The Right to Privacy and Data Protection: Analytical Study of the Qatari Information Technology

Nazzal M. Kisswani¹

¹Assistant Professor of Commercial Law, Doha, Qatar, College of Law, Qatar University

Abstract

The Arab countries have been racing to develop the best model of data protection legislations. However, Tunisia and Morocco are the only two countries that acquired the initiative of issuing their data protection laws (Teegarden). However, Syria, Yemen, Egypt, Kuwait, Qatar, Iraq, Bahrain, and other Arab countries were proposed a draft regarding the law of privacy or data protection (Global data privacy). It is important to highlight that in the absence of data protection law, there are certain privacy and/or confidentiality provisions that can be found within different jurisdictions of the above mentioned countries. This study focuses on the Qatari legal position on data protection and/or privacy law today. Why do we need such law? What are the challenges do legislators faces? And, what is the impact of privacy and/or data protection regulations on the Qatari society? Qatar does not yet have a comprehensive data protection and/or privacy legislation; but there are number of jurisdictions that have general privacy rights such as the Qatari Constitution, Telecommunication Law, Electronic Commerce and Transaction law and Civil and Commercial Procedures. This study seeks to outline the gap in existing legislative order in Qatar; it also attempts to draw some guidelines towards introducing effective regulatory system, data protection and privacy legislations in Qatar, and the necessary of a data protection law.

Keywords: Privacy, Data protection, Telecommunication Law, E–commerce and transaction law.