

The Algerian Experience in Enhancing Press Organization and Upholding Ethical Standards

Dr. Bekkaddouri Azzedine

Tahri Mohamed University - Bechar (Algeria), azzedine.bekkaddouri@univ-bechar.dz

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Abstract:

Algeria's media sector aims to uphold journalistic ethics, focusing on access to news sources and accurate information. This will ensure quality public service and uphold codes of professional honor, protecting journalists from government censorship. The ethics of the written press in Algeria are similar to those in the Arab region, as the press has relinquished its news function and faces future challenges. This requires reconsideration of calculations and agendas to maintain the balance of power between media and communication in the Arab world.

Keywords: Journalism ethics; regulatory mechanisms print journalism; social responsibility of the media.

Dr. Bekkaddouri Azzedine

1. INTRODUCTION :

The Algerian experience in organizing and lecturing the media sector seems different and somewhat ambiguous compared to various experiences in the world. While the authorities emphasize the importance of the media and its strategic role in achieving development and progress, the latter have not made clear efforts to organize and moralize this profession and ensure the appropriate conditions for journalists to play their actual role.

Algeria saw few attempts to organize the media industry from the establishment of the Supreme Council for Communication, the first body dedicated to media regulation, in 1984, until the creation of the Audiovisual Regulatory Authority in compliance with Media Law 12-07. The journalists' situation and the profession as a whole experienced a severe ethical and

professional degradation, and both the profession and society were negatively impacted by such a circumstance.

In this context, we observe that the character and caliber of the media industry's regulatory bodies are not only influenced by the political and ideological climate of the nation but also by the development of the Algerian journalists' trade union movement, which played a significant role in the creation of numerous industry-wide regulatory frameworks, including the 2000 Code of Professional Ethics and the High Council of Professional Ethics, which was founded at the journalists' initiative.

Accordingly, all the milestones in the media sector in Algeria are of great importance, as they form part of the history of the Algerian media and are also part of the struggle and trade union movement for the ethicalization of media practice and the preservation of media independence and freedom of opinion and expression. On this basis, our paper poses the following question:

What are the most important milestones that define the Algerian experience in the field of media regulation and ethics?

First: Conceptual network:

1-1: -The concept of media practice ethics:

It is also known as “a document that includes a set of principles, values, behaviors, and orientations that a group of journalists have agreed to adhere to to govern their behavior while practicing the profession of journalism in all its written, visual, and audio specializations, in addition to new media” (Saleh Masharqa, 2017, p. 10).

It is also known as “the tasks that the press must undertake to perform before society in various political, economic, social, and cultural fields, provided that the press has real freedom that makes it accountable before reason, logic, law, public opinion, the public interest, and religion (Abdelaziz Al-Sharif, 2017, p. 21).

1-2: An overview of journalistic ethics:

Charters of honor and professional ethics are complementary to the rights and guarantees guaranteed to communicators, as they reflect and define the rights and guarantees that must be provided to society or the environment that the communication process itself touches in the face of communicators. These charters crystallize the social and moral responsibilities of media professionals towards the society in which they work (Al-Jamal, 2001, p. 65).

It is also a system of principles and standards to guide the behavior of media professionals during their work in covering events and guiding them to make decisions that are consistent with the public function of media institutions and their role in society, and ensuring the fulfillment of the public's rights to knowledge and managing free discussion, while minimizing to the greatest extent the harm that could be caused to the public, individuals, or sources, and ensuring the freedom and dignity of the profession and the integrity of journalists (Al-Dulaimi, 2019, p. 91.90).

1-3: - Media ethics:

A – Linguistically: The linguistic term closest to ethics is mores or morals, and the latter refers to a set of psychological qualities and human actions that are described as good or bad, and morals are what agree with the rules of ethics (Al-Jami, 2020). Professor Azzi Abderrahman prefers to use the word ethics rather than morals, as he considers that the word ethics is a plural in itself for the singular of morals, while ethics is a universal, thus more appropriate notion (Ezzi, 2016, p. 7).

B - Technically: Azzi Abderrahman defines the concept of ethics (morals) in media practice as the moral argument in distinguishing between good and evil or between right and wrong when making daily decisions in producing the media message. Ezzi also says that the more ethical a journalist is, the closer he is to professionalism. Azzi, 2016, p. 65).

While Azi Abdel Rahman associates the concept of ethics with morality, Nasreddine Laayadi sees a difference between them. He defines morality as a set of principles for judging behavior, while ethics is a set of moral and ethical recommendations and a code of conduct

followed by professionals in various professions. In other words, it is a voluntary choice that cannot be imposed by force (Laayadi, 2015).

Mohamed Reda Nadjar defined ethics as the set of principles that guide the actions of individuals, while morality (déontologie), according to him, is the set of values and duties that a particular profession sets for itself (Nadjar, 2016, p. 26). To further clarify the issue from a terminological point of view, we present what Daniel Cornu said about the difference between éthique and déontologie in the media (Cornu, 2009, p. 48).

Second: The most prominent mechanisms for organizing and moralizing media practice in Algeria:

The Algerian experience in the media sector has witnessed some mechanisms that differ in terms of their origins and modus operandi, the aim of which is either to control, regulate, or moralize media practice according to the stakes of each of the periods that Algeria has experienced since independence until today, whose effects are evident in the media sector. Therefore, through this article, we review all the mechanisms concerned with the regulation and ethicalization of media practice in Algeria.

1 - The Media Supreme Council:

The 90-07 media law, dated April 3, 1990, which established media pluralism in Algeria, created a new body concerned with regulating the profession of journalism in the country, called the "Supreme Council of the Media". The Council was defined as an independent administrative and regulatory authority enjoying legal personality and financial independence, whose tasks are to ensure compliance with the provisions of the 90-07 Media Law. The latter devoted an entire chapter to this new regulatory body, in which the legislator defined in Chapter Six the tasks of this Council and its areas of activity. The Supreme Council of the Media undertakes the following tasks:

- It clearly shows how to apply the rights to express different currents of opinion.
- It ensures the independence and impartiality of public sector radio, television, and audio broadcasting bodies and the independence of each profession.

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- It encourages and supports publishing and broadcasting in the Arabic language by all appropriate means.
- It ensures the mastery of communication and defense of national culture in all its forms and promotes it, especially in the field of production and publication of national works.
- It ensures the transparency of economic rules in the conduct of media activities.
- Its decisions prevent the concentration of titles and devices under the financial, political, or ideological influence of a single owner.
- It determines, by its decisions, the conditions for preparing, issuing, producing, programming, and publishing texts and quotas related to electoral campaigns.
- It expresses an opinion on disputes related to freedom of expression and thought that arise between media managers and their assistants to arbitrate them by mutual consent.
- It exercises the powers of reconciliation at the request of the concerned parties in cases of dispute related to freedom of expression and citizens' right to information, before either of the disputing parties takes any action before the competent judicial authorities.
- It determines the rules for possible subsidies and assistance granted by the state to media outlets that are empowered to perform public service duties and ensures their fair distribution.
- It ensures compliance with commercial advertising standards and monitors the objective of the advertising media broadcast and published by the media, its content, and the methods of programming.

- It oversees the publication and distribution of written, spoken, and televised media across the country.
- It collects all necessary information from the departments and agencies responsible for public service in the media or from a media agency or press institution to confirm compliance with the obligations of each of them. The information collected by the Council in this manner may not be used for purposes other than performing the tasks assigned to it by this law.

The Supreme Council for Media issues licenses and prepares the specifications related to the use of radio and television voltages. It also expresses its opinion on the agreements concluded between owners and professional journalists and sends its public comments and recommendations if there is a breach of the terms of the specifications and other obligations stipulated in the law. About the internal organization of the Council, Article 17 states that 67 of the Media Law 90-07 stipulates that the Supreme Media Council shall establish specialized committees under its authority, particularly the "Professional Regulation Committee" and the "Professional Ethics Committee." Members of the Supreme Media Council may not, during the period of their duties, take a public position on matters that were or may be the subject of procedures, decisions, or recommendations issued by the Supreme Council or consulted on. Council members must also abide by professional secrecy regarding facts, actions, and information that they may become aware of in the context of their duties.

To ensure the neutrality of the Council and the separation of its duties from the interests of other public and private institutions, Article 15 stipulates that 70 of the same law states that workers of interests that are clearly under the control of the Council cannot participate directly or indirectly in the sectors of radio, television, print media, publishing, and advertising.

As for the composition of this regulatory body, it consists of twelve members, three of whom are appointed by the President of the Republic, including the President of the Council; three appointed by the President of the National People's Assembly; and six other members

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elected by an absolute majority from among professional journalists in the sectors of radio, television, and print media who have at least 15 years of experience in the profession. The term of membership in the Council is 6 years, non-cancellable or non-renewable, provided that the Council is renewed every two years by a third, except for the President of the Council, whose membership continues for the entire term. The Council declares the automatic resignation of any member who fails to fulfill their legally specified obligations or who has been sentenced to a shameful and dishonorable penalty. In the event of a vacancy for any reason, a new member is appointed to complete the remaining term, and upon the expiry of this term, he may be appointed as a member of the Council, provided that the term of membership for which he was appointed does not exceed two years.

Due to the powers granted to the Supreme Media Council, the Ministry of Communication was abolished in the government. 1991, when the authorities followed the example of many Western countries in organizing the media sector amid the reforms undertaken by the Hamrouche government under former President Chadli Bendjedid. Immediately after the establishment of the High Media Council, the Council began to count the number of professional journalists, and 1,300 professional journalist cards were distributed according to strict criteria. The Council also began to pay attention to the issue of professional ethics, resolving many disputes related to the profession and even issuing warnings to public media organizations for reasons related to professional ethics, which is the first time in the history of independent Algeria. The Council also linked obtaining a professional journalist's card to respecting professional ethics (Djaballah, 2015)

In order to expand the areas of activity of private radio stations over time after gaining experience and expertise, the Supreme Media Council also started registering requests to establish radio and television stations and creating texts for managing private radio projects in Algeria. In the beginning, the Council members preferred local and community radio stations. The Council registered 20 radio channel projects and four private television channel projects during its tenure, but none of these projects were implemented, and Algeria reverted

to the period of isolation with a greater political will (Djaballah, 2015). However, Algeria entered a delicate period with the resignation of President Chadli Benjedid on January 11, 1992, and the declaration of a state of emergency on February 9, 1992. This had a direct impact on the media industry because Decree No. 93-13, issued on October 26, 1993, abolished the Supreme Media Council.

Given the duties and obligations entrusted to it, some scholars contend that the Supreme Council for Media's dissolution equates to the repeal of the media legislation in its entirety. Therefore, a period of decline and regression has been initiated by the cancellation decision, particularly in light of the June 7, 1994, joint ministerial decision between the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Communication concerning security information and prior censorship in the four state-owned printing presses (Bakhoush, 2016, p. 63).

Regarding this, Lahcen Djaballah, a member (appointed) of the High Media Council, claims that following two years of the Council's successful operation, an internal conflict arose among its members because of "different cultural levels among them," which caused the body to become bureaucratic and journalists to lose faith in it. The situation deteriorated to the point where President Boudiaf personally intervened at the time and invited all Council members to discuss the ongoing conflicts within this body. Regretfully, Boudiaf decided to dissolve the Council because it was the simplest course of action. However, this does not imply that internal conflicts among Council members were the reason for the decision, as there were other factors, primarily related to the Ministry of Communication's presence, which aimed to regain its authority and "authority over the media" during the tenure of former Minister of Communication Belaid Abdessalem.

2 - The Supreme Council for Professional Ethics and Morals:

Since the Algerian Journalists' Code of Ethics and Professional Rules stipulated in its introduction the establishment of a Supreme Council for Professional Ethics to ensure respect for the principles contained in the Code, and to move forward with the efforts of self-regulation of the journalism profession in Algeria, the National Union of Journalists decided to establish a temporary committee called the Action and Reflection Committee consisting

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of:11 journalists to study the powers of the draft Supreme Council for Professional Ethics, the conditions for candidacy for the council, and the mechanisms for activating the charter of professional ethics, as the working committee saw that it should have moral authority, not legal authority, although it must be strong to ensure the independence of the council and the media in the country.

During a general assembly called by the National Union of Journalists, journalists met again in May 2000 to elect the members of the Council from among 18 persons nominated from among journalists and publishers, 11 of whom are elected for a term of 4 years, non-renewable. The retired journalist at the time, Abdelhamid Ben Zein, was unanimously appointed as honorary president, and the assassinated journalist Tahar Djaout as honorary member. The rest of the members were elected as follows according to the number of votes: LahcenYourbi of "El Khabar El Youmi" newspaper with 148 votes, LazhariLabtar of "AkhirSaa" daily with 130 votes, Shallouche Mohamed of "National Radio" with 116 votes, Zoubir Souissi of "Le SoirD'Algerie" daily with 112 votes, Rahim Hussein "Algerian Television" 106 votes, Khalfi Fatima Zahra Sayyida Belazouq "Algerian Press Agency" 97 votes, Ben YounesIdir "Le Matin" (Suspended) 94 votes, Hamida Al-Ayachi "El Khabar El Usbou" 88 votes, Bouchoucha Hamid "El Nasr" 82 votes, ZoubirFerroukhi "l'expression" 80 votes, and Steli Mohamed "El Khabar El Youmi" 75 votes (Bakhoush, 2016, p. 63).

On November 16, 2000, the members of the Council of Ethics of the Journalism Profession met at the "Taher Djaout" Press House, where the Council's office was elected, consisting of Zoubir Souissi as President of the Council, LazhariLabtar as Vice President, Belazouq Fatima Zahra as Spokesperson for the Authority, and Zoubir Ferroukhi as Treasurer (Supreme Council of Ethics, 2000). However, the final list of Council members did not include many of the people who were elected by the General Assembly, as the members' document included, in addition to the Council's office, Hamid Bouchoucha from the daily Ennasr, Hussein Rahim from Algerian Television, Mohamed Stelli from the daily El Khabar, Mohamed Challouch

from the National Radio, Mustafa Mohamedi from the daily *Liberté*, Mohamed SaïdGhrit from the daily *Echaab*, and Larbi Zouak from the daily *El Khabar* (Supreme Council of Ethics, 2000).

The High Council of Professional Ethics' materials state that it is regarded as an oversight and adjudication organization whose members are chosen by their peers and tasked with upholding Algerian journalists' ethical standards. The Council's only authority is its moral authority, which is bestowed upon it by the public's attention and the press on the one hand (Internal Law of the Council, 2000). The Council lacks judicial character, meaning it cannot impose, punish, limit, or bind.

The Council's areas of intervention are defined in technical and ethical areas related to freedom of the press and expression, the right of the public to information, ensuring respect for private life, accuracy of news, impartiality in the treatment of news, separation between news types, refraining from distortion, slander and plagiarism, working to protect news sources and independence from advertisers, as well as encouraging professional conscience, refraining from promoting racism and crime in all its forms, not accepting any interference in the practice of the profession, whether governmental or otherwise, refraining from exploiting the status of journalist for personal purposes, respecting the presumption of innocence in media treatment, and not exploiting the media. The Council's areas of intervention were defined as technical and ethical issues related to freedom of the press and expression, the public's right to information, respect for privacy, accuracy of news, impartiality in news coverage, separation of news types, refraining from distortion, slander, and plagiarism, protecting news sources, independence from advertisers, and encouraging professional integrity. Professional conscience, refraining from promoting racism and crime in all their forms, not accepting any interference in the practice of the profession, whether governmental or otherwise, refraining from exploiting the status of journalist for personal purposes, respecting the presumption of innocence in media coverage, not exploiting dishonest means to obtain information or images, and respecting the right of reply and correcting information that is found to be false after publication (Internal Law of the Council, 2000). Any individual, organization, body, or institution, whether public or private, related or

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unrelated to the profession, may notify the Council in writing if it considers that there has been a breach of journalistic ethics in the written press, including news agencies and the audiovisual or electronic press in the same fields mentioned above (Internal Regulations of the Council, 2000).

✓ Council Working System :

The Journalism Ethics Council consists of 11 members elected by their colleagues in the profession for a single, non-renewable term of 4 years. The General Assembly of the Council shall sovereignly decide on complaints submitted to the Council. The Council members shall elect an office consisting of a president, a vice president, a spokesperson for the office and the Council, and a treasurer.

The meetings of the Council Bureau and the Council shall be chaired by the President of the Council or his deputy in the absence of the President. The Council shall meet monthly and may meet extraordinarily if necessary, once a week at the request of the President or the majority of the Council members. While the Bureau shall meet every 15 days, it may meet extraordinarily at the request of the President.

Complaints must be studied in the presence of a majority of the council members. If the majority is not present, the session is postponed to the following week, and the council's deliberations are considered legitimate even if the majority is not present. The person in charge of the treasury must also submit a financial report at each general assembly of the council (the council's internal regulations, 2000).

✓ Reasons for the Council's failure:

By reviewing the entire correspondence and statements issued by the Supreme Council for Journalistic Ethics, we are given a close look at the circumstances in which this council carried out its activities, as many statements and letters were directed to many bodies and institutions, such as the supervising ministry and some national newspapers, in which the council requested financial assistance.

Omar Belhouchet, editor-in-chief of the French-language daily ELWATTAN, asserts that the High Council for Press Ethics encountered political opposition to its existence, as the political authorities rejected the idea of self-regulation of the media sector under the supervision of this council, which was not under their control. In 2001, less than a year after the council was established, the authorities rushed to pass a penal code that included heavy penalties for journalists, whereby a journalist could be imprisoned for three years for an article he wrote, and a publisher could be imprisoned for five years for the same reason. This reveals how the authorities decided to thwart the Higher Council for Press Ethics' efforts to regulate the profession and preferred to deal with the press and journalists through the Penal Code, considering that Media Law 90-07 was paralyzed by the Emergency Law. Nevertheless, during the period in which it was active, the council managed to make significant efforts to regulate the profession by adjudicating certain disputes between media organizations or between citizens and media organizations. This council could have become a very important body in the media arena if it had received support from the public authorities without interference in its work (Belhouchet, 2014).

The High Council for Ethics' president, ZoubirSouissi, confirmed that the authorities had forced the Council into a dead end by not giving it the resources it needed to function in the right environment. It took a full year after the Council's founding for us to be able to secure even a basic and very modest headquarters in the TaharJaouit Press House in May. After extensive discussions with the supervisory authorities, this was accomplished. Members of the Council who lived in the east or west of the nation found it challenging to attend Council sessions due to the Council's lack of funding. We frequently had to use our funds to cover trip costs, which gradually diminished the Council's authority (Souissi, 2012).

Kaci Aissa, a former National Liberation Front party communication officer, stated that the council's financial sources were its weakness because the people in charge of this body failed to consider financial mechanisms that would guarantee the Council proceeds with its work. As a result, they eventually had to ask some media outlets for financial support, pointing out that it was hard for the council to ensure its objectivity in these situations because they couldn't give orders or chastise a media outlet that was funding the Council. Furthermore, Mr.

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Kaci Aissa believed that this experience differed from that of certain European nations because the Council's decisions were merely advisory in nature and the Council lacked the legal, customary, or professional authority to enforce these decisions. Because journalists themselves disregarded the Council's professional norms in the majority of the approximately 35 cases it reviewed, it was nearly impossible to follow them at the time (Aissa, 2021).

3 - Audiovisual Regulatory Authority:

Media Law Text12-05 in its Article 64 on the establishment of a body concerned with "regulating" audiovisual activity in Algeria, where the legislator defined its nature as "an independent authority enjoying legal personality and financial independence."

On this basis, the Audiovisual Activity Law has determined14-04 the tasks of the regulatory authority are: to ensure the freedom to exercise audiovisual activity and the impartiality of legal persons who exploit public sector audiovisual communication services, to ensure objectivity and transparency and to work to promote and support national languages and national culture, as well as respect for the pluralistic expression of currents of thought and opinion by all appropriate means in radio and television broadcasting services programs, particularly during political and public information sessions, and to ensure that the types of programs provided by publishers of audiovisual communication services reflect national cultural diversity, to ensure respect for human dignity and the protection of children and adolescents, and to facilitate access for persons with visual or hearing disabilities to programs directed at the public, as well as to ensure the continuous appreciation and protection of the environment and the promotion of environmental culture and the preservation of the health of the population, and to ensure that the exclusive broadcast of national events of the utmost importance determined by regulation does not deprive a significant part of the public of the possibility of following them live or indirectly via a free television service.

Regulation, monitoring, dispute resolution, and consultation are the three areas in which this body has a variety of authorities. In terms of regulation, it reviews and selects applications for the creation of audiovisual communication services and distributes the frequencies made available to it by the government agency in charge of television and radio broadcasting in order to create terrestrial audiovisual communication services. Additionally, it applies the regulations of the transmission of live expression slots, audiovisual media slots, and production and programming requirements during election campaigns. The conditions under which audiovisual communication programs may use product advertising or broadcast television shopping programs are also decided by this authority, which also enforces the rules for broadcasting programs devoted to political groups and authorized national trade unions and professional organizations. It is also in charge of establishing the regulations governing the transmission of PSAs that are issued by the government.

This body also ensures compliance with the minimum quotas allocated to national audiovisual production and expression in national languages. It exercises control over the subject, content, and methods of programming advertising quotas, and it ensures compliance with the principles and rules applicable to audiovisual activity, as well as the application of specifications. It can, when necessary, request from publishers and distributors of audiovisual communication services any information useful to the performance of its tasks. It can also collect all necessary information from administrations, bodies, and institutions without being subject to any limits other than those stipulated in the legislation and regulations in force to prepare its opinions and decisions.

In the advising role, this authority offers suggestions for encouraging competition in the audiovisual industry as well as its thoughts on the national plan for the growth of the industry and any legislation or regulations pertaining to it. In addition, it participates in national consultations to determine Algeria's position in international negotiations on radio and television broadcasting services relating to the general rules for the allocation of frequencies. It also cooperates with national or foreign authorities or bodies active in the same field and expresses opinions or makes proposals on the determination of royalties for the use of radio frequencies in the bands allocated to broadcasting services. It may also

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express its opinion at the request of any judicial authority in any dispute relating to the practice of audiovisual activities.

The Audiovisual Activity Authority also has a role in settling disputes, as its powers include arbitration in disputes between legal persons who exploit an audiovisual communication service, whether among themselves or with users. It investigates complaints issued by political parties, trade unions, and/or associations, and any other natural or legal person who notifies it of a violation of the law by a legal person exploiting an audiovisual communication service, while the legislator has extended, under Article 56, Powers of the Audiovisual Activity Authority to Audiovisual Activity via the Internet.

Every year, the President of the Republic and the Presidents of the two Houses of Parliament will receive a special report from the Audiovisual Regulatory Authority on how the law pertaining to audiovisual activity is being applied. Within 30 days after its submission, this report will be published. Every three months, the Regulatory Authority will also provide the authority with the authority to make the appointment with an update on its activities.

Since the establishment of the Audiovisual Regulatory Authority and the appointment of MiloudChorfi as its head on September 21, 2014, the Authority continued to operate with only its president without a council as stipulated by law, and the situation remained the same for nearly two years until Mr. Chorfi's duties were terminated and he was appointed a member of the National Assembly representing the presidential third on January 31, 2016.

And on June 19, 2016, Prime Minister AbdelmalekSellal, on behalf of President AbdelazizBouteflika, appointed the members of the first formation of the Audiovisual Regulatory Authority, which included Mr. Zouaoui Ben Hamadi as president and the late Professor Zouhairlhaddaden, Mr. ZaimKhenchelaoui, Mr. AbdelmalekHouyou, Mr. Ahmed Bioud, Ms. AichaKassoul, Mr. AbdelrazakZouina, Mr. GhoutiMekamcha, and Mr. LotfiCheriet. However, this formation was widely criticized by professionals, as it did not include representatives of journalists from the private audiovisual media, and the selection criteria for appointing members of this body were not specified.

In this context, we note that since the establishment of the Audiovisual Regulatory Authority in 2014, it was not possible to prepare for the establishment of private television channels in Algeria until 2017, so that most of the television channels active in Algeria continued to operate as foreign institutions accredited to operate in Algeria.

4 - The Supreme Council for Ethics and Morals of the Journalism Profession:

The Organic Law on Media 12-04 provides for the establishment of the Supreme Council for Journalism Ethics and Professional Conduct in Article 94, which stipulates that the members of this council shall be elected by professional journalists and that the council shall receive government funding. The legislator clarified in the few articles devoted to this council in Media Law 12-05 that the council is responsible for preparing and approving the profession's code of ethics (Article 96).

Article 97 makes it clear that the Council is not merely an advisory body but has the power to impose penalties it deems appropriate for any breach of professional ethics. However, we find that although Article 99 of the Media Law stipulates that the Council shall be established within a maximum period of one year from the date of promulgation of the Media Law dated 12 January 2012, this body has not yet seen the light of day, six years after the promulgation of the Media Law. And professional ethics remain lacking in the media arena, particularly with regard to audiovisual media.

In this regard, we observe that the Algerian lawmaker took advantage of the Supreme Council for Professional Ethics's 2000 experience and attempted to learn from some of the mistakes made in that experiment by granting financial support from the government and allowing professional journalists to lead this ethical body while granting it deterrent power to guarantee that its rulings are carried out.

Conclusion:

We note that the regulatory mechanisms witnessed by the Algerian media scene from independence until today differ according to the political stages that Algeria has gone through. We find that some of these regulatory bodies were affiliated with the state and had

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more supervisory than regulatory tasks, and they impose state control over the sector directly. We also find some mechanisms that appeared based on initiatives by professional unions or experiments carried out by some media institutions within the framework of self-regulation. We also note that the only experiment that was initiated by the journalists themselves failed for reasons that remain unknown and was not accompanied by the authorities, who preferred to let this experiment fail for technical reasons. For this reason, we find that the Algerian experiment in this field was characterized by a significant delay compared to international experiments or even some experiments in the developing world.

The reality of Algeria's media consistently demonstrates the urgent need for such ethical and regulatory frameworks, so long as they are not influenced by political power and seek to organize and advance the media industry in a way that serves the public interest and does not succumb to vested political or private interests that undermine the media's noble mission and lofty message.

In this regard, it is important to note that organizational and ethical procedures continue to be among the most crucial indicators of media independence in any given nation. The media industry will be better equipped to carry out its societal responsibilities free from any constraints imposed by political, economic, or ideological realities the more autonomous these processes are and the more journalists appreciate and accept their choices.

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