

Saudi sentenced to jail, lashes over Twitter libel: report

RIYADH, SAUDI ARABIA: A Saudi court has sentenced a man convicted of defaming a Kuwaiti singer by accusing her on Twitter of adultery to three months in jail and 80 lashes, a news website reported on Thursday.



(Image: Edward Lund from Atlanta, in Edgewood, 30307, United States, via Wikimedia Commons)

The Saudi national, apparently a fan of a rival pop star, was sentenced for "accusing (Kuwaiti singer) Shams of adultery without providing proof," the Saudi Sabq news website cited the verdict as saying.

The ruling is based on Islamic sharia law which stipulates flogging for those who accuse others of having extra-marital sex without giving proof.

The man was also jailed for three months and fined 10,000 riyals (\$2,700), the news website said.

Shams had filed a libel case against the man who owned a Twitter account titled in Arabic "the lawyer of Queen Ahlam," another Gulf pop star.

As well as accusing Shams of adultery, he posted fabricated photos depicting her in "obscene" situations, Sabq said, without elaborating.

The microblogging website is hugely popular in Saudi Arabia, which is also one of the 10-most censored countries for media, according to the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists.

Some 41% of internet users in the oil-rich kingdom use Twitter, a study published by the US-based Business Insider website found.

Source: AFP, via I-Net Bridge

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