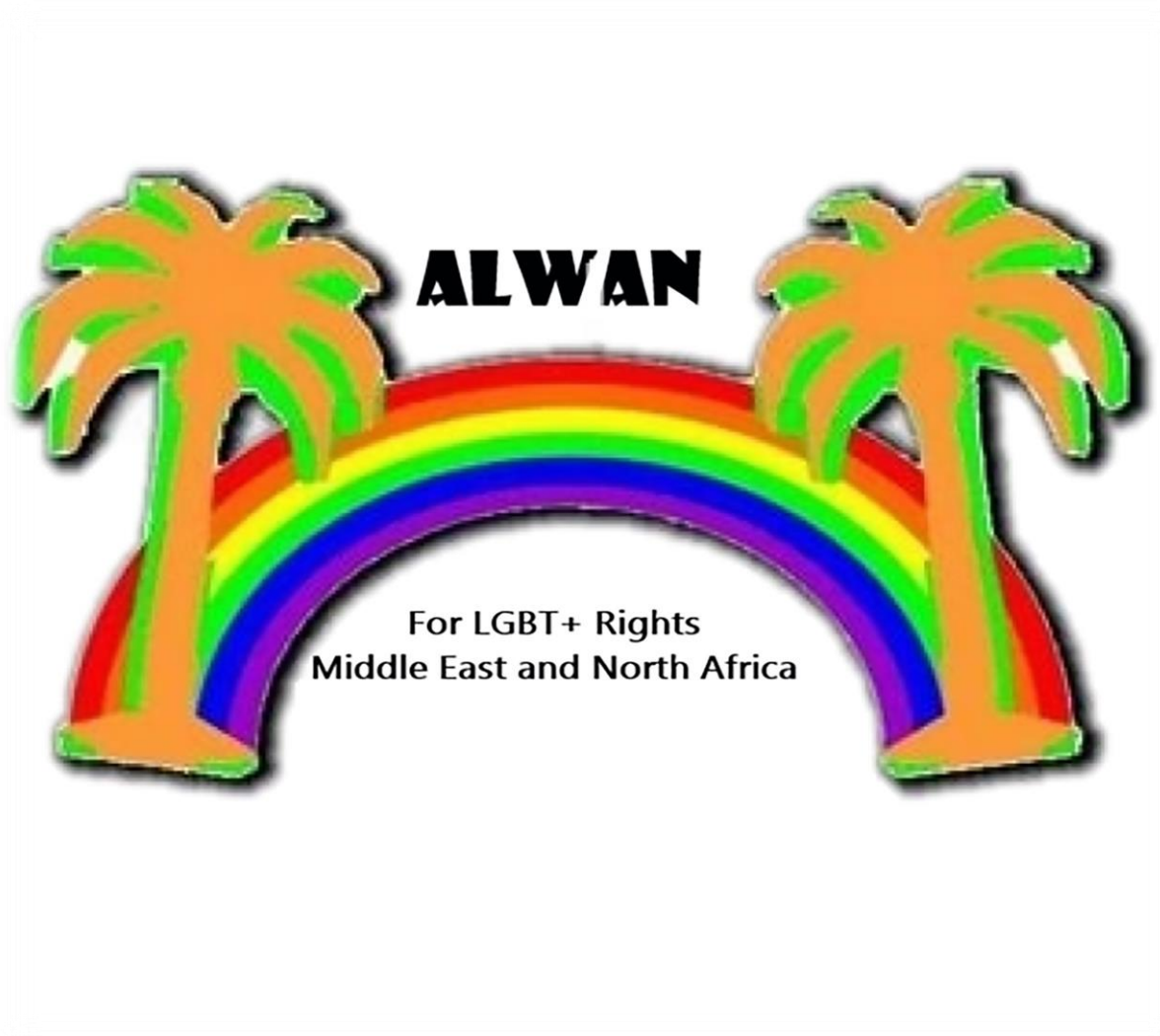


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Alwan Organization for LGBT+ right

non-governmental organization concerned with the rights of the homosexual s

egment in the Middle East and North Africa

the organization was established in Iraq in 17/11/2014 , the organization cares to monitor, document and write reports of violations of the rights and archives of homosexuals in the region, the organization believes that the culture of the other's rights is a culture To deal with members of society by working to protect them where this has been available and to defend these rights where possible guided by international and national laws that preserve human dignity and rights.

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Cover photo : The logo of the Organization for the Rights of the gay rights in the Middle East and North Africa.



MENA is an English-language acronym referring to the **Middle East and North Africa region**. The term covers an extensive region stretching from Morocco to Iran, including all Mashriq and Maghreb countries. This toponym is roughly synonymous with the term the Greater Middle East.

The population of the MENA region at its least extent is estimated to be around 381 million people. This constitutes about 6% of the total world population. The MENA acronym is often used in academia, military planning, disaster relief, media planning as a broadcast region, and business writing.

Controversy

Due to the geographic ambiguity and Eurocentric nature of the term "Middle East", some people prefer use of the terms Arab World, WANA (West Asia and North Africa) or the less common NAWA (North Africa-West Asia). Both the Arab world and MENA region remain the most common terms and are used by most organizations, academia, and political entities flexibly, including

those in the region itself. The World Bank, UNDP and even the UNSC all use both terms.

List of countries

MENA has no standardized definition; different organizations define the region as consisting of different territories. The following is a list of commonly included countries and territories.

Algeria ‧ Bahrain ‧ Egypt ‧ Iran ‧ Iraq

Israel ‧ Jordan ‧ Kuwait ‧ Lebanon

Libya ‧ Mauritania ‧ Morocco ‧ Oman

Palestine ‧ Qatar ‧ Saudi Arabia ‧ Syria

Tunisia ‧ United Arab Emirates ‧ Yemen

*Other countries sometimes counted as part of MENA:

Afghanistan

Armenia ‧ Azerbaijan ‧ Chad ‧ Comoros

Cyprus ‧ Djibouti ‧ Eritrea ‧ Georgia ‧ Mali

Niger ‧ Pakistan ‧ Somalia ‧ Sudan ‧ Turkey

Economy

The MENA region has vast reserves of petroleum and natural gas that make it a vital source of global economic stability, the MENA region has 60% of the world's oil reserves and 45% of the world's natural gas reserves. As of 2011, 8 of the 12 OPEC nations are within the MENA region.

Religion

Islam is by far the dominant religion in nearly all of the MENA territories; 91.2% of the population is Muslim. The Middle East-North Africa region comprises 20 countries and territories with an estimated Muslim population of 315 million or about 23% of the world's Muslim population. The term "MENA" is often defined in part in relation to majority Muslim countries that based on the countries located in the region, although several nations in the region are not majority Muslim-dominated.

MENAP

From April 2013, the International Monetary Fund started using a new analytical region called MENAP (Middle East, North Africa, Afghanistan, and Pakistan), which adds Afghanistan and Pakistan to MENA countries . Now MENAP is prominent economic grouping in IMF reports.

Instability in the region

Due to rich resources, mainly oil and gas, combined with its location between three continents, (Asia, Africa and Europe), the MENA region has been in conflict ,Israeli–Palestinian conflict; the Iran–Iraq War; Iran–Saudi Arabia proxy conflict; and the rise of terrorism. Conflict in the region had come to its highest peak so far in the 21st century, with incidents such as the U.S. intervention of Iraq in 2003 and subsequent Iraq War and the rise of ISIS; the Arab Spring, which spread war to throughout the region such as the Syrian Civil War, Libyan Civil War and Yemeni Civil War.

Note : Source from Wikipedia

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MENA>

The Middle East and North Africa region is among the worst in the world when it comes to LGBT law. In terms of **work**, there is no law prohibiting an employer from dismissing an employee except to suspect a homosexual nationality, or a colleague may feel the nationality, apply for dismissal, and then be expelled without any legal regulations. They are then arrested before the authorities. A number of countries in the region have recorded an increase in the expulsion of workers because of their sexual orientation. Egypt was at the forefront of these countries and its hills, Iraq and Jordan and then Qatar and Algeria and speak statistics in the expulsion between (300 - 500) because of their homosexuality ties or pursued by the family, eventually killing the person. There are companies that refuse to hire someone because of their voice, clothes or hairstyle. Some companies ask a job seeker in the interview, "Are you married or not and why?" In general, an employer will not hire someone if he feels homosexuality, but rather ends the interview. And perhaps one of the most famous cases, when a Qatari company expelled and deported a Kuwaiti national (S, J) because of his homosexuality.

There are many cases of this type in most countries in the region, and some are not registered because of the fear of people to talk about these topics, especially as such news may lead to the death or imprisonment of the person.

Note: For more information on LGBT work conditions in the Middle East and North Africa, you can read this article

<https://www.gaystarnews.com/article/whats-it-work-middle-east-gay-person060515/#gs.wWe8CPI>

Most **Health** organizations in the Middle East and North Africa have identified homosexuality as a mental illness (with the exception of Lebanon, which recently removed homosexuality from the list of diseases), 28 years after WHO removed homosexuality from the list of diseases, there are no specialized centers for the treatment of sexually transmitted diseases in the region. So far, however, a sexually transmitted person in the Middle East and North Africa is treated very badly, and sometimes is not treated or expelled from hospital on the grounds that the disease is a punishment for his homosexuality .

From 2001 to 2013, the annual number of new HIV infections fell by 38 per cent worldwide, followed by a significant reduction in AIDS-related deaths. However, trends in new infections between regions, between countries in one region, and between major populations in and between regions and countries have varied. Despite the annual number of new HIV infections, new HIV infections have been on the rise, in the MENA . Rising trends in new infections are a cause for serious concern in the Middle East. Since 2001, new HIV infections detected in this region have increased by 31 per cent, from 19,000 to 25,000, the highest increase among all regions of the world. While some of this increase can be attributed to the discrimination and non-treatment of the injured, there is no doubt that a large number of cases are new transfers. In addition, the number of AIDS-related deaths in 2013 was estimated at 15,000, an increase of 66 per cent since 2005.

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1201971215002684>

Homosexuals in the Middle East and North Africa suffer from high **societal** pressures and may even be killed because of their sexual orientation. This pressure starts from the family, relatives, neighbors, classmates, co-workers, and security and police personnel, who are supposed to be responsible for maintaining human dignity and security regardless of race, color, sex, or sexual orientation. The media also play a role in inciting homosexuals. The area recorded the killing of 500-1500 people by their families but their sexual orientation under the name of (shame) in three years only. Homosexuals are also exposed to rapes almost daily by neighbors, colleagues or school, and can not talk about them for fear of murder, stigmatization, and shame. There are many examples. The example is the story of young man (A,T) from the Egyptian city of Aswan were subjected to rape by neighbors and fear of shame and expulsion or even murder, as well as silence. There are also many lesbians who are exposed to rape. They have many examples, including the story of the young man (S. Hashim) from Sudan who was raped by her cousin, and the story of the young woman (M, K) from Iraq Which was also subjected to rape under the name (correcting sexual orientation). The members of the LGBT community face a serious problem because of the boycott of their community, and in Yemen and Mauritania there is a situation where homosexuals are banned from society and imprisoned inside the home .

Note: The information is documented by the WAN activists in the Middle East and North Africa region and for more information you can read Human Rights Watch

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/137584.pdf

The Legal situation for LGBTI persons in the MENA-region (Middle East and North Africa) differs depending on where in the region they live, as different countries have different legal situations, languages, religions and cultures. Same-sex sexual acts are however criminalised in most of the countries in the region . Further, gender non-conforming persons are often arrested or prosecuted, either for crossdressing

or “indecent behaviour”, which a number of countries criminalise, or accused for same-sex sexual activity. LGBTI people across the MENA region face discrimination and violence because of their sexual orientation and gender identity, and are unable to access the same rights and services as other citizens of their in the countries. The general acceptance of nonconforming sexuality or gender identity is low. LGBTI people face “a complex cultural system that controls

people’s bodies and sexualities . LGBTI persons of all genders have in common that they challenge gender norms, and this challenge is a threat both to social norms and to governmental laws. It is worth remembering that the law under which Egyptian men are tried for same-sex conduct was originally a law targeting women in prostitution.” In a few places, like Lebanon and Morocco, sexual orientation and There is a media targeting of homosexuals, their image is distorted and shown to be the cause of the devastation of society, and the media in the Middle East and North Africa follow governments or ruling parties in the region. In hostile societies, LGBTI persons are at higher risk of violence (due to their non conforming sexuality and gender expressions) from families, society

and government. Violence against lesbians and transmen is connected to the oppression of women and violence against women while violence against men and transwomen also have a connection to violence and stigmatisation of sex workers, as noted in the case of the legal situation in Egypt. In some specific countries in the region, the violence is extraordinary high. In Iraq, the documented violence against LGBTI people is enormous. There were over 600 estimated murders of LGBTI people in Iraq between 2005 and 2009. Also, in Kurdish territory of Iraq violence and discrimination against lesbian women and transpersons is documented. Countries like Iran, Saudi Arabia and Yemen have documented cases of performed death sentences of LGBTI persons.

Social pressures alone, many and complex, are not a burden on homosexuals in the Middle East and North Africa. Laws that begin with persecution and imprisonment, and do not end with flogging and murder, put them in the circle of constant threat and struggle to wrest rights.

Loose laws, which are subject to the discretion of security men and authorities, make it difficult to deal with this reality, and the fear of those who have illegal sexual orientation makes them in the shadows. Laws refer to homosexuals as a single group, and often do not take into account both bisexual and transgender, nor lesbians. The laws vary from country to state, between the hardliner and the somewhat lenient. But the dominant feature of injustice remains in law and society, forcing them to flee or suffer, or to marry from camouflage.

The following are 10 countries that penalize homosexuality as "murder". The penalty ranges from three to five years imprisonment for homosexuality or a fine in the rest of the Middle East and North Africa.

Homosexuality-Laws in the Middle East and North Africa



1. **Yemen:** According to the 1994 Penal Code, married men are sentenced to death for stoning if they have sexual relations, while single men face skin or imprisonment for one year. Women face up to seven years in prison.

2. **Iran**: According to Islamic law, homosexuality among men can lead to death sentences. Men may experience skin punishment , for example, while women are punished on the skin.

3. **Iraq**: The Penal Code does not explicitly prohibit homosexuality, but the country has witnessed the killing of militants by militants, while others have been sentenced to death under Islamic law.

4. **Mauritania**: Gays face stoning to death, according to the 1984 Act, while women face imprisonment.

5. **Nigeria**: Federal domestic law is classified as a felony punishable by imprisonment, but many states have adopted Sharia and imposed the death penalty on men. The text of the law signed in early January states that it is illegal for homosexuals nationwide to hold meetings or form clubs.

6. **Qatar**: Islamic law in the State of Qatar applies to Muslims only, so any sexual relationship outside marriage can be punishable by death, regardless of the sexual orientation .

7. **Saudi Arabia**: Under Islamic law, any man who is married, has a homosexual relationship, or any non-Muslim man has a relationship with a Muslim man, the penalty of stoning to death. Any sex outside marriage is illegal.

8. **Somalia**: The Penal Code provides for the imprisonment of homosexuals, but in some southern regions, the Islamic courts have imposed the death penalty.

9. **Sudan**: If a person is charged three times for having sexual relations, this puts him in the face of the death penalty, while he may be flogged or imprisoned for the first time.

10. **United Arab Emirates**: The views of lawyers in the country and other experts differ on whether federal law provides for the death penalty to practice homosexuality voluntarily or only in cases of rape.

Notes: To learn more about laws in the Middle East region please refer

١. The Washington Post on laws that criminalize homosexuality in the Middle East and North Africa

٢. Human Rights Watch reports on sexual orientation in the Middle East and North Africa

٣. ilga reports on LGBT rights in the Middle East and North Africa region

<http://www.iglhrc.org/binary-data/ATTACHMENT/file/000/000/155-1.pdf>

http://old.ilga.org/Statehomophobia/ILGA_SSHR_2014_Eng.pdf

http://www.unaids.org/en/media/unaids/contentassets/documents/unaidspublication/2012/20120920_MSM_MENA_en.pdf

Laws differ in the Middle East and North Africa, between the hardliner and the lenient. But the predominant feature of injustice remains in law and the violation of human rights, forcing them to flee or suffer, or to marry from camouflage.

Morocco

The Moroccan Penal Code of Chapter 489 provides for "imprisonment from 6 months to 3 years and a fine of 120 to 1,000 dirhams for a person who has committed an act of homosexuality with a person of his sex." Homosexuality is described as criminalizes , and officials insist on retaining the term, The strong opposition he receives. Human Rights Watch called on Morocco to lift fines for all consensual sexual relations between adults. Moroccan law classifies homosexuality as an "impending crime". There are many incidents in which lesbians in Morocco have taken over their rights, the latest of which is a popular video of youths beating two youths in their apartment. The youths were sentenced to four months' imprisonment, while the perpetrators received mitigating reasons, amounting to up to two months in prison upon their release.

Tunisia

The Tunisian Penal Code, in Chapter 230, provides that "the perpetrator of homosexuality or immorality shall not be included in any of the images provided for in the three-year prison terms." It may not be applied if persons are not adults or if they are not mutually satisfied. But the article concerns the criminalization of two adults who agree to

the relationship in a private place. Here lies the danger according to law, the article opens the door to many human rights violations. Which opens the way for the violation of the private sector authorities, in parallel with the conduct of anal examinations, which harm the physical and human dignity and in contravention of the decisions of the Committee against Torture in the United Nations. Tunisian officials refused to discuss any amendment to the article, despite the removal of the justice minister after last year's proposal to scrap the article.

Algeria

Article 338 of the Algerian law stipulates that "Anyone who commits an act of homosexuality against a person of the same sex shall be punished by imprisonment from two months to two years and a fine of 500 to 2,000 Algerian dinars and if one of the minor offenders has not completed 18 years and 3 years and a fine Of 10 thousand Algerian dinars. " In Article 333, "shall be punished by imprisonment for a term of two to two years and a fine of 500 to 2000 dinars by a person who commits a crime." "If the public acts against humility against a person of the same sex, Months to 3 years, and a fine of 1000 to 10,000 Algerian dinars. " Homophobia is rampant in Algeria, while some perpetrators are threatened with death amid severe social pressure. They do not forget the anniversary of the wave of university killings by Algerian Islamist groups in the 1990s. In Algeria, there is an initiative to circumvent the pressure, such as the announcement on October 10 (TantinDay) to support homosexuality.

Gays are active in social networks and are trying to find alternative solutions such as the gay and lesbian marriage page, which provides gay marriage with the ideals "for children and silencing society". Both agree that each will live in sexual freedom. Or through the Alwan Association, founded in 2014, and working to raise the awareness of homosexuals about their rights while sharing their experiences on their web page.

Libya

In articles 407 and 408 of the Libyan Penal Code: "Every human being shall be punished with imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years" and "Anyone who succeeds in a person with his consent shall be punished with imprisonment." The Criminal Code prohibits any sexual activity outside legal marriage. Homosexuality, especially among adults, is punishable by consent to death. In the 1990s, Gaddafi began to enact "cleansing" laws designed to impose a harsh view of Islamic law on the population. Before 1969, the law did not criminalize pre-marital relations if they were consensual. Libyan courts have been granted the power to use amputation, flogging and other cruel punishments against persons found to be violating traditional Islamic ethics. In the areas under the rule of the Islamic State, homosexuals are also severely punished. In the middle of last year, the city of Derna witnessed the execution of three youths accused of homosexuality.

Egypt

There is no clear law to punish homosexuality in Egypt, but the laws used to prosecute them fall under the category of prostitution laws. The law contains a prohibition on "immorality", even if the process of sexual intercourse is trafficking or prostitution. These laws have been used in a more sophisticated and systematic campaign on gay men, bisexuals, or anyone the government considers to be gay rights advocates under the slogan "honor violation by threat" and "immoral and inappropriate conduct". They can be accused of Satanism and immorality, leading to arduous labor, execution or transmission to mental clinics. Egyptian law in this context is loose, especially in relation to violating public morality. Many arrests of homosexuals have been subjected to torture. The police are pursuing homosexuals through social networking sites, especially after many pages have spread to homosexuals and through nightclubs where they gather.

Lebanon

Article 534 of the Lebanese Penal Code prohibits "the establishment of sexual relations with those that violate the laws of nature and punish those who violate them for one year." Despite the claims to cancel this article, the authorities insist on retaining it. However, Lebanese society is witnessing an increase in the acceptance of homosexuality, and the Lebanese Association of Psychiatry I was the first Arab to remove non-heterosexual sexual orientations from the list of mental illnesses.

A number of trials have resulted in the acquittal of homosexuals, especially those born of dual nationality, and the Lebanese Society for Multiculturalism in the Middle East and North Africa has been active in public and in addition to a "feminist" association.

The gay rights movements are active in several regions, issuing publications on this issue and launching campaigns to promote diversity and combat homophobia. However, homosexuals in Lebanon witness social and security harassment. Many of them were subjected to prosecutions, examinations and arrests in which police officers violated their dignity and sometimes depicted them naked.

Palestin

Palestinian law does not fully explain the punishment of sexual practices among members of one sex. However, according to one report, the term "sodomy" ranged from 3 to 10 years. The authorities also recruit homosexuals through agents or informants, who marry homosexuals and then arrest them. Their situation inside Gaza and the Gaza Strip is very difficult because of the limited scope, the difficulty of travel and the fear of treachery if they resort to Israel, which they may not accept or doubt.

Jordan

There is no actual legal criminalization of homosexual activity between two consenting adults in Jordan. However, homosexuals are subjected to many difficulties and social phobia so that the prison administration puts homosexuals in solitary confinement. Any person who commits an act of public disrepute in a public society or presents in a public place any photograph, photograph, drawing, obscene form or anything else that may lead to corruption of morality shall be punished by imprisonment with a fine. The issue of "gay" in Jordan is unprecedented, attracting a new Facebook page under the title LGBT Awareness in Jordan to raise the awareness of the community to the gay community. Aoun and Arc also move in this context.

Syria

Article 520 of the Syrian Penal Code states: "It is prohibited to establish a relationship contrary to nature and shall be punished by imprisonment for up to three years." After the outbreak of the war, the death penalty became the punishment of homosexuals in areas under the regime's control. Today, in areas that are not under the control of the regime, death and torture are the lowest of homosexuals, who are afraid to leave their homes or resort to the appearance of combatants and engage in hostilities. The elements of the organization in prosecuting people rely on suspicion of their homosexuality, on a complaint they receive, or on an old history one hears about the person. The execution is carried out publicly

either by shooting from a high place, cutting off the head, or being held in a cage in the middle of the street with violent .

Yemen

The punishment of homosexuality among men is according to article 264 of the law, which states: "Homosexuality is the man's habit of making it, and the millet and mortar shall be punished by male or female by the skin a hundred times if it is not fortified and may be strengthened by imprisonment for a period not exceeding one year and punishable by stoning to death . Women's homosexuality is penalized under article 268, which states: "Lesbianism is the female genital mutilation and any other person shall be punished by imprisonment for a period not exceeding three years." If the act is coerced, the sentence may be extended to seven years. It is forbidden to talk or to write about homeopathy. Today, in the shadow of the ongoing war, a "page for all homosexuals in the Republic of Yemen" contributes to alerting them to moving in certain areas or mixing with insurgents, documenting the killing or kidnapping of homosexuals in some areas.

Kuwait

The Kuwaiti Penal Code, in its article 193 of the law, punishes homosexual acts by seven years. The phenomenon of Homophobia is widespread in Kuwait, according to reports, while the arrest of several massage

clubs and shops of decoration and shaving. And issued a Gulf law between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia to disclose the homosexual arrivals, and not to receive those who prove their homosexuality. Kuwait was preoccupied with what the press called the "gay wedding". A young man in women's clothes was arrested and tried for "sodomy."

Bahrain

Homosexuality has been legislated in the country since 1976. The court has the power to issue fines and / or jail sentences for activities that violate these laws, such as homosexual activity below the legal age. While the law allows only adults under the age of 21 to engage in homosexual activities. Women's clothing can be the cause of fines or imprisonment under the heading of the protection of public morals and public order. In 2008, the Bahraini court allowed sexual transgressions if one had the necessary medical and legal documents and his sex was recognized in court.

Qatar

Article 281 of the Qatari law is punishable by seven years' imprisonment for a person arrested on charges of homosexuality. Apart from civil law, the provisions of Islamic law apply to Muslims. While a person who is accused of adultery is punished if he is married to death, while a non-married person is punished whether he is homosexual or not. International organizations demand that Qatar restrict laws that prevent homosexuality in light

of its hosting of the World Cup in 2022. "Respect for the civil rights of fans and players of all races and religions, as well as sexuality, are issues that need to be confirmed before going to the World Cup".

Sultanate of Oman

The law criminalizes homosexuality by virtue of article 223 of the law, imprisonment from 6 months to 3 years.

"Anyone who commits homosexual acts against homosexuals or lesbians without complaint if the matter leads to scandal." While "lesbians do not pursue between assets or branches or between sisters and children to a relative's complaint or to a brother-in-law until the fourth degree." Numerous reports have been issued referring to Oman as a destination for homosexuality tourism, and have met several objections, but besides social pressure, there are no serious prosecutions for homosexuals.

Note: The Penal Code in the laws of the Middle East and North Africa has been reviewed by specialists and lawyer working for the LGBT Rights Association in the Middle East and North Africa.

The discussions on gay rights at the United Nations have focused mainly on resolutions in the United Nations General Assembly and the Human Rights Council on the subject. Since its founding in 1945, the United Nations has not discussed the rights of homosexuals (with regard to equality regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity) until December 2008, when a Dutch / French initiative supported by a European Union statement supported the rights of homosexuals to the General Assembly. The statement, which is supposed to be adopted as a resolution, was prompted by a statement of opposition by the League of Arab States. Both statements are still open for signature, neither of which has been formally adopted by the General Assembly .

On 17 June 2011, South Africa began a resolution in the Human Rights Council requesting the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to prepare a report on the situation of persons around the world to follow up and implement the Vienna Declaration and Program of Action. The resolution passed from 23 to 19 with three Burkina Faso and China abstaining. This was the first resolution and praised the "historical". But with this delay, these decisions are still not heard in the Middle East and North Africa. The international community is completely oblivious to the criminalization and violations of LGBT rights in the Middle East and North Africa, despite the tragic periodic reports of sexual orientation in the region. Everyone in the free world and the international community as a whole should not be silent on these actions and move quickly .

LGBT rights are human rights. However, gay people in most Middle Eastern and North African countries live in very hostile environments - and many are forced to fear their daily lives. In many developing countries, laws punish sexual behavior that does not conform to the criterion of the opposite sex. In more than 75 countries around the world most of these countries are in the Middle East and Africa, gay law is prohibited. However, the fact that discrimination, violence and repression is still a daily practice in countries that have a sound constitution, such as South Africa, is also a pill bitter medicine can swallow. In the West, too, increasingly acquired rights are under pressure, and new and old prohibitions prevent effective sex education and HIV prevention.

The humanitarian movement has always been closely involved in the liberation of sexual minorities from the belief that self-determination and diversity also apply to sexuality and lifestyle. This is why the colors of LGBT rights, as a monitoring and documentation organization, focus in particular on criminalization and violations of LGBT rights. Fortunately, discrimination based on sexual orientation is increasingly a violation of human rights. Although there is still a lot of work to be done.



Hazan Kahrizi



Hussen A. Q.



Sara M. Ali



Mohamed L.



Luma Qasem

And a team of activists and volunteers
led by more than 100 activists and
volunteers operating in secret in the
Middle East and North Africa