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THE PRACTICE OF THE MEDIA IN THE LIGHT OF THE MEDIA LEGISLATION IN SUDAN

The article sheds light on the results of a study of the practice and content of legislative regulation of the media in the Republic of Sudan. Its goal is to identify and describe the main characteristics of the model of relations between the state and the media, to determine the level of freedom of journalists of Sudan, the prospects for the development of self-censorship of the Sudanese media sphere. The research method is descriptive and its tools, are content analysis of specific laws, acts and regulations in force for the period of the study and standard interviews with Sudanese media practitioners to allow the author to determine the concept of interaction and mutual influence of the legislative framework on the state of the media sphere of the Republic of Sudan.

As a result of the study, the author concludes that the laws of the Sudanese media do not contain any of the concepts of «freedom of expression», «freedom of access to information». In the media practice of Sudan, there is no such institution as the Ombudsman, an official responsible for communicating with the audience and media professionals in respect of human rights, principles of justice, settlement of complaints. The respondents of the interviews-journalists identified the low level of freedom of the media in Sudan and demonstrated a high level of self-censorship.

The author also formulated fundamental recommendations for improving media legislation, which should take into account the new political realities and changes that have occurred in the country in 2018-2019.

The study of the general practice of legislative regulation of the Republic of Sudan, presented by the author, is also of practical importance, based on which it is proposed to use a system for amending the current legislation, the adoption of new laws guaranteeing real freedom of the media, the realization of the fundamental human right to freely receive and disseminate information. According to the author, the creation of favorable conditions for the unhindered expression of opinions and the receipt of relevant information is a necessary condition for the development of the socio-political sphere of Sudan.

Key words: media legislation, freedom of speech, Sudan, self-censorship, human rights.

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Судандағы БАҚ туралы заңдағы медиа тәжірибе мәселелері

Мақалада Судан Республикасындағы бұқаралық ақпарат құралдарын заңнамалық реттеу практикасы мен мазмұнын зерттеу нәтижелері келтірілген. Мақсаты - мемлекет пен бұқаралық ақпарат құралдары арасындағы қарым-қатынас моделінің негізгі сипаттамаларын анықтау және сипаттау, журналист еркіндігі деңгейін, Суданның медиа саласын өзін-өзі реттеудің даму перспективаларын анықтау. Зерттеу барысында қолданыстағы нақты құқықтық құжаттардың, заңдардың, актілер мен ережелердің мазмұнына талдау жасалады. Судандық БАҚ қызметкерлерімен сұхбат жүргізу сияқты стандартты зерттеу әдістері мен құралдары авторға өзара іс-әрекеттер мен өзара түсіністік тұжырымдамасын анықтауға мүмкіндік берді. Судан Республикасындағы заңнамалық базаның медиаға ықпалы қарастырылады.

Зерттеу нәтижесінде автор Суданның бұқаралық ақпарат құралдары туралы заңдарда «сөз бостандығы», «ақпаратқа қолжетімділік еркіндігі» ұғымдары туралы ешқандай сипаттама немесе түсініктеме жоқ деген қорытындыға келеді. Сонымен қатар, Судандық бұқаралық ақпарат құралдарының тәжірибесінде адам құқықтары, әділеттілік принциптері, шағымдарды қарау және т.б. мәселелер бойынша қоғаммен және бұқаралық ақпарат құралдарының мамандарымен байланыс орнатуға жауапты адам – омбудсмен сияқты маңызды институт жоқ. Суданда цензура деңгейінің жоғары екенін көрсетті.

Сондай-ақ, автор бұқаралық ақпарат құралдары туралы заңнаманы жетілдіру бойынша 2018-2019 жылдары елде болған жаңа саяси өзгерістерді ескеретін іргелі ұсыныстар жасады.

Судан Республикасының заңнамалық реттеудің жалпы тәжірибесінің авторы ұсынған зерттеудің практикалық маңызы да зор. Соның негізінде қолданыстағы заңнамаға өзгертулер енгізу, нақты бостандыққа кепілдік беретін заңдардың жаңа басылымдарын қабылдау жүйесін қолдану, бұқаралық ақпарат құралдарының, адамның ақпаратты еркін алу және тарату жөніндегі негізгі құқығын іске асыру ұсынылады. Автордың көзқарасы бойынша пікірлерді кедергісіз білдіру және тиісті ақпарат алу үшін қолайлы жағдайлар жасау Суданның қоғамдық-саяси саласын дамытудың алғышарты болып табылады.

Түйін сөздер: медиа заңнама, сөз бостандығы, Судан, өзіндік цензура, адам құқықтары.

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Медиапрактика Судана в свете законодательства о СМИ

В статье представлены результаты исследования практики и контента законодательного регулирования СМИ Республики Судан. Цель – выявить и описать основные характеристики модели взаимоотношения государства и СМИ, определить уровень свободы журналистов, перспективы развития саморегулирования медиасферы Судана. Исследовательские методы и инструменты, такие как анализ содержания конкретных юридических документов, законов, актов и норм, действующих на период исследования, экспертиза стандартных интервью с сотрудниками суданских СМИ, позволили автору определить концепцию взаимодействия и взаимовлияния законотворческой базы и медиасферы Республики Судан.

В результате проведенного исследования автор приходит к выводу, что в законах о СМИ Судана не содержится упоминания или описания понятий «свобода выражения мнений», «свобода доступа к информации». Участники интервью, журналисты, признавали низкий уровень свободы СМИ Судана и демонстрировали высокий уровень самоцензуры. В медиапрактике Судана нет такого важного института, как Омбудсмен, должностного лица, отвечающего за коммуникацию с общественностью и медиапрофессионалами в вопросах соблюдения прав человека, принципов справедливости, урегулирования жалоб и другое.

Автор также сформулировал основополагающие рекомендации по совершенствованию медиазаконодательства, в котором должны быть учтены новые политические реалии и изменения, произошедшие в стране в 2018–2019 годах.

Практическую значимость имеет также представленное автором исследование общей практики законодательного регулирования Республики Судан, на основании которого предлагается использовать систему внесения поправок в действующее законодательство, принятие новых редакций законов, гарантирующих реальную свободу деятельности средств массовой информации, реализацию основного права человека свободно получать и распространять информацию. По мнению автора, создание благоприятных условий для беспрепятственного выражения мнений и получения актуальной информации – необходимые условия развития социально-политической сферы Судана.

Ключевые слова: законодательство о СМИ, свобода слова, Судан, самоцензура, права человека.

Introduction

It seems that the practice of the media in Sudan is fraught with obstacles, especially the successive governments have been controlling the media practices, with restrictions, such as threats, arrests and censorship that affected journalists and practitioners besides media institutions. These restrictions hampered their performance, and the audience lost their right.

Firstly: the methodology.

A – Study problem.

The problem of this study is in the deficiency of some Sudanese media legislation, in different

historical periods, and its failure to allow the free practices of Sudanese media.

B – The importance of research.

The importance of this study are as follows:

1 – Recognizing the legislations regulating Sudanese media practices.

2 – Recognizing the rights of media practitioners in Sudan.

3 – Being aware of the rights guaranteed by legislation to the audience.

Previous Studies – C

1 – A study conducted by Asma Jalal, on the attitudes of the Saudi media elite towards new media legislation in the framework of social responsibility

theory, for 2019, the study aimed to identify the trends of the Saudi media elite towards new media legislation within the framework of social responsibility theory. The most important finding of the study, that the sample supports the application of new media legislation, and that they think they need to enact regulatory laws for the media process

2 – Regueb Mohamed conducted a study in 2018 on «Audiovisual media of Algeria between legal texts and the requirements of media openness». The study reached the failure to implement the legislation in force, the predominance of punishment and criminalization over media laws.

D: The authoritarian theory

This theory is based on that the state has the right to control the nation's affairs and the human being must practice his life under the state. The theory is applied to the Sudanese media system (Makkawi, 2010).

E – Questions of the Study

1 – Has Sudanese media legislation enacted?

2 – Does Sudanese media legislation guarantee the right to obtain information?

3 – Does media legislation protect the rights of media practitioners?

F – Method of the Study

This study describes the Sudanese media legislation, which regulates media activity, to analyze media legislation in Sudan.

Data Collection Tools of G-

A – The standardized interview with a sample of 40 media practitioners.

B – Content analysis of the media laws within the time frame of the study.

The Temporal and Spatial framework of the study is in 2019.

Secondly: **Literature Review**

This part of the study is concerned with displaying freedom of expression, access to information, and media work and its legislation

Freedom of expression and access to information

Freedom of expression is one of the basic rights of citizens and several of other rights such as freedom of peaceful demonstrations, freedom of information gaining and freedom of worship, which have been endorsed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Article 19, which reads: «Every human being has the right to express his or her opinions without harassment» and that «everyone has the right to freedom of expression (Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 19).

Advantages of freedom of expression

1. Building a generation capable of influencing society: That means young people must be free and courageous, so the fear of expressing an idea

shouldn't lead to fear, to pave the way for the generation in leading the society, and strengthens their role to realize the advancement of the society.

2. Manifestation of ideas, which is a natural outcome of expressing ideas and when freedom of expression is allowed to be exercised, the owners of ideas can submit them to decision-makers, which leads to their embodiment of a reality that changes the course of life.

3. Encouraging acceptance of others and opening doors for dialogue between cultures, which leads to social solidarity.

Censorship

The term censorship means the examination and scrutiny carried out by officials, and stopping censorship is considered as one of the basics of freedom of expression, as it is one of the primary rights.

Types of Censorship

1. Self-censorship: It is practiced by the media practitioner before handing over the news stuff to the editor-in-chief who amends it.

2. Pre-censorship, which takes place before publishing press or broadcasting materials broadcast by electronic media.

3. Post-censorship, often punitive, takes place after publishing or broadcasting. Controlling the access to information under the pretext of preserving national security, makes the task of media practitioners difficult, especially those who seek to uncover unacceptable officials' practices.

Ombudsmen

The term began to be used in Sweden, in 1809, to protect citizens' rights by creating an agency independent of the executive branch. In the United States, it is known as an ombudsman or public attorney responsible for investigating complaints of mismanagement or violation of audience rights (<https://weziwezi.com>). In Europe, the Ombudsman is recognized as a national human rights institution. Its position was created in the 20th century by some countries and international organizations (The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language (5th ed.), 2014).

Sudanese media and legislation

In 1899, British colonialism published a newspaper, which was concerned with publishing new laws and official rules, which was known as Sudan Gazette. It was the first Sudanese newspaper to be published in Arabic and English and followed by another one, which was published in Arabic in 1902, and owned by Lebanese and Egyptians journalists, and it was a pro-colonialist (Khalil, 2014).

The country's first press law was issued in 1930, and newspapers were not allowed to be published without the permission and consent of the colonizer (Magdi, 2019)

While the Sudanese newspapers began their anti-colonial activity, in May 1940 Sudanese radio transmission began in Omdurman city by broadcasting news of World War II.

In the 1990s, local radio stations were established with a local character, besides private and specialized. The radio formed the consciousness of African peoples, including Sudan, and contributed to the development (Mustafa Salah El-Din, 2014).

A year after the May 1969 coup, by Jafaar Numairi, the Sudanese press was nationalized and the press was restricted until the April 6, 1985 uprising. The parliamentary government allowed freedom of the press, and publications increased. However, censorship emerged again with the coup of 30 July 1989, and newspapers were owned by the army and the official spokesman system emerged.

In the nineties of the twentieth century, the government tightened its grip on freedom of expression, and the media practitioners did not have the right of the freedom of expression. Radio and television had listeners and viewers because they shaped the consciousness of the people of Sudan.

When the civil war broke out in South Sudan, warring factions and southern separatist movements established clandestine radio stations targeting Sudanese who lived in Eritrea and Ethiopia to circumvent censorship.

Khartoum satellite channel was established, for collecting television stuff and re-broadcasted to subscribers and when satellite channels were launched with direct broadcast satellites in the 1990s, the competent authorities controlled the delivery of satellite channels to homes by issuing licenses of possession of satellite dishes for direct transmission through the broadcast audience at home. Then there was a breakthrough in dealing with satellite channels at that time, by allowing the establishment of private and specialized television stations. Meanwhile, satellite dishes for live television broadcasting grew and became popular among the affluent in the 1990s. Viewers were able to obtain foreign television programs by subscription.

Scientific research methodology

Firstly: The Press. A follower of the Sudanese press legislation, the Press and Publications, can notice throughout the media legislation journey since colonialism and the first law to regulate the

work of journalism and the press was issued in 1930, then it was amended in 1947. Then the military coup occurred in 1989, which tightened its vest on media then another law was issued in 1993. The Press and Publications Council was established to support pro-government press, and legislation was amended in 96, 99, 2000, 2004, 2009 with articles that accuse the media of violation of laws that back the government, if it deviates from the state's line. Then Sudanese media became under government control. These legislations raised problems with the practice of the media and affected Sudan's relations with neighboring countries (Bakhit, 2019).

In 1993, the Press and Publications Law was issued, easing restrictions imposed on newspapers, and allowing «political» newspapers to resume publishing with permission from bodies, including the Press and Publications Council. The introduction of the Internet in the 1990s broadened Sudanese access to information. Nevertheless, the government-maintained control of the media throughout the decade. With the exacerbation of the civil war in the south of Sudan, the government imposed a state of emergency was imposed in 1999, that paved the way for more control over the media. Then it was partially lifted in 2001, but it did not achieve an improvement in the freedom of media practice.

The signing of the peace agreement in 2005 allowed a measure of freedom and independent newspapers were established, however, they were soon controlled and many Sudanese journalists and foreign correspondents were arrested in the first half of 2006. When South Sudan separated in 2011, the media became restricted (Bakhit, 2019).

Obstacles hinder press practices in Sudan

1. All of the press laws in Sudan hindered the practice of Sudanese journalists that, since the issuance of the Press Law for the year to 2019, and press freedom was supportive of the ruling regimes because they formed the media profession to serve the ruling regime and enable it to consolidate its rule and spread its ideology (Hamza, 2019).

2. The presence of newspapers loyal to the ruling regime, and a blind eye to paying taxes, while, France exempts newspapers and media institutions from taxes, and support them according to the French Press Law (Adam, 2019).

3. There is a relationship between the Press and Publications Council and the Security Organ which cooperated to control press work in the country.

4. The press laws are responsible for practicing journalistic activity and criminalize journalists

before the crime is proven. This has led to the restriction of the press, the activation of self-censorship (Bella, 2019).

5. Press legislation intersects with the authority represented in the minister concerned with the media, thus, the authoritarian theory and gatekeeping appears besides pre-censorship of media content.

Secondly: Radio and Television of Sudan. The Sudanese Radio and Television Corporation included Radio and Television, then the radio and television separated into two bodies. This administrative instability caused the instability of the performance policies of the two bodies (Awad, 2019).

Concerning broadcasting, legislation facilitates as much as practicing this activity, and guarantees licensing for the establishment of new satellite channels as well as making them available for the frequency through which they are broadcast, such as the one practiced in the United Kingdom in which the British Broadcasting Corporation worked to regulate media activity, but taxes were imposed on television receiver sets, according to the Telecommunications Law of 2003. The problem is that the content is governed by controls linked to government policies is not balanced (Babiker, 2019).

The private media, such as radio stations, television channels were established, and applied their style and mission. Media laws had no effect on the media message in terms of organizing the content, but the security organ replaced the legislation, and thus the content of the message became judged by its suitability to the government's line, not the legislation regulating rights of the profession and its ethics. Then the era of digital media came and digital media spread, in the absence of legislation that regulates it, and laws are still in the building phase (Bakhit, 2019).

Control over radio and television activity

Working for radio and television depends on concepts set by the Ministry of media. The state restricted the private and public sectors.

Disadvantages of censorship

1 – The legislation regulating work in the field of radio and television in Sudan is inspired by the state's policy, here is the core of the problem, as the state's policy and its vision are imposed on the media in Sudan, thus they are reflected negatively on the performance of radio stations and television channels and the legal environment.

2 – There are laws for private TV channels that have been issued by the state which suit its policy. A committee was formed known as Committee for Watching Programs, responsible for controlling

non – Sudanese TV programs. It also played the role of gatekeeping over the programs prepared by a specialized working team to meet the state's directives.

3 – There is a tight constriction not on all TV and radio programs imposed by the state, as the authority allowed to deal with specific topics without crossing red lines (according to the state directives). Media practitioners knew that these restrictions are unjustified.

4 – Stopping or suspending programs that are believed to deal with the issues shouldn't be reviewed, for a period of up to three months. On the other level, youth social programs are presented to discuss issues boldly and clearly, but they are superficial and may be described as (sensitive issues), which are presented in other areas such as social media and yellow newspapers, but it cannot be shown on TV.

Thirdly: the Practical Part. A – Content analysis of media laws.

1 – Analysis of the Press Law Of 1930 and the laws that followed.

A – the Press Law Of 1930 amended repeatedly, in the years 1947 – 1948 – 1959, the law amendments focused on facilitating the conduct of journalistic work, such as the legal controls (Bakhit, 2019).

B – A military coup seized power in 1969 and confiscated the press in 1970. In 1971 a decree was issued to give the ruling party the right to own the Sudanese press.

C – In 1973, the Press Law was issued which defined the ownership of the press for the people to run in their name and the Sudanese Socialist Union on their behalf to preserve the people's right to education and enlightenment by the law, the Minister of media monitors newspapers.

D – The amended law guarantees freedom of expression in 1975.

E – Press laws were issued in 1993 – 1996 – 1999 – and were amended in 2000 – 2004 2009. These laws were borrowed from previous laws, the imposition of licensing on newspapers and the right to correct editors, followed by laws of 1405 and 1406 AH, and the controls of issuing newspapers in Sudan, and importing newspapers from abroad besides establishment of news agencies and journalistic service centers.

The law specified that newspapers should be issued by companies by the Companies Law of 1925, which restricts the freedom to publish newspapers. The Press Laws of 1993 and 1996 stipulated that pressure groups and political parties are not allowed to own newspapers.

B – Analysis of laws of radio and television

1 – Sudanese Radio and Television Corporation Act of 2001, which is the law applied during the study period 2019.

A – The Competent Minister intervenes in the usual activities of radio and television, as it issues general directives for this activity so that the Corporation becomes under his supervision and intervenes in this activity

B – The law referred to the state's policies, achievements and community activity that should be known, but the law did not specify these policies and achievements.

C – The law indicated that radio and television

workers receive regular and fair training, but it did not indicate how it is implemented.

D – They indicated the replacement or maintenance of radio and television production equipment but without details.

E – The law specified the authority of the Board of Trustees to approve the general budget and other financial procedures but without details (National Authority for Radio and Television Law, 2019).

2 – Analysis of interviews conducted with Sudanese journalists and media professionals in the year 2019

A – Biodata of the sample members

A – the Sex

Table 1 – The sex

Percentage	Duplicates	Sex
52,5	21	Male
47,5	19	Female
100	40	Total

– Table No. (1) shows that 52.5% of the respondents of the interview sample of Sudanese journalists and media professionals are males, and 47.5% of them are females. The interview aimed

to know opinions about the position of freedoms granted to them and their rights when performing their duties in the presence of applicable legislation.

Table 2 - The ages of the study sample

age	Duplicates	Percentage
25– less than 35	1	2,5
35– less than 45	5	12,5
45 -less than 55	13	32,5
55– less than 65	15	40
65– more than 65	5	12,5
Total	40	100

According to Table No. (2), which shows the age groups of the members of the interview sample, findings as following:

– 2.5% of the selected interviewees of the Sudanese journalists and media professionals are between the ages of 25 and less than 35 years. 12.5% of both

age groups 35 and less than 45 years and aged 65 years and over. 32.5% of the respondents represent the age group between 45 and less than 55 years old, and 40% of them are between 55 – less than 65 years.

Table 3 - For the qualifications of the study sample

qualifications	Duplicates	Percentage
BA	5	12.5
Higher Diploma	3	7,5
Master degree	7	17,5
Phd degree	25	62.5
Total	40	100

Table (3), illustrates the qualifications of the sample representing the study, they are as following – 62.5% of the sample holders of a doctorate in

media, 17.5% of them hold a master’s degree, 12.5% hold a bachelor’s degree, and 7.5% are holders of a higher diploma.

Table 4 - Explains the workplace of the sample of the study

Workplace	Duplicates	Percentage
Newspapers	17	42.5
Radio	6	15
Television	13	32.5
Sudan news agency	4	10
Total	40	100

Table No. (4) shows the place of work that the sample of the study affiliated to, the following:

– 42.5% of the sample work for newspapers,

32.5% work for TV, 15% of them work for Sudanese radio stations and 10% of them work for SUNA

B– Answers to the interview questions:

Table 5 - Questions were asked to the sample of Sudanese media professionals who participated in the standardized interview

Statement	Agree	%	Strongly Agree	%	Don't Know	%	Disagree	%	Strongly Disagree	%
Media legislation guarantees the right of Sudanese media professionals to have free access to information	6	15			1	2.5	3	5.7	30	75
The media legislation includes the right of the Sudanese media practitioner to express his views	8	20	3	7.5	-	-	4	10	25	62.5
The applied media legislation leads to the practice of self-censorship by the Sudanese media person	27	67.5	5	12.5	5	12.5	3	7.5	-	-
Sudanese media apply laws other than those issued to regulate media activities	21	52.5	16	40	3	7.5	-	-	-	-
There are many censorship bodies over the Sudanese media	10	25	20	50	3	7.5	4	10	3	7.5
Non-media legislation provides for the imposition of taxes and fees on inputs for media in Sudan	5	12.5	-	-	29	72.5	2	5	4	10

Media legislation includes wage guarantee provisions for Sudanese media professionals	5	12.5	-	-	28	70	2	5	5	12.5
Media legislation protects the media person while performing his duty	6	15	-	-	2	5	4	10	28	70
Sudanese media are being suspended from operating under non-media legislation	4	10	7	17.5	20	50	-	-	9	22.5
The legislation guarantees the right of the media person to raise complaints to the Ombudsman					11	27.5	-	-	29	72.5
Media legislation includes the financial aspects that govern media work	7	17.5	-	-	3	7.5	1	2.5	29	72.5
Media legislation includes the media person right to continuous work training	5	12.5	2	5	7	17.5	-	-	26	65
Sudanese media legislation includes the development of media production equipment in Sudan	6	15	2.5	1	19	47.5	-	-	14	35
Media legislation includes the maintenance of media production equipment	6	15	-	-	20	50	-	-	14	35
Media legislation includes the employment of media professionals in the field of media	-	-	-	-	1	2.5	4	10	35	87.5
Media legislation includes kinds of punishment to media person who thought that he violates the route of the state	-	-	-	-	12	30	18	45	10	.25

Results and discussion

Table No. (5), shows the following:

1. 15% of respondents agree that media legislation includes the right of Sudanese media professionals to have free access to information, 2.5% of them don't know about this fact, and 7.5% do not agree that media legislation indicates the right of media professionals to have free access to information and 75% of them strongly disagree that it points out that the media persons' right to have free access to information.

2. 20% of respondents agree that the media legislation applied in Sudan includes legal articles on the right of the Sudanese journalist to express his views, 7.5% of them strongly agree that the media legislation includes legal articles on the right of the Sudanese journalist to express his views, 10 % of them do not agree with the statement that the media legislation includes legal articles on the right of the Sudanese journalist to express his views, and 62.5% of them do not strongly agree that the Sudanese media legislation includes legal articles on this right.

3. 67.5% of the sample respondents agree that the statement that the Sudanese media legislation leads the Sudanese media to practice self-censorship during his work, and 12.5% of them strongly agree that the Sudanese media legislation leads the Sudanese media practicing self-censorship, the same percentage of them do not know whether the media legislation leads the Sudanese media practicing self-censorship and only 7.5% of them do not agree with the validity of this issue.

4. 52.2% of respondents agree on the conformity of the statement, which is that the Sudanese media apply laws other than those issued to regulate media activities, 40% of them strongly agree with the statement, which is that the Sudanese media apply laws other than those issued to regulate media activities, and 7.5 % of them don't know about this issue.

5. 25% of the sample respondents agree that the phrase referring to the existence of a large number of Sudanese media censorship organs, 50% of them

strongly agree with the of the phrase referring to a large number of Sudanese media censorship bodies, 7.5% of them do not know about this issue, the same percentage of them strongly disagree with that and 10% disagree with this issue.

6. 12.5% of the sample respondents agree that the statement that indicates the existence of non-media legislation that provides for imposing taxes and fees on the inputs of media activity in Sudan is identical, 72.5% of them do not know this and 5% of them don't agree with the conformity of the phrase indicating the existence of legislation The non-media provision stipulates the imposition of taxes and fees on the inputs of the Sudanese media activity and 10% of them strongly disagree with this statement.

7. 12.5% of the sample respondents agree on the conformity of the phrase indicating that the media legislation includes articles and clauses that refer to wages for Sudanese media professionals, 70% of them do not know about this issue, 5% of them do not agree with the consistency of the phrase, which is that these legislation contains articles and indicates the wages of 10% of them strongly disagree.

8. 15% of the respondents of the interview sample agree on the conformity of the phrase, which is that the media legislation provides for the protection of the journalist while performing his duty, 5% of them do not know of this issue, 10% of them do not agree with that and 70% of them strongly disagree with the congruence of the phrase, which is that media legislation provides for the protection of the media while performing his duty.

9. 10% of the study sample agree on the conformity of the statement, which is that Sudanese media organizations are being suspended from work according to non-media legislation, 17.5% of them do not agree that the statement matches, 50% of the sample individuals do not have information about that, 22.5% of them Strongly disagree with the conformity of the statement, which is that Sudanese media organizations are being suspended from operating under non-media legislation.

10. 27.5% do not know whether the Sudanese media legislation includes the right of the media person to raise his complaints to the Ombudsman, 72.5% of them do not strongly agree that there is Sudanese media legislation that includes the right of the media person to raise his complaints to the Ombudsman.

11. 17.5% agree on the conformity of the phrase, which is that the media legislation includes the financial aspects that run the media work, 7.5% of them do not know that, 2.5% do not agree on the conformity of the phrase, which is that the media legislation in-

cludes the financial aspects of the conduct of media work and 72. 5% disagree that the statement.

12. 12.5% of the respondents agree on the conformity of the phrase, which is that media legislation includes the right of the media person to continuous work training 5% strongly agree with that, 17.5% of them do not know this and 65% of them strongly disagree with the conformity of the statement which is that Media legislation includes the right of the media person to continuous work training.

13. 12.5% of the sample agree that the statement, which is that the Sudanese media legislation includes the development of media production equipment in Sudan, 2.5% of them strongly agree that the Sudanese media legislation refers to the development of media production equipment in Sudan, 47.5% of them do not know this issue and 35% of them strongly disagree that the legislation points out to the development of equipment.

14. 15% of the sample respondents agree on the conformity of the phrase, which is that the media legislation includes the maintenance of media production equipment, 50% of them have no knowledge of this, and 35% of them do not strongly agree on the conformity of the statement, which is that the media legislation includes the maintenance of media production equipment.

15. 2.5% of them do not know whether media legislation includes the employment of media professionals in the field of media, 10% disagree, and 87.5% strongly disagree with that.

16. 30% of the sample don't know that Sudanese media legislation includes kinds of punishment to media person who thought that he violates the route of the state, 45% of the sample disagree that Sudanese media legislation includes kinds of punishment to media person who thought that he violates the route of the state and 25% of the sample strongly disagree that Sudanese media legislation includes kinds of punishment to media person who thought that he violates the route of the state.

Conclusion

This study came because of the urgent need of studying the Sudanese legislation that governs the media activity in the country, especially since this activity is between the hammer of the ruling authority, which subjects these media to publishing what goes with its line to become a trumpet that it uses to reflect its activities and the anvil of gatekeepers who exercise censorship. This study found that media legislation did not preserve freedom of expression or access to information, and there is no Ombuds-

man concerned with raising complaints by the media practitioners and audience. Sudanese media laws don't include kinds of punishment to media person who thought that he violates the route of the state, however media practitioners are punished by other laws such as emergency, civil or criminal laws.

Recommendations

1 – The importance of enacting media legislation that takes into account the Sudanese political transformations after the 2018-2019 political changes in the country, to change the line of the Sudanese media, and to meet the needs of society and youth.

2 – The need for legislation to ensure that media professionals receive information and news from their sources, inaccessible ways, that take into account the ethics of the profession, when collecting and formulating information besides guarantee their safety from legal accountability.

3 – The necessity for the promotion of legislation of Sudanese media to reach high professionalism, and the importance of media legislation embodying the spirit of innovation and competitive vitality among media.

4 – The necessity of establishing courts for media cases, activating the Office of Grievances Ombudsman and its interest in raising complaints.

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