

**Dates: 12-17 March 2013**

**Region: UK/Morocco**



Eight representatives from Morocco's leading commercial radio station, Chada FM, participated in a study tour to London, between 12 and 17 March 2013, organised by the Media Diversity Institute (MDI).

As part of the visit, the Chada FM director, Rachid Hayeg, MDI Executive Director's, Milica Pesic and MDI Project Manager's in Morocco, Intissar Rachdi, were participants in the [BBC World Service programme - Weekend](#)

You can listen to the programme here.

[Weekend Programme.wav](#)

The Chada FM director also took part as a guest in the studio for the [BBC Arabic programme Extra](#)



BBC producers showed a great interest in the Chada FM and MDI audio vignettes project, where people from all over Morocco speak about their lives and how they perceive the Moroccan media and whether it represents them and their issues.

One of the persons interviewed for the vignettes is a shoe cleaner who spends 10 hours on the street every day. He usually cleans shoes in front of cafés and shops. He has done that for the last 34 years. This is what he had to say about media in Morocco:

*"I don't care about what is said in the Moroccan media, because important personalities from those who speak on the radio and the TV advocating human rights and minority group's rights are the same ones who come to me to clean their shoes without paying for it ."*



Some of the people interviewed for the audio vignettes include a student, security agent, maid, Sub-saharan migrant, old musician, agriculture worker, drug addict, and violated women. The heroes of the vignettes come from different backgrounds so they can represent the diverse Moroccan society.

They voice their wishes on what kind of media they think it would be the best to have in order to objectively and inclusively represent Moroccan society.

14-years old Kawtar has 6 brothers and sisters and lives in a two rooms at a shantytown in the region of Casablanca. One person only is working in this family. She left school because it is far from home and because one of her classmates was raped. She was also discriminated for her physical appearance (dark skin and messy hair). She left school and was sent to Casablanca to work as a maid with a family there. Lucky her, this was an educated family which supported her in going back to school and takes care of her.

*"We poor people hope that media feels our pain and come meet us and see our lives on the ground. They have to see why little girls leave school", says Kawtar.*



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