

Publications and Publishing Law 1980

Federal Law No 15 for 1980 concerning publications and publishing

Chapter 1- Definitions

Words and expressions used in this document are defined as under unless stated otherwise

Article 1

State: The United Arab Emirates

Ministry: The Ministry of Information and Culture

Minister: Minister of Information and Culture

Publications: All written material, drawings, musical compositions, or any other form of expression that can be heard or viewed.

Circulation: Selling, distributing publications or displaying them for the purpose of sale or advertisement, or any other action that makes publications within the reach of a number of people.

Newspaper: Any newspaper, a magazine, or a publication, issued regularly or intermittently under one name.

Printing press: Equipment or system for printing or recording words, drawings or pictures for the purpose publication and circulation. The phrase does not apply to cameras, normal typing machines or photocopiers.

Owner of the printing press: Applies to anyone leasing the printing press.

Publisher: Anyone who publishes printed material.

Bookshop: Any establishment that trades in all types of publications.

Works: Literary, artistic and scientific works in whatever form.

Cinema: Any work that features visual means of expression.

News Agency: Any press establishment that disseminates pictures or words through tickers, telegraphic machines or any other means.

Chapter 2 Printing Presses and Publications

Article 2

Owner or the manager of a printing press shall fulfil the following requirements:

1. He shall be a UAE national
2. He shall be fully qualified.
3. He shall be of good conduct and must not have been convicted for an offence involving moral turpitude, or he has been acquitted or his moral standing has been restored by the proper authority.

Article 3

No one is allowed to operate a printing press unless he obtains a licence as per provisions of this law.

Application for a licence shall be submitted to the Department of Information and Publications at the ministry, and shall include the following details:

1. Name of the printing press owner.
2. Name of the manager who runs the printing press, his surname, nationality and place of residence.
3. Name of the printing house, its location and type of tools used and their number.

Article 4

The proper authority at the ministry shall approve or not approve the application within thirty (30) days of the date the application is submitted. Any delay beyond this date shall be considered acceptance of the application.

Article 5

In case the application is rejected, a complaint against the decision can be submitted to the minister within fifteen (15) days of the date the application was rejected.

The minister shall take a decision on the complaint within fifteen (15) days and his decision shall be considered final.

Article 6

The owner of the printing press or the official responsible shall notify in writing the proper authority at the ministry of any change to the details of the application for licensing. The matter shall be brought to the attention of the authority within fifteen (15) days of the date the change is made.

Article 7

The owner of the printing press shall waive ownership of his printing press only to a UAE national, who fulfils requirements mentioned in Article 2 of this law and after prior approval in writing from the proper authority at the ministry. The assigner shall submit to the proper authority an application including all details and documents confirming conditions mentioned in Article 2 of this law, and these are required from the assignee.

Article 8

If the owner of the printing press dies, his heirs shall notify the ministry in writing of his death within two months (2) of the death. The printing press licence shall go to the heirs, unless they express their desire to discontinue the printing press activity. This is made without prejudice to provisions of Article 2 of this law.

Article 9

The owner of the printing press or its manager shall keep a record stamped by the ministry, to record titles of material pending publishing, names of the material originators and number of copies printed from that material.

The owner or the manager shall submit the record to the proper authority at the ministry.

Article 10

The name of the printing house and its address shall be recorded clearly in one of the pages of the printed material and also the name of the publisher and his address.

Article 11

Ten copies of the published material shall be submitted by the printing house to the censorship department at the ministry.

Article 12

An approval from the proper authority at the ministry shall be obtained by the printing house before any journal is published. The authority shall take a decision on the application submitted within fourteen (14) days of the date the application is submitted.

Article 13

Provisions of Articles 10, 11, and 12 of this law shall not apply to publications of a private or commercial nature.

Article 14

The printing house, before printing any material ordered by any party which does not hold UAE nationality, shall obtain permission from the proper authority at the ministry to print that material. The authority shall issue a decision on the application for permission within fourteen (14) days of the date the application is submitted.

Article 15

The printing house shall neither reproduce any material for circulation in the country, which is prohibited by the proper authority, and nor shall it print any material that contradict Articles 12 and 14 of this law.

Article 16

The printing house shall obtain permission from the proper authority at the ministry if a customer orders material to be printed for the purpose of distribution in another country. Application for permission shall include the

material ordered to be printed, the name of the customer, his nationality and his place of residence.

Chapter 3 Circulation of Publications

Article 17

No one is allowed to sell, or distribute publications on the main road or in any public place, even temporarily, unless he obtains permission from the proper authority at the ministry.

Article 18

Anyone who wishes to sell or distribute publications shall register his name with the proper authority at the ministry. The minister shall issue a decision explaining the rules of registration.

Article 19

Publishers and suppliers of publications shall submit to the proper authority at the ministry five (5) copies of each publication they publish or supply before they circulate such publications. One copy of each publication is required if only a few copies of such publications are imported. Copies submitted shall be returned after procedures are completed. The minister shall issue a decision specifying such publications.

In all cases, a receipt shall be issued for copies submitted.

The authority mentioned in the first paragraph shall, without delay, issue a decision with respect to circulation of the publications. The authority may delete from the publication any paragraph including material whose circulation is prohibited by the provision of this law. Deletion may be made by cutting out the subject material by scissors, or covering details by a special ink or any other tools deemed effective. In case the deletion is impossible, the minister may prohibit circulation of the publication in the country.

Article 20

The minister may ban any periodical or any publication from entering the country if that publication includes material prohibited to be circulated by the provisions of this law or any other law.

Decisions issued by the minister shall be published in the official gazette and as per provisions of the previous paragraph.

Article 21

Parties are prohibited to circulate any imported publication unless they obtain permission from censorship department at the ministry.

Article 22

No diplomatic missions in the UAE is allowed to issue any publication for the purpose of circulation unless they obtain permission from the proper authority at the ministry. Application for permission shall be submitted through official channels and must include a draft of the publication stamped by the head of the diplomatic mission. In case the circulation of the publication is approved five (5) copies of the publication shall be submitted to the proper authority at the ministry before it is circulated.

Article 23

Clubs, societies or foreign centres are not allowed to issue or circulate any publication unless permission is obtained from the proper authority at the ministry. Application for permission shall include a draft of the publication stamped by the head of the club, society or centre. If permission is issued, five (5) copies shall be submitted to the proper authority at the ministry before the publication is circulated.

Provisions of the previous paragraph apply to publications of private or commercial nature.

Chapter 4

Newspapers, Periodicals, and News Agencies

Article 24

No newspaper shall be published unless permission from provisions of this law is obtained.

Article 25

The owner of the newspaper shall meet the following requirements:

1. He shall be a UAE national. This requirement shall not apply to periodicals issued by diplomatic missions and foreign news agencies licensed to operate in the UAE.
2. He shall not be less than 25 years of age.
3. Shall be fully competent.
4. He shall be of good conduct and behaviour.
5. He shall not have been previously convicted for an offence involving moral turpitude, or unless he has been acquitted or his moral standing has been restored by the proper authority.
6. He shall not occupy a public service post in the country.
7. He shall not be employed by a foreign agency in the country.

Article 26

Any newspaper shall have an editor-in-chief to supervise its entire content, or it shall have a number of editors, each of whom supervises a particular section. Owner of a newspaper may be the editor-in-chief of his newspaper or a responsible editor if he meets requirements provided in this law.

Article 27

The editor-in-chief or the editor shall meet the following requirements:

1. Shall hold a higher degree from a recognised college, institute or university.
2. He shall have scientific experience not less than one year, with full experience to perform his job.

Article 28

Any editor or writer wishing to work in a newspaper shall meet the following requirements:

1. He shall have a higher scientific degree from a recognised college, institute, or university, or otherwise, he shall have practised journalism regularly for not less than three years.
2. He shall have been registered with the authorities organising the journalistic profession in his country.
3. He shall be fully qualified.
4. He shall not have been previously convicted of an offence involving moral turpitude, unless he is acquitted or his moral standing has been restored by the proper authority.
5. He shall not have been previously ordered to leave the country for an offence related to publishing.
6. He shall not hold a job with a foreign country or agency.
7. He shall not be a public servant.

The two requirements included in clauses 1 and 2 shall not apply to UAE nationals.

Article 29

Newspaper owners and chairmen of boards of journalistic establishments and news agencies shall not appoint editors or writers on a permanent or temporary basis, unless they are registered with the information department in the ministry.

Provisions included in the previous paragraph shall not apply to foreign correspondents appointed by their agencies abroad.

Individuals and agencies mentioned in paragraph 1 shall notify the proper authority at the ministry of the names of foreign correspondents, their nationalities and place of residence.

Article 30

Foreign correspondents are prohibited to practise their job in the country before they are licensed by the proper authority in the ministry. Licensing shall be for one year, which can then be renewed.

The ministry shall sponsor foreign correspondents.

Article 31

Anyone wishing to issue a newspaper shall submit an application to the proper authority in the ministry including the following details:

1. Name, surname, nationality and place of residence of the applicant.
2. Name of the editor-in-chief or editors and publishers, if any, and their surnames, their age, nationality, place of residence and qualifications.
3. The name of the newspaper, its language, the date of issuance and its address.
4. The name of the printing press in which the newspaper is published if it does not have its own printing press.
The application shall be signed by the newspaper owner, or editor-in-chief or by editors or the publisher, if any.

Article 32

The minister shall submit the newspaper's licensing application to the Cabinet to take a decision on it. The application shall be supported by the ministry's own opinion on the subject.

Article 33

The owner of the newspaper or the editor-in-chief shall notify the proper authority at the ministry of any change that occurs to details of the application. The notification shall be made within eight (8) days at the maximum of the date the change is made.

Article 34

The undersigned of the application provided in Article 31, shall deposit along with the application, a guarantee of Dh 50,000 for each daily newspaper, and Dh 25,000 for the other cases. This shall be made to ensure settlement of fines imposed by the provisions of this law or any other law against the editor-in-chief, editors, or the owners of the newspaper, the publishers or the printing press.

The guarantee may be made by a bank guarantee issued by one of the banks operating in the UAE and is payable to the ministry. The guarantee shall be irrevocable and unconditional.

Article 35

The guarantee shall be replenished the fifteen (15) days following a warning served in this respect, if the guarantee provided in the previous article dwindles after fines have been deducted from it.

Article 36

Any printing house is prohibited to print a newspaper, whose license expires, or the proper authority suspends its activity, or it is prohibited from being circulated in the country.

Article 37

No newspaper shall be circulated, unless it includes the name of the owner, editor-in-chief, or the editor, the name of the printing press, its date of issuance, place of issuance, price of an issue, value of subscription. All these details shall be printed clearly either on the front or the last page. If the newspaper has no editor-in-chief, but a number of editors each of whom is responsible for a particular section, their names must be printed in the same way mentioned above.

Article 38

As soon as an issue of a newspaper or its supplement is circulated, five copies shall be submitted to the proper authority at the ministry. Receipts of the copies shall be issued to the newspaper.

If the newspaper issues a number of different copies of the same issue, a copy of each different issue shall be submitted to the ministry.

Article 39

The editor-in-chief or the editor shall publish free of charge any public notices sent by the ministries. Notices shall be published in places where important news is published.

Article 40

The editor-in-chief or the editor shall publish upon the request of the proper authority any correction for news previously published.

Correction shall be published in the first issue published following the request and in the same place and with the same font size. These corrections shall be published free of charge if the space it takes is not twice the size of the original article. Fees shall be paid for the excess space.

Article 41

No newspaper shall abstain from publishing any correction, unless in the following cases:

- a. If the correction is received two months after the date of publication of the article.
- b. If the newspaper has previously published the corrections.
- c. If the correction is written in a language other than the language in which the original article is published.
- d. If the publishing of the correction entails an offence punishable by the law.

Article 42

If the editor-in-chief or the editor abstain from publishing the correction, he shall be imprisoned for a term not less than six (6) months, and/or pay a fine not less Dh 1000 and not more than Dh 10,000.

Article 43

The court, when it acquits the editor-in-chief or the editor from the charges provided in the previous article may obligate them to publish the correction in any wording it sees suitable.

If the editor-in-chief or the editor is sentenced, the correction shall be published in the first or the second issues following the issuance of the sentence. If the defendant abstains from publishing the correction, the plaintiff may publish the correction in three newspapers of his choice and at the expenses of the defendant.

The editor-in-chief or the editor, if he is cleared of the charges levelled against him, may publish that at the expenses of the plaintiff.

Article 44

The owner of the newspaper shall waive ownership of his newspaper only to a UAE national, who meets requirements mentioned in Article 25 of this

law and after approval from the proper authority at the ministry. The assigner shall submit to the proper authority an application including all details and documents confirming conditions mentioned in Article 20 of this law and are required from the assignee.

Article 45

The licence of a newspaper is cancelled by a decision by the minister and upon request from its owner. The minister may cancel the licence in the following cases:

1. If the newspaper does not appear within six (6) months of the date the licence is issued.
2. If the newspaper does not appear regularly within six (6) months of the date the licence is issued.
3. If the owner of the newspaper dies and his heirs are not able to issue the newspaper regularly within one (1) year of the date of the owner's death.

Article 46

Newspapers or periodicals shall not copy articles, novels, stories or any other literary work unless there is consent of the author. Quotation, or brief notes may be copied without the consent of the author.

Newspapers may publish articles that discuss political, economic, scientific, or literary issues, or other issues of public interest unless publications of such issues are prohibited.

The author of the article and the source shall be mentioned clearly.

Article 47

Newspapers and periodicals may quote arguments and pleadings that take place in the courts and within the limit set by the law, unless the court decides that the proceedings take place in a closed hearing.

Article 48

Articles 17, 18, and 20 of this law apply to circulation, or selling of newspapers or banning them from entering the country.

Provisions included in Articles 19 and 21 of this law apply to import and circulation of foreign newspapers.

Chapter 5

Import and Export of Publications and Newspapers

Article 49

Non-UAE nationals registered in the record are prohibited to import or export publications and newspapers.

Article 50

No one shall be registered in the records mentioned in the previous article unless he belongs to one of the following categories:

- a. Press establishments and firms dealing in publishing.
- b. Parties that import or export publications and newspapers.

Article 51

Anyone wishing to be registered in the records mentioned in Article 49 of this law shall submit an application to the proper authority at the ministry accompanied by the following documents:

- a. A Declaration of two copies that include the applicant's name, his surname, nationality, place of residence and the name of his press establishment, its location, names of the partners or directors authorised to sign for the firm.
- b. Details of offices, where import and export processes take place and the name and surname of owner of each office, his nationality and his place of residence.

Article 52

Anyone registered in the records mentioned in Article 49 of this law shall notify the proper authority of any change made to the details mentioned in the previous article. Notification shall be made within fourteen (14) days of the date of the change.

Article 53

No Holy Quran books, or part thereof, or religious books published in the form of publications or audio material, shall be imported without permission from the proper authority in the ministry and without the prior consent of Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Awqaf.

In all cases, imported copies shall have been approved by the responsible religious bodies in Arab or Islamic countries.

Chapter 6

Cinema Films and Other Artistic Shows

Article 54

No party shall be allowed to import or export films unless he is a UAE national registered in the records kept by the ministry.

Article 55

Anyone wishing to be registered in the record mentioned in the previous article shall submit an application to the proper authority at the ministry accompanied by the following documents:

- c. A Declaration of two copies that include the applicant's name, his surname, nationality, place of residence and the name of his press establishment, its location, names of the partners or directors authorised to sign for the firm.
- d. Details of offices, where import and export processes take place and the name and surname of owner of each office, his nationality and his place of residence.

Article 56

Anyone registered in the records mentioned in Article 54 of this law shall notify the proper authority of any change made to the details mentioned in the previous article. Notification shall be made within fourteen (14) days of the date of the change.

Article 57

No film or a commercial advertisement shall be allowed to be shown in a cinema hall unless permission is obtained from the film censorship committee. Documents required to be submitted along with the application shall be determined by a decision by the minister.

Article 58

No diplomatic mission shall be allowed to show a film to individuals other than its employees and in a venue other than its official location unless permission is obtained from the film censorship committee.

Clubs, societies or centres are not allowed to show even to its members and in its official location unless they obtain permission from the committee mentioned in the previous paragraph.

Documents required to be submitted along with the application for permission shall be determined by a decision from the minister.

Article 59

A committee referred to as the “Film Censorship Committee” shall be set up and chaired by the ministry’s assistant undersecretary for press censorship affairs. Members of the committee shall be representatives of ministries of education; interior, social affairs, justice and Islamic affairs, state security and Israel boycott office. A decision by the minister shall be issued to set up the committee. Ministries’ representatives are nominated by their ministries. The committee shall be assigned to examine films to be shown in cinema halls. The committee is also assigned to examine films that are shown to individuals other than officials of diplomatic missions and in places other than official locations of such missions. The committee examines political, social, moral and religious content of films shown by clubs, societies and centres.

The minister may appoint in the committee anyone with competence and experience.

Article 60

The committee mentioned in the previous article may remove from the film any scene that it sees involving moral turpitude, or violating religious morals or values on which state and society are based.

The committee may permit the film to be shown after the scenes are removed.

The ministry may issue instructions to cinema halls or officials managing such halls to maintain a good standard of films.

Article 61

The Film Censorship Committee shall not license any foreign film to be shown unless there is an Arabic subtitle.

The application for permission shall include a summary of the film, its actors and the name of the producer.

In all cases the Arabic subtitle must conform to the film's dialogue.

Article 62

A committee shall be set up in the ministry and referred to as the "Higher Committee of Grievance". The committee, the members of which will be people from the field of art and law, shall be assigned to look into grievances raised by owners of cinema halls against decisions taken by the Film Censorship Committee and in accordance with provisions of Articles 57, 58, and 61 of this law.

The committee shall be set up by a decision by the minister.

In all cases, the decision of the committee shall be based on logical reasons.

Grievances against the committee's decisions may be submitted to the minister within fifteen (15) days of the date the decision of the committee is issued, and the decision of the minister shall be final.

Article 63

No one, whose age is less than sixteen (16) years shall be allowed to watch a film shown in cinema halls, or any other place specified by a decision by the Minister of Labour and Social Affairs.

Article 64

Managers of cinema halls and other similar places mentioned in the previous article shall issue a notice in a clear place prohibiting children under sixteen years of age from watching the film and as per the decision issued in this respect by the Film Censorship Committee.

Article 65

The minister shall issue a decision naming the ministry's officials authorised to enter cinema halls and other places mentioned in Article 63 and printing presses and places where publications are sold and distributed. The officials will enforce the law and are empowered to confiscate any material or prove any action contradicting requirements of this law. They are empowered to confiscate materials and tools used in committing offences provided in this law.

Article 66

In places other than cinema halls, no artistic work shall be shown to the public without prior permission from the information department of the ministry. Applications for permission shall include details and documents. Such details and documents are specified by a decision issued by the minister.

Provisions of the previous paragraph apply to circulation or publication of any artistic work, whether such work is audio or visual.

Article 67

No one shall be allowed to perform theatre or screen cinemas, or the like, unless he is licensed by the proper authority at the ministry. Licensing shall be for one year, which can then be renewed. A decision by the minister shall specify requirements of the licence, its renewal and documents required to be submitted along with the application.

Article 68

Provisions of the previous article apply to individuals facilitating employment of cinema and theatre actors, or other artistes.

Article 69

Provisions of Articles 66, 67, and 68 of this law shall not apply to shows sponsored by ministries, government departments and public institutions and which are shown for the purpose of supporting their activities.

Chapter 7

Materials Prohibited to Be Published

Article 70

No criticism shall be made against the Head of State or Rulers of the Emirates

Article 71

Any work is absolutely prohibited from being published if it involves instigation against Islam or the system of ruling, or if it causes harm to the interest of the state or the values of society.

Article 72

No opinions shall be published if they violate public discipline and order, or involve insult to teenagers, or call for or circulate subversive ideas.

Article 73

Any material is absolutely prohibited from being published, if it instigates criminal activity or incites hatred or provokes action of dissension among individuals of society.

Article 74

It is absolutely prohibited to publish confidential official or military communications unless permission is obtained from the proper authority at the ministry. It is also prohibited to publish conventions or treaties the government holds before they are published in the official gazette unless permission is obtained.

Article 75

Minutes of meetings, deliberations, or court hearings shall not be published in bad faith, misinterpreted or distorted.

Article 76

No article blemishing the president of an Arab, Islamic or any other friendly state will be published. It is also prohibited to publish any material that

causes agitation to relations between the UAE and other Arab, Islamic and friendly countries.

Article 77

No article defaming Arabs and their civilisation and heritage shall be published.

Article 78

No news on an ongoing criminal investigation shall be published if the judge orders investigations to be kept confidential, or the public prosecution restricts publication.

Article 79

No news, pictures, comments about an individuals' private life shall be published if their publication is meant to disgrace such individuals. It is also prohibited to disclose any secret that may cause harm to the reputation of someone, or his property, his commercial name, or if the publication is meant to coerce somebody into paying some money or render a benefit to someone else, or the like.

Article 80

It is prohibited to publish in bad faith any false news about someone, or forge or tamper documents to relate them to such individual.

Article 81

It is prohibited to publish news that cause harm to the national currency, or causes damage to the national economy.

Article 82

Publications or advertisements shall not include any phrases, expressions or pictures that are inconsistent with public conduct, or otherwise mislead public.

Article 83

No advertisements shall be made on medicines, or pharmaceutical preparations unless by permission from the proper authority at the Ministry of Health.

Article 84

It is prohibited to malign a public official, or anybody occupying a post in the public prosecution, or assigned to perform a public job. The writer shall not be held responsible if he proves he did so in good faith.

Article 85

No reportage involving more than one person shall be published unless it covers points of views of all parties involved in that reportage.

Chapter 8

Penalties

Article 86

Anyone violating any provision of Articles 24, 26, 27, 29, 33, 57, and 58, or articles from 71 to 85, shall be imprisoned for a term not less than one (1) month and not more than six (6) months and/or fined not less than Dh 1000 and not more than Dh 5000.

The court may, apart from the punishment prescribed by the previous paragraph, suspend the activity of the newspaper, or close down the cinema hall for a period not more than one (1) month.

Article 87

Violators of provisions of Articles 19, 20, 21 of this law are subject to punishment provided in paragraph (1) of the previous article.

Article 88

The owner of the newspaper, editor-in-chief, editors and publishers, if any, shall be imprisoned for a term not less than six (6) months, and/or fined not

more than Dh 10,000, if they issue the newspaper after it closed down, even if it was issued under another name.

The court may, apart from the punishment included in the previous paragraph, suspend the activity of the newspaper for a period of not more than two (2) months.

Article 89

Any violator of provisions of Article 70 of this law shall be imprisoned for a term not less than six (6) months and not more than two years and/or fined not less than Dh 5000 and not more than Dh 20,000. The editor-in-chief shall be punishable by punishment provided in the previous paragraph. The court may, apart from the punishment included in the two previous paragraphs, suspend activity of the newspaper for a period of not more than six (6) months.

Article 90

Published material or the newspaper may be administratively impounded if publication, issuance and circulation are made in violation of provisions of Articles 12, 14, 15, 16, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 36, 37 and 44 of this law. The matter shall be brought to the court to decide upon confiscation of items impounded.

Article 91

Any violator of provisions of Articles 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 14, 15, 16 of this law shall be imprisoned for a term not less than one (1) month and not more than three (3) months and/or fined not less than Dh 1000 and not more than Dh 5000. The court may order closing down of the printing press if the owner operates it before he obtains the proper licence provided in Article 3.

Article 92

Any violator of provisions of Articles 25 and 35 of this law, shall be fined not less than Dh 2000 and not more than Dh 5000.

Article 93

For any other violation of provisions of this law the violator shall be fined not less than Dh 1000 and not more than Dh 2000, and/or imprisoned for a term not less than one (1) month and not more than six (6) months.

Article 94

The court may confiscate items seized if the violation is made under Articles 18, 19, 20, 21, 61, 63, 64 and 66 of this law.

Article 95

If the writer, or the graphic designer or the like commits an offence punishable by this law, the editor-in-chief or the editor shall be considered a part of this offence and shall have the same punishment handed to the original violator. Nonetheless, the editor-in-chief or the editor shall be pardoned if he proves that publication is made without his knowledge.

Article 96

If a material, a drawing, a picture, or a symbol, or any similar mean is used to commit an offence punishable by this law and that such material, drawing, picture, symbols or the like are published beyond the UAE boundaries, the importer of the publication or the newspaper in which such materials are published and the circulator shall be a party to this offence unless it is proved that the importer or circulator was unable to know the content of the material.

Article 97

The owner of the newspaper or the publication shall jointly pay along with the editor-in-chief or the editor damages the court orders to be paid to the victim.

Article 98

The press is free within the limits set by the law and it is prohibited to suspend activities or close down newspapers by administrative means unless the press defames Islamic beliefs or incites hatred against the system of ruling, or causes harm to the supreme interests of the country, or publishes materials that cause damage to the constitution, particularly to the concept of

unity and federation, or threatens public order, or serves foreign interests that contradict national interests, or if the newspaper is discovered to receive any form of assistance from a foreign country, or publishes ideas of a hostile country, or discloses military secrets, or publishes materials that cause confusion among the public.

The Cabinet, upon a report by the Minister of Information and Culture, shall issue a decision suspending activities of the newspaper for a period not more than one year, or otherwise cancels the licence issued to the newspaper. The Cabinet may also suspend activities of the newspaper for a period not more than one year if it publishes what contradicts the ban provided in Articles 70, 71, 72, 75, and 80. Decision of suspension or cancellation of the licence shall not prejudice the right to bring offenders before the court.

In case of extreme need and in circumstances mentioned in the previous paragraph the newspaper may be suspended for a period not more than two weeks and by a ministerial decision provided that the Cabinet is made known of the decision.

Article 99

The common law action for offences punishable by this law extinguishes after three months of the date the offence takes place.

Article 100

A common law action shall not be raised for offences of insult or slander, which take place in newspapers or the like unless by a complaint raised by the complainant to the public prosecution, or a law enforcing official.

If there is more than one complainant, the complaint shall be raised by one of them and if there is more than one defendant and that the complaint is raised against one of them it shall be considered raised against the others.

Article 101

No common law action shall be raised for defamation offence committed by newspapers or other publications against the president of state of an Arab, Islamic or friendly country, or representative of a country to the UAE unless by a request from the minister.

Article 102

No common law action shall be raised for slander or insult offences committed by newspapers other publications against the Federal National Council, army, courts, and other public institutions unless upon a request from the institution or head of the complainant agency.

Article 103

The complainant may disclaim his complaint at any time until a final rule is issued on the common law action. The common law action extinguishes by disclaimer. If there is more than one defendant, the disclaimer shall not be effective unless it is made by all of the complainants. Disclaimer made for one defendant includes others.

Chapter 9

Miscellaneous

Article 104

Anyone may challenge before courts the final administrative decisions issued by the provisions of this law. The challenge shall be made within sixty (60) days of the date the subject decision is issued.

Article 105

Provisions of this law do not apply to publications issued by ministries, government departments and public institutions issued for the purpose of their activities. Provisions do not apply also to books, publications, and pamphlets issued or imported by the UAE University, or by Ministry of Education for the purpose of using them in its colleges, schools and institutes.

Article 106

Federal law No 5 for 1973 and any other provision that contradicts this law shall be cancelled.

Article 107

The minister shall issue necessary decisions and regulations to implement the law.

Article 108

The law shall be published in the official gazette and shall be effective upon issuance.