stages in Algeria's political history, where three presidents have assumed the presidency, with each period of government directing the journalist's professional performance towards commitment and struggle.

Although media pluralism has been taking place where other changes have taken place at the political level, it has kept the role of the journalist oriented towards the same contexts as before and added to it the concept of help and struggle. To date, it has maintained the professional formula merely as an employee of any administrative sector.

On this basis, the importance of this article lies in describing the performance of the Algerian journalist. The latter was mainly linked to the political facts that took place in the country, and which varied from one stage to another according to the system of presidential changes in Algeria.

To analyze this topic, we present the following problem of research:

What was the Algerian journalist's performance in parallel with the political events and changes in the country from the era of the one-party system to the multiparty system?

To provide an answer to this question, we have relied on the following hypothesis:

- From independence to the present day, the Algerian journalist's performance has been accompanied by an absolute dependence on authority. He is merely an employee in the media sector.

To break up the problem and prove the hypothesis at hand, this study has been structured as follows:

1. Political climate and media
2. The professional performance of the Algerian journalist under the one-party system is aimed at consolidating the concept of struggle and commitment.
3. The professional performance of the Algerian journalist in the context of political pluralism, namely a struggling journalist, a state aid, and a simple employee.

1. Political climate and media:

After independence on 5 July 1962, the birth of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria was declared on 25 September 1962 by the National Constituent Assembly elected five days earlier. The first Algerian government, headed by Ahmed Ben Bella, was formed on 26 September 1962. The Tripoli Conference was also held in 1962 to determine the course of the country at the political and institutional levels. In his program, Ben Bella pointed out that the achievement of the democratic revolution required a public party comprising all the conscious Algerians within the framework of a revolutionary ideological unit and thus a single revolutionary vanguard organization in the country that eliminated any ideological thought contrary to his principles. The latter means that FLN is the only political force that has a monopoly on political action in independent Algeria¹.

⁽¹⁾Ahmed Ben Marsli, *The Economics of the Written Press in Algeria*, Algeria, Al Warsam for Publishing and Distribution, (2014), p. 151

Algeria has adopted the one-party system, namely the National Liberation Front (FLN), and has lived through its historical legitimacy in its struggle against colonialism. Thus, political participation was based on revolutionary legitimacy and was far from popular aspirations through the programs and plans imposed from the top at the bottom¹. However, the issue of media policy was not raised immediately after independence because the concerns of the new state were aimed at establishing national media institutions and nationalizing French media. It was not until 1979 that the issue came up seriously when the fourth conference of the National Liberation Front (FLN) came up with a special regulation on media. It became even more apparent with the emergence of the Media Act 1982, noting that the absence of a well-defined media policy after independence did not mean that there was no interest in the subject of media. Media policy had its characteristics and features adapted to prevailing conditions at that time².

After the events of 1988, Algerian authorities were obliged to adapt their domestic legislation to the international provisions in the field of media and communication, which became more liberal after the fall of the Berlin Wall and the collapse of the socialist bloc. This was, in fact, based on adopting some international and regional legislation as a frame of reference for Algeria's legislative and regulatory media sector in 1989. Article 28 of the new Constitution adopted the principles and objectives of the United Nations (as subsequently repeated in the 1996 Constitution), especially since Algeria has joined the International Treaty of the United Nations on Civil and Political Rights. The latter was ratified by the UN General Assembly in 1966, which stipulates in Article 19 that everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression without interference, as well as the right to receive and publish with no regard to the limits of news and ideas, regardless of the means of expression³.

Algeria also signed the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights in 1966. Article nine of which stipulates that every individual has the right to receive information, express, and disseminate his opinions within the framework of the laws and regulations in force.

Although the date of accession to the Treaty was old, it did not materialize on the ground until the issuance of the Constitution in 1989, which radically changed political pluralism by allowing the establishment of several political parties, effectively ending the one-party system that had been entrenched in Algerian politics for 26 years. Immediately after the promulgation of the Constitution, the Government initiated a series of reforms based on the recognition of multiparty system and the establishment of political parties based on respecting fundamental freedoms, territorial integrity, the independence of the country, and the sovereignty of the people. This Constitution grants Algerian citizens the right to establish a political program that supports this new trend by the Law on Political Groups, which enshrines the freedom to establish political parties. Associations of a political and legal character have also been given the right to establish and maintain their own press, expressing their different orientations and ideas.

.(¹) Ibid., p. 152

.(²)Ahdadn Zuhair, *The Written Press in Algeria*, Algeria, Algerian Publications Office, (1991), p. 123

(³)Jaballah, Hakima, *Algerian media policy in the phase of political and media pluralism, a descriptive study, a complementary thesis for obtaining a doctorate degree, majoring in media and communication, University of Algiers 3*, (2015), 112



Political amendments, as well as the conditions defined by the media sector, paved the way for the emergence of media pluralism, which was formally adopted through the instruction of the Head of Government then, Mouloud Hamrouche, dated 19 March 1990, prior to the passage of the Media Law of April 1990. The media system found itself after that before another law, the Media Law 2012¹.

2. The professional performance of the Algerian journalist under the one-party system towards consolidating the concept of struggle and commitment

This period went through a series of phases as follows:

2.1. Professional performance of Algerian journalist from 1962 to 1965:

The most important feature of this phase was President Ahmed Ben Bella's control over the executive power and the participation of the National Assembly in the legislation, which made the president the sole supreme authority in the party and the state, under the name of revolutionary legitimacy and popular legitimacy. This became even more evident after the Third Conference of the National Liberation Front (FLN) held on 16 April 1964, which determined the one-party principle in the country and rejected what was expressed by the harmful multi-party manipulations because the multiparty system is neither a measure of democracy nor freedom². Since independence, the state had taken control of most of the media inherited from the colonial era, as the power emerging in 1962 had left no room for individual liberties. In this period, the state has also sought to establish the principle of media pluralism by leaving some form of freedom to choose topics and discuss hot issues. On 13 July 1963, the media manager of the National Liberation Front (FLN) set out the objectives of creating a special organization for journalists to mobilize and raise political awareness of its members by reminding them that they were not only employees of the media sector but also fighters in the ground. That is why the journalist's duties have sought to fight, recruit, and follow up on the facts in an arbitrary manner. Azzi Abdel Rahman points out that the Algerian media does not perform its functions according to certain stereotypes and parameters as much as it follows the developments of reality arbitrarily. He also notes that the national press has been subjected to the phenomenon of duplication, which has led the party to acquire certain bodies and allowed the government to own others³.

Therefore, various institutions suffered from a lack of journalistic framework as a result of the marginalization of the media sector, which affected the course of the Algerian press. Mohamed Karat explains this marginalization by saying: "The media sector in a socialist state such as Algeria has marginalized the political system in which he occupies. The so-called development media or investigation media and the media of criticism are all strange terms for the Algerian press. It is impossible to speak of such types or practice of journalism in the

(¹) Ibid., p. 115

(²) Ahlam Bey, Obstacles to Freedom of the Press in Algeria, Master Thesis, majoring in Media and Communication, University of the Brothers Mentouri Constantine, (2006_2007)., p.66

(³) Ibid., p.67



absence of democratic political institutions that facilitate the journalist's career and give him the space to perform his noble profession."¹

2.2. Professional performance of Algerian journalist from 1965 to 1978:

After the overthrow of President Ahmed Ben Bella, the coup leader, Colonel Houari Boumediene, assigned the country's leadership to a body that he presided over called the Revolution Council. The country continued to run without a constitution or parliament until 1976. As for the party's role in this period, Colonel Houari Boumediene stated that the party was an expression of state ideology and orientation².

This period was also distinguished by:

- **Establishment of a socialist media system:** This system entails the abolition of private journalism and the guidance of the state and party press to be one of the tools used by the state to promote its policy. As far as guidance was concerned, it had become easier after all the daily newspapers had become Government-owned. On November 16, 1967, laws were passed to make newspapers commercial and industrial in nature, and to give the director of these institutions the absolute right to administrative and financial management after placing him under the auspices of the Ministry of Information concerning media and political guidance³.

In this period, freedom of media has been reduced and the press has become a façade expressing the will of the state. The journalist was therefore considered a simple employee of a public institution under much partisan pressure and a bureaucratic framework. This profession remained only a tool, and as a result, the journalist's role was diminished. According to Professor Zouhir Ahdadin, Algeria considers journalism as an immature minor child, and according to the testimony of a journalist of that period, saying "So I'm only a small employee employed in a bureaucratic framework that I can only logically be an instrument." This period was defined by Decree No. 535-1968 of September 1968, which confirmed the Authority's determination to take total control of the media where the journalist was merely an employee of the government and the ruling party. Moreover, many media institutions directors have come under pressure not only from their guardian ministries but also from political figures. The media became a one-way link from the top to the bottom, turning the media into a mere conveyor of routine and superficial discourse. Hence, the journalist became compelled to provide an unconvinced message⁴.

2.3. Professional performance of Algerian journalist from 1979 to 1988:

With President Chadli Bendjedid in office, a different approach was adopted by taking new measures to build his popular legitimacy. In the constitutional sphere, amendments were made to the 1976 Constitution so that the army remained an integral part of the party, as explained in the 1986 Charter that Algeria's political system was based on the one-party system⁵. This period was marked by an important event: the fourth conference of the National Liberation Front party. Its importance lies in the fact that it approved for the first time a

⁽¹⁾ Boujemaa Radwan, The Journalist's Identity in Algeria through Official Letters and Charters, from 1962 to 1998, Algerian Journal of Communication, semi-annual magazine, Issue 17, 1998, p. 16

⁽²⁾ ahlem bey. previously mentioned reference, p. 88

⁽³⁾ Ibid., p. 89

⁽⁴⁾ Hadadn Zuhair, a reference previously mentioned, p. 126.

⁽⁵⁾ Hakima Jaballah, a reference previously mentioned, pg.119



special regulation on media, which stressed the need to diversify the written press by issuing regional newspapers and specialized newspapers. It produced the publication of two evening newspapers, "El Massa" in Arabic and "Horizon 1985" in French, as well as the publication of some other newspapers, such as "Almassa Al-Maghribi" in French and Arabic concerning general culture and some magazines specializing in economics and sports. This period has also seen an attempt to make the media more objective and better develop it, but this attempt has been hampered by several obstacles, most notably guiding and controlling written media by the party and authority¹.

In terms of legal status, this period has been very active in clarifying the legal status of the media. In addition to the list issued by the fourth conference of the party, the media sector was supported by three legal provisions. The first of which was the media law approved in February 1982; the second was a report on the media policy adopted and intended to be embodied, which was issued in the summer of 1982. The third provision was a list of the work of the party's Central Committee at its seventh session in June 1982. These provisions clarify the legal status of the media. In addition, this new situation can be summarized according to Zouhir Ahdadin in the following major trends:

- ✚ Considering media as a strategic sector.

- ✚ Abolition of private ownership of the media.

- ✚ Consolidation of political guidance in the field of media and putting it at the disposal of the party.

- ✚ Giving a cultural character to media organizations rather than the industrial and commercial nature of these institutions

- ✚ Identifying the rights and duties of journalists more precisely than ever before, emphasizing that a journalist has the right to communicate with and access sources of information under the auspices of the authorities and to be protected in the course of his journalistic duties.

- ✚ Emphasizing that the media is a citizen's right to enjoy. This right means that the media notifies the citizen of everything that is going on in the country, whether negative or positive. However, this idea has not been applied on the ground because of several problems due to the circumstances at that time².

This period indeed witnessed the domination of the One Party System and its control over media, but this control began to be extinguished in 1988, when Algeria witnessed a deterioration of the economic, political, and social situation that was a major cause of the October 1988 protests, which constituted an important milestone in Algeria's history, especially in political and media terms³. Before moving on to the phase known to the Algerian press after 1988, it should be noted that "it was the ruling regime that supervised the press during the pre-1988 period in two ways": through the government, through the party.

Through the government: The press was supervised by the Ministry of Media. The newspapers included Echaab, Annasr, Eldjounhouria, and El Massa, in addition to two

(¹).Hadadn Zuhair, a reference previously mentioned, p. 138.

(²) Ibid., p. 139

(³) Hakima Jaballah, a reference previously mentioned, pg. 217



weekly newspapers Eladwaa and Almountakhab, all published in Arabic. Horizons, Moudjahid, and Algérie Actualité were weekly newspapers published in French.

Newspapers issued through the party and mass organizations: El moudjahid Al-Osboui and La révolution Africaine, which were considered to be the tongue of the National Liberation Front Party, in addition to the mass organizations newspapers including: “First November” and “Unity” for (Moudjahidini), (Algerian Youth Union), and (Algerian Women’s Union), as well as “Revolution and Peasant” for (Union of Algerian Peasants). In the absence of a daily newspaper for the ruling party, the latter took over a large number of the daily newspapers as the country’s sole ruler, the lack of rival parties. However, the situation began to change with the subsequent emergence of other political associations¹, along with ideological struggle and commitment to formal political discourse away from the professional aspect, which has adversely affected professional practice on the field. Many researchers, such as Ben Bouza, emphasize that not allowing a significant amount of freedom of expression, has made the daily presence of the national press representatives as the absent present. The news was dictated and written, and the truth was that there was no surveillance body. There were superior instructions and telephone orders. Everyone exercised self-censorship. This censorship did not touch only what the journalist wrote. It extended even to the filtering of readers’ letters. The press columns were closed to intellectual criticism, indicating that the provisions of the Media Law itself, such as the right of reply and correction, were not respected.

Under these circumstances, the journalist was presenting a routine and superficial media, free from analysis and cross-fertilization of sensitive and important issues of interest to the public. Consequently, the Algerian public deviated from the national press².

3. The professional performance of the Algerian journalist (a struggling journalist, a state aid, and a simple employee)

This stage also went through several stages as follows:

3.1. Professional performance of the Algerian journalist from 1989 to 1992

This phase was embodied in two phases:³

Preparatory phase for media pluralism from 1988 to 1990:

This stage is the prelude to media pluralism and symbolizes a new phase marked by a new and unique legislative text compared to previous official texts. It is the 1989 Constitution and then the Media Law 1990, that declared political and media pluralism and opened the way for democratic freedoms such as freedom of belief and opinion, thus opening the way for the private sector in the field of written journalism only.

1. Incarnation of multimedia force phase from April 1990 to 11 Jan 1992:

This phase has seen the growth of many newspapers in different forms and increased competition, especially between the public and private sectors. Public newspapers have

(¹) Ibid., p. 218

(²) guedem Jamila, Media Performance in Algeria between Freedom and Responsibility in Light of the Political and Economic Transformations from 1990_2015, Private Journalism as a Model, a thesis submitted for a PhD in Media Sciences, University of Algiers 3 (2016-2017), p. 177

(³) Fazoul Mohamed, Sociology of journalists working in the public and private written press in Algeria, PhD thesis in media and communication, University of Algiers 3, (2016_2017, p. 221



experienced a critical situation because of the departure of the oldest and most experienced journalists to the private sector. About 120 journalists moved from the state sector to the private sector, creating confusion in state newspapers due to the small number of journalists and the lack of possibilities to hire new journalists to compensate those who left. It also saw the decline of the state's monopoly on written journalism and many headlines, estimated at 103, have already emerged, but this situation has not continued much, with manifestations of a decline in pluralism such as the suspension of some newspapers for material reasons. Moreover, a kind of conflict has emerged between the political power and the private press. When Sid Ahmed Ghazali assumed the presidency of the government, this conflict took on a judicial character, reflecting the compliance of a large number of journalists before the courts due to the authority's attempt to pressure the press and critical content or the inability to cope with material pressures and production costs.

A new law has been enacted to lift the monopoly of power over the ownership of the media. For the first time, a new definition of journalist has been introduced, under which professional qualification of a journalist is a prerequisite for appointment and promotion. On the other hand, this law required the journalist to respect the ethics of the profession and gave him the right to reject any instruction that comes from outside the media institution. For the first time, laws and legislation have demonstrated their intention to show a speech about the journalist's career, having previously been a mere employee who, by virtue of this law, has been professionally responsible and not politically and ideologically¹.

3.2. Professional performance of the Algerian journalist from 1992 to 1999

This phase is very difficult due to instability and numerous political events, including the resignation of the President Chadli Bendjedid on 11 January 1992, the cancellation of the results of the legislative elections held on 26 December 1991, the declaration of emergency state on 9 February 1992, the assassination of Mohamed Boudiaf, President of the Supreme Council of State, and the issuance of a decision of 7 June 1994. The latter contained the authorities' decision to monopolize security news and prior censorship in the four state-owned printers, with a view to preventing the media from disseminating information related to the security situation and military operations².

The press sector was affected by various events, with Prime Minister Redha Malek dissolving the Supreme Council for Information in October 1993 to open the door for widespread harassment of the media practice. The first victim was the media pluralism that was frozen after the declaration of a state of emergency as a result of the freezing of the 1989 Constitution and the 1990 Information Law due to deteriorating security conditions, the spread of terrorism, and the rise in assassinations, crimes, and sabotage.

Al-Watan and Al-Hiwar newspapers were suspended for six months on November 16, 1994. An issue of Al-Khabar newspaper was cancelled on the same day. Three other newspapers were also suspended: Al-Omah and Al-Wajh Al-Akher for one month, as well as the weekly newspaper Al-Hurra for an indefinite period. White-page newspapers were also published on the front page as a protest against censorship and suspension. The year 1997 also saw the issuance of presidential instruction No. 17 of Liamine Zeroual on November 13,

⁽¹⁾ Ibid., p. 222

⁽²⁾ Hakima Jaballah, a reference previously mentioned, pg. 200



1997, which summarized some of the suggestions of media specialists and focused on the right to the media as well as freedom of expression and opinion in order to ease the authority's grip on media¹.

It is clear from the foregoing that the instability of the political situation was reflected in the media pluralism, which was largely relative and formal as pluralistic in terms of newspaper headlines, but the contents of the newspapers did not reflect this. Furthermore, Professor Ibrahim Al-Ibrahimi emphasized the official reversal of freedom of performance within a professional framework in his talk about the status of professional practice between 1992 and 1995.

Some journalists consider that the arguments of deteriorating security conditions have been used to restrict journalists' work. A private newspaper director pointed out that the deterioration in security and the political crisis created a mystery in the official speech about the press and the role of the journalist, returning to the speech about the country's supreme interest and not compromising national unity².

3.3. Professional performance of the Algerian journalist from 1999 to 2005

This phase was marked by the coming of President Abdelaziz Bouteflika to rule on 15 April 1999, who tried to restore security through the Civil Harmony Act of 2000 to put an end to the wave of violence that engulfed Algeria, and through the National Reconciliation Project of 2005. However, the President's speeches during this phase highlighted the tendencies of the regime toward media pluralism, where he asserted in his statements that television, radio, and the Algerian News Agency were state property and were open only to state officials. He also stated that these means cannot be used by those who criticize them and there is no honor for freedom of expression without responsibility based on the good of the community, its members, and the government, as well as sobriety and objectivity in the performance of the media function. This demonstrates the regime's approach to the media sector and support for political orientation while restricting freedom of expression in the name of preserving national sovereignty, with the explicit announcement of audiovisual closure and control over what the Algerian News Agency offers, as well as rejection of opposition public opinion.

This period experienced tension in the official speech between the country's top official and some private press headlines. President Abdelaziz Bouteflika, in his repeated criticisms of the general situation in the country, has not hesitated to accuse the press of adding fuel to the fire concerning the crisis that the country has known for more than a decade. That speech opened the door to large media campaigns by the previous newspapers against the president on the one hand and against the pro-President political and media environment on the other.

The president focused his speeches on the role of the press, its responsibilities, and the scope of exercising press freedom for the public and private sectors. As far as the public sector is concerned, the President has not hesitated to say that television, radio, and Algerian news agencies are the property of the state and are open only to state officials. The president also mentioned that the opposition can use public media when it comes to power and such means cannot be open to those who criticize the state. In one of his statements, the president

(¹) Ibid., p. 201

(²).Radwan Boujemaa, a reference previously mentioned, p.86

affirmed that he was responsible for the public media, and emphasized at the end of 1999 that he was the chief editor of the Algerian News Agency¹.

The press, as stated in the president's official speeches, is the sensitive feature of alerting the citizen in order to maintain his vigilance and not fuel his despair. In a message to journalists on World Press Freedom Day in 2005, the President added:

“if we review the important strides that Algeria has made since independence on the road to rationalizing its media and recruiting it to serve its development and progress, we find that media pluralism continues to demonstrate the effectiveness of society and its ability to provide favorable conditions for the improvement of the national press's media and educational role in all responsibilities for the benefit of citizens and the Algerian people.”

Through this definition of the journalism profession, the president's political preoccupation, based on the objective of integrating the press system into a particular political project, is well-reflected. Hence, the journalist is not required to be professional or to be an intermediary between those who govern and those who are governed, but he is called upon to shorten his profession in what the president called alerting the citizen and maintaining his vigilance and recruiting him to serve development².

3.4. Professional performance of the Algerian journalist from 2005 to 2019

The most important feature of this phase was the referendum on the National Reconciliation Project of 29 September 2005, which reviewed the political and media map concerning the modification of authority's relationship with the press. This was further reflected in President Bouteflika's message to journalists on World Press Freedom Day 2005 by saying that when we look back at the significant steps Algeria has taken since independence to rationalize its media, we see that media pluralism continues to demonstrate society's effectiveness and ability to provide favorable conditions for the improvement of the national press's media.

The 2007 estimate of the National Observatory for Human Rights also indicated that the media during President Bouteflika's reign had witnessed a salient improvement based on his speech, which confirmed that democracy had no place without freedom of expression and independence of the press.

This was reflected in the development of purchasing newspapers published in Arabic and regional languages, thus restoring some ideological and linguistic balance to the media situation. This effect was manifested in the rise in the number of newspapers according to a survey published in March 2010 conducted by Immar to 79 daily newspapers, mostly public, some specialized in sports, economy, and religion, as well as 68 weekly newspapers, and 332 periodic headlines. It should be noted that Arabic-language newspapers have taken the lead in terms of the acquisition. All this reflects the change in the media discourse of the authority towards the written press only, which manifested in the development of newspapers in terms of purchase and number of headlines. However, pressures and restrictions remained accompanying the work of the journalist, which reflects the contradiction between the legal texts and reality. This resulted in the emergence of a new form of journalist in the eye of the

¹) Hakima Jaballah, a reference previously mentioned, pg. 209

²).Radwan Boujemaa, a reference previously mentioned, p. 26.



state, the employee, because his role is to be a means in the hands of the government to mobilize socially around the idea of democracy and media pluralism¹.

3.5. Professional performance of the Algerian journalist from 2019 to this day

This period witnessed President Abdelmadjid Tebboune taking office where the situation of the journalist deteriorated from several angles:

First, a disastrous situation inside the editorial halls. The media have censored all the news of the authority because they fear the loss of publicity.

Second, with the lack of freedom, the journalist finds himself subject to the practice of propaganda by directing his writings and coverage of what the authority sees.

Third, the journalist's relationship with the surrounding environment. The journalist suffers a lot in society, for example seeing a journalist in the popular movement makes everyone attack him and hold him responsible for the decline of freedom of expression and the press because the owner of the means does not go down the street.

Fourth, the failure to respect the provisions of the Constitution by the Authority. It prohibits the coverage of the popular movement despite guaranteeing the right to information, not to mention the strict administrative control of the Ministry of Communication, which responds to any order inconsistent with the Authority's view².

Conclusion:

From 1989 to 1992, for the first time since independence, the Authority spoke through its speeches that the journalist is a professional and has to have the ethics of the media³. From 1992 to the present day, we note this fluctuation in the official speech, which saw the journalist as a struggler and now a helper of the state because he is a simple employee⁴. Limiting the functions of the journalist in the struggle, mobilization, and recruitment has had a profound impact on the quality of the press per se. The news press has left its place to the press of opinion, commentary, and data to weaken the level of the press and the character of the journalist, which increases the likelihood that the journalist will be subjected to the whims of officials⁵.

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Kirat Mohamed *Freedom of the Press in Light of Political Pluralism in Algeria*, Damascus University Journal, Volume 19, Issue 4, University of Sharjah, (2003),

(¹) An interview with the journalist of Al-Moasher newspaper, Mr. Awati Hossam El-Din, on September 12, 2018, at 13:54

(²) Interview with Al-Shaab newspaper journalist, Mr. Bougarara Hakim, on March 2, 2021 at 10 am

(³) Radwan Boujemaa, a reference previously mentioned, p. 25.

(⁴) Kirat Mohamed *Freedom of the Press in Light of Political Pluralism in Algeria*, Damascus University Journal, Volume 19, Issue 4, University of Sharjah, (2003),

(⁵) An interview with the journalist of Al-Moasher newspaper, Mr. Awati Hossam El-Din, on September 12, 2018, at 13:54



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Interview with Al-Shaab newspaper journalist, Mr. Bougarara Hakim, on March 2, 2021 at 10 am

