

Legal Challenges in Police Investigations of Internet Fraud: Barriers and Solutions

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Abstract

This study investigates the legal challenges faced by the Maldives Police Service in investigating internet fraud cases, aiming to identify key issues and propose potential remedies. The widespread use of the Internet for various purposes has also facilitated the rise of internet-based crimes, including fraud. These crimes, many of which were previously non-existent, have prompted legislators worldwide to develop new laws to address the evolving nature of criminal activity in the digital age. However, this shift has created significant challenges for both lawmakers and law enforcement agencies in keeping pace with the rapid growth of cybercrime. Internet fraud has become a growing concern in the Maldives, mirroring a global trend where online scams and frauds are increasingly prevalent. This research primarily focuses on the legal obstacles that hinder effective investigations by the Maldives Police Service (MPS) in tackling internet-based fraud. This research employs qualitative doctrinal legal research methods to analyze the current legal framework and highlight gaps that hinder law enforcement efforts. The findings suggest that urgent revisions to existing laws and further development of police investigative capacity are critical to effectively combat internet fraud in the Maldives. The findings suggest reforms aimed at improving the legal infrastructure and capabilities of the Maldives Police Service in addressing this pressing issue.

Keywords: Cybercrime; Internet fraud; Online deception; Digital crimes; Investigative challenges; Cybercrime legislation; Cybersecurity.

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