

Appendix 2: Government Restrictions Index

The following table shows all 198 countries and territories in descending order of their scores on the Pew Research Center's index of government restrictions on religion as of the end of 2012. Pew Research has not attached numerical rankings to the countries because there are numerous tie scores and the differences between the scores of countries that are close to each other on this table are not necessarily meaningful. This is particularly the case at the low end of the scale: The range of scores among the 57 countries in the Very High and High categories is greater than the range of scores among the 97 countries in the Low category.

Very High SCORES 6.6 AND HIGHER	High SCORES 4.5 TO 6.5	Chad Moldova Nigeria ▼
Egypt	Mauritania	
China	Kyrgyzstan	
Iran	Bahrain	
Saudi Arabia	Israel	
Indonesia	Turkey ▲	
Maldives	Belarus	
Afghanistan	Yemen	
Syria	Western Sahara	
Eritrea	Qatar	
Somalia*	Oman	
Russia	Armenia	
Burma (Myanmar)	United Arab Emirates	
Uzbekistan	Sri Lanka	
Malaysia	Turkmenistan	
Azerbaijan	Jordan	
Tajikistan ▲	Laos	
Pakistan	Libya	
Brunei	India	
Morocco ▲	Ethiopia	
Sudan	Bangladesh	
Algeria	Singapore	
Iraq ▲	Bulgaria ▲	
Kazakhstan ▲	Rwanda ▲	
Vietnam	Tunisia	
	Kuwait	
	Bhutan	
	Greece	
	Cuba	
	Central African Republic	
	Belgium	
		Moderate SCORES 2.4 TO 4.4
		Ukraine
		Kenya ▼
		France
		Djibouti ▲
		Angola
		Romania
		Venezuela
		Mexico
		Austria ▲
		Germany
		United States
		Serbia
		Palestinian territories**
		Thailand
		Nepal
		Tanzania
		Mongolia ▼
		Slovakia
		Madagascar
		Bahamas
		Tuvalu ▲
		Comoros
		Iceland ▲
		Lebanon
		Costa Rica

▲ Denotes an increase of one point or more from 2011 to 2012.

▼ Denotes a decrease of one point or more from 2011 to 2012.

Government Restrictions Index (cont.)

Denmark		
Republic of Macedonia		
United Kingdom		
Zambia	▲	
Croatia		
Guinea		
Spain		
Georgia		
Nicaragua		
Latvia		
Italy		
Equatorial Guinea		
Hong Kong		
Lithuania		
Uganda		
Zimbabwe		
Cambodia		
Hungary	▲	
Montenegro	▲	
Low		
SCORES 0.0 TO 2.3		
Antigua and Barbuda		
Bosnia-Herzegovina		
Norway		
Fiji		
Honduras		
Seychelles		
Poland		
Jamaica		
Swaziland		
Peru		
Cyprus		
Switzerland		
Liechtenstein		
Monaco		
Niger		
Argentina		
Sweden		
Haiti		
Canada		
Netherlands		
Malawi		
South Korea		
Czech Republic		
Mozambique		
Togo		
Mali		
Gambia		
Finland		
Tonga		
Australia		
Barbados		
Luxembourg		
Kosovo		
St. Lucia		
Papua New Guinea		
Albania		
El Salvador		
Colombia		▼
South Sudan		
Liberia		
Bolivia		
Senegal		
Estonia		
Belize		
Cameroon		
Chile		
Malta		
Portugal		
St. Kitts and Nevis		
Guatemala		
Trinidad and Tobago		
Paraguay		
Vanuatu		
Gabon		
Mauritius		
Taiwan		
Andorra		
Democratic Republic of the Congo		
Dominican Republic		
Dominica		
Guyana		
Ireland		
Panama		
Timor-Leste		
Ivory Coast		▼
Nauru		
Philippines		
Slovenia		
St. Vincent and the Grenadines		
Solomon Islands		
Burkina Faso		
Samoa		
Ecuador		
Ghana		
Macau		
Grenada		
Uruguay		
Namibia		
Japan		▼
Palau		
Republic of the Congo		
Brazil		
Botswana		
South Africa		
Suriname		
Kiribati		
Lesotho		
Benin		
Guinea Bissau		
San Marino		
Sierra Leone		
Cape Verde		
Federated States of Micronesia		
New Zealand		
Burundi		
Marshall Islands		
Sao Tome and Principe		

See page 55 for notes on North Korea, Somalia and the Palestinian territories.

NORTH KOREA: The sources used for this study clearly indicate that the government of North Korea is among the most repressive in the world with respect to religion as well as other civil liberties. But because North Korean society is effectively closed to outsiders, the sources are unable to provide the kind of specific and timely information that Pew Research coded in this quantitative study. Therefore, the report does not include a score for North Korea on either index.

* **SOMALIA:** The level of government restrictions in Somalia is difficult to assess due to the lack of a functioning national government; the social hostilities index may be a more reliable indicator of the situation in Somalia.

** **PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES:** The Palestinian territories' score on government restrictions reflects the policies of the Palestinian Authority government (headed by Mahmoud Abbas and headquartered in the West Bank) rather than the actions of Hamas in Gaza (which is not recognized by most of the sources for this report as a legitimate government).
