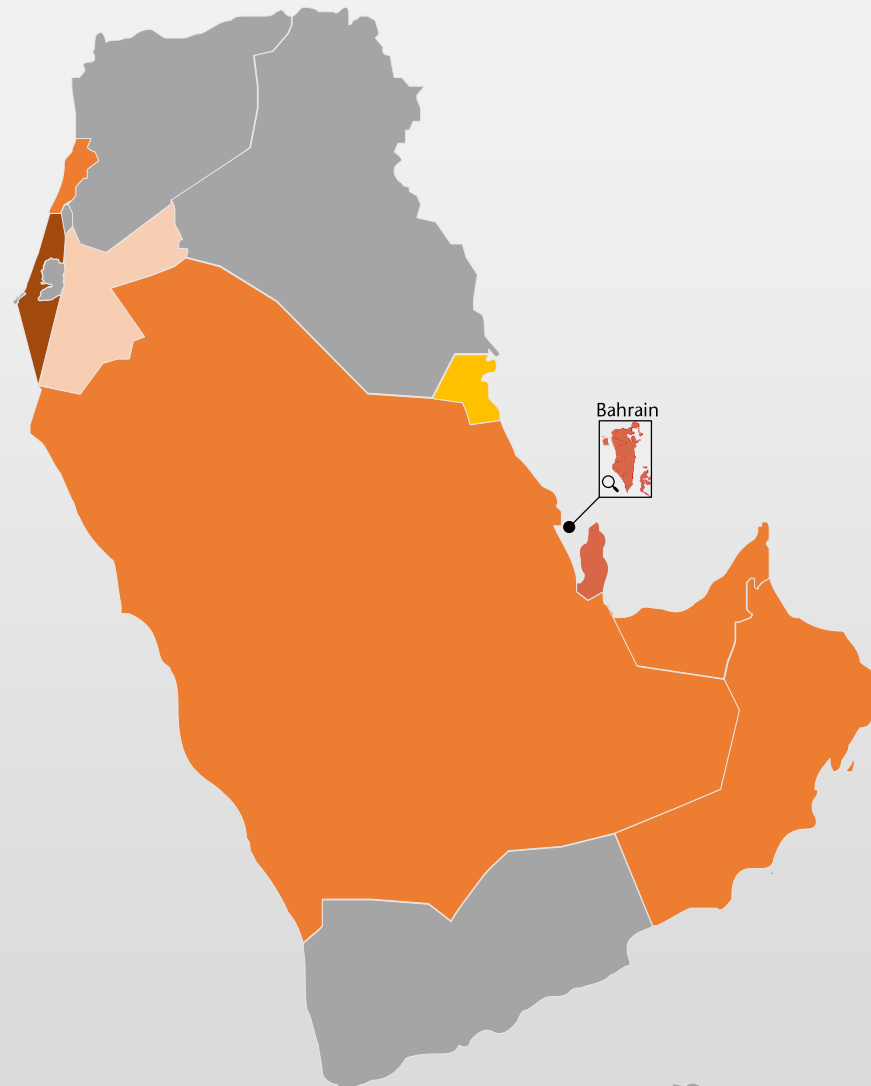


L07 | Data Protection Laws in the Middle East



Over the past few months, the statutory landscape in the Middle East as regards data protection has evolved considerably, with the two largest economies in the region (Saudi Arabia and UAE) passing laws on the matter. By and large, they reflect the regulatory model pioneered by the GDPR in the European Union. As of this writing, both pieces of legislation are expected to become operational within a year's time.

The most recent legislative developments emanate from Israel, Jordan, and Oman. Whereas the former two nations introduced long-awaited bills into parliament, the latter enacted into law a Personal Data Protection Law in February 2022.

Map Legend

-  Data protection law enforced by dedicated DPA
-  Data protection law enforced by govt. ministry
-  Data protection law enacted
-  Data protection bill introduced
-  Sector-specific legislation only
-  No comprehensive data protection legislation

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(last revised: 25 May 2022)

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Research Centre for Law and Digitalisation
[https://www.jura.uni-passau.de/fakultaet/
forschungseinrichtungen/fredi/data-law-maps](https://www.jura.uni-passau.de/fakultaet/forschungseinrichtungen/fredi/data-law-maps)



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List of Data Protection Laws in the Middle East

State	Official designation of the law	Translation / short title	Law officially adopted	DPA established (name)	Enforcement commenced
Bahrain	قانون حماية البيانات الشخصية رقم (30) لسنة 2018	Law No. (30) 2018 with Respect to Personal Data Protection	19 July 2018	yes (Personal Data Protection Authority) → NB: responsibilities held by the Ministry of Justice and Islamic Affairs ¹	1 August 2019 ¹
Israel	חוק הגנת הפרטיות, התשמ"א-1981 (amending Bill No. 14 currently under deliberation)	Protection of Privacy Law, 5741-1981	11 March 1981	yes (Israel Privacy Authority , preceded by ILITA and the Database Registrar within the Ministry of Justice)	11 August 1981
Jordan	قانون حماية البيانات الشخصية	<i>Personal Data Protection Bill (unnumbered)</i>	-	-	-
Kuwait	لائحة حماية خصوصية البيانات (v 1.8, telecommunications sector only)	Data Privacy Protection Regulation	1 April 2021	no (Communication & Information Technology Regulatory Authority , competent authority in the telecommunications sector)	1 April 2022 (date of compliance, art. 11(1))
Lebanon	قانون المعاملات الإلكترونية و البيانات الشخصية رقم (81) لسنة (2018)	Law No. 81 of 10 October 2018 on Electronic Transactions and Personal Data , artt. 85-109	10 October 2018	no (Ministry of Economy and Trade to issue licenses and permits to data processors, art. 94-98)	-
Oman	قانون حماية البيانات الشخصية الصادر 6/2022 بالمرسوم	Personal Data Protection Law (issued by Royal Decree No. 6 of 2022)	9 February 2022	no (prospective regulator: Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology)	13 February 2023 ² (one year after publication)
Qatar	قانون حماية خصوصية البيانات الشخصية رقم (13) لسنة 2016	Law No. 13 of 2016 on Personal Data Privacy Protection	3 November 2016	no (Ministry of Transport and Communications)	29 January 2018 ³ (extensions under art. 30(2))
State of Palestine	<i>(Ministerial Resolution 03/2019 addresses duty to obtain consent)</i>	-	-	-	-
Saudi Arabia	1443 هـ نظام حماية البيانات الشخصية (مرسوم ملكي رقم (م/19) وتاريخ 1443/2/9هـ)	Personal Data Protection Law 2021 (issued by Royal Decree M/19 of 17 September 2021)	17 September 2021	yes (Saudi Data & AI Authority)	17 March 2023 (18-month transition period)
United Arab Emirates	القانون الاتحادي لحماية البيانات الشخصية (not yet published in the Official Gazette)	Federal Decree-Law No. 45 of 2021 on the Protection of Personal Data → NB: further laws enacted in Abu Dhabi and Dubai	20 September 2021	no (UAE Data Office as instituted by Federal Decree-Law No. 44/2021 is yet to be established)	compliance within six months after publication of Executive Regulations, art. 29

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