

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



OVERVIEW  
2025

**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



## KEY INFORMATION

- ▶ The OIC is the biggest international organisation after the United Nations. Its member states are spread over 4 continents.
- ▶ **Some objectives<sup>1</sup>**
  - 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<sup>2</sup>**
  - 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
  - 16 states have ratified the OP2<sup>3</sup>
  - Only 4 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](https://www.oic-oci.org/page/?p_id=53&p_ref=27&lan=en)

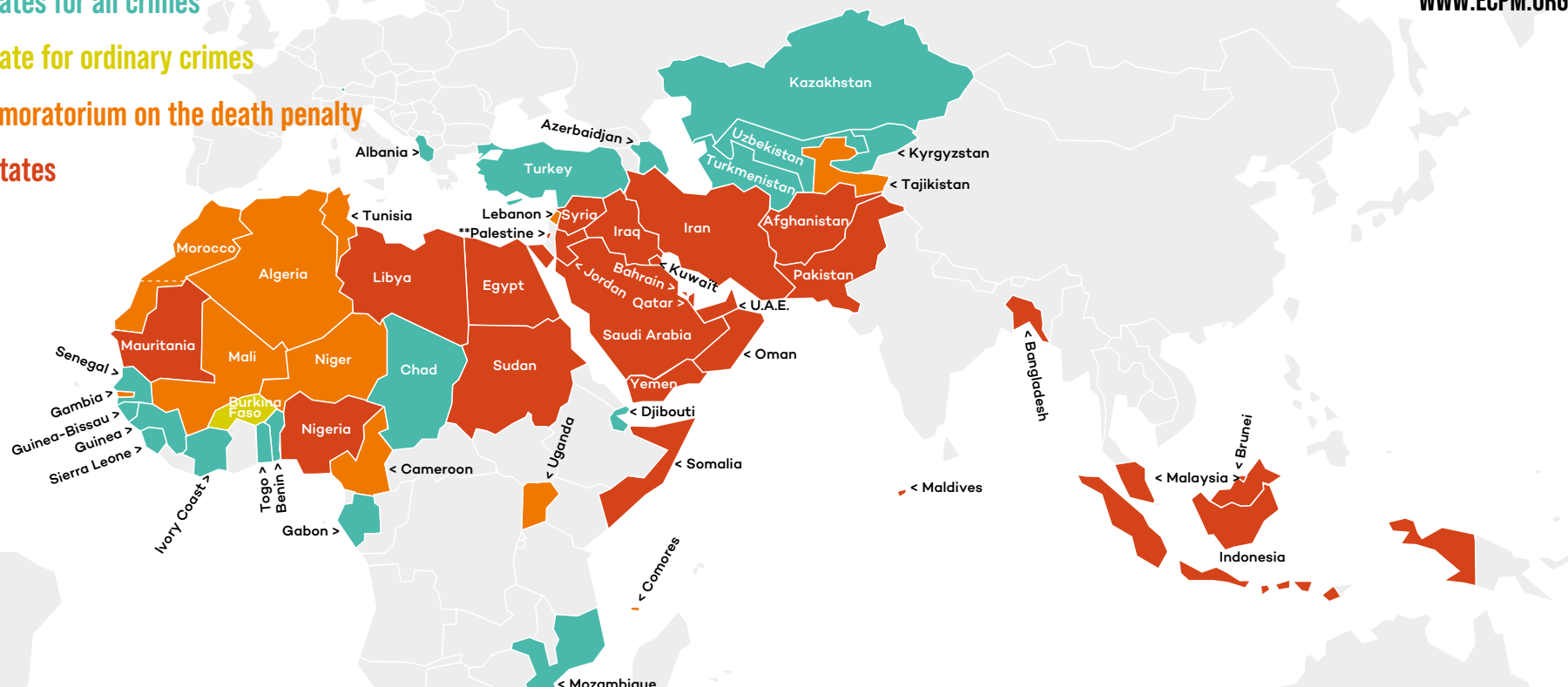
2 The 2026–2035 ten-year action plan had not yet been adopted at the time of updating this summary.

3 Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.

The interactive version  
of this map  
with data  
is accessible on  
[WWW.ECPM.ORG](http://WWW.ECPM.ORG)

# OUT OF THE 57 OIC MEMBER STATES

- 19 Abolitionist states for all crimes
- 1 Abolitionist state for ordinary crimes
- 12 States with a moratorium on the death penalty
- 25 Retentionist states



## 19 ABOLITIONIST STATES FOR ALL CRIMES

States or territories where the death penalty is abolished.

## 1 ABOLITIONIST STATE 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

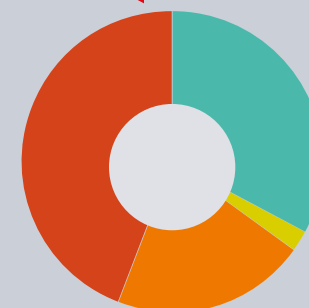
States or territories which retain the death penalty.

\* 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 2023).

Status of OIC States as of 31 December 2025.

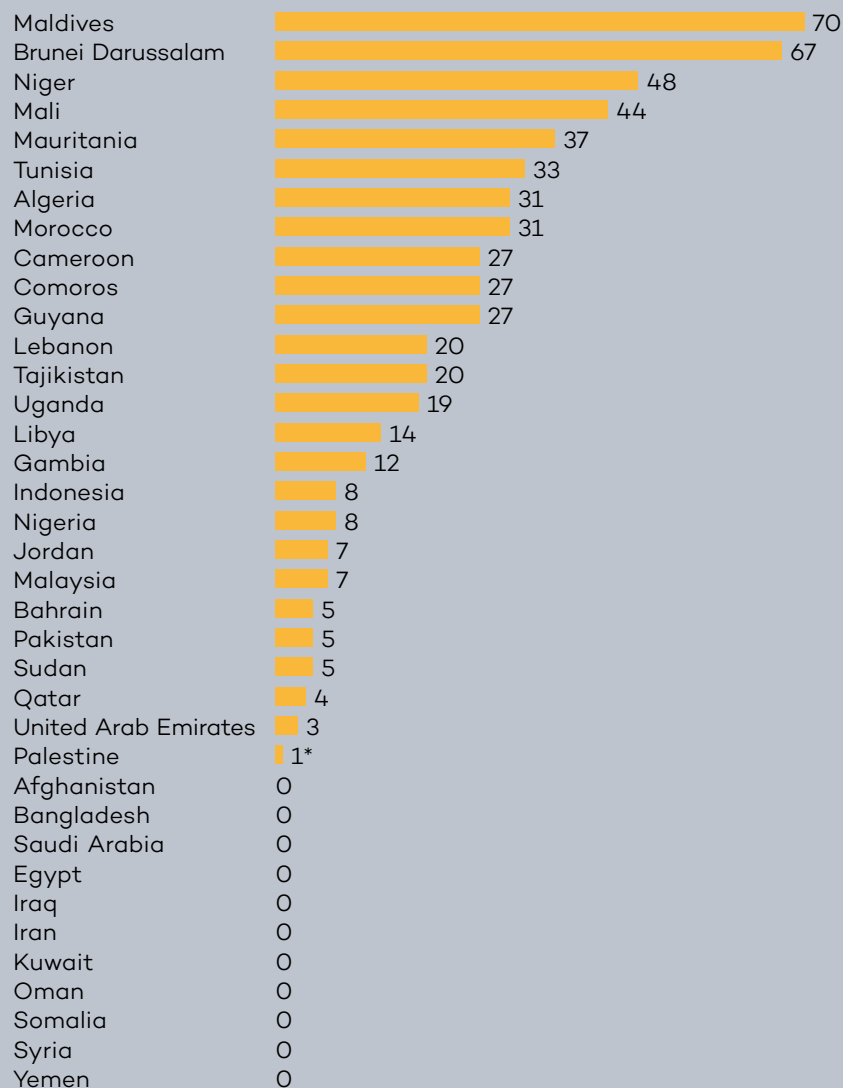
## MOST OF THE ISLAMIC WORLD HAS ABOLISHED THE DEATH PENALTY IN LAW OR IN PRACTICE



- Abolitionists 33%
- Abolitionists for ordinary crimes 2%
- 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

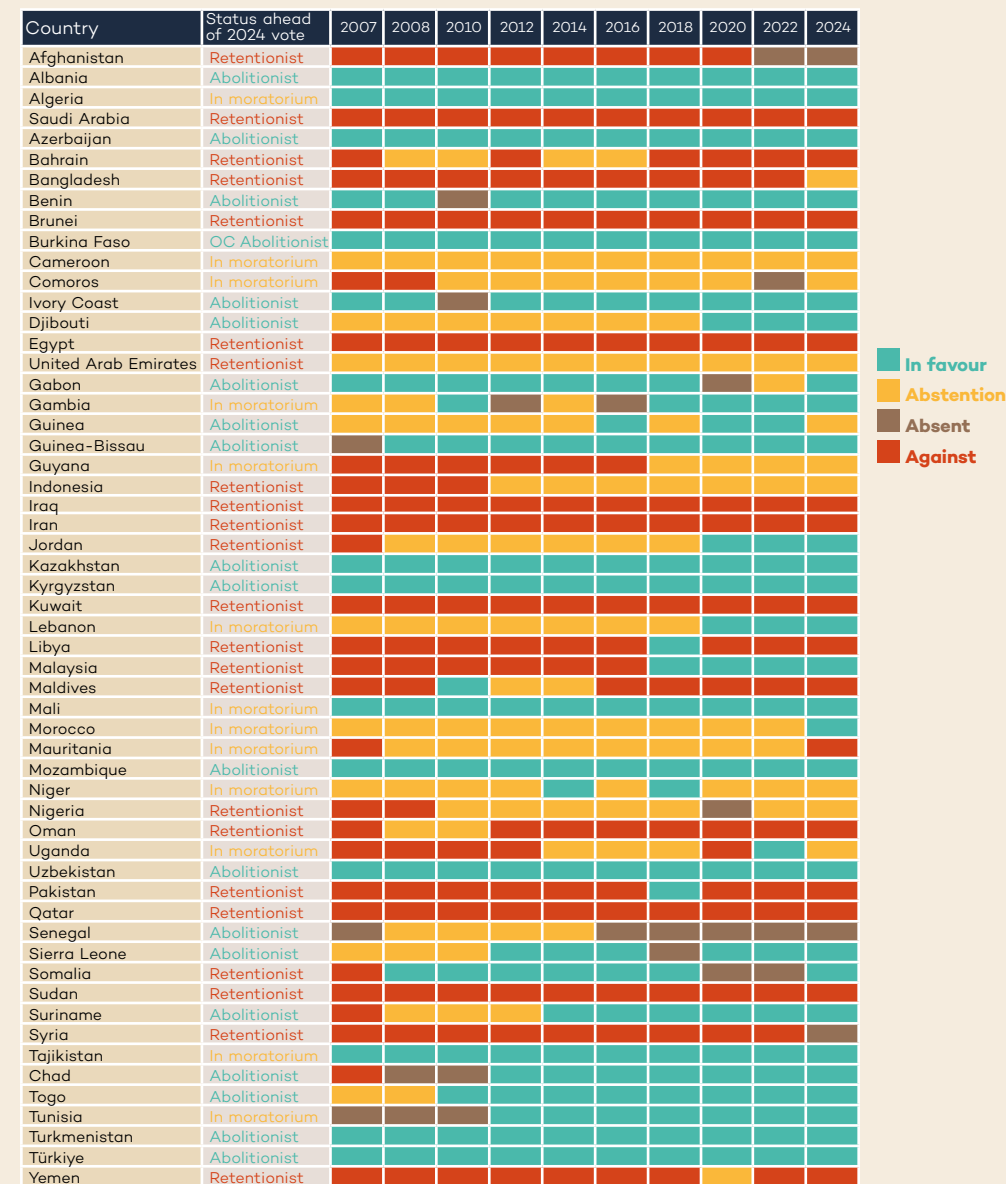
### NUMBER OF YEARS SINCE THE LAST EXECUTION IN STATES WITH A MORATORIUM OR RETENTIONIST STATES (DECEMBER 31, 2024)



\*Data for 2024 unknown.

## OIC MEMBER STATES TAKE VARYING POSITIONS ON THE UN RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A MORATORIUM ON THE USE OF THE DEATH PENALTY

There has been a positive trend in voting results. While 15 member states were in favour of the moratorium in 2007, they were 28 (50%) supporting the resolution in 2024.





***“Death penalty is irreversible and its use has been universally rejected.”***

**Mohamed El Baradaei**

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

**EGYPT**

***“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.*

**SENEGAL**

***“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*

**MALAYSIA**

**READ THE FULL REPORT**  
**“THE PROCESS OF ABOLISHING**  
**THE DEATH PENALTY**  
**IN MEMBER STATES OF**  
**THE ORGANISATION OF ISLAMIC**  
**COOPERATION (OIC)”**  
**AND THE INTERACTIVE MAP**  
**ON [WWW.ECPM.ORG](http://WWW.ECPM.ORG)**



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