



Global Initiative to  
End All Corporal Punishment  
of Children

## Progress towards prohibiting all corporal punishment in the Middle East and North Africa

Prepared by the Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children ([www.endcorporalpunishment.org](http://www.endcorporalpunishment.org)), July 2011

Note: The above information has been compiled from many sources, including reports to and by the United Nations human rights treaty bodies. Information in square brackets is unconfirmed. We are very grateful to government officials, UNICEF and other UN agencies, NGOs and human rights institutions, and many individuals who have helped to provide and check information. Please let us know if you believe any of the information to be incorrect: [info@endcorporalpunishment.org](mailto:info@endcorporalpunishment.org).

State	Prohibited in the home	Prohibited in schools	Prohibited in penal system		Prohibited in alternative care settings
			As sentence for crime	As disciplinary measure	
Algeria	NO	YES	YES	[NO]	NO
Bahrain	NO	YES	YES	NO	NO
Djibouti	NO	[YES]	[YES]	NO	NO
Egypt	NO	NO <sup>1</sup>	YES	YES <sup>2</sup>	NO
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	NO	YES	NO	[YES]	NO
Iraq	NO	NO	YES	SOME <sup>3</sup>	NO
Israel	YES <sup>4</sup>	YES	YES	YES	YES
Jordan	NO	YES	YES	YES	[SOME] <sup>5</sup>
Kuwait	NO	[YES]	YES	NO	[NO]
Lebanon	NO	NO <sup>6</sup>	YES	[YES]	NO
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	NO	YES	NO	NO	[NO]
Morocco	NO	NO <sup>7</sup>	YES	YES	NO

<sup>1</sup> Ministerial directive states corporal punishment should not be used but no prohibition in law (information unconfirmed)

<sup>2</sup> But possibly permitted in social welfare institutions

<sup>3</sup> Prohibited in prisons and detention centres, possibly lawful in other penal institutions

<sup>4</sup> 2000 Supreme Court ruled against all violence in childrearing; “reasonable chastisement” defence removed from legislation in same year

<sup>5</sup> Possibly prohibited in institutions

<sup>6</sup> Government committed to law reform (2006)

<sup>7</sup> Ministerial direction advises against corporal punishment, but no prohibition in law

State	Prohibited in the home	Prohibited in schools	Prohibited in penal system		Prohibited in alternative care settings
			As sentence for crime	As disciplinary measure	
Oman	NO	YES	???	NO	NO
Palestine	NO	SOME <sup>8</sup>	[NO] <sup>9</sup>	[NO] <sup>10</sup>	NO
Qatar	NO	NO <sup>11</sup>	NO	NO	NO
Saudi Arabia	NO	NO <sup>12</sup>	NO	NO	NO
South Sudan, Republic of	YES <sup>13</sup>	YES	YES	YES	YES
Sudan	NO	NO <sup>14</sup>	[YES] <sup>15</sup>	NO	NO
Syrian Arab Republic	NO	NO <sup>16</sup>	YES	NO	NO
Tunisia	YES <sup>17</sup>	YES	YES	YES	YES
United Arab Emirates	NO	YES <sup>18</sup>	NO	NO	NO
Western Sahara	NO	[NO]	[YES]	[YES]	[NO]
Yemen	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO <sup>19</sup>

*Analysis prepared by the Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children*  
[www.endcorporalpunishment.org](http://www.endcorporalpunishment.org); [info@endcorporalpunishment.org](mailto:info@endcorporalpunishment.org)  
 July 2011

<sup>8</sup> Prohibited in UNRWA schools and in East Jerusalem; in public schools, Ministerial direction advises against the use of corporal punishment, but no prohibition in law

<sup>9</sup> Possibly unlawful in the West Bank

<sup>10</sup> Possibly unlawful in East Jerusalem

<sup>11</sup> Ministerial Decree states that corporal punishment should not be used, but no explicit prohibition in legislation

<sup>12</sup> Ministerial circulars advise against the use of corporal punishment, but no prohibition in law

<sup>13</sup> Prohibited in 2011 Transitional Constitution, confirming prohibition in 2005 Interim Constitution and 2008 Child Act enacted prior to independence

<sup>14</sup> 2010 Child Act prohibits cruel punishment but no explicit prohibition of all corporal punishment

<sup>15</sup> Possibly lawful under *Sharia*

<sup>16</sup> Ministry of Education advises against its use but no explicit prohibition in law

<sup>17</sup> Prohibited in 2010 amendment to the Penal Code

<sup>18</sup> But no explicit prohibition in relation to private schools

<sup>19</sup> See previous note