

Federal Law No 15 of 1980 On Publications And Publishing

We , Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan , President of the United Arab Emirates

Upon perusal of the provisional constitution,

The federal law No.(1) of 1972 on the functions of the ministries and authorities of the ministers and the laws amending it,

The federal law No. (5) of 1973 on the publications and publishing and the laws amending it,

And pursuant to the proposal of the Minister Of Information & Culture , approval of the council of ministers and ratification of the Federal Supreme Council,

Have issued the following law:

Chapter 1- Definition of the terms

Article 1

In implementing provisions of this law , the following words and expressions shall have the meanings shown opposite each them unless the context requires otherwise:

State:	The United Arab Emirates
Ministry:	The Ministry of Information and Culture
Minister:	Minister of Information and Culture
Publications:	All written materials, drawings, musical compositions, photographs or any other forms of expression that can be read , heard or viewed if circulatable.
Circulation:	Selling , distributing or sticking publications on walls or displaying them at the store fronts for the purpose of sale , advertisement, promotion or decoration 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:	Any equipment, set of machines or system used for printing or recording words, drawings or pictures for the purpose of publishing or circulation. However , the phrase does not apply to cameras, normal typing machines or photocopiers.
Printing Press Owner :	It applies to the owner of the printing press. However, if the owner has leased it to a different person who is actually operating it , then he shall be considered as the printing press owner .
Publisher:	Anyone who publishes any printed material.
Bookshop:	Any establishment that trades in all types of publications.
Works:	Literary, artistic and scientific works in whatever physical form it comes.
Cinema film (Movie):	Any work that features visual means of expression.
News Agency:	Any press establishment that disseminates news ,or photographed / non-photographed investigations 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 fulfill the following requirements:

1. He shall be a UAE national
2. He shall be fully qualified.
3. He shall be of good conduct and character , should not have been convicted for an offence involving a moral or trust breaching , unless 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 license as per provisions of this law.

Application for a license 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 domicile.
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 reject the application within thirty (30) days from the date of its submission. Any delay beyond this date shall be considered as an 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 from the date of rejecting the application.

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

Article 6

The owner of the printing press or the officer in-charge of it shall notify , in writing, the proper authority at the ministry of any change to the details of the licensing application. The matter shall be brought to the attention of the authority within fourteen (14) days from the date the change is made.

Article 7

The owner of the printing press may assign ownership of his printing press only to a UAE national, who fulfills the requirements mentioned in Article 2 hereof , after obtaining prior writing approval of the proper authority at the ministry. The assigner shall submit an application to the proper authority including all the details and documents confirming satisfaction of the conditions mentioned in Article 2 hereof by 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) from date of death. The printing press license shall devolve to the heirs, unless they express their desire to discontinue the printing press activity , in compliance with the provisions of Article 2 hereof.

Article 9

The owner of the printing press or its manager in-charge shall keep a record stamped by the ministry, to record titles of materials pending publishing according to the sequence of their arrival , names of the material originators and number of copies printed from that material.

The owner or the manager in- charge shall submit the record to the proper authority at the ministry to mention number of the record pages , date of submitting it , name of the printing press , and names of its owner and manager in-charge , and its license number at the first and last pages of the record.

Article 10

The name of the printing press owner , his address , name of the publisher and his address, if different from the owner , and printing date shall be stated clearly on one of the pages of the printed publication.

Article 11

Ten copies of the published material shall be submitted by the printing press to the censorship department at the ministry and receive a receipt proving such submission.

Article 12

Permission of the proper authority at the ministry shall be obtained by the printing press owner before publishing any periodical journal. The said authority shall take a decision on the application submitted for the publishing permission within fourteen (14) days from date of the application submission.

Article 13

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

Article 14

Before printing any material ordered by any natural or artificial person not holding the UAE nationality, the printing press owner 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 from date of the application submission.

Article 15

The printing press owner shall neither reproduce any material the entry into or circulation of which in the country is banned by the proper authority, nor shall print any material in violation to articles 12 and 14 hereof.

Article 16

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

The application for permission shall include the material ordered to be printed, the name of the customer, his nationality and his place of domicile.

Chapter 3

Circulation of Publications

Article 17

No one is allowed to sell, nor to distribute publications on the main road or at any public places, even temporarily or provisionally, unless he obtains permission from the proper authority at the ministry.

Article 18

Anyone who wishes to sell or distribute publications shall be required to register his name with the proper authority at the ministry. The minister shall issue a resolution explaining the rules of such 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 to the sender after circulation procedures are completed. The minister shall issue a resolution specifying such publications.

However, 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 phrase or 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 the proper authority deems 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/ non-periodical publication from entering the country or circulation therein if such publication included materials prohibited to be circulated under the provisions of this law or any other law.

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

Article 21

Neither natural nor artificial person is permitted to circulate any publication imported or sent from abroad unless they obtain a permission from censorship department at the ministry.

Article 22

Diplomatic missions and foreign consulates in the UAE may not issue any publications for the purpose of circulation unless they obtain a permission from the proper authority at the ministry. Application for permission shall be submitted through the diplomatic channels and should include a draft of the publication under circulation 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 centers are not allowed to issue or circulate any publication unless a permission is obtained from the proper authority at the ministry. Application for permission shall include a draft of the publication under circulation stamped by the head of the club, society or center. 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 do not apply to publications of private or commercial nature.

Chapter 4

Newspapers, Periodicals, and News Agencies

Article 24

No newspaper shall be published unless a permission pursuant to the 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, usually living in the country. This requirement shall not apply to periodicals issued by the diplomatic missions and consulates as well as the news cast by the foreign news agencies licensed to operate in the UAE.
2. He shall not be less than 25 years of age.
3. Shall be fully capacitated.
4. He shall be of good conduct and character.

5. He shall not have been previously convicted for moral or trust breaching offence , unless he has been acquitted or his moral standing has been restored by the proper authority.
6. He is not occupying a public service post in the country.
7. He is not employed by a foreign agency or country.

Article 26

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

Article 27

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

1. Shall hold a higher degree from a recognized college, institute or university.
2. He shall have practical experience not less than one year, with full familiarity to practice this profession.

Article 28

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

1. He shall hold a higher academic qualification from a recognized college, institute, or university, or otherwise, he should have practiced journalism regularly for not less than three years.
2. He should have been registered with the authorities organizing the journalistic establishments in his country.
3. He shall be legally capacitated.
4. He shall not have been previously convicted of a moral or trust breaching offence , unless he is acquitted or his moral standing has been restored by the proper authority.

5. He shall not have been previously dismissed from the country for an offence related to publishing.
6. He shall not be holding a job with a foreign country or agency at the same while working at the newspaper.
7. He shall not be holding a public position (job).

UAE nationals shall be exempted from both requirements set forth under clauses 1 and 2.

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 of the ministry.

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

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

Article 30

Foreign correspondents are prohibited to practice their job in the country before they are licensed by the proper authority at the ministry. License shall be valid for one year, which is renewable. The ministry shall sponsor the full time foreign correspondents.

Article 31

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

1. Name, surname, nationality and place of domicile of the license applicant.

2. Names of the editor-in-chief or editors and publishers, if any, and their surnames, their age, nationality, place of domicile and qualifications.
3. Name of the newspaper, the publishing language, date of issuance , its address and its nature.
4. Name of the printing press where the newspaper is published if it does not have its own printing press.

The license application shall be signed by the newspaper owner, editor-in-chief , by editors or the publisher, if any.

Article 32

The minister shall submit the newspaper's licensing application to the Cabinet to take a resolution thereon. The application shall be supported by the ministry's recommendation 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 license application. The notification shall be made within eight (8) days in maximum from the date the change is made.

Article 34

The signatories of the license application provided for under Article 31, shall deposit along with the application, a cash security at a sum of AED 50,000 for each daily newspaper, and AED 25,000 for the other cases , to guarantee settlement of fines imposed under the provisions of this law or any other law against the editor-in-chief, editors, or the owner of the newspaper, the publishers or the printing press.

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

Article 35

In case the value of the guarantee mentioned in the previous article decreases due to the deductions made for the reasons stated hereunder , it shall be topped up within the fifteen (15) days following a warning served, through management methods, to the concerned person in this respect.

Article 36

Any printing press is prohibited to print any newspaper, whose license is expired by law , or its activity is suspended or interrupted by the proper authority, its license is cancelled or it is prohibited from entering the country or being circulated therein.

Article 37

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

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 separately submitted to the ministry.

Article 39

The editor-in-chief or the editor of the newspaper shall publish, free of charge, in its first issue, at the important news column, any public notices , related to the public interest sent by the ministries , as well as other notices related to matters already published in the same newspaper .

Article 40

The editor-in-chief or the editor shall publish, upon the request of the concerned persons , any correction to the news previously published in the newspaper.

Correction shall be published in the first issue published following the request and on the same place and with the same font size of the previous issue.

These corrections shall be published free of charge if the space they take is not more than twice the size of the original article. Fees shall be paid for the extra space as per the ads tariff.

Article 41

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

- a. If the correction is received by the newspaper two months after the date of publication of the article or announcement entailing the same.
- b. If the newspaper had 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, in violence to both above articles , he shall be imprisoned for a term not less than

six (6) months, and/or pay a fine not less AED 1000 and not more than AED 10,000.

Article 43

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

If the editor-in-chief or the editor is sentenced in the above charge , the correction shall be published in the first or the second issues following the issuance of the judgment if it is ruled in presence or the issue following date of judgment if ruled in absentia. If the convicted defendant abstains from publishing the correction, the plaintiff may publish the correction in three newspapers of his choice and at the expenses of the convicted defendant.

The editor-in-chief or the editor, if acquitted of the charges leveled against him, after publishing the correction , may publish the acquitting judgment at the expenses of the plaintiff (adversary) who filed the law suit.

Article 44

The owner of the newspaper shall assign ownership of his newspaper only to a UAE national, who meets the requirements mentioned in Article 25 hereof and after obtaining prior approval from the proper authority at the ministry. The assigner shall submit the proper authority an application including all details and documents confirming satisfaction of the conditions mentioned in Article 25 hereof by the assignee.

Article 45

The license of a newspaper shall be cancelled by a resolution by the minister if the same is requested by its owner. However, the minister may cancel the license in the following cases:

1. If the newspaper is not issued within six (6) months from the date its license is issued.

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

Article 46

Newspapers or periodicals shall not publish articles, novels, stories or any other literary work unless with consent of their author. However, quotations, abstracts or statements thereof may be published without the consent of the author.

Newspapers may publish articles that discuss political, economic, scientific, or literary issues, or the like concerning the public opinion at a certain time unless the publication or newspaper issuing them has explicitly prohibited such republishing.

In all cases , whenever publishing , quoting , summarizing or giving statements is permitted, the source of the material and its author should always be mentioned clearly.

Article 47

Newspapers and periodicals may quote arguments and pleadings that take place in front of 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

Provisions of articles 17, 18, and 20 hereof shall apply to selling and circulation of newspapers and on banning their entry and circulation in the country.

Provisions stipulated under both articles 19 and 21 hereof shall apply to the import of newspapers as well as to the circulation of any newspaper received from or sent to foreign countries.

Chapter 5

Import and Export of Publications and Newspapers

Article 49

Non-UAE nationals registered in the ministry's record intended for this purpose , 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. Natural or artificial persons dealing in import or export of publications and newspapers.

Article 51

Anyone wishing to be registered in the record mentioned in Article 49 hereof shall submit an application to the proper authority at the ministry supported by the following documents:

- a. A Declaration, in two copies, including the applicant's name, surname, nationality, place of domicile and name of his press establishment, its business place , names of its partners or directors authorized to sign for it.
- b. Details of the firms intended for practice of the import and export business, with the address of each firm , name , surname, nationality and place of domicile of its owner.

Article 52

Whoever registered in the record referred to in Article 49 hereof shall notify the proper authority of any change made to the details mentioned in the previous article , within fourteen (14) days from occurrence of such change.

Article 53

No Holy Quran books, or any portion thereof, or any religious books in the form of publications or audio material, shall be imported without permission from the proper authority at the ministry upon the prior consent of the Ministry of the Islamic Affairs and Endowments.

In all cases, imported books or offered for circulation should have been approved by the responsible religious bodies in the Arab or Islamic countries.

Chapter 6

Cinema Films and Shows of Other Artistic Works

Article 54

No natural or artificial persons registered in the record kept by the ministry for this purpose shall be permitted to import or export cinema films (Movies) unless they are UAE national.

Article 55

Whoever wishes to be registered in the record mentioned in the previous article shall submit an application in this regard to the proper authority at the ministry supported with the following documents:

- a. A Declaration, in two copies, including the applicant's name, surname, nationality, place of domicile and name of his press establishment, its business place , names of its partners or directors authorized to sign for it.

- b. Details of the firms intended for practice of the import and export business, with the address of each firm , name , surname, nationality and place of domicile of its owner.

Article 56

Whoever is registered in the record mentioned in Article 54 hereof shall notify the proper authority of any change made to the details mentioned in the previous article , within fourteen (14) days from date of the change occurrence.

Article 57

No cinema film (movie) or a commercial film or advertisement shall be shown at a cinema hall in the country unless a permission is obtained from the film censorship committee. Supporting documents required to be submitted along with the application shall be determined by a ministerial resolution.

Article 58

No diplomatic mission or consulate is allowed to show any film or any artistic work to individuals other than its employees and in a venue other than its official premises unless a permission is obtained from the film censorship committee.

Clubs, societies or center are not allowed to show any film or any artistic work, even to their members and at their official premises unless they obtain permission from the committee mentioned in the previous paragraph.

Supporting documents required to be submitted along with the application shall be determined by a ministerial resolution.

Article 59

A committee titled 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;

Youth , Interior, social affairs, justice and Islamic affairs & endowments, state security and Israel boycott office. A resolution shall be issued by the minister to set up the committee. Ministries' representatives shall be nominated by their ministers.

The committee shall be assigned to examine films and their equivalents to be shown in cinema halls, and also assigned to examine films that are shown to individuals other than officials of diplomatic missions and consulates and in places other than official premises of such missions. The committee examines political, social, moral and religious content of films shown by clubs, societies and centers.

The minister may appoint competent and experienced members to the committee as chosen by him.

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 the State and society are based.

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

The ministry may issue instructions and directives to cinema halls or officials managing such halls to maintain a good standard of films in terms of religious , nationalism, artistic aspects as well observing public morals in such halls .

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 at the ministry and referred to as the “Higher Committee of Grievance” , consisting of technical and legal professionals to look into grievances raised by owners of cinema halls against decisions taken by the Film Censorship Committee in accordance with provisions of Articles 57, 58, and 61 hereof.

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

In all cases, the decision of the committee regarding the grievance shall be based on logical reasons. Grievances against the committee’s decisions may be submitted to the minister within fifteen (15) days from date the decision of the committee is issued, and the resolution 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 resolution by the Minister of Labour and Social Affairs as long as the same is prohibited by the film censorship committee.

Article 64

Managers of cinema halls and other similar places mentioned in the previous article shall issue a notice at a prominent 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 resolution naming the ministry’s officials authorized to enter cinema halls and other places mentioned in Article 63 as well as printing presses and places where publications and artistic works are sold and distributed inside the country. During performance of their duties , such officials shall have the capacity of judicial control officers who are empowered to seize and

document violations to the provisions of this law. For this purpose, they are empowered to confiscate materials and tools used in committing offences provided under this law including printing molds and originals.

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 to be specified by a resolution issued by the minister.

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

Article 67

No one shall be allowed to perform theatre or cinemas productions, or the like, unless he is licensed by the proper authority at the ministry. The license shall be valid for one year, which is renewable .

A resolution by the minister , supported by recommendation of the minister of interior , shall specify the license issue and renewal, and the information and documents required to be submitted along with the license application.

Article 68

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

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 authorities which are shown for the purpose of supporting their activities.

Chapter 7
Materials Prohibited to Be Published

Article 70

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

Article 71

It is prohibited to publish any material involving instigation against Islam or the regime 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

It is strictly forbidden to publish any material if it instigates criminal activity or incites hatred or provokes action of dissension among individuals of society.

Article 74

It is strictly forbidden to publish any confidential official or military communications unless a permission is obtained from the proper authority at the ministry. It is also prohibited to publish conventions or treaties the entered by the government before they are published in the official gazette unless permission is obtained from such authority.

Article 75

Minutes of meetings, deliberations, or open 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 the relations between the UAE and other Arab, Islamic and friendly countries.

Article 77

No article defaming Arabs and their civilization 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 disclosure of any information.

Article 79

No news, photos , or comments about 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, his property, or his trade name, or if the publication is meant to coerce somebody into paying some money or render a benefit to someone else or depriving him from freedom of work.

Article 80

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

Article 81

It is prohibited to publish news that cause harm to the national currency, or to offer confused ideas about 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 the public.

Article 83

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

Article 84

It is prohibited to malign or defame a public official, or anybody occupying a post in the public prosecution, or assigned to perform a public job. However , the writer shall not be held responsible if he proves he did so in good faith, based on his belief that that actions attributed to the public official, the person occupying a post in the public prosecution, or assigned to perform a public job are true according to reasonable grounds.

Article 85

No reportage involving more than one person shall be published unless it covers points of views of all parties directly 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 punished by imprisonment for a term not less than one (1) month and not more than six (6) months and/or fined not less than AED 1000 and not more than AED 5000.

Apart from the punishment prescribed under the previous paragraph, the court may 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 hereof shall be subject to punishment provided under 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 two months and not more than six (6) months, and/or fined not less than AED 1000 and not more than AED 10,000, if they issue the newspaper after it is 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 not more than two (2) months. The new suspension period shall be added to the previous suspension period and follows it.

Article 89

Any violator to the provisions of Article 70 hereof shall be imprisoned for a term not less than six (6) months and not more than two years and/or fined not

less than AED 5000 and not more than AED 20,000. The editor-in-chief shall be punishable by the punishment provided under the previous paragraph. The court may, apart from the punishment included in the two previous paragraphs, suspend activity of the newspaper for a period not more than six (6) months.

Article 90

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

Article 91

Any violator to provisions of Articles 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 14, 15, 16 hereof 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 AED 1000 and not more than AED 5000. Furthermore , the court may order closing down of the printing press if the owner operates it before he obtains the proper license provided under Article 3.

Article 92

Any violator to provisions of both Articles 25 and 35 hereof, shall be fined not less than AED 2000 and not more than AED 5000.

Article 93

For any other violation to the provisions of this law , the violator shall be fined not less than AED 1000 and not more than AED 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 hereof.

Article 95

If the writer, the graphic designer or whoever practices any means of expression commits an offence punishable under this law, the editor-in-chief or the editor in-charge of the publishing section – in case no editor-in-chief is available , shall be considered as an original element of this offence and shall receive the same punishment handed to the original violator. Nonetheless, the editor-in-chief or the editor in-charge of the publishing section shall be pardoned if he proves that publication is made without his knowledge, and that he has provided all the information and documents he has , since the beginning of investigation , in order to determine the person responsible for the publishing .

Article 96

If a material, a drawing, a photo , or a symbol, or any other expression means is used to commit an offence punishable under this law and that such material, drawing, photo , symbols or any other expression means are published beyond the UAE boundaries, the importer of the publication or the newspaper wherein such materials are published and the circulator shall be considered as an original party to this offence unless it is proved , by the case circumstances , that the importer or circulator was unable to know the contents of the said publication or newspaper.

Article 97

The owner of the newspaper or the publication shall be jointly liable with the editor-in-chief or the editor in- charge to pay the financial compensations adjudicated by the court in favor of the grieved party.

Article 98

The press is free within the limits set by the law. It is prohibited to warn , suspend activities or close down newspapers by administrative means unless the press circulation defames Islamic beliefs or incites hatred against the regime 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 with the national interests, or if the newspaper is found to be receiving any form of aid , subsidy or benefit from a foreign country in any manner , for any reason , under any excuse or cause whatsoever , publishes ideas of a hostile country, or discloses public military secrets, or publishes materials that harm the main pillars of the society , and published news or media items that cause confusion among the public and contradict the objectives of the common interest. The Cabinet may, in aggravated cases , and upon a recommendation by the Minister of Information and Culture, issue a resolution suspending activities of the newspaper for a period not more than one year, or otherwise revoking the license issued to the newspaper. The Cabinet may also suspend activities of the newspaper for a period not more than one year if it publishes materials violating the ban provided under Articles 70, 71, 72, 75, and 80. The suspension or cancellation of the license resolution shall not prejudice the right to bring offenders before the court or claim for compensations.

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

Article 99

The common law action for offences punishable under this law extinguishes after three months from date of the offence occurrence.

Article 100

A common law action shall not be raised for offences of insult or slander, committed by newspapers or other means of publishing , unless by a complaint raised by the defendant to the public prosecution, or a law enforcing official.

If there is more than one defendant , 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 all 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 under a request by 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, the army, the courts, and other public authorities unless under a request by the authority or chairman of the complainant agency.

Article 103

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

The waiver made for one defendant shall include all the others.

Chapter 9

Final Miscellaneous Provisions

Article 104

Anyone may challenge before courts the final administrative awardsd issued on enforcing the provisions of this law.

The challenge shall be made within sixty (60) days from the ascertained date of the award subject of the challenge.

Article 105

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

Article 106

Federal law No 5 for 1973 and any other provision that contradicts this law is superseded.

Article 107

The minister shall issue necessary resolutions and regulations to implement the provisions of this law.

Article 108

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

Issued by us at the Presidential Palace in Abu Dhabi

Dated : 08 Muhrram 1401 H
Corresponding to 16.11.1980

Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan
President of the United Arab Emirates