

Representation of Christianity in the Algerian Public Media ¹

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ABSTRACT

Christians (Catholics and Protestants) constitute about one per cent of the total (muslim-sunny) population of 33 million in Algeria. Relations between the two parties have been rather peaceful since Algeria got independent from France in 1962. Lately, however, the American Protestant Church Missionaries to Algeria have been making effort to christianize Algerian youth in the region where Berbers (Amazigh/ Kabayli) live. Algerian media have been reporting on these activities which created tensions in the area. The aim of this paper is to investigate how Christianity has been represented by the Algerian media in the course of those events taking place. Based on the key-concept "Identity", a hypothesis is formulated. To test it data were collected mainly from daily and weekly Algerian newspapers in Arabic. Analysis and discussions of the data have confirmed, to a large extent, the validity of the hypothesis. A suggestion to improve relations is given at the end.

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