

'Damage spreads far faster online'

Lawyer warns anonymous online abuse can lead to jail or fines in Bahrain

Mohammed Darwish
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Anonymity online offers no shield from Bahrain's criminal law, with abusive posts, messages and comments able to leave their writers facing jail or fines, lawyer Jassim Al Issa said.

Speaking to The Daily Tribune, Al Issa said the speed of social media had turned a stray message or post into something far more serious.

"A message, a comment or a post can turn into a crime of electronic insult or defamation," he said. "The space is digital, but the law still reaches it."

He said such cases are dealt with under Bahrain's Penal Code, Law No. 15 of 1976, as well as the Law on Information Technology Crimes, Law No. 60 of 2014.

Honour

Article 365 of the Penal Code states that anyone who publicly abuses another person in a way that harms that person's honour or standing can face up to one year in prison or a fine of up to BD100.

Article 366 says that if the insult or defamation takes place by telephone, or in front of the injured party and others without provocation, the penalty can reach six months in prison or a fine of up to BD50.

If it happens directly in front of the injured party with no one else present, the punishment is a fine of up to BD50.

Risk

Al Issa said the same legal risk can arise from acts many users treat lightly, such as posting an



"A false name does not keep you out of reach. Each word written or sent can turn into criminal liability."

— JASSIM AL ISSA, LAWYER

abusive remark on social media, sending an email carrying insult or defamation, or sharing photos or recordings of accidents and injuries without the consent of the person affected.

He said the penalty can include jail and a fine, above all when the harm is meant and the material spreads to a large audience.

"A post can reach hundreds, even thousands, within minutes," he said. "The damage spreads far faster online."

Trouble

He said investigators can still face trouble in tracing those behind such acts, since some use false names or sham accounts, and some accounts are run from outside Bahrain.

There is also the need to prove criminal intent, meaning the

case must show that the words were used to harm the victim's name, honour or social standing.

Even so, Al Issa said Bahrain's courts deal with online insult and defamation with the same seriousness as older forms of the offence, and at times pay even closer heed because of the speed and reach of online circulation.

Insult

He urged anyone exposed to insult, defamation, threats or the posting of harmful images to keep messages and posts as digital proof, go to the relevant authorities as soon as the harm occurs, and avoid replying before the material has been properly recorded for legal use.

"A false name does not keep you out of reach," he said. "Each word written or sent can turn into criminal liability."

Businessman jailed, fined for VAT evasion

Hasan Barakat
TDT | Manama

A five-year prison sentence, a fine exceeding BD247,000, and deportation to follow have brought a high-profile tax evasion case to a decisive close, placing financial accountability at the centre of the courtroom.

What unfolded was not only a legal matter, but a clear moment where numbers turned into consequences.

The High Criminal Court ruled to imprison the defendant for five years and impose a fine of BD247,559.551, while obliging him to repay the same amount in value added tax he was found to have evaded.

Deportation

The court further ordered his deportation upon completion of the sentence.

The case involved the owner of a food retail business who was convicted of evading VAT payments through the submission of inaccurate declarations to the National Bureau for Revenue, alongside failing to maintain proper accounting records and tax documentation.

Gold price decline reshapes Mother's Day spending

● Dipping from BD56 to BD47 within a week

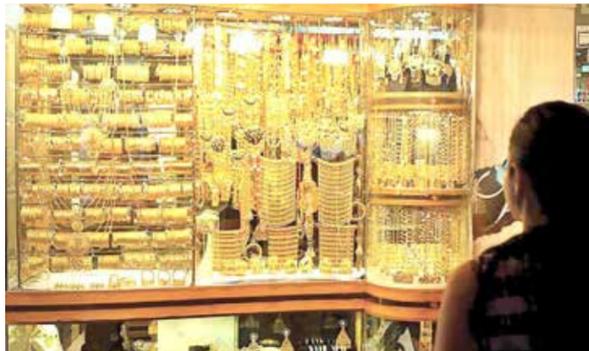
Hasan Barakat
TDT | Manama

This year, the moment felt different.

Eid arrived carrying more than celebration. It arrived with Mother's Day, and in between the two, something quietly powerful unfolded across Bahrain's gold markets.

Emotion met timing, and for once, prices did not stand in the way.

The Daily Tribune observed a surge in activity inside jewellery shops during the Eid holidays, but this was not just seasonal demand. It was deeply personal. Men stood longer than usual at display counters, quietly calculating what they could af-



Buyers calculate purchases amid regional tensions

ford, and what they wished they could give.

Children whispered suggestions, pointing at pieces they believed their mothers would love.

Mothers, often the ones who give, became the ones being thought of.

Conversations inside these shops no longer ended with

"maybe later", but with "let's take it".

The drop in gold prices changed everything. The price of 21 carat gold fell to around BD47, down from nearly BD56 just a week earlier, a decline of about 15 per cent. Suddenly, what felt out of reach became possible.

Shop owners say demand rose

by more than 60 per cent compared with Ramadan.

This rare overlap between Eid and Mother's Day gave gold a different meaning.

A bracelet became a quiet thank you for years of sacrifice. A necklace became a long overdue apology. A ring became a promise to do better, to be more present.

Some purchases were small, but the intention behind them was not.

Balance

Behind this moment lies a market shaped by uncertainty, regional tensions, and global decisions that continue to push prices up and down without warning.

But inside Bahrain's gold shops, something else held steady.

People choosing their mothers, while they still can.

'Surge of digital misinformation'

● Public urged to verify online content

Hasan Barakat
TDT | Manama

A surge in unverified videos, images and breaking "news" circulating on social media in Bahrain has prompted calls for greater public awareness and caution when sharing information online.

Amani Al Nefaiei, a PhD researcher in digital media, urged users to verify content before forwarding it.

She warned that not all material shared on digital platforms reflects reality.

Her remarks come as emotionally charged posts continue to spread rapidly, often outpacing factual reporting.

Old footage has been re-circulated as current, while edited videos and unverified claims have gained traction, sometimes unintentionally and in other cases with the aim of causing confusion.

Sources

Experts say the absence of traditional verification processes has allowed information to reach the public without clear sources, increasing the risk of misunderstanding and uncertainty.

Authorities and media professionals have advised the public to rely on official and trusted platforms, including the Bahrain News Agency, national television and radio, the National Communication Centre, and established news-



Amani Al Nefaiei

The spread of false or misleading information could affect public confidence, social stability and economic activity if left unchecked.

papers for accurate updates.

They stressed that responsibility for limiting the spread of misinformation also rests with individuals, particularly in verifying content before sharing it.

The warning comes amid advances in artificial intelligence and digital editing tools, which have made it increasingly difficult to distinguish between authentic and manipulated visual content.

Officials caution that the spread of false or misleading information could affect public confidence, social stability and economic activity if left unchecked.

Members of the public have also been encouraged to remain calm, seek information from reliable sources and avoid amplifying unverified reports.

Court orders company to compensate supervisor

● Despite claims of data leak

Rehab Mohammad
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A well-known company attempted to convince the High Labour Court to dismiss a supervisor's case by filing a criminal complaint and presenting witnesses, alleging that he had leaked company information to a new employer.

Based on this claim, the company argued that his dismissal was justified.

However, the court ruled in favor of the employee and ordered compensation.

According to lawyer Taqi Hussain Taqi, the plaintiff had been working for the defendant company under an open-ended contract as a work supervisor with a monthly salary of BD500.

He was unexpectedly dismissed without a valid reason or prior notice, and the company failed to pay his employment



Taqi Hussain Taqi, lawyer entitlements, prompting him to file the case.

In its ruling, the court stated that the employee was dismissed without legitimate grounds and without observing the legally required notice period.

The company, represented by legal counsel, argued that the dismissal was justified due to the alleged disclosure of work secrets and presented two witnesses to support its claim.

However, the court found their testimonies unconvincing and ruled that the company failed to prove the legality of the dismissal.