

rapped

will become law and officials said it could be implemented as early as next month.

However, Bahrain Human Rights Society (BHRS) general-secretary Dr Abdulla Al Deerazi claimed the law could breach the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which Bahrain has signed.

"The whole thing will breach privacy and interfere with personal freedom," he said.

"To apply such a law goes against transparency.

"This is not a 21st Century step. This is like going back to the dark ages, especially with the Information Technology revolution.

"It puts into mind that the state is moving towards security solutions, but they have proven unsuccessful before the reform projects and even now.

"If you do not trust your citizens how can you expect them to trust you?"

Dr Al Deerazi believed the government was trying to discourage activists, but predicted the plan was doomed to failure.

"The only explanation for such a law, the way it is, is to target activities in all fields of political and human rights," he said.

"It will not stop us. We will be more determined to continue our work."

However, TRA officials claimed there had

been a "misunderstanding" about the purpose of the regulation and denied suggestions it breached the country's constitution.

"It (the draft regulation) sets out the requirements for telecommunications operators to retain all communication logs and to allow access to such information and actual call content when required by the authorities," said a TRA statement.

"The competent authorities will have to follow standard procedures as part of the relevant laws to instigate access on the strength of a permit by the Public Prosecutor's office or by virtue of an order issued by the court."

Officials also claimed the proposed regulation was no different to other national security measures around the world.

"In line with international practice, this regulation addresses lawful access and data retention in the context of the constitution and the Telecommunications Law and strives to balance the individual right to privacy and national security requirements," added TRA general director Alan Horne.

The full text of the regulation is available in English and Arabic on the TRA's website at www.tra.org.bh.

People can e-mail their comments to the TRA on consult@tra.org.bh.

geoff@gdn.com.bh



■ Mr Rajab and Mr Derazi



■ Mr Whitaker, fourth from left, and Al Haddad Motors general manager Dr Ulf Ausprung, fourth from right, with officials at the auction

Charity to help children



■ Bidders and guests at the event

A CHARITY event was held last night by Al Haddad Motors at the Mercedes-Benz Showroom on Shaikh Salman Highway.

The Al Haddad Motors Grand Prix Charity Event featured an auction, with proceeds being donated to the Bahrain Society for Child Development. Items up for auction

included exclusive access to the Vodafone McLaren Mercedes pit garage at the Bahrain Grand Prix, as well as items signed by Formula One World Champion, Lewis Hamilton.

Guest speaker for the evening was Bahrain International Circuit chief executive officer Martin Whitaker.



Refreshing attractions to grab your attention

Bahrain City Centre goes to great lengths to bring you and your family the best in entertainment.

- 15th to 24th March 2009: ZooNation, UK's talented hip-hop dance troupe.
- 25th March to 3rd April 2009: The Casablanca Steps, music and comedy for the entire family.

Don't miss the daily shows at:

6:45 pm, 7:50 pm and 9:00 pm from Saturday to Wednesday
6:45 pm, 8:00 pm and 9:45 pm on Thursdays and Fridays.

For enquiries call 17179779

- Carrefour • Magic Planet • Wahoo! Waterpark (Opening Soon) • Home Centre • Saks Fifth Avenue
- Debenhams • Cineco Cinema (Opening Soon)



Where shopping meets entertainment