

## The Jordanian Jump

### Introduction

As the world's Internet infrastructure exponentially expands its connectivity, widespread cybercrimes are on the rise. In the article *Cyber Crime laws in Jordan and Freedom of Expression* (Alaeldin Mansour Maghaireh) The author explains how with the boom of Jordan's cyberspace came a vast change on how individuals utilized the internet. Through a detailed analysis of the population of Jordan's internet users and the number of cybercrimes reported the author aims to highlight with the increase of cybercrimes new legislation needs to be in place to thwart attackers. From this information I will explain how this article relates to the principles of social sciences, the research methods & concepts, the type of analysis conducted, the topic and how it relates concerns and the contribution of marginalized groups and over all contributions to society.

### Principle Sciences

One of the principles of science we learned in our course is the Ethical Neutrality principle. The author adheres to the ethical standards of Jordan through examining the Electronic Crimes Act in 2015 (ECA). The current law has been updated and revised as of 2023 and assesses if the political changes pose a risk of the right of freedom of expression. According to the Author the number of internet users increased from 11% of the population in 2001 up to 84% in 2022 (Maghaireh). The Act was put in place to protect users from the jump in cybercrime. The ethical intent of the laws is of neutrality to its users

The principle of Empiricism is relevant to this article too because of the data used to support the author's argument. In 2015, there were 5,250,000 internet users in Jordan, and 2,305 cybercrimes were reported. By 2022, the number of internet users had doubled to 10,000,000, and cybercrimes skyrocketed to 16,027 (Alaeldin Mansour Maghaireh). This data

demonstrates a clear correlation as the number of internet users increased, the lack of adequate legislation contributed to a rise in cybercrimes. The data obtained made it clear to the Jordanian government that an update to the Electronic Crimes Act was necessary. The issue at hand was will the updated Act conflict with the freedom of expression of the people of Jordan.

### **Research Methods, Analysis & Concepts**

An analytical and quantitative analysis was done utilizing data derived from the Kingdom of Jordan legislative sources. The data was gathered from analyzing multiple legal texts including the ECA of 2015 along with other scholarly sources. The data has been used to identify trends and changes within the legislation from ECA 2015 to ECA 2023. A plethora of other scholarly sources were sourced to analyze cyber hate concepts of similar Anti-Muslim movements in countries.

### **Challenges & Contributions**

This article addresses the contribution and challenges posed by technology, focusing on the anonymity it provides. In many other countries, individuals can be charged for cybercrimes facilitated by this anonymity. For example, Jordan's current legislation, which imposes heavier punishments than initially introduced, illustrates that as more people gain access to the internet, certain types of crime tend to follow. The author also examines how freedom of expression is perceived differently depending on the country and its socio-political context. In a Middle Eastern country facing ongoing religious and ethnic tensions, a simple statement like 'Free Palestine' could be perceived as cyber hate speech on a social media platform. From an ethical standpoint, this complicates the navigation of freedom of speech, making it a challenging issue to balance. Laws and legislatures need to be in place to protect its citizens but not to limit one's freedoms.

### **Conclusion**

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February 18, 2025

In conclusion, the legislation introduced by the Jordanian government has been effective in addressing the country's cybercrime problems. While it may be challenging, continued updates to the ECA will be necessary to ensure accordance with internationally recognized standards and ethical guidelines specific to the middle east region. These updates are essential to both protecting the freedom of expression of its people and fostering a safe digital environment for all.

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## References

International Journal of Cyber Criminology Vol 18 Issue 1 January–June 2024. Alaeldin Mansour Maghaireh. *Cybercrime Laws in Jordan and Freedom of Expression: A Critical Examination of the Electronic Crimes Act 2023* Retrieved Feb 14, 2025 <https://www.cybercrimejournal.com/Links to an external site.>