

**Law No (3) for the Year 2006
On Press and Publications**

Kuwait

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Law No (3) for the Year 2006

On Press and Publications

- After reviewing the Constitution,
- The Law No(15) for the year 1960 on Promulgation of the Commercial Companies Law and its amending laws,
- The Law No(17) for the year 1960 on Promulgation of the Law of Penal Procedural and Proceedings and its amending laws,
- The law No(3) for the year 1961 on Promulgation of the Law of Press and Publications and its amending laws,
- The Law No(32) for the year 1969 on Regulating the Licenses of the Commercial Shops and its amending laws,
- The Law No(40) for the year 1972 on Cases of Appealing by Cassation and its Procedures and its amending laws,
- The Decree of the Law No(38) for the year 1980 on Promulgation of the Law of Civil and Commercial Pleading and its amending laws,
- The Decree of the Law No (20) for the year 1981 on Establishing a Department in the Full Court of First Instance to Judge in the Administrative Disputes, which was amended by Law No(61) for the year 1982,
- The National Council has approved the following text of the law, and we have attested and issued it.

Preliminary Section

Article (1)

Freedom of the press, print, and publishing shall be guaranteed in accordance with the provisions of this Law.

Article (2)

For applying the provisions of this Law, the following terms shall have the meanings that are outlined next to each of them:

- Print:** Each writing, drawing, photo, or saying whether solely or accompanied by music or other forms of expression whether they are affixed to a supporting stand by traditional means or by any other means or kept in saving docketts or magnetic or electronic devices or in others devices that are prepared for circulation against return or without return.
- Typographer:** The entity or natural person who, by himself or through others, copies the prints by machines or devices which he uses for this purpose.
- Newspaper:** Each newspaper, magazine, or any other print which is issued under the same name periodically at regular or irregular intervals even if it is mere translation or transfer from other prints.
- Chief Editor:** He is the person responsible for the actual supervision on the newspaper and its contents based on the authorization from the issuing licensee.
- Deputy Chief Editor:** He is the person who satisfies the qualifying conditions set for the post of the Chief Editor, and he is the responsible person who does the actual supervision of the newspaper and its contents in the absence of the Chief Editor.
- Publisher:** He is the natural or entity person who is in charge of preparation of the print for publishing, production or distribution and circulation.
- Circulation:** The selling of the print or offering it for sale or distribution or affixing it on any supporting stand, such as on the fronts of shops or walls or others by

	making in any way available for a number of persons, whether this is done against return or without return.
Writer:	Any person who writes in the newspaper regularly or irregularly.
Editor:	Any person who works on editing the newspaper professionally whether he is one of the correspondents, or news analyzers, or the person who is conducting press investigation, or translators, or artists or photographers.
The Competent Minister:	The Minister of Information.
The Competent Ministry:	The Ministry of Information.

The First Section

The Prints

Article (3)

Any person may establish a print house or utilize it or open a shop for selling or renting the prints or for publishing or distribution or translation or an office for advertisement and announcement or an establishment for art production in relation to this Law after obtaining a license regarding the same from the Competent Ministry. The license applicant must satisfy the following conditions:

- 1) He must be a Kuwaiti national with full eligibility.
- 2) He must have good conduct and reputation and must not have been convicted of a crime involving dishonor or dishonesty, unless his status is restored.
- 3) He must have at least obtained the general secondary diploma or its equivalent, except for translation activity which requires the applicant to have obtained a proper academic qualification or its equivalent. The competent Ministry may exempt the one who has adequate experience in the field of the activity for which the license is applied for.
- 4) He must be the owner or utilizer of a suitable location for the activity.

If the license applicant is an entity person, all of the founders or partners must be Kuwaiti nationals, and the person who shall be in charge of managing the activity must satisfy the previous conditions.

The executive regulations set out the rules regulating issuing of these licenses and the practice of the printing houses and shops of their licensed activities.

Article (4)

Without prejudice to the conditions mentioned in the previous Article, if the licensee was interested in terminating or closing down the activity of the print house or its licensed place or in changing its name or location, he shall notify the competent Ministry regarding the same.

The executive bill outlines the regulating procedures for making this notification and the reply to it.

Article (5)

The licensee may assign the license to others after obtaining a prior written approval from the competent Ministry and in accordance with the conditions and procedures stipulated in a decision that shall be issued by the Minister.

If the licensee died, his heirs may request to transfer the license to them provided that one of them shall be responsible for the management and meets the conditions stipulated by Article (3). They may also request to transfer the licenses to another person, who satisfies these conditions after obtaining the approval from the competent Ministry within six months from the date of the death; otherwise, the license shall be deemed expired.

Article (6)

The typographer, before printing any print, shall submit a written notification regarding the same to the competent Ministry, and he shall mention it his name and address.

It shall be permitted to print, circulate and publish any print which is not a periodical, provided that the names of the typographer, the publisher,

and the author along with the address of each one of them shall be mentioned on the first or last page of the print along with the date of printing. The typographer shall deposit two copies of the print at each of the competent Ministry and at Kuwait National Library before circulating and publishing it, in accordance with the conditions and procedures outlined in the executive regulations.

Article (7)

It shall be permitted to enter, circulate, or sell the prints that are imported from abroad after obtaining permission from the competent Ministry and after checking their contents regarding the prohibited contents in accordance with the Articles stipulated under Section Three of this Law.

Without prejudice to any severer penalty stipulated by another law, the local distributor shall be considered responsible in case of violating any one of the provisions of this Law, and he shall be penalized according to its provisions.

The Second Section The Newspaper

Article (8)

The newspaper shall not be subject to any prior censorship.

Article (9)

No newspaper may be issued except after obtaining a license for publication from the competent Ministry, and the license shall not be issued except to the owner of an establishment or a company. If it is a daily newspaper, the capital of the establishment or the company shall not be less than two hundred and fifty thousand Dinars.

Without prejudice to the provisions of the law No (15) for the year 1960 on Commercial Companies and its amending laws, the competent Ministry shall appoint an account auditor, who shall audit and determine the financial status of the accounts of the establishment or the company, which is licensed to issue the newspaper in accordance with the regulations and restrictions issued by a decision from the competent Minister.

The license application shall be submitted to the competent Ministry, and it shall include the following data:

- 1) The name of the license applicant, his date of birth, the latest educational qualification that he has obtained, and his place of residence.
- 2) If the license applicant is a company, the names of all members of its board of director and the headquarters of the company shall be stated in the application.
- 3) The proposed name of the newspaper and the issuing intervals, its form, and purpose, outlining whether it is political, social, cultural, artistic, or others, along with the language in which it will be issued. The name of the newspaper may not be similar to the name of a newspaper in existence, still being issued and has a valid license.
- 4) The address of the headquarters of the newspaper's management and its place of printing.

It shall be permitted, with the approval of the competent Ministry, to issue one or more supplement of the newspaper on the same day of its issue, and such approval shall be obtained prior to issuing it.

Article (10)

The license applicant who seeks to issue a newspaper shall satisfy the following conditions:

- 1) He must be a Kuwaiti national and has reached the age of twenty five years and fully eligible.
 - 2) He must have good conduct and reputation, and must not have been convicted in a crime involving dishonor or dishonesty; unless he was status has been restored to him.
 - 3) He must be holder of a higher academic qualification, post the general secondary certificate or its equivalent.
- If the license applicant is a company, all of the founders shall satisfy the conditions that are mentioned in the first and second items of this Article.

Article (11)

The competent Minister shall issue, within ninety days from the date of submitting the application, a decision regarding the approval or rejection of granting the license; if the period elapsed without issuing the decision, the application shall be deemed as rejected.

The concerned parties may appeal the final decision concerning the rejection of granting the license before the Administrative Department in accordance with the procedures stipulated in the Decree by Law No (20) for the year 1981 within sixty days from notifying them of the decision or from the date of the elapse f the indicated period.

Article (12)

The licensee who is permitted to issue a newspaper shall submit the following to the Ministry within three months from the date of notifying him of the approval:

- 1) Proof of making a deposit, in the treasury of the competent Ministry, a financial guarantee amount of one hundred thousand Dinar for a daily newspaper, and twenty five thousand Dinar for other prints than that. He may submit, instead of the financial guarantee, a bank guarantee bond which is addressed to the competent Ministry and which must be free of any restrictions. The competent Ministry shall have the right to cash the guarantee or the bond in order to satisfy the commitments made by the establishment or the company or the chief editor for making the compensations based on this Law. The licensee shall complete the shortage of the guarantee bond within two months from the date of notifying him of the same by the competent Ministry.
- 2) The names of each of the chief editor and his deputies along with their written consent for accepting their positions.
- 3) Determining the date for making the first issue of the newspaper provided that this date shall not exceed one year from the date of submitting this statement.
- 4) The name of the printing house which shall handle the printing of the newspaper along with a copy of the printing contract which was concluded with it.

If the licensee did not fulfill any of the commitments that are mentioned in the previous items, the license shall be considered as cancelled in accordance with the Law and without the need for

further measures. The competent Minister may extend the date to a period which shall not exceed one month.

Article (13)

Any lease contract on leasing a newspaper's issuing license, and the sale of the license or assignment of a license shall be considered null and void if it was done without the approval of the competent Ministry.

Article (14)

Without prejudice to other reasons for making the cancellation which are included under this Law, the newspapers' licenses shall be cancelled in accordance with the law in the following situations:

- 1) If the newspaper suspends its issuing without an excuse that is acceptable by the competent Ministry for a period exceeding three months for the daily newspaper, and six months for the other types.
- 2) If the licensee was an entity person and its legal capacity was lapsed for any reasons.
- 3) If the licensee died and there was no legal heir, or if the heirs, within six months from the date of the death and after the approval of the competent Minister, did not transfer the license to their names or to the name of any other person while taking into account what was stipulated under Article (10) of this Law.
- 4) If the licensee failed any of the conditions that are listed under Article (10) of this Law.

The concerned party shall be notified of cancelling the license in any of the mentioned cases.

In any other cases, the license of the newspaper may not be cancelled except by a final judgment which is issued by the competent court or based on the request of the licensee.

Article (15)

Without prejudice to the text of the previous Article, the license of any newspaper may not be cancelled except by a final judgment that is issued by the competent court.

The Chief of the Criminal Department or the Judge of the Urgent Matters, if necessary and based on a request by the Public Prosecution, may issue a decision on suspending the issuing of the newspaper temporarily for a period not exceeding two renewable weeks during the investigations or the court interrogations.

Article (16)

Each newspaper shall have one or more chief editors who shall supervise it or supervise one department of its departments with actual supervision. The chief editor must satisfy the following conditions:

- 1) He must be a Kuwaiti national who attained the age of thirty years with full eligibility.
- 2) He must have good conduct and reputation, and he must not have been convicted in a crime involving dishonor or dishonesty, unless his reputation was restored to him.
- 3) He must have obtained an academic degree or its equivalent, or he must have practiced the profession regularly for a period not less than five years, provided that his educational qualification shall not be less than the general secondary certificate or its equivalent.
- 4) He must have a full time working.

Article (17)

The chief editor must search for accuracy and truth in everything that he publishes of the news, information, or data.

The chief editor must publish, free of charge, any reply or correction or refutation that he receives from the competent Ministry or from the other government entities or from any natural or entity person, whose name was mentioned or indicated in a writing or drawing or symbol which was published in the newspaper, and this shall be done on the date that is determined by the concerned party and in the same place of publishing and in the same letters and fonts which the article, the subject of the reply or correction or refutation, was first published.

Article (18)

Representatives of the foreign newspapers and their correspondents and representatives of the news agencies and the foreign radio and television stations shall obtain licenses from the competent Ministry in order to

practice their work inside Kuwait. The competent Ministry may issue a warning to the representative or correspondent or delegate, or it may cancel the license of a foreign newspaper, if it was evident that the news and information which he reported contained violation of the provisions of this Law.

Section Three

Matters Prohibited from Publishing in the Print or the Newspaper and the Penalties

Article (19)

It shall be prohibited to meddle in matters related to God, the Holy Quran, Prophets, the Noble Companions of Prophet Muhammad, Wives of the Prophet, peace be upon him, or persons who are part of the Prophet's family, peace be upon them, by meddling, defamation, slander, or mocking in any forms of expression that are stipulated under Article (29) of the Law No (31) for the year 1970 on Amendment of Some of the Provisions of the Penalty Law No (16) for the year 1960.

Article (20)

No challenge may be made to the person of the Country's Emir of the State of Kuwait by criticism, and no statement shall be attributed to him except by a special written permission from the Emiri Diwan.

Article (21)

It shall be prohibited to publish anything that would:

- 1- Disdain or contempt the Constitution of the State.
- 2- Disdain or insult jurists or members of the public prosecution or to state something that is considered as a disparagement of the integrity and impartiality of the judicial system or to publish something which the courts or the investigating parties decide to maintain in secret.

- 3- Insulting the public morals or instigating to violate the public order or to violate the laws or to commit crimes, even if the crime did not occur.
- 4- News regarding official secret communications and publishing of agreements and treaties which the government of Kuwait concludes, before publishing them in the official gazette, except by a special permission from the concerned Ministry.
- 5- Influencing the value of the national currency or what would lead to worries about the economic status of the country or publishing news about the bankruptcy of businessmen or the commercial companies or banks or the money exchangers, except by a special permission from the competent court.
- 6- Revealing what goes on in any meeting or what is written in the papers or documents or decrees, or any papers or prints which the Constitution or any law decided that they are to be kept in secret or not to publish them, even if the published topic was true, and the publishing was limited to the official statements that are issued in that regard.
- 7- Infringement on the dignity of the persons or their lives or religious believes, and instigating hatred or disdain of any of the society's strata or to publish information about their financial statuses or to reveal a secret which would harm their reputation or wealth or their trade names.
- 8- Encroachment into the private life of an employee or a person who is charged in a public service, or attributing statements or acts not true to him which would cause harm or insult to his person.
- 9- Causing harm to the relationships between Kuwait and other Arab or friendly countries if that is done through the press campaigns.
- 10-If the specialized newspaper went beyond the purpose of the license which is granted to it.

Article (22)

It shall be permitted by a reasonable decision from the competent Minister to prohibit publishing of any commercial advertisements or others in accordance with the conditions and rules contained in a decision issued by the Minister.

Article (23)

The public prosecution shall have the competency, without others, to handle the investigation and to take action and to make the pleading regarding all crimes that are stipulated under this Law, provided that there shall be a specialized prosecution for these crimes.

Article (24)

The Criminal Department in the Full Court of First Instance shall be the competent court to decide on all the penal lawsuits that are stipulated under this Law, and their judgments shall be appealed before the Court of Appeals.

The rulings issued by the Court of Appeals may be objected to by cassation before the Court of Cassation.

Article (25)

The penal lawsuit concerning the crimes that are stipulated under this Law shall be prescribed or canceled if the public prosecution was not notified regarding the same within three months from the date of publishing. The compensation lawsuit shall be prescribed if it was not forwarded for pleading within a year from the date of publishing unless the penal lawsuit was active, in which case the date of prescription shall start from the date of its elapse or from the date of issuing a final judgment on the same.

Article (26)

For each violation of the provisions of the First Section's Articles of this Law, the violator shall be penalized with a fine not less than five hundred Dinar and not exceeding one thousand Dinar. If the print contained something which contradicts with the national interest or if it served a foreign authority or state or if it infringes on the social or political system of Kuwait, the penalty shall be a fine not less than three thousand Dinar and not more than ten thousand Dinar; even though without prejudice to any severer penalty that is stipulated under another law.

Judgment shall be made for confiscating the print in all cases.

Article (27)

Without prejudice to any severer penalty which is stipulated in another law, the chief editor and article writer or the author shall be penalized:

- 1) If he published in the newspaper what was prohibited under Article (19), he shall be penalized by imprisonment for a period not exceeding one year and a fine not less than five thousand Dinar and not exceeding twenty thousand Dinar, or by one of these two penalties.
- 2) If he published in the newspaper what was prohibited under Article (20), he shall be penalized by fine which shall not be less than five thousand Dinar and not more than twenty thousand Dinar.
- 3) If he published in the newspaper what was prohibited under Article (21), he shall be penalized by fine which shall not be less than three thousand Dinar and not more than ten thousand Dinar.
- 4) A fine of not less than one thousand Dinar and not more than three thousand Dinar shall be imposed on each other violation of the provisions of the Second Section of this Law.

The penal court may, in any of the previous cases, order to cancel the license or to close down the newspaper for a period not exceeding one year and to confiscate the published issue and to seize the issue and the supporting stand on which it was affixed and to destroy it and to close down the print shop which was used to make the print.

Article (28)

If an instigation was published to overthrow the ruling regime in the country and this instigation included a enticement to change this system by force or through illegal means, or by urging to use force to change the social and economic system that exists in the country, or to adopt creeds which aim at destroying the basic statutes of Kuwait through illegal means, the chief editor and the article writer shall be penalized by the penalty which is stipulated under Article (29) and paragraph (1) of the law No (31) for the year 1970 on Amendment of Some of the Provisions of the Penal Law No (16) for the year 1960.

The Fourth Section Concluding Provisions

Article (29)

The competent Minister shall issue a decision regarding the audio, visual, and audio visual prints, and in particular on the regulation of licensing the print houses and the shops of issuing and selling devices that are subject to the provisions of this Law along with determining the fees for their licenses, the inspection and monitoring of these houses and shops and on the closing down of the same administratively.

The competent Minister shall also issue a decision on the replacement of employees who are tasked with the responsibility of proving the violations of the provisions of this Law which occur and to prepare the corresponding reports and procedures and to forward them to the public prosecution.

Article (30)

The final judicial rulings and the decisions related to the application of this Law shall be published in the official gazette.

Article (31)

The competent Minister shall issue the executive regulations and the required decisions for implementation of the provisions of this Law within six months from the date of coming into effect.

Article (32)

The law No (3) for the year 1961 on Issuing of Prints and Publications shall be abrogated.

Article (33)

The Prime Minister and the ministers, each in his capacity, shall execute this Law, and it shall be come into force effect from the date of publishing it in the official gazette.

**The Emir of the State of Kuwait
Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah**

Issued in Al Saif Palace on 27 Safar, 1427 Hijri,
Corresponding to March 27th, 2006

**The Explanatory Note on
Law No (3) for the year 2006 on the Prints and
Publications**

Freedom of expression is considered one of the basic rights of man, and it is one of the rights which the Constitution guaranteed its protection and preservation, as provided by Article (36) of the Constitution (Freedom of opinion and academic research is guaranteed, and each person shall have the right to express his opinion and to publish it by saying or in writing or other means, and this shall be in accordance with the conditions and situations outlined by the law). Guaranteeing the freedom of expression is the basis of the democratic system, and its organization is a necessity in the legal state; however, such organization must not be a reason for restricting it so as to prevent its practice or to suspend its aimed contents.

Distinguishing between guaranteeing the freedom of expression and the other freedoms which the Constitution and the law guaranteed their protection is considered one of the most delicate issues and the most intriguing and interesting matters. The Constitution's guarantee of the freedom of expression would retreat if such freedom missed its social value, or if its exercise was attached with something that would threaten the freedoms of the citizens.

The different means of the press media, such as prints and publishing means are some forms of exercising the freedom of expression. The technological advancement of the means of media like the radio, television, and electronic information networks helped facilitate the spread of information effectively, and publishing is no longer limited to the news and political events; instead, it extended to cover all aspects of the public and private life.

On January 26th, 1961, the law of prints and publishing No (3) for the year 1961 was enacted, and over the years of working with it many amendments were introduced to it in order to satisfy immediate needs. However, they were not sufficient enough to modify the law as to make the law adequate and regulating for the affairs of prints and publishing in their advanced intellectual and artistic concepts. Based on the forgoing and on the developmental role that is expected from the means of print and publishing in their many fields and in order to bridge the gaps in the legislative development that regulate these means, the attached Law was prepared.

The Law includes five sections: They include a preface section and four other sections. They cover the affairs of prints and newspapers along with the matters that are prohibited from publishing, the determined penalties and the concluding provisions.

First: The first article in the preface section addressed the guarantee of the freedom of the press, printing and publishing in accordance with the provisions of this Law. The second article dealt with defining the terms that are used in the Law, namely defining the meanings of print, typographer, newspaper, chief editor, deputy chief editor, publisher, circulation, writer, editor, competent minister, and competent ministry.

Second: The first article of this section includes the provisions related to prints, where the third and fourth articles of the section regulated the conditions required for application for license to establish a print house or to utilize it or to open a shop for selling or renting prints or publishing and distribution or translation or an office for advertisements and publicity or an art production establishment in relation with this Law. It also covered the conditions that must be satisfied by the license applicant whether he is a natural person or an entity, and it specified the procedures of terminating or suspending the activity of the print house or the licensed shop or changing its name or location. The Law also designated the executive regulations for outlining the regulating rules regarding the same. The fifth article of the Law outlined the provisions on regulating the procedures for assigning the license to others and the case of the death of the licensee. The sixth article stipulated that the typographer shall submit a written notification to the Ministry before assuming printing of any print and to indicate his name and address. It stipulated that it is permissible to print and circulate and publish any non-periodic print provided that the

names of the typographer and the publisher and the author are stated. It also specified that two copies of the print shall be submitted at both the competent Ministry and at the Kuwait National Library before making circulation or publishing it, and all that must be in accordance with the conditions and procedures outlined by the executive regulations. The seventh article permitted the entry and circulation of prints imported from abroad after obtaining permission for them from the competent Ministry and after making sure that they do not contain what is prohibited from publishing in accordance with the articles stipulated under the third section of this Law. It also considered the local distributor responsible in case of violating any of the provisions of this Law, and that he shall be penalized according to its provisions and without prejudice to any severer penalty stipulated by any other law.

Third: The second section included many provisions related to the newspaper, where article (8) of the Law stressed that newspapers shall not be subject to any prior monitoring. Article (9) outlined that no person may issue a newspaper except by a license issued by the competent authority, and that the licensing shall not be issued except to the owner of an establishment or a company which has a capital of not less than two hundred and fifty thousand Dinar. Articles (9) and (10) regulated the conditions for obtaining a license for issuing a newspaper. These included the license applicant and the department to which he submits the application and the contents of application for license. As for Article (11), it authorized the competent Minister to issue a decision on rejection or approval of the application within ninety days from the date of its submission. It also regulated the procedures of appealing , before the administrative department, the decision passed on rejection of the application, in accordance with the procedures stipulated by the Decree by Law No (20) for the year 1981. It also determined a period of sixty days from the date of notification of the decision or from the date of the elapse of the ninety days period indicated for appealing the decision. Article (12) of the Law determined the amount of the financial guarantee which the licensee must deposit with the treasury of the Ministry or the bank guarantee bond and the period during which he shall submit. It also stipulated that the name of the chief editor and his deputies shall be specified along with the date of issuing the first issue and provided that this date shall not be more than one year from the date of submitting this statement along with the

name of the print house, which will take charge of printing the newspaper and at the end its considers the license annulled in accordance with the Law in case of not fulfilling the commitments specified by the previous clauses, and it authorized the Minister to extend the date to a period not exceeding one month.

Article (13) considered that any lease of the license for issuance of a newspaper shall be considered null and void, and this shall also be applicable to selling or assigning the license if it was done without the approval of the competent Ministry. Article (14) of the Law stipulated a provision of cancelling the license under situations listed under the Article. It also tasked the competent Ministry to notify the concerned party regarding the cancellation of the license in the cases indicated under this Article; it also added that in cases other than these limited cases, no license of a newspaper shall be cancelled except by a final judgment from the competent court or by the request of the license owner. Article (15) of the Law stipulated that no cancellation of a license for a newspaper may be made except in accordance with a final judgment that is issued by the competent court. The Article authorized the Chief of the Criminal Department or the Judge of the Urgent Matters when necessary and based on the request from the public prosecution to temporarily suspend issuing of the newspaper for a period not exceeding two renewable weeks, during the investigation by the public prosecution or during the court interrogation. Articles (16) and (17) of the Law listed provisions related to the conditions that must be fulfilled by the chief editor and his duties.

Article (18) stipulated that the representatives of the foreign newspaper, their correspondents, delegates of the news agencies and radio and television stations shall obtain the license from the competent Ministry in order to practice their work inside Kuwait.

Fourth: The third section of the Law regulates the matters that are prohibited from publishing in the print or the newspaper along with the penalties. Article (19) of the Law prohibited meddling in matters related to God, the Holy Quran, the prophets, the noble companions, or wives of the Prophet, peace be upon him, or persons of the family of the Prophet, peace on them, by meddling, disdain, mocking, or criticizing in any means of expression that are stipulated under Article No (29) of the law No (31) for the year 1970 on Amendments of Some of the

Provisions of the Penal Law No (16) for the year 1960. The term Companions means any person who saw the Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, and was a Muslim and a believer in the Prophet and died on that, and shall have regard to especially his wives and the members of his family, peace be upon on them. The term Members of the Family, peace be upon them, shall mean the Prophet's family and relatives who believed in him and who lived in his time and saw him in reality, peace be upon him.

Article No (20) stipulated that no meddling may be made to the person of the Emir of the Country by criticism, and that no statement shall be attributed to him, except by a special written permission issued from the Emiri Diwan.

Article No (21) listed the matters prohibited from publishing.

Article (22) of the Law provides that the competent Minister shall issue a founded decision on prohibiting the publishing of any commercial or other advertisements in accordance with the conditions and rules that shall be issued in a decision by the Minister. Article No (23) specified the competent authority which shall investigate, take action and prosecute all crimes that are stipulated under this Law, namely the Public Prosecution solely and non-others, provided that a prosecution entity shall decide on these crimes. Article No (24) stipulated the competency of the Criminal Department in the Full Court of First Instance for deciding on all the penal lawsuits that are stipulated under this Law, and that its rulings shall be appealed before the Court of Appeals, and that the appeal by cassation shall be before the Court of Cassation.

Article No (25) of the Law covered the periods related to prescription or cancelling the penal lawsuits related to crimes stipulated in this Law along with the compensation lawsuits. Article No (26) listed the penalties related to violating the provisions of this Law without prejudice to any severer penalty stipulated under any other law. Article No (27) outlined the penalties that shall be imposed on the chief editor and the article writer or author in case of violating the prohibition which is stipulated under Articles Nos.(19, 20, 21) of the Law and without prejudice to any severer penalty stipulated in any other law. It authorized the penal court in any of these situations to

order cancelling the license or to suspend the newspaper for a period not exceeding one year. If the publishing included an instigation to overthrow the ruling regime of Kuwait, Article No (28) of the Law stipulated punishment of the chief editor and the article writer by the penalty that is determined under paragraph No (1) of Article No (29) of the Law No (31) for the year 1970 on Amending Some of the Provisions of the Penal Law.

Fifth: The fourth section of the Law included concluding provisions, where Article (29) authorized the competent minister to issue a decision regarding the audio, visual and audio visual prints and a decision for appointing employees who shall be in charge of proving the occurrence of violations of the provisions of this Law, preparing their reports and minutes and forwarding them to the Public Prosecution.

Article No (30) stipulated publishing of the judicial decisions and rulings related to implementing the provisions of this Law in the official gazette.

Article No (31) authorized the competent Minister to issue the executive regulations and the decisions required for implementing the provisions of this Law within six months from the date on which the Law comes into effect. Article No (32) stipulated the abrogation of the Law No (3) for the year 1961 on promulgation of Prints and Publications Law.

Article No (33) provided implementation of Law from the date of its publishing in the official gazette.