

Effect of Electronic Crimes on the Family and Society: Electronic Extortion as a Model

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Abstract

This study aimed to determine the effect of electronic crimes in general and electronic extortion crime in particular on the family and society, to achieve the objective of the study, the descriptive analytical approach was used. The study showed that electronic extortion crimes are among the most dangerous and most affected by electronic crimes on the family and society as a whole, due to its connection to the honor and reputation of people, and the resulting serious social, psychological and security problems. The study recommended the civil society organizations concerned with defending human rights and defending women and their rights in particular the tasks of assistance and support for victims of electronic extortion and directing them to appropriate methods for reporting crime.

Keywords: *electronic extortion, crime, family, society.*

Introduction

In recent years, the world has witnessed a major revolution of information technologies in all fields, and it became difficult to dispense with their services. However, it also contributed to the emergence of a new form of crimes committed by some users of this technology, called cybercrime or electronic crime or internet crime which are characterized mostly by the seriousness and ease of committing them (Kareem, 2021).

Among the most prominent and widespread types of electronic crime in the past few years is what is known as electronic extortion, in its various forms such as sexual electronic extortion and financial electronic extortion, which poses a great danger and harm to the family, society and its members, and to the country as a whole.

In view of this, the researcher developed a desire to study the concept electronic extortion crimes, its types, and its effect on family and society and the state as a whole, And then present a number of suggestions to reduce the spread of these electronic crimes.

Research problem

The problem of the study is to highlight the impact of electronic crimes in general and electronic extortion crimes in particular on the family and society. with the spread of the use of the Internet and social networking sites, in addition to the application of electronic services in most state institutions, the percentage of electronic crimes has increased. Statistics issued by the anti-Cybercrime Unit in the Jordanian Public Security Directorate showed an increase in the number of electronic crimes by about (6) times since 2015, as it increased from (2305) crimes in 2015 to reach (16027) crimes in 2022, including (1285)

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electronic extortion crime, which accounted for (8%) of all electronic crimes in 2022 (Jordanian Public Security Directorate, 2022: <https://www.psd.gov.jo/>).

This requires highlighting the seriousness and effect of the electronic extortion crimes on the family and society as a whole, especially the crimes which directed against women that are sexually motivated, and putting forward some suggestions to limit the spread of these electronic crimes.

Significant of the study

The significant of the study stems from the sheds light on one of the most dangerous types of electronic crimes on the family and society, which is the electronic extortion crime, which is considered one of the most widespread electronic crimes in most countries, including Jordan, and provides a number of recommendations to limit its spread in society.

The importance of this study also came through its contribution to enriching the scientific library as a scientific reference on the subject of the impact of electronic extortion crimes on the family and society.

Study objectives

This study aims to achieve the following:

1. Introducing the concept of electronic crimes in general and electronic extortion crimes in particular.
2. Identifying the most prominent types of electronic extortion crimes.
3. Highlighting the negative effects of electronic extortion crimes on the family and
4. Society.
5. Presenting a number of suggestions and recommendations that would limit the spread of electronic extortion crimes.

Study methodology

In this study we used the analytical descriptive approach, by reviewing specialized studies, articles, and books that dealt with the study subject, declaring the concept of electronic extortion crimes, its types, and its effect on family and society and the state as a whole, And then present a number of suggestions to reduce the spread of these electronic crimes.

The concept of electronic extortion crime

Electronic crime is generally defined as every harmful, illegal act that affects devices or information inside these devices, and this act is carried out by the perpetrator with the aim of accessing computer data and programs in order to copy, change, delete, forge, or illegally acquire them (Bin Khalifa et al, 2017). According to Al-Manasah and Al-Zoubi (2022) it is "every intentional criminal act, whatever its connection to information, communication networks, and the Internet, which results in the offender obtaining certain benefits and gains, in exchange for the victim's loss."

While the electronic extortion crime is defined as a process of threatening and intimidating the victim by publishing pictures or movies or leaking confidential information, to force her to pay sums of money or to use them to carry out illegal acts for the benefit of the blackmailer or others, such as disclosing private or confidential information, whether personal or public, or to practice forbidden sexual acts (Abdullah, 2018).

In another definition, electronic extortion crime is represented by the pressure exerted by a person (the perpetrator) by means of information technology on the will of another person (victim) to get him to do or refrain from doing work, by threatening him with attributing or disclosing any confidential data or information related to him that is dishonorable, consideration, or others who influence it (Jaber, 2021).

Types of electronic extortion crimes

Electronic extortion crime is considered one of the complex types of electronic crimes, due to the multiplicity of its types and overlap with each other, as the most prominent types of electronic extortion crimes and their forms can be identified as follows:

First: Electronic extortion crimes according to the nature and gender of the victim

Electronic extortion crimes are divided according to the nature and gender of the victim, into electronic extortion crimes against women, electronic extortion crimes against men, and electronic extortion crimes against children, as follows:

A. Electronic extortion crime against women

Electronic extortion crime against women is the most dangerous type of electronic extortion crime prevailing in society, as it affects not only the girl but also all members of her family and society, especially if the girl is threatened with private family photos or scandalous clips and pictures or private conversations, then blackmailing them to forcing them to do indecent acts that negatively affect the girl and her family (Kareem, 2021).

Where this type of electronic extortion crimes is represented by the perpetrator threatening the victim with publishing pictures, video clips for her, or even indecent conversations if she does not respond to his demands, which may often find a response to the perpetrator's demands, for fear of defaming her honor and the disgrace that may befall her and her family (Baghdadi, 2018). In other cases, the electronic extortion against women may be because the woman is a well-known businesswoman and she is threatened with exposing her business secrets if she does not respond to the demands of the blackmailer, which here may be financial demands (Shams El-Din, 2006).

B. Electronic extortion crime against men

Men may also fall victim to electronic extortion crimes, but for different motives and reasons than women, perhaps the most prominent of these reasons is that the man is in a prestigious social and professional position and is being blackmailed by a woman on the websites, and she threatens him by publishing pictures or video clips. It may harm his reputation and his social or job status in exchange for a sum of money. In this case, the blackmailer may be a man and not a woman who threatens the victim with publishing these graphic or visual materials that harm his social and job status if he does not fulfill his request to obtain a sum of money (Shams El-Din, 2006).

In other cases, which are not related to sexual issues, a man may fall victim to electronic blackmail crimes because of his economic position and field of business, when a man finds that publishing confidential information about his field of work and disclosing it to competitors may harm his financial and economic position (Abdel Aziz, 2018).

C. Electronic extortion crime against children

Given that children are the age group most connected to technology and social media and most fond of it, some criminal groups find in them fertile ground to guide them through these modern technological means to implement their own agendas and urge them to commit illegal acts, especially in the absence of supervision and follow-up by parents (Arrab, 2021).

Where children are victims of electronic extortion crimes, as are women and men, when the perpetrator threatens the child by publishing pictures, a video recording of him or his

conversations on social networking sites, or any material that would humiliate the child with his family and friends in the event that the child does not respond to the perpetrator's requests other than Legitimate, such as asking the child for sums of money, or asking him to establish forbidden sexual relations with him or with others, and it may come to the perpetrator to exploit the child in prostitution, including Internet prostitution, or any form of sexual exploitation (Al-Enezi, 2017).

Second: Electronic extortion crimes according to the motive of the crime

Electronic extortion crimes are divided according to the motive or the purpose of their commission into a number of types, the most prominent are: electronic extortion crimes with a financial motive, and electronic extortion crimes with a sexual motive, as follows:

A. Electronic extortion crimes with a financial motive:

This type of electronic extortion crime is verified when the motive for committing it is to obtain some money from the victim, it is represented when the perpetrator (blackmailer) threatens the victim by publishing Sensitive information and data about him or her, like pictures, video clips or recordings defaming his reputation and honor, in order to comply with the perpetrator's order and pay some money in exchange for keeping these materials secret and not publishing them (Al-Ghadian et al., 2018).

B. Electronic extortion crimes with a sexual motive:

Electronic extortion crimes with sexual motive are also considered one of the most prominent and widespread types of electronic extortion crimes, where the goals that the perpetrator (blackmailer) seeks to achieve by committing the crime sexual goal- not moral goals, such as the perpetrator's desire to build a forbidden sexual relationship with the victim (Salbi, 2021).

From the foregoing, we see that the types of electronic extortion crimes in terms of purpose or motive for committing them are closely related to the other images that classified according to the according to the nature and gender of the victim (women, men, children). For example, the purpose of electronic extortion crime may be financial, but it is implemented using tools that include sexual content which offends the honor and reputation of the woman in order to obtain financial benefits, as the perpetrator threatens the woman by publishing pictures and video clips exposing her in the event that his request is not responded to in Obtaining a sum of money.

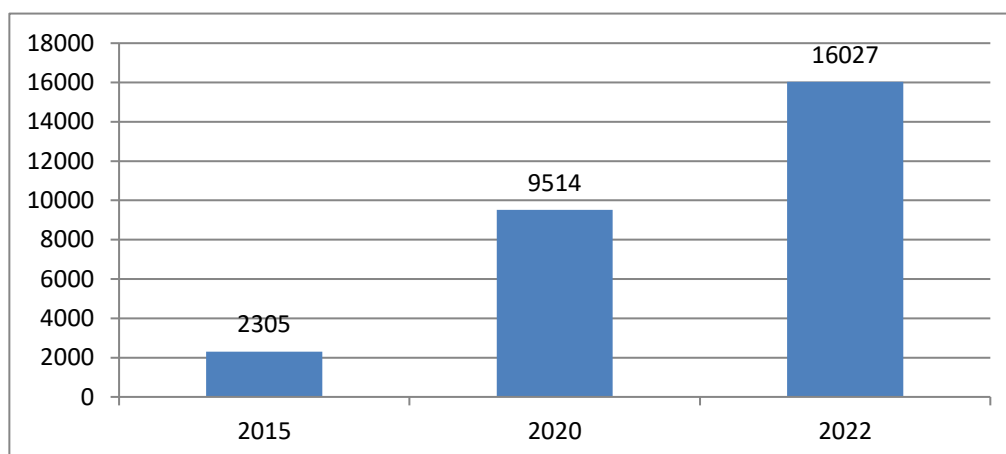
Thus, we can be said that electronic extortion crimes are considered by their nature to be complex and multi-purpose electronic crimes, in which the motives, causes and risks of each form cannot be easily separated from each other.

The reality of electronic crimes and electronic extortion crimes in Jordan

The process of counting the number of electronic crimes, and giving an accurate number for them, is very difficult, given that there are many such crimes that are difficult to detect. In addition to not submitting a complaint about some electronic crimes, due to several considerations, including the lack of confidence in the ability of the competent authorities to reveal the identity of the perpetrator or the victim's fear of the perpetrator's threats, as in the case of electronic extortion crimes, or the fear of the victim – especially the girls – of exposing his matter in front of the family. And relatives and society, and therefore what distinguishes electronic crimes from other traditional crimes is the high value of the so-called black number for it (Al-Nawaisa, 2017).

With regard to the statistical reality of electronic crimes in Jordan, the records of the Anti-Cybercrime Unit of the Public Security Directorate indicate that (16027) electronic crimes occurred during the year 2022, which is the number of electronic crimes that were reported, dealt with and investigated by the unit, compared to (9514). crimes during the year 2020 and (2305) crimes during the year 2015. The following figure (1) shows the

increase in the number of electronic crimes that the Electronic Crimes Unit dealt with in Jordan during the years (2015-2022):



Source: Anti-Cybercrime Unit, Jordanian Public Security Directorate, 2022. Available at: <https://www.psd.gov.jo/en-us/content/news/the-anti-cybercrime-unit-of-public-security-publishes-its-annual-statistics-in-2022/>

From Figure (1) above, it is clear that cybercrime cases have increased during the last seven years about six times, as they increased from (2305) cases in 2015 to (16027) cases in 2022.

In our opinion, the reason for the increase in the number of electronic crimes recorded in Jordan is mainly due to the widespread use of the Internet and the accompanying spread of the use of social networking sites and electronic applications that have become available for everyone to use, in addition to the great development in the issue of electronic transformation and dealing with electronic services. Consequently, this contributed to the increase in crimes of hacking systems and websites and related electronic crimes such as electronic content crimes, money crimes, or person crimes.

As for the number of electronic crimes registered in Jordan during the year (2022) according to the type of crime, the official records of the Anti-Cyber Crime Unit of the Public Security Directorate indicate that electronic fraud cases reached (2118) cases, at the same time electronic extortion increased to (1285) cases, while the defamation, libel and contempt cases reached to (3769) and the threat cases to (3466) via the Internet, while the hacking cases reached to (2115) cases.

Table (1): number of electronic crimes in Jordan during the year 2022 according to the type of crime

Type of cybercrime/classification	number of crimes during the year 2022	Percentage of the total number of crimes(%)
electronic fraud	2118	%13.2
electronic extortion	1285	%8
defamation, libel and contempt	3769	23.5%
Threat cases	3466	21.6%
hacking	2115	13.2%
Other	3274	20.5%
Total	16027	100%

Source: Anti-Cybercrime Unit, Jordanian Public Security Directorate, 2022. Available at: <https://www.psd.gov.jo/en-us/content/news/the-anti-cybercrime-unit-of-public-security-publishes-its-annual-statistics-in-2022/>

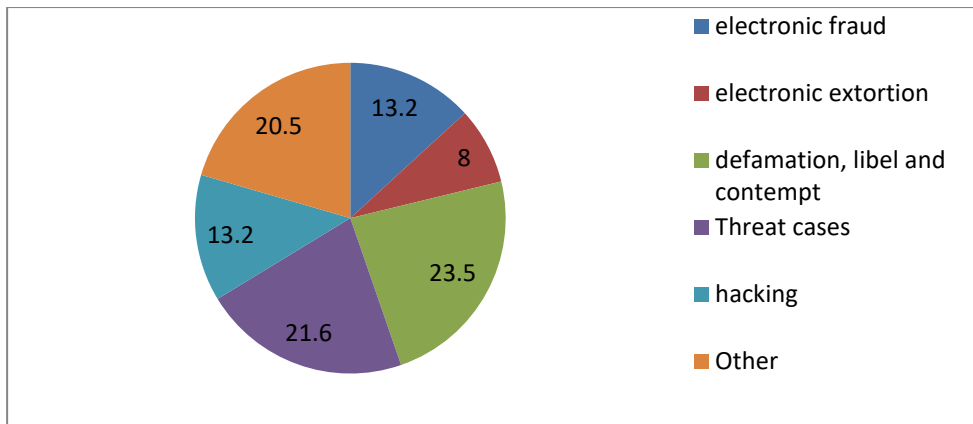


Table (1) shows that electronic extortion crimes, which is the focus of our research, shows that their number has reached (1285) registered crimes during the year 2022, at a percentage of (8%) of the total number of electronic crimes registered during the year 2022, and this number, according to our opinion, is a significant number, and it raises the alarm to alert us to this type of electronic crime and take procedures to confront and prevent it, with our belief that the actual number of this type of crime is much larger than the registered number, as many victims avoid reporting it to the competent authorities, especially those related to sexual issues (sexual extortion), due to the victim's fear of the scandal and the societal view of it.

The negative effects of electronic extortion crimes on families and society

Crime statistics and specialized studies in the field of crime, indicate that cybercrime has become one of the most dangerous crimes for families and society, due to the physical and psychological harm it causes to the victims and their families, in addition to the financial losses it causes to the victims and the damage to the reputation of society as a whole (Mshena, 2019; Ibrahim, 2022).

On the other hand, the crimes of electronic extortion are among the most dangerous electronic crimes against individuals and funds, due to the negative effects that result on the life of the victim and his psychological, social and economic conditions, in addition to its negative effects on society in general. Next, we will review the most prominent of these negative effects:

Effect on the psychological state of the victim

The crimes of electronic extortion greatly affect the psychological state of the victim, as it makes her feel psychological and nervous disorders such as depression, anxiety and tension, which leads her to isolation from society, people and colleagues at work and fear of confronting them, especially if the victim is a girl, and this may lead to disturbances in the victim's personality, so that She becomes aggressive, unable to accept and deal with others, and loses her ability to work and be productive (Al-Rawashdeh, 2020).

Social Effects

The crimes of electronic extortion contribute greatly to family disintegration due to the spread of divorce cases, especially if the victims of these crimes are women, in addition to the reluctance of young men and women to marry due to the lack of confidence resulting from exposing the secrets of these young men and women who have been victims of electronic extortion crimes, especially sexual extortion. This is in addition to the role of electronic extortion in destabilizing society's values of tolerance, cooperation and respect for the rights of others. On the other hand, the emergence of negative social values such as hatred, and rejection of individuals (Yousef, 2023).

Spread of crime

Electronic blackmail in all its forms is the imprisonment of the victim and being held captive by the offender. This causes the victim to constantly think about getting rid of the perpetrator's injustice in any way, which may lead to the victim's thinking and planning to harm herself or end her life by herself, such as thinking of committing suicide. the offender and get rid of the victim's feeling that she is trapped by the offender (Al-Rawashdeh, 2020)..

Financial losses

Electronic extortion is a very dangerous phenomenon for the economy, and this appears through the financial losses that result from these crimes for the victims, whether they are individuals or companies. These financial losses are difficult to know their true value because many individuals or companies that are exposed to electronic extortion do not inform the competent authorities. Fearing exposure to bad reputation or impact on the financial position of these companies and their shares in the stock market (Salbi, 2021).

From the foregoing, we see that the crimes of electronic extortion are among the most dangerous electronic crimes and the most affecting the victims and society as a whole, given its connection in some cases to the honor and reputation of people, and the resulting serious social, psychological and security problems, and therefore confronting it and limiting its spread is a necessary and urgent requirement. It must be done by all legal, judicial, even social and educational means and measures, and all official state institutions and civil society institutions must take their role in confronting this dangerous type of electronic crime.

Reducing the spread of electronic extortion crimes

Despite the efforts of states and their institutions, and the adequacy of their legislation in combating cybercrime in general and the crime of electronic extortion in particular, this is not sufficient unless it is accompanied by other efforts, duties and obligations that fall on the users of means of communication and websites, in addition to the duties of the family in monitoring their children And protect them from dealing with prohibited websites, and the efforts of official (governmental) and unofficial (civil) institutions must join forces to fulfill their lofty mission in protecting society against cybercrime in general and cyber extortion crimes in particular, which would affect the values and principles of our societies before they affect Reputation, dignity, security and safety of community members who are subject to such crimes.

Accordingly, we will discuss, next, some suggestions addressed to each of the individual users, the family, and the state with its official and unofficial institutions, which we believe may achieve positive results in combating electronic extortion crimes, namely:

The role of internet and social networking sites users

User of the Internet and social networking sites is usually the victim in the crimes of electronic extortion, and he is the person who is targeted by the perpetrator by threatening him and forcing him to do something or refrain from doing it, and therefore it is the responsibility of this user to play an important role in immunizing his electronic accounts, and being aware of what he is doing and what he used on these sites, and here some suggestions related to the users of the internet and websites, which we see that it can contribute to reducing the spread of electronic extortion crimes, the most prominent of which are the following (<https://ecylabs.com/cyber-security-awareness-for-students/>):

- Immunization of the user device, whether it is a computer or a mobile, with one of the protection (anti-virus) programs to prevent viruses, electronic attacks and hacking.
- Avoid downloading apps from unknown sources.
- Avoid accepting friend requests on social media from unknown people.

- Avoid posting personal photos unnecessarily, and not posting user-specific information on the Internet.
- Not to give the user's email password or accounts on social networking sites to anyone.

The role of parents and family

family is considered the first and basic unit of society (Akhmedov, 2021). So that, the strength or weakness of society is measured by the level of strength and interdependence of the family or its weakness. Therefore, the family has a prominent role in confronting and reducing electronic extortion crimes through two aspects:

A. The role of Parents and family in raising children well based on good morals values.

The first step for the Parents and family and their main importance role is to teaching its children the main and better moral values in the life (Ceka and Murati, 2016).

Hence, the interest in family factors and their relationship to crime is considered an extension of the ideas that viewed crime as a phenomenon, where the family social environment is one of the important social factors that push a person to commit crime, if this person did not grow up in a family environment based on normal socialization (Petrosino et al., 2009).

Therefore, the social responsibility that the family should develop in its children from the early years of their lives is through a normal family upbringing, acquiring them with good values, and rejecting deviant behaviors, including the rejection of criminal behavior in all its forms, specifically electronic crimes, which have become more prevalent in light of the widespread use of the Internet and Social Media.

B. The role of parents in awareness their children about the dangers of using the Internet and social networking sites

In addition to the role of parents in instilling good social values among their children, parents play another important role in reducing electronic crimes, including electronic extortion crimes, which is the role of awareness their children for using Internet, epically with the spread of using social networking among all members of society of all ages and genders (Mustaqim et al., 2022).

it is the responsibility of parents to play an important role in awareness their children, especially females, given that females are among the groups of society most vulnerable to electronic extortion crimes, due to their lack of extensive experience and sufficient awareness in dealing with some of the extortionists on social networking sites, in addition to The pictures and videos of the girls are among the most used materials in the crimes of electronic extortion, and therefore the family must educate their sons, especially the females, and instruct them not to deal with any unknown person through social networking sites, and warn them not to put pictures or video clips of their own and publish them on these sites.

The role of government institutions (educational and religious institutions)

Governmental institutions in the country such as educational and religious institutions, have a prominent role to play in addressing the crimes of electronic extortion and limiting their spread, which must be activated and strengthened in an optimal manner in line with the seriousness of electronic extortion crimes and their negative effects on the perpetrators and society as a whole, which is what It will be discussed as follows:

A. The role of educational institutions

Educational institutions represented by schools and universities plays a fundamental role in the proper socialization of students, in addition to its educational role, therefore it is important to create awareness programs within these educational institutions to alert

students to the danger of electronic crimes on people and society as a whole (Shabana and Shabana, 2018).

The school can organize awareness programs through school broadcasts and various school activities to introduce extortion crimes, and methods of dealing with it, and how to protection from its dangers, in addition to including the school curricula some educational materials on safe dealing with the Internet and social networking sites (Strach, 2011).

The same applies to universities, which must include in academic curricula some materials related to the issues and problems brought by technological development, including cybercrime in general and cyber extortion crimes in particular, provided that these courses are compulsory in all university majors, as well as the development of curricula in related disciplines to keep pace with Technological development and cybersecurity issues.

B. The role of religious institutions

Religious institutions play an important role to addressing moral deviations in societies, in addition to spreading awareness and religious values among members of society, prohibiting criminal acts of any kind, and contributing to addressing their causes and preventing them, considering that criminal behavior is a departure from the provisions of the divine religions before it is a departure from the legal rules.

Religious institutions have a great influence in directing society towards moral and religious values, therefore combating crime, including Electronic extortion crimes cannot be done through legal means only, but the efforts of the judiciary and the judiciary must combine with the efforts of the clergy to prevent the commission of the crime and raise awareness of its dangers to society.

Conclusion

Electronic crimes in general and electronic extortion crimes in particular are among the new and cross-border crimes, and more than one person or entity may contribute to committing them, and in more than one country, and the victim of one crime may be people and parties from more than one country, so the international community and the competent national authorities have made efforts Great efforts have been made to address this type of crime, but despite the international and national efforts in the field of combating electronic crimes, the crimes of electronic extortion are still widespread and harm the family and society as a whole, hence this study came to highlight the impact of electronic crimes in general and electronic extortion crimes in particular on the family and society, Which reached a number of results and in light of them a number of recommendations were made, which are as follows:

First: Results

1. Electronic extortion crimes are among the most dangerous and most affected by electronic crimes on the family and society as a whole, due to its connection to the honor and reputation of people, and the resulting serious social, psychological and security problems.
2. Electronic extortion crimes are considered by their nature to be complex and multi-purpose electronic crimes, in which the motives, causes and risks of each form cannot be easily separated from each other.
3. Despite the continuous international and national efforts in the field of combating electronic extortion crimes and limiting their spread and increase, these efforts are still unable to reduce these crimes, which are spreading very quickly.

Second: Recommendations

1. Recommending to all official state institutions and civil society institutions to take their role in addressing electronic extortion crimes, given their great danger to society.
2. The need to spread awareness among all members of society of the need to report any case of threat and extortion to which a person is exposed, even if this person is a girl.
3. Recommending to civil society organizations concerned with defending human rights and defending women and their rights in particular the tasks of assistance and support for victims of electronic extortion and directing them to appropriate methods for reporting crime.
4. The need for the family to assume its social responsibilities through a normal family upbringing, imparting good values to children, and rejecting deviant behaviors, in addition to the educational role of children, especially females.

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