

OVERVIEW 2022

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

**EC
PM**
TOGETHER
AGAINST
THE DEATH
PENALTY

Recent decades show Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) openness and willingness towards universal human rights values. Abolishing the death penalty in OIC member states hasn't yet been achieved but the involvement of Members or Parliament (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 to hope for further changes, especially while looking at the growing number of states that have become abolitionists.

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 the abolition in OIC member states. It constitutes a tool in supporting their endeavours towards abolishing the death penalty and discrediting popular misconceptions on the issue.

Out of the OIC's 57 member states, 20 have abolished the death penalty (for all crimes or ordinary crimes), 12 have established a moratorium (either de jure or de facto) 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 that have abolished the death penalty, 14 are Muslim-majority countries 14 are Muslim-majority countries' that is 70% of them.

Muslim-majority states

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

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 highest 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 are parties 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

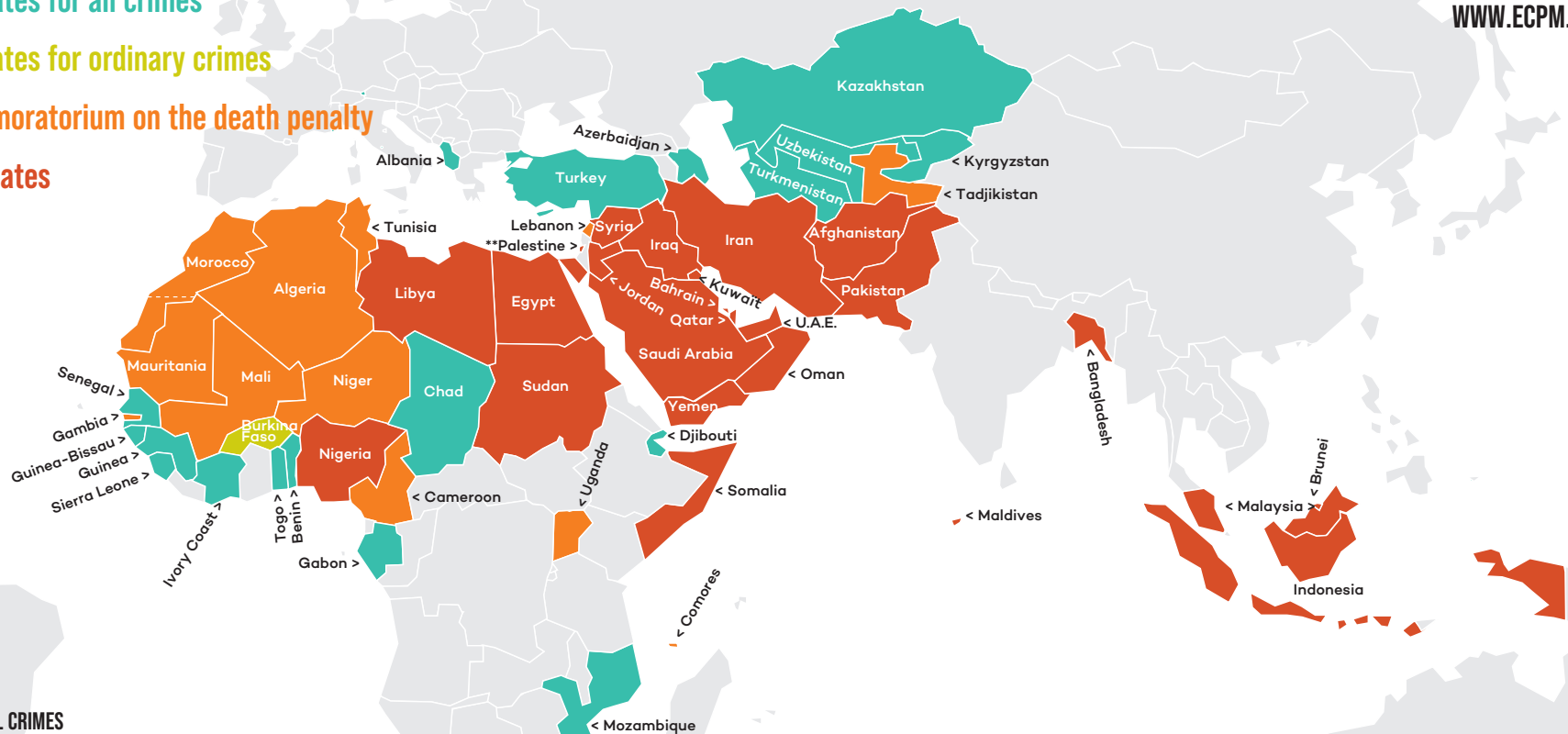
KEY DATES

- **1969:** establishment of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) following the al-Aqsa Mosque attack
- **1970:** first Conference of Ministers of Foreign Affairs
→ creation of a general secretariat
- **1972:** adoption 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 becomes 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

- 18** Abolitionist states for all crimes
- 2** Abolitionist states for ordinary crimes
- 12** States with a moratorium on the death penalty
- 25** Retentionist states



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

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

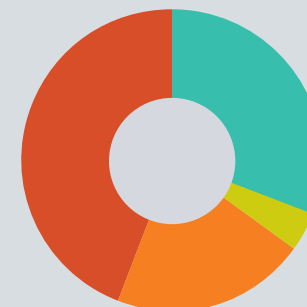
12 **STATES WITH A MORATORIUM ON THE DEATH PENALTY**
States or territories where the death penalty is implemented but no executions have been carried out for at least 10 years and which did not oppose the latest UNGA resolution for a universal moratorium on executions and/or having ratified OP2*.

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, 2022

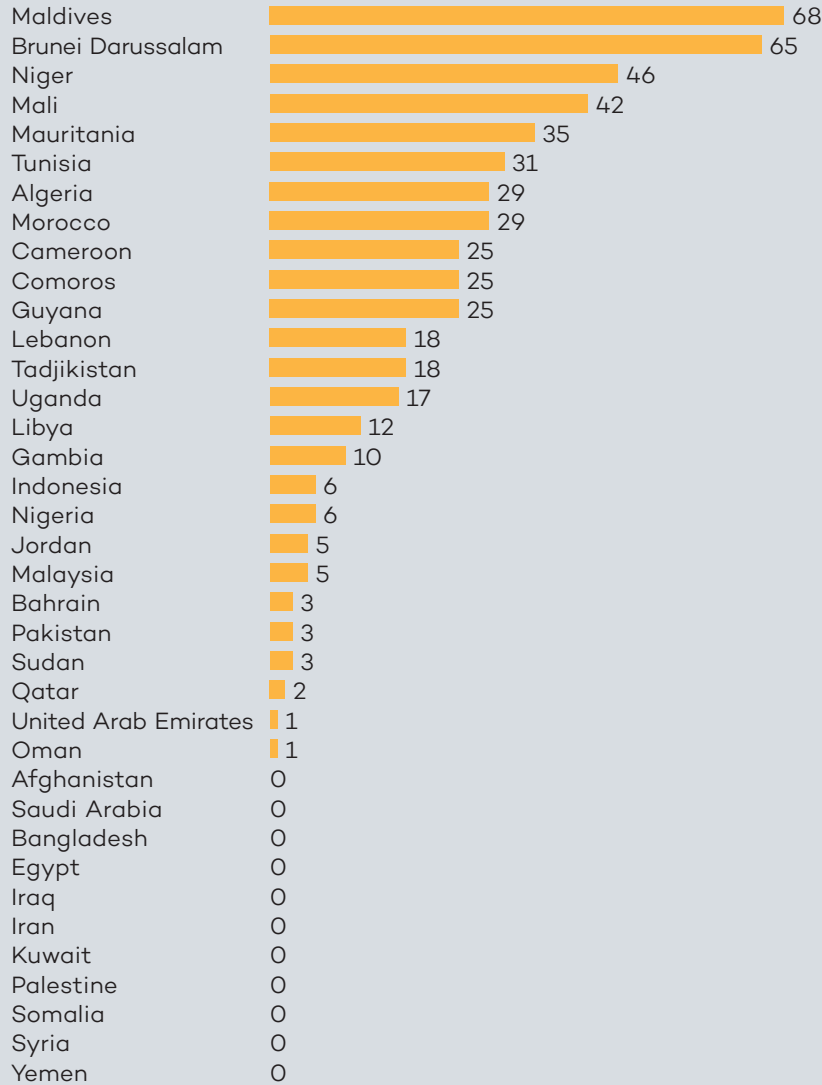
MOST OF THE ISLAMIC WORLD HAS ABOLISHED THE DEATH PENALTY IN LAW OR IN PRACTICE



- Abolitionists 31,5%
- Abolitionists for ordinary crimes 3,5%
- 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, 2022)



VOTING PATTERN OF THE OIC MEMBER STATES WITH RESPECT TO UNGA RESOLUTIONS CALLING FOR A UNIVERSAL MORATORIUM

While 15 countries were in favour of the moratorium, 27 voted in favour of the resolution in 2022.

Country	2021 status	2007	2008	2010	2012	2014	2016	2018	2020	2022
Afghanistan	Retentionist	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against
Albania	Abolitionist	For	For	For	For	For	For	For	For	For
Algeria	In moratorium	For	For	For	For	For	For	For	For	For
Saudi Arabia	Retentionist	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against
Azerbaijan	Abolitionist	For	For	For	For	For	For	For	For	For
Bahrain	Retentionist	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against
Bangladesh	Retentionist	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against
Benin	Abolitionist	For	For	For	For	For	For	For	For	For
Brunei	Retentionist	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against
Burkina Faso	OC Abolitionist	For	For	For	For	For	For	For	For	For
Cameroon	In moratorium	For	For	For	For	For	For	For	For	For
Comoros	In moratorium	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against
Ivory Coast	Abolitionist	For	For	For	For	For	For	For	For	For
Djibouti	Abolitionist	For	For	For	For	For	For	For	For	For
Egypt	Retentionist	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against
United Arab Emirates	Retentionist	For	For	For	For	For	For	For	For	For
Gabon	Abolitionist	For	For	For	For	For	For	For	For	For
Gambia	In moratorium	For	For	For	For	For	For	For	For	For
Guinea	Abolitionist	For	For	For	For	For	For	For	For	For
Guinea-Bissau	Abolitionist	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against
Guyana	In moratorium	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against
Indonesia	Retentionist	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against
Iraq	Retentionist	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against
Iran	Retentionist	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against
Jordan	Retentionist	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against
Kazakhstan	Abolitionist	For	For	For	For	For	For	For	For	For
Kyrgyzstan	Abolitionist	For	For	For	For	For	For	For	For	For
Kuwait	Retentionist	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against
Lebanon	In moratorium	For	For	For	For	For	For	For	For	For
Libya	Retentionist	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against
Malaysia	Retentionist	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against
Maldives	Retentionist	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against
Mali	In moratorium	For	For	For	For	For	For	For	For	For
Morocco	In moratorium	For	For	For	For	For	For	For	For	For
Mauritania	In moratorium	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against
Mozambique	Abolitionist	For	For	For	For	For	For	For	For	For
Niger	In moratorium	For	For	For	For	For	For	For	For	For
Nigeria	Retentionist	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against
Oman	Retentionist	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against
Uganda	Retentionist	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against
Uzbekistan	Abolitionist	For	For	For	For	For	For	For	For	For
Pakistan	Retentionist	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against
Qatar	Retentionist	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against
Senegal	Abolitionist	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against
Sierra Leone	Abolitionist	For	For	For	For	For	For	For	For	For
Somalia	Retentionist	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against
Sudan	Retentionist	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against
Suriname	OC Abolitionist	For	For	For	For	For	For	For	For	For
Syria	Retentionist	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against
Tajikistan	In moratorium	For	For	For	For	For	For	For	For	For
Chad	Abolitionist	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against
Togo	Abolitionist	For	For	For	For	For	For	For	For	For
Tunisia	In moratorium	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against
Turkmenistan	Abolitionist	For	For	For	For	For	For	For	For	For
Türkiye	Abolitionist	For	For	For	For	For	For	For	For	For
Yemen	Retentionist	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against	Against

For
Abstention
Absent
Against

EGYPT

“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

“Death penalty continues to be used a widespread phenomenon throughout the world and times and can be affiliated to murder. It cannot deter from committing any criminal act.”

Liew Vui Keong

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

SENEGAL

“No value can ever justify putting 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.*

READ THE FULL REPORT
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AND THE INTERACTIVE MAP ON
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