

Reporting in the Maghreb - The Daily Fight for Survival

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The situation of journalists in the Maghreb is becoming more and more difficult. Journalists are threatened in Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Libya or Mauritania due to the growing influence of Islamic fundamentalist movements. In Algeria, the daily task of reporting can mean paying the price of one's life.

In general, writes the author, the different currents and radicalisation of positions by some Islamic sectors have intensified since the gulf war. The 1990s have brought with them a change which has affected the media by curtailing freedom of speech.

The New York-based Committee for the Protection of Journalists and other organisations have issued an international admonition decrying the death of some 40 journalists in Algeria since 1993.

The author also addresses the situation in Tunisia and Morocco. In Tunisia, freedom of the press has been cut back in the name of Islamic principles, the direct victims being reporters. In Morocco, the limits of information are clear-cut and directly established by King Hassan II or his cohort Driss Basri, who holds the Interior and Information portfolios. Reporters in Morocco are at the mercy of biased information sources and political plotting. In Algeria, the journalist lives a life of confinement and unrelenting fear of being next on the hit list.