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







**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 Muslimmajority countries 14 are Muslim-majority countries' that is 70% of them.

Muslim-majority
states
314163
Albania
Azerbaijan
Burkina Faso (ordinary crimes)
Chad
Côte d'Ivoire
Djibouti
Guinea
Kazakhstan
Kyrgyzstan
Uzbekistan
Senegal
Sierra Leone
Turkmenistan
Türkive

## Muslim-minority states

Benin Gabon Guinea-Bissau Mozambique Togo Suriname



- ► 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
  - 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
  - Only 5 states have not ratified the ICCPR



- ▶ **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



<sup>1</sup> OIC Charter: https://www.oic-oci.org/page/?p\_id=53&p\_ref=27&lan=en

THE PROCESS OF ABOLISHING THE DEATH PENALTY ESS OF ABOLISHING THE DEATH PENALTY The interactive version OUT OF THE **57** OIC MEMBER STATES of this map with data is accessible on ļ Abolitionist states for all crimes WWW.ECPM.ORG Abolitionist states for ordinary crimes States with a moratorium on the death penalty Azerbaidjan > Albania > Kyrgyzstan **Retentionist states** Turkey < Tadjikistan < Tunisia Lebanon > Iran \*Palestine > Algeria Libya Egypt < U.A.E. audi Arabia lauritanic Bangla Senegal; < Oman Sudan Gambia < Djibouti nea-Bissau Guined Nigeria Guyana Sierra Leone Surin < Somalia < Cameroon Togo > Benin 3 < Maldives Gabon Indonesia < Mozambique **ABOLITIONIST STATES FOR ALL CRIMES** States or territories where the death penalty is abolished. MOST OF THE ISLAMIC WORLD HAS ABOLISHED ABOLITIONIST STATES FOR ORDINARY CRIMES States or territories where the death penalty is abolished unless THE DEATH PENALTY IN LAW OR IN PRACTICE 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** Abolitionists 33% States or territories which retain the death penalty. Abolitionists for ordinary crimes 2% With a moratorium 21%

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).

Countries status as of December 31, 2024

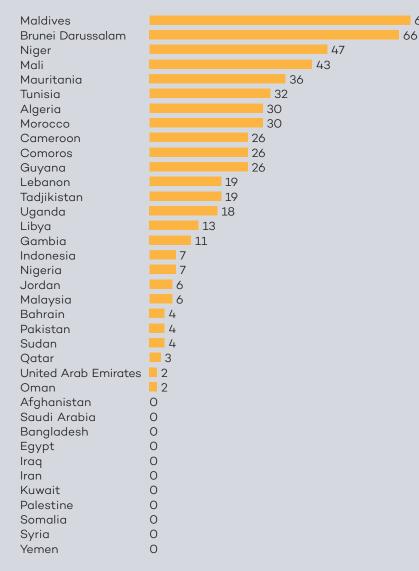


Retentionists 44%



Number of years since the last execution in states with a moratorium or retentionist states (December 31, 2023)

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## OCI 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.

Country	Status ahead of 2024 vote	2007	2008	2010	2012	2014	2016	2018	2020	2022	2024
ghanistan	Retentionist										
Ibania	Abolitionist										
Algeria											
Saudi Arabia	Retentionist										
Azerbaijan	Abolitionist										
Bahrain	Retentionist										
Bangladesh	Retentionist										
Benin	Abolitionist										
Brunei	Retentionist										
Burkina Faso	OC Abolitionist										
Cameroon											
Comoros											
vory Coast	Abolitionist										
Djibouti	Abolitionist										
gypt	Retentionist										
Jnited Arab Emirates	Retentionist										
Gabon	Abolitionist										
Gambia	In moratorium										
Guinea	Abolitionist										
Guinea-Bissau	Abolitionist										
Guyana											
ndonesia	Retentionist										
raq	Retentionist										
ran	Retentionist										
lordan	Retentionist										
Kazakhstan	Abolitionist										
Kyrgyzstan	Abolitionist										
Kuwait	Retentionist										
ebanon											
ibya	Retentionist										
Malaysia	Retentionist										
Aaldives	Retentionist										
Mali											
Morocco											
Mauritania											
Mozambique	Abolitionist										
Viger											
Nigeria	Retentionist										
Oman	Retentionist										
Jganda											
Jzbekistan	Abolitionist										
Pakistan	Retentionist										
Qatar	Retentionist										
Senegal	Abolitionist										
Sierra Leone	Abolitionist										
Somalia	Retentionist										
Sudan	Retentionist										
Suriname	Abolitionist										
Syria	Retentionist										
Tajikistan	In moratorium										
Chad	Abolitionist										
oqo	Abolitionist										
Tunisia	In moratorium										
Furkmenistan	Abolitionist										
Fürkive	Abolitionist										_
émen	Retentionist										

#7

"Death penalty is irreversible and its use has been universally rejected."

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



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

**Liew Vui Keong** Former Minister in the Prime Minister's Department for Law

MALAYSIA

SENEGAL

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** 







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