

University of Hamburg

European Master's Degree in Human Rights and Democratisation

A.Y. 2014/2015

ISLAMIST VIOLENCE vs. COUNTER- TERRORISM POLICIES: A RECIPROCITY OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

An Emphasis on Media as an Agent (Case of Charlie Hebdo)

Author: Zahraa Awada-Badawi

Supervisor: Dr. Véronique Dudouet

Abstract:

Muslims' lives have changed drastically since the 9/11 attacks on the Twin Towers in New York. A US-led war on terror was waged to fight terrorism that threatens the peace and security of the world. Undoubtedly, this has left its mark on the lives of Muslims and Arabs. Countries taking part in the war on terror and developing counter-terrorism policies have indulged so much in that that their measures fail to equate between security and human rights. This study seeks to explore how human rights like the freedom of religion, freedom of movement, and freedom from fear of the Muslim population have been put at stake in favour of freedom of expression and potential security threats. It also sheds light on the significant role of media as an agent in the phenomenon of terrorism through comparison of news coverage of 'terrorist events', showing how this coverage can be Islamophobic and misleading for the audience for the sake of serving political and economic interests, or how it can be in favour of the Muslim population whose image is being distorted and choose to highlight the struggles Muslims go through as part of this worldly campaign against terrorism.

1. Chapter 1: Introduction and Research Methodology.....	7
1.1. Introduction.....	7
1.2. Research Methodology.....	8
2. Chapter 2: An Orientalist Approach to the Middle East..	11
2.1. A Theoretical/Academic Overview of Orientalism.....	11
2.2. U.S Foreign Policy, 9/11 and the "War on Terror: An Extension to a long- Existing Orientalism.....	14
2.3. 9/11 and the "War on Terror": Another Conspiracy?.....	16
3. Western Approaches to Counter-Terrorism & de-Radicalisation: A Wide Scale of Human Rights Violations (Impact Assessment).....	19
3.1.U.S Military Approach to Counter-Terrorism Following 9/11 and the "Arab Spring"	19
3.2. Racial Profiling: Examples from the U.S and the UK.....	22
3.3. Banning the veil in Europe.....	28
4. The Role of Media as an Agent.....	31
4.1. Journalism: Between Objectivity, Impartiality, and Framing.....	31
4.2. Media Framing and Stereotyping in the Portrayal of Islam.....	35
4.3.Framing and Publicity: A Favour Serving the Widespread of Terrorism.....	38
5. Freedom of Religion v/s Freedom of Expression: From the Danish Cartoons to Charlie Hebdo.....	42
5.1. The Danish Cartoons and the legal base on Freedom of expression VS Freedom of Religion.....	42
5.2. Assassination, the Price of Mocking Islam: "Submission" and "Charlie	

Hebdo"	47
6. Media Coverage on Terrorism: The Case of Charlie	
Hebdo.....	55
6.1. FOX News: An Islamophobic Scope.....	55
6.2. BBC: An Attempt to Remain Neutral.....	64
6.3. Al-Jazeera: Seeking to Examine the Roots and Consequences.....	69
7. Conclusion.....	74
Bibliography.....	80