

Final Report and Recommendations for the Conference "Law and Media: Horizons and Challenges"

Monday 27th and Tuesday 28th of January 2020

Ibn Khaldoun Hall, Qatar University

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This report summarizes the findings and discussions held at the Forum of "Law and Media: Horizons and Challenges," which was organized by the College of Law at Qatar University, on the 27th and 28th of January 2020.

The conference witnessed a variety of interventions. It discussed all the issues and problems related to the existing relationship between law and media. The successful discussions enriched the scientific material that could constitute a crucial jurisprudential reference.

The following are the most important recommendations of the conference:

- 1 . Examine the need for special criminal legislation; to counter disinformation.
- 2 . Recommend the legislator to dedicate the same approach it adopted in supporting media freedom in the new media law change-project.
- 3 . Recommending an amendment to the Qatari Consumer Protection Law No. 8 of 2008; by adding a text stating that the advertiser - even if he is a legal person - is primarily liable for the crime of false advertisement.
- 4 . Recommending the issuance of an integrated law, which would be an alternative to Law No. 1 of 2012, to regulate and monitor the placement of advertisements, and regulate all the substantive aspects of advertisements in the State of Qatar.
- 5 . To consider the French experience and study the extent of its application in Qatar; with regard to the financial fine that the advertiser must pay for the harmful act, in case there is no contract between them and the consumer.
- 6 . Examine the possibility of stipulating that the advertiser and the advertising agency's liability could be based on a presumed fault.
- 7 . To take advantage of recent legislative experiences in the field of copyright through digital media platforms, such as European Directive No. 790 of 2019 on copyright and related rights.
- 8 . The need to create specialized bodies to combat electronic copyright infringement on the Internet; in a way that does not violate basic rights and freedoms.
- 9 . Examine the need of establishing a judicial body to be in charge of media and journalism issues.
- 10 . To study and discuss crimes related to the field of journalism and media within relevant school subjects.
- 11 . Emphasize the importance of Arab, regional and international cooperation in the fight against crimes of modern, borderless means of communication. As well as strengthening cooperation within investigation and evidence-gathering stages to tackle this criminal phenomenon.

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