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Working culture and values in media companies of the Arab Region

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RESUMEN:

This paper aims to identify the peculiarity of work values in the Arab countries through the perspective of journalism codes of ethics. Freedom of speech is in the region at the lowest level worldwide and journalism is the profession to be threatened the most by this particular want of freedom. Patriotism would be the most prominent case since this value is considered as a virtue by many Arab journalists, not as a breach of professional ethics, even if such patriotism might stifle criticism of the current political order and lack of press freedom (Al-Najjar, 2011). In the Arab countries, journalists are aware of their low profile as agenda setters but journalists work in professional environments where the ethical foundations are scattered between universal codes, local standards imposed by the political regimes and Islamic cultural boundaries. Arab states seemed to follow different references in formulating their codes of ethics in media and journalism, so that practices prohibited in some countries are allowed in others, which generates confusion among professionals working in international news agencies (Drumwright & Kamal, 2016).