

Offenses under ICT Act, 2006

A rough translation of Section 57 of the ICT Act says: “If any person deliberately publishes or transmits or causes to be published or transmitted in the website or in any other electronic form any material which is false and obscene and if anyone sees, hears or reads it having regard to all relevant circumstances, its effect is such as to influence the reader to become dishonest or corrupt, or causes to deteriorate or creates possibility to deteriorate law and order, prejudice the image of the state or person or causes to hurt or may hurt religious belief or instigate against any person or organization, then this activity will be regarded as an offense.”

Section 8 of the PC Act has made the possession, distribution or use of any sort of pornographic material illegal. It has also included sanction for blackmailing using such materials and distributing them using the internet.

According to the act's Section 17, if one uses digital media to intimidate people or cause damage to the state, he or she will face a jail time of 14 years or Tk1 crore fine or both.

Section 25 says – if someone uses a website or digital media to intimidate anyone, he or she may face three years in jail or Tk 3 lakh fine.

Also, if anyone hurts another's religious sentiment as defined by the Penal Code, he or she will face 10 years in jail or Tk 20 lakh fine or both, says Section 28 of the new act.

As per Section 29, if a person publishes information with the intent to defame someone, he or she will face three years in jail or Tk 5 lakh fine or both.

Offenses under Digital Security Act, 2018

Section 25 states that if any person through any website or any other digital medium intentionally or knowingly transmits, publishes, or propagates any data-information which he knows to be offensive, false, or threatening in order to annoy, insult, humiliate or malign a person or publishes or propagates or abets to publish or propagate any information, as a whole or partly, which he knows to be propaganda or false, with an intention to affect the image or reputation of the country or to spread confusion. Such person shall be punished with imprisonment for a term not exceeding three years or/with fine not exceeding Taka three lac or/with both. If any person commits the offense a second time or repeatedly, he shall be punished with imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years or/with fine not exceeding Taka ten lac or/with both.

Under section 28 of the following Act, if any person or group made publication, broadcast, etc. of information on the website or in any electronic format that hurts the religious values or sentiment, with an intention to hurt or provoke the religious values or sentiments, then such act of the person shall be an offense. Such person shall be punished with imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years or/with fine not exceeding Taka ten lac or/with both.

On the other hand, section 29 states if any Publication, transmission, etc. of defamatory information made or any person publishes or transmits any defamatory information as described in section 499 of the Penal Code, 1860 on the website or in any other electronic format. Such person shall be punished with imprisonment for a term not exceeding three years or/with fine not exceeding

Taka five lac or/with both. If any person commits the offense for the second time or repeatedly, he shall be punished with imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years or/with fine not exceeding Taka ten lac or/with both.

Offenses under Penal Code 1860:

Furthermore, if the harassment amounts to criminal intimidation (threatening another with any injury to his person, reputation, property etc.) as per the Penal Code 1860, then the person may be liable to punishment as per the Penal Code 1860.

Relevant hotlines and email addresses to lodge complaints:

Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) hotline:
+880-29611111

BTRC Email: btrc@btrc.gov.bd.

Bangladesh cyber-crime helpline: +8801766678888