Abstract

The aim of this thesis is to describe the current conditions for journalists in Morocco based on the theoretical background of journalism in the country as well as personal interviews with journalists. Specifically, this thesis is focused on the methods by which the Moroccan state restricts journalism and media. The theoretical part is divided into three chapters. In the first, I describe the historical and social context of today’s situation. In the second, I cover regulatory legislation as it pertains to journalism and the media. In the final chapter, I detail the various restrictions troubling journalists, not just from legislation but also from financial pressure and government surveillance of individuals. This paper focuses primarily on journalism conditions in Morocco during the past ten years, but I also took into account prior hallmark periods, selecting King Hassan II’s authoritative reign as a point of comparison for the current situation journalists face. In the practical part of this paper I present the topic more widely, through a qualitative analysis of the personal testimonies of Moroccan journalists, and I take into account the questions of media quality and the education of journalists. The practical part includes three case studies of foreign journalists, who have been forbidden to practice journalism in Morocco. While writing this thesis I used my personal experience staying in Morocco. In the summary I compare conclusions from the practical and theoretical parts of this paper.