

A fine balance

Many welcome the move by Shura Council, while some express reservations

TDT|Manama
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The recent move by the Shura Council to impose fines up to BD50,000 and maximum jail sentences of three years for defaming individuals on social media has evoked mixed response from the public. The proposed amendment to 2014 Cyber Crimes Law will now be reviewed by the Cabinet before referring back to the National Assembly in six months.



Iran has one of the toughest punishments for cyber crimes in the whole world. Punishments can range from fines to up to 15 years in prison and in some cases even death penalty.



<p>”</p>  <p>There are laws against defamation and slander in most countries, including Bahrain. So it makes sense to have a law for insulting someone on social media. This law, if passed, will make people think twice and choose their words carefully before posting something.</p> <p>HASHEM MANDEEL, CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE</p>	<p>”</p>  <p>The law is not adequate and clearly defined, hence it should not be approved as every human has a different evaluation of what is insulting him and what not. How can a court judge decide on that matter, I mean what is insult, what is fun?</p> <p>KAI MIETHIG, TOP EXECUTIVE</p>	<p>”</p>  <p>Some people misuse social media without knowing the effects it would cause in a society. I've seen many keyboard warriors spreading rumors. No character assassination should be tolerated in our beautiful kingdom.</p> <p>MUHAMMAD FAROOQ, SALES MANAGER</p>	<p>”</p>  <p>If implemented, the law would bring a negative image to the Kingdom. It's like showing an apple to a child and threatening him with consequences if he eats it. Even if he doesn't want it, the threatening would certainly arouse some interest to make a try.</p> <p>DAWOOD FAKHRUDDIN, CONTENT WRITER</p>
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