Social Dimensions of Cyber Extortion in Social Media;An empirical Study in Karbala Governorate

[1]Ali Jawad Witwit [1], Ahmed Ali Marzouk [2]

Theoretical Framework of The Study Statement of the Problem

Abstract: The use of social networking websites is spreading at a breakneck speed across the world, this is supported by the wide spread of modern technologies (smart mobile devices, tablets, iPods, laptops ... etc.) and its various applications that enabled individuals to get to know and communicate with capabilities that humans had previously not reached. This has enabled all members of society and all age groups, especially girls and women, in countries of the Middle East, including Iraq, it allowed the spread of new social values and customs, some of which might contradict the values of the conservative societies to which our young men and women belong. Arab and Islamic societies are conservative societies, however, some men and women users of these devices did not care about that, they did not take into account the social boundaries, customs, traditions, and provisions that define and control their behavior, on the one hand. On the other hand, this expansion in the use of modern communication, and the associated social media, the spread of cybercrime in general and electronic blackmail in particular, devices, whether this cyber extortion is emotional or material, entangled in the traps of perpetrators or cybercriminals, young men and women are victims bound by fear, confusion and isolation, especially in light of the openness that society is witnessing in the midst of what we are witnessing of the expansion of social networking sites and the creation of more of these smart names in a successive way, as the development of modern technology and the dissemination of personal data are the most important factors falling into the trap of electronic extortion, so the main question of research revolves around the following:

What are the social dimensions of the crime of cyber extortion?

However, several questions arise from the main question, including: What is meant by (extortion)? What exactly is cyber extortion? Is cyber extortion a crime? What is meant by electronic crimes in general? What are the pillars of the crime of cyber extortion? What are its motives? What are the types of electronic extortion crime and what are its means? What are its visible effects? Is society affected by these crimes? What is the social group most affected by these crimes? These and other questions that the researcher will try to answer in the course of his study.

Keywords: Social Dimensions of Cyber Extortion,   Social Media; An empirical Study in Karbala Governorate

Significant of the Study

The significant of the current study is reflected in the realistic importance of the phenomenon under study, the phenomenon of cyber extortion in question is a social problem that is not reported much, it remains confined to homes and homes and is not talked about much except in the smallest extent, if it is reported to the security services, police and investigation stations, it remains confined to these centers because it penetrates into the core of the traditional culture of Iraqi society (family honor and honor). Therefore, it is important to uncover this problem and try to find scientific solutions to confront it and mitigate its effects. Also, the study in cyber extortion represents a primary and basic building block in the structure of scientific study that strives to advance attempts to deal with a problem of a special kind, as the current study constitutes an addition to the library of the Department of Sociology, due to the lack of Iraqi studies that dealt with the subject of cyber extortion.

Aims of the Study

1. Knowing about the phenomenon of social communication via the Internet.

────────────────────────────
[1,2] *College of Arts , Dept. of Sociology, Al-Qadisiyah University*

2. Knowing the factors, types and means of cyber extortion.

3.Identify the social dimensions of cyber extortion, the groups most affected by it in society.

Determination of the Terms

1. Social Dimensions: The social dimensions are a concept introduced in the field of sociology by the two American scholars (Burke and George) in their book (Introduction to Sociology) [1]. The social dimensions involve several topics that the researcher should take into account when studying the social phenomenon or the social process that the researcher wants to study, as it includes contents, roles and related rights and duties [2]. The social dimension of any subject concerned with studying the implications, connotations and results of a social phenomenon linked to language, history, social customs and traditions, and common goals and interests [3].

The social dimensions are defined as (the consequences of extortion and its impact on society, whether this effect is on the economic, health, value and security aspects, and both positive and negative).

2. Cyber Extortion: Extortion is an attempt to obtain material and moral gains from a person or natural or legal persons by coercion, threat, or exposing the secrets of the person who is blackmailed [4].

Regardless of the variety of definitions of **Cyber Extortion**, its topic revolves around one meaning, which is to threaten to reveal certain information about a person or to do something to destroy the person threatened if the person threatened does not respond to requests and this information is usually embarrassing or of a socially destructive nature [5]. Either cyber extortion is an act of threatening and intimidating the victim by publishing pictures, audio or video recording, or leaking confidential information related to the victim in exchange for payment of money, or exploiting the victim to carry out illegal acts for the benefit of the blackmailer, such as disclosing confidential information about the employer or other illegal acts. While the US Federal Bureau of Investigation defines Cyber Extortion as a cyber-crime in which the perpetrator on the Internet requests money, goods, or behavior (for example, sexual), from a person threatening him if he does not implement his demand to harm him, his reputation, or his property [6].

3. Social Media Networks : The term social media refers to the use of internet and mobile (telephone) technologies to transform communication into interactive dialogue [7]. Social media is defined by Andreas Kaplan and Michael Hanlin as "a group of Internet applications that build on ideological and technological foundations from the web, Which allows the creation and exchange of user-generated content) [8]. While Maya E. Dolarhid defined it as (a technology that is used across the global Internet and by using multiple types of devices, such as computers, tablets, or even smartphones, these means allow its users to interact with other users, such as family and friends, through what is shared through these means, such as photos, blogs, and videos, and other things provided by social media, such as games, for example, the use of these means is not limited to individual and personal use, as companies use these means to reach customers and interact with them, placing advertisements through these means or even providing various support services, these means are based on the principle of exchanging ideas and information and building virtual communities [9]. All social media, in its basic concept, and as Kayser defined it (online or mobile platforms that allow two-way interaction through content produced by users themselves, as well as communication between users.

Hence, social media is not the same as media that only comes from one source or from a fixed website, rather, they are means of communicating via specially designed platforms that allow users to find (produce) content themselves and interact with information and its source. While social media depends on the internet as a mediator, it is important to note that the definition of social media applies to all websites or platforms on the Internet. It is important to note that the definition of social media applies to all sites or platforms on some sites or electronic platforms do not guarantee the possibility of interaction with the public, while other sites do not allow users to publish their comments, such as the Internet, in response to specific content posted on the site, as participants in a discussion (discussion series) managed and supervised by the site [10].

The Emergence and Development of Social Networks

Literature Review

The development in communication technology has changed the lives of individuals and their communication in their human relationships, whereby communication has shifted from direct confrontation (face to face) to virtual communication (virtual communication) through social media.

Most researchers have argued that the first appearance of social media took place in the nineties of the last century. In 1995, R. Conradz designed a site (classmates.com), which was intended to help friends and colleagues who were gathered by the study at certain stages of life and separated by the conditions of working life in separate places to meet again [11], however, some researchers determine the date of its appearance in 1997 with the emergence of the social site (sixdegrees.com) [12]. And that was the beginning of openness to the world of social communication without

limits, this site has provided users with a set of services, the most important of which are creating personal files and sending private messages to a group of friends, despite that the site was closed due to its inability to finance the services provided through it, this was followed by the emergence of a group of social media sites during the period (1997-1999) that were linked to certain groups such as asianavenue.com and black.com [13].

In the following years, some other attempts appeared, but the actual birth of social networks as we know them today was in 2002, with the beginning of that year, the social networking site (friendster.com) was launched, which achieved success which prompted (Google to try to buy it, it was designed to be a means of acquaintance and multiple friendships between different groups of the global community, and this site gained great fame at that time. At the beginning of 2005, the American social networking site MySpace appeared (myspace.com), one of the first and most famous open social networking sites in the world [14].But all that will change with the emergence of Facebook, which began to spread parallel to the site MySpace, until the year 2007 Facebook made it possible to create applications for developers and this led to a significant increase in the number of Facebook users to become the most famous in the world [15]. However, websites and computer programs over the past two decades have witnessed tremendous progress, this progress has made it easier to communicate between people in various parts of the world through these electronic communications, so owning e-mail has become a necessity of life, dealing with the Internet today is clearly an urgent necessity to increase information in any area of life, however, with the discovery of social networks and the expansion of their area, the rapprochement between the world increased due to its ease of use and global popularity [16], even today, it has become overwhelmed by what was known in sociology (the third place), that is, the place to which a person goes after his first place (home) and his second place (work, school, university), so it became clear that the third place that individuals resort to is the electronic place (The default) with super [17].

These networks are free and available to all, young and old, male and female alike, as long as they have smart communication devices, downloading these applications takes only a few minutes from the Internet, and once you log in to any of them, this requires simple steps to register or sign up summarized by (name and password), after which a list of people and groups will be presented to be included in the list of friends, it can search for any person or group of people who want to communicate with them through these networks, based on the interests of the user and where he is to display these lists [18]. Due to the urgent news, images and videos contained in these networks, we find that it has managed to attract millions of individual users, especially the youth, to search through it for everything that is new and exciting [19]. Within the framework of the foregoing, it can be said that social media networks, despite the multiplicity of their negatives and reproductions, have become today an urgent necessity of life, contributing to expanding the information space in all areas of life, those who follow the movement of the emergence of various social media sites notice that they aim to achieve communication and interaction between friends without specifying the type of users or the nature of discussions, they are public sites for all users around the world, and despite this, many social media sites have appeared concerned with specific categories and disciplines and discuss topics without others, which led to the spread of many communication sites specialized in a specific field [20].

Type, Fields, Community and Data of the Study

Type of the Study

The study (The Social Dimensions of Cyber Extortion Crimes) is a descriptive study , as it aims to describe and diagnose cyber extortion crimes, a description of its social dimensions, and collect the necessary data about him with understanding and analysis. The description is the most appropriate to study the social reality of the phenomenon of electronic blackmail, as descriptive research is the first step in achieving a correct understanding of social reality [21]. It depends on gathering facts, analyzing and interpreting them in order to reach the issuance of generalizations about the phenomenon that we are about to study.

Fields of the Study

1.The spatial field: It refers to the geographical area in which the study was conducted, it was limited to the Karbala Governorate with its districts and suburbs.

2. The human field: The community of the current study included individuals specialized in dealing with the crime of electronic extortion (whether formally or informally) according to their professional specialization (they are all judges, university professors, police officers, judicial investigators, legal and social researchers, lawyers, computer engineers and information technology).

3. The temporal field: It means the limit of time or the time spent by the researcher in preparing the field study requirements, the researcher began conducting the entire study, as the time period for the field side was limited and procedures were completed between 11/4/2020 until 6/11/2020.

Determination Community and Data of the Study

As long as the current research deals with describing and analyzing a new social phenomenon in Iraq, which is the crimes of electronic extortion from the point of view of specialists, the current study community included a number of individuals from different educational and social levels in the city of Karbala, (Court judges, university professors, police officers, judicial investigators, social researchers, lawyers, computer engineers and information technologists). Field procedures took place within the boundaries of this community. A relative stratified (i.e., class) random sample was selected that adopted occupational or occupational classification [22], on its basis, by dividing the study community into categories according to the criterion of the nature of work or profession [23]. Since the size of the sample depends on the technical considerations, the general conditions of the society, and the capabilities available to the researcher, therefore, the sample size varies according to the circumstances of the research community and the circumstances of the researcher [24]. Statisticians in social research advise that the sample size is equal to a percentage of the known population size, such as if this percentage is (5%) or (10%) [25], the researcher adopted this method and selected the sample units for the above professions (judge, university professor, police officer, judicial investigator, social researcher, lawyer, and computer engineer),by (10%), in a way that represents the groups in the sample in a percentage that reflects their representation in the community through the following statistical steps:

1. A percentage (10%) of the volume of statistically known professions (2993) were selected in the research community in the research community, and as is clear in Appendix (5), to reach (299.3) by adopting the percentage law as follows:

$$\frac{\text{All} \times 10}{100} = \frac{2993 \times 10}{100} = 299.3$$

The number was rounded to (300) subjects for logical purposes, as shown in Table (1).

Table (1)

It shows the percentages of the occupations of the sample members most dealing with the crime of extortion

No.	Occupation	The number of community members	Data
1.	Judge	80	8
2.	Professor	479	48
3.	A judicial Investigator	50	5
4.	Police Officer	730	73
5.	Lawyer	381	38
6.	Computer Engineer	192	19
7.	Social researcher	121	12
8.	Information technologist	960	96
Total		2993	299.3=300

Due to the exceptional circumstance represented by Corona pandemic (Covid-19), in Iraq (and most countries of the world) and the imposition of curfews and home quarantine, the method of sample extraction has changed, so the sample was extracted according to what experts call (available sample). So, the initial and final questionnaire form was distributed via social media, especially the groups on the website (Viber) and (Whats app) on the Internet, collect the results of the questionnaire through the application (Google Drive).

Fourth: Statistical means

The following statistical methods have been used (percentage law, mean law, standard deviation law)

Results and Discussion

Table (2)
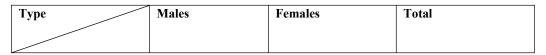
Distribution of Respondents According to Profession

The data in Table (4) that (32.3% sample are

Categories	Repetition	%
Judge	8	2.7%
Professor	48	16%
A judicial Investigator	5	1.7%
Police Officer	73	24.3%
Lawyer	38	12.7%
Computer Engineer	19	6.3%
Social researcher	12	4%
Information technologist	97	32.3%
Total	300	100%

contained showed of the study individuals information

technologists who own centers or shops for selling or repairing modern communication devices and technologies such as computers, mobile phones (mobile phones) or tablets, followed by (24.3%) police officers of various specialties, most of them were holders of university degrees, then (16%) were university professors, they were followed by lawyers, at a rate of (12.7%) of the study sample, computer engineers came after them (6.3%), they were followed by (4%) social researchers, they were followed by judges with a rate of 2.8, and in the last place there was a percentage (1.7%) of judicial investigators. The occupation refers to the type and nature of the work or craft in which the respondents specialize based on the academic certificate they hold, as well as the job they exercise, the study sample was mainly chosen based on the choice of profession and its link to the crime of electronic extortion, as he passed earlier in chapter four, as it was previously mentioned in Chapter Four, when the researcher focused all his attention on the professions listed in the table, as they are the most relevant to cases of the crime of electronic extortion, although some of their owners may be as far away from modern technologies and communicating with them as is the case (some judges, judicial investigators or social researchers, for example), but their work led them to cases or crimes of electronic extortion to the point of their offices, so they were in direct contact with these cases and they are the ones who investigate and pass judgments about them.

If police officers and in certain specialties in the many Iraqi police agencies (Traffic and Fire Police and other agencies have been excluded from the study community) are in contact with cases of electronic extortion, also, computer engineers and information technologists may be consulted in cases of electronic extortion by their clients, acquaintances and relatives. As for university professors, the reality of their study interest may make them better informed about issues of this kind. The crime of electronic extortion may constitute a topic of research for some of them (university professors), they present it in their lectures or research it in their studies or as topics for their students under their supervision, while some lawyers may be assigned to cases of electronic extortion.

Table (3)

It shows the distribution of the sample units according to the variable of gender and age groups

Type	Males	Females	Total

Categories	Repeat.	%	Repeat.	%	Repeat.	%
(20-29)	26	8.7%	20	6.7%	46	15.4%
(30-39)	98	32.7%	31	10.3%	129	43%
(40-49)	73	24.3%	28	9.3%	101	33.6%
(50-59)	12	4%	5	1.7%	17	5.7%
(60 and More)	7	2.3%	-	-	7	2.3%
Total	216	72%	84	28%	300	100%
The arithmetic mean of age groups	38.1					
Standard deviation of age groups	8.9					

As shown in Table 2 data, the percentage of males (72%) is higher than the percentage of adult females (28%), this contrast indicates the reality of a society that is dominated by the masculine character, it is due to a number of factors, the first of which is that Iraqi society is considered a conservative oriental society that does not often allow females to work.

Gender is considered one of the most important independent variables in influencing people's attitudes and emotions, as it influences the determination of respondents' answers to the questions asked, because the conditions of men and the problems that they may encounter differ from those of women and their problems, also, the way a man views life and society differs from that of a woman, both sexes have different ideas and opinions about dealing with specific issues, of which there is no doubt about the crime of electronic extortion. What can be indicated in this regard is that gender has a strong influence in the presentation of social phenomena usually, this is evident from the clear discrepancy between the percentage of males (72%) and females (28%) in the study sample, there is a clear decrease in the percentage of women working in the various professions for which the study is presented, men are preferred over women in the case of available job opportunities. This makes no difference whether the employer is the state or the private sector, or even the family that prefers the trade or profession to the male in it and places the woman in the second rank even if she has a higher testimony than her brother, although the social mood has begun to change little by little, however, Iraqi society in general is like other Arab and eastern societies, a male society that usually gives women a lower status than men, this is on the one hand. On the other hand, in the case of the crime of electronic extortion, and as most previous studies have found, the majority of victims of the crime of electronic extortion, they are women, and since the situation of women in our society is more critical in facing the crime of electronic extortion, due to the social traditions that pressure women, they can face more difficult circumstances when exposed to extortion or even trying to get rid of the effects of crime, and these effects may sometimes lead to suicide.

The data presented in Table (3) also showed that the proportion of the respondents 'age at the age of (30-39) years ranked first with (43%), followed by the proportion of those aged (40-49) years, at a rate of (33.7%), as for the ages of the sample in the age of (20-29) years, their percentage reached (15.3%), the proportion of the age group was followed by (50-59) at a rate of (5.7%), and finally the age group (60 and over) came in at (2.4%), all of them are men.

Whereas the study sample was taken from experts and specialists who deal with the crime of electronic extortion according to specific professions and specializations (judge, university professor, police officer, judicial investigator, legal researcher, social researcher, lawyer, computer engineer, information technologist) specifically, the arithmetic mean of the age groups seemed to express the aforementioned sample, it includes a more stable and rationalized age group from a professional and economic point of view, the engineer, lawyer, or police officer may be in the twenties to the beginning of the thirties, but this is not accurate when talking about the profession of (judge) or (judicial

investigator), whose occupations require a high degree of academic education, each of them must have required years of experience in the legal field in order to qualify to practice the profession of judiciary or judicial investigation.

As for the university professor, his profession requires an education of up to three years and up to seven or more additional years in order to be allowed to practice the teaching profession at the university, with regard to age (60 and over), few individuals are allowed to engage in government work after the age of sixty-three, and this age is the retirement age according to the Iraqi laws in force, including the unified retirement law, which is intended to be reduced to the age of sixty years, however, in light of these laws, there are some sectors or professions that may be excluded from the laws in force due to the difficulty of compensating them, as is the case with the class of judges, or university professors, and in the previous decade, a segment of political prisoners and martyrs, who were affected by the laws of the previous regime, was added to them.

(Table 4)

Distribution of respondents according to the type of device used to connect to the Internet

Device type	Repetition	%
Mobile phone	250	83.3%
Laptop	13	4.3%
IPod	9	3.3%
All	28	9.3%
Total	300	100%

The data contained in Table (4) showed that the vast majority of the respondents 'answers indicated that the device used most to access communication networks is the mobile phone (83.3%), that is, more than two-thirds of the sample, as for the laptop , it came in third place, with a percentage of use (4.3%), followed by (3.3%) the option of the iPod or tablet, however, the choice of all previous devices ranked second, at a rate of (9.3%). It was necessary to know in the current research the type of medium used, by respondents browsing social media websites, whether these media are a mobile phone (mobile) or a portable personal computer (laptop or tablet device (iPod or tablet), considering that this determines the nature of the material capabilities of the respondents and the privacy that distinguishes them in use these techniques.

On the other hand, the data of the table showed that the majority of the sample, as well as most members of the research community, own modern mobile devices called smart, a far from the regular mobile devices that were used to communicate via the usual telephone network, and not via the Internet.

The researchers believe that this result is natural for all members of the sample, as it is due to the fact that personal differences in material capabilities determine the means of use, so the sample members do not own these means. We can explain the rate of increase in the use of the mobile phone by the respondents due to its small size, cheapness and ease of carrying it in an elaborate manner, which made the rate of use higher compared to the rest of the other devices, namely the iPod or tablet, which is due to its recent use in Iraq and its large size, which made it occupies the lowest rank. The mobile phone due to its small size and the continuous development of its capabilities, which now enables its holder to connect to the network anywhere, so the mobile phone accompanies a person outside the home with the possibility of subscribing to the Internet via phone data, he is outside the house, providing him with freedom of movement and a network connection at the same time.

Table (5)

Distribution of respondents according to the date of their use of social networks

Duration of social networks usage	Repetition	%
Less than (2) two years	24	8%
From 3-6 years	200	66.7%

More than (6) six years	76	25.3%
Total	**300**	**100%**

The data contained in Table (5) appeared that the percentage (74.4%) of the research sample had started using the Internet (from three to six years) which ranked the highest, followed by (25.3%) of the sample for more than six years) The mobile device is one of the most important modern means of communication that has greatly influenced social change in societies in general, and in Iraq since its introduction in late 2003. The positives and negatives have appeared in its daily use since they entered regular mobile devices (not the smart mobile devices that appeared after the appearance of the iPhone 2007), the problems that occurred as a result of its use, as well as those that occur between the subscribers on the one hand, and the companies that provide communication services through it on the other hand. Before 2003, the buried dictatorial regime did not allow entry of any of the modern communication products that were not controlled by the state. Determining the duration of use of the Internet is one of the most important basic data related to the research, as it shows the level of experience that the individual gained during the years of his use, as it undoubtedly affects the nature of the answers he gives about the topic of the research and the paragraphs that I dealt with, and through the results above, the majority of the sample individuals seem to not exceed a period They used the Internet for more than six years, and this indicates that the majority of people are new to social networking sites and are fond of them and enter various sites to browse and enter the world of the Internet.

Table (6)

Distribution of respondents according to their opinion on the most influential social media site

Social Media	Repetition	%
Facebook	255	85%
What's App	147	49%
Instagram	98	32.7%
Twitter	77	25.7%
Yahoo Messenger	68	22.7%
Viber	33	11%
Skype	27	9%
More than one	27	% 7.7
All of them	18	6%
WeChat	13	4.3%

The results of showed in Table hierarchical social (Facebook) the field study (6), a table, that the networking site ranked first in terms of its sports weight as the most used and influential social media site, according to the viewpoint of the sample members and at a rate of (33.6%). Whats App ranked first in terms of its sports weight, the second in terms of use, at a rate of (19.4%), (Instagram) ranked third with (12.9%), followed by (Twitter) ranked fourth with (10.1%), followed by (Yahoo Messenger) ranked fifth (9%), the options (Viber) and (Skype) ranked sixth and seventh, with rates of (4.3%) and (3.6%), respectively, The option (more than one) came in eighth place, followed by the option (all communication sites), while the option (We Chat) ranked last.

The high rate of use of Facebook and its solutions in the first place by respondents can be justified by the fact that the interaction between callers in this application takes place directly, and the reactions in it are very fast to the exchanged messages. This is followed by the use of the application (Whats App), which in addition to exchanging messages with a higher speed and quality, just as it enables its users to talk about it in audio and video. While the application (Instagram) ranked third because it is more popular among young men and women, they are the most used for social networking applications, it is a fast and free application that allows users to take a photo, and add filters (shapes, masks, and electronic icons that are added directly to the selfie that the individual takes for himself, his friends or those close to him), in order to change or transform the appearance of (photos and videos), and then share it in the application itself or other applications for social networking.

As for the (Twitter) application, its use is less, so it is more suitable for those who want serious discussions, i.e. ; Facebook outperformed all the sites used, while the researcher noticed that other websites did not receive the sample's attention, and this may be due to the fact that the degree of interaction in them is weak, or some are unaware of its use due to its technical and technical difficulty. It was surprising to the researchers that other applications solve as in the case with (Yahoo Messenger) or (Viber) or (Skype) with low ranks compared to its history or the extent of its spread in other countries near or far, but this is what field data suggested for research, which should be searched to find out the hidden and spread factors. The researchers were limited to the sites most used, common and influential in society, and he presented them according to the court questionnaire and gave the respondents the freedom to choose more than one site they prefer to use and according to their interests.

Table (7)

Distribution of the respondents according to their opinion of the extent to which the crime of electronic extortion has turned into a phenomenon

Electronic extortion as a phenomenon	Repeat.	%
Yes, as the reports of the security services refer to many cases	86	28.7%
Yes, I hear about many cases	114	38.0%
There are several cases, but they are not that large	34	11.3%
It's widespread, but it's often not detected	35	11.7%
There are cases of electronic extortion , but they are limited and do not constitute a phenomenon	20	6.7%
There are rare cases of the crime of electronic extortion	4	1.3%
I don't know	7	2.3%
Total	300	**100%**

Table (7) shows the opinion of the sample members of the extent of the crime of electronic extortion becoming a widespread social phenomenon, that is due to the fact that these individuals are specialists in dealing with this crime, as mentioned above, this was confirmed by (78.4%) of the respondents, distributed by (38%) who based their perception of this on their hearing of many cases, while a rate (28.7%) indicated that the reports of the security services refer to many of these issues, while a percentage (11.3%) is likely to be widespread, but it is not informed and disclosed often to the security authorities, that is, it is dealt with outside the official frameworks of the state, as if it is resolved family, clan, etc., and like many other phenomena, they are not the subject of official dealings, as in the case with corruption or prostitution or other phenomena). On the other hand, (8%) of the respondents believed that cases of electronic extortion are limited or even rare, that they cannot be apparent.

From the foregoing, we conclude that the majority of the sample members believe that the crime of electronic extortion has turned into a social phenomenon, as evidenced by the reports of the security services, which some of the sample members saw, in addition to those obtained by the researchers from the competent security departments, which refer to many cases that are recorded as complaints with them.

Table (8)

Distribution of respondents according to exposure to electronic extortion

Exposure to extortion	Repeat.	%

Yes, I was personally exposed to electronic extortion	31	10.3%
One of my family members or relatives has been subjected to electronic extortion	20	6.7%
As I heard from friends, one of them was exposed to electronic extortion	98	32.7%
I heard about one of my friends being exposed to electronic extortion	76	25.3%
I prefer not to talk about that	25	8.3%
I don't know	50	16.6 %
Total	300	100%

Table (8) data showed that (17%) or one of their relatives were exposed to electronic extortion, while their percentage (25.3%) indicated that one of their friends had been exposed to electronic extortion, while a percentage (32.7%) indicated that they had heard from their friends about someone being blackmailed, while a percentage of (32.7%) indicated that they had heard from their friends about someone being blackmailed, while a percentage of (8.3%) preferred not to answer directly by choosing not to speak about it, a percentage of (16.3%) answered that they did not know anything about the subject.

As a result, it can be concluded that the majority of individuals confirmed in their response to the current question what they said in their answer to the previous question about the extent of the transformation of the phenomenon of electronic extortion from rare or multiple crime cases to a widespread social phenomenon, due to the widespread use of social media, after nearly (75%) of the respondents said frankly that they were in contact with a case of electronic blackmail, whether directly (the respondent or one of his family members or one of his friends) or indirectly (through hearing from some relatives or friends about someone being blackmailed), this is on the one hand.

On the other hand, the sample members expressed in their answers a great confidence in scientific research, where they answered frankly to this embarrassing question, and provided very personal information about their exposure to extortion, or their families or friends, and perhaps due to the fact that the majority of these individuals have a high level of academic achievement.

Table (9)

Distribution of the respondents, according to their opinion, to the group most targeted by electronic extortion

Exposure to extortion	Repeat.	%
Girls and Women	180	60.0%
Boys and Youths	5	1.7%
Children	2	0.7%
All ages	33	11.0%
All genders (Men& Women)	80	26.7%
Total	300	100%

Through the results of the data for table (9), we note that the largest percentage (60%) is the category for girls and women, the most targeted, followed by (26.7%) for all groups, i.e. men and women, and by (11%) all ages.

Social networking sites have provided individuals with a lot of free services that a user can apply immediately on the device he is using within a few minutes, as it is a means of social and cultural interaction as it facilitated for its users an opportunity to deepen their social relationships between different age groups, the most targeted groups are an important factor in choosing the research, especially the field aspects, because of their impact on the statistical aspects

preparation process. The data was presented above show that the girls and women category is the highest among the groups exposed to electronic blackmail, through social media, as it is the most prevalent, where the perpetrator threatens them to publish fabricated pictures or film material or leak information if they do not pay money or commit unethical acts, and since most girls refuse to report when exposed to blackmail for fear of scandal and negative social outlook, which leads to its spread among women more than any other group.

There is no doubt that electronic blackmail of women is the most common type of extortion, as the crimes of electronic blackmail of women, especially girls among them, as it is an ideal model for the victim, mostly because the perpetrator's (blackmailer) tools for the victim can be easily obtained (such as pictures or even videos that become scandalous after manipulating them through the applications designated for that), through a legal or illegal relationship that brought together the perpetrator (the blackmailer) and his victim, the perpetrator (the blackmailer) may has thought and planned his crime from the beginning, and the idea might fire in his mind after his relationship with the woman or girl who is the victim of his next crime has been established. Women blackmailing men is one of the worst means through which women seek in-kind gains (whether gifts or money), the process of illegally stealing money is like, behind the crimes of women blackmailing men, there is a strong tendency of that girl to show her ability to catch more than one young man in her strands and also to (show off) her relationships in front of her friends and colleagues. Just as both men and women may be subject to crimes of electronic extortion in general due to success in commercial or financial work, so the targeting is done, by accessing secrets in the field of that work, or even by accessing information about the family, or any information in general that the victimized man or woman believes that disclosing, publishing it harms their reputations and undermines their social status.

Table (10)

Distribution of respondents according to their opinion of the type of electronic extortion

Type of extortion	The hierarchy	Athletic weight	%
It is often economic blackmail, with the perpetrator asking for money from the victim	1	168	31.8%
It may be moral, as the perpetrator forces the victim to have a physical relationship with him	2	112	21.2%
He may be emotional, so the perpetrator forces the victim to form an emotional relationship with him	3	109	20.6%
All previous types	4	102	19.3%
It might be political, so the perpetrator gets political gains from the victim	5	38	7.2%

The data contained in table (10) has showed that the largest percentage of respondents who were subjected to blackmail were subjected to physical blackmail, at a rate of (31.8%), and that more than a third of the sample (20.6%) were subjected to emotional blackmail, and by (21.2%) they were exposed to moral blackmail, at a rate of (7.2). %) Were subjected to political blackmail.

Determining the type or form of blackmail is one of the most important indicators that the study is trying to know in order to identify the goals, objectives and ways of thinking through which the deviant users of electronic means seek to not fall victim to the blackmail trap. Through the above ratios, we conclude that material extortion is the most used type by some deviant individuals in this field on social media. Users do not fall into the blackmail trap, and this shows us that the goal and goal of the cyber-criminal is to harm the victim, but it is primarily in order to obtain money.

Table (11)

The distribution of the respondents according to their opinion of the factors of victimization in the crime of electronic extortion

Factors of the victim being subjected to extortion	Repeat.	%
Ignorance and misuse of modern technology	214	34.3%

Accept random friendships	156	25.0%
Emotional and social emptiness	140	22.5%
Low educational level	113	18.1%
Total	623	100

Through the data in table (11), we show that more than two-thirds of the sample (34.3%) mentioned the reason for the victim falling into the trap of blackmail into ignorance and misuse of modern technology, between (25.0%) the reason for accepting random friendships, and its percentage (22.5%) the reason for emotional and social emptiness. We conclude from the above that one of the main reasons for blackmail is ignorance and misuse of modern technology, and this educational level is an important indicator in social and psychological studies because it is one of the most important influences on the nature of the respondents' answers to the questionnaire addressed to them, it would play a major role in the decrease or increase in the exposure to criminal behavior and its victimization because it broadens the perceptions of individuals and creates expectations that will avoid them falling into blackmail traps to an educational level, so that the user can feel unawares in their depths and learn their positive or negative role in dealing with them.

Table (12)

The distribution of the respondents according to their opinion of the victims' reactions when they are exposed to electronic blackmail

Victim's Attitude on Electronic Blackmail	Frequency	%
I fear and worry a lot, and I make sure to conceal the matter	72	%14.0
I lose confidence in others and become emotionally isolated	45	%7.8
I seek refuge with a member of my family or friends for help	120	%23.3
Ignore the blackmailer and not give in to his requests	71	%13.8
I completely stop using social networks	26	%5.0
I resort to the police and the judiciary	181	%35.1
Total	515	%100

Through the results of the data in Table (12), it appeared that the largest percentage of the respondents were not personally subjected to blackmail. Rather, the reactions of the persons who were subjected to blackmail were somewhat different, as more than half of the sample had their reactions that they preferred to resort to the police and judicial bodies by (35.1%) More than a third of the sample (23.3%) responded that they preferred asylum to their family members and friends. When a person is exposed to electronic blackmail, he experiences reactions such as an emotional, psychological or emotional response as a result of an external influence, and since the right to reputation is one of the noblest rights that must be preserved and protected in society, and most constitutions and laws are keen on the right to protect the rights of individuals, especially in light of the rapid technological and technological development Witnessed by societies.

Through the results of the above data, we conclude that the different reactions of the people subjected to blackmail may be due to the difference in age and thinking when they are exposed to this crime, so we find that the majority of them preferred to resort to the police and judicial agencies, and this option is supported by what I got through information from the court, the security services and the national security And the Directorate of Information Technologies affiliated to the Ministry of the Interior. I was provided with the numbers registered in cases of electronic extortion, which indicates the validity of the respondents 'choice, for the most part, to resort to the judicial authorities and the police.

Table (13)

Distribution of respondents according to their opinion of the consequences of the crime of electronic extortion

Results of the of electronic extortion crime	Frequency	%
Lost confidence in others	133	%20.8
Fear of using new technologies	126	%19.7
Psychological consequences and trauma of the victims	103	%16.1
Murder victim (honor killings)	84	%13.2
victim Suicide fear of scandal	122	%17.6

The spread of electronic crime in society	80	%12.5
Total	638	

The data in Table (13) showed that the largest percentage (19.7%) felt fear of using modern technologies, while a percentage (16.1%) confirmed that they were subjected to psychological consequences and trauma, and by (12.5%) indicated that because of it, it leads to the spread of cybercrime in the society. From the above mentioned, we conclude from the respondents' answers that (fear of using modern technologies, psychological consequences and traumas for victims, the spread of cybercrime in society) is one of the most social repercussions that blackmail reflections in society. They are objective answers, since extortion is one of the serious crimes that individuals are exposed to, especially young people in light of this rapid technical and technological development witnessed by communication technology and the lack of social control as well as the weak control by state agencies on communication devices all led to the spread of these social effects among members of society.

Table (14)

Distribution of respondents, according to their opinion, of manifestations of distrust of others for fear of electronic blackmail.

The attitude of the victim's family from electronic extortion	Frequency	%
Completely hide of personal life	72	24.0%
Not to trust others in personal secrets	163	54.3%
Failure to communicate with others on the Internet by the explicit name	65	21.7%
Total	300	100%

Through the data appearing in Table (37), regarding the respondents according to their opinion of the manifestations of distrust of others (54.3%), they showed that others do not trust personal secrets, and that more than a quarter (24.0%) of the sample supported concealing personal life completely. From the above, we conclude that the majority showed that the majority did not trust others in personal secrets and completely concealed personal life, due to the loss of confidence in communicating with others, because there are sick souls whose first and last concern is intrusion and interference in the affairs of others and their personal lives as well as material and other immoral interests.

Table (15)

Distribution of respondents according to their opinion of the social consequences of the crime of electronic extortion.

Social consequences of the crime of electronic extortion	Frequency	%
Lack of confidence in modern means of communication	165	20.7%
Reluctance of young people to marriage in particular	84	10.5%
Loss of confidence among individuals	152	19.1%
The prevalence of divorce cases among families that have been subjected to this abuse	145	18.2%
Individuals murder	84	10.5%
Tribal disputes	95	11.5%
Moral deviation of the individual	72	9.5%
Total	797	100%

The research data, as shown in table (15), showed that the largest percentage of the research sample (20.7%) confirmed that lack of confidence in modern means of communication is one of the most important negative consequences that they have when exposed to this crime, while more than half of the sample (18.2%) confirmed It leads to the prevalence of divorce cases among families that have been subjected to this abuse, while (19.1%) indicated that it is a loss of confidence among individuals as a result of their exposure to this abuse.

It was clear from the respondents' answers that there is a divergence of opinions about those effects and negative consequences that result from the personal level. If we find the largest proportion of the sample's opinions that when they are exposed to this form of crime. It may lead them to distrust of modern means of communication and the prevalence of divorce cases among the families that have been exposed. For this abuse, as well as the loss of trust between individuals and the reluctance to marry, and this may be due to the fear of knowing the future partner when

they are exposed to such crimes as a result of information openness and the diversity and multiplicity of emotional relationships on those sites.

Table (16)

Distribution of the respondents according to their opinion of the role of the crime of electronic extortion in the occurrence of other crimes

The Role of the Crime of Electronic Blackmail	Frequency	%
It may lead some to commit crimes of theft and embezzlement	174	34.1%
It may lead to moral perversion	167	32.7%
It May push some to commit murder and revenge	170	33.3%
Total	511	100%

Through the data shown in Table (16), according to the role of the crime of extortion with the occurrence of other crimes, they indicated (34.1%) that may lead some to commit crimes of theft and embezzlement, while they confirmed a percentage of (33.3%) that may lead some to commit murders and a percentage of (32.7) %) May cause biting to deviate. The modern development of technology has played a prominent role in daily life and has entered all fields of life, and since the Internet revolution has had a wide resonance and has led to the emergence of social networking sites in abundance, there are behaviors that appeared with it, including electronic blackmail And electronic crime, fraud and others have been associated with other behaviors such as embezzlement, theft, delinquency and others.

We conclude from what was mentioned above that the majority indicated that it leads to the commission of some crimes, such as theft and embezzlement, not that it leads to committing it, because most of the theft and embezzlement operations, as well as murder, are spread through social networking sites and are more like the process of imitation:

Recommendations:

1. To expedite the legislation of the Information Crimes Law, which is present in the House of Representatives since 2010, as the absence of this law has had negative effects and repercussions that led some to go beyond the privacy of Internet users.

2. Avoid opening any e-mail or links from an anonymous source because extortionists use e-mail messages to send their files to the victims.

3. Holding workshops for families to educate them about the methods of sound socialization and to educate them about methods of preventing crime in general.

References

1. Ibrahim Madhkour Ibrahim Madkour: *Dictionary of Social Sciences* 1st Edition, Egyptian Book Authority, Cairo 1975.

2. Blackmail seminar research *(Meaning, causes, treatment)* papers of participants in the symposium, prepared by the Research Center for Women Studies in cooperation with the Department of Islamic Culture at King Saud University, 1st Edition.

3.Look at: *The Impact of Social Networks on Audiences of Recipients*, by Muhammad Al-Mansour, The Arab Academy in Denmark, MA Thesis in Media and Communication, 2012.

4. Look at: *New media (social networks)* by the professor. Ali Khalil Shakra, Osama House for Publishing and Distribution - Jordan, First Edition: 2114 AD.

5. Abdullah Mamdouh: *The Role of Communication Networks in Political Change*, PhD Thesis, Middle East University, 2012.

6. Amina Adel Suleiman Al-Sayed, Heba Muhammad Khalifa Abdel-Aali: *Social Networks and their Impact on the Library Specialist, A Comprehensive Study of the Presence and Use of Facebook*, Dr. Shawki Salem Library, Helwan University 2009.

7. Khaled Khalfan Mansouri, and others, *A knowledge overview on social networks*, Research and Studies Center at Dubai Police Academy, 2013.

8. Ali Milad Bin Rahuma, *Electronic Sociology*, Negative Knowledge of Knowledge, The National Council for Culture, Literature and Arts, Kuwait, 2002.

9. Helmy Khader Sari, *Social Media*, House of Treasures Knowledge, Amman, 2013.

10. Na`im Faisal, *University Students' Uses of Social Media*, Yarmouk University, 2011.

11. Nasser Muhammad Al-Buqami, *Combating Information Crimes and their Applications in the Countries of the Cooperation Council for the Arab Gulf States*, Abu Dhabi, Emirates Center for Strategic Studies and Research, 2008.

12. Yunus Arab, Computer and Internet Crimes, a paper submitted to the Arab Security Conference for Research and Studies, Abu Dhabi, 2002.

13. Ali Shweil Al-Qarni, *New Media*, King Saud University Press, Riyadh, 2013.

14. Muhammad Ali Al-Erian, *Information Crimes*, New University House for Publishing and Distribution, Alexandria, 2004.

15. Rami Ahmad Al-Ghalibi: *The crime of electronic extortion and mechanisms to combat it in the Republic of Iraq*, second edition, Directorate of Relations and Information, 2019.

• When visiting some security agencies, as well as investigation courts in Karbala, to closely examine the mechanisms of dealing with the crime of extortion, it became clear that most of the articles that are judged against abusers of social media are (330, 333, 343) of the Iraqi Penal Code (111).) For the year 1969, and the reason is due to the absence of legislation and an enforceable law related to Internet and information crimes. Date of visit 01/27/2020.

16. Rashad Khaled Omar: *Legal and Technical Problems for Investigating Information Crimes*, Hadith University Office, 2013

17. Ali Hussein Khalaf and Sultan Abdul Qadir al-Shawi, *General Principles in the Penal Code*, Law Library, Baghdad, 1982.

18. Mahmoud Naguib Hosni: *Explanation of the Penal Code*, General Section, 3rd Edition, Dar Al-Nahda Al-Arabiya, 1973.

19. Abbas Moneim Salih: *Criminal Protection for Internal State Security*, Master Thesis, Al-Mustansiriya University College of Law, 2012.

20. Al-Mutairi, Sami Marzouq Naja, *Criminal Responsibility for Electronic Blackmail in the Saudi System*, Master Thesis, Naif Arab University for Security Sciences, Riyadh, 2015.

21. *Article No. (2/3) of the Saudi Anti-Cyber Crime Law* issued by the Council of Ministers No. 79 on 3/7/1428 AH, and Article No. 9 of the UAE Federal Law to Combat Cybercrime No. 5 of 2012.

22. Juvenile Care Law No. (76) of 1983.

23. Mohsen, Sinai Abdullah: *Legislative Confrontation of Computer-Related Crimes in Light of International and National Legislations, Proceedings of the Regional Symposium on: Internet-Related Crimes*, Publications of the United Nations Program to Promote the Rule of Law in Some Arab Countries, Kingdom of Morocco, 2015.

24. Al-Musnad, Saleh bin Muhammad, Al-Muhaini, Abdul Rahman bin Rashid: *Computer Crimes: The Real Danger in the Information Age*, Arab Journal of Security Studies and Training, Volume 15, Issue 29, Riyadh, 2015.

25. *Article No. 2 of the Saudi Labor Law* issued by Royal Decree No. (M / 51) dated 08/23/1426.

26. Al-Zuraik, Khalifa bin Ali bin Muhammad: *Blackmail and Punishment of Juveniles in the Saudi System (An Empirical Comparative and Applied Study*), Master Thesis, Naif Arab University for Security Sciences, Riyadh, 2015

27. Noura bint Abdullah bint Muhammad al-Mutlaq: *Blackmailing girls with rules and punishment for Islam*, Imam Muhammad bin Saud Islamic University.

28. Suzanne Forward: *Emotional Blackmail*, 1st Edition, Jarir Bookstore, Saudi Arabia, 2015.

29. The Absolute One, Noura bint Abdullah bin Muhammad: *Blackmailing girls with its rulings and punishment in Islamic jurisprudence*, Imam Muhammad bin Saud Islamic University, Riyadh, without a year.

30. Hisham bin Abdulaziz Al-Hamidi: *The Role of the Commission for the Promotion of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice in Reducing the Crimes of Extortion against Girls in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia*, Master Thesis, Riyadh, 2011.

31. Turki bin Abdul Rahman Al-Mushair: *Building a Security Model for Combating Information Crimes and Measuring Effectiveness*, Master Thesis, Naif Arab University for Security Sciences, Riyadh, 2009.

• The Trojan horse program was initially designed for a useful purpose is to know what children do on the computer in the absence of parents or to know what the employees do in the absence of the manager, but the development within this program is so that it becomes possible to access the user's password by entering the device, which It is used by the owner of the device himself, so the owner of the device cannot notice the presence of an intruder on his device.

32. Saidani Naim: *Research and Investigation Mechanisms for Information Crime in Algerian Law*, Master Thesis, El Hadj Khadr-Batna Rabbania University, Faculty of Law and Political Science, 2012, 2013.

33. Mamoun Naim: *Face to face: Hackers No Masks*, First Edition, Al-Sha`a for Publishing and Media, DT, Syria.

34. Muhammad Al-Kaabi: *Crimes Arising from Using the Internet*, Dar Al-Nahda Al-Arabiya for Publishing and Distribution, 2009.

35. Abdul Aziz bin Hamin, *Researcher Center for Women's Studies, in cooperation with the Department of Islamic Culture and I-1*, King Saud University and Researches at the Blackmail Seminar (Concept - Causes - Effects) 2011.

36. Riyadh Al-Haidan Muhammad Al-Masmiri: *Mixing between the Sexes - Its Provisions and Effects*, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Riyadh, Dar Al-Jawzi, 2009, p.153

37. Muhammad Bin Saleh Bin Masoud Al-Omairah, *Criminalization of Women Blackmail, An Empirical Study*, Unpublished Research, Prince Nayef Arab University for Security Sciences, 2012.

38. Fahd Muhammad Shaqqa: *National Security, a comprehensive vision*, Naif Arab University for Security Sciences, Riyadh, 2003.

39. Muhammad Shafiq: *Scientific Research, Methodological Steps for Preparing Social Research*, Modern University Office, Alexandria, 1998.

40. Talat Ibrahim Lotfi and Kamal Abdel-Hamid Al-Zayyat: *The Contemporary Theory in Sociology*, Dar Gharib, Cairo, 2005.

41. Morris Ingres: *Methodology of Scientific Research in the Humanities*, translated by Bouzid Sahraoui and others, Dar El Kasbah, 2nd Edition, Algeria, 2006.

42. Abdel-Ghani Emad, *Research Methodology in Sociology, Problems - Techniques - Approaches*, Dar Al Taleea - Beirut, 2007.

43. Mustafa Omar Al-Tir: *Contributions to the Foundations of Social Research*, Institute for Arab Development, 1989.

44. Mahjoub Attia Al-Ghandi: *Methods of Scientific Research in the Social Sciences*, Omar Al-Mukhtar University Publications, Libya, Al-Bayda, 1994.

45. Maa'n Khalil Omar: *Objectivity and Analysis in Social Research*, Beirut, Dar Al-Afaq, 1983.

Internet Cites

- Dr. Nawal Al-Eid, Understanding Blackmail, Causes, Treatment, Research published on the Internet, visit date 9/5/2019 at 2 pm. According to the link:

  https://www.a7wallaw.com/11632

- Official FBI website: https://www.fbi.gov/video-repository/newss-what-is-sextortion/view

- Quoted from the Arab Wikipedia website, according to the link: https://ar.wikipedia.org/wiki/%D9%88%D8%B3%D8%A7%D8%A6%D9%84_%D8%AA%D9%88%D8%A7%D8%B5%D9%84_%D8%A7%D8%AC%D8%AA%D9%85%D8%A7%D8%B9%D9%8A

- Quoted from the Arab Wikipedia website, according to the link: https://ar.wikipedia.org/wiki/%D9%88%D8%B3%D8%A7%D8%A6%D9%84_%D8%AA%D9%88%D8%A7%D8%B5%D9%84_%D8%A7%D8%AC%D8%AA%D9%85%D8%A7%D8%B9%D9%8A

- Maya E. Dolarhide, Social Media Definition, Updated May 2, 2019, entry date 21-08-2020, site; https://www.investopedia.com/terms/s/social-media.asp

- From (Sanaa Al-Dweikat: The Importance of Social Media, April 8, 2019, entry date, 08-21-2020, according to the link: : https://mawdoo3.com/%D8%A3%D9%87%D9%85%D9%8A%D8%A9_%D9%88%D8%B3%D8%A7%D8%A6%D9%84_%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AA%D9%88%D8%A7%D8%B5%D9%84_%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A7%D8%AC%D8%AA%D9%85%D8%A7%D8%B9%D9%8A

- Sheena Kayser: Social Media, A Practical Guide for Electoral Management Bodies, Translated by: The Panglos Corporation, Editing and Revision of Language: Hassan Shams, International IDEA, 2015, PDF version is available at the link: https://www.idea.int/sites/default/files/publications/social-media-guide-for-electoral-management-bodies-AR.pdf

Foreign References

- Werth L. & C. W. Mills: **character and social structure** ،London ،1945.

- Ginsberg m. (**Sociology**): Oxford University press, London, 1950.

- Kaplan, Andreas M. (2010). "Users of the world, unite! **The challenges and 4.opportunities of Social Media**". Business Horizons.Maya E. Dolarhide, Social Media Definition, Updated May 2, 2019, entry date 21-08-2020, site; https://www.investopedia.com/terms/s/social-media.asp

-
-