Reprieve is seeking a third party monitoring and evaluation agency or consultant, with extensive experience in working in the Middle East and North Africa, to lead a midterm evaluation for our work in the region funded by European Commission (EC). The successful candidate will be contracted to work on this project immediately, with a project completion date scheduled for 15 August 2021.

1. Reprieve – An Overview

Reprieve is an international legal charity founded in 1999. We use a combination of strategic litigation, casework, projects and advocacy to fight some of the world’s most extreme human rights abuses: the death penalty, extrajudicial executions and secret prisons.

Reprieve’s main office is based in London, UK. Reprieve also supports full time Reprieve Fellows who work as lawyers, investigators and advocates in different countries. Reprieve works with partners in jurisdictions all over the world, including Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), government officials, individual lawyers and human rights defenders, commercial law firms, as well as individual, corporate and foundation funders.

Reprieve has been working in the MENA region for years, defending the rights of the most vulnerable people through strategic projects and casework.

The MENA death penalty team at Reprieve is implementing a three-year European Commission project that aims to restrict the use of the death penalty in the region. Together with long-term partners, Reprieve: assists a number of people facing the death penalty, campaigns against breaches of international human rights law in relation to the death penalty, and gathers and shares information on the use of the death penalty in Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, and the UAE.

2. Project Background and Objectives

Reprieve is working with three partners and several consultants to deliver a three-year EC funded project across the MENA region. The funding started in December 2019, and is scheduled to end in December 2022. First year reporting has been successfully submitted to the EC, and the project is now at the midpoint and requires an evaluation.

The project’s overall objective is the abolition of the death penalty across MENA. The project is designed to work towards this objective through the following specific objectives and outcomes:

- Specific objective 1: To restrict the use of the death penalty across MENA, through legal reform and improved procedures and practices, in line with the EU Guidelines on the Death Penalty and the UN Safeguards guaranteeing protection of the rights of those facing the death penalty.
- Outcome 1: Increase transparency and availability of accurate information regarding the use of the death penalty across MENA.
- Outcome 2: Leverage European and international influence with MENA authorities on strategic cases and issues.
- Outcome 3: Strengthen capacities and resolve of local civil society (including lawyers and human rights defenders) to fight the death penalty.

The evaluation will assess the action against the EC-approved proposal and logframe. The successful candidate will be provided with the project proposal, logframe and all other relevant documents.

3. Evaluation Objectives

The evaluation report’s overall aim will be to assess the progress being made towards the final targets. This will include assessing the extent to which the action is meeting the project objectives, as measured against the planned results in the logframe. The evaluation should also collate learnings and make recommendations that will ensure the project’s targets be met by the end of 2022. This will include advising as to whether certain targets are unlikely to be met, and recommend other activities that can be taken up in its place.

Within this overall aim, Reprieve and its partners are interested in better understanding particular aspects of the project’s implementation. This includes:

a. Reviewing how Reprieve can better understand the domestic situation in the countries of implementation in order to strengthen partners’ capacity on domestic advocacy in an effective manner that will not endanger our partners or their staff.
b. Assess the manner in which we have been finding new clients, and advise as to if there is a more effective way to access and/or communicate with clients and their families.
c. Assess the efficacy of our use domestic mechanisms in the implementing countries to date.
d. Assess the progress being made on media targets, and the feasibility of placing stories in media outlets within the region.
e. Assess the perception of partners and clients of the public campaigns funded by this action.
f. Assess the impact of COVID-19 and related restrictions on advocacy targets and grant objectives.
g. Assess whether COVID-19’s impact has affected use of project resources, and, if so, make recommendations as to how those resources could be effectively reallocated.

4. Evaluation Methodology and Outputs

Interested candidates should include a proposed methodology in their applications. The selected evaluator will then be expected to submit the following deliverables:

a. Within two weeks of beginning the evaluation, Reprieve will expect an inception report based on desk review of key documents (including proposals, donor reports and published reports by Reprieve), outlining a suggested approach and detailed methodology, and including data protection details for sensitive information. This report should indicate a timetable with specific dates for the course of the evaluation, outlining dates for interviews and identifying key stakeholders for interviews.
b. On completion of the fieldwork, the evaluator will schedule a debriefing with Reprieve and local partners to discuss findings;

c. A draft report will be submitted to Reprieve and local partners after this debrief. This should be submitted within three weeks of completion of fieldwork, and will be submitted to Reprieve to allow for a response from Reprieve and partners;

d. Final report will be submitted a week after the response from Reprieve’s senior management and review of the draft report. The final report will be submitted no later than 15 August 2021.

e. After submitting the final report, the evaluator will host and lead a final session with all relevant staff to discuss the learnings and recommendations.

5. Selection Criteria and Application Process

The successful agency or candidate will be able to demonstrate the following:

a. Experience in carrying out evaluations of projects across the Middle East and North Africa region. Experience and understanding of the region is a requirement; understanding of human rights and the death penalty is highly desirable;

b. Excellent skills and experience in qualitative and quantitative research, including data collection and analysis;

c. Strong understanding of advocacy issues;

d. Two references from previous organisations for whom they have worked or delivered evaluations for;

e. Strong English writing and communication skills; and

f. The ability to speak Arabic at a professional level is a strong advantage.

Reprieve will require that the successful candidate sign Reprieve’s confidential agreement.

Those interested should submit a proposal, both financial and technical, with a CV and cover letter to applications@reprieve.org.uk with “EC MENA midterm evaluator” in the subject line by 31 May 2021. Interested candidates are encouraged to seek explanations or clarifications before submissions if required.