Impact of Corona Pandemic (Covid-19) on the Conduct of Criminal Investigation

Amjad Al Nagrash¹, Ali Masadeh¹, Sherifa Fouad Mustafa²

¹ Assistant Professor of Criminal Law, Applied Science University, ASU, Bahrain

Article History: Received: 10 January 2021; Revised: 12 February 2021; Accepted: 27 March 2021; Published

online: 4 June 2021

Abstract: A criminal case is considered the means by which everyone who has empowered himself to violate the law and order and to be exposed to the security, stability, and interests of society, and through it the prosecution of its perpetrator and all who participated in it to impose the appropriate penalty for each of them, and the criminal case is governed by procedural rules in which the authorities determine their powers and the procedures to be followed In investigating and controlling crimes, collecting evidence, prosecuting whoever came to it or whom it was attributed to and adjudicating them, through the stages that the case goes through, and these rules are codified in the Criminal Procedure Law.

In addition, the criminal procedures witnessed a qualitative shift in the Kingdom of Bahrain in light of the exceptional circumstances that the countries of the world are experiencing in the outbreak of the emerging coronavirus (Covid-19), and because of these circumstances, the Kingdom of Bahrain has taken precautionary measures to limit the spread of the virus and protect individuals and their interests, and accordingly, the Bahraini legislator amending some provisions of the Criminal Procedure Law, which in turn affected the course of the criminal case, and the most important of these amendments are embodied in the replacement of the traditional method known from the moment the criminal case is initiated, which is to confront the perpetrator face to face, with a modern technological method in which there is a remote confrontation through technologies and devices. Visual and audio within the framework of the implementation of precautionary measures. If this indicates anything, then it indicates the Kingdom's keenness to address such obstacles, which in turn may affect the public interest, but thanks to the integration of modern technologies through virtual innovation, the Kingdom will witness a qualitative leap in the future in dealing with such exceptional circumstances, which in turn it will change the structure of many areas, the most important of which is the legal interface.

Keywords: Corona, criminal case, remote trial, investigation.

1. Introduction

Research Topic

The criminal case is considered the means by which anyone who is accused of violating the law and order and violating the security, stability and interests of the community is deterred, and through which the perpetrator and all those who contributed to it are prosecuted to impose the appropriate penalty for each of them. In investigating and seizing crimes, collecting evidence, prosecuting and adjudicating those who committed them or those to whom they are attributed, through the stages the case goes through. These rules are codified in the Criminal Procedure Code.

The criminal procedures witnessed a qualitative leap in the Kingdom of Bahrain, in light of the exceptional circumstances experienced by the countries of the world in the outbreak of the emerging Corona Virus (Covid 19) pandemic, and because of these circumstances, the Kingdom of Bahrain took precautionary measures to limit the spread of the virus and protect individuals and their interests. The Bahraini legislator has amended some provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure, which in turn affected the conduct of the criminal case. The most important of these amendments is to replace the traditional method known from the moment the criminal case was initiated, which is confronting the offender face to face, with a modern technological method represented by remote confrontation using technologies and devices Visual and audio as part of the implementation of precautionary measures. If this indicates anything, it indicates the extent to which the Kingdom is keen to address such obstacles, which in turn may affect the public interest, but thanks to the integration of modern technologies through virtual innovation, the Kingdom will witness a qualitative leap in the future in dealing with such exceptional circumstances, which in turn The structure will change many areas, the most important of which is the legal interface.

Research Problem

The problem of the research lies in verifying the extent to which the texts governing the procedures for the conduct of the traditional criminal case and the texts that have been amended under exceptional circumstances match, and to ascertain the extent to which the accused enjoys all the guarantees guaranteed by the constitution to him during the course of the case, in addition to the scope in which the application of this system is required and its impact, and successful application.

² Student at College of Law, Applied Science University, ASU, Bahrain

Significance of the Research

The importance of the research is manifested in clarifying the most important amendments that were made in the Bahraini Criminal Procedures Law issued in April 2020 and their impact on the progress of the criminal case in the preliminary investigation and trial stages, through which the mechanism of its procedures and the scope of application of modern technologies stipulated in the amendment will be clarified, and the extent of the contribution Those adjustments to accomplish issues smoothly and more flexibility.

Research Methodology

In this research, we followed the analytical approach, as it relies on text analysis in order to reach an explanation of the importance of the research.

Research Plan

In order to understand the topic in all its aspects, the research was divided into two main topics, where the first topic dealt with the legal impact of the pandemic on the stage of the preliminary investigation, and the first requirement addressed the scope and procedures of the preliminary investigation in accordance with Law No. (7) of 2020, and the second requirement dealt with the impact of the pandemic on the guarantees established for the accused, As for the second topic, it dealt with the impact of the pandemic on the trial stage, and the first requirement includes the trial mechanism in accordance with Law No. (7) of 2020, and the second requirement includes guarantees of a fair trial using modern technologies.

FIRST TOPIC

The Legal Impact Of The Pandemic On The Preliminary Investigation Stage

The Corona pandemic greatly affected the stage of the preliminary investigation, which is considered the first stage of the criminal case, which is directed to a set of procedures, which in turn affected a number of its characteristics. Corona virus, by dividing this topic into two sections:

- First requirement: the scope and procedures of the preliminary investigation in accordance with Law No. (7) of 2020.
- Second requirement: the impact of the pandemic on the guarantees established for the accused.

First Requirement:

The Scope And Procedures Of The Preliminary Investigation In Accordance With Law No. (7) Of 2020)

The preliminary investigation is the procedures aimed at checking the available information about the crime, verifying, and compiling the existing evidence, and then evaluating it to determine its sufficiency to refer the accused to the courts.¹

The Bahraini legislator specified the competent authority to conduct investigation procedures, as Article (5) of the Bahraini Criminal Procedures Law states that: "The Public Prosecution is an authentic division of the judiciary, and it is the custodian of the criminal case, and it undertakes the investigation, accusation and all its competencies in accordance with the provisions of the law". Article (81) stipulated that: "The Public Prosecution shall conduct an investigation into felonies, and it may conduct it in misdemeanors whenever it deems appropriate." And based on the text of Article (167) of the Bahraini Code of Criminal Procedure, the Public Prosecution in felonies or misdemeanors has permitted to request the President of the High Civil Court delegates one of its judges to undertake the investigation of the case with the knowledge of the investigating judge if that is more appropriate to its special circumstances, as it has authorized the Minister of Justice through a request submitted to the President of the High Civil Court of Appeal to delegate one of its judges to investigate a specific crime or crimes of a certain type.³

The law defines the procedures for the preliminary investigation, which is considered the valve and the essence of criminal procedures, as it obliges the person conducting the investigation that the procedures are carried out in accordance with the rules and principles that must be followed. Hearing the testimony of witnesses, delegating experts, searching places, people and things, interrogation, summoning the accused, arresting the accused, and pre-trial detention.

However, the procedure for hearing witnesses and interrogating witnesses has been affected by the current circumstances in light of this growing epidemic that the world is going through in the outbreak of the Corona virus (Covid 19), which made these measures compatible and complementary to the precautionary measures taken to limit the spread of the virus, by amending some provisions of the Procedures Law The traditional method was replaced by the modern method of using electronic means, which is a conversation.

Audio-visual takes place between two or more parties to achieve remote attendance, and thus maintain the safety of both parties, through the application of the concept of social distancing that is necessary.

The Bahraini legislator did not define remote investigation using audio and video technical means but permitted the use of this method in accordance with specific legal mechanisms, as Article (82) in the third paragraph of the amended Bahraini Criminal Procedure Code stipulates that: "The Public Prosecution may record all investigation procedures and proceedings. It may use audio and visual means, and if it is not possible to attend a witness or an accused person, it may resort to using technology and etheric transmission to hear his statements or interrogate him remotely...", and also what was stipulated in the amendment in Article (114) of the Bahraini Code of Criminal Procedure.

Where the legislator authorized the Public Prosecution to record all the procedures that are taken, whether in the presence of the accused at the headquarters of the Public Prosecution or in the event that he was investigated using visual and audio techniques. In the event that the accused claims to have violated his guarantees before the court.

This indicates that the Bahraini legislator has not affected any of the guarantees related to the investigation for the accused, and the investigation has become easy and easy for the accused, and it enables the accused to view and participate in the investigation proceedings, wherever he is. Rather, the recording increased the ability of the investigator to be mentally free to follow up on the investigation and the sequence of events without interruption.

As is clear in Article (115) of the Bahra ini Code of Criminal Procedure, the special rules on how to summon witnesses to hear their testimony, whether by a decision of a member of the Public Prosecution or at the request of one of the litigants, his summons is by instructing him to come to the headquarters of the Public Prosecution and it is a nnounced by members of the public authority In the event that witnesses are unable to attend, Article (125) of the same law clarifies that the member of the Public Prosecution shall move to the place where the witness is present to hear his statements.⁶

As for the interrogation stage, which takes place by presenting the accused to the Public Prosecution, his statements are heard, and the facts attributed to him are discussed. The member of the Public Prosecution verifies the identity of the accused and discusses it in the accusation attributed to him, and in a detailed manner in the evidence in the case, evidence and denial, and this What is stipulated in Article (133) of the Bahraini Code of Criminal Procedure that: "The member of the Public Prosecution must, when the accused appears for the first time in the investigation, write down all the data relating to his personality, inform him of the accusation against him, and record in the record whatever statements he may make about it". The interrogation stage is one of the stages that most affects the nature of the trial and the issuance of the decision of conviction or acquittal, because at this stage the accused may admit the charges against him or deny it. In the event that the Public Prosecution considers that the interest requires conducting investigation procedures remotely, the legislator allowed it It has the use of visual and audio technologies, taking into account all the guarantees approved by the law and not infringing on them.

Second Requirement

The Impact Of The Pandemic And The Guarantees For The Accused

One of the requirements of human life is that he enjoys a set of public rights and freedoms such as security, safety and dignity, and for the sake of these rights and freedoms, the law was found to guarantee them to individuals and to prevent attacks on them, especially when some individuals deviate in their behavior and commit crimes that a ffect these rights and freedoms.

Therefore, society has the right to defend itself and punish those who violate the order provided that it is carried out in accordance with the law. Therefore, the Code of Criminal Procedure includes guarantees that protect the freedom and rights of people, through which the accused is protected and enabled to establish the argument and evidence of his innocence.

The principle is that the accused is innocent until proven guilty, and this is what the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain expressly stipulates in paragraph (c) of Article (20) that: "The accused is innocent until proven guilty in a legal trial in which the necessary guarantees to exercise the right of defense at all stages of the investigation are secured for him. and trial in accordance with the law."

The guarantees granted to the accused during the preliminary investigation stage are considered among the rules of public order, which may not be waived or exceeded by those in charge of them, but the question arises whether the amendments affected the guarantees of the accused during the preliminary investigation, especially in the interrogation stage, which provided by law authorizing the use of visual and audio technologies To conduct a remote investigation? Did this procedure detract from any of the accused's guarantees?

In order to answer these questions, it is necessary to refer to the text of Article (82) in the third paragraph of the Bahra ini Code of Criminal Procedure, which emphasized that the guarantees established in the law should be observed in the event that the accused was interrogated remotely.

The accused has many guarantees at the preliminary investigation stage, but the pandemic affected the most important guarantees of the accused in the interrogation stage, due to the replacement of old methods with modern methods, which made the questioning of the accused remotely in light of the Corona pandemic, taking into account the prevautionary measures to limit the spread of the virus, taking into account the provisions of the law

the organization of interrogation, and that the legislator did not specify a specific method that the Public Prosecution member is obliged to follow, but left that to his discretion. Therefore, the legislator made in the text of Article (82) the third paragraph of the Bahraini Code of Criminal Procedure the discretionary authority of the Public Prosecution to use the traditional or modern method of investigating After by means of visual and audio technologies. In the event that the Public Prosecution decides to conduct the investigation remotely in line with the requirements of the public interest, the following controls must be in place:

- 1. The interrogation is a secret procedure limited to the presence of persons permitted by law. The investigation takes place remotely in places that are under the control of the Public Prosecution to enable it to implement any decision issued by the concerned person. The general public from all the guarantees required for its adoption as the seat of the investigation, in terms of the availability of the program through which the investigation will be conducted, ensuring the quality of sound and image, and ensuring the availability of complete confidentiality in the place.
- 2. The accused is informed of the charges against him. The accused cannot provide explanations related to the accusation, and the Public Prosecution member discusses the details if he is unable to know the acts attributed to him, and so that he can defend himself and prove his innocence, and this is what is stipulated in Article (133). of the Code of Criminal Procedure.
- 3. One of the most important guarantees that the accused gains in the event of an accusation against him is his right to the assistance of a lawyer, whether the accusation is a felony or a misdemeanor, and this is what the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain stipulates in Paragraph (e) of Article (20) so a lawyer is informed and enabled to enter the program assigned to conduct the investigation, and shall have the authority to single out the accused and review the documents.
- 4. The interrogation derives its legal force from the record, and in order for the court to be considered a strong argument upon which the court considers the case, it must conform to the truth in all the details. The investigation body consisting of the prosecutor and the investigation clerk with the statement of resorting to remote investigation, the investigation proceedings are recorded, and electronic signature is used.

Also, recording the course of the preliminary investigation does not dispense with the record, and this is what Article (82) of the Code of Criminal Procedure stipulates that all information related to the investigation be recorded in the investigation minutes while keeping the papers in the book section, whether these minutes are paper records or electronic records based on Amending the Code of Criminal Procedure.

SECOND TOPIC

The Impact Of The Pandemic On The Trial Phase

After completing the preliminary investigation procedures, the case is referred to the competent authority. The trial stage is considered one of the most important stages through which the fate of the accused will be decided whether innocence or conviction. As we mentioned previously, the amendment of some provisions of the Bahraini Criminal Procedures Law also included the trial stage, in order to preserve the health of all litigants and individuals, and this topic will be divided into two demands:

- First requirement: the trial mechanism according to Law No. (7) of 2020.
- Second requirement: fair trial guarantees using modern technologies.

First Requirement

The mechanism of trial according to Law No. (7) of 2020

The trial stage allows any person to be sued over the accusation against him before an independent and impartial court in accordance with public procedures, through which he is allowed to defend himself, as Article (10) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights stipulates that: "Every person is equal in completeness." He has the right to a fair and public hearing of his case by an independent and impartial court, in order to determine his rights and obligations and any criminal charges against him.¹⁰

The correct composition of any criminal court, which is represented by the presence of the judge and the representative of the Public Prosecution, with the presence of a clerk, who takes over the minutes of the sessions and establishes the procedures taken in them, and this is stipulated in Article (215) of the Bahraini Code of Criminal Procedure that: "One of the members must attend The Public Prosecution shall hold criminal court sessions, and the court shall hear his statements and decide on them". Article (226) of the Bahraini Code of Criminal Procedure states: "A report must be drawn up on what takes place in the trial session and signed on each page by the court's president and clerk on the next day at most...".

And that every person accused of committing a crime has the right to be tried in his presence until he hears the prosecution's arguments and defends himself, and the right to a trial in his presence is an integral part of the right of the accused to defend himself, as Article (199), first paragraph of the Bahraini Code of Criminal Procedure stipulates that: The accused in a felony or misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment, which the law requires to be implemented immediately after the issuance of the judgment against him, must attend in person..."13, and in the

event that the accused was unable to attend with an acceptable excuse, the court appointed another date for him, which is stipulated by the law in Article (200) of the same law.

And because the Bahraini legislator did not specify a form for attendance, some provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure were amended to suit the current circumstances, in the amendment issued by a rule that made trial procedures conducted remotely using visual and audio technologies, based on the text of Article (218), paragraph three that: The court may, in the cases it deems necessary to consider the case without the presence of the accused, use the technical, audio-visual and teleportation means to conduct the proceedings of the case with the accused, and to hear, watch, record and present the proceedings of the hearing...".14

As the legislator gives the court judge a discretionary authority to complete the procedures using technical means whenever it deems that the public interest requires conducting the trial at a distance, without prejudice to the requirements of a fair trial and without prejudice to the rights of the defense or the legally established guarantees in order to achieve the requirements of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

In implementation of the law issued to amend some provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure, they issued a decision by His Excellency the Minister of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments in Article (1) of Resolution No. (61) for the year 2020 to approve a temporary seat for the courts in the Jaw region, next to the Department of Reform and Rehabilitation of Inmates, in the context of achieving the requirements of Remote criminal trial and facilitation of its procedures, taking into account all guarantees of a fair trial represented in the publicity of the trial, its recording, the right to the assistance of a lawyer, and the guarantee of the principle of confrontation, hearing witnesses and the presence of the Public Prosecution member.¹⁵

Emirati legislation and the Algerian judicial system in adopting the digital trial system, as it adopted remote communication technology in criminal procedures under Law No. 5 of 2017, where the first article of it defined this technology, and the second article stipulated the scope of the application by saying: "The competent authority has the right to use communication technology via In the criminal procedures with the accused, the victim, the witness, the lawyer, the expert, the translator, the plaintiff of the civil right, or the person responsible for the civil right," while Article 6 of it stipulates the rights of the accused, including "The accused shall have the right to a trial in the first session of his trial through remote communication technology." At any level of litigation, he may request his presence in person before the court, and it must decide on his request by accepting or rejecting it. If this article suggests that the use of this technique is subject to the acceptance of the accused, this matter is incorrect.

As long as the legislator entrusted the court with an order to broadcast this matter by accepting or rejecting the accused's request in the matter of conducting the trial remotely, which means that this possibility is entrusted to the court, which is decided - in the end - according to its need to protect public order, and is not decided in the interest of the accused, although Article The seventh of the same law paid attention to protecting the rights of the defense as contained in the Code of Criminal Procedure, by allowing the lawyer to contact his client or attend sessions remotely, and Article 8 obligated the recording and preservation of these operations.

Second Requirement

Fair Trial Guarantees Using Modern Technologies

To be before a fair trial, which is considered one of the most important human rights, and which is based on the availability of a set of procedures by which criminal litigation is conducted within a comprehensive framework of protection of personal freedoms and other rights.

Human rights related to it, including the basic guarantees for the preservation of human freedom and dignity, as guaranteed by international constitutions, legislation and international charters.¹⁶

These guarantees are based on the idea and principle of presumed innocence as a human origin, that every right and guarantee of a fair trial is based on: "the presumption of innocence in the accused", since the presumption of innocence in the accused is for me when his guilt is proven, a condition that accompanies the accused throughout the stages of the criminal case And this premise is what gives the accused the right to a fair trial and the guarantees and rights that it entails, ¹⁷ and based on Article (11) of the Universal Declaration that everyone has the right to be considered innocent and to deal with him during the trial as innocent unless a verdict is issued a gainst him. ¹⁸

Therefore, the judge must adhere to following a set of guarantees in conducting the procedures, and these guarantees that the judge must observe are the speedy settlement of the case, public and oral sessions, the attendance of the litigants in the trial procedures, the recording of the trial procedures, guaranteeing the right of defense, causation of the judicial ruling, and non-punishment The accused for one act twice, and that the general rules required for the validity of the trial to be considered enjoying basic guarantees are the presence of all litigants and the presence of the Public Prosecution, in addition to the presence of the public in courtrooms except in exceptional cases. And based on the amendment issued to some provisions of the Criminal Procedures Law, which is in line with the precautionary measures to limit the spread of the Corona virus, there have been some changes to the traditional trial methods, which the law took into account, which did not affect the guarantees

established for the accused, and which used modem methods represented by technical means to conduct the trial remotely.

And based on the decisions issued by His Excellency the Minister of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments in Article No. (61) of 2020 and in implementation of the law issued to amend some provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code, the trial procedures are conducted remotely, taking into account the guarantees established for the accused, which is in line with the public interest as follows:

1. One of the most important guarantees for the accused is the publicity of the trial, and what is meant by publicity is that all trial sessions are open to the public and the media and enable them to see all the trial sessions and to listen to the discussions that take place through them in public, as it is a guarantee that there is no doubt in the impartiality of the judiciary and the strengthening of Confidence in the judiciary and the faimess of sentences, and ensuring the impartiality of members of the judiciary. As the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain stipulates in Article (105) of Paragraph (C) that: "Court sessions are public except in the exceptional cases specified by law", and Article (3) of the Bahraini Judicial Authority Law stipulates: "Trial sessions are public unless If the court decides to secrecy out of consideration for public order or morals", and in confirmation of this, Article (214) of the Bahraini Code of Criminal Procedure stipulates: "The hearing must be public, and the court may, however, observe public order or preserve morals, or for reasons of protection of victims, witnesses, or those who provide information in the case, to order that the whole case be heard or some of them are in a secret session or prevent certain groups from attending", and because of the exceptional circumstances we are going through due to the outbreak of the virus, the issued a mendment authorized it.

In the text of Article (218) of the third paragraph of the court to consider the case without the presence of the accused, provided that audio-visual technical means are used from a distance to initiate the procedures for considering the case, and the attendance of courtrooms was limited to lawyers and litigants with the presence of a limited number of journalists With the public not present as it was in the past, in implementation of the precautionary measures to confront the virus and based on this amendment, a temporary headquarters was established in the Ju area near the Inmates Correction and Rehabilitation Center affiliated with the Ministry of Justice, to transfer all criminal trial procedures remotely using electronic means.²³

2. The presence of the representative of the Public Prosecution in the criminal courtrooms is required, otherwise all the procedures taken by the court or the issuance of judgments without the presence of a member of the Public Prosecution shall be considered null and void.

This is what is stated in Article (215) of the Bahraini Code of Criminal Procedure that: "A member of the Public Prosecution must attend the sessions of the criminal courts, and the court must hear his statements and decide on them". He is present in the main courtroom located in the diplomatic area, and another member of the Public Prosecution office is located in the temporary headquarters in the Jawarea, and he is in charge of controlling all the necessary procedures to ensure the smooth conduct of the trial and its regularity. ²⁵

3. Every person accused of committing a crime has the right to defend himself in person or through a lawyer, and has the right to choose a lawyer himself or a lawyer assigned to assist him, as Article (14) third paragraph of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights stipulates the right of every An accused person defends himself in person or through a lawyer of his choice, ²⁶ as the Bahraini Code of Criminal Procedure stipulates in Article (216) that: "A lawyer must attend with every accused in a felony, and the appointed lawyer must notify the court of his name four months before the session set for hearing the case, days at least. If the court finds that the accused in a felony has not been appointed by lawyers to defend him, it shall appoint a lawyer for him", ²⁷ and that the presence of a lawyer in felony crimes is obligatory, and this is stipulated by the law of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain in Article (20) in Paragraph (e) that: "That every accused in a felony has a lawyer to defend him with his consent", ²⁸ and in the event that the trial procedures are conducted remotely, the accused's lawyer is entitled to either be in the main courtroom or the temporary headquarters, based on the decision of His Excellency the Minister of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments. ²⁹

CONCLUSION

The interested person has many guarantees at all stages of the criminal case, which many legislations and regulations of their provisions are keen on due to their extreme importance, except that there are some changes due to the circumstances that the countries of the world are going through, and not only the Kingdom of Bahrain in the outbreak of the new Corona virus (Covid 19), which the government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia took Bahrain bears the responsibility to preserve the health and safety of everyone by launching a wide range of decisions, precautionary measures and preventive measures to limit the spread of the virus, and based on those and preventive measures, some provisions of the Bahraini Criminal Procedures Law have been amended in line with the preventive measures that aim to protect the health of the parties The criminal case during the procedures of the

1001

stages of the criminal case, and the amendment came to replace the traditional methods with modern methods represented in the use of visual and audio techniques, which made some of the lawsuit procedures take place remotely in application of the concept of social distancing, and the legislator was also keen that the guarantees established for the accused in the stages of the case were not affected when using Modern methods, which we, in tum, explain the most important of these amendments and determine the mechanism of their procedures and the scope of their application and the extent of their impact on Li guarantees the accused in this research.

RESULTS

Among the most important results that we reached through this research:

- 1. Completing the lawsuit procedures remotely saves effort, time, security and safety due to the failure to carry out transfers of the accused and it is sufficient to carry out the procedures by using audio and visual technologies.
- 2. The amendments affected the speed of adjudication of cases for the use of a visual communication system.
- 3. The system of using visual and audio technologies has reduced the material costs incurred by the state.
- Speed in the litigation procedures so that memos and documents are sent over the information network without the need for the parties to the lawsuit to move, and this saves time and reduces overcrowding.

Recommendations

- 1. One of the most important guarantees of the accused in the stages of the criminal case is confidentiality and based on the amendment issued by the use of audio and video technologies, a special program must be allocated to be used in the stages of the preliminary investigation and trial, so that it is used by those authorized by law only, and that To maintain confidentiality and not to be hacked.
- 2. It is clear from the decisions issued by His Excellency the Minister of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments No. (61) for the year 2020, in implementation of the law issued to amend some provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure to adopt a temporary seat for the courts in the Jaw area next to the Department of Correction and Rehabilitation of Inmates only, so that prisoners and women are transferred to The headquarters located in the Jaw region, which made this conflict with the application of precautionary measures to limit the spread of the virus, so it is necessary to adopt temporary headquarters nearby so that they are not transferred outside their borders or to great distances.
- The use of modern means has proven their effectiveness and success in completing cases in the preliminary investigation and trial stage, in terms of speed in completing cases and low costs, so there is no objection to the continuity of using modern technologies until after the end of the pandemic when it is focused in the interest of society.

References

- Dr. Abdullah, Saeed Hassaballah, 2005, Al-Wajeez in the Bahraini Criminal Procedure Code, first edition, p. 167
- Article (5) of the Bahraini Code of Criminal Procedure
- Article (81) of the Bahraini Code of Criminal Procedure
- Article (82) of Law No. (7) of 2020 amending some provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure promulgated by Legislative Decree No. (46) of 2002
- Article (114) of Law No. (7) of 2020 amending some provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure promulgated by Legislative Decree No. (46) of 2002
- Dr. Abdullah, Saeed Hassaballah, previous reference, p. 182
- Article (133) of the Bahraini Code of Criminal Procedure
- The text of Article (20) of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain
- By participating in the Digital Scientific Forum on November 25, 26, 2020, organized by the University of Bahrain, entitled Legal, Objective and Procedural Dimensions of the Corona Pandemic
- The text of Article 10 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of December 10, 1948
- The text of Article (215) of the Bahraini Code of Criminal Procedure
- The text of Article (226) of the Bahraini Code of Criminal Procedure
- [13] The text of Article (199) of the Bahraini Code of Criminal Procedure
- Article (218) of Law No. (7) of 2020 amending some provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure promulgated by Legislative Decree No. (46) of 2002
- Article (1) of Resolution No. (61) of 2020 approving a temporary seat for the courts in the Ju region.

 Dr. Khawain, Hassan Bashit, 2010, Guarantees of the Accused in the Criminal Case, House of Culture for Publishing and Distribution, Amman, p. 201 [15]
- [16]
- Bouletif, (2005) Guarantees of the Accused in a Fair Trial in International Conventions and Algerian Legislation, Unpublished Master's Thesis, Mohamed [17] Khedir University
- The text of Article 10 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of December 1010
- Dr. Khawain, Hassan Beshit, previous reference, p. 202
- [20] The text of Article (105) of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain
- The text of Article (3) of the Bahraini Judicial Authority Law
- [22] Article (214) of the Bahraini Code of Criminal Procedure
- [23] Resolution No. (61) of 2020 approving a temporary seat for courts in the Ju region.
- The text of Article (215) of the Bahraini Code of Criminal Procedure
- Article (4) of Resolution No. (61) of 2020 approving a temporary seat for the courts in the Jaw region.
- [26] Article 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of December 16, 1966
- The text of Article (216) of the Bahraini Code of Criminal Procedure
- The text of Article (20) of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain
- Article (3) of Resolution No. (61) of 2020 approving a temporary seat for the courts in the Ju region.