L-Atti tal-Inkjesta datata 19 ta' Novembru 2019, rigward skont it-Termini ta' Referenza ta' l-Inkjesta Pubblika dwar l-Assassinju ta' Daphne Caruana Galizia.

Seduta miżmuma llum it-Tlieta 24 ta' Novembru 2020, fid-1:00 a.m. fit-Tieni Sular, Awla 20, il-Qorti.

Xhud **Sylvana Debono** Iben Paul u Maria Dolores nee` Spiteri imwielda l-Furiana u residenti Hal Lija bil-Malti u bil-gurament taghha tghid :

Chairman Imhallef M Mallia :
Inti l-professjoni tieghek hija ta' gurnalista hux hekk ghandi nifhem?

Ix-Xhud :
Hekk hu.

Chairman Imhallef M Mallia :
U ghal liema media house tahdem? Jew ghandek xi media house tieghek?

Ix-Xhud :
Tieghi le; newsbook.com.mt. Beacon Media Group bhala entita`.

Chairman Imhallef M Mallia :
Ok. U kemm ilek tahdem ma' Newsbook?

Ix-Xhud :
F' din il-fazi ilni erba' snin, imma jiena kont ghamilt 12-il sena qabel at RTK; fl-inkarnazzjoni precedenti..

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Ok. Radio tal-Knisja.

Chairman Imhallef M Mallia :
Illum president ta' l- IGM inti?

Ix-Xhud :
Iva.

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Kemm ilek please?

Chairman Imhallef M Mallia :
U kemm ilek f’ dan ir-rwol ta’ president?

Ix-Xhud :
Minn Awwissu

Chairman Imhallef M Mallia :
Li ghadda.

Ix-Xhud :
Yes.

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Ta’ din is-sena.

Chairman Imhallef M Mallia :
X’ tista’ tghidilna fuq din? Fuq l-IGM? Fis-sens illi.. r-rwol, ghandu sahha bizzejjed biex jassugura standards fil-gurnalizmu? Huwa b’ sahhtu bizzejjed biex jassigura protezzjoni ghal gurnalisti?

Ix-Xhud :
Ha nibdew mir-rwol. Ir-rwol ta’ l-IGM inbidel xi ftit tul is-snin; beda’ bhala Press Club. Beda mhux b’ inizjattiva ghall-ewwel tal-gurnalisti.., beda mhux b’ inizjattivi tal-guranlsiti per se, imma kien hemm Joe Brockdorff tal-BBC illi kien qal - jiena lest illi noffri l-ghajnuna tieghi biex nghaqqad. U offra l-ghajnuna tieghu after a certain amount of time; jidhirli xi ghxar snin. BBC took a step back u l-gurnalisti baqghu mixjin. Kien hemm xi attentati qabel 30 sena ilu, illum din is-sena nghalqu 30 sena. Imma minhabba anke rikonfigurazzjoni tas-socjeta` Maltija, minhabba l-partegjanizzmu, daqqa wiehed jigbed ‘l hemm u wiehed jigbed ‘l hawn. Xi kultant di tanto in tanto tisma’ xi kultant xi naqra raghad li xi hadd jghid issa jew naha jew ohra illi – naqbdu u naghmlu IGM iehor.. naqbdu u naghmlu ghaqda ohra. Is-socjeta` f’ Malta hija partiggjana hafna. Allura dawn l-affarijiet minflok inti thares.., inbatu hafna minnha ahna l-gurnalisti. Minflok inharsu lejn il-korp gunalistiku bhala korp gunalistiku, allura hemm a …, inharsu ghax dawk ta’ dik in-naha u ahna ta’ din in-naha. Dik tmur.. timmilita kontra l-professjoni. Immagina kienu jigu avukat quddiemek u tibda tghid hekk; I mean its mhix on; its not on.

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Mhux hekk? No.

Ix-Xhud :
Sorry, staqsejtni affarijiet ohra.

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Jekk hi tafx if it's gives ..if its a forth protection to journalists in their work. If it is strong enough to do so basically.

Ix-Xhud :
No.

Imhallef A Lofaro :
No.

Ix-Xhud :
That's the blunt answer. No. Ir-realta` hi illi l-unika istituzzjoni illi din kapaci toffriha hija l-Pulizija

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Il-Pulizija biss.

Ix-Xhud :
Sa.., hija mira taghna tul is-sena li gejja illi l-istitut tal-gurnlasiti Maltin jinbidel, ikompli jinbidel, jivolvi, forma ta' union kif qeghdin isiru barra minn Malta. Per ezempju fil-Covid kellna tlabiet anke minn gurnalisti, ghaliex ma taghtux direttivi lill-gurnalisti biex ma jattendux certa attivitajiet illi ma jkunux well protected, well.. whatever. Ir-realta` hi li ma nistghux naghmlu hekk. Ghax ma ahniex trade union.

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Ma tistghux.

Ix-Xhud :
Dik qeghdin nipprova nimxu 'l hemmhekk, ghaliex nemmnu li b' dik permezz ta' dik inkunu nistghu noholqu.. inkunu nistghu noffru iktar protezzjoni lil gurnalisti.

Imhallef A Lofaro :
U jekk nitkellmu... inti semmejt is-sahha. What about il-persuna nnifisha li ma jergax jigri xi attakk iehor fuq gurnalist?, fatali jew mhux fatali. Ma nafx.

Ix-Xhud :
Dik lanqas il-Pulizija ma kienu kapaci jevitawha, jigifieri….

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Mela lanqas intom, mhux hekk? Tlabtu ghajnuna lill-Pulizija? Qatt tlabtu ghajnuna?

Ix-Xhud :
Kemm ili hemmhekk jiena ma kienx hemm kazi fejn.

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Imma qabel ma kien hemm inti, jekk tafx.

Ix-Xhud :
Jien ma jidhirlix illi naf illi l-istitut tal-gurnalisti Maltin.., s' issa, u dik hija xi haga li jiena qed nipprova nimmilita kontriha..; naqra anomalija din li ser nghid, imma hekk hi; illi l-istitut tal-gurnalisti Maltin ma jibqax dipendenti fuq il-personalita` ta' min imexxieh.

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Ehe, fhimtek.

Ix-Xhud :
L-istitut irid ikun idipendentement b' sahhtu u indipendentement irrispettat, biex jekk jghid xi haga jew jaghmel xi haga jew jiehu pozizzjoni fuq xi haga, mhux ghax dik jew dak, imma ghax l-istitut hadha. S' issa ghadna qeghdin fis-sitwazzjoni illi l-istitut huwa b' sahhtu skont kemm min imexxieh u huwa b' sahhtu. Skont kemm min imexxieh ghandu ….

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Dhaltu f' xi negozjati mal-gvern biex taraw.. jew forsi ma' l-oppozizzjoni wkoll biex taraw jekk hemmx lok ta' tibdil fil-ligi?

Ix-Xhud :
Iva. Mela kellna laqgha rrid nghid kordjali hafna mal-Prim Ministru u mal-Ministru Carmelo Abela u Zammit Lewis.

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Ehe, din is-sena nimmagina 2020.

Ix-Xhud :
Iva. Xi bidu ta' Ottubru, xi haga hekk. Fejn ghamilna l-lista ta' l-affarijiet illi ghadhom pendenti, fosthom illi l-gvern kien wieghed illi ser jissekonda

persuna biex jghina fl-administrative. Trid tqis illi issa per ezempju ma nghidu xejn, ha ntikom ezempju; imma ilbierah qam kelli kaz hmerija, complaint mhux kbir, minn Media House kontra media house ohra; kienet bejn iz-zewg partiti biex niftehmu halli ma noqghodux to make to .. upon about it. Ma kinetx xi haga li trid tfittex in the tones of law biex tasal ghaliha, pero` tehodlok il-hin. Tehodlok il-hin biex tidraftjaha, tehodlok il-hin biex tikkonsulta, tehodlok il-hin biex tibqa’ attwalment tibghatha.

Imhallef A Lofaro :
So ma ghankomx il-manpower ghaliha din.

Ix-Xhud :
U jigifieri hafna mid-drafting nispicca naghmlu jien. U jiena ghadni n-News Room ukoll ..

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Ix-xoghol tieghek x’ taghmel.

Ix-Xhud :
…x’ niehu hsieb. Jigifieri there is only one me.

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Ezatt.

Chairman Imhallef M Mallia :
Mela bhala staff x’ ghandkom?

Ix-Xhud :
Xejn.

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Qaltlek taghmilhom hi.

Chairman Imhallef M Mallia :
Xejn?

Ix-Xhud :
Xejn. We don’t have staff we don’t have..; we barley have premises.

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Ukoll!

Ix-Xhud :
We have a room, courtesy of music

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Music?

Ix-Xhud :
Music. Dawk tal- ..

Imhallef A Lofaro :
And is a room enough?

Chairman Imhallef M Mallia :
Da zgur li le.

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Hi trid tghidli. Jien ma nafx.

Ix-Xhud :
No. Not nearly enough even to biex ikollna l-IGM jigifieri din is-sena irringrazzjajtu l-Covid ghax almenu l-AGM kellna zoom speci ta'..

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Forsi ghamiltuh virtwali?

Ix-Xhud :
Ghamilnieh virtwali, allura hadt gost ghax fil-virtwali attendew izjed nies.

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Ehe.

Chairman Imhallef M Mallia :
Ma nafx, imma minghajr staff din l-organizzazzjoni kif tista' timxi?

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Taghmilhom hi x-xoghol. Qaltlek li qed taghmlu hi

Ix-Xhud :
Jigifieri it depends..; ghalhekk jiena nixtieq li mmexxu kemm jista' ikun, u meta qed nghid 'jiena' qed nghid il-kunsill, mhux jiena as Sylvana. Imma ahna nixtiequ li nimmuvjaw l-istituzzjoni fuq livell differenti; fuq livell illi inti first of all ikollok.., tghidli mhux minn ghand il-gvern? Minn ghand il-gvern mhux perikoluza l-financing? Iva perikoluz il-financing u dik hija xi haga li jiena ..

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Ghax imbaghad ma tibqax indipendenti hux?

Ix-Xhud :
L-indipendenza hija xi haga li trabbi inti bl-integrita tieghek. Jigifieri jiena ..

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Imma jekk ikollok bzonn il-gvern ghal funding u hekk nghid jien!

Ix-Xhud :
Ehe, ok. Mela ….

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Any government. Any administration.

Ix-Xhud :
Mela dik hija wahda minn l-ikbar threats.

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Hux veru?

Ix-Xhud :
U li kieku kelli nghid jiena liema huma l-ikbar threats illi qed jiffaccjaw il-gurnalisti ma huwiex ..

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Insufficient funding nahseb

Ix-Xhud :
…imma x-xabla ta' Damocles permezz tal-flus

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Ezatt.

Ix-Xhud :
Dik il-Media Houses dik hija l-ikbar theddida li ghandhom. Jiena ha nitkellem minn esperjenza personali, ghalkemm naf li gurnalisti ohra u edituri ohra jistghu wkoll jaghmlu s-sottomissjonijiet taghhom. Jiena kien hemm kelli kaz illi jiena bdejt inrodd is-slaleb, bir-rispett kollu. Mela tirrapporta PQ, PQ, jigifieri by definition this is information to the house of representatives, by definition.

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Iva iva.

Ix-Xhud :
And I am told.. jigifieri nircievi telefonata hafna expletives

Imhallef A Lofaro :
I see, kliem pastaz hekk?

Ix-Xhud :
U they were threatening to remove funding.

Imhallef A Lofaro :
U l-kariga tal-persuna x' kienet? Mhux l-isem.

Ix-Xhud :
Le. Il-kariga jiena nahseb illi l-persuna probabbliment nahseb somebody put her up to it; kienet a low grade person..

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Iva imma tahdem mal-gvern per ezempju?

Ix-Xhud :
Ma' Ministeru..

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Tahdem ma' Kastilja?

Ix-Xhud :
Ma' Ministeru.

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Ma' Ministeru

Dr Jason Azzopardi :
…

Ix-Xhud :
Pero` fitt wara, ftit wara li bdiet is-seduta ta' autumn

Imhallef A Lofaro :
October mela;

Ix-Xhud :
Xi haga hekk.

Imhallef A Lofaro :
September October.

Dr Jason Azzopardi :
Din is-sena.

Ix-Xhud :
Din is-sena. din is-sena

Dr Jason Azzopardi :
..

Ix-Xhud :
Xi haga hekk. F' dawk iz-zminijiet bejn wiehed u iehor

Chairman Imhallef M Mallia :
Voldieri intom gejtu mhedda biex ma tippubblikawx biex ma taghmlux ricerka jew whatever ..

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Tirraporta fuq PQ qaltlek.

Chairman Imhallef M Mallia :
……fuq domanda tal-parlament?

Ix-Xhud :
Yes Sir.

Imhallef A Lofaro :
PQ.

Chairman Imhallef M Mallia :
Li hija pubblika …?

Ix-Xhud :
Yes Sir. And I did not… kieku mhux ghax ktibtha jien u naf li I didn't embellish it, jigifieri embellish it…. infittex….

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Jigifieri zzejjinha hux; mhux hekk?

Ix-Xhud :
Imma nzejjinha fis-sens illi nfittex minn affarijiet ohra

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Mhux taghtiha spin.

Ix-Xhud :
No.

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Ezatt.

Ix-Xhud :
No.

Imhallef A Lofaro :
U x’ ghamilt? Jigifieri xorta hallejtha imbaghad, mhux hekk?

Ix-Xhud :
Mhux hekk?

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Imma issa jekk ikollok terga’ tirrapporta tahsiba darbtejn?

Ix-Xhud :
Jien le.

Imhallef A Lofaro :
U haddiehor pero` shabek?

Ix-Xhud :
Iva.

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Qaluhielek imma?

Ix-Xhud :
Jiena jkolli, ikolli problemi xi kultant. Jigifieri jkolli gurnalisti illi jghiduli li jien din ma rridx naghmilha; jew din ma rridx naghmilha b’ ismi.

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Ikunu jridu jibqghu anonimi?

Ix-Xhud :
Bhala gurnalisti iva.

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Jghidulek ghaliex? Jibzghu minn xi in percussions, li jitkeccew?

Ix-Xhud :
Dak il-hin unlikely li jghidulek ghaliex; ghax a caldo hekk persuna qatt ma hi ser tasal li.., almenu jiena ma nahsibx illi qatt ser tasal li tammetti ghala, ghalfejn. Imma mbaghad ..

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Imma wara jghidulek?

Ix-Xhud :
Explicitly le, imma x-xaghar abjad ma jigix bix-xejn; jigifieri tibda tinduna meta bniedem jibda jghid.. jiehu pozizzjoni hekk, jew jghaddi kumment fuq hekk, jew.. tibda taghmel, tibda tghid dak il-bniedem he is coming from that place. Jew she is coming from that place.

Imhallef A Lofaro :
U din mhix haga izolata nimmagina imma widespread. Inti trid tghidli. Jien ma nafx.

Ix-Xhud :
Fil-…. jigifieri kelli kazi, mhux frekwenti, fi NewsRoom taghna, pero` edituri ohra li ..

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Ehe fuq edituri ohra qed nistaqsik.

Ix-Xhud :
Fuq edituri ohra bhala Chairperson ta’ l-IGM, jiena nitkellem ma’ hafna minnhom u ..

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Ghalhekk qed insaqsik.

Ix-Xhud :
U yes they come across it

Imhallef A Lofaro :
….that widespread then

Ix-Xhud :
It is widespread.

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Ok.

Chairman Imhallef M Mallia :
Ghal dak li jirrigwarda entitajiet pubblici, intom bhala gurnalisti ssibu kooperazzjoni?

Ix-Xhud :
….

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Iva u le?

Ix-Xhud :
Qisu bil-mewg

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Bil-mewg.

Ix-Xhud :
Bil-mewg. Mewga tajba u tkun ghaddej minn perjodu tghid – ghall-erwieh, qed iwiegbu. Imbaghad tigi mewga hazina fejn qisu kulhadd jiskot. U hafna drabi dik ikun hemm xi trigger ta' xi storja li ma tantx tkun nizlet sew. L-ikbar problema per ezempju huma l-freedom of information requests.

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Ghaliex problema imma? Il-ligi; jekk hemm il-ligi?!

Chairman Imhallef M Mallia :
…. jekk ….   suppost ghalekk?!

Ix-Xhud :
Zewg affarijiet; 1) id-differnza tat-timing tal-ligi ghat-timing tal-media. Jigifieri dak li huwa tajjeb ghal-ligi ma jfissirx li huwa tejjeb ghal media fis-sens illi l-ligi qed taghti l-provvedimenti taghha by the time the legal provisions are exhausted its no longer news.

Imhallef A Lofaro :
I see.

Ix-Xhud :
Pero` jien nghidilhom, l-FOIs nghidilhom the place where information goes to die

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Ghaliex idumu biex jaghtukom informazzjoni?

Ix-Xhud :
Ghaliex, ghax inti ghandek il-provvedimenti tal-ligi kollha. You ask, and you have 30 days to answer; if you are going to tell me, if you are going to answer me. And then you have another 30 days ..

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Tahseb li huma twal dawn it-termini?

Ix-Xhud :
Esageratement twal.

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Twal.

Ix-Xhud :
Jiena nahseb li ghandu jkun hemm gradwatorja. Jien kont min-naha l-ohra tas-siggu wkoll. Kont PR. Hemm affarijiet jista' forsi l-gvern jaddotta a tiered approach. Jekk inti ghandek xi haga li hija ...fejn naf jiena?, lista per ezempju ha nsemmi wahda li ghamilna ahna u li nahseb ghamlu diversi Media Houses ohrajn. Lista tal-gifts illi qala' president. Li which is pretty straight forward. Ghalfejn ghandek tinnegahieli dik? Din giet innegata.

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Ma tawhielekx.

Ix-Xhud :
Only after a peal jigifieri trid iddahal l-avukat, for us its expense. Again, its another threat. Ghaliex inti kull darba li qed toqghod...

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Ikollok iddahhal l-avukat u thallas l-ispejjez

Ix-Xhud :
Heq! Jigifieri jien kieku nghid illi ghandu jkun hemm a tiered approach. Per ezempju meta kont fuq in-naha l-ohra tal-mejda bhala public relations kien hemm certa affarijiet illi trid iz-zmien to compile them. Hemm reasonable

amount of time qed nitkellem jiena, mhux an unreasonable amount of time. Imma ma tistax titlobni per ezempju statistika volumenuza u mahduma minn issa ghal issa!

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Mhux hekk! le.

Ix-Xhud :
Pero` jekk jiena qed nitolbok kopja tal-case officer's report, ghax dik hija xi haga li I can print and I can send.

Imhallef A Lofaro :
U ma jaghtuhilekx?

Ix-Xhud :
FOIs are notoriously impossible to achieve

Imhallef J Said Pullicino :
Fuq il-video information. Kif taf inti l-kwistjoni ta' Venezia .... rakkomandazzjoni illi l-Video Information Act Malti ried jigi upgraded ghal-livell ta' pajjizi aktar avanzati. Intom bhala istitut qed taghmlu xi forma ta' studju fuq il-proposti li jistghu jsiru halli il-video information act jigi rrangat? Ghax huwa fatt maghruf li kif ahna llum jekk wiehed isaqsi certi domandi, ir-risposta tista' tkun mhux fl-interess pubbliku, dana ma niehdux ghax privat, ghaliex data protection u ghandna din is-sitwazzjoni; fthemna? Jigifieri ghalina d-dritt ta' access ghal informazzjoni mhux biss illi tircievi, imma anke li taghti informazzjoni. Dak huwa fundamentali. Jigifieri fuq dan xoghol qed taghmlu xi tip ta' studju intom? Ghax jinteressana imhabba l-proposti li mitlubin naghtu ahna kif ghadhom jistghu jigu rrangati u protetti; il-gurnalista l-iktar mod li tipprotegih huwa li tipprovdilu l-informazzjoni. Ghax jekk ikollu l-informazzjoni tonqos l-ispekolazzjoni, qed tifhem? Jigifieri..

Ix-Xhud :
Ehe. Mela dik hija xi haga li I am looking forward to my Christmas holidays for.

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Biex tahdem fuqha nimmagina.

Ix-Xhud :
Nixtieq nahdem fuq mhux biss dik, imma hemm aspetti ohra u jien insostni.. il-Media Defamation Act illi kien aggornat m' ilux, went some way. Pero` we went to town saying ghax we removed criminal libel and that's heroic. In so

far as removing criminal libel is concern that's good. But the Media and Defamation Aact, is not what needs to happen in the media sector. That don't get me wrong, it's not bad. It's not a bad thing that it happened. The media sector ghandu bzonn root canal treatment. Ghaliex il-ligijiet illi jigvernaw ir-regolamentazzjoni media regulation f' Malta ghadha legacy media oriented; ghadha orjentata ta' tip ta' media illi kellna qabel l-eighties. So ghandna bzonn illi per ezempju l-Boradcasting Authority. Irid ikun hemm awtorita` regolatorja, pero` ma nistghux nibqghu inraqqghu kif napprowcjaw ir-regolamentazzjoni. Ma nistghux nibqghu nghidu all right, mela din issa we accrue this responsibility on Broadcasting Authority. As currently composed I don't believe personally per ezempju illi l-Broadcasting Authority ghandha spectrum wiesgha bizzejjed biex tkun verament gusta to the common good, to all society. Iz-zewg partiti ma humiex il-kumplament tas-socjeta`. Ma humiex kollox fid-dinja, ma humiex kollox fil-hajja. Jigifieri hemmhekk ghandek bzonn overhaul fil-mod ta' kif wiehed ihares lejn l-ethics. Wahda minn l-affarijiet li nixtieq indahhal if I manage to do this I will… immure nixghel xema' lir-rendentur jekk naghmilha din! Imma! Jekk wahda minn l-affarijiet illi nixtieq hafna nara jidhol fil-pajjiz taghna huwa li jkun hemm a parallel, on the same footing I mean, commissioner for ethics for journalistic ethics, parallel to commissioner per ezempju of public standards; illi jkun independent u li jkollu certa sahha. At this point in time there is a press ethics commission fl-IGM. Intella' lil Tizju quddiemu, ghax for flagrant. Ejja nghidulu…le mhux dubju, flagrant, abuse of hawn misuse of ethics, he is condemned that ..

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Canfira whatever

Ix-Xhud :
…canfira; what else can you do? Absolutely nothing.

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Jekk jerga' jaghmilha?

Ix-Xhud :
Johrog barra mil-bieb u jibda jidhaq.

Imhallef A Lofaro :
U jekk jerga' jaghmilha? Kien hemm kazijiet hekk?

Ix-Xhud :
L-istess ..

Imhallef A Lofaro :
U dan in-nies min jappunthom li semmejt?

Ix-Xhud :
Dawn kienu qed jigu appuntati bhalissa its in ambience. Dawk kienu jigu appuntati min l-istitut tal-gurnalisti Maltin.

Imhallef A Lofaro :
U issa le.

Ix-Xhud :
As an interim measure hallejna l-awards jghaddu ghax it took a lot of recourses non existent resources biex naghmluhom. Imma l-gurnalisti wkoll haqqhom prosit tax-xoghol illi ghamlu; u dik hassejniha bhala dover partikolarment f' sena li kienet tant difficli!

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Mhux hekk?

Ix-Xhud :
Issa nixtiequ naghtu spinta almenu we setup the Press Ethics Commission as we can do it now. Mhux in the commissioner form; as hemm il-provvediment bhalissa. Biex nghidu almenu jkollna xi forma ta' deterrent. Li nixtieq ukoll nara I mean nixtiequ naraw illi din il-press ethics commission tkun id regolatorja indipendenti mill-gvern; jigifieri jiena assolutament ma nistax nimmagina tkun..

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Li tahtarha mill-gvern allura ghal dan in-nies.

Ix-Xhud :
Scuse me?

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Jahtarha mill-gvern imma forsi ..

Ix-Xhud :
Parliament perhaps.

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Ehe forsi

Ix-Xhud :
Parliament; it has to be.. trid tkun removed.

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Bi qbil; bi qbil hux hekk?

Ix-Xhud :
Trid tkun removed.

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Ehe.

Ix-Xhud :
Li dawn ikollhom ukoll il-jedd li jehudlek il-press card. Biex hekk inti ghandek temmenza ta' xi haga.

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Multi m' hemmx? Multi? Canfira biss?

Ix-Xhud :
Canfira hemm

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Canfira biss.

Imhallef J Said Pullicino :
Intom m' intomx inwaqqfin .. hux hekk? There is no law setting you up?

Ix-Xhud :
No.

Imhallef J Said Pullicino :
Jigifieri dina hija kwistjoni volontarja kwazi. Tista' tkun fiha u tista' ma tkunx.

Ix-Xhud :
Yes Sir.

Imhallef J Said Pullicino :
Jigifieri issa l-ewwel haga thossx jekk hux il-kaz wasalt il-mument li tkun b' xi mod regolata, mhux il-gurnalizmu, il-mod tal- … tal-gurnalizmu biex naghmlu hekk, ta' l-IGM

Ix-Xhud :
Ehe.

Imhallef J Said Pullicino :
Huwa …? Ghaliex minn hemmhekk tigi s-sahha.

Imhallef A Lofaro :
..is-sahha tal-ligi hu.

Ix-Xhud :
Jigifieri minhiex avukat u ma nafx xi tfisser; jigifieri ma ..

Imhallef J Said Pullicino :
…..ligi. Ikollok ligi ..

Ix-Xhud :
Jekk dik tfisser li taghti aktar sahha lill-IGM mela iva.

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Yes, definitely

Imhallef J Said Pullicino :
Issa jekk tikkonsidrax il-possibbilta`, isir studju fuqha, li flok li jkollok Broadcasting Authority ikollok awtorita` ta' l-informazzjoni. Ghax illum qeghdin f' pozizzjoni fejn il-Broadcasting huwa shambles; shambles ghax qatt ma gie ezattament mifhum ghalfejn qieghda hemm. tajjeb? Jiena …. u naf x' jigifieri. Allura jew.. l-awtorita`, imma ghandha certa difetti kbar, fil-kompozizzjoni, f' kollox. jigifieri jekk hux il-kaz li wiehed jistudja li jkun hemm awtorita` regolatorja biss qed nitkellmu, fuq dak li huwa etika, fuq dak li huwa processi proceduri etc. Din tkun tkopri l-bilanc u x' naf jien. Jekk dak hux possibbli; tridu tistudjawh.

Ix-Xhud :
Fuq dik it-triq kont qed nahseb, ghaliex jien kelli f' mohhi kien il-mudell ta' l-Ofcom, UK

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Erga' irrepeti l-isem please.

Ix-Xhud :
Ofcom.

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Ofcom.

Ix-Xhud :
Tal-UK

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Ok.

Ix-Xhud :
Hija.. huwa it's a regulatory body li tircievi complains from public etc, it works upon them, whatever; pero` l-ispectrum taghha huwa the broadest. Both from a societal point of view u anke from a mediatic point of view. Jigifieri digital, pint

Imhallef J Said Pullicino :
Ezattament ghax illum mhux … biss; illum ghandek social media kollha; ghandek jigifieri l-Broadcasting as such illum tilef hafna mis-sahha tieghu

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Inbidel hux.

Imhallef J Said Pullicino :
U nbidel kompletament. Jigifieri jekk hux il-kaz li dak li llum hemm fil-kostituzzjoni limtiat ghal Broadcasting jigi irrangat mibni mill-gdid pero` ikopri mbaghad l-informazzjoni

Ix-Xhud :
It has to.

Imhallef J Said Pullicino :
Filwaqt li kulhadd izomm l-indipendennza tieghu preparata naturalment. Ghax imbaghad hemmhekk tigi s-sahha u tigi forsi anke d-dritt ta' … sanzjoniijet u anke l-fatt illi inti meta jkollok struttura bhal dik trid tkun ta' certa rispett u certa responsabbilta`

Ix-Xhud :
Inti uzajt kelma Your Honour, uzajt il-kelma rispett, sorry, independenti. Jiena insostni li f' Malta ma ghandna l-ebda medium li huwa indipendenti. Ghaliex li inti indipendenti mill-partiti ma jfissirx li init independenti.

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Veru. Quite right.

Imhallef J Said Pullicino :
Assolutament.

Chairman Imhallef M Mallia :
Bhala fuding l-IGM x' ghandha?

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Kwazi xejn nahseb, next to nothing.

Ix-Xhud :
Your Honour, begging bowl; we have a begging bowl; ghaliex biex ghamilna l-awards kellna nsaqqfu wiccna ..

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Ghall-isponsors forsi hux?

Ix-Xhud :
Ghalhekk kien hemm certa affarijiet illi jiena per ezempju kelli eccezzjoni kbira maghhom l-IGM. U dawn l-affarijiet kienu bhal dan iz-zmien sena. Bhal dan iz-zmien sena I was live it. Ghaliex l-IGM dak iz-zmien kien funded jew kellu substantial funding coming from the Tumas Foundation. Which after the events of ….

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Li graw dak iz-zmien ..

Ix-Xhud :
Prior work, ghax jiena qatt ma niehu gost nitfa' l-bajd kollha f' qoffa wahda, pero` wara li gara jigifieri kien incumbent illi dik ir-relazzjoni tinqata'.

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Ehe. Fl-esperjenza tieghek, hemm diskriminazzjoni bejn media houses differenti?

Ix-Xhud :
Iva. definitely.

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Tista' tispjegalna aktar?

Ix-Xhud :
Ahna kellna l-okkazjoni bhala Newsbook issa qed nitkellem mhux bhala ..

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Newsbook ehe, News Book.

Ix-Xhud :
Illi circa dan iz-zmien sena minn meta beda things started hooting up, il-Prim Ministru kien ta kumment lill-erba' Media Houses f' Kastilja,

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Ok; li ma kontux intom nimmagina

Ix-Xhud :
Ahna we are the second biggest portal in Maltese and the fourth biggest portal in Malta. Jigifieri we are not nobody. Mhux qed nghid hekk ..

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Ok. U ma gejtux mistednin?

Ix-Xhud :
No.

Imhallef A Lofaro :
No.

Ix-Xhud :
To the credit of the current administration, and this jigifieri ghedtha b' wicci minn quddiemn anke lill-persuni koncernati, illum il-gurnata hemm forma ta' djalogu. Jigifieri jiena nibghatlu lil Head of Communications u jwgibni.

Imhallef A Lofaro :
U jikkomunika mieghek jigifieri? Ehe.

Ix-Xhud :
Jikkomunika, issa ..

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Qabel le.

Ix-Xhud :
B' xi mod jew iehor, jekk forsi mhux biex jilmenta jew le, imma niehu gost illi inhoss illi hemm avenue bizzejjed illi dan jista' ihossu li jista' jilmenta wkoll.

Imhallef A Lofaro :
A channel of communication.

Ix-Xhud :
There is a channel of communication. This week I had the opportunity of telling him at lest with you ghandi dan ic-channel of communication; kieku kellu jkellimni l-predecissur tieghek lanqas lehnu ma naghraf.

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Is-Sur Farrugia jigifieri?

Ix-Xhud :
That's right.

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Imma ghax kontu tibghatlu u ma jirrispondix?

Ix-Xhud :
Qatt.

Imhallef A Lofaro :
I see.

Ix-Xhud :
Bir ta' skieken

Chairman Imhallef M Mallia :
Qatt kellkom rapporti illi xi gurnalist gie mhedded dan l-ahhar dwar dak li ...?

Ix-Xhud :
Bhala IGM qatt ma gie skalat u ma nissorprendix ruhi ghax l-IGM ftit li xejn jista' jaghmel. Naf illi fl-ahhar xhur kien hemm ta' l-inqas gurnalist wiehed. Issa meta qeghdin nitkellmu fuq thrddid….

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Li gie mhedded.

Ix-Xhud :
Yes. Meta qed nitkellmu fuq theddid hemm spectrum

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Mhux hekk?

Ix-Xhud :
Jien nghid illi l-gherq ta' kollox hija l-fatt li dak il-famuz ufficcju kontra l-hate speech dak baqa' conspicuous by its absence by its non existence. Meta inti

thalli kultura titrawwem illi bniedem jista' jghid li jrid, x' hin irid, meta jrid minghajr problema, mela inti qed taghti fertilizer lil min imbaghad he wants to take that a step further or a step further stay, to do whatever he - they want to do. Jigifieri ahna bhala Media House kellna kaz fejn xi hadd hedded lil xi hadd u kellna ghamilna rapport lill-Pulizija. Meta l-Pulizija qaltilna u qalilna illi dan lest illi to apologize; do you want to take it further. If he wants to apologise he apologises. If he does it again I wont be so lenient next time! Imma again, jigifieri f' dawn l-affarijiet qisek trid tiehu l-fil ta' x' inhu jigri. Li jigi jghidlek 'hawn bahnan', hija threat? Strictly speaking le. Imma it's a...

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Insult hux?

Ix-Xhud :
Le minn dawk regolari jigifieri. Those are.. you know?, bhal bzar u l-melh hekk troxxhom.

Chairman Imhallef M Mallia :
U dawn jigu kollha minn l-impjegati tal-gvern? xi entita` tal-gvern jew huma.. jew mhux necessarjament?

Ix-Xhud :
Impossibbli tghid. Ghaliex inti kull ma trid taghmel tohloq email account, per ezempju jiena ..

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Jista' ikun fake hux?

Ix-Xhud :
Jiena bahal Sylvana Debono nista' nghid mela ha nohloq ghaxar email accounts differenti; insemmihom.. jien naf ..?

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Ma jittrejsjawx l-IP address?

Ix-Xhud :
Jistghu.., il-Pulizija if they try ..

Imhallef A Lofaro :
They can

Ix-Xhud :
Yes yes of course

Imhallef A Lofaro :
But they dont?

Ix-Xhud :
But the hate office has to actually do something about it.

Imhallef A Lofaro :
I see. And they don't do anything about it.

Chairman Imhallef M Mallia :
It doesn't exist.

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Ezatt.

Ix-Xhud :
Per ezempju case in point kien il-famuz kaz tat-tiskir f' Kastilja li dan l-ahhar harget sentenza dwaru.

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Iva; li gew liberati, mhux hekk?

Ix-Xhud :
Fuq sekwestru.

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Ezatt.

Ix-Xhud :
I didn't see any journalist being actually tight to the wall or to a chair in that room; but it was clear that those people were not allowed to move freely as they should have done. Issa...

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Giet appellata? Ghax qed nitkellmu fuq sentenza li jekk ma gietx appellata.. li jekk giet appellata hija sub judice, allura ma nkunux nistghu ..

Ix-Xhud :
I have no clue; I have no clue about that.

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Ma nkunx nistghu nitkellmu dwahra ta, ghalhekk.

Ix-Xhud :
So I will desist. I will desist.

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Ahjar.

Imhallef J Said Pullicino :
Ifhimni, ir-rwol tal-gurnalista huwa li jzomm l-amministrazzjoni publika kontabbli, hux hekk? Permess principalment ta' guranlizmu investigattiv. Issa qabel l-assassinju l-grad ta'.. u qabel Daphne wkoll… il-grad ta' investigazzjoni ta' l-amministrazzjoni publika kien pjuttost kajman. Jigifieri ahna l-esperjenza li ghandna li wara l-assassinju kien hemm certu caqlieqa illi l-gurnalizmu speci qal ha naraw daqsxejn.. u beda ikun iktar inkwizittiv. Ghandek din is-sensazzjoni inti?

Imhallef A Lofaro :
X' gara wara l-qtil?

Imhallef J Said Pullicino :
Jigifieri jekk kiuenx hemm din is-sensazzjoni u x' kienet ir-reazzjoni tal-gurnalisti basically?

Ix-Xhud :
Il-gurnalisti huma emmnuti harira anqas milli huma emmnuti l-politici. Din hija statistika internazzjoni. Jigifieri you are always fighting an uphill battle. I back to the fair illi qabel Daphne ma kienx hemm investigazzjonijiet serji; jien kont nahdem mal-Gens dak iz-zmien, u jien u Daphne koetani, jigifieri. U nista' nassigurak illi investigazzjonijiet serji kien hemm. Insemmilek per ezempju r-rapport illi hrigna.., ma nfx tiftakruhx, ir-rapport ta' Anastasi tal-BOV, u 32 volumes of it. Daqshekk kien fih bhala rapport. We went through it u ghamilna niftakar konna ghamilna ghanqbuta ta' min hu illinkjat ma' min. Dik ha nsemmi wahda biss ghax minhiex ser noqghod nidhol..; biss nghid illi il-Gens per ezempju kienet l-ewwel rebieha ta' l-investigative journalism. So ma nistax nghid illi qabel Daphne ma kienx hawn investigazzjonijiet. Certament li ghamlet Daphne u li kien uniku f' dak il-kaz, illi kienet persuna li ghamlet investigazzjonijiet minghajr is-sahha ta' istituzzjoni warajha. Jiena nista' immur naghmel investigazzjoni .. full in the knowledge illi jekk noghtor jew nibza jew xi haga jiena Ghandi istituzzjoni warajja. So while I need courage I have support. She had no support. Hi ma kellhiex istituzzjoni warajha. Li ghamel il-qtil what happened with that jien ma nahsibx illi min qatel lil Daphne kien makjavelliku. Ghax jekk tkun makjavelliku inti tkun qed tara land game, u land game mhux il-qtil imma r-rizultat. U r-rizultat tal-qtil nahseb kien illi dak il-qtil kien katalist biex to a ceratin extend gab certa

ammont ta’ ghaqda fost il-korp gurnalistiku li qabel kienet hafna hafna iktar laxka milli hi llum, mhux qed nghidlek inghaqqdu!, imma hafna iktar laxka. U gabet ukoll gharrfien illi dan it-tip ta’ xoghol it’s a front liner job.

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Hemm certu riskji hux hekk?

Ix-Xhud :
Yes.

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Bhala rizorsi jigifieri l-gvern ma jaghti xejn; lill-ebda Media House hux hekk?

Ix-Xhud :
Le.

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Ma nafx; jiena ma nafx.

Ix-Xhud :
Le le; Lill-IGM, meta kellimtuni fuq rizorsi ..

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Imma issa ejja nitkellmu fuq il-Media Houses mela.

Ix-Xhud :
Ok. Ghax meta kellimtuni fuq il-rizorsi .. ghall-IGM.

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Ghandek ragun ghandek ragun

Ix-Xhud :
Ok; mela l-gvern partikolarment minhabba l-Covid qed jaghti media aid

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Iva iva.

Ix-Xhud :
..media aid. Dik l-media aid .., issa jiena I am not entirely privy to this u qed naghmel dan il-caveat ghax qieghda taht gurament ma rridx nizbalja u..

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Pero` jaghti lill-Media Houses kollha jigifieri?

Ix-Xhud :
Jaghti lil Media Houses. Issa..

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Kollha.

Ix-Xhud :
Minhiex certa; jien jidhirli li kollha, kull min applika ghaliha. It's under application, for sure

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Trid tapplika ghaliha; ok.

Ix-Xhud :
U ghandek tiers differenti. Jekk ghandek online tiehu mod, jekk ghandek readio tiehu mod; jekk ghandek television tiehu mod iehor.

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Television l-iktar allura? Ma nafx.

Ix-Xhud :
Television jidhirli l-iktaa; imma you need to ask a CRO about this because this is not ma area of expertise. Jiena l-flus nonfoqhom mhux indahhalhom! So ..

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Online l-inqas allura?

Ix-Xhud :
Jien jidhirli li iva, imma I honestly I am going on what I understand, but..

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Ok; mintix certa imma tahseb li hekk.

Ix-Xhud :
No. Dik iggib maghha wkoll problemi; dak huwa l-ufficjali, ghax imbaghad hemm in-non official. In-non official huwa .

Imhallef J Said Pullicino :
Imma mbaghad inti ..

Ix-Xhud :
Scuse me?

Imhallef J Said Pullicino :
…..tifhem ukoll illi dan it-tip ta' ghajnuna ma ghandhiex tkun. Jigifieri mhux il-mod kif taghti ghajuna lill-media. U ghalhekk importanti l-idea li jkun hemm xi forma ta' awtorita`, xi ligi

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Xi regoli ..

Imhallef J Said Pullicino :
…jirregola wkoll il-finanzjament. Dik.. bhal finanzjament tal-partiti. Jigifieri ma taghmilx sens illi l-gvern jiddeciedi kif iqassam u ma jqassamx fuq l-informazzjoni. Ghax … ghal ghajnuna ghandha tkun regolata b' mod differenti.

Ix-Xhud :
There was.. kien hemm.. qed ninsa kemm ilu issa, imma zgur li within this past year and a half; kien hemm tentattivi li nipprovaw ingibu xi forma ta' EU funding ghal Media Houses. Ghax inti din hija by way of exception tal-Covid

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Ehe, mhux hekk?

Ix-Xhud :
By way of normality ghandek l-advertising. Issa l-advertising huwa then and then you how come into discrimination and the threat; this is the real threat. Not telling me illi ser ittajjarni ma nafx fejn! Because government will never sue to that.

Imhallef J Said Pullicino :
… il-parti tal-media aid hija ghal covid biss.

Ix-Xhud :
Il-media aid ghal Covid

Imhallef J Said Pullicino :
.. ma kinetx ghal ..

Ix-Xhud :
No no.

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Kont ser issemmi xi haga fuq xi haga informali? Funding informali?

Ix-Xhud :
Informali ..

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Tista' tispjega please?

Ix-Xhud :
Advertising.

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Oh I see.

Ix-Xhud :
Li jekk kieku kelli nghid jiena x' inhuwa l-ikbar theddida ghal gurnalisti ma huwiex li xi hadd jaqbad it-telephone u jghidlek – nifqalek wiccek. U l-ikbar theddida

Imhallef A Lofaro :
…mhux ser navvertajzja aktar mieghek ..

Ix-Xhud :
Li they withdrawn advertising, known advertising jigifieri advertising li jigi irrelatat ma' advert and unknown

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Unknown ukoll

Ix-Xhud :
Illi jigi relatat ma' good interviewing per ezempju, puff pieces. Jigifieri naghmel kampanja illi tkun sopravalutata, jekk advert normalment iqum mitt ewro, ingibu iqum elf, u l-gurnalisti jaghmluli puff pieces. Jigifieri mhix jonfhuni, biex nidher tajjeb, li hija a good PRPs

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Jinghataw kuntratti lil Media Houses partikolari? Mill-gvern per ezempju, jew ma nafx; min xi hadd.

Ix-Xhud :
Gie li jkun hemm dawn it-tip ta' rapporti u mbaghad ikun hemm xi PQ u minn hemmhekk issir taf.

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Jigifieri qatt inghataw?

Ix-Xhud :
Ghandi l-impressjoni illi per ezempju l-MFSA ghamlet hekk; illi l-gvern ghamel hekk; imbaghad hafna drabi Media Hhouses …. as an OPM. Imbaghad naturalment there are also structures which you can create biex mhux il-Media House tieghi haditha, imma dik l-istruttura.

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Ghax rajt xi haga dan l-ahhar fil-gurnali. Fori fhimt hazin, li kien hemm xi haga moghtija lil Malta Today? Imma forsi rajt hazin jien ta, ma nafx.

Ix-Xhud :
Ehe. Dak kien hemm rapport.

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Kien hemm; mhux veru forsi.

Ix-Xhud :
Naturalment you would have to ask the people related..

Imhallef A Lofaro :
S ghad ma hemm xejn ikkonfermat.

Ix-Xhud :
Jien li naf b' mod ufficjali hija li l-flus inghataw lil.. a business to business arm of the company, not to the…

Imhallef A Lofaro :
I see; not directly

Ix-Xhud :
Not directly. Not to the media. So I think that that should be asked to the person concerned.

Imhallef J Said Pullicino :
U l-izball … u nahseb li mhux kollu limitat ghal din l-amministrazzjoni; mhux eskluz li anke qabel jista' jigri xi forma ta' kontroll simili..

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Dejjem hekk gara jigifieri?

Imhallef J Said Pullicino :
…ghax dan mhux biss il-gvern, imma l-koperazjonijiet, l-awtoritajiet, I mean across the board; fthemna? Jigifieri dawn bizzejjed ikollok persuni f' certi ….

ta’ kontroll u inti titlef..; jigifieri din hemm bzonn ukoll tehduha bis-serjeta` u tirregolawha b’ xi mod. Ghax dan li qed tghid inti huwa the life line ta’ gurnalizmu printed …

Ix-Xhud :
It is also a question of integrity; it’s a question of integrity. Jigifieri jiena niftakar fil-PR days tieghi meta kont fil-PR days tieghi qatt ma .. lanqas qatt..

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Kemm ilu dan jigifieri?

Ix-Xhud :
In two thousand …. spiccajt PR jiena in 2012.

Imhallef A Lofaro :
U x’ kien jigri dak iz-zmien?

Ix-Xhud :
Jien personalment lanqas qatt kienet tghaddili minn rasi li naghmel hekk! Jigifieri I will ..

Imhallef A Lofaro :
U kien hemm min kien jaghmel hekk?

Ix-Xhud :
Not to my knowledge, not to my knowledge. But not to my knowledge dosent mean no.

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Mhux hekk?

Ix-Xhud :
Semplicement li jiena assolutament tant jien focused ..kont focused dak iz-zmien fuq ix-xoghol tieghi ma kienx bil-Malti jinteressani nara x’ jaghmel haddiehor. I have to sleep at night, so.

Chairman Imhallef M Mallia :
Dottoressa ghandek xi domandi?

Dr Therese Comodini Cachia :
Meta kont qed issemmi l-advertising tal-gvern, tista’ forsi tispjega kif isir dan it-tip ta’ advertising u minn l-informazzjoni li taf, anke fl-aspett finanzjarju,

jekk hemmx min hu fuq tier iktar oghli ta' finanzi u forsi ghax huma relatati ma' certu aspetti tas-socjeta` jew tal-politika. Jekk taf.

Ix-Xhud :

All right. Mela b' mod normali advertising huwa dejjem marbut ma' xi forma ta' kampanja. Issa l-kampanji it's a 2 way thing. Ghaliex inti ghandek per ezempju jekk thares lejha min-naha ta' PR tghid jiena ghandi din il-kampanja li rrid biha nilhaq dan is-settur tal-popolazzjoni. Dan is-settur tal-popolazzjoni huwa serviced minn dawn l-entities. Mela dawn jiedu l-lines share u l-ohrajn jiehdu ftit. Naturalment different campaigns different allocations. Illum mess li dawn b' mod u darba ohra jkun imiss lil haddiehor mod iehor. That is one angle. The other angle hija min-naha ta' l-istazzjoni. Min-naha ta' l-istazzjoni jista' jghid – ara, din il-kampanja fuq.. jiena naf? L-elderly ha, kif ma cemplulniex lilna meta ahna 65 % tad-demographic taghna huwa sixty (60) plus? Allura inti ccempel u tghidilhom isma', ghandkom dik il-kampanja, iva lilna hallejtuna barra!? The most normal reply when they don't wont to advertise on you is that you are not top of mind. 'Top of mind' hija kieku kelli jiena insaqsi lilek semmili hekk, your favourite newspaper jew your favourite news source. U inti tghidli CNN. That would be top of mind. Meta tkun it-tieni u r-raba' tops u jghidulek mintix top of mind that rings quite hollow. Ghaliex min iqassam dawn it-tip ta' flus, min ikun in charge ta' dawn il-funding ikun jaf ezatt min qieghed top tal-klassifiki u min ma huwiex. So meta certa flus jew certa kumpaniji ripetutament ma jinghatawx you know that there is something fishy going on. With regards to other Media Houses jekk hadux izjed jew le; da zgur. Per ezempju bilfors. Ghax jekk inti ghandek bhal ma huwa PBS per ezempju, ghal media aid qed nghidu issa ghal tal-Covid, television station, television station, radio, radio radio online. Mela dawn hadu taht 6 categories. Newsbook, Newsbook u 103 radio. Mela ha taht 2 categories. Mela ahna hadna inqas. Bilfors. Issa kellha tinghata hekk jew setghet inghatat per ezempju minflok by the number of journalists you employ? Imma nista' nifhem ir-ragunament tal-gvern illi jghidlek its not only journalists who need to eat. Jekk ghandek editor, jekk ghandek printer, jekk ghandek... Allura kien hemm xi forma ta' ragunament ..

Imhallef J Said Pullicino :

Fuq l-islapp actions hadtu xi oppozizzjoni ufficjali intom?

Ix-Xhud :

Yes definitely. Tkellimna anke mal-gvern fuqha. Nixtiequ naraw il-gvern jiehu pozizzjoni hafna iktar soda fuqha din fuq l-anti-slapp. Its jigifieri again, minhabba n-nuqqas ta' rizorsi, minhabba.. we need to make time anke biex inkellmu entitajiet illi jistghu jghinuna fil-lobbying taghna mal-gvern. Ghaliex

din hija xi haga li lilna tinkwetana hafna. Jigifieri fil-bidu ta'.. nasheb in summerish kienet?, issemma isem Musayev fil-guri tas-Sur Yorgen Fenech

Dr Jason Azzopardi :
Fil-kumpilazzjoni.

Ix-Xhud :
Fil-kumpilazzjoni, that's right, sorry. Dan immedjatament baghat a polite letter, but a letter nonetheless saying.. issemma ismi, tistghu please tnehhuh ghax jiena qed nikkonsidra l-pozizzjoni tieghi? Jigifieri issa dan jiena ma nistax innehhih ghax jekk issemma isemma. Mhux qed naghzel li nsemmih jien; mhux qed nivvintah jiena. Mhux ghax qed naqbad mieghu! Imma xi hadd semmieh. Jekk innehhieh jien hemm tuzzana Media Houses ohra li ser ihalluh. Kien hemm xi Media Houses ukoll illi l-ittra li rcivejna ahna kienet quite polite, pero` l-ittra li rcivew huma kienet more indicative of slap action; and there was a concern at that point.

Imhallef J Said Pullicino :
Bhal Newsbook ma jkollkomx xi esperjenza ta' slap actions intom.

Ix-Xhud :
Le s' issa. Lets keep it that way.

Imhallef A Lofaro :
S' issa.

Chairman Imhallef M Mallia :
Ikkonsidrjatu li tissuggerixxu lill-gvern illi f' kazijiet ta' libelli titnehha din il-possibilta` ta' mandati per ezempju kawtelatorji?

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Sekwestri.

Chairman Imhallef M Mallia :
Sekwestri, qbit.

Ix-Xhud :
We have.. ma wasalniex sa dak id-dettal.

Chairman Imhallef M Mallia :
Ma wasaltux.

Ix-Xhud :
Ma wasalniex sa dak id-dettal, anke ghaliex again, il-pariri li ghandna huma fuq livell volontarju. Nixtieq nirringrazzja lil Dr Filletti who was our legal advisor, imma he is on a volontery bases. Jigifieri kemm niflah dan ..? Taf kif?

Dr Therese Comodini Cachia :
Dik it-talba kienet saret fil-kumitat? Fi stadju ta' kumitat fil-parlament meta konna qed niddiskutu l-Media Defamation Act ma kinetx milqugha

Chairman Imhallef M Mallia :
Ma kinetx ..?

Dr Therese Comodini Cachia :
Ma kinetx milqugha

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Kienet michuda

Dr Therese Comodini Cachia :
….ahna bhala oppozizzjoni…; u fil-fatt hemm hafna, ghax kont qed naghmel ricerka fuqha l-gimgha l-ohra, hemm hafna li l-hsieb illi ma tistax taghmel mandat kawtelatorju; pero` fil-verita` llum ghadek tista' tghamlu l-mandat kawtelatorju ghax qatt ma tnehhiet

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Legally you can..

Dr Therese Comodini Cachia :
Pero` kien hemm diskussjonijiet qabel meta kienet qed tghaddi dik il-ligi.

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Pero` l-ligi ma inbidlitx.

Dr Therese Comodini Cachia :
Le le, fejn jidhlu l-mandati there is a wrong impression, but the law is there still.

Chairman Imhallef M Mallia :
U baqghet illi l-unika darba li intuzat din f' dak il-libell li kien ghamel Chris Cardona.

Dr Therese Comodini Cachia :
Ma nistax nghid l-unika darba; imma nista' nghid l-iktar darba li ntuzat b' mod qawwi, 'l ghaliex il-valur kien dak li kien ..

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Pjuttos kbir.

Dr Therese Comodini Cachia :
..u intuzaw ghaliex kif kienet qed tghid ix-xhud kontra xi hadd personali li ma jistax jistrieh fuq il-finanzi ta' Media House.

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Ma kellux il-backing qed tghidilna.

Dr Therese Comodini Cachia :
Imma l-finanzi personali ta' xi hadd. Allura izjed facli li jkollok chilling effect fuq persuna li ma ghandiex stabbiliment warajha milli fuq stabbiliment.. xorta kien jigi bl-istess. Fuq il-Media Houses Maltin minhabba ..

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Ic-cokon tal-pajjiz, u rizorsi..

Dr Therese Comodini Cachia :
..ic-cokon, il-Media Houses xorta kien igib l-istess chilling effect imma kien izjed partikolari f' dak ir-rigward

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Dr Azzopardi?

Dr Jason Azzopardi :
Fuq l-islap; ghax ghadna l-oportunita` peress li hawn Ms Debono u l-oportunita` hija irrezistibbli allura li wiehed isaqsi fuq l-islapp. Bhala IGM kien hemm, inti taf Ms Debono, kien hemm proposta anke waslet fil-parlament, biex ikun hemm ligi illi tiprojbixxi l-ezekuzzjoni ta' xi sentenza slapp barra minn Malta fuq gurnalist gewwa Malta. Qabel xejn, dan naqblu fuqu?

Ix-Xhud :
Yes of course.

Dr Jason Azzopardi :
Naqblu. L-opinjoni tieghek jew ahjar il-pozizzjni l-fehma ta.. tieghek bhala IGM, ghandek oportunita` ghandek il-Bord quddiemek, tali mizura, ghodda

ligi, sejthila li trid, kienet jew hija bzonnjuza biex taghti protezzjoni jew serhan il-mohh lill-gurnalisti Maltin minn dawn is-sinjuri barra minn Malta li jaghmlu dan it-tip ta' azzjonijiet jekk joghgbok?

Ix-Xhud :
Jekk hawn Malta xi hadd jigi subjected or found guilty of slab..; ha nsemmi isem illi ghandu rispett kbir, Times of Malta, its a big institution, it would close down. It is that serious.

Imhallef A Lofaro :
It is financially crippling then..

Ix-Xhud :
Qed nitkellem fuq istituzzjoni li hija rispettatta finanzjata, it would decimated. Jigifieri jekk ma ahniex ser niehdu pozizzjoni biex nipprotegu l-media f' Malta u napprezzaw il-fatt illi l-media ghandha rwol importanti fis-socjeta`, il-lehen tal-gurnalist ma jistax jiddghajjef, ma jistsax joghtor; ilsienu ma jistax jehdel. Jekk inti ser tpoggilu xi haga fuq rasu biex tipprova taghmillu l-opju ma ilsienu mela dik il-haga that thing has to go. That has to go. fl-ahhar minn l-ahhar jekk inti gurnalist u kellek ghamilt xi haga hazina, jista' jghid kulhadd li jrid, pero` il-hazin will come to light. Martin Bashir l-Ingilterra bhal issa, BBC, Martin Bashir kien dan li ntervista lill-princess Diane.

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Princess Diana ehe. Panorama interview.

Ix-Xhud :
Dan ser jispicca l-karriera tieghu jekk mhux maqful ser jispiccaha taht shaba iktra minn sewda ghaliex mhux kapaci jipprova illi l-metotologija li uza biex jintervista lill-Princess Diana kienet above board; above board qed nghidu not illegal. Jigifieri l-gurnalist will sink or swim according to his abilities. Mun hu carlatan ser jinqabad.

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Ser tinqabad, mhux hekk?

Ix-Xhud :
Allura ma ghandekx.. issa tghidli allura min hu carlatan ghandu dritt illi lili iwaqqani ghal dizunur? Illi lili izeblahni?

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Irid ikun hemm il-bilanc hux; bilanc

Ix-Xhud :

Ghalhekk jien nixtieq Press Ethics Commission illi hija soda. Pero` ma jfissirx illi …, hemm differenza kbira bejn Press Ethics Commission u slap action, diametric opposite

Dr Jason Azzopardi :

Lill-gvern, lill-awtoritajiet fl-ahhar erba' hames snin minn meta telghet dik il-ligi u l-gvern ma accettahiex, intom bhala IGM ghamiltu rapprezentazzjonijiet jew talbiet lill-gvern dwar l-urgenza jew l-importanza ta' tali mizura?

Ix-Xhud :

Jiena mhux ser nirrispondi ghall-erba' snin, ser nirrispondi biss minn Awwissu. Laqgha li kellna mal-Prim Ministru u mal-Ministru Zammit Lewis illi qalilna illi diga` hekk qieghda ghax ahna coverd by EU Law.

Dr Jason Azzopardi :

U fil-fatt intom coverd?

Ix-Xhud :

Dottore, I am not a legal person; and I didn't resurge that. I can't answer.

Imhallef A Lofaro :

Imma hadt parrir legali fuqha din?

Ix-Xhud :

Biex nghidlek il-verita` no; ghax mal-lista ta' affarijiet illi hemm it could be tabled for later.

Dr Jason Azzopardi :

L-ahhar haga, jekk huwiex.., u mhux ser naghmel referenza u mhux qed insaqsik biex taghmel referenza ghal istanzi jew ismijiet imma bhala prassi. Jekk huwiex accettabli jekk tafx illi hemm istanzi jekk hemm fejn gurnalist jircievi hlas somma flus minn businessman biex jaghmel storja jew biex ma jaghmilx stroja.

Imhallef A Lofaro :

Imma meta nghidu 'jaghmel' jivvinta? Biex nipprecizaw please.

Dr Jason Azzopardi :

Qed insaqsi; jekk jafux; jekk tafx.

Imhallef J Said Pullicino :

Halliha din id-domanda

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Ghax ma hijiex cara 'jaghmel storja'

Chairman Imhallef M Mallia :
Hemm investigazzjoni ghaddejja fuqha.

Dr Jason Azzopardi :
Dan il-Bord fil-futur qarib dan il-Bord ser jinghatha certa informazzjoni fuq hekk. Ok, nieqfu hemmhekk.

Imhallef A Lofaro :
Ok, grazzi hafna.

Din hija s-sustanza tax-xhieda ta' **Sylvana Debono** kif giet dettata minnha stess fil-prezenza ta' l-istess xhud.

Niddikjara li traskrivejt bl-ahjar hila tieghi x-xhieda ta' l-istess xhud.

Saviour Scicluna
Traskrittur