



Media, Human Rights and the Deconstruction of Public Opinion: a Comparative Research on the Media Coverage about Human Rights Issues in Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau and Mozambique (PALOP)

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At the beginning of the last decade of the past century a lot of African Countries were subject to significant alterations, passing from a not democratic to a democratic political system. This fact was decisive in order to give a new dynamic to Media sector, in particular in terms of new guarantees of Constitutional Rights, especially in the field of free of expression, and then of free press.

With the “Second Republics” Humans Rights questions aroused the attention from the side of the African States and of the international community that, by a diplomatic way, and using generally NGOs, began to exert pressure to the national authorities, coherently with the new Constitutions. In this context, the new constitutional and legislative guarantees made the role of the press decisive, especially in its function of watch-dog. In this sense our proposal aims to focus the press intervention or its lacks and omissions in the PALOP, underlying the importance of the Right to Information, to be informed, working in a perspective that wants to compare the “linking” between Media and its impact on the everyday life. The historical premise is that the experience of armed conflict lived in those countries put them in a position of partial vulnerability, in the field of the dialectic relationship between Media, society and protection of the most basic Rights of the citizens, inclusive the Right to Information.

Our challenge is to understand the *modus operandi* of Media and its relationship with the citizens inside the Public Space. The research will be made analyzing the coverage Media and the treatment of Information in relation with the safeguard of Constitutional Rights.

For these reasons, the research will use quantitative and qualitative methods, such as: a representative survey of Press texts on Human Rights (quantitative), the examination of the contents of our survey, interviews with informed people, like as journalists, policemen, judges, Human Rights activists and so on (qualitative). This methodology will be applied on all the four countries involved in our research.