


Television Reporter: Balancing the Protection of Rights and Professional Practice Regulations in Algerian Law

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Abstract:

The profession of television reporting is one of the most sensitive in the media field, as it combines the transmission of news to serve the public interest with adherence to laws and professional values. This study aims to highlight the rights of the television reporters and the legal protections granted to them, in contrast to the legal, ethical, and regulatory restrictions that define the scope of their work. It has been found that the reporters enjoy considerable protection enabling them to perform their duties; however, this protection is not absolute, as it is met with legislative and professional constraints that ensure a balance between media freedom and the protection of public order and individual rights. This reflects the dual nature of the reporters' position as both conveyors of truth and responsible parties for the consequences of their professional practice.

Keywords: television reporter; employment contract; media institution; journalist's rights; professional restrictions.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Journalism is one of the fundamental pillars of modern society, serving as an effective tool for conveying information, analyzing events, and monitoring the reality of society in all its manifestations. This contributes to shaping public opinion and promoting a culture of accountability and transparency. With the tremendous development in communication means and media technology, journalists have become able to access information from multiple sources more quickly and accurately, enabling them to play a pivotal role in guiding public discourse and enhancing societal dialogue on national and international issues.

In this context, the television correspondent stands out as the link between the event and the audience. They are responsible for delivering news and information either from the field or from regional and international offices via television channels. The tasks of the television correspondent are characterized by sensitivity, accuracy, and speed, especially when covering events in conflict zones or emergency incidents, where they face various physical and moral risks. The correspondent also bears a dual responsibility: to convey facts and accurate information precisely while simultaneously respecting professional ethics and the legal restrictions governing journalistic practice.

Therefore, the law guarantees the television correspondent a set of rights, the most prominent of which include: protection from physical and moral violence and ensuring their safety while performing their work; the right to professional confidentiality; and the right to access information within the legal framework. These rights were not granted arbitrarily but were established to ensure the correspondent's ability to perform their duties under safe conditions, especially given the dangers of fieldwork, while maintaining the independence of the press and its freedom to report events.

Conversely, the profession imposes a set of professional constraints on the television reporter, whether legal, ethical, or regulatory, aimed at organizing their work and ensuring their professional responsibility. These constraints include adherence to objectivity, avoidance of bias, verification

of information accuracy before publication, respect for individuals' privacy, and commitment to the principles of transparency and integrity in gathering and conveying news... Thus, the task of the television reporter becomes a dual challenge: protecting their legal rights in practicing the profession, and adhering to the professional constraints that guarantee the responsibility of the profession and the reputation of the media institution they work for.

From here arises the main issue of this study, which can be formulated as follows:

How does the Algerian legislator achieve a balance between the legal protection of the television reporter's rights and the professional constraints imposed on their activity to ensure professional responsibility?

To answer this issue, the study relies on two main approaches: the descriptive approach by presenting the definition of the television reporter and clarifying their characteristics and types, and the analytical approach by analyzing the relevant legal texts to assess their adequacy in providing protection for the television reporter on one hand, and regulating their professional activity on the other, seeking to reveal points of balance or imbalance between protection and constraints.

Accordingly, this study is divided into two sections: the first titled "Legal Protection of the Television Reporter's Rights," and the second concerning "Professional Constraints Imposed on the Television Reporter's Activity".

The first subtitle opens with an introduction that presents the specific problem under study and describes the research strategy. The first subtitle opens with an introduction that presents the specific problem under study and describes the research strategy.

2. Legal Protection of the Rights of the Television Correspondent

The television correspondent is a pivotal element in the media process, as they gather news and transmit it directly from the scenes of events to the audience, thereby fulfilling the media's role in educating public opinion and contributing to transparency and accountability. Due to the nature of their work, which sometimes requires being in dynamic fields under dangerous

conditions, it has become necessary to clarify the concept of the television correspondent, then address the legal rights guaranteed to them by the legislator to ensure the safe and effective performance of their media mission.

2.1 The Concept of the Television Correspondent

The television correspondent is considered the main figure in the process of transmitting news and information from the heart of the event to the audience, as they represent a direct media interface. The nature of their fieldwork and their specific professional requirements necessitate understanding their definition and characteristics, followed by clarifying their types.

2.1.1 Definition and Characteristics of the Television Correspondent

The television correspondent represents the backbone of field media work, as they transmit events and information directly from their locations to the audience via the screen. To understand their role and rights, it is first essential to address their definition, and then review the characteristics that distinguish them from other categories of journalists.

2.1.1.1 Definition of the Television Correspondent

A television correspondent can be defined as: "the journalist employed by a TV channel to cover local and national events in a specific geographical area, providing the channel with all news, information, and statements in both audio and video, assisted by a crew consisting of at least a cameraman, a sound recorder, and a lighting expert"¹. Alternatively, they are described as someone who: "knows how to dig for information regardless of its source, whether hidden or obscure"², reflecting their skills in precise investigation and research to ensure the live and reliable transmission of news to viewers through the screen.

Some also view the television correspondent as: "the main nerve in uncovering the news and explaining it in front of the camera, in a report format that presents the event's details moment by moment, thereby contributing to clarifying the news being delivered either by the news anchor or the host of an analytical news program"³.

A correspondent is also defined as the journalist entrusted by the media institution (television) to cover events in a specific area or city, tasked with gathering news and information and sending them to the institution's editorial management within the specified time⁴. Philippe Gaillard defines him as: "the ear and eye for the rest of the world that revolves around him."⁵

As for the Algerian legislator, no specific definition was provided for the journalist correspondent in general, nor the television correspondent in particular, in Organic Law No. 23-14 of 2023 related to media⁶. However, it is considered that a "permanent correspondent" is regarded as a professional journalist if he practices journalistic activity, adopts this activity as his regular profession and main source of income, holds the necessary certificate and experience as specified in Article 17 of this law, and is bound by an employment contract with a media outlet. Thus, it is clear that the Algerian legislator excluded from this ruling both the contracted correspondent and the freelance correspondent who is paid for each separate report or assignment.⁷

2.1.1.2 Characteristics of the Television Correspondent

The television correspondent is a central figure in transmitting events from the heart of the field to the viewer. This profession requires a set of professional and technical characteristics and skills that enable the correspondent to perform their duties with high efficiency, ensuring the accurate and objective transmission of news and facts. These include:

- **Flexibility and adaptability to the field:** The television correspondent is distinguished by a high ability to adapt to various field environments, whether in conflict zones, disaster areas, or sudden events. This flexibility enables them to handle pressure and rapid changes efficiently, ensuring the collection and transmission of information to the viewer accurately and quickly.

- **Proficiency in language and the art of delivery:** The correspondent possesses the skill of clear and precise expression in front of the camera, using an appropriate tone of voice and supportive body language to attract the audience's attention. Mastery of language and delivery contributes to

conveying the media message professionally and effectively, enhancing their credibility before the viewers.⁸

- **Ability to gather and verify information:** The correspondent does not merely relay what they see but relies on field research and investigation to verify the accuracy of information before broadcasting it. This skill ensures avoiding misleading news and maintaining professional standards such as objectivity and balance, using both traditional and digital verification methods.

- **Commitment to ethical and professional standards:** The correspondent adheres strictly to professional ethics, such as respecting the truth, protecting source confidentiality, and avoiding bias or misinformation. They also ensure presenting different viewpoints fairly, committed to accuracy, neutrality, and integrity in all their reports.⁹

- **Speed in delivering news:** The television reporter must be present at the scene and broadcast the information as soon as it occurs. This characteristic represents a decisive competitive element among TV channels striving for breaking news.¹⁰ However, speed does not mean haste; it requires accuracy in conveying information while adhering to professional standards.

- **Ability to work under pressure:** The television reporter works in environments that may be dangerous, crowded, or tense, which requires maintaining composure and making quick decisions. This ability enables them to handle emergency events without compromising the quality of the media content, as success in the field depends on how well they manage the pressures of the moment.

- **Effective communication with the audience:** The television reporter has the ability to influence the audience through voice, image, and body language, creating a direct and lively connection with the viewer. This communication goes beyond written texts, allowing the transmission of emotions and feelings related to the event, thus making the reporter a living bridge between the event and the audience.

- **Adapting to technological developments:** The rapid advancement in media technology requires the television reporter to be proficient in modern filming methods, live broadcasting techniques, and the use of digital

platforms for communication. This technical adaptation enhances their ability to compete and stay up-to-date with the demands of the media market.

2.1.2 Types of Television Reporters

Television reporters can be classified according to several main criteria, the most important of which are the workplace, the nature of the remuneration, and the work system¹¹, which allows for understanding the differences in their rights and duties within the Algerian legal framework.

2.1.2.1 According to the Workplace

The nature of a television reporter's tasks varies depending on the place where they work. The geographical coverage location directly affects the type of news they convey and the nature of the challenges they face.

- **Local Reporter:** A field journalist appointed by the channel to cover news and events within a specific geographic area inside the country, such as a particular city or province. They focus on monitoring local issues and conveying them to viewers, emphasizing events that directly affect the lives of the residents of that area.

- **Foreign Correspondent:** A journalist appointed by the media institution to cover events outside the country, with the aim of gathering news, preparing reports, and broadcasting them live to viewers. This type of reporter contributes to providing a vivid and realistic picture of global events, taking into account the speed and quality of transmission. Typically, the foreign correspondent's tasks are limited to capitals and important international sites¹².

- **The Roving Correspondent:** This is a journalist appointed by the media organization to cover several geographically close countries. They are based in one capital city as their main headquarters and move between other countries according to a schedule or developments in events. This type aims to reduce the costs of employing a permanent correspondent in each country while ensuring comprehensive coverage. An example of this is assigning one correspondent to cover the three Scandinavian countries or the Gulf Cooperation Council countries¹³.

- **The Special Correspondent (Mission Correspondent):** This is a journalist assigned by the television organization to cover a specific event or issue at a particular time and place. This type of correspondent aims to cover exceptional or important events that cannot be covered by internal or roving correspondents, providing detailed reports on international conferences, natural disasters, conflicts, or significant events live through bulletins or news programs¹⁴.

2.1.2.2 According to the Nature of Compensation and Work System

Television correspondents are classified according to the nature of their compensation and work system, considering these as two fundamental criteria that determine the nature of their relationship with the media institution. This classification allows distinguishing forms of employment and the rights arising from them by specifying the types of correspondents according to each case.

- **Permanent Television Correspondent:** This correspondent is bound by a permanent employment contract with the television channel and receives a fixed monthly salary, in addition to benefiting from all legally established rights, such as social security, insurance, and coverage in hazardous areas. This correspondent is committed to regularly covering news and programs, is considered part of the institution's permanent staff, and is regarded as a professional journalist under the previously mentioned conditions.

- **Piecework Television Correspondent:** This correspondent is paid for each separate report or task, without a permanent contract linking them to the channel. Their rights are limited compared to the permanent correspondent and are subject to the terms of agreement for each task, taking into account the provisions of Article 24 of Law 23-14, which regulates media work contracts. This type of correspondent is often relied upon for seasonal coverage or when special content is needed.

- **Freelance Television Correspondent:** This correspondent works independently and deals with several channels or media outlets simultaneously, without a permanent commitment to any one of them. Their dealings are subject to contractual terms that vary from one institution to

another. They are usually employed for specialized coverage or in areas where permanent correspondents are not available.

2.2 Legally Established Rights of the Television Reporter

The Algerian legislator, through Law 23-14 related to media, recognizes a set of fundamental rights for the television reporter. These rights can be divided into protection and occupational safety rights, which ensure a safe working environment and guarantee physical and moral safety, and professional and moral rights, which guarantee access to information, the use of their creative output, and the protection of their professional secrets.

2.2.1 Protection and Occupational Safety Rights

Protecting the television reporter, especially during the performance of field duties, is one of the fundamental guarantees recognized by national legislation and international standards for press freedom. The necessity of providing a safe working environment for journalists has been established to ensure they can carry out their tasks without fear of threats or harm to their physical and moral safety. The most important rights related to protection and occupational safety can be highlighted as follows:

2.2.1.1 The Right to Physical and Moral Safety During the Practice of Journalism

Protection from all forms of verbal and physical assaults is one of the most important guarantees established by the Algerian legislator for the benefit of journalists. Article 25 of Law No. 23-14 stipulates that journalists enjoy legal protection against violence, insult, defamation, or threats during or in connection with the practice of their profession. This provision is particularly significant for television correspondents, who are at the forefront of events and live coverage, making them more vulnerable to attacks either from angry crowds during protests and demonstrations, from those affected by investigative reports they may reveal, or even while covering disaster areas where chaos and insecurity prevail. The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) regularly highlights various violations faced by reporters worldwide. While performing their duties, they may encounter multiple forms of assault, whether serious physical attacks, direct threats,

restrictions on freedom of movement, confiscation of journalistic equipment, or other practices that hinder the fulfillment of their media mission.¹⁵

2.2.1.2 The Right to Insurance Guarantees in Hazardous Areas

Article 30 of Law 23-14 establishes a special guarantee for journalists working in high-risk environments. It obliges every media outlet to subscribe to life insurance for every journalist it sends to war zones, conflict areas, epidemic and natural disaster hotspots, or any other area that may endanger their life. This applies to assignments covering clashes, security operations, floods, fires, epidemics, and similar situations.

Because the television correspondent is present at the heart of the field, openly identifiable by their identity, audiovisual equipment, and team, the likelihood of being targeted is greater than that of other journalists. Therefore, the media institution's commitment to them should not be merely formal but must include actual and effective insurance before every assignment, with the journalist being informed in advance about the nature of the mission (its duration, scope, beneficiaries, and emergency reporting procedures). Although the legal text explicitly addresses life insurance, the requirements of sound professional practice imply that the insurance should also cover protections appropriate to the nature of field risks, such as total or partial disability, emergency medical expenses, and medical evacuation. Nevertheless, the minimum requirement mandated by law is life insurance for every assignment.

This obligation corresponds to an explicit right for the journalist: if they do not benefit from the required insurance, they have the right to refuse to travel without this being considered a "professional fault" and without facing any form of penalty. This protection constitutes a practical guarantee for the television correspondent, shielding them from any pressure the institution might exert to force them to perform the mission without insurance¹⁶. It is noteworthy that the Algerian legislator did not limit itself to granting this right to the journalist but reinforced it with a clear deterrent mechanism through Article 51 of Law No. 23-14, which imposes a financial penalty ranging from 500,000 DZD to 1,000,000 DZD on any media outlet that fails to subscribe to the prescribed insurance.

2.2.2 Professional secrecy and the right of access to information and its sources

The right to access information sources is considered the cornerstone of freedom of journalistic practice.¹⁷ The Algerian legislator, in the Organic Law on Information, has given special attention to balancing the journalist's freedom to access information with the protection of the state's higher interests and individual rights. In this context, Article 27 of Law 23-14 recognizes professional secrecy as a right granted to journalists, which constitutes a fundamental guarantee for the independence of the profession. This especially grants television correspondents the ability to build trust with their sources without fear of being legally compelled to disclose them. However, this right cannot be understood as absolute; rather, it is governed by legal and ethical controls related to the nature of the information itself.

The second guarantee is embodied in Article 32 of Law 23-14, which obliges public bodies and institutions to enable journalists to access the information available to them, considering that this right reinforces the principle of transparency and allows the media to perform its oversight function.

However, the legislator was keen in Article 33 of the same law to restrict this right when it concerns information that may affect national defense secrecy, state security, sovereignty, and national and territorial unity. This requires high professional vigilance and does not permit the journalist to publish everything obtained from journalistic material, as there is information of a special nature that necessitates cautious handling, as will be explained further.

3. Professional Restrictions Imposed on the Activity of the Television Correspondent

The television correspondent carries out their activity within a legal and ethical framework that imposes a set of restrictions. The purpose of these restrictions is not to limit freedom of the media per se, but to achieve a balance between the right to information on one hand, and the protection of public interest, respect for public order, and safeguarding individual rights

on the other. These restrictions are divided into legal, ethical, and regulatory categories. This will be explained as follows:

3.1 Legal Restrictions on the Activity of the Television Correspondent

The television correspondent practices their activity within a defined legal framework, where legislation seeks to guarantee freedom of the media on one hand, and protect public order and individual rights on the other. To achieve this balance, the legislator has imposed legal restrictions related to media content, the rights of others, and public order.

3.1.1 Restrictions Related to Media Content

While performing their duties, the television correspondent is subject to a set of legal restrictions aimed at regulating media content and ensuring its accuracy and objectivity. These restrictions focus on verifying the truthfulness of information and refraining from publishing misleading or false content.

3.1.1.1 Duty to Verify News and Sources

Article 20 of Law No. 23-14 mandates that journalists, including television correspondents, verify the accuracy and credibility of information before publishing or broadcasting it.¹⁸ This obligation gains heightened importance in field television work, as correspondents are often at the heart of events, delivering news live to the audience. This makes any media error quickly spread and directly influence public opinion, imposing a dual responsibility on the correspondent: a legal obligation to verify information and a professional duty to maintain the credibility of the media outlet. This includes the necessity to rely on trustworthy sources, conduct field interviews when possible, and ensure the accuracy of filmed scenes, since television images are often considered evidence of the event. Adhering to news verification helps protect the correspondent from legal prosecutions and ethical accountability for any material or moral harm caused to individuals or institutions.

3.1.1.2 Refraining from Publishing Misleading or Fabricated Information

Article 35 of Law 23-14 stipulates that journalists are obligated to refrain from publishing or broadcasting false or biased news. This

obligation holds particular significance for television reporters working in the field, as any fabricated or misleading news broadcast with audio and visuals can cause immediate legal and social consequences, including damaging the reputation of individuals or institutions and causing public unrest. Accordingly, the reporter bears the responsibility of verifying information before broadcasting it, distinguishing between accurate news and distorted or biased information, and ensuring respect for the rights of those involved in the events. Moreover, refraining from publishing misleading information helps to enhance public trust in the media and highlights high professionalism in coverage, especially when dealing with sensitive events or conflict zones.

3.1.2 Restrictions Related to the Rights of Individuals and Public Order

In addition to obligations related to media content, television reporters face other restrictions derived from the protection of others' rights and the preservation of public order. Although journalists' freedom is legally guaranteed, it is not absolute; it must be balanced with the rights of individuals and the public values and interests of society.

3.1.2.1 Restrictions Related to Individuals' Rights

Several fundamental rights of individuals are affected by the activities of television correspondents, as the news and reports they broadcast serve as raw material for public opinion, which may have negative effects on individuals if the limits of legality are exceeded. Foremost among these rights is the right to honor and reputation, as the publication of false information can harm individuals' dignity, tarnish their reputation, or affect the economic and legal standing of legal entities. The "right to privacy" is also impacted, as journalists are prohibited from revealing personal or sensitive details without the consent of the owners.¹⁹ Additionally, the "right to personal security" is involved, since publishing the identity or whereabouts of certain individuals may pose a direct threat to them. To protect these rights, Law 23-14 introduced a set of regulations combining preventive prohibition, punitive sanctions, and corrective guarantees.

On one hand, Article 33 restricts the right to access information when it concerns individuals' private rights or the legitimate interests of institutions, obliging correspondents to ensure that their reports do not disclose harmful data. Article 35 emphasizes the prohibition of publishing or broadcasting any material that could endanger individuals, violate children's rights, harm the honor and dignity of women, infringe on individuals' privacy, or undermine the presumption of innocence, thereby delineating clear boundaries for media activity. Article 46 adds a deterrent aspect by imposing substantial fines ranging from 100,000 DZD to 500,000 DZD on any journalist or correspondent who broadcasts news affecting private life or honor.

Secondly, the legislator reinforced these restrictions with the mechanism of the right of reply and correction, which constitutes a guarantee balancing freedom of the media and the protection of individuals. Article 37 guarantees the right of every natural or legal person subjected to false allegations affecting their honor or reputation to exercise the right of reply. Article 38 obliges media outlets to publish or broadcast this reply or correction through the same media channel, ensuring equality in impact. Finally, Article 49 supports this rule with a financial penalty in the form of a fine ranging from 100,000 DZD to 500,000 DZD imposed on any media outlet that refuses to publish the reply or correction within the legal deadlines, thus turning this right into an actual obligation that cannot be circumvented.

3.1.2.2 Restrictions related to public order and security

The protection of public order and security in its various forms is considered one of the fundamental pillars that imposed specific restrictions on television correspondents and other journalists in exercising the right to access and publish information. Media freedom cannot extend to anything that threatens the stability of the state or harms its supreme interests, as confirmed by several articles of the Organic Media Law.

Article 33 of Law 23-04 restricts the journalist's right to access the source of information when it concerns national defense secrets, or anything that may harm state security, national sovereignty, or national and territorial

unity, as well as the confidentiality of preliminary and judicial investigations. Consequently, the television correspondent remains legally and ethically required to exercise caution when dealing with news of a security or judicial nature, as merely publishing sensitive information can expose them to legal liability and may harm a higher public interest that outweighs the public's right to know.

Article 46 added a clear repressive dimension, stipulating financial penalties ranging from 100,000 DZD to 500,000 DZD for anyone who publishes or broadcasts through a media outlet information related to the confidentiality of preliminary or judicial investigations, the content of secret deliberations of judicial bodies, or cases related to private life and personal honor. This article is of utmost importance for the television reporter, who often pursues breaking news related to criminal or hot political cases, finding themselves facing the temptation of journalistic scoops versus the risks of criminal prosecution.

In turn, Article 47 imposes another restriction, which consists of prohibiting the publication of images, drawings, or explanatory data that reenact the circumstances of certain felonies or misdemeanors stipulated in the Penal Code. The purpose of this prohibition is to protect public order from any negative impact that may result from reenacting crimes, whether in terms of causing panic, influencing public opinion, or even indirectly encouraging imitation of the criminal act. For the television reporter, compliance here requires limiting the presentation of the news to an abstract form free of any visual representation that could be understood as imitation or reenactment of the crime.

As for Article 48, it is related to the protection of public order at the international level, criminalizing insults made through a media outlet against foreign state leaders or members of diplomatic missions accredited to Algeria. Offending this category is not merely a verbal assault but a direct threat to diplomatic relations and the external security of the state. This places the television reporter under double responsibility when covering events or statements related to foreign personalities, as they must

observe the provisions of diplomatic immunity and the established rules in international law.

3.2 Ethical and Regulatory Constraints on the Activity of the Television Reporter

In addition to legal constraints, the television reporter faces ethical obligations imposed by the values associated with the profession, such as respect for truth and human dignity. They are also subject to regulatory constraints set by media institutions and competent authorities to regulate practice and ensure its balance with the public interest.

3.2.1 Ethical Constraints

The ethical constraints to which the television reporter is subject do not derive their binding force from written legal texts but stem from professional conscience and established norms in the media field. These ethical values represent internal controls that are equally important as legal oversight, as they are the true guarantee of the credibility of media work and its connection to serving the public interest.

3.2.1.1 Values of Truthfulness, Neutrality, and Integrity

Truthfulness is the fundamental pillar of the media's mission. The television reporter is responsible for conveying events as they occurred, without distortion or exaggeration. If the reporter breaches the duty of truthfulness, the media loses its primary function as a means to inform the public of the truth.²⁰ Neutrality is embodied in the reporter's abstention from political, ideological, or personal bias while covering events, limiting themselves to presenting different viewpoints without directing the audience toward a specific stance. For example, when covering an election event, the reporter must objectively present the statements of all candidates without showing preference for any of them or using language that suggests bias. Integrity means avoiding anything that could affect the reporter's independence, such as accepting gifts, money, or privileges from the entities whose activities they cover.²¹

3.2.1.2 Sense of Responsibility and Respect for Human Dignity

The television correspondent does not merely transmit images or news; rather, they present scenes that may influence public opinion and touch

upon the sensitivity of the audience. Therefore, they bear a dual responsibility: a professional responsibility that requires verifying the accuracy of news through source confirmation, and an ethical responsibility manifested in respecting individuals' privacy and dignity. For example, it is not permissible to broadcast images of accident or disaster victims in humiliating or painful situations, nor to exploit the tears of grieving families to achieve higher viewership ratings. An example of this occurred in the passenger bus accident that veered off course on August 15, 2025, in Oued El Harrach, where the National Independent Authority for Audiovisual Communication announced a 48-hour suspension of broadcasts on several channels due to severe professional violations. These violations included correspondents from these channels interrogating injured individuals inside emergency and intensive care facilities, pursuing victims' families during moments of shock, broadcasting shocking images and sounds without prior warning, and seeking to maximize engagement metrics on social media platforms at the expense of citizens' dignity and privacy.²² If a correspondent is covering a traffic accident, they must limit themselves to presenting essential information and general scene images, without focusing on victims' bodies or the features of the injured in ways that compromise their dignity.

3.2.1.3 Intellectual Honesty and Commitment to Social Values

Intellectual honesty means that the correspondent is obligated to attribute media materials to their original owners and not to appropriate the efforts of other journalists or news agencies. Additionally, the transmission of information must be accurate without omission or alteration that would change its content. As for social values, the correspondent must refrain from publishing materials or images that violate public order, offend decency, or promote violence and hatred, in order to preserve the educational nature of the media and its role in building sound social awareness. When preparing a report on a negative social phenomenon (such as drugs or violence), the correspondent should highlight the dimensions and causes of the phenomenon without presenting shocking scenes or

justifying deviant behaviors, but rather emphasizing solutions and preventive approaches.

3.2.2 Regulatory Constraints

It is not enough for the television correspondent to be subject only to legal and ethical restrictions; the nature of media practice imposes a set of regulatory constraints established by media institutions and regulatory bodies. These aim to ensure professional work, coordinate it with the policies of the media institution, and prevent lapses that could affect the objectivity of the news or harm the interests of the public. These constraints appear in several practical forms that represent the organizational framework for the correspondent's work, the most important of which are:

3.2.2.1 Internal Oversight of Media Institutions

Television channels operate within a specific editorial policy adhered to by all reporters, who are prohibited from publishing news or reports that contradict the institution's editorial line or harm its economic and political interests. For the television reporter, this restriction means that their work is subject to review by the editorial board before broadcasting. The wording of their report may be modified or even rejected, regardless of the news' credibility. This limits their individual freedom in selecting media content but ensures consistency between the institution's line and the messages directed to the audience.

3.2.2.2 Media Regulatory Authorities' Oversight

In addition to internal censorship, the reporter faces restrictions imposed by official bodies such as the Independent National Authority for Audiovisual Regulation in Algeria, which oversees television channels' compliance with public service principles, competition rules, and the protection of national constants or public order. For the television reporter, violating these rules may not only result in penalties for the institution but also expose them to direct professional or legal responsibility. Therefore, they are required to observe these boundaries while preparing their field reports.

3.2.2.3 Professional Obligations Related to the Fieldwork Environment

Public authorities regulate the work of field reporters through administrative and organizational procedures, such as the necessity of obtaining an accreditation card to conduct official coverage, respecting coverage rules in sensitive locations, and adhering to occupational safety procedures imposed by the institution or the state. Although these obligations are regulatory, they constitute a daily constraint on the television reporter, sometimes preventing them from freely accessing event sites or obliging them to work under specific conditions that restrict their independence in coverage.

4. CONCLUSION

This research aimed to study the position of the television correspondent between their legally guaranteed rights on one hand, and the professional restrictions imposed on their activity on the other, in order to determine how the Algerian legislator achieves a balance between protection and responsibility. We concluded that the Algerian legislator adopted a dual approach, based on establishing legal guarantees that protect the correspondent in performing their duties, while at the same time imposing legal, ethical, and regulatory restrictions that limit any abuse or misuse of freedom of the media. Thus, a balance is achieved between protecting the profession and preserving public order.

Through this study, we reached the following conclusions :

- The Algerian legislator enshrined a set of rights for the television correspondent, recognizing their freedom of expression, the right to access information, and benefiting from legal protection while performing their duties, reflecting the state's belief in the vital role of the media.
- Alongside the legally enshrined rights, there are strict legal restrictions, the most important of which are the commitment to truthfulness of the news, respect for private life, preservation of public order and public morals. These limit the abuse of media freedom and place the television correspondent before a delicate balance between the demands of the media and the requirements of the law.

- Ethical restrictions represent an extension of the legal framework, as the professional code of ethics obliges the correspondent to uphold integrity and objectivity and to avoid bias, which enhances their credibility and strengthens their relationship with the audience.
- Regulatory restrictions constitute a practical mechanism to control media practice, through the accreditation system, licensing of activity, and adherence to the internal regulations of media institutions, ensuring the quality and professionalism of the media message.
- The balance that the legislator sought to achieve between legal protection and imposed restrictions remains relative, as correspondents still face field risks and direct assaults amid limited effective and practical protection mechanisms.

Therefore, we can offer the following recommendations:

- Enhance field protection for correspondents, especially during coverage of exceptional events such as demonstrations or conflicts, through specific provisions and clear enforcement mechanisms.
- Enact explicit legal texts regulating the status of television correspondents as a distinct professional category, rather than merely including them under the general provisions for journalists.
- Strengthen ongoing training for correspondents in professional ethics and media regulations to ensure conscious and responsible practice.
- Establish independent monitoring mechanisms to protect correspondents and monitor violations they face, instead of leaving the matter solely to media institutions or official authorities.
- Encourage a balance between freedom and responsibility by promoting a new media culture that makes respect for ethical and societal values an integral part of professional practice, not just an external constraint.

5. Endnotes

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