

MEPA Newsletter

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MEPA REPRESENTS PRINT AND ELECTRONIC MEDIA PUBLISHERS

Middle East Publishers' Association (MEPA) is a registered non-profit association. It is registered as Free Zone Limited Liability Company (FZ. LLC) with the motto of "unity among publishers in the Middle East Region". It was established to serve, promote and protect the interest of print and electronic media publishers in the Middle East region. The association intends to cover 15 countries of the Middle East.

MEPA was formed under the patronage of 'International Media Production Zone' of Dubai Media City with an aim to:

- provide a firm platform for publishing industry,
- bring publishers together to discuss the main issues facing the industry, and
- define the practical policies that will take the industry forward

For more details on the services of MEPA, you can log on to the website at www.mepa.cc or contact at

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PRINTING OF A SUSPECT PHOTO IS MADE PUNISHABLE

MANAMA — The Chamber of Deputies has approved here a proposal to impose a year's jail term or a fine of BD100 on those publishing photographs or names of criminal suspects without the approval of the Public Prosecution or the court concerned, keeping in line with the government's stand.

The same punishment will be applicable for those helping foreign Press to obtain names and of photographs of suspects. As per the view of the government, publishing the name and photographs of suspects would affect their psychological well-being and prompt the society to pre-judge them before the court's verdicts. The government said that the publications of the names and photographs could also affect the progress of cases. Newspapers' coverage of court activities only highlights the names of judges and details about cases, without mentioning the names of the suspects.

It also underlined that the names are revealed in rare cases and only after obtaining a formal approval of the Public Prosecution.

According to the bill, the names and photographs of the suspects could be published in newspapers after getting the approval from the officials concerned. The Legal Affairs Committee had initially opposed any move to control the Press, but it was convinced after listening to the government's points of view.

Source: Khaleej Times

IRAN LIFTS BAN ON NEWSPAPER AFTER INSULTING CARTOON

Iran's judiciary has lifted a ban on a state-run newspaper, which sparked violent protests last month by publishing a cartoon considered insulting by Iran's Azeri minority, a judiciary official said on Wednesday.

"The ban has been officially lifted and (the newspaper) 'Iran' can be published on Thursday," a justice ministry official, who asked not to be named, told Reuters.

Iran was suspended on May 23 after it published a cartoon that sparked violent protests in the northwestern province of Azerbaijan.



The cartoonist Mana Neyestani awaits trial in Teheran's notorious Evin prison along with another Iran newspaper journalist.

"Their cases ... will not be affected by the cancellation of the newspaper's ban," the judiciary official said.

The cartoon showed a boy repeating the Persian word for cockroach in different ways while the uncomprehending bug says "What?" in Azeri.

The Azeris of northwestern Iran speak a language related to Turkish. Although Azeris have many luminaries among Iran's commercial elite, Iran's majority Persians often mock them in their jokes.

Azeris account for about 25 percent of the overall population of the Islamic Republic.

Source: Reuters