

## **THE POWER OF THE PRESS**

People will believe almost anything you tell them, if only it sounds interesting and appealing enough. Sometimes they are even prepared to go against their own principles, to persuade themselves that what they have read is true because the truth is too difficult for them to handle. That is what the owners of the press in various countries are very aware of. As much as people would like to believe that the press is an independent force that would always give an objective perspective, that is the biggest lie in my opinion.

I believe that every government is very aware of the press' power and knows exactly how to handle it. I believe that there are certain things that will never (even though they should be) be revealed to the public because it is not in the interest of the people who have the power.

But that is another issue.

Sometimes journalists are not even aware of what kind of effect a certain story can have. If an article for example proclaims a certain person a rapist and a killer before he has even been convicted, people will believe it. They will at least think about it, they will have doubts, which means that this person's life is ruined for good no matter whether he is really guilty or not.

The media can be used in the favour of whoever owns them and can become very dangerous when abused or used without caution. That is why one of the main principles of judicial country is as highest rate of independency of the press as possible. That is what we should straim for.