

THE PATH TOWARDS THE ABOLITION OF THE DEATH PENALTY

IN LEBANON

Beirut

2026 \ August

On August 11, Lebanon abolishes the death penalty for all crimes, following a vote in the plenary session of Parliament.

2026 \ July

The joint parliamentary committees approved the bill. The LACR (Lebanese Association for Civil Rights) attended all parliamentary debates.

2026 \ June

On June 30, at the opening ceremony of the 9th World Congress Against the Death Penalty, organised in Paris by ECPM, the Lebanese Minister of Justice announced the government's commitment to abolishing the death penalty.

As part of the 4th cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), Lebanon accepted, for the first time, all of the recommendations addressed to it concerning the death penalty (15 recommendations).

2026 \ February to June

Two parliamentary committees examined the bill: the Human Rights Committee, and the Administration and Justice Committee.

2025 \ November

ECPM and the LACR carried out an advocacy mission in Geneva ahead of Lebanon's UPR.

The Council of Ministers issued a favorable opinion on the bill. For the first time, the Lebanese government discussed a bill to abolish the death penalty.

2025 \ October

A bill aiming to abolish the death penalty, drafted by the LACR, was signed by seven Members of Parliament from different political groups and submitted to Parliament for review.

2023 \ October

ECPM and LACR organised a national seminar in Beirut for criminal justice actors. Lawyers, judges, members of parliament, ministry representatives, and civil society representatives took part in the discussions.

2014 \ January

LACR and ECPM, in collaboration with the Beirut Bar Association, organised a national conference against the death penalty, bringing together judges, lawyers, ministry representatives, diplomats, and civil society.

2017 \ October

Antoinette Chahine, who had previously been sentenced to death in Lebanon, was awarded the insignia of the Legion of Honour during a ceremony at the French Embassy in Lebanon. ECPM was invited to deliver an address before members of parliament, NGO representatives, and diplomats.

2018

ECPM and AJEM, together with LACR, organised a national conference on the death penalty, attended by the Minister of Justice.

2020

Publication of the fact-finding mission report "Alive, but Not Living" on the death penalty in Lebanon, produced by ECPM, LACR, and AJEM.

2020 \ December

For the first time, Lebanon voted in favor of the United Nations resolution calling for a moratorium on the use of the death penalty, a position it maintained in subsequent votes in 2022 and 2024.

2022 \ April

ECPM participated with LACR in an advocacy mission ahead of the legislative elections. Over three days, they met with more than fifteen candidates from various political parties. They also met the Minister of Justice and visited Roumieh prison.

2023 \ June–July

Lebanese abolitionist actors took part in the 4th Regional Congress on the Death Penalty in the Middle East, held in Amman, Jordan.

2013 \ October

At the invitation of ECPM, Lebanese members of parliament and civil society representatives took part in the "Parliamentary Seminar on the Death Penalty in the Middle East and North Africa Region," hosted at the French National Assembly.

2004

Three people were executed at Roumieh prison on January 17, 2004. These were the last executions carried out in Lebanon.

2001

The Law 302/94 – the so-called "Killer Law", which made the death penalty mandatory for murder, was repealed by a large majority in Parliament (94% of the deputies). It marked the first legislative victory of the National Campaign's mobilisation.

1998

On May 20, the National Campaign organised the first non-violent protest in Lebanon against the death penalty: a dawn sit-in in a public square in Tarbaja (Mount Lebanon), near the gallows where two young men had been executed.

1997

Walid Slaybi and Ogarit Younan, the two pioneers of the abolition of the death penalty in Lebanon, launched the country's abolitionist movement. They wrote the first reference book in Lebanon on this topic, "The Death Penalty Kills", and published the first statistical research on people executed in Lebanon since independence. The National Campaign for the Abolition of the Death Penalty in Lebanon was launched with the participation of prominent public figures, political parties, and several NGOs including the LACR and AJEM.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
ON THE STATUS OF THE DEATH PENALTY
IN LEBANON PRIOR TO ABOLITION

Infographic (2025)

Animated infographic (2023) - English subtitles

PARTNERSHIPS

ECPM TOGETHER
AGAINST
THE DEATH
PENALTY

LACR
الهيئة اللبنانية لحقوق المدنية
Lebanese Association for Civil Rights
Association Libanaise pour les Droits Civils

AJEM
جمعية عمل ورحمة

لا إعدام
NO TO DEATH PENALTY
LIBANON