

OVERVIEW 2021

**THE PROCESS
OF ABOLISHING
THE DEATH PENALTY
IN MEMBER STATES
OF THE ORGANISATION
OF ISLAMIC
COOPERATION**

Recent decades have seen Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) member states open up to universal values of human rights. Abolishing the death penalty in OIC member states hasn't yet been achieved but the involvement of MPs, civil society figures and politicians to support abolition has played and will play a decisive role.

Abolition processes are slow, difficult and can be risky. However, there are many reasons for hope, especially when you see the growing number of states that have become abolitionist.

The study *The process of abolishing the death penalty in member states of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation* is based on interviews and research conducted by ECPM and Nael Georges in 2020; it provides a better understanding of the processes leading to abolition of the death penalty in OIC member states. It is a precious tool to support them all to work towards abolishing the death penalty and discrediting popular misconceptions.

Out of the OIC's 57 member states, 20 have abolished the death penalty (for all crimes or ordinary crimes), 12 have a moratorium on it and 25 are retentionist states. Abolition is possible and this study proves it with its detailed examples of states that have achieved it.

Out of the 20 states to abolish the death penalty, 14 are Muslim-majority countries.

Muslim-majority states

Albania
Azerbaijan
Burkina Faso (ordinary crimes)
Côte d'Ivoire
Djibouti
Guinea
Kazakhstan (ordinary crimes)
Kyrgyzstan
Uzbekistan
Senegal
Sierra Leone
Turkmenistan
Türkiye
Chad

Muslim-minority states

Benin
Gabon
Guinea-Bissau
Mozambique
Togo
Suriname (ordinary crimes)

KEY INFORMATION

- The OIC is the biggest international organisation after the United Nations. Its member states are spread over 4 continents.
- **Some objectives¹**
 - To preserve and promote the lofty Islamic values of peace, compassion, tolerance, equality, justice and human dignity;
 - To contribute to international peace and security;
 - To promote human rights and fundamental freedoms, good governance, rule of law, democracy and accountability in member states in accordance with their constitutional and legal systems.
- **Some priorities from the OIC 2016-2025 Action Plan**
 - Peace and security
 - Counter-terrorism
 - Human rights and good governance
- **Diversity of member states:** Some states' official religion is Islam, others are secular; demographic and political and legal aspects of Islam differ between states.
- **Most OIC states adhere to the main international conventions of human rights**
 - All have ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child
 - 15 States have ratified the OP2
 - Only 5 States have not ratified the ICCPR

KEY DATES

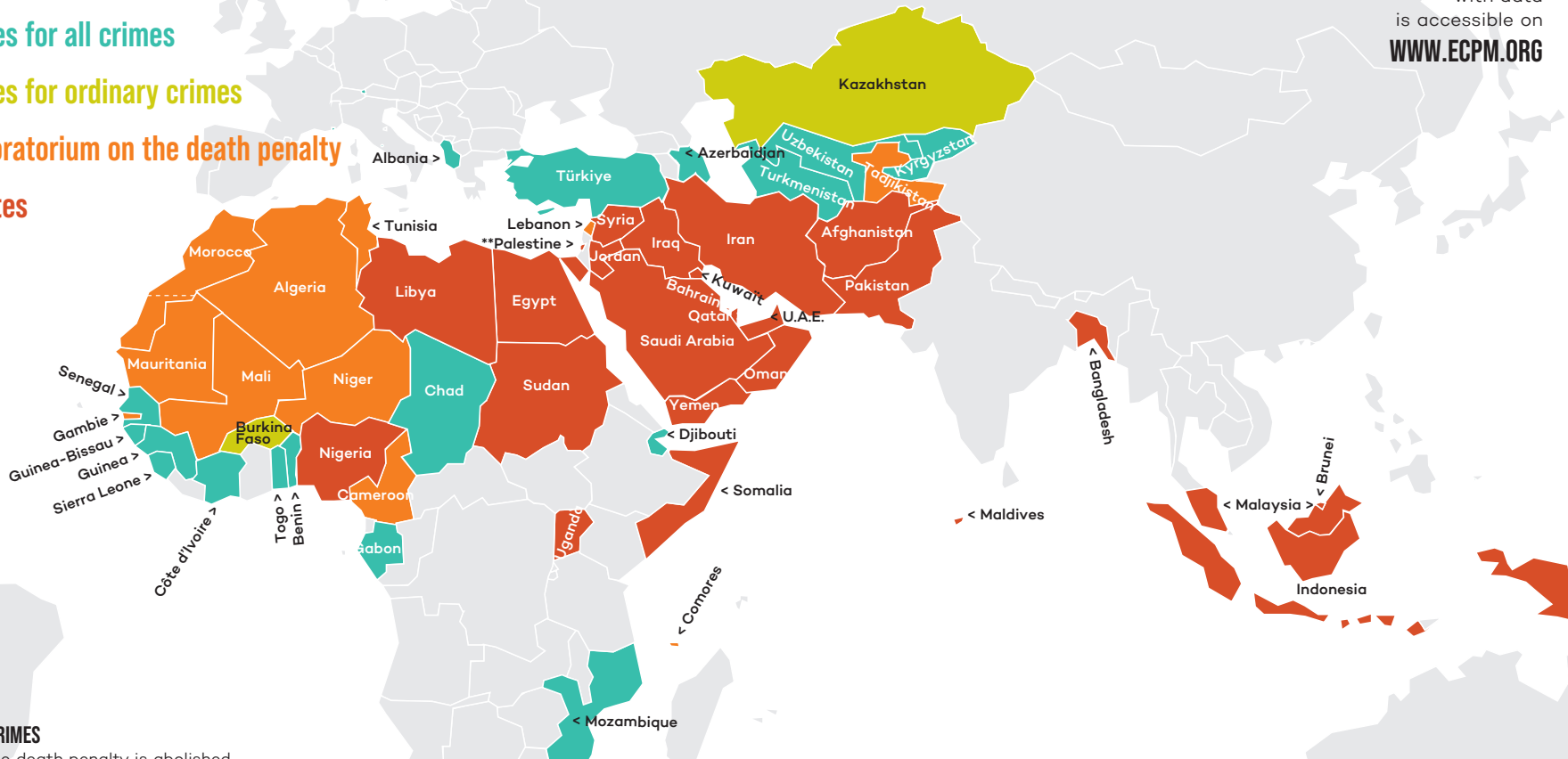
- **1969:** foundation of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) following the al-Aqsa Mosque arson attack
- **1970:** first Conference of Ministers of Foreign Affairs
→ creation of a general secretariat
- **1972:** drafting of the OIC Charter
- **1983:** adoption of the Dhaka Declaration on Human Rights in Islam
- **1990:** adoption of the Cairo Declaration on Human Rights in Islam
- **2011:** the OIC changes its name to become the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation.

1 OIC Charter: https://www.oic-oci.org/page/?p_id=53&p_ref=27&lan=en

OUT OF THE 57 OIC MEMBER STATES

- 17 Abolitionist states for all crimes
- 3 Abolitionist states for ordinary crimes
- 12 States with a moratorium on the death penalty
- 25 Retentionist states

The interactive version of this map with data is accessible on WWW.ECPM.ORG



17 ABOLITIONIST STATES FOR ALL CRIMES
States or territories where the death penalty is abolished.

3 ABOLITIONIST STATES FOR ORDINARY CRIMES
States or territories where the death penalty is abolished unless there are exceptional circumstances.

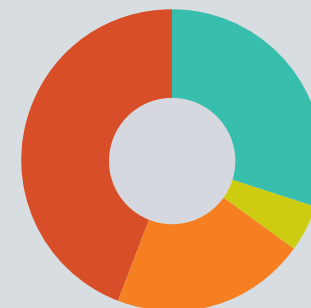
12 STATES WITH A MORATORIUM ON THE DEATH PENALTY
States or territories where the death penalty is implemented but no executions have been carried out for at least 10 years and which did not oppose the latest UNGA resolution for a universal moratorium on executions and/or having ratified OP2*.

25 RETENTIONIST STATES
States or territories which retain the death penalty.

* Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty
** **Palestine** is a particular case: it cannot vote the moratorium resolution, has ratified OP2 but the death penalty is still applied in Gaza (last documented executions in 2017).

Countries status as of December 31, 2021

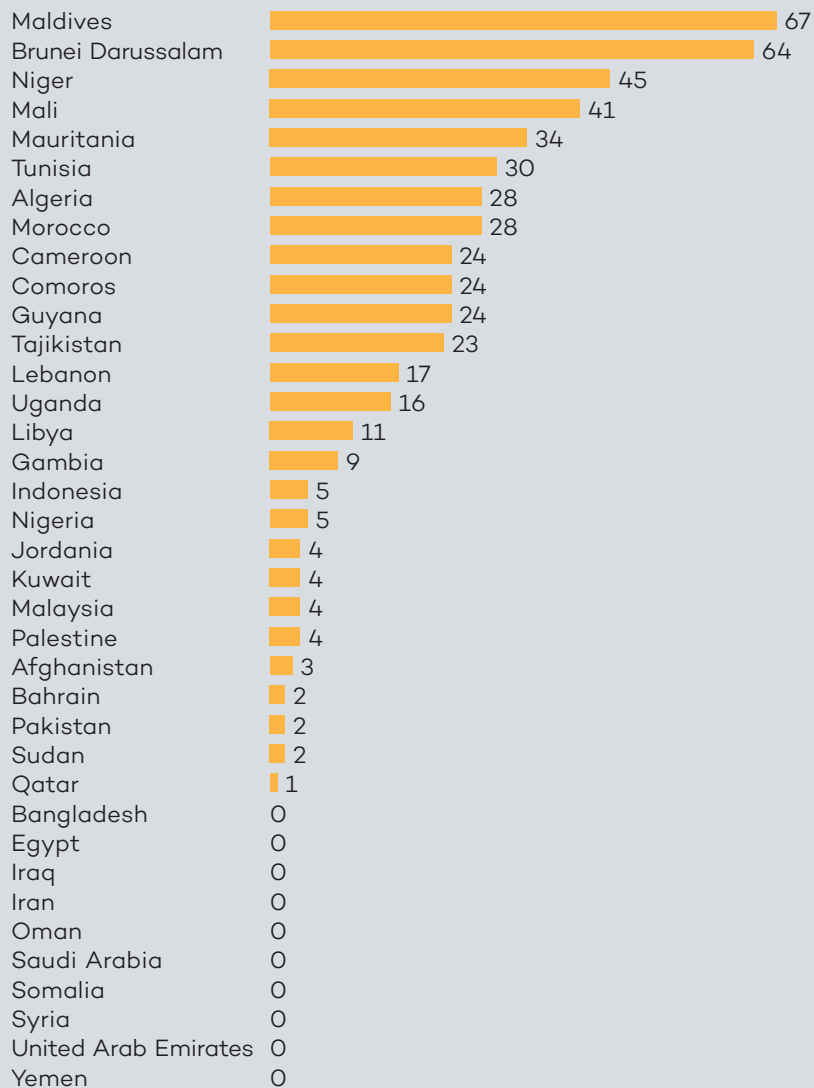
MOST OF THE ISLAMIC WORLD HAS ABOLISHED THE DEATH PENALTY IN LAW OR IN PRACTICE



- Abolitionists 30%
- Abolitionists for ordinary crimes 5%
- With a moratorium 21%
- Retentionists 44%

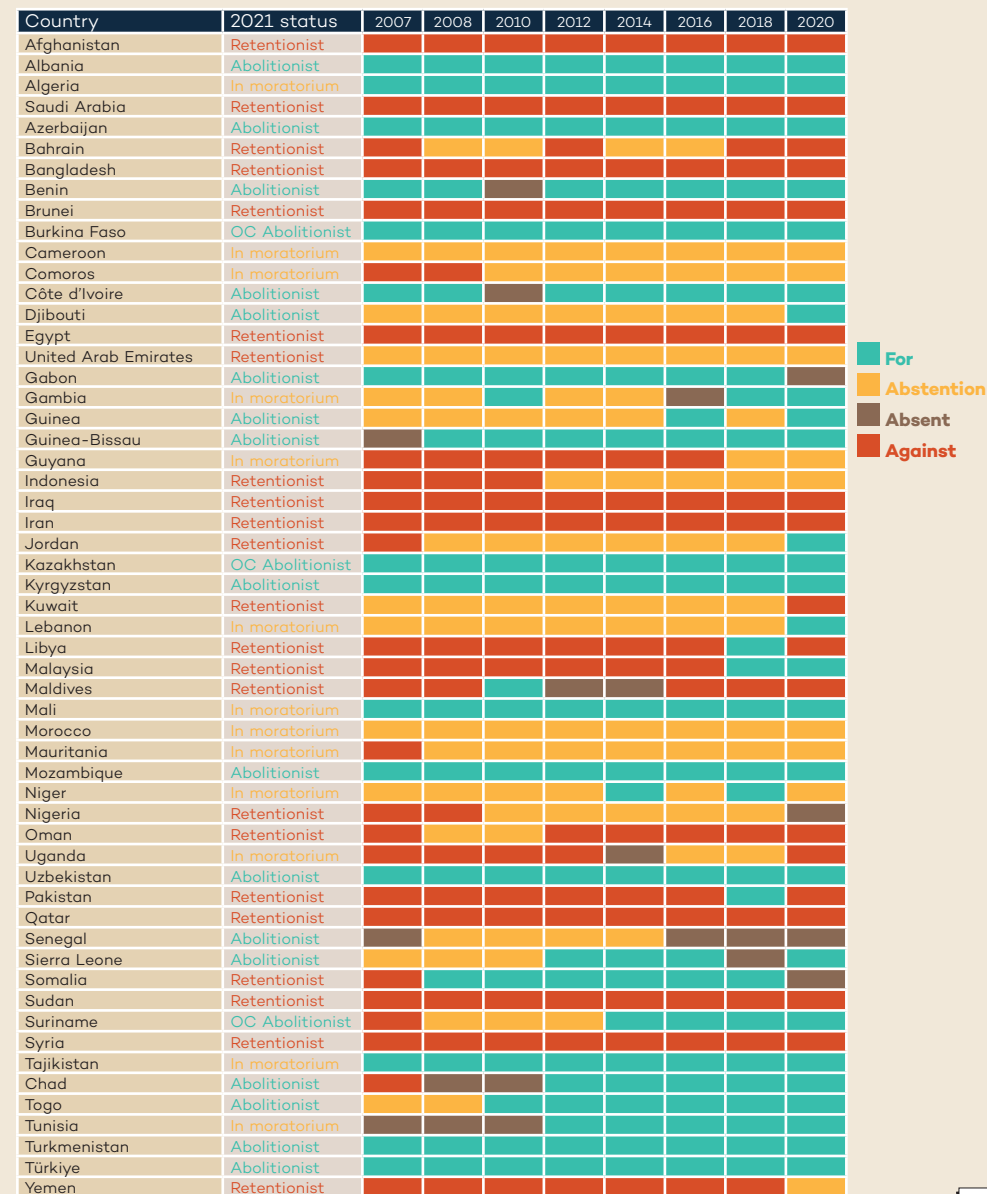
AMONG THE 37 STATES RETAINING THE DEATH PENALTY OR WITH A MORATORIUM, THE USE OF THE DEATH PENALTY DIFFERS FROM ONE COUNTRY TO ANOTHER

Number of years since the last execution in states with a moratorium or retentionist states (December 31, 2021)



OIC MEMBER STATES ADOPT DIVERSE POSITIONS IN TERMS OF THE MORATORIUM RESOLUTION VOTE

There has been a positive evolution in the voting results since 2007.



For
Abstention
Absent
Against

EGYPT

“The death penalty is irreversible and its use has been universally rejected.”

Mohamed El Baradaei

*Former Vice-President,
winner of the 2005 Nobel
Peace Prize*

MALAYSIA

“Even though the death penalty has been applied throughout the world and throughout the ages, murders continue to occur. The death penalty has not acted as a deterrent.”

Liew Vui Keong

*Former Minister
in the Prime Minister's
Department for Law*

SENEGAL

“No value can ever justify putting the value of human life into perspective so far as to eliminate it legally.”

Abdou Diouf

*Former President
of the Republic, former
General Secretary
of the International
Organisation of
La Francophonie.*

VIEW THE REPORT
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AND THE INTERACTIVE MAP ON
WWW.ECPM.ORG

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Confederazione Svizzera
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Département fédéral des affaires étrangères DFAE