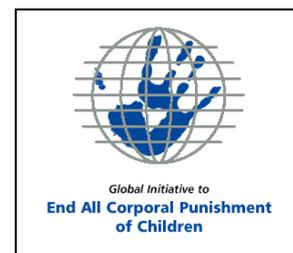


Middle East and North Africa: summary of legal status of corporal punishment of children

Prepared by the Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children (www.endcorporalpunishment.org), June 2007



Please note: The following 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.

STATE	Prohibited in the home	Prohibited in schools	Prohibited in penal system		Prohibited in alternative care settings
			As sentence	As disciplinary measure	
Algeria	NO	YES	YES	[NO]	NO
Bahrain	NO	YES	YES	???	???
Djibouti	NO	[YES]	???	NO	???
Egypt	NO	YES	YES	YES ¹	NO
Iran, Islamic Republic of	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO
Iraq	NO	YES	YES	???	???
Israel	YES ²	YES	YES	YES	YES
Jordan	NO ³	YES	YES	YES	[YES]
Kuwait	NO	YES	YES ⁴	NO	???
Lebanon	NO	NO ⁵	YES	YES	SOME ⁶
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	NO	YES	NO	???	???
Morocco	NO	NO ⁷	YES	YES	NO ⁸
Oman	NO	YES	???	NO	NO
Palestine	NO	NO ⁹	YES ¹⁰	NO	NO
Qatar	NO	NO ¹¹	NO	NO	NO
Saudi Arabia	NO	NO ¹²	NO	NO	NO
Sudan	NO	NO ¹³	NO	NO	NO
Syrian Arab Republic	NO	NO ¹⁴	YES	???	NO
Tunisia	NO	NO ¹⁵	YES	YES	NO
United Arab Emirates	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO
Western Sahara	NO	[NO]	[YES]	[YES]	[NO]
Yemen	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO

¹ But possibly permitted in social welfare institutions

² 2000 Supreme Court ruled against all violence in childrearing; “reasonable chastisement” defence removed from legislation in same year

³ In September 2006, government stated corporal punishment by parents prohibited in new legislation, but no explicit prohibition and Penal Code allows for parental discipline within limits established by “general custom” (article 62)

⁴ But reintroduction possibly proposed

⁵ Government committed to law reform (2006)

⁶ Prohibited in day care centres (information unconfirmed) but not in other alternative care settings

⁷ Prohibited by Ministerial direction

⁸ No prohibition in foster care; possibly no prohibition in other alternative care settings

⁹ Prohibited by Ministerial direction

¹⁰ But possibly permitted under Shari’a law

¹¹ Prohibited by Ministerial Decree

¹² Prohibited by Ministerial circulars

¹³ 1993 School Regulations prohibit for girls but allow four lashes for boys

¹⁴ Ministry of Education advises against its use

¹⁵ Prohibited by Ministerial circular