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The influence of the media on criminal investigations.

The influence of the media on criminal investigations

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SUMMARY

This study analyzes the influence of media on society and the criminal justice system, highlighting its dual role as a tool of social control and a commercial product. The media, considered the "fourth estate," shapes public perception through sensationalism, dramatization, and selective coverage of crimes. High-profile cases, such as those of Eloá, Suzane von Richthofen, and Isabella Nardoni, show how media exposure can generate premature moral judgments, interfere with due process, and compromise the presumption of innocence. Criminological studies of the media demonstrate its role in constructing social stigmas, reinforcing stereotypes, and creating "media trials." Ethical journalism and responsible reporting are essential to balancing freedom of expression and fundamental rights.

Keywords: Media influence, social control, sensationalism, criminal justice, media trials, presumption of innocence, ethical journalism, public perception, high-profile crimes.

ABSTRACT

This study examines the influence of media on society and the criminal justice system, highlighting its dual role as a tool for social control and a commercial product. The media, often referred to as the "fourth power," shapes public perception through sensationalism, dramatization, and selective coverage of crimes. High-profile cases such as Eloá, Suzane von Richthofen, and Isabella Nardoni demonstrate how media exposure can lead to premature moral judgments, interfere with due process, and compromise the presumption of innocence. Criminological media studies reveal the media's role in constructing social stigmas, reinforcing stereotypes, and creating "media trials" that affect legal outcomes. Ethical journalism and responsible reporting are essential to balance freedom of expression with fundamental rights, ensuring that information serves public interest without harming justice or individual dignity.

Keywords: Media influence, social control, sensationalism, criminal justice, media trials, presumption of innocence, ethical journalism, public perception, high-profile crimes.

1. INTRODUCTION

The contemporary status quo is characterized by the intense use of social networks, which This marks a profound transformation in the way information is received and disseminated. The rapid and widespread circulation of news, often without proper verification, shapes public opinion. and directly influences various social processes, including the functioning of the Judiciary. Social media, in principle, aims to inform the public about events. everyday situations; however, the information conveyed in these spaces is frequently disseminated in a way that...



Year V, v.2 2025 | Submission: October 27, 2025 | Accepted: October 29, 2025 | Publication: October 31, 2025

in an exaggerated or distorted way, whether by ordinary users, digital influencers, or pages linked to media outlets. In this context, sensationalist media coverage, Especially in high-profile cases, it can turn individuals into targets of judgment. hasty public actions. This phenomenon becomes even more worrying when it involves individuals subjected to criminal proceedings, since excessive media exposure can lead to serious consequences. consequences for their image and for the preservation of their fundamental rights before the Brazilian society.

The intense media coverage of criminal cases has contributed to increased stigma. social media coverage of the accused, to fuel sensationalism and violate privacy. of the victims and their families. This practice creates a distortion between the true identity of the involved and the image projected by the media, constructed, in many cases, based on versions Incomplete or misleading information. Thus, public perception becomes more influenced. based more on media narratives than on evidence actually presented in the case files.

In this context, the phenomenon known as "trial by media" emerges, an expression that describes anticipated social judgment, in which public opinion forms convictions about guilt or denying a person's innocence even before the conclusion of the judicial process. Such conduct violates directly relates to the principle of presumption of innocence, provided for in article 5, item LVII, of the Constitution. Federal Constitution of 1988, which guarantees that no one will be considered guilty until a final and unappealable judgment is reached. criminal conviction.

However, practice shows that, in contemporary times, this fundamental right is... Frequently disregarded. The speed at which information circulates on social media and in the media. Mass communication fosters prejudice and can affect the neutrality of judges and the freedom of conviction for jurors in cases submitted to the Jury Court.

The Isabella Nardoni case, among other high-profile episodes, highlighted the power the media's role in shaping public opinion and interfering in the course of criminal proceedings, often before any final court decision.

Given this scenario, the present study seeks to analyze how the trial phenomenon... The media's influence threatens the principle of presumption of innocence and compromises the impartiality of the process. Brazilian criminal law, especially considering the influence of social media and media discourse. sensationalist in shaping public opinion and in the functioning of the justice system.

The case of Eloá Cristina Pimentel, which occurred in October 2008, became one of the episodes one of the most emblematic cases in Brazilian police and media history, not only because of its tragedy, but also because The way it was covered and exploited by the press. The kidnapping, which lasted for more than One hundred hours that ended with the death of the fifteen-year-old girl exposed flaws in the handling of the



Year V, v.2 2025 | Submission: October 27, 2025 | Accepted: October 29, 2025 | Publication: October 31, 2025

Police negotiations revealed the controversial role of the media in covering crisis situations.

Live streaming of the negotiations, especially the interview given by the kidnapper.

Lindemberg Alves, speaking to journalist Sônia Abrão, highlighted the fine line between the right to information and...

Undue interference in police activity. The widespread coverage of the case on television and by

The internet transformed the tragedy into a spectacle, generating debates about media sensationalism, and...

The sensationalization of violence and the influence of the press on the outcome of police operations. Given this...

Within this context, the present study seeks to analyze police action and media conduct during the...

The kidnapping of Eloá Pimentel, investigating whether there were technical failures in the GATE operation and how.

The media exposure may have contributed to the tragic outcome of the case.

The aim of this article is to analyze the influence of the media, especially Brazilian television.

in the construction of sensationalist narratives in the criminal investigation process, taking as

It refers to the cases of Isabella Nardoni, Eloá Cristina, and Suzane von Richthofen, which occurred between...

from 2002 to 2008. Considering the actions of the bodies responsible for criminal prosecution.

They must always be guided by impartiality and respect for fundamental rights.

The investigation, in turn, aims to identify the materiality of the crime, its authorship, the

circumstances in which it occurred and the motives that drove it.

In this context, the interference of the media will be addressed, among other issues.

communication such as television, radio, the internet, and print media, especially through programs.

journalistic and police coverage, in the conduct of investigations carried out by the Judicial Police.

This influence manifests itself in various ways, being most evident in the practice of "sensationalism".

of high-profile crimes, which generates intense social mobilization and a concentration of

Public attention is being paid to a specific case under investigation.

From this perspective, it is observed that, in order to meet the expectations of the public opinion

In public matters, public security agencies frequently allocate human, material, and other resources.

financial resources for specific cases. This selective prioritization may compromise equity in

handling of other investigative procedures, especially in a scenario where, as a rule,

police institutions lack the adequate technical, logistical, and personnel structure to

to guarantee qualified and effective criminal repression in a broad and uniform manner.

The relationship between media and the penal system has become one of the most debated topics in...

in recent decades, especially in light of the growth of sensationalist journalism and its impact.

The role of digital networks in shaping public opinion. How crimes, suspects, and investigations occur.

The representations in the media directly interfere with the social perception of

crime and, in many cases, the administration of justice itself. Media criminology emerges,

In this context, as a field of study that seeks to understand how media discourse shapes the



Year V, v.2 2025 | Submission: October 27, 2025 | Accepted: October 29, 2025 | Publication: October 31, 2025

The collective imagination regarding crime influences political and judicial decisions. The spectacularization of Criminal cases and the spread of punitive narratives reinforce stereotypes and produce stigmas. social issues threaten constitutional principles such as the presumption of innocence and impartiality. procedural. Thus, reflecting on the role of the press and its effects on criminal proceedings is essential. to understand the contemporary challenges of the democratization of information and the effectiveness of fundamental rights in a democratic state governed by the rule of law.

2. THE MEDIA

The media plays a role in social control by analyzing and disseminating opinions about... events, often being recognized as the "fourth estate" due to its influence. significant regarding the perception and behavior of society. For Sálvio de Figueiredo Teixeira (1996):

The press, in turn, became indispensable to social life, with activities multiple areas, encompassing news, entertainment, leisure, information, culture, science, art, and education. and technology, influencing societal behavior, consumption, clothing, and food, In language, in the vernacular, in ethics, in politics, etc. In short, it represents the most powerful An instrument of influence in today's society.

Historically, the media has exerted a significant influence on the construction of perception. social interaction between individuals. When one realizes that a particular crime has the potential to generate interest. and economic return, tends to intensify coverage and dramatize events, transforming The facts are presented in impactful narratives that capture the audience's attention.

Persuasion is achieved through sensationalism and the transmission of images. Shocking events that cause outrage and revulsion in society. Cruel murders, child rapes, Prisoners who torture their victims during rebellions, corruption, in short, a cornered society believes "I sincerely believe that criminal law will be the solution for everyone." (GRECO, 2011, p. 13).

The technological age is defined by the widespread circulation of information. Various means Newspapers, radio, television, and more recently, the internet have become fundamental tools. so that the population can follow the events in Brazil and the world.

With the advancement of technology and the multiplication of ways to access information, new things have emerged. debates about the effects of these new media on society. On one hand, there are those who see them as a On the one hand, it is a symbol of the democratization of knowledge; on the other, there are those who criticize the lack of control and Verification of disseminated information facilitates the spread of false and distorted news.

The concept of "media" began to be used in the 19th century, in the context of the Revolution. Industrial, when the emergence of new technologies such as the telegraph and the telephone transformed the



Year V, v.2 2025 | Submission: October 27, 2025 | Accepted: October 29, 2025 | Publication: October 31, 2025

A form of communication between people, it accelerated the spread of information. Over time, Other media were created, such as radio and television, significantly expanding the reach of communication and influencing the ways of thinking and acting in society.

During the 20th century, the media established itself as one of the main instruments of opinion formation and the construction of social discourse. The expansion of newspapers and broadcasting stations. Radio, and later television, meant that news ceased to be merely a form of communication. to inform, while also taking on a commercial role. The search for audience and competition. Among the vehicles, this has led to increasingly rapid content production, but not always. accurate or impartial.

This process resulted in a profound change in the social function of the press. To inform. It ceased to be the central objective, giving way to the logic of profit and visibility. Thus, the Communication became driven by economic interests, transforming journalism into a... market product and, consequently, influencing the way people perceive it. reality.

3. NEWS AS SHOW: JOURNALISM UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ENTERTAINMENT

The relationship between journalism and entertainment has led to information being viewed as a product. The public, which was previously considered merely a receiver of information, is now viewed as a consumer, and the news has become an item that should generate engagement and profit.

In this business model, many media outlets prioritize content that captures... Pay attention immediately, even if it means sacrificing quality, accuracy, and ethics. journalistic. Instead of adopting a clear and informative approach, some of the press resorts to Sensationalist and persuasive narratives shape public opinion and affect collective attitudes.

A clear example of this trend is crime coverage. Television channels and websites... News outlets dedicate a large portion of their programming to reporting crimes, often using a narrative... dramatic and exaggerated. The excessive disclosure of details, often without confirmation or In this context, it provokes emotions such as fear and outrage, putting pressure on authorities and altering perspectives. popular on security and justice.

What is known as "crime journalism" takes advantage of the curiosity and emotions of the public. The public is reinforced by stereotypes and leads to hasty judgments. Thus, the media becomes a

a true "fourth estate," capable of influencing political, judicial, and social decisions, going beyond its function is to inform.

4. MEDIA AND MEDIA CRIMINOLOGY

Media criminology studies the intersection between crime, criminal justice, and the media. communication, analyzing how the media constructs the social imaginary about crimes, criminals and state action. According to Faria (2021), the press, when reporting crimes in a way "Spectacularized," it contributes to the production of social stigmas, reinforcing stereotypes and exacerbating the feeling of public insecurity, especially in large urban centers. For Surette (2015), The media acts as a distorted mirror of reality, amplifying certain crimes and neglecting others, thus producing the phenomenon of mediated reality. Greer (2010) adds that this dynamic forms the so-called "criminal media circle," in which media, public, system Criminal law and politics influence each other.

The concept of "moral panic," popularized by Cohen (2002), describes how coverage... Sensationalist media can fuel repressive policies and transform certain Crimes are not priorities on the public agenda. In Yar's analysis (2012), this practice is accentuated by The advancement of digital networks, in which the flow of information is even faster and less filtered. Brazilian scholars demonstrate that media criminology reinforces the labeling process. social discourse, as Santana Neto (2023) points out, creates stereotypes of "marginalized" people through discourse. Visual and mythologized, transmitted through television and digital media.

The construction of "media judgment," discussed by Oliveira (2024), highlights risks. concrete examples of the presumption of innocence, provided for in article 5, LVII, of the Federal Constitution: when explaining By portraying suspects as guilty, the media anticipates popular condemnations and puts pressure on judges and jurors. and legal professionals to make decisions in accordance with public outcry. This phenomenon is identified by Rodríguez and Da Silva (2015), when analyzing the impact of media coverage in cases of great national repercussion, such as the Isabella Nardoni case, which illustrates the direct influence of Public opinion regarding investigative and judicial procedures.

The media's role in criminal matters is one of the most sensitive areas of its social influence. When crimes are reported in a biased or exaggerated manner, there is a risk of violating the law. The principle of presumption of innocence and creating undue pressure on the justice system.

Cases that gain widespread notoriety tend to provoke intense social mobilizations and... The demand for quick answers from the government. This media pressure can affect the progress of... investigations, shaping public perception and undermining the impartiality of judges and juries. For this reason



Year V, v.2 2025 | Submission: October 27, 2025 | Accepted: October 29, 2025 | Publication: October 31, 2025

For this reason, what is called "trial by media" often occurs before the legal trial.

leading to symbolic condemnations before the facts are assessed.

Instead of offering fair and informative coverage, some media outlets distort the truth.

This approach portrays crime as a spectacle, prioritizing emotion over reflection.

The ethical principles of journalism are undermined, and fundamental rights such as the right to a defense are jeopardized.

The guarantee of a fair trial.

Thus, even though the media plays a crucial role in disseminating information and in

Oversight of public authorities is fundamental; it must act in a responsible, ethical, and committed manner.

With the truth. Journalism should function as a means of clarification and social awareness, and not as a stage for the dramatization of justice or the commercialization of news. It is

It is necessary for the media to maintain impartiality and factual accuracy.

prioritizing the collective interest instead of sensationalist or ideological objectives. Furthermore, the

Commitment to transparency and rigorous fact-checking is essential to avoid

Spreading misinformation that could negatively influence public opinion.

The media, in fulfilling its social function, should contribute to the formation of a society.

critical thinking, capable of interpreting and questioning received information, promoting the strengthening of

democracy and respect for human rights. In this way, journalism reaffirms its relevance not

not only as a source of information, but also as an instrument of citizenship and transformation.

social.

5. Sensationalism and Criminal Procedure

Authors such as Cunha (2024) highlight sensationalism as a central element in

Media coverage of crimes. By prioritizing shocking narratives, the press interferes with...

Selective investigative practices by criminal prosecution agencies, encouraging the diversion of resources.

for specific cases and fragmenting the equality between investigations. Vilela (2024) adds

that public authorities, amidst media pressure, may anticipate results, release evidence

or to issue public judgments that compromise the impartiality of the legal process. This practice reveals-

It is harmful where there is a lack of structure and resources in police institutions.

Studies indicate that, in Latin American countries, especially in Brazil, labeling

The media tends to stigmatize young people from working-class backgrounds, a phenomenon known as "theory of

"labeling" (Daher et al., 2022; Regassi, 2019). The media creates social symbols that reinforce

Prejudices justify selective and repressive approaches by the penal system, perpetuating...

judicial and social inequalities.

6. Fundamental Rights, Impartiality, and Due Process of Law

Legal doctrine considers that the media impact on criminal investigations represents real risk to the maintenance of the constitutional principles of impartiality, full defense and due process. legal process. Nagorski (2024) discusses how the reinforcement of stereotypes can distort the production of evidence and the assessment of facts by the authorities. The right to information, although indispensable to Democracy, however, must find normative limits so as not to infringe upon fundamental rights. Privacy, the presumption of innocence, and the dignity of the human person.

Barbosa (2019) emphasizes that the practice of journalism needs to be guided by principles. ethical and committed to the public interest, not driven by sensationalist commercial motivations. The excessive use of personal tragedies as a topic of discussion is criticized, and care should be taken to protect the victim. and those under investigation, under penalty of jeopardizing the search for the truth and the effectiveness of criminal justice.

The literature suggests that clear regulation of media practices and the improvement of Institutional communication policies within the justice system are essential for balancing freedom. of expression and individual rights, reflecting in the strengthening of the Democratic Rule of Law. Constitutional principles must be observed.

7. Presumption of Innocence

The presumption of innocence is a principle that must be followed within investigative media. This principle covers against societal judgments and protects the accused; in addition to this principle, The defendant's right to image, dignity, and privacy must also be respected.

The presumption of innocence is a fundamental constitutional principle and a guarantee. essential to the Democratic Rule of Law, especially in the area of Criminal Law, where... At stake are a person's freedom and rights. This principle establishes that no one can be found guilty before a final and unappealable criminal conviction.

Rangel (2017, p. 24) questions the very terminology "presumption of innocence," suggesting that it may be inadequate. According to the author, within the constitutional principle, "if the defendant cannot being considered guilty until a final and unappealable criminal conviction is reached also cannot "to be presumed innocent."

In practice, however, this principle is not always respected. In many cases, the An individual is judged morally or socially even before having the opportunity to act. fully defending oneself. The principle of presumption of innocence was created precisely to protect the



Year V, v.2 2025 | Submission: October 27, 2025 | Accepted: October 29, 2025 | Publication: October 31, 2025

defendant, ensuring that he responds to the proceedings while at liberty until the time of the trial. Still
Thus, in certain situations, the accused may begin serving their sentence before the final judgment.

Media interference is a factor that frequently violates this principle. When
Media outlets label suspects as criminals or assert their guilt before the...
In concluding the judicial process, they are disrespecting the fundamental right to the presumption of innocence.
Wesley Borges (2011, p. 4) observes that “media pressure, especially in high-profile crimes
The repercussions create a sense of justice, functioning as a kind of justice by one's own hands.
"By hand, condemning in advance and inhibiting any form of defense."

Therefore, the presumption of innocence should protect the accused not only against unfair judgments.
premature judgments, but also against the moral and social condemnation imposed by public opinion.
and through the media. Furthermore, it is essential that the rights to image, dignity, and...
The defendant's privacy is ensured, guaranteeing a fair and balanced trial.

8. BETWEEN INFORMATION AND SPECTACLE: HOW THE COVERAGE OF THE ELOÁ CASE REDEFINED THE ROLE OF POLICE JOURNALISM

The murder and kidnapping of 15-year-old student Eloá Cristina Pimentel occurred in 2008.
These events stand out as one of the most impactful episodes in 21st-century Brazilian history. The extensive
The uninterrupted media coverage of the Eloá case, which lasted for more than one hundred hours, transformed
The episode turned into a true national drama, whose repercussions went beyond the tragic outcome of the event
(MEMÓRIA GLOBO, 2021).

The live broadcast of negotiations between the police and the kidnapper, Lindemberg Alves,
The victim's ex-boyfriend created an atmosphere of constant tension and expectation, causing the case to...
It took on the characteristics of a reality show. Each update on what had happened fueled the...
audience ratings, while media outlets competed intensely to broadcast
The most impactful information and the most sensational details. This relentless pursuit of
The public ended up favoring the media spectacle over a rigorous investigation of the facts.
fostering a scenario of premature public judgment.

Direct media interference in the negotiations may have influenced the behavior of
The kidnapper, who demonstrated a need for attention and recognition. The continuous exposure of
The tragedy imposed additional suffering on the victims and their families, whose privacy was violated.
They were invaded and subjected to intense emotional pressure. Furthermore, the sensationalist coverage...
This raised important ethical questions about the boundaries between the right to information and...
Freedom of the press and respect for individual privacy.



Year V, v.2 2025 | Submission: October 27, 2025 | Accepted: October 29, 2025 | Publication: October 31, 2025

The Eloá case became a landmark in reflection on the role of the media in society and it highlighted the need for ethical, responsible journalism committed to the veracity of the facts. The episode sparked a broader debate about the coverage of crimes and situations of violence, highlighting the importance of prioritizing respect for human dignity instead of spectacularization of tragedy.

The legacy of the Eloá case is multifaceted: on the one hand, it highlights the dangers of the pursuit of justice. On the one hand, it is driven by a relentless pursuit of audience ratings and a disregard for ethical and social principles; on the other, it propels Relevant discussions on domestic violence, mental health, and victim protection, topics that They remain essential in the contemporary debate on media and social responsibility.

9. SUZANE VON RICHTHOFEN CASE: BETWEEN THE MEDIA AND THE TRIAL

According to Memória Globo (2014), the Suzane von Richthofen case clearly demonstrates The complex interaction between media and the judicial system. The coverage of the crime revealed how the media... Communication can shape public opinion, anticipate judgments, and exert pressure on the... legal process, prioritizing the detailed presentation of events to generate repercussions and impact on the public.

Newspapers and magazines from the time of the crime blatantly described how cold and monstrous Suzane was. titled as the girl who killed her parents, before any conviction. This narrative, which transformed Suzane into a monstrous figure, created an environment of media trial, harming the right to a full defense and due process. The case highlights the need for reflection. about the role of the media and about mechanisms that ensure impartial trials.

In the pursuit of audience ratings, the media constructed a portrait of Suzane as a cold and... calculating, exploiting personal aspects such as appearance, social class, and family relationships. This sensationalist portrayal dehumanized the accused and created a psychological profile designed to to shock the public. An example of this was the Folha de S. Paulo report, published on June 8th. from 2006, entitled The Show Must Go On, which compared crime to a soap opera narrative, reinforcing the media-driven nature of the episode.

This image construction, which primarily held Suzane responsible for the homicides, exerted great pressure on the jury. Jurors influenced by the media narrative may having formed preconceived notions about the guilt of the accused, interfering with the impartiality of the judgment and jeopardizing the application of decisions based solely on evidence. presented in court (Cavalcanti, 2019).

Furthermore, the media demonization of Suzane von Richthofen possibly contributed for the severity of the penalty applied. The need to impose an exemplary punishment, reinforced by Sensationalist coverage and pressure from public opinion may have influenced jurors to adopt... a more rigorous stance, prioritizing social satisfaction over impartial analysis of the evidence.

10. THE ROLE OF THE MEDIA IN CONSTRUCTING GUILT: THE ISABELLA NARDONI CASE AND ITS EFFECTS ON THE TRIAL

The media coverage of the Isabella Nardoni case was notable for its sensationalism and... constructing a narrative that presented the victim's parents as the main suspects, contributing to the formation of a preconceived public opinion. This media pressure, combined with The search for audience share turned into a veritable "witch hunt," marked by the dissemination of... Partial and often inaccurate information.

The April 23, 2008 edition of *Veja* magazine illustrated this approach well, bringing in The cover features a photograph of the couple accompanied by the categorical phrase: "It was them." The forcefulness of The statement reinforced the perception of guilt of the accused, influencing public opinion even before the official statement of the full unfolding of the investigations.

The immediate effect of this coverage was the creation of an environment hostile to conducting a An impartial investigation is needed, with society demanding swift answers and exemplary punishments. The narrative constructed by the media dehumanized the accused and contributed to the The formation of a biased "popular jury," prejudicing the right to due process.

In addition to impacting the trial, the way the case was handled by the media boosted... public debates on domestic violence and child protection, highlighting the capacity of The press has the power to influence both social perception and public policy. From the beginning, the Media narratives reinforced suspicions about Isabella's parents, fueling public curiosity and exerting pressure on the authorities. Much of the information disseminated was based on Speculation, and the rapid circulation of this news, shaped public opinion in a lasting way.

The media's influence on the jury was significant. Jurors, exposed to a With their narrative already constructed, they arrived at the trial with preconceived notions and convictions previously, characterizing the phenomenon known as "trial by media". This context It compromised the impartiality of the process, violating the principle of presumption of innocence enshrined in the Brazilian legal system.



Year V, v.2 2025 | Submission: October 27, 2025 | Accepted: October 29, 2025 | Publication: October 31, 2025

The intense media exposure and pressure from public opinion had consequences. Deep for those involved. The image of Isabella's parents was tarnished by suspicion and condemnation. social issues arise from the beginning of the process, resulting in significant psychological distress for them and their families. family members. Even after partial acquittals, the social stigma and emotional impact remained. highlighting the lasting effects of sensationalist coverage on people's lives. involved.

11. CONCLUSION

The contemporary scenario highlights the rapid circulation of information through Social networks and traditional media have brought about profound transformations in the social perception of Crime and the functioning of the justice system. The sensationalization of high-profile cases. The spread of sensationalist narratives contributes to the emergence of "trial by media" in Brazil. which individuals are publicly judged even before the conclusion of judicial proceedings. This This dynamic not only threatens the presumption of innocence, but also compromises impartiality. of trials, influences jury decisions, and jeopardizes the fundamental rights of defendants. and victims. Given this context, it becomes essential to reflect on the responsibility of the media, ethics journalistic practice and the need to reconcile the right to information with the preservation of dignity, of privacy and justice, ensuring that the penal system operates in an equitable and impartial manner, even under intense social and media pressure.

The presumption of innocence is a fundamental legal principle that guarantees that no one is guilty. An individual is not found guilty before the final judgment of the criminal sentence, protecting their Freedom, dignity, image, and privacy. Its importance is even greater in the realm of Law. Criminal law, where essential rights and the very freedom of people accused of crimes are at stake. However, in practice, this principle is often disregarded, especially when society And the media anticipate judgments, violating not only legal norms but also human rights. basics.

Emblematic cases from recent Brazilian history, such as the kidnapping and murder of Eloá. Cristina Pimentel, the murder of Suzane von Richthofen's parents, and the Isabella Nardoni case illustrate this. How intense media coverage can transform human tragedies into public spectacles. Continuous broadcasting of negotiations in the Eloá case generated pressure on the kidnapper and caused suffering. In addition to the victims, while in the cases of Suzane von Richthofen and Isabella Nardoni, the media constructed... Narratives that dehumanized the accused, shaping public opinion and influencing jurors. This The exposure contributed to a "media trial" that undermined the impartiality of the process and



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This compromised the defendants' right to a full defense, highlighting the tension between the right to information and privacy of justice.

Therefore, protecting the principle of presumption of innocence requires actions that go beyond the scope of... judicial, also encompassing the ethical conduct of the media and the social responsibility of public opinion. It is fundamental that journalists and media outlets prioritize the veracity of facts and respect to human dignity, avoiding the sensationalization of crimes. Guaranteeing the presumption of innocence is, Thus, preserving justice, ethics, and humanity, ensuring that no individual is condemned socially before the trial and that fundamental rights are respected even in cases of great importance.

The media, although it plays a relevant role as a mechanism of social control and The democratization of information can produce profound distortions in the public perception of crime and In criminal practice, the balance between freedom of the press and respect for fundamental rights is crucial. It depends on dialogue between legal experts, journalists, regulatory bodies, and civil society. Improvement Media practices and the regulatory framework are essential for protecting guarantees. constitutional principles, avoiding excesses and promoting a truly citizen-centered justice system.

An analysis of the media's influence on criminal investigations reveals a reality. multifaceted and complex, marked by direct and indirect impacts on the conduct of procedures. investigative. In many cases, media coverage of high-profile crimes contributes to the transformation of facts into spectacles, facilitating the construction of a "media trial" which precedes, and often influences, the actual legal judgment. Sensationalism and the pursuit of Hearings often put pressure on police and judicial authorities, resulting in hasty investigations, diversion of resources and, at times, compromised production of evidence and the preservation of the rights of those involved.

Furthermore, the media has the power to shape common sense and influence criminal policies. and, through primary criminalization and legislative populism, act as an agent of control. social. Such influence can be beneficial when directed towards promoting transparency and oversight. but it can be harmful if it compromises the presumption of innocence, equality, impartiality and... Due process of law. The Isabella Nardoni case, for example, illustrates how a media narrative... The preliminary ruling impacted the jury, judges, and the entire course of the criminal investigation.

Therefore, it is essential that legal professionals, the Judicial Police, and other agents... Public authorities must resist media pressure, ensuring investigations are guided by technical expertise and respect to constitutional precepts. The social responsibility of the media and the development of practices Ethical and responsible journalism is essential to ensure that the right to information is not violated. override fundamental rights. Interdisciplinary collaboration between jurists, journalists and



Year V, v.2 2025 | Submission: October 27, 2025 | Accepted: October 29, 2025 | Publication: October 31, 2025

Researchers are indispensable for promoting advances in the quality of criminal investigations and in
Preservation of individual and collective rights.

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