

Abstract

The bachelor thesis examines news reporting on events taking place in the heart of the so called Islamic state, based on the statements of German journalist Jürgen Todenhöfer who spent ten days in the city of Mosul. The main objective of the study is to illustrate potential ethical misconduct by the journalist and by the media which cooperated on the reporting with the journalist. The thesis further outlines the potential ethical issues on the basis of a content analysis of news reports released by CNN, BBC, Business Insider, The Independent, die Welt, Süddeutsche Zeitung and Czech national TV.

The most common ethically problematic areas in this setting included fact checking and source verification, biased reporting, a lack of sources, fading of the boundaries between civil and journalistic viewpoints, propaganda in the news and opinion journalism infiltrating into news coverage.

The issues of propaganda, manipulation, objectivity and terrorism were at the center of attention during the analysis of individual news stories. The topics are presented in the theoretical section of the thesis and are then expanded on in the context of the study.

The final section focuses on the coverage of terrorist attacks in mass media. In these cases reporters often serve the terrorist propaganda by covering the acts, thus assigning them some degree of social and political significance.