



THE MOTIVE BEHIND THE CRIME OF ELECTRONIC BLACKMAIL

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Article history:	Abstract:
<p>Received: 10th March 2026 Accepted: 8th April, 2026</p>	<p>Electronic blackmail is an emerging crime due to scientific advancements in technology and information systems, as well as the widespread use of the internet and social media. Criminals have exploited modern technological means to carry out their crimes by threatening victims with the publication of videos, images, or personal information or revealing a secret they are hiding from the public unless they comply with the criminal's demands. Many factors have contributed to the spread of this crime, including family disintegration, distance from God, economic factors, and the ease of hacking and misusing electronic devices. Electronic blackmail is characterized by features that distinguish it from traditional threats, the most important of which is that it is carried out electronically, away from physical violence. Therefore, the perpetrator must possess knowledge of technological tools and a degree of intelligence. Additionally, this transnational crime makes it difficult to identify the criminal, prove the crime, and prosecute the offender, thereby increasing its danger. The motive behind committing the crime of electronic blackmail differs according to the group it targets. It may be committed for financial gain, targeting businessmen and the wealthy, or it may be sexually motivated, where the victims are often women and minors. In other cases, it may be committed for revenge, where the victim is a competitor to the perpetrator in a profession or business. The crime may also be committed for personal gain or political motives. Regardless of the motive, the motive in electronic blackmail is always immoral, as the means to satisfy it is immoral, namely through threats. Despite the seriousness and importance of this crime, the Iraqi legislator has not addressed its provisions through a specific law. Instead, Iraqi courts apply the provisions of traditional threat crimes.</p>
<p>Keywords: Family disintegration, financial motive, hacker, electronic means</p>	

INTRODUCTION

The significant developments witnessed by the world in the modern era, accompanied by advancements in technology and information techniques, have led to the emergence of a type of crime that was previously unknown, including cybercrimes, particularly electronic blackmail. This crime has spread widely among all society segments and countries. Electronic blackmail is one of the most dangerous crimes that threaten the security and stability of society due to its severe consequences. It violates personal privacy, uses people without justification, coerces their will, and intimidates them. There are multiple reasons for conducting this crime. It can be for profit, the person's sexual gratification, for personal gain, or even for vengeance against the victim.

Research Objectives

This study investigates what motivates offenders to commit electronic blackmail crimes and assesses its features, possible implications, victim categories, legal concerns, and responses.

Importance of the Research

The motives behind electronic blackmail are an emerging threat to all sectors of society and the significant increase of blackmail over the last few years makes this research particularly important.

Research Problem

This research summarizes the problem in that electronic blackmail, a severe type of cybercrime, poses a serious threat to the world, especially regarding the social and security issues [1]. There is a multitude of reasons for committing this crime, but it is difficult to detect and prosecute it, in addition to legislative shortcomings for dealing with the crime. Therefore, this research aims to clarify the motivations for committing electronic blackmail, culminating in identifying the most essential measures that should be taken to combat this crime.

Research Methodology

In our research, we relied on an analytical approach preceded by description and comparison in terms of describing this crime, analyzing its effects, characteristics, and the motives behind it, leading to an analysis that deepens understanding and addresses the issue.

Chapter One The Concept of Electronic Blackmail

To thoroughly understand the concept of electronic blackmail, this chapter will be divided into three sections. The first section will be dedicated to defining electronic blackmail, while the second section will focus on exploring the characteristics of electronic blackmail. The third section will examine the subjective nature of electronic blackmail.

Section One

Definition of Electronic Blackmail

Blackmail, linguistically, is the source of the verb "extort," which means to seize something from others through coercion and hostility. It can also refer to gaining something unlawfully [2]. In a legal context, scholars differ in defining electronic blackmail [3].

It is generally defined as any act performed by a person threatening another person, either in writing or verbally, which is intended to affect the victim psychologically by instilling fear and anxiety about potential harm that could affect their property or personal safety or that of someone connected to the victim [4]. Some define electronic blackmail as an attempt to obtain financial or non-financial gains from an individual or a group of individuals through coercion, by threatening to expose a secret of the victim, or as an attempt to coerce and deprive the victim of their will and freedom with the intent to cause physical or psychological harm using means employed by the perpetrator to achieve moral or material crimes, or both [5]. It is also described as the perpetrator obtaining confidential information, personal images, or videos of the victim and threatening to publish that information unless the victim complies with the perpetrator's demands, such as paying sums of money or engaging in unlawful activities [6]. Others view it as threatening and intimidating the victim using electronic means, such as social media, through which the blackmailer acquires personal information about the victims, such as images, videos, or documents unlawfully or indirectly, and then threatens the victim to publish this information if their demands are not met [7]. Some contemporary scholars define it as an act of an individual hacking into an official account, email, or page on social media to blackmail someone to fulfil their financial or sexual desires. The victim's negligence in following security procedures often facilitates the perpetrator's access to information. Suppose the victim complies with the blackmailer's demands out of fear of having their personal information or data published without resorting to the relevant authorities. In that case, the perpetrator will likely continue to extort the victim repeatedly [8].

Some say that electronic blackmail is a crime shrouded in something that is not clearly defined, as it employs threats to unleash detriment and destruction upon victims or those related to them if the victim does not comply with the perpetrators'. All of this is done using technology and electronic applications on computers or smart devices [9].

Regarding legislation, some laws reference this crime while others do not address it. Although some legislations tackle this crime, they fail to define it—for example, the Saudi Cyber Crimes Law of 2007 and the Qatari Law No. 14 of 2014. In contrast, the UAE law defines electronic blackmail in Article 16 of the Federal Law on Combating Cyber Crimes No. 5 of 2012 as the threat or blackmail that occurs using an information network or other technical means, where individuals exploit their ability to use information technology to commit unlawful acts such as threatening and blackmailing individuals, whether through the internet, email, or mobile phones [10]. The Iraqi legislator has not addressed electronic blackmail crimes; there is no specific provision in Iraqi law regarding electronic blackmail. Moreover, the draft Cyber Crimes Law in Iraq, first read in the House of Representatives in 2019, is still under discussion and has not yet been approved. Consequently, there is no definition of electronic blackmail in Iraqi law [11].

Section Two

Characteristics and Causes of Electronic Blackmail

In this section, we will address the characteristics of electronic blackmail and the reasons for its commission, divided into two branches. The first branch will focus on the characteristics of electronic blackmail, while the second branch will examine the causes of electronic blackmail.

Branch One

Characteristics of Electronic Blackmail

Cybercrimes, in general, and electronic blackmail, in particular, are distinguished by characteristics that differentiate them from traditional crimes. This branch will discuss the characteristics of electronic blackmail.

First, Electronic blackmail is a transnational crime. One of its most prominent features is that it is a global crime that can transcend continental boundaries since it occurs remotely. The perpetrator may be on one continent while the victim is on another. Although it shares this characteristic with other crimes, what distinguishes it is that the perpetrator does not leave their location; they remain seated at their computer. In contrast, other international crimes often require physical movement [12]. For instance, the perpetrator might be in China while the victim is in Iraq, necessitating international cooperation to combat this crime worldwide [13]

Second, electronic blackmail is a crime categorized as a quiet (soft) crime. Unlike traditional crimes that are executed via violence such as murder, assault, theft, etc., this crime occurs through the electronic means. It is a crime that doesn't involve the use of a weapon or violence [14].

Third, this type of crime is an expressive crime. It is conducted through an expression that employs a specific means

of communication. This type of crime grows in stages. It begins with a request, followed by a resistance, then a pressuring and threatening stage, and finally, a stage in which the victim is made to submit to the demands of the perpetrator. In this case, the perpetrator is making a request to the victim and that may involve the victim doing a certain act or refraining from doing a particular act, and is also accompanied by a threat [15].

Fourth, this crime is very dangerous. It is a crime that involves a lot of risks and losses caused to the economy, society, security, and culture. The danger is in affecting the privacy, reputation, and honor, as well as the national security of a country. For this reason, it should be dealt with by all countries. The main reason for the difficulty in identifying and discovering this type of crime is that the victim is usually very unwilling to report it. Therefore, it is difficult to assess the true nature and extent of this crime which is referred to as a hidden crime, which adversely affects the strategies of the administration to deal with and combat this issue [17].

Fifth, electronic blackmail is an assault on an individual's freedom and privacy. Electronic blackmail occurs when a person using a computer violates the rights of a person by collecting and storing personal information and documents without permission and without the knowledge of a person. All constitutions and international documents try to protect individuals from these types of violations [10]. Electronic blackmail also violates the rights and freedoms of individuals guaranteed by all constitutions and international documents [18].

Sixth, it is extremely difficult to prove electronic blackmail. It is often very hard to find a person who has enough knowledge of electronic blackmail and the ability to remove all evidence and traces of the crime. In addition, a person who has been a victim of electronic blackmail can be extremely reluctant to report the crime, and even if he or she is willing to do so, the person who has carried out the crime can be in a completely different country, making it difficult for the authorities to investigate and prove the crime. These crimes are of a completely different nature from traditional crimes, and in order to investigate these crimes, there should be enough qualified and skilled personnel as a cybercrime specialist [19].

Branch Two

Causes of Electronic Blackmail

Numerous reasons lead to the commission of electronic blackmail, some of which relate to the victim, while others are attributed to the perpetrator of the crime. This section will discuss the most prominent reasons that drive individuals to commit electronic blackmail.

First: Distance from God and Weak Religious Commitment

The distance from God and a lack of awareness of moral accountability for one's actions can lead individuals to commit religiously prohibited and legally criminal acts. If individuals felt a sense of self-regulation regarding their behaviours, they might refrain from committing such crimes. Moreover, the weakness of religious institutions and their failure to fulfill their roles in guidance and counseling encourage morally weak individuals to engage in electronic blackmail [4].

Second: Family Disintegration and Poor Social Upbringing

The family plays a crucial role in guiding and correcting human behavior; it is the foundation of societal structure. An individual is significantly influenced by their family, the primary factor affecting their behavior. Suppose the family lacks love, compassion, and cooperation among its members due to disintegration. In this example of poor social upbringing, electronic blackmail can result from either instigating or falling victim to crimes [20]. The absence of parental supervision (such as a father's provision and parental guidance of children) can result in the absence of intervention when a child exhibits deviant behavior. This can significantly disrupt the child and lead to the child's deviant behavior [15]. The development of the internet and social media has increased the nature of family disruption and the risk of modern technology infiltrating the household. Parents are obligated to supervise children's engagement with technology and prevent misuse to ensure children are not exposed to crime and cyber victims of electronic blackmail [4].

Third: Widespread Internet Access and Poor Usage

The development of new communication technologies has made social interactions much easier than in the past. These technologies have unfortunately made the crime of electronic blackmail easier to commit. New technologies allow someone to hack the private data and communications of almost anyone on the public internet. New technologies can be very dangerous if they are used with the intent to harm. Social media offers a nice way to foster new relationships and stay in touch with old ones, but it has also become convenient for criminals to connect and organize [21].

There are virtually no borders when it comes to crime in the age of social media. There are also very few restrictions on your ability to commit a crime in any part of the world as long as you are able to conceal your identity. The rapid and careless consumption of modern communication technology is making crime easier [22]. The new technologies allow users to communicate instantaneously with anyone in the world, and the victims of blackmail are often unaware that there are dangerous people in the world who use the technologies for evil purposes. Young women who take personal photographs are especially vulnerable to electronic blackmail. The new technologies give criminals the ability to recover previously deleted photographs, which means they can use them to exploit the victim again [15].

Fourth: Ease of Hacking Electronic Devices

With the help of the internet and modern technology, hackers can now hack into mobile devices and computers more easily. They are able to access personal documents and files, information, images, and videos. They can use these to carry out electronic blackmail [23].

Fifth: Economic Factors

The easy money and profit prospects cause widespread electronic blackmail. The pressing need for quick financial aid can be caused by gambling losses, family issues, or other problems brought about by poverty and absence of money

[24]. Due to economic issues, both sides of electronic blackmail, the victim and offender, suffer. Offender blackmail for financial profits, while the victim in financial need accepts the blackmail. An example of this can be seen when a manager may blackmail an employee who has no financial means. [25].

Section three **The Subjectivity of Electronic Blackmail**

Although the crimes share some elements, electronic blackmail has unique identifying aspects. This section has two parts. The first part will deal with electronic blackmail and coercion. The second part will deal with electronic blackmail and threats.

Branch One

Distinguishing Electronic Blackmail from Coercion

The root of "coercion" denotes aversion as it is derived from "hate." This makes sense in the context that it involves forcing someone to do something with which they do not want to comply [3]. When you are forced to do something against your will, you are being coerced; you are being forced to take action against your desires, and you are being oppressed and compelled to do so [26]. Coercion has a legal definition which means forcing someone to do something against their will so they take the action to avoid incurring greater harm [27]. This can also be defined as having the will of a person to do something by means of intimidation and the use of terror [28]. Coercion can also cover the use of violence against the will of a person in order to have that person commit a crime [29]. In terms of Coercion, we can differentiate between physical coercion and moral coercion. Coercion in the physical sense would be rendering someone will-less and entirely without agency. This would necessarily mean using violence that is unexpected, so it cannot be withstood, and the perpetrator is used as a means to further the ends of the coercer. Coercion in the physical sense would mean that a person would act entirely without will, and mechanistically so [31], and would achieve a crime. On the other hand, moral coercion would mean that the will is not entirely removed, but is weakened. This would mean using a person to direct their will to achieve a crime. [38]

For moral coercion to be valid, the coerced individual must be unable to resist the coercion, meaning the violence inflicted must be such that the only means of escape is committing a crime. Additionally, the threat must be credible, leaving no choice but to act, thus paralyzing the individual's freedom to choose [31][32].

Both coercion and electronic blackmail involve unlawful means and affect willpower, either eliminating or weakening it. Moreover, electronic blackmail is considered a form of moral coercion, and both lead to the removal of criminal responsibility from the victim [33].

However, the differences between coercion and electronic blackmail manifest in that the criminal act of electronic blackmail is executed through the use of electronic and modern technological means, whereas coercion does not necessarily require electronic methods; coercive acts can be performed using a more comprehensive range of means, not limited to electronic devices. Thus, the methods employed in coercion are broader than those used in electronic blackmail.

Branch two

Distinguishing Electronic Blackmail from Threat

Threat, linguistically, is the noun derived from "threaten" – meaning to issue a warning or a threat [34][35]. It involves intimidation and the promise of punishment [36]. Legally, a threat is defined as any act intended to instill fear, terror, or panic in another person regarding potential harm to them, their property, or another person relevant to their situation [37].

Electronic blackmail, on the other hand, involves threatening or intimidating the victim, as in the case of filming a girl in sexually inappropriate situations and threatening to publish the material or disclosing matters that could damage her honor if she does not comply with the perpetrator's desires, which may be financial or sexual [38]. Therefore, electronic blackmail threatens individuals using information networks or technological means to expose their secrets or reveal their private matters, compelling them to perform a specific action or refrain from it, even if that action or inaction is lawful. From the above, it is clear that both threats and electronic blackmail constitute an unlawful attack on the victim, involving taking something that the perpetrator has no right to take [38]. Moreover, blackmail inherently involves a type of threat, where the threat is an unlawful act rather than an independent crime [28]. The difference between threat and electronic blackmail is that both are independent acts, even though they may represent a legal model for a single crime. In the case of a threat, the action demanded from the victim is illegal and unlawful, whereas in electronic blackmail, the action may be lawful or unlawful [34]. Furthermore, one of the distinctions between threat and blackmail is that the threat may not intend to compel the victim to act in a certain way but rather may solely aim to intimidate the victim without being accompanied by a demand. In contrast, electronic blackmail aims to compel the victim to fulfill the blackmailer's request [39].

Chapter Two **The Elements of Electronic Blackmail and the Motivations Behind It**

This chapter is structured into three sections: the first will explore the elements of electronic blackmail, the second will examine the motivations behind electronic blackmail and their relation to the victim, and the third will focus on the legal stance regarding electronic blackmail.

Section One

The Elements of Electronic Blackmail

The elements of electronic blackmail, including the material and moral elements, must be present to establish the crime. Accordingly, we will address this section in two branches: the first will discuss the material element, while the second will cover the moral element.

Branch One

The Material Element

For the material element to be present, the perpetrator must have committed an act that results in a criminal outcome, and there must be a causal relationship between the perpetrator's act and the criminal result. First: The Criminal Act The criminal act in electronic blackmail takes the form of a threat, either in writing or verbally, to inflict harm on the person to whom the threat is directed if they fail to comply with the perpetrator's demands. This can involve requesting the victim to perform a specific act or refrain from doing something. For instance, the blackmailer may threaten the victim with the exposure of secrets or other matters that could compromise their dignity, and this may manifest as publishing data, videos, or images to gain sexual or financial benefits or any other type of material or moral advantage, whether lawful or unlawful. The legality of the act demanded from the perpetrator is irrelevant; what matters is the use of pressure and coercion accompanied by threats to force the victim into compliance [40].

In most cases, the conduct in the crime of blackmail is an unlawful positive act by the perpetrator that represents a threat directed at the victim. However, electronic blackmail can also occur through negative behavior, such as when the threat involves refraining from performing an act for the victim's benefit. In cases where the perpetrator is required to perform an act for the victim's benefit, they may threaten the victim with inaction unless their demands are fulfilled. The threats typically occur using modern technology such as computers or mobile phones [14]. It is also essential that the blackmailer is serious in their demands, meaning that they will carry out their threat without fail if the victim does not comply, which impacts the victim's will [41].

Second: The Criminal Result

The criminal result has both a material and a legal connotation. The material connotation considers it a physical phenomenon, while the legal connotation views it as a legal concept. Despite the differences, there is a close connection [42]. The criminal result refers to the effect that arises from the criminal act. In the case of electronic blackmail, the criminal result is achieved as soon as the victim is threatened with the exposure of a secret or the publication of images or videos that are meant to be kept from public view, which causes feelings of fear, panic, and sadness, impacting the victim's will due to this threat. The victim lives in a state of anxiety about the blackmailer's potential to carry out their threats [43]. This crime is categorized as dangerous, where the legislator does not require the actual result, which is fulfilling the blackmailer's demands. The mere act of threatening is sufficient for the crime to be established and punishable [44].

Third: The Causal Relationship

The causal relationship refers to the link between the criminal act and the criminal result. Without this relationship, the crime cannot be attributed to the perpetrator [45]. For the material element to exist, the result must have occurred due to the act or omission by the perpetrator that includes a threat to the victim. If it were the case that the perpetrator's secrets were revealed or information or images about them were published by someone other than the blackmailer, or for another reason, such as the loss of documents or data containing that information, the blackmailer would not be held responsible for the crime of electronic blackmail due to the break in the causal relationship between their act and the result. However, depending on the legal characterization of their action, they might be held accountable for another crime [46].

Branch Two

The Moral Element of the Crime of Electronic Blackmail

The moral element refers to the psychological components of the crime. It is not enough for an act to be considered a crime merely because it occurs materially and is punishable by law; the person who commits the act must also be criminally responsible, meaning they must be capable of bearing criminal responsibility. The moral element has two forms: intent, where the crime is deliberate, and negligence, where the crime is not intentional [31]. Electronic blackmail is considered a deliberate crime; thus, the perpetrator's intent must be present. It cannot be committed accidentally. The criminal intent consists of two elements: knowledge and will. The perpetrator must know all the elements constituting the crime, meaning they must be aware that they are using electronic means such as the internet, a computer, a mobile phone, or any other information technology. They must also be aware of the nature of their act, meaning they must understand that their words, speech, or actions constitute a threat directed at the victim, which can affect them and instill fear and panic [28]. Iraqi law punishes the mere act of threatening, regardless of whether the perpetrator intends to carry it out or aims merely to scare the victim; the motive behind the threat is irrelevant [14]. Additionally, their intent must be directed towards committing the act that constitutes the material element, meaning they intend by their act to threaten the victim to compel them to do something or refrain from doing something. Furthermore, their will must be legally significant, meaning it must be accessible and distinct, devoid of defects, and emanate from a person who is of sound mind and aware [47].

Section Two

The Motivation for Electronic Blackmail and Its Relation to the Victim

Motivation is understood as the offender's reason(s) for committing a crime and as a person's primary response to stimuli, motive, a person's drive, determination, and readiness to act [48,49].

There needs to be a distinction made regarding the different motivations for the crime of electronic blackmail, such as monetary and sexual gratification, obtaining various private and classified documents or information, and revenge. The targeted groups for this crime - women, girls, children, young men, adult men, women, employees, and business and political persons- are often related to the perpetrator's underlying motivation/s.

First: Money Motivation

Pursuing money is one of the most significant and widespread motivations for committing electronic blackmail. The groups most at risk of this type of blackmail are often businesspeople, company managers, and institutional directors, though women can also be targeted [10]. The material motivation, aimed at obtaining money through unlawful means, is realized when the perpetrator threatens the victim by disclosing information, rumors, or private secrets. Blackmailers may reveal sensitive information or embarrassing data unless the victim pays a ransom, or they might steal data and demand money for its return [50] or continuously request monetary transfers from the victim or others. The blackmailer might also demand the victim repay borrowed amounts from a bank or deliver valuable items [51].

Second: Sexual Motivation

Sexual motivation is considered the predominant characteristic of electronic blackmail directed at women, girls, and minors, who are the most vulnerable groups to this type of extortion. It is realized when the blackmailer threatens the victim with the exposure of her secrets or the publication of images or videos if she does not comply with their sexual demands. In this type of blackmail, the perpetrator may obtain information or images about the victim through a prior relationship, electronic communication, or the Internet [41]. Sexual blackmail can take two forms:

1. **Electronic Sexual Blackmail:** In this scenario, the perpetrator coerces the victim into sending sexual images or videos through electronic communication or the internet.
2. **Real-Life Sexual Blackmail:** In this form of sexual blackmail, the perpetrator forces the victim into an unlawful sexual relationship through threats to expose images or information about the victim if she does not comply with their requests [52].

Third: Vengeful Motivation

The motivation behind committing the crime of electronic blackmail may stem from a desire for revenge against the victim, intending to harm them by threatening to damage their reputation through the publication of their images, personal information, or secrets. This instills feelings of fear, anxiety, and depression in the victim, prompting them to fulfill the blackmailer's demands. The perpetrator takes pleasure in inflicting pain on the victim and witnessing their distress and pleas for mercy; they seek to humiliate and degrade the victim. Consequently, the victim goes through an internal mental conflict and is constantly tormented by the prospect of the blackmailer making good on their threats and publicly humiliating them [23]. The victim may at times be the perpetrator's rival in their business or trade, which may encourage the perpetrator to carry out the act of blackmail as revenge for the business rivalry and to damage the victim's reputation [23]. In certain instances, the victim may be female, and the blackmailer may record her and threaten to publish her images or expose her secrets unless she complies with their demands. The blackmailer may also require her to refrain from marrying as an act of revenge against her [28].

Fourth: Political Motivation

One of the more serious types of motivations behind cyber blackmail is political motivations. This type of cyber blackmail is usually conducted by someone with political power in order to remove an opponent, or to stop one from doing a certain thing or from saying a certain thing. Rarely is there a case where the subject of the blackmail does not have political power. Cyber blackmail is done by making a threat to reveal images, videos, or recordings that will be damaging or will otherwise shed a negative light on the subject, in the event that the subject does not deliver on the demands that the blackmailer has made.

Fifth: Utilitarian Motivation

The motivation for committing blackmail may be to benefit the perpetrator, which can be lawful or unlawful. The crime occurs when the blackmailer threatens the victim with the exposure of their secrets or the publication of their images or other matters that instill fear and panic unless the victim complies with the perpetrator's demands. This may involve achieving a benefit for the perpetrator, such as requesting the victim to commit theft or traffic in drugs, which constitutes an unlawful benefit, or it may involve requesting the victim to perform a lawful act, such as asking them to intervene with a specific person to facilitate a task. Regardless of whether the benefit sought by the perpetrator is lawful or unlawful, the crime of blackmail is realized as long as the victim is compelled to act under the pressure of the blackmailer's threats [41]. In conclusion, the motivations for committing the crime of electronic blackmail are varied and can stem from financial, sexual, political, practical, or vengeful motives. In all cases, the motivation for committing electronic blackmail is deemed base because the means of committing it are dishonorable [41]. The perpetrator blackmails and threatens an individual by threatening to publish their images, expose their secrets, or reveal personal information or videos that could tarnish their reputation to achieve their goals and satisfy their motives. A base motivation is a response to satisfy primal urges such as sex, aggression, malice, and greed, among other motivations, in their pre-socialization forms through means that contradict sound human nature [49].

Section Three

The Stance of Some Legislations on Electronic Blackmail

Electronic blackmail is a newly emerging crime that has arisen with the advancement of technology, posing a significant threat to the security and independence of societies worldwide. Consequently, some legislations have issued specific laws to address it, including those in Egypt, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Oman, and Jordan. In contrast, other legislations

have not enacted specific laws but have applied general rules and provisions related to the crime of threat, such as Iraqi legislation [10].

The Egyptian legislation addresses the crime of electronic blackmail in Article 25 of the Law on Combating Information Technology Crimes No. 175 of 2018. This article imposes a penalty of imprisonment for a term not less than six months and a fine not less than 50,000 EGP and not exceeding 100,000 EGP or one of these two penalties. This means the judge is granted discretionary power to choose one of these penalties—imprisonment, a fine, or a combination of both. The punishment is heightened in Article 26, which stipulates imprisonment for a term not less than two years and not exceeding five years and a fine not less than 100,000 EGP and not exceeding 300,000 EGP or one of these penalties if the crime is linked to content that violates public morals or could affect the honor and reputation of the victim [53][54]. As for Jordanian law, it penalizes electronic blackmail in Article 18/F of the Cyber Crimes Law No. 17 of 2023 with imprisonment for a term not less than one year and a fine not less than 3,000 JOD and not exceeding 6,000 JOD if the blackmail aims to compel a person to perform an act or refrain from doing so or to obtain a benefit through the use of the internet or information systems or social media platforms or other means of information technology. The legislator has intensified the penalty, which can reach temporary labor and a fine not less than 5,000 JOD and not exceeding 10,000 JOD if the threat involves committing a crime or attributing matters that are offensive to honor or reputation. The threat is accompanied by an explicit or implied request to act or refrain from acting.

The Omani law states in Article 18 of the Omani Law on Combating Information Technology Crimes No. 12 of 2011 that it punishes individuals with imprisonment for a term not less than one month and not exceeding three years and a fine not less than 1,000 Omani Rials and not exceeding 3,000 Omani Rials or one of these penalties. The penalty is intensified to temporary imprisonment for a term not less than three years, not exceeding ten years, and a fine not less than 3,000 Omani Rials if the threat involves committing a felony or attributing matters that are offensive to honor or reputation.

The Saudi law addresses this crime in Article 3 of the Saudi Anti-Cyber Crime Law issued by Ministerial Decision No. 1900 of 2007, which penalizes individuals with imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year and a fine not exceeding 500,000 SAR or one of these penalties, for anyone who commits electronic blackmail. This includes unauthorized access to threaten or blackmail someone to compel them to perform an act or refrain from doing so, even if the act or inaction is lawful, or to invade privacy through the misuse of mobile phones equipped with cameras or similar devices, and to defame others and cause them harm through various information technology means [4].

As for the UAE legislation, it addresses the crime of electronic blackmail in Article 16 of the Federal Law on Combating Information Technology Crimes No. 5 of 2012, which stipulates a penalty of imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years and a fine not less than 250,000 AED and not exceeding 500,000 AED, or one of these penalties, for anyone who blackmails or threatens another person to compel them to perform an act or refrain from doing so using an information network or a means of information technology. The penalty is intensified to imprisonment for a term not exceeding ten years if the threat involves committing a felony or misdemeanor or attributing matters that are offensive to honor or reputation [41].

There are no specific legal provisions or a special law addressing the crime of electronic blackmail in Iraqi legislation. The Iraqi judiciary handles these crimes by adapting the legal texts in the Penal Code related to the threat crime in Article 430. The draft Cyber Crime Law in Iraq of 2011 addresses the crime of blackmail in Article 6, but it has not yet been approved by Parliament. Therefore, a legislative gap exists regarding treating electronic blackmail crimes in Iraqi law [11].

CONCLUSION

Electronic blackmail is among the most dangerous crimes that have emerged with the technological advancements witnessed in the modern world. The motivations behind committing this crime are varied and reflect the depravity and danger of the perpetrator. Through our research on the motivations for electronic blackmail, we have reached several conclusions and recommendations.

FIRST: CONCLUSIONS

1. Electronic blackmail is a new crime arising with contemporary scientific and technological advancement. It falls under cybercrimes, committed using modern devices and technologies.
2. Numerous factors have contributed to the spread of electronic blackmail across different countries and societal groups. These include distance from God, family disintegration, poor economic conditions, the widespread availability of the internet and modern communication tools, and the potential for electronic devices to be hacked by individuals, which facilitates access to personal information and images. Electronic blackmail is a deliberate crime, as well as a transnational crime since it is perpetrated using electronic means. It is a formal crime that occurs when the victim is threatened with an act of commission or omission.
3. There are various motivations behind committing electronic blackmail; they may be material, sexual, practical, political, or vengeful. All of these motivations are considered base due to the dishonorable means employed to satisfy them, which involves blackmailing and threatening the victim to compel them to perform an act or refrain from doing so. Whether the act is lawful or unlawful does not change the nature of the motivation as being based on the dishonor of the means used to satisfy it.
4. Some legislations have addressed this crime and organized its provisions in specific laws, while others, such as Iraqi and Algerian legislation, have not enacted specific laws to address it.

SECOND: RECOMMENDATIONS

1. We need to educate the general public about the dangers of unauthorized usage of smart devices and the

Internet. We need to teach the public the value of protecting their personal information, photos, and videos. This information can help to show the public the dangers of smart devices and social media. Smart devices and social media can be hacked by malicious individuals.

2. To help mitigate the negative impacts of electronic bullying, it's important to create mental health improvement programs and anxiety reduction services in community centers and civil institutions. This will help to provide counseling and other services.

3. There's a need to adapt visiting laws and to apply the law to punish electronic bullying in greater proportion to the severity of the crime. It is necessary to amend those legislative texts to the laws that give discretionary power to judges to apply the punishment of imprisonment or a fine because of the severity of the crime in cases involving the social and personal well-being of the victim and the social danger of the criminal.

4. Being punished by the law for a crime such as electronic bullying should not be limited to a fine.

5. There's a real need to either create a new Law that deals specifically and does regulate these types of electronic bullying crimes or to completely revise and update the current Laws. In this case, we can use the Algerian and Iraqi laws as examples. We strongly encourage the Iraqi legislator to address the law gap left by electronic bullying since it cannot be applied to the current laws regarding the crime of threat, which are not in line with the severity of this crime.

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