

OPEN PEER REVIEW

# Methods of Prevention and Combating the Crime of Abuse of Functional Influence with an Emphasis on the Legal System of Iraq

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## 1. Round 1

### 1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The introduction should provide a formal legal definition of abuse of functional influence at the outset, supported by references to statutory or scholarly definitions, before discussing public perceptions. This would improve conceptual precision and reduce ambiguity for readers.

Explicitly state what gap in the literature your study addresses (e.g., lack of Iraqi-specific legal analysis) and how your study contributes to filling it. The gap is currently implied rather than clearly articulated.

This section would benefit from a visual diagram or conceptual model showing the three crimes (abuse of influence, bribery, mediation) side by side, clarifying actors, intent, and transaction flow.

The paragraph is dense and repetitive. Streamline it by first defining “general intent” and “specific intent,” then showing how both apply to this crime, with citations.

Support this claim with statistical or audit evidence from Transparency International or World Bank governance indicators to increase empirical validity.

This is a strong claim that needs data support. Include average salary figures or cite governmental salary scale reports to substantiate this assertion.

This section is purely descriptive. Add a critical evaluation of how current Iraqi legal mechanisms fail or succeed in applying crime control principles to abuse of influence.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

## 1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The literature review is descriptive but lacks critical synthesis. Include a comparative table or narrative contrasting key findings, methodologies, and limitations of previous works to demonstrate how your study advances the field.

Consider adding more recent (post-2020) international studies or UN anti-corruption reports to show how the issue has evolved globally and to avoid an overly Iraq-Iran-centric focus.

The article does not specify a guiding theoretical framework (e.g., deterrence theory, institutional theory, or criminological models). Including a clear theoretical lens would enhance the academic depth of the study.

Provide a comparative legal table summarizing the legal elements, actors, and consequences of both crimes. The text currently mixes them narratively, which makes the distinction less clear.

Verify and cite the exact legal text of Articles 307–310 and provide a brief paraphrase of their wording to support the claim. Readers outside Iraq will need this context.

This statement risks overgeneralization. Reframe it cautiously and support with sociological or empirical evidence; otherwise, it could appear speculative or biased.

Provide a source citation (e.g., Transparency International) and add a short interpretation paragraph explaining the trend shown by the index, not just raw numbers.

The text mixes multiple definitions from various authors without synthesis. Present a comparative summary (e.g., in a table) and then explain which definition your study adopts and why.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

## 2. Revised

Editor's decision: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.