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FREEDOM IN THE WORLD 2025

# Morocco

**37**  
/100

PARTLY FREE

<u>Political Rights</u>	<b>13</b> /40
<u>Civil Liberties</u>	<b>24</b> /60

LAST YEAR'S SCORE & STATUS

**37**/100    **Partly Free**

A country or territory's Freedom in the World status depends on its aggregate Political Rights score, on a scale of 0–40, and its aggregate Civil Liberties score, on a scale of 0–60. See the methodology.



## Note

The numerical scores and status listed above do not reflect conditions in Western Sahara. It is examined in a separate report. Morocco claims sovereignty over the territory, while the United Nations considers it to be a “non-self-governing territory.” *Freedom in the World* reports assess the level of political rights and civil liberties in a given geographical area, regardless of whether they are affected by the state, nonstate actors, or foreign powers. Disputed territories are sometimes assessed separately if they meet certain criteria, including boundaries that are sufficiently stable to allow year-on-year comparisons. For more information, see the report [methodology](#) and [FAQ](#).

## Overview

Morocco holds regular multiparty elections for Parliament and local bodies. Reforms in 2011 shifted some authority over government from the monarchy to the national legislature. Nevertheless, King Mohammed VI and his palace maintain full dominance through a combination of substantial formal powers, informal lines of influence in state and society, and ownership of crucial economic resources. Many civil liberties are constrained in practice.

## Key Developments in 2024

- In July, a court sentenced former human rights minister and prominent lawyer Mohammed Ziane to five years’ imprisonment on corruption charges. Ziane had previously been convicted in 2022 on defamation, sexual assault, and other charges that rights groups called politically motivated. The latest charges against him followed press statements he had issued from prison criticizing King Mohammed VI.
- In October, police arrested economist and human rights activist Fouad Abdelmoumni on suspicion of reporting a false crime and spreading fake news on social media in response to a social media post in which he criticized Moroccan-French relations and accused Moroccan authorities of employing spyware against their French counterparts. He was released days later, and legal proceedings against him were ongoing at year’s end.
- In July, journalists Omar Radi, Taoufik Bouachrine, and Soulaymane Raissouni were among some 2,400 people who received royal pardons and were released from prison. Press freedom groups had called the cases against

them, on sexual assault and other charges, fabricated and levied in retaliation for their work. The journalists faced harassment and smears in progovernment media upon their release.

- Diplomatic, trade, and security relations with Israel remained a source of popular discontent and protest. A number of demonstrations opposing the Israeli assault on Gaza were permitted to take place during the year; these were allowed by authorities, who have issued condemnations of the war in Gaza and expressions of solidarity with Palestinians. However, in March, Abdelmalek Essaâdi University in Tetouan suspended classes for four days in order to prevent pro-Palestinian student demonstrations.
- In September, Moroccan authorities prevented thousands of people, reported to be Moroccan citizens, from completing a mass migration into the Spanish enclave of Ceuta. Human rights activists circulated photos showing the migrants stripped of their clothing and showing signs of torture in front of “auxiliary forces” vehicles. The government announced an investigation into the matter.

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*For additional background information, see last year’s full report.*

# Political Rights

## A. Electoral Process

**A1** 0-4 pts

Was the current head of government or other chief national authority elected through free and fair elections?	1/4
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**A2** 0-4 pts

Were the current national legislative representatives elected through free and fair elections?	2/4
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**A3** 0-4 pts

Are the electoral laws and framework fair, and are they implemented impartially by the relevant election management bodies?

**2** / 4

## B. Political Pluralism and Participation

**B1** 0-4 pts

Do the people have the right to organize in different political parties or other competitive political groupings of their choice, and is the system free of undue obstacles to the rise and fall of these competing parties or groupings?

**2** / 4

**B2** 0-4 pts

Is there a realistic opportunity for the opposition to increase its support or gain power through elections?

**1** / 4

**B3** 0-4 pts

Are the people's political choices free from domination by forces that are external to the political sphere, or by political forces that employ extrapolitical means?

**1** / 4

**B4** 0-4 pts

Do various segments of the population (including ethnic, racial, religious, gender, LGBT+, and other relevant groups) have full political rights and electoral opportunities?

**1** / 4

## C. Functioning of Government

**C1** 0-4 pts

Do the freely elected head of government and national legislative representatives determine the policies of the government?

1/4

**C2** 0-4 pts

Are safeguards against official corruption strong and effective?

1/4

**C3** 0-4 pts

Does the government operate with openness and transparency?

1/4

## Civil Liberties

### D. Freedom of Expression and Belief

**D1** 0-4 pts

Are there free and independent media?

1/4

**D2** 0-4 pts

Are individuals free to practice and express their religious faith or nonbelief in public and private?

2/4

**D3** 0-4 pts

Is there academic freedom, and is the educational system free from extensive political indoctrination?

2/4

**D4** 0-4 pts

Are individuals free to express their personal views on political or other sensitive topics without fear of surveillance or retribution?

2/4

## E. Associational and Organizational Rights

E1 0-4 pts

Is there freedom of assembly?

1/4

E2 0-4 pts

Is there freedom for nongovernmental organizations, particularly those that are engaged in human rights- and governance-related work?

2/4

E3 0-4 pts

Is there freedom for trade unions and similar professional or labor organizations?

2/4

## F. Rule of Law

F1 0-4 pts

Is there an independent judiciary?

1/4

F2 0-4 pts

Does due process prevail in civil and criminal matters?

1/4

F3 0-4 pts

Is there protection from the illegitimate use of physical force and freedom from war and insurgencies?

2/4

**F4** 0-4 pts

Do laws, policies, and practices guarantee equal treatment of various segments of the population?

1/4

## G. Personal Autonomy and Individual Rights

**G1** 0-4 pts

Do individuals enjoy freedom of movement, including the ability to change their place of residence, employment, or education?

2/4

**G2** 0-4 pts

Are individuals able to exercise the right to own property and establish private businesses without undue interference from state or nonstate actors?

2/4

**G3** 0-4 pts

Do individuals enjoy personal social freedoms, including choice of marriage partner and size of family, protection from domestic violence, and control over appearance?

2/4

**G4** 0-4 pts

Do individuals enjoy equality of opportunity and freedom from economic exploitation?

1/4



### On Morocco

See all data, scores & information on this country or territory.

[See More >](#)

### *Country Facts*

Population

**37,460,000**

Global Freedom Score

**37/100**    **Partly Free**

Internet Freedom Score

**54/100**    **Partly Free**

### *Other Years*

2024

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