
Nru. 56

24. 1. 78

MALTA

KAMRA TAD-DEPUTATI

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ABBOZZ ta' Ligi mressaq mill-Onorevoli Joseph Cassar, M.P., Ministru tal-Gustizzja, Artijiet, Djar u Affarijiet tal-Parlament, u moqri għall-Ewwel darba fis-Seduta tat-23 ta' Jannar, 1978.

A BILL introduced by the Honourable Joseph Cassar, M.P., Minister of Justice, Lands, Housing and Parliamentary Affairs, and read the First time at the Sitting of the 23rd January, 1978.

ATT biex ikompli jemenda l-Att ta' l-1974 dwar l-Istampa.

AN ACT further to amend the Press Act, 1974.

C. MIFSUD

Škrivan tal-Kamra tad-Deputati

C. MIFSUD

Clerk to the House of Representatives

ABBOZZ TA' LIĠI

msejjah

ATT biex ikompli jemenda l-Att ta' l-1974 dwar l-Istampa.

IL-PRESIDENT, bil-parir u l-kunsens tal-Kamra tad-Deputati, imlaqqgħa f'dan il-Parlament, u bl-awtorità ta' l-istess, hareġ b'liġi dan li ġej:—

Titolu fil-qosor.

1. Dan l-Att jista' jissejjaħ l-Att ta' l-1978 li jemenda l-Att dwar l-Istampa, u għandu jinqara u jiftiehem haġa waħda ma' l-Att ta' l-1974 dwar l-Istampa, hawnhekk iżjed 'il quddiem imsejjaħ "l-Att prinċipali".

Emenda ta' l-artikolu 9 ta' l-Att prinċipali.

2. Minflok is-subartikolu (1) ta' l-artikolu 9 ta' l-Att prinċipali għandu jidhul dan li ġej:

"(1) Kull min dolożament, b'xi mezz imsemmi fl-artikolu 3 ta' dan l-Att, ixerred aħbarijiet foloz illi jistgħu jallarmaw l-opinjoni pubblika, jew jiddisturbaw il-bon'ordni jew il-paċi pubblika, jew jistgħu joħolqu kommozzjoni fost il-pubbliku jew fost ċerti klassijiet tal-pubbliku, jeħel meta jinsab haġi priġunerija għal żmien ta' mhux iżjed minn tliet xhur jew multa jew dik il-priġunerija u multa flimkien:

Iżda, jekk ir-reat iwassal għal disturb, jew jekk ir-reat ikun ikkontribwixxa għall-ġrajja ta' disturb, min jagħmel ir-reat jeħel priġunerija għal żmien ta' mhux inqas minn xahar iżda mhux iżjed minn sitt xhur u multa."

Emenda ta' l-artikolu 21 ta' l-Att prinċipali.

3. Fis-subartikolu (2) ta' l-artikolu 21 ta' l-Att prinċipali, minflok il-kliem "f'post li jidher sewwa u bl-istess tipi" għandhom jidhlu l-kliem "fl-istess paġna, bl-istess tipi u bl-istess prominenza bħall-pubblikazzjoni li dwarha tkun qed issir id-dikjarazzjoni bħala kontradizzjoni jew spjegazzjoni".

Għanijiet u Raġunijiet

L-Għan ta' dan l-Abbozz huwa li jemenda l-Att ta' l-1974 dwar l-Istampa, sabiex pubblikazzjoni ta' dikjarazzjoni ta' kontradizzjoni jew spjegazzjoni tingħata l-istess prominenza bħall-pubblikazzjoni li dwarha tkun qed issir.

Ittiegħdet l-okkażjoni biex l-imsemmi Att jiġi emendat sabiex id-disposizzjoni dwar pubblikazzjoni doluża ta' aħbar falza tiġi taqbel aktar mad-disposizzjoni korrispondenti tal-Kodiċi Kriminali.

A BILL
entitled

AN ACT further to amend the Press Act, 1974.

BE IT ENACTED by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the House of Representatives, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

Short title.

1. This Act may be cited as the Press (Amendment) Act, 1978, and shall be read and construed as one with the Press Act, 1974, hereinafter referred to as "the principal Act".

Amendment of section 9 of the principal Act.

2. For subsection (1) of section 9 of the principal Act there shall be substituted the following:

"(1) Whosoever shall maliciously, by any means mentioned in section 3 of this Act, spread false news which is likely to alarm public opinion, or disturb public good order or the public peace, or to create a commotion among the public or among certain classes of the public, shall be liable on conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three months or to a fine (*multa*) or to both such imprisonment and fine:

Provided that, if any disturbance ensues in consequence of the offence, or if the offence has contributed to the occurrence of any disturbance, the offender shall be liable to imprisonment for a term of not less than one month but not exceeding six months and to a fine (*multa*)."

Amendment of section 21 of the principal Act.

3. In subsection (2) of section 21 of the principal Act, for the words "in a prominent place and in the same type" there shall be substituted the words "on the same page, in the same type and with the same prominence as the publication about which the statement by way of contradiction or explanation is made".

Objects and Reasons

The Object of this Bill is to amend the Press Act, 1974, so that the publication of a contradictory or explanatory statement be given the same prominence as that given to the publication about which such statement is made.

Occasion has been taken to amend the said Act so as to bring the provision relating to the malicious publication of false news more into line with the corresponding provision of the Criminal Code.