

# Law No. 8 of 1979 on Publications and Publishing 8 / 1979

Number of Articles: 102



Stars icon indicate that some articles are amended

## **Table of Content**

Chapter One (1-1)

General Definitions (1-1)

Chapter Two (2-29)

Press Publications (2-29)

Chapter Three (30-45)

Printing Presses, Publications and the Publisher (30-45)

Chapter Four (46-47)

Prohibited Martial (46-47)

Chapter Five (48-61)

Distribution (48-61)

Chapter Six (62-65)

Censorship (62-65)

Chapter Seven (66-92)

Sanctions (66-92)

Chapter Eight (93-102)

General Provisions (93-102)

We, Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar,

Having been conversant with the Amended Provisional Constitution, in particular Articles 13, 22, 23, 32, 34 and 51 thereof;  
The Emiri Order No. 2 of 1979 on the appointment of a deputy for the Emir of the State of Qatar;

Law No. 5 of 1970 defining the powers of ministers and functions of ministries and other government organs, and its amending laws;

Law No. 14 of 1962 establishing the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and the Ministry of Information;

Law No. 4 of 1974 defining the functions of the Ministry of Information;

Law No. 3 of 1961 regulating joint stock companies, and its amending laws;

Law No. 11 of 1962 forming a commercial register system as amended by law No. 2 of 1964;

Law No. 20 of 1963 concerning the reorganisation of employment of foreigners in trade and industry in Qatar, and its amending laws;

Decree-Law No. 11 of 1966 regulating publications censorship and amending laws;

Decree-law No. 10 of 1969 regulating the press as amended by law No. 14 of 1970;

Decree Law No. 9 of 1969 concerning hawkers;

Law No. 13 of 1971 concerning courts of justice, and its amending laws;

Law No. 14 of 1971 concerning the promulgation of the Qatar Penal Code;

Law No. 16 of 1971 concerning the promulgation of the civil and commercial articles;

The proposal of the Minister of Information;

The draft law submitted by the Council of Ministers ;

Having consulted the *Shura* Council;

Hereby promulgate the following Law:

## **Chapter One**

## General Definitions

### Article 1

In the application of this law, *unless the context requires otherwise, the following words and expressions shall have the meaning assigned to each of them:*

“Publications” means the writings, images, compact discs, cassettes, photographs and other means of expression intended for dissemination to the general public.

“Press publications” means newspapers, magazines and Publications periodically published under the same title at regular or irregular intervals.

“Proprietor of Press Publications” means a natural or legal person who publishes press publication.

“Press” means the profession of publishing press publications.

“Journalist” means any person who earns a living by collecting, writing, investigating and distributing news, photos, images and other information.

“Printing press” means any equipment used in the production of Publications on paper, cloth or other material, excluding typewriters, photographs or photocopiers.

“Publisher” means a natural or legal person engaged in the production and dissemination of any publication to the general public.

“Publishing house” means any business engaged in publishing newspapers, magazines and other Publications.

“Distribution house” means any business engaged in the distribution and sale of books and other Publications to bookstores or salespeople.

“Bookshop” means any business engaged in the sale and distribution of books and other Publications at a specific location.

“Regular company” means any company other than a joint stock company.

“Department of Publications and Publishing” means the department at the Ministry of Information responsible for Publications and publishing.

---

## Chapter Two

### Press Publications

### Article 2

A publishing license from the Minister of Information shall be obtained for the issue and dissemination to the general public of any press Publications in Qatar.

---

### Article 3

The application for a publishing license shall include the following information:

- a. The name, surname, nationality and domicile of the proprietor.
- b. The names of the editor-in-chief, sub-editors and publisher if any, and the respective nationality and domicile of each.
- c. The name of the press Publications, and the address of management and printing press. The name of the Publications may be distinctive and not similar or close to that of other Publications.
- d. The language and timing of the Publication.
- e. A statement indicating whether the Publications are political or non-political.

The application shall be signed by the proprietor of the press publication, the editor-in-chief or sub editors, and the publisher if any. Applications shall be submitted to the Department of Publications and Publishing against an official receipt.

---

### Article 4

Changes to the information provided in the application for a publishing license shall be reported to the Department of Publications and Publishing at least

## Article 5

The proprietor of the press publications shall deposit, along with the application for a license, a security of three thousand (3000) Riyals for each publication to be published three or more times a week. In all other cases a security of two thousand (2000) Riyals shall be deposited. Such security shall take the form of a guarantee against penalties imposed on or expenses incurred by the proprietor or editor-in-chief of the press publication. The security may be substituted by a bank guarantee.

---

## Article 6

The proprietor of the press publications shall replenish the aforesaid security after each time it is reduced following the settlement of penalties and/or expenses. Where such replenishment does not occur forthwith, the proprietor shall comply within eight days of receipt of a notice from the Department of Publications and Publishing.

---

## Article 7

Press publications published outside Qatar may not relocate their location of publishing to Qatar, whether independently, annexed edition or by any other form, without a written permit from the Minister of Information to that effect in accordance with the provisions of the foregoing articles.

---

## Article 8

No publishing operations shall commence before acquisition of the respective license.

---

## Article 9

The proprietor of the press publications shall be:

- a. A Qatari national.
  - b. Not less than twenty-one years of age.
  - c. Free of a criminal conviction or disqualification for dishonesty, unless legally rehabilitated.
  - d. A person of good conduct and goodwill.
- 

## Article 10

No person shall be permitted to enter the profession of journalism without first having obtained the relevant license from the Department of Publications and Publishing.

## Article 11

In addition to fulfilling the requirements stipulated in Article 9, a journalist shall also:

- a. Be fluent in the Arabic language or the language in which the Publications is published.
  - b. Not be engaged in any work with a foreign country.
- 

## Article 12

Where a journalist is not a Qatari national, he shall nevertheless fulfil the requirements stipulated in Articles 9 and 11 and shall also:

- a. Hold a certificate or degree in journalism from an accredited institute or college;
  - b. Have been engaged with recognized press publishing houses for a period of at least three years;
  - c. Be registered in a press or editors syndicate, or otherwise hold a press card issued by an official authority in his country of origin;
  - d. Not engaged in any work other than that directly related to journalism while he is in Qatar.
- 

## Article 13

Each press publication shall have an editor-in-chief responsible for the overall supervision of content, or a number of sub-editors, each of whom shall engage in the supervision of a certain part of each publication.

---

## Article 14

1. The editor-in-chief shall fulfil the requirements mentioned in Article 9 and 11 and the following requirements:

- He shall possess the necessary skills, knowledge and experience to properly execute his functions.
  - He shall be a permanent resident of Qatar.
  - Where the editor-in-chief is a national of an Arab country, he shall also:
    - Hold a certificate or degree in journalism from an accredited institute or college;
    - Have been engaged with recognized publishing houses for a period of at least three years;
    - Be registered in a press or editors syndicate, or otherwise hold a press card issued by an official authority in his country of origin;
    - Not engage in any work other than that directly related to publishing while he is in Qatar.
  - The resolution exempting the editor-in-chief from Qatari nationality shall be issued by the Minister of Information. Such exemption shall indicate the name and nationality of the editor-in-chief and his term of employment, which shall not exceed two years unless renewed for a similar term(s) by a new resolution.
- 

## Article 15

Each issue of a press publication shall conspicuously display the names of the proprietor, editor-in-chief, publisher if any and the printing press, unless owned by the proprietor, as well as the date of publication, subscription charges and the price of the issue.

---

## Article 16

The editor-in-chief shall publish official statements and data related to public interest, as provided by the Department of Publications and publishing, free of charge in the first issue of a press publications.

---

## Article 17

Where a press publication in the state of Qatar publishes any false or misleading information detrimental to the public interest, the Director of the Publications and publishing Department may request the editor-in-chief to publish an appropriate correction.

The press publication shall publish such correction free of charge immediately in the next issue, at the same place of the replaced article in the same script.

This is applicable to all publications whether in Arabic or a foreign language.

Where the press publication fails to publish the correction, its continued distribution in Qatar may be prohibited by a resolution of the Minister of Information.

---

## Article 18

Where a press publication publishes insinuating, defamatory or insulting material, the aggrieved party shall be entitled to publish a rebuttal as indicated in Article 17. Where such rebuttal exceeds the normal length of a standard article, the editor-in-chief may claim from the aggrieved party the costs associated with the extra publishing space in accordance with the approved advertising tariffs.

---

## Article 19

Where a press publication publishes insinuating, defamatory or insulting material relating to a deceased person, the lawful successors shall be entitled to publish a rebuttal in accordance with the provisions of Article 18. Such rebuttal shall be once and whenever insinuating, defamatory or insulting material relating to a deceased person appears.

Where such insinuating, defamatory or insulting material is addressed to a public servant, or a ministry, or an official or unofficial agency, each shall be entitled to publish a rebuttal in accordance with Article 18.

---

## Article 20

The editor-in-chief may not publish a rebuttal in the following cases:

- a. Where the Publications has *ex meromotu* issued an appropriate correction to the insinuating, defamatory or insulting material;
  - b. Where the rebuttal bears a false name or signature.
  - c. Where the rebuttal is in a language other than the language of the Publication;
  - d. Where the rebuttal contains language that violates the law or is detrimental to the press publication or to third parties;
  - e. Where the rebuttal is submitted after a period of 60 days has elapsed following publications of the insinuating, defamatory or insulting material.
- 

## Article 21

Where the editor-in-chief declines to publish the rebuttal for reasons other than those stipulated in Article 20, the Minister of Information may issue a resolution compelling publication of the rebuttal. In this case, the press publication shall abide with the publication. This decision shall not be appealed before any judicial body.

---

## Article 22

Publications published in Qatar may not publish any advertisement or statement by a foreign country or body without the approval of the Minister of Information. This prohibition shall not affect commercial advertisements published in accordance with approved tariffs.

---

## Article 23

Each press publication shall deliver free of charge to the Department of Publications and Publishing, against a receipt, six copies of each issue or supplement immediately after publication thereof.

---

## Article 24

By a resolution of the Council of Ministers, the press publication may be suspended for a period not exceeding one year or its license may be revoked if: it is proved that its policies are not in the national interest; or if it is established that it is serving the interests of a foreign country or through receipt of subsidies, support or any other benefit from a foreign country or entity, without the permission of the Minister of Information.

---

## Article 25

In exceptional circumstances that require extraordinary urgent measures, the press publication may be suspended for a period not exceeding three months by a resolution of the Minister of Information.

---

## Article 26

The proprietor of the press publication shall have the right to appeal to the Council of Ministers against the resolution to suspend or revoke the license thereof, within one month of the resolution. The resolution of the Council of Ministers on this issue shall be final.

---

## Article 27

The license of the press publication may be revoked by a resolution of the Minister of Information in the following cases:

- a. Where the proprietor requests revocation.
  - b. Where the publication is not published for a period of six months from the date of issue of the license.
  - c. Where the publication, if published at regular intervals, is not published within six months or, if published at irregular intervals, is not published for a period of six consecutive months.
  - d. Where any change in the press publication resulted in failure to fulfil any requirements stipulated herein.
  - e. Where the proprietor fails to replenish the security or guarantee referred to in Article 6.
  - f. Where the proprietor is deceased and his successors are unable to publish the Publications regularly within one year of the date of his death.
-

## Article 28

The proprietor of the press publication may assign the publication to other Qatari nationals, provided that written consent is obtained from the Minister of Information. The new proprietor shall be subject to the provisions herein.

---

## Article 29

The provisions of this Law shall be applicable to news agencies that provide news, images, figures and other press material to publishing houses. Reporters operating as correspondents for news agencies, press publications, radio stations or Arab and foreign TV channels shall not engage in any such activity within Qatar without a license from the Department of Publications and Publishing.

---

## **Chapter Three**

### **Printing Presses, Publications and the Publisher**

## Article 30

A license from the Department of Publications and Publishing shall be required to own, invest in or operate a printing press. The application for such license shall contain the following information:

- a. The name, age, place of birth, nationality and domicile of the proprietor of the printing press.
  - b. A description of the type of printing press, related machinery, premises and title if any.
  - c. The name, age, date of birth, nationality and domicile of the manager in charge of the printing press.
  - d. The commercial registration number.
- 

## Article 31

All amendments to the information submitted with the aforesaid application shall be reported to the Department of Publications and Publishing within eight days thereof. Such license shall be revoked where the said amendments fail to fulfil the requirements provided herein.

---

## Article 32

The operation of a printing press shall not commence before the license described in Article 30 has been obtained.

---

## Article 33

The proprietor and managing director of the printing press shall be:

- a. A Qatari national.
  - b. Not less than twenty-one years of age.
  - c. Free of a criminal conviction or disqualification for dishonesty, unless legally rehabilitated.
-

## Article 34

No production of any publications may commence before acquisition of a license from the Department of Publications and Publishing. An application for such license shall be submitted to the department along with a typed-or hand-written copy of the material intended for printing.

---

## Article 35

Publications to be printed shall conspicuously display the name and address of the printer and the date of printing.

---

## Article 36

When printing a written or translated publication, the proprietor of the printing press or the managing director shall, against a receipt deposit two copies thereof, free of charge, at the Department of Publications and Publishing.

---

## Article 37

The provisions of Articles 34, 35 and 36 shall not apply to commercial or special Publications.

---

## Article 38

The proprietor or managing director of the printing press shall maintain a serial record of the titles of published Publications as well as those ready for publication, including the names of owners, number of printed copies and date of printing. Such record shall be maintained at the printing press for the competent authorities to review as necessary.

---

## Article 39

A license from the Department of Publications and Publishing shall be obtained to establish a publishing house. An application for such license shall include the following information:

- a. The name, age, date of birth, nationality and domicile of the applicant.
  - b. The name and address of the publishing house.
  - c. The name, age, date of birth, nationality and domicile of the managing director thereof.
  - d. The name of the printing press that print the publications of the publishing house; name and domicile of the proprietor and managing director of the printing press.
- 

## Article 40

All amendments to the information submitted with the aforesaid application shall be reported to the Department of Publications and Publishing within eight days thereof. Such license shall be revoked where the said amendments fail to fulfil the requirements of Article 39.

---



## Article 41

Where the publishing house is a regular company, the manager thereof shall sign the application for a license. In the case of a joint stock company, the application for a license shall be signed by the chairperson of the board, or his deputy, or the managing director. In such case, the application shall include a list of the names, nationalities and domiciles of board members. Copies of the articles of association and the commercial registration of the company shall also be enclosed with the application.

---

## Article 42

Operation of a publishing house shall not commence before the license described in Article 39 has been obtained.

---

## Article 43

Both the proprietor of the publishing house and the manager in-charge shall be:

- a. A Qatari national.
  - b. Not less than twenty-one years of age.
  - c. Free of a criminal conviction or disqualification for dishonesty, unless legally rehabilitated.
- 

## Article 44

The proprietor or the manager in-charge of the publishing house shall not be engaged in any employment in a foreign country. No individual shall be the manager or in-charge of more than one publishing house.

---

## Article 45

The name and address of the publisher shall be displayed on the first or last pages of all publications produced by a publishing house.

---

## **Chapter Four**

### **Prohibited Martial**

## Article 46

The personality of the Emir of Qatar shall not be subject to any criticism and no statement shall be attributed to the Emir without written permission from the manager of his office.

---

## Article 47

The following shall not be published:

- a. Any instigation for the overthrow of the system of governance, insult to such regime or damage to the superior interests of the State.
  - b. Any material that could endanger the internal and external security of the State, including any propaganda to adopt any destructive principles.
  - c. All matters related to the armed forces, including individuals, constituents, movements, equipment, and military and strategic issues, unless written permission for this purpose is obtained in advance from the General Command of the armed forces.
  - d. News about official and confidential communications and international agreements and conventions not yet concluded, unless a special permit is obtained from the Department of Publications and Publishing.
  - e. All material prejudicial to the heads of states or disruptive to the bilateral relationships with Sister Arab and friendly countries.
  - f. Any ridicule of or contempt toward any of the religions or their doctrines, including any motivation of sectarian, racial or religious trends.
  - g. Any material that may damage the national currency or sow confusion about the economic position of the State.
  - h. All material prejudicial to ethics, individual dignity or personal liberty.
  - i. All material that motivates the commission of crimes or encourages hatred or sows discord among the individuals of the society.
  - j. Proceedings of investigations and courts of law related to any individual persons or their personal status, unless authorised by a court.
  - k. All material prejudicial or that causes damage to the goodwill, fortune or trade name of a person, either by defamation or by blackmail or otherwise depriving him of his work.
  - l. News related to bankruptcy of traders, commercial institutions or banks, unless authorised by a court.
  - m. Any slanderous material that challenges the performance of a public servant, unless written in good faith and based on reasonable conviction in the public interest.
  - n. Any material which the Minister of Information requests the editor-in-chief or proprietor of the press publication not be published.
- 

## **Chapter Five**

### **Distribution**

## Article 48

A license from the Department of Publications and Publishing shall be required to import, export or distribute publications in Qatar. The application for such license shall include the following information:

- a. The name, nationality, domicile, date and place of birth of the applicant.
  - b. The trade name to be used.
  - c. The names and addresses of bookshops and distribution outlets, whether the main office, public centre, agency or branch, from which the applicant will conduct business.
- 

## Article 49

All amendments to the information submitted with the aforesaid application shall be reported to the Department of Publications and Publishing within eight days thereof. Such license shall be revoked where the said amendments fail to fulfil the requirements of Article 48.

---

## Article 50

Where the publishing house is a regular company, the manager thereof shall sign the application for a license. In the case of a joint stock company, the application for a license shall be signed by the chairperson of the board, or his deputy, or the managing director. In such case, the application shall include a list of the names, nationalities and domiciles of the board members. Copies of the articles of association and the commercial registration of the company shall also be enclosed with the application.

---

## Article 51

The proprietor of each Publication house, distribution house, firm or office shall deposit, along with the application for a license, a security of three thousand (3000) Riyals. Such security shall take the form of a guarantee against penalties imposed on or expenses incurred by the proprietor for any violation of this Law.

The security may be substituted by a bank guarantee.

---

## Article 52

The proprietor or manager in charge of the distribution house shall replenish the aforesaid security after each time it is reduced following the settlement of penalties and/or expenses.

Where such replenishment does not occur forthwith, the proprietor or manager in charge shall comply within eight days of receipt of a notice from the Department of Publications and Publishing, failing which the department shall have the right to revoke the distribution license.

---

## Article 53

The opening, management or operation of any house, office, bookshop, and sale or distribution outlet for any local or foreign publications shall not commence before the license referred to in Article 48 has been obtained.

---

## Article 54

Without prejudice to the provisions of the Decree Law No. 9 of 1969 concerning hawkers, the Department of Publications and Publishing may permit the sale of press Publications, whether local or foreign, by distributors and hawkers.

Each hawker authorised to sell press Publications shall obtain a license from the Department of Publications and Publishing pursuant to conditions and terms specified by a resolution of the Minister of Information.

---

## Article 55

Hawkers shall be prohibited from promoting the sale of press publications through the dissemination of false news not contained in such publications, or through offending the ethics, public morals and decencies, or national or religious feelings.

---

## Article 56

Importing and distributing the Holy Quran or parts thereof in any form is prohibited without an import license from the Department of Publications and Publishing.

All copies of the Holy Quran imported for distribution shall be approved by one of the competent religious bodies in Arabic and Islamic countries of origin. Such approval shall be attested by the Qatari authority in charge of Islamic Affairs.

---

## Article 57

Each publishing house engaged in distributing and circulating Publications shall deliver free of charge to the Department of Publications and Publishing two copies of each imported Publications.

---

## Article 58

Where a local or imported publication includes any material prohibited from publications, the manager of the Department of Publications and Publishing may, with the approval of the Minister of Information, delete any paragraph, article, research or comment therefrom. Deleting may be conducted by cutting, redacting or otherwise covering the material. Where deletion is not possible, the manager of the Department of Publications and Publishing may, with the approval of the Minister of Information, issue a resolution prohibiting the circulation of the publication. Such resolution shall not be subject to challenge before any judicial body.

---

## Article 59

No publications printed in or imported into Qatar may be sold or distributed without the written consent of the Department of Publications and Publishing. Distribution shall include posting of publications on walls, scattering on roads, or affixing to the facades of outlets or other conspicuous areas therein.

---

Article 60 Cancelled (Repealed By 14/1982)★

---

## Article 61

Each bookshop, house, firm or outlet engaged in the supply and distribution of publications shall provide the Department of Publications and Publishing once every four months with a list indicating the titles and subject-matter of all publications in stock.

---

## **Chapter Six**

### **Censorship**

## Article 62

The Department of Publications and Publishing shall form a committee "the Censorship Committee" to deal with the censorship of artistic works. Such committee shall be composed as follows:

- a. A chairperson, to be selected from the key personnel of the Department of Publications and Publishing.
- b. Four individuals to be selected by the Minister of Information.
- c. A representative from the Ministries of Education, Interior, Labour and Social Affairs, each to be selected by the respective minister.

The Minister of Information shall issue a resolution defining the functions and scope of the Censorship Committee. The secretarial work of the committee shall be undertaken by designated personnel of the Department of Publications and Publishing

---

## Article 63

No artistic works shall be exhibited in an open exhibit without a permit from the Censorship Committee.

Two copies of the permit shall be issued: one to be retained with the artistic works, the other to be retained by the Committee.

Where the Committee decides to delete a scene or a paragraph from the said artistic works, or otherwise prohibit circulation thereof, the matter shall be referred to the Director of the Department of Publications and Publishing to take the necessary steps to comply with Article 58 b herein.

---

## Article 64

The Department of Publications and Publishing may issue directions to the Censorship Committee or to other entities that undertake the importation and distribution of artistic works in Qatar, in order to ensure proper standards of quality and the observance of technical, social, religious, ethical and cultural traditions.

---

## Article 65

The competent Censorship Committee or any delegate therefrom may conduct sudden inspections of cinema and theatres within different locations in Qatar state in order to ensure compliance by films, advertisements and shows with the permit issued thereby.

---

## **Chapter Seven**

### **Sanctions**

## Article 66

Any person convicted of violating the provisions of Articles , 2,4, 7, 8, 10, 13 22 and 29 (b) shall be sentenced to imprisonment of not more than six months and/or to a fine not exceeding three thousand (3000) Riyals.

---

## Article 67

Any person convicted of violating the provisions of Articles 9, 11, 12 and 14 shall be sentenced to imprisonment for a period not exceeding three months and/or to a fine of not more than two thousand (2000) Riyals.

---

## Article 68

The editor(s)-in-chief of a press publication convicted of failing to comply with the provisions of Article 21 shall be sentenced to imprisonment for a period not exceeding one month or a fine not exceeding one thousand (1000) Riyals, or both.

Where publication of the rebuttal is rendered impossible by the abovementioned sentence on the editor-in-chief, the aggrieved party may publish the rebuttal in another publication, provided that such publication shall be at the expense of the convicted editor-in-chief.

---

## Article 69

Any person convicted of violating the provisions of Articles 16 and 17 shall be sentenced to a fine not exceeding one thousand (1000) Riyals.

---

## Article 70

Any person convicted of violating the provisions of Articles 6, 15, 18, 19 and 23 shall be sentenced to a fine not exceeding three hundred (300) Riyals.

---

## Article 71

A conviction of any person who violates the provisions of Articles 2, 4, 7, 8, 13, 14 and 15 may result in an administrative investigation of the relevant press publication and its subsequent confiscation.

---

## Article 72

A judge of a court of law may order closure of the press publication house where a violation of the provisions of Articles 2, 7 and 8 has occurred.

---

## Article 73

Where a violation of the provisions of Articles 13 and 14 has occurred, a judge of a court of law may order the suspension of the press publication for a period not exceeding fifteen (15) days, if published three times or more per week, or for a period not exceeding one month, if published weekly, or for a period not exceeding one year in all other cases.

---

## Article 74

Where the editor-in-chief, the proprietor, the printer and publisher (if available) of any of the publications are convicted of continuing to publish the press publications under the same or a different name following a judgment to suspend or revoke a license, or to close the publishing house, they shall be sentenced to imprisonment for a period not exceeding six months or a fine not exceeding three thousand (3000) Riyals, or both.

---

## Article 75

Any person convicted of violating the provisions of Articles 30, 31, 32, 34, 39, 40 and 42 shall be sentenced to imprisonment for a period not exceeding three months or a fine not exceeding two thousand (2000) Riyals, or both.

---

## Article 76

Any person convicted of violating the provisions of Articles 33, 43 and 44 shall be sentenced to imprisonment for a period not exceeding one month or a fine not exceeding One Thousand (1000) Riyals, or both.

---

## Article 77

Any person convicted of violating the provisions of Articles 35, 36, 38 and 45 shall be sentenced to a fine not exceeding three hundred (300) Riyals.

---

Article 78

A conviction of any person who violates the provisions of Articles 30, 32, 35, 39, 40, 42 and 45 may result in an administrative investigation of the relevant publications and its subsequent confiscation.

---

Article 79

A judge of a court of law may order closure of the printing press or publishing house where a violation of the provisions of Articles 30, 32, 34, 39 and 42 has occurred.

---

Article 80

Any person convicted of violating the provisions of Article 47(a), (b), (f) or (m) shall be sentenced according to the provisions of the Penal Code.

---

Article 81

Without prejudice to any other greater penalty provided for in any other law, any person convicted of violating the provisions of Article 46 or Article 47 (c), (d), (e), (g), (h) or (i) shall be sentenced to imprisonment for a period not exceeding six months or a fine not exceeding three thousand (3000) Riyals, or both. These sentences shall be doubled in the event of a second commission of these violations.

---

Article 82

Any person convicted of violating the provisions of Article 47 (j), (k), (l) and (n) shall be sentenced to imprisonment for a period not exceeding one month or a fine of not more than one thousand Riyals, or both. These sentences shall be doubled in the event of a second commission of these violations.

---

Article 83

A conviction of any person who violates the provisions of Articles 46 and 47 may result in an administrative investigation of the relevant publications and their subsequent confiscation and destruction.

---

Article 84

A judge of a court of law may *mutatis mutandis* order closure of the press publications house, the printing press, the distribution house or the publishing house, where a violation of the provisions of Articles 46 and 47 has occurred.

---

## Article 85

In case of recidivism, the maximum punishment as provided for in Articles 81 and 82 shall be doubled.

---

## Article 86

Any person convicted of violating the provisions of Articles 48, 49, 53 and 56 shall be sentenced to imprisonment for a period not exceeding three months or a fine of not more than two thousand (2000) Riyals, or both.

---

## Article 87

Any person convicted of violating the provisions of Articles 52, 54, 55, 57, 60 and 61 shall be sentenced to a fine of not more than three hundred (300) Riyals.

---

## Article 88

A conviction of any person who violates the provisions of Articles 48, 49, 53, 54 , 56 and 59 may result in an administrative investigation of the relevant publications printed in Qatar and the machinery used and their subsequent confiscation and destruction.

---

## Article 89

A judge of a court of law may order closure of the distribution house where a violation of the provisions of Articles 48, 53, 56 and 59 has occurred.

---

## Article 90

Any person convicted of violating the provisions of Article 63 shall be sentenced to imprisonment for a period of not more than six months or a fine not exceeding two thousand Riyals, or both.

---

## Article 91

A conviction of any person who violates the provisions of Article 63 may result in an administrative investigation of the relevant artistic works and their subsequent confiscation.

---

## Article 92

A judge of a court of law may order closure of the cinema or theatre for a period not exceeding three months where a violation of Article 63 has occurred.



---

## **Chapter Eight**

### **General Provisions**

#### **Article 100**

Where a violation of the provisions of this Law or of any of its executive by-laws and resolutions has occurred, the aforementioned officials of the Department of Publications and Publishing who have been accorded the capacity of judicial officers shall issue a memorandum including the information required when filing police reports. Such reports shall be in accordance with the format designated by the Minister of Information. A copy of such report shall be delivered to a competent police station for necessary formalities related to enforcement of the law.

---

#### **Article 101**

The following are hereby repealed:

- a. Decree law No. 11 of 1966 regulating publications censorship, and amending laws;
  - b. Decree law No. 10 of 1969 regulating press as amended by law No. 14 of 1970; and
  - c. All provisions that violate the provisions of this Law.
- 

#### **Article 102**

All competent bodies, each in its respective jurisdiction, shall enforce this law, which shall come into effect from the date of its Publications in the *Official Gazette*.

---

#### **Article 93**

The High Criminal Court shall have competent jurisdiction to rule on crimes as provided in Chapter Seven. Judgments of this court may be appealed before the Court of Appeal.

The public claim herein shall be dropped after the lapse of three months from the date of publications or distribution in Qatar. Unless excused by force majeure, compensation claims shall be dropped if not filed by the affected party within the notice period specified in the previous Article.

---

#### **Article 94**

The Minister of Information may serve a notice on the editor-in-chief where publication of material violates any of the provisions herein. Such action by the Minister shall not prejudice filing a charge with the Criminal Court.

---

#### **Article 95**

Notices, decisions and judgments with respect to the suspension and revocation of publishing licenses and the closure of press publications facilities shall be published in the *Official Gazette*.

---

**Article 96**

The provisions of this Law shall not apply to printing presses owned by the State; or press or other publications published by the different ministries and related departments, corporations and authorities; or publications published or imported by the government for schools, institutes or colleges.

---

**Article 97**

All persons engaged in professions and trades referred to herein shall comply with the provisions of this Law, and shall obtain the necessary permits and licenses within six months from the date of its enforcement.  
The aforesaid notice period may be extended by an additional six months by a resolution of the Minister of Information.

---

**Article 98**

Any provisions not expressly stipulated herein shall be issued by a decree and the Minister of Information shall issue the necessary executive by-laws and resolutions.

---

**Article 99**

The Minister of Information shall issue a resolution empowering officials of the Department of Publications and Publishing to conduct judicial investigations in order to prove offences in violation of this Law and the executive by-laws and decisions thereof.

---