

## Summary

This thesis *Crime in Media* describes the most important aspects of the relation between two significant social phenomena – crime and media. It does not focus only on legal point of view but it also includes knowledge of sociology, psychology and especially media studies.

At first it deals with historical development of theories on media effects. These effects can not be underestimated, but on the other hand they should not be overrated. The Thesis analyzes what form these effects can have and then documents the way how Czech media law defends people from various forms of media contents and their presumable effects.

Another important topic connected to the research on media effects is the theory of media representation of certain things. The representation of crime in media is usually distorted and affects public view of the criminality in the “real world”. For example it makes people believe that the most common type of crime is the one connected with violence, that criminal acts usually occur between strangers etc. The Thesis also presents so-called news values of crime news.

The rest of the Thesis describes chronologically legal aspects of publication of information about the commitment of the crime and criminal procedure (pre-trial proceedings and trial). It analyzes if media can persuade someone to commit a crime or to learn him how to, how terrorists use media, how other people can use media to commit a crime or how journalists can commit a crime while working. It also considers relations between journalists and victims, perpetrators and their friends and families.

Then it deals with the information that can be made public during pre-trial proceedings and discovers issues connected with the presumption of innocence and the risk of so-called “trial by media” in which media overreport or create a widespread perception of guilt or innocence before the ruling of the court.

The last section describes under what circumstances “ordinary” people and journalists can visit the court during trial proceedings. It mentions important cases in which Czech courts had to decide whether they will allow live broadcast from the courtroom.