UNDER EMBARGO UNTIL OCTOBER 28

Qatar Ranks 41 out of 143 in the WJP Rule of Law Index

- *2025 WJP Rule of Law Index®* finds the rule of law recession accelerates as authoritarian trends expand
- Decline in judicial independence and shrinking civic space signal heightened risk to democracy worldwide
- Qatar ranks 2 out of 10 regionally

WASHINGTON (October 28, 2025) – The **global rule of law recession has accelerated** again, according to the new ***WJP Rule of Law Index® 2025.*** A stark 68% of countries declined in their rule of law in 2025, compared to 57% in the previous year.

Qatar's ranks 41st out of 143 countries worldwide.

Regionally, Qatar ranks 2nd out of 10 countries in the Middle East and North Africa.* The region's top performer is the United Arab Emirates (ranked 37th out of 143 globally), followed by Qatar and Kuwait. The three countries with the lowest scores in the region are Lebanon, Iran, and Egypt (135th globally).

In the last year, 5 out of 10 countries declined in the Middle East and North Africa. Of those 5 countries, 3 had also declined in the previous year.

Among high income countries, Qatar ranks 40th out of 51.**

Qatar and global trends

An expansion of **authoritarian trends is the primary force behind the rule of law recession**, with deep declines in factors measuring Constraints on Government Powers, Open Government, and Fundamental Rights.

The integrity of **checks and balances** has also been seriously weakened.

A characteristic of this accelerated rule of law recession is a shrinking civic space. Freedoms crucial for public discourse and government oversight—measured under the **Open Government** and **Fundamental Rights** factors—saw widespread erosion:

- **"Freedom of opinion and expression"** declined in **73%** of countries.
- **"Freedom of assembly and association"** declined in **72%** of countries.
- **"Civic participation"** declined in **71%** of countries.

The Index shows that judiciaries are losing ground to executive overreach, with rising political interference across justice systems. Indicators measuring whether the **judiciary limits executive power** and whether **civil and criminal justice are free from improper government influence** declined in 61%, 67%, and 62% of countries, respectively.

More broadly, **civil justice** weakened in 68% of countries. This decline reflects longer delays, less effective alternatives to court (such as mediation), and greater government interference.

Global rankings

Globally, the top-ranked country in the 2025 *WJP Rule of Law Index* is Denmark, followed by Norway, Finland, Sweden, and New Zealand. The country with the lowest score is Venezuela, followed by Afghanistan, Cambodia, Haiti, and Nicaragua.

Qatar's WJP Rule of Law Index rankings

Overall score global rank: 41/143
Overall score regional rank: 2/10

Factor score rankings:

FACTOR	GLOBAL RANK	REGIONAL RANK*	INCOME RANK**
Constraints on Government Powers	47/143	1/10	39/51
Absence of Corruption	34/143	3/10	32/51
Open Government	103/143	5/10	50/51
Fundamental Rights	113/143	7/10	50/51
Order and Security	7/143	1/10	7/51
Regulatory Enforcement	26/143	2/10	26/51
Civil Justice	38/143	2/10	33/51
Criminal Justice	32/143	2/10	31/51

(1 is best in WJP Rule of Law Index *rankings)*

To see Qatar's performance across all 44 sub-factors the Index measures, visit:
www.worldjusticeproject.org/rule-of-law-index/country/2025/Qatar

***Explore the full rankings and findings of the 2025* World Justice Project (WJP) Rule of Law Index *at: www.worldjusticeproject.org/index/*.**
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- Find graphics (regional rankings, global rankings, and comparative maps) **here**.
- Find 143 country press releases organized by region **here**.

About the WJP Rule of Law Index:
The ***World Justice Project (WJP) Rule of Law Index®*** is the world's leading source for original, independent rule of law data. Its rigorous methodology draws on expert and household surveys to measure the rule of law in 143 countries and jurisdictions, covering 95% of the world's population.

The Index relies on more than 215,000 household surveys and 4,100 legal practitioner and expert surveys to measure how the rule of law is experienced and perceived worldwide. Published annually since 2009, the Index is used by governments, multilateral organizations, businesses, academia, media, and civil society organizations.

About the World Justice Project:
The World Justice Project (WJP) is an independent, nonpartisan, multidisciplinary organization working to create knowledge, build awareness, and stimulate action to advance the rule of law worldwide.

*Countries and jurisdictions measured in the Middle East and North Africa region: Algeria, Egypt, Iran, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Qatar, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates.

**High income countries and jurisdictions: Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Austria, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guyana, Hong Kong, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russia, Singapore, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, South Korea, Spain, St. Kitts and Nevis, Sweden, Trinidad and Tobago, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay.