

Abusive prank phone calls annoy residents in Kingdom

The calls originate from 65009284, a fictitious number, possibly from phones with prank-calling apps

Mohammed Zafran/DTNN
zafran@dt.bh

Manama

Local residents are receiving abusive and threatening prank calls from users of a prank-calling app, which uses the fictitious number 65009284, people who received such calls said complained yesterday.

Numerous anonymous calls disguised with voices of fictitious characters were reported in the Bahrain. The phenomenon began after a prank-calling smartphone application became popular.

Fictitious characters called Tyrone - an African American, Abdu - an Egyptian and Buk Lau - a Chinese, are some of the fake characters used by the software. The app has

Indian, American and a female character as well and it can be downloaded from the app store on Android as well as iOS. The pranks, often are threatening in nature, according to those who have received such calls. Residents have complained that the prankster even threatened to visit their homes insinuating an assault or challenge a physical confrontation.

The user of the app only needs to click a button to 'send' the prank. Once the prank is sent, a pre-recorded audio file starts playing.

The recording is played in such a way that the person pranked will have the chance to respond to questions and comments made by the recording, leading the person to believe that it is an actual



Screenshot of the prank mobile app conversation. "I received a call from a Chinese person who was yelling at me claiming that I cut him off on the road. He

claimed that I showed him an inappropriate hand gesture and accused me of being obscene. I kept asking who it is but he did not answer my question, instead, he kept yelling at me. He said he has my home address and at the end of the call, he threatened to visit my home to confront me. I did not visit the police station because I was not sure how serious the threat was so I just let it go but I was a little worried because my family lives with me. I later found out that it was a prank call," said Ahmed.

"I received two calls like this. One said that he was a registered sex offender who said he moved into my neighbourhood and was instructed by his probation officer to tell his neighbours

about my criminal past. He said he wanted to meet me and I disconnected the line. In another call, an African American called me accusing me of being racist," said Asif.

A prankster, who did not disclose his name, said he sent an 'intimidating' prank to his friend, "The prank was a man who calls up my friend and accuses him of an obscene crime. My friend was stumped and did not say much during the prank. I later revealed to her that it was a prank," he said.

When tried to call 65009284, the automatic answering machine said: "All circuits are busy now". According to the software Truecaller, 54 spam reports have been reported against it.

Trial of Ali Salman, others postponed to December 28

DT News Network
Manama

The High Criminal Court yesterday postponed the trial of Ali Salman Ali Ahmed, Hassan Ali Juma Sultan and Ali Mahdi Ali Al Aswad to December 28.

The three accused are facing charges of intelligence links with the State of Qatar. They were referred by the Public Prosecutor to the court for intelligence contacts with a foreign state to carry out

subversive acts against the Kingdom of Bahrain in order to undermine its political and economic status and its national interests and topple the regime.

They were also charged with revealing defence secrets to a foreign country, accepting money from a foreign state for divulging military secrets and information pertaining to the internal situation, and disseminating false

information and allegations abroad in order to weaken financial trust in the Kingdom and undermine its prestige.

The session was held in public as stipulated by the law, and the first suspect Ali Salman attended it alongside four of his lawyers. The second and third suspects are being tried in absentia after they fled the country. The court decided to postpone the trial to December 28.

Indian expat ends life



Jaffrey Passanha
DT News Network
Manama

An Asian expatriate ended his life at his residence in Arad yesterday noon.

The deceased is identified as Jaffrey Passanha, an Indian expatriate who worked as a supervisor for Ebrahim Khalil Kanoo Company.

"Jaffrey ended his life yesterday afternoon. The reason is still being investigated. Jaffrey had lost his job following that he ended his life," a source said.

"As soon as the legal formalities are over his body will be repatriated to his home country," the source added.

Anti-economic Crime Directorate holds forum



A participant receiving certificate of appreciation

DT News Network
reporter@dt.bh

Manama

Under the patronage of the General Director of Anti-corruption and Economic and Electronic Security, the Anti-economic Crime Directorate held the second joint forum for 120 participants from the public

and private sectors.

The forum was aimed at enhancing security awareness among the public and limit crimes that could affect the national economic growth. On the sidelines of the event, the department held an exhibition that showcased forged currencies and credit cards as well as forgery devices.

Throwing road safety to the winds

Two trucks were spotted yesterday on the Khalifa Bin Salman Causeway in Hidd carrying heavy loads in

an unsafe way. The load seemed like it could fall off at any moment as it was unsecured. A motorist who drove behind the

truck said he was alarmed at the sight. "I was wondering when the load would fall off. It looked totally unsafe," he said.

The truck carrying cargo in an unsafe way



Pic by Kasun Hettiarachchi