

HUMAN RIGHTS

IN THE **MIDDLE EAST**



Produced by **StandWithUs**

MIDDLE EAST



Religious Intolerance In Arab States

DECLINING POPULATIONS

Jewish Population in Arab States

1948: 856,000
2015: 3,880

Christian Population in Arab States

1909: 20%
2015: 3%

Christian Population in West Bank and Gaza

1950: 15%
2016: 1%

RISING POPULATIONS

Christians in Israel

1949: 34,000
2015: 163,000

Muslims in Israel

1949: 111,500
2015: 1.4 million

Only one state
in the Middle East
fosters religious
freedom.

REGIONAL MAP



Religious Tolerance in Israel

As a Jewish and democratic state, Israel protects religious freedom for all and officially recognizes 15 different religions.

Political Rights

Government	Free and Fair Elections	Opposition Parties Legal
Egypt	Very Limited	Very Limited
Iran	Very Limited	Very Limited
Jordan	Very Limited	Very Limited
Lebanon	Limited	Limited
Palestinians (Gaza)	NO	Very Limited
Palestinians (West Bank)	Very Limited	Limited
Saudi Arabia	NO	NO
Sudan	NO	Very Limited
Syria	NO	NO
Israel	YES	YES



Political Rights

Government	Pluralism & Participation	Freedom House Rating* Scale 0-40
Egypt	Very Limited	7
Iran	Very Limited	7
Jordan	Very Limited	12
Lebanon	Limited	14
Palestinians (Gaza)	Very Limited	3
Palestinians (West Bank)	Limited	4
Saudi Arabia	NO	1
Sudan	Very Limited	2
Syria	NO	-3
Israel	YES	33

* Freedom House, founded in 1940, is a nonpartisan, broad-based, nonprofit organization that monitors and evaluates democracy and freedom around the world. It ranks nations for political rights and civil liberties on a scale of 0-40 and 0-60 respectively. Lower numbers mean less freedom, and vice versa.

See Freedom House country reports at www.freedomhouse.org/countries/freedom-world/scores

LGBTQ Rights

Government	Homosexuality Legal
Egypt	YES (But LGBTQ people are prosecuted under lewd conduct laws.)
Iran	NO (Gay men are put to death.)
Jordan	YES (But reports of honor killings and gay men seeking asylum elsewhere)
Lebanon	NO
Palestinians (Gaza)	NO
Palestinians (West Bank)	YES (But no protection from hate crimes)
Saudi Arabia	NO (Gay men are put to death.)
Syria	NO (3 years' imprisonment)



LGBTQ Rights

Government	Legal Protection for LGBTQ People from Discrimination and Hate Crimes	Honor Killing* Punished
Egypt	NO	NO
Iran	NO	NO
Jordan	NO	NO
Lebanon	NO	NO
Palestinians (Gaza)	NO	NO
Palestinians (West Bank)	NO	Minimal
Saudi Arabia	NO	NO
Syria	NO	Minimal
Israel	YES	YES

*An “honor killing” occurs when a male kills a female family member who has had sex – or is rumored to have had sex – outside of marriage, either by choice or because she was raped. Some countries have no penalties or only light penalties for this kind of killing.

Women's Rights

Government	Percentage of Women Who Are Illiterate (Age 15 and Older)
Egypt	34%
Iran	19%
Jordan	2%
Libya	22%
Palestinian Authority	4%
Saudi Arabia	7%
Syria	26%
Israel	3%



Women's Rights

Government	Travel Restrictions (Husband's or Male Relative's Consent Required)	Percentage of Women in Labor Force (World Bank)
Egypt	YES	18%
Iran	YES	18%
Jordan	YES	15%
Libya	YES (in practice)	34%
Palestinian Authority	YES (in practice)	18%
Saudi Arabia	NO	22%
Syria	YES	14%
Israel	NO	60% (more than U.S. and U.K.)



Civil Rights

Government	Free Speech & Assembly	Fair and Open Trials
Egypt	Very Limited	NO
Iran	NO	NO
Jordan	Minimal	Limited
Lebanon	Limited	NO
Palestinians (Gaza)	NO	NO
Palestinians (West Bank)	Limited	NO
Saudi Arabia	NO	NO
Sudan	NO	NO
Syria	NO	NO
Israel	YES	YES



Civil Rights

Government	Religious Freedom Protected	Freedom House Rating* Scale 0-60
Egypt	NO	14
Iran	NO	10
Jordan	Limited	25
Lebanon	Limited	30
Palestinians (Gaza)	NO	8
Palestinians (West Bank)	Limited	21
Saudi Arabia	NO	6
Sudan	NO	10
Syria	Limited	3
Israel	YES	43

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Freedom of Ideas

Government	Free Media (Uncensored)	Freedom to Criticize Religion	Academic Freedom
Egypt	NO	NO	NO
Iran	NO	NO	NO
Jordan	NO	NO	Partial
Palestinian Authority	NO	NO	Partial
Saudi Arabia	NO	NO	NO
Syria	NO	N/A	NO
Israel	YES	YES	YES



Freedom of Ideas

Government	Free Artistic Expression	Free Entry of Foreign Arts/ Books/Press
Egypt	NO	Partial
Iran	NO	NO
Jordan	Partial	Partial
Palestinian Authority	Partial	N/A
Saudi Arabia	NO	NO
Syria	NO	NO
Israel	YES	YES





Israel represents justice, resilience, and hope. It is a nation of indigenous people who overcame 1,900 years of oppression to achieve freedom in their ancestral home.



**Despite its flaws and
conflicts, Israel is the only
democracy in the Middle
East with a proven record of
protecting human rights.**

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