ISSN5004-1112 - E-ISSN 2600-6359 www.cerist-asjp.dz/183

مجلة تنمية الموارد البشرية

Investigative Journalism: The Censor's Scissors for Promoting Community Democracy.

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Highlights

- Sentence1 Investigative journalism is the watchdog of democracy, exposing corruption and abuse of power by institutions by publishing information complete transparency
- Sentence2 Democracy protects investigative journalism through laws, freedom of expression, and access to information
- Sentence3 The relationship between a democratic system and investigative journalism is a vital one, based on freedom, integrity, and transparency in public affairs, with the aim of fostering social development.

Keywords: investigative journalism, media censorship, democracy, transparency, accountability

Inormations: **Received:** 29/01/2026 **-Accepted:** 12/04/2026 **-Published:** 30/06/2026

To cite this paper: Brinis, N. (2026). Investigative Journalism: The Censor's Scissors For Promoting Community Democracy. *RDRH*, 21(1), 163–173. https://zenodo.org/uploads/21238769

Abstract

Investigative journalism is a source of awareness of the performance of individuals, institutions, and organizations, and a powerful factor in mobilizing the masses to change the appearance of corruption and immoral and illegal processes. It also establishes the foundations of transparency and justice in the conduct of the public sphere, which supports and enhances democratic practices in societies through its oversight role over government agencies and civil society. .so, it as a public service that ensures the functioning of democracy by exposing corruption and informing the public about government malpractices. In doing so, it acts as a moral witness by highlighting the injustices suffered by marginalized groups and vulnerable peoples.

Investigative journalism is of great importance due to its multiple contributions to consolidating democratic rule. Its impact can be further understood through the model of the fourth authority that it assumes. According to this model, the press in this authority has the task of holding the government accountable by publishing information related to public affairs, even if this information reveals violations or crimes committed by those in power. From this perspective, fact-finding reports are considered among the most important contributions made by investigative journalism to consolidating democracy. It is linked to the logic of checks and balances in democratic systems, and provides a valuable mechanism for monitoring the performance of democratic institutions, which, according to the general concept, include government bodies, civil organizations, and publicly owned companies.

In this research paper, we seek to reveal the supervisory role of investigative journalism in enhancing societal democratic practice using the descriptive approach, where the literature and sources related to journalistic investigative work in relation to democracy were presented, and its roles in contributing to establishing the path of societal democracy, enhancing intellectual freedom, and strengthening the element of popular accountability for all components of society, especially the profound ones in exposing corruption and spreading transparency.

The results concluded that investigative journalism is important as one of the most important aspects of democracy in enlightening society and providing insight into its fundamental issues. It reveals any shortcomings that may be plaguing society in order to encourage relevant authorities to address these shortcomings in various fields, including political, economic, social, cultural, and other aspects. Investigative journalism also goes beyond the supervisory role of a guard dog to assume responsibility for promoting democracy and protecting its institutions by drawing attention to cases of corruption, abuse of office, and violations of laws. . so it as a public service that ensures the functioning of democracy by exposing corruption and informing the public about government malpractices. Investigative reports address issues that significantly affect society, such as corruption, environmental violations, or human rights violations. In doing so, it acts as a moral witness by highlighting the injustices suffered by marginalized groups and vulnerable peoples.

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Journalisme d'investigation : les ciseaux du censeur au service de la promotion de la démocratie communautaire

Résumé

Le journalisme d'investigation constitue une source essentielle de sensibilisation quant aux performances des individus, des institutions et des organisations. Il représente également un puissant levier de mobilisation des masses pour lutter contre les manifestations de corruption ainsi que les pratiques immorales et illégales. Par ailleurs, il contribue à l'instauration des fondements de la transparence et de la justice dans la gestion de la sphère publique, renforçant ainsi les pratiques démocratiques au sein des sociétés grâce à son rôle de surveillance des institutions gouvernementales et de la société civile.

Dans cet article, nous cherchons à mettre en évidence le rôle de supervision du journalisme d'investigation dans le renforcement de la pratique démocratique au sein de la société, en adoptant une approche descriptive. À cet effet, nous avons analysé la littérature et les sources relatives au journalisme d'investigation en lien avec la démocratie, ainsi que ses contributions à l'établissement d'un processus démocratique, au renforcement de la liberté de pensée et à la consolidation de la responsabilité populaire de l'ensemble des composantes de la société, notamment à travers la révélation des pratiques de corruption et la promotion de la transparence.

Les résultats de cette étude montrent que le journalisme d'investigation constitue l'un des piliers fondamentaux de la démocratie, en ce qu'il éclaire la société sur ses enjeux essentiels et met en évidence les dysfonctionnements qui peuvent l'affecter. Cela permet d'inciter les autorités compétentes à remédier à ces défaillances dans divers domaines, notamment politique, économique, social et culturel. Le journalisme d'investigation dépasse ainsi son rôle classique de « chien de garde » pour devenir un acteur central dans la consolidation de la gouvernance démocratique.

Mots clés : journalisme d'investigation, censure médiatique, démocratie, transparence, responsabilité publique

الصحافة الاستقصائية: المقص الرقيب لتعزيز الديمقراطية المجتمعية

الملخص:

تشكل الصحافة الاستقصائية مصدر وعي كاشف لأداء الأفراد والمؤسسات والهيئات وعامل قوي لحشد الجماهير وتعبئتها من اجل تغيير مظاهر الفساد والعمليات اللاأخلاقية واللاقانونية، وإرساء قواعد الشفافية والعدالة في تسيير المجال العام، مما تدعم الممارسات الديمقراطية في المجتمعات وتعززها عن طريق دورها الرقابي على مؤسسات الأجهزة الحكومية والمجتمع المدني.

ونسعى في هذه الورقة البحثية الى الكشف عن الدور الرقابي للصحافة الاستقصائية في تعزيز الممارسة الديمقراطية المجتمعية باستخدام المنهج الوصفي اين تم عرض الأدبيات والمصادر المتعلقة بالعمل الاستقصائي الصحفي في علاقته بالديمقراطية، وعرض أدوارها في المساهمة في إرساء مسار الديمقراطية المجتمعية وتعزيز الحرية الفكرية وتقوية عنصر المساءلة الشعبية على كافة مكونات المجتمع، وخصوصا العميقة منها بكشف الفساد وتعميم الشفافية.

وخلصت النتائج إلى أهمية الصحافة الاستقصائية كأحد أهم أوجه الديمقراطية في تنوير المجتمع وتبصيره بقضاياه الأساسية، وتكشف ما قد يعتري المجتمع من نقص من أجل دفع الجهات المعنية لمعالجة هذا الخلل في شتى الميادين والجوانب السياسية والاقتصادية والاجتماعية والثقافية وغيرها. كما تتجاوز الصحافة الاستقصائية الدور الرقابي بمسمى كلب الحراسة إلى تحمل مسؤولية تعزيز الديمقراطية وحماية مؤسساتها، وذلك بلفت الانتباه إلى حالات الفساد والاستغلال السيئ للمناصب وانتهاك القوانين.

الكلمات المفتاحية: الصحافة الاستقصائية، الرقابة الإعلامية، الديمقراطية، الشفافية، المساءلة.

Introduction

The media is an open platform where opposing opinions converge. It is the most important principle of a democratic system, ensuring that everyone has equal opportunities to express themselves. The democratic role of the media lies in its important function of curbing and censoring the system, not using the media to control public opinion and obscure opinions that oppose its core movement.

Investigative journalism is one of the most prominent and important types of journalism to investigate certain issues that occur in society, especially aspects of deviation and corruption. The editors of this type were called corruption prospectors. This concept was launched with the campaign of the American President (Theodore Roosevelt) and the team of prospectors against corruption and bribery. Hence, investigative journalism represents the highest and most difficult levels of media professionalism. It is what determines the strength and position of the media in any society, and it is an embodiment of the role of the fourth estate in it. It is also considered the only type capable of presenting a different journalistic research vision, and other media outlets cannot present it, as it is part of specialized oversight work that can create public opinion among the public.

Investigative journalism remains the cornerstone of democratic societies, as it enables citizens to hold those in power accountable, defend the rights of the people, and expose violations and assaults on these rights because it exposes corruption and confronts illegal practices in an attempt to ward off dangers, and is a tool for reaching the truth. It is an important gateway to opening investigations into corruption crimes in general, as well as the administrative exploitation of important positions in the state for personal interests or for the interests of external parties. Investigative journalism is therefore a good source of documentation and an important database. It is certainly a model of in-depth journalism, which can create a different future and influence endings and outcomes.

Through this research paper, we attempt to highlight the most important contributions made by investigative journalism in strengthening democratic practice through its oversight role over the performance of institutions and organizations, and the system of democratic practice in general. This is achieved by answering the following question: Has investigative journalism strengthened societal democratic practice through its oversight role over the performance of authority, or not? What are the most important requirements for its success in democratic societies?

1. Defining the main concepts:

1.1. Investigative journalism:

There are many terms synonymous with investigative journalism, which refer to an in-depth concept, such as: investigative journalism, depth journalism, research journalism, investigation journalism, accuracy journalism, or hidden information journalism. When this journalistic model appeared, the editors were called corruption prospectors (murkreekers), which constituted an independent type of journalism with its own characteristics and professional rules. The outlets for its definition differed, starting with focusing on one of its characteristics, such as accuracy journalism, or focusing on the nature of its treatment of issues, such as investigative journalism.

Kaplan defined it as "a structured approach to an event that requires diving into depth and actual research carried out by the journalist himself". In addition to press coverage, it deals with a

scientific method of research based on developing a hypothesis and testing its validity, verifying the facts surrounding this hypothesis, digging up obscure secrets, and establishing pillars of social justice and accountability, in addition to the excessive use of public recordings, usually in the form of statements" (Abu Hashish, 2021, p. 4)

The head of the International Center for Journalists, David Nabeul, defines it as "a purely systematic, institutional behavior that relies on research, scrutiny, and investigation to ensure objectivity and accuracy and to verify the accuracy of the news and what it may hide, based on the principle of transparency and the fight against corruption, and in commitment to the role of the press as a guard dog over government behavior, and as a means to assist officials and hold them accountable for their actions in the service of the public interest in accordance with the principles and laws of the right to access and freedom of information" (Al-Raji, 2017)

As for "Fadel Al-Badrani", confirming the previous definition, he believes that it is "an organized work in which millions of official information and documents are available, in addition to the provision of the necessary freedoms by the official authorities, and in preparation for legally rigorous investigations to avoid problems and any consequences that hinder the work and efforts of the institution, the editor, and the person in charge". Each has its own sources as well as its critics, aiming to analyze as well as delve deeper into the merits of the phenomenon, regardless of its type, economically, socially, or politically...etc. (Al-Badrani, 2011, p. 202)

This enables the journalist to criticize bad conditions and highlight wrong behaviors and improper actions, as long as he has the facts and information, which makes the founding intellectual model of investigative journalism critical thinking. This also means that the focus and center of attention of investigative journalism is “public observation”. Which is mainly related to protecting democracy, good governance, freedom of expression, and the fundamental rights of citizens who must be informed of events that reach them directly or indirectly, uncover or expose crimes, and investigate the validity of policies (Al-Raji, 2017).

In order to understand the reality of investigative journalism, we must pay attention to the four determinants set by investigative journalist David Caplin.

1- Investigative journalism is not leak journalism: because receiving a file from an influential official source and then rewriting it and publishing it on the same day does not fall within the category of investigative journalism.

2- Investigative journalism is not specialized journalism: because it requires more research and depth using investigative mechanisms and techniques.

3- Investigative journalism is not critical journalism: containing criticism alone is not enough to consider it investigative journalism. Because investigative reporting requires a lot of time, it may take weeks, months, or even years.

4- Investigative journalism is not press coverage specializing in crimes and corruption: it focuses on topics of learning, abuse of power, the rush for money, and great business stories. (Al-Dilmi, 2005, p. 295)

1.2. media censorship:

It is defined as "a process that controls the media, cultural, intellectual and creative product, such as books, plays, films, or the content of the media product, ideas, or the system of values and

beliefs that some groups believe on the basis that this content is morally, politically, and militarily unsatisfactory."

It can also be defined as: "an attempt to control the content of some news" where some place themselves in a higher authoritarian-cognitive position than others, to determine what is good worth following and what is harmful that should be withheld. There are various examples of censorship, the most important of which are deletion, rewriting, inserting additional text into the original text, preventing the publication of the work or withdrawing it, canceling it, blacklisting it, or imprisoning the employer. All of these applications fall under the umbrella of censorship.

Media censorship means monitoring the media product before and after its publication. Censorship is declared and assigned to the government in non-democratic countries, and is the responsibility of the publications censor. The profession of the censor is to monitor and review the publications before and after publication. Hence, totalitarian and authoritarian regimes see censorship as a constructive factor and social or ideological control and as a right of the state over its means (Al-Mashaqba, 2014, p. 33).

In the midst of the radical changes that have affected societies and the growing awareness of issues of human rights, freedom of expression and democratic systems, the concept of censorship has changed to see that the role of the press is to educate, inform and guide the public and to play the role of an attentive watchdog to monitor the actions of the government. To play such a role, the press must be free and represent the reality of the fourth authority monitoring the legislative, executive and judicial authorities and holding their agencies accountable to expose corruption (Castells, 2014, p. 191)

1.3. democracy:

Jurgan Habermas and James Fishkin believe that democracy is fundamentally inspired by the idea of collective deliberations, which emphasize free debate as a fundamental pillar in the democratic process, and which gives legitimacy to political decisions. They emphasized that the more open and transparent the discussions are, the more robust, acceptable, and legitimate the political decisions will be. (Blondiaux, 2022, pp. 73–86)

Contemporary democracy, as proposed by Robert Dahl, is a single, unique process for making binding collective decisions. The essence of democracy is that it is a system in which binding collective decisions are reached for a group by guaranteeing its members the right to participate actively, directly, or indirectly, in making decisions that are binding on them. This characteristic is the most significant feature of all established democratic practices today. (Al-Kuwari, 2002, p. 18)

2. Types of investigative journalism in democratic societies: The Dutch Association classified investigative journalism into:

- Scandalous investigative journalism: which works to uncover scandals committed by companies, institutions, and people who violate laws and general rules in societies.
- Evaluative investigative journalism: which evaluates the policies of governments and institutions.
- Tracking investigative journalism: which monitors political, economic, and social trends to follow societal changes and developments. (Adly, 2017, p. 27)

3. The importance of investigative journalism in democratic societies: The importance of investigative journalism stems from the function it performs, as it is considered: (Al-Dilmi, 2005, p. 297)

– Part of specialized oversight work, which can create public opinion among the public, especially if some political parties and the media adopt its results.

– Revealing the crimes, scandals and corruption of politicians and officials. In the West, it is said: (Investigative journalism has an unparalleled ability to link officials to specific crimes).

– A tool for arriving at the truth (from its source), determining its truthfulness from its lies, amplifying it from downplaying it, a tool that deepens understanding of the event.

– An important gateway for state agencies to begin investigating financial and administrative crimes.

– It forms the organization's information center and database.

– Depth journalism represents the future of successful and influential live journalism, as the American journalist, who is considered one of the most competent investigative journalists in the world, Seymour Hersh, says: (The future of journalism is in depth journalism), so investigative journalism is necessary for the advancement of the journalism of our media institutions in particular, and it is a justification for its existence.

4. Investigative journalism and its relationship to democracy:

Investigative journalism is now widely used in the fields of exposing corruption in society and providing a comprehensive investigative vision that other media outlets cannot provide, due to its profound impact in informing people of their reality and monitoring individuals, institutions, state agencies and officials, embodying its function as a fourth authority in which the journalist has become like a judge who follows up, criticizes and judges things.

The concept of investigative journalism was launched in the sixties with President Theodore Roosevelt and the team of cleaners who campaigned against corruption and bribery. Today, it has become an institutional work with its own principles and foundations that contribute to changing the situation. It is a research work like what any journalistic investigation requires, but in depth, it is facilitated, according to the opinion of the head of the investigative journalism department at the Los Angeles Times, "Alanmiller", by the abundance of news and information and millions of official documents proposed in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act. It is also facilitated by the multiplicity of means of opposition from resentful government employees, former employees, academic experts and researchers, volunteer sources, unpublished documents, private libraries, statistical reports and information from foreign countries (Hassan, n.d.)

Investigative journalism has a pivotal role in democratic societies through holding power accountable. The Watergate scandal in the United States of America, which was exposed by journalists at the Washington Post, Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein, is the greatest evidence of its usefulness in democratic societies, which led to the resignation of President Richard. It is therefore the main supporter of societies and increases public awareness about illegal activities, which puts pressure on state institutions and others to be more transparent and credible. It reinforces the principle of accountability through popular accountability of governments, and encourages demands for change through in-depth investigations in which facts are revealed and supported by

evidence. (Abu Hamam, 2014, p. 13)

Research and studies that have addressed the role of investigative journalism in emerging democratic experiments provide an important approach that helps in understanding the specificity of the investigative work model and its impact on its political and social environment and the democratic work system in general. In the new democratic experiments that appeared in Latin America during the nineties of the last century, where the importance of investigative work emerged in exposing corruption, human rights violations, and non-negative behaviors. This has contributed to strengthening the culture of female lawyers in governance and supporting the continent's nascent democracies, as the press has been able to expose corruption that has undermined power and contributed to the downfall of some governments. The removal of four presidents from power-Brazilian President Fernando Colormelo in 1992, Venezuelan President Carlos Andrés Pervez in 1993, Ecuadorian President Abdoulaye Boukram in 1997, and Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori in 2000-is largely due to the role of investigative journalism in exposing these presidents' involvement in corruption deals. In Southeast Asia, which witnessed nascent democratic experiments, investigative journalism led to the indictment of Philippine President Joseph Estrad in 2000, It angered public opinion, against his behavior, which led to his removal from power in a popular uprising.....etc. (Al-Raji, 2017)

In the Arab region, the political transformations that took place in the Arab world after the Arab Spring revolutions in 2011 strengthened the status of investigative journalism, and the importance and instilling of the role of society by involving it in decision-making. The press became the speaker of the people's language by following the method of dialogue, as it succeeded in following the smallest details in many issues and revealing many things and expanded the circle of expressing opinion. The resulting disappearance of the phenomenon of belief in the dominance of prevailing opinion through traditional media led to the disappearance of the phenomenon of silence and fear of isolation. (Abd al-Hamid, 2009)

Given its close connection to democracy, Brant Houston sees it as a public service that ensures the functioning of democracy by exposing corruption and informing the public about government malpractices. Investigative reports address issues that significantly affect society, such as corruption, environmental violations, or human rights violations. In doing so, it acts as a moral witness by highlighting the injustices suffered by marginalized groups and vulnerable peoples. (Al-Maqdadi, 2011, p. 78)

Investigative journalism is of great importance due to its multiple contributions to consolidating democratic rule. Its impact can be further understood through the model of the fourth authority that it assumes. According to this model, the press in this authority has the task of holding the government accountable by publishing information related to public affairs, even if this information reveals violations or crimes committed by those in power. From this perspective, fact-finding reports are considered among the most important contributions made by investigative journalism to consolidating democracy. It is linked to the logic of checks and balances in democratic systems, and provides a valuable mechanism for monitoring the performance of democratic institutions, which, according to the general concept, include government bodies, civil organizations, and publicly owned companies. (Hassan, n.d.)

Two trends emerged in the study of the relationship between investigative journalism and democracy:

1- The first trend has a pessimistic view extracted from the media censorship imposed on the media and journalists and the presence of the gatekeeper who reduces and sifts information according to the slogan of national security and societal stability, where he is certain that the media is nothing but a means of supporting the general societal order with all its structures. (Issa, 2012, p. 46)

We find this trend prevalent in the majority in authoritarian regimes that threaten censorship and seek revenge against the free media system, where journalists risk their safety, and we find them under legal pressure while exposing sensitive issues, and placing them under the weight of defamation, which leads to stifling their abilities and will in investigations. (Dohnanyi, 2003, p. 77)

2- The second trend has an optimistic view, considering the media as the actual scissors of the censor and embodying the idea of the fourth authority in its essential meanings. It is the guillotine of truth and has a major role in the process of democratic transformation and issues of political reform by exposing corruption, informing citizens of hidden information, and enlightening public opinion with latent and established facts (Kamal, 2014, p. 76)

It thus becomes responsible for strengthening governments and the right of peoples and civil society to obtain the information necessary to form their current and future decisive decisions, through reforms in all fields, as it enhances community awareness in all areas, as investigative reports that reveal flaws and shortcomings in public policies push the authority to reconsider them and adopt new policies for the public interest. (Dohnanyi, 2003, p. 80)

Investigative journalism and democracy are two intertwined things, according to Mohamed Qirat, who stressed that it is not possible to talk about democracy without investigative journalism, which is the mouthpiece of democracy that believes in opinions and freedom of expression. Investigative journalism can motivate society to look, work, be aware, and be vigilant for the benefit of its interests. According to Mark Douwes, the nature of journalism must be reconsidered and limits must be set for the profession. Journalism is not a change in a vacuum. Society and democracy require several types of journalism. (Deuze: , s.d.)

5. Requirements for the success of investigative journalism in a democratic society:

Kyu ho youm believes that there is a large percentage of agreement between free media and democracy, as it provides the possibility of managing free debate between different political and intellectual trends, and also provides knowledge to the public, but this requires many things that we summarize as follows:

- Matters required of the media:

- Credibility: This is done by giving priority to investigation and not comment, so that the goal is verification to reach the desired truth.

- Follow-up and seriousness: By the media regarding the issue at hand in order to reach a final solution to it. We do not need to stir up scandals as much as we need follow-up and seriousness.

- Specificity, not generalization: It is not permissible to generalize corruption to everyone, as this distances us from the truth (Kafi: , 2015, p. 51)

- Protecting the interests of society: The second condition for conducting investigative

investigations in society is that they have the ability to protect the interests of society, to be a guard dog for society, from which the public looks to monitor the composition of authority within society, to represent the interests of society in the face of authority, and to inform the public of any deviations left by authority.

- Providing information to the public: It is necessary to provide knowledge to everyone so that they can make the right decisions. Which leads to achieving social unity, which helps direct behavior and thus form public opinion through which governments in democratic societies can perform their duties (Issa, 2015, p. 34)

Matters required of various authorities in the country:

- Media support by the various authorities and all operating institutions: Revealing the facts and investigations is a tough and long battle that requires the integration of roles between all institutions of society, so that each party knows the role it is playing (Kafi: , 2015, p. 52)

- Separating the media from the authorities: to ensure that investigations are carried out with complete freedom and transparency. Milton believes that freedom of the press enhances democratic methods through oversight of the government and following up on methods of control and domination, especially by unjust authorities that harm citizens through monitoring, examination, and criticism (Issa, 2015, p. 37)

- Things required of community members (target audience):

- Using reliable media: and people who enjoy credibility, where the individual becomes able to distinguish between media sources worth following (Kafi: , 2015, p. 52)

- Conscious public opinion: When a mysterious issue in society turns into a clear issue that all individuals can understand and express their opinion about, the more transparent society becomes politically, culturally and socially, and the clearer and more conscious public opinion is, the more it leads the soul to investigate to purify society (Al-Zubaidi, 2011, p. 156)

6. The role of investigative journalism in democratic transformation:

Researchers have argued that clarifying the relationship between investigative journalism and democracy requires examining its roles, which are:

6.1. **The supervisory role or the function of the watchdog**: This function is an extension of the function of the fourth estate, meaning that the media seeks to be a watchdog over everything that happens in society. Here, investigative journalism assumes the role of an attentive guardian who works as a monitor of state activity in protecting the interests of society from corruption and deviation, by evaluating the government's performance and promoting the principle of the right to know. The true meaning of investigative journalism is to be a watchdog in society, to monitor the authorities and hold them accountable, embodying the idea of the fourth authority, as it leads to tangible and influential changes in society, including changing laws and correcting grave mistakes in societies.

6.2. The guiding role or function of the guided dog: It has a pivotal role in shaping opinion and the free public sphere by providing a real and transparent information environment on which the individual's decisions and choices are based, as it encourages individuals to interact and exchange discussions and opinions on public issues of concern to society, provided that the requirements of the free public space are met, including free media, the right to demonstrations, public discussions,

protests and all forms of social and political communication Which contributes to expanding the circle of public debate and increasing individuals' awareness about sensitive issues that affect their lives. (Stuart & Clark, 2006, pp. 300-302)

6.3. The function of the lapdog: In this case, the press merges with political and social institutions without clear independence, without showing any clear accountability for power structures, and without paying attention to other opinions and trends in society, especially those that do not agree with the interests of the giant institutions in society. Thus, it becomes a mere mediation between the authorities and citizens in what serves the interests of government agencies.

6.4. The guard dog function: It means that the press monitors and guards the most important government agencies and is very keen to monitor parasitic elements that enter society, disturb its peace, cause problems, and work to destabilize societal security and stability. It is like a strong barrier to societal security (Hassan, n.d.)

6.5. The role of the leader: The press plans the agenda of the public and society for political and pivotal issues in society by arranging these issues according to the interests of the masses, which prompts officials to take them as necessary and basic priorities in solution and treatment. (Issa, 2012, p. 33)

7- The nature of the relationship between investigative journalism and democracy:

If there is democracy, there is free journalism and investigative work. The relationship between the democratic system and the spread and practice of investigative journalism is a direct relationship, through which cultural concepts are strengthened among citizens.

First: The role of investigative journalism in promoting democracy:

- Demanding political changes and political reform.
- Encouraging transparency and legal accountability in the public service
- Promoting economic development in society by monitoring public funds, pursuing those in power, and achieving optimal exploitation of the country's resources. (Abu Ras, n.d.)
- Revealing the crimes of officials, and it is said in the West (that investigative journalism has an unparalleled ability to link officials to specific crimes.
- An important gateway for state agencies to begin opening investigations.
- Shaping public opinion on important issues.
- It is concerned with in-depth coverage of issues affecting public opinion.
- It aims to embody the public's right to transparency of knowledge. (Al-Falahi, 2017, p. 200)

Second: Benefits of a democratic system for investigative journalism:

It can be summarized in three angles:

1- Freedom of knowledge: It means the right to obtain the necessary information so that the individual can maximize their life and obtain the ability to participate in governance.

2- Freedom of speech: It is the right to freely transmit information and form people.

3- Freedom of research: It is the right of the media to contact sources and disseminate and present the information obtained, and this is the right of society (Al-Dilmi, 2005, p. 298)

Conclusion:

Finally, we can say that investigative journalism is one of the most important tools and means that serve the public interest and combat corruption in society by establishing the foundations of democracy, informing citizens of all information, and integrating them into the atmosphere of accountability of government agencies, and guaranteeing them the authority to hold the government accountable. The relationship between the democratic system and the practice of investigative journalism is vital, grounded in freedom, and will change reality and foster societal development.

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