

Sharia (Qur'an & Sunnah)

Foundational privacy texts of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia: an unofficial English translation

Framework	Constitutional foundation
Type	Framework
Tier	Foundational: Sharia & Basic Law
Legal status	Foundational
Instrument page	https://www.wadiraksa.com/instrument/sharia
Compiled & verified	12 August 2026 (29 Safar 1448H) · Unofficial translation; the Arabic text (sharia-ar) is authoritative

Sharia principles, including *tajassus* (prohibition on spying), *satr* (concealment), *amanah* (trust) and the sanctity of the home, form the backdrop to privacy norms. Under Article 1 of the Basic Law of Governance, the constitution of the Kingdom is the Book of God and the Sunnah of His Messenger; Sharia is accordingly the supreme source of law, and these principles operate as binding foundations of the regime.

This document is an unofficial English rendering, prepared directly from the official Arabic texts in the companion document (sharia-ar). It is provided for reference only; in the event of any divergence, the Arabic prevails.

1. Tajassus: the prohibition of spying

"O you who believe, avoid much suspicion, for some suspicion is sin. And do not spy on one another, nor backbite one another. Would any of you wish to eat the flesh of his dead brother? You would detest it. And be mindful of God; God is Accepting of repentance, Most Merciful."

Qur'an, Surah Al-Hujurat 49:12

"Beware of suspicion, for suspicion is the most false of speech; and do not pry, and do not spy."

Hadith: agreed upon (al-Bukhari and Muslim), narrated by Abu Hurayrah; opening of a longer hadith

2. The sanctity of the home

"O you who believe, do not enter houses other than your own until you have asked permission and greeted their occupants; that is best for you, that you may take heed. (27) And if you find no one within, do not enter until permission is given to you; and if you are told 'go back', then go back, for that is purer for you; and God knows well what you do. (28)"

Qur'an, Surah An-Nur 24:27-28

"Righteousness is not that you enter houses from the back; rather, righteous is the one who is God-fearing. So enter houses by their doors, and be mindful of God, that you may prosper."

Qur'an, Surah Al-Baqarah, from verse 2:189

"Whoever looks into a people's house without their permission, it becomes lawful for them to put out his eye."

Hadith: Sahih Muslim (2158), narrated by Abu Hurayrah

3. Satr: concealment (covering of faults)

"...and whoever conceals the faults of a Muslim, God will conceal his faults in this world and in the Hereafter."

Hadith: Sahih Muslim, narrated by Abu Hurayrah; part of the hadith "Whoever relieves a believer of a hardship..."

"...and whoever covers a Muslim, God will cover him on the Day of Resurrection."

Hadith: agreed upon, narrated by Abdullah ibn Umar; part of the hadith "The Muslim is the brother of the Muslim..."

"O company of those who have believed with their tongues while faith has not entered their hearts: do not backbite the Muslims, and do not pursue their private matters; for whoever pursues their private matters, God will pursue his; and whomever God pursues, He will expose him even within his own house."

Hadith: Sunan Abi Dawud (4880), also recorded by Ahmad, narrated by Abu Barzah al-Aslami

4. Amanah: trust

"Indeed, God commands you to render trusts to those entitled to them, and, when you judge between people, to judge with justice. Excellent is that with which God instructs you; God is All-Hearing, All-Seeing."

Qur'an, Surah An-Nisa 4:58

"O you who believe, do not betray God and the Messenger, nor knowingly betray your trusts."

Qur'an, Surah Al-Anfal 8:27

5. The Basic Law of Governance

Issued by Royal Order No. A/90 dated 27/8/1412H (1 March 1992); published in the official gazette, Umm al-Qura, on 2/9/1412H (6 March 1992).

Article 1: The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is a sovereign Arab Islamic state. Its religion is Islam, and its constitution is the Book of God Almighty and the Sunnah of His Messenger (peace be upon him). Its language is Arabic, and its capital is the city of Riyadh.

Article 37: Dwellings are inviolable. They may not be entered without the permission of their owner, nor searched, except in the cases specified by law.

Article 40: Telegraphic and postal correspondence, telephone communications and other means of communication are safeguarded. They may not be confiscated, delayed, read or listened to, except in the cases specified by law.

Source: Bureau of Experts at the Council of Ministers, the official consolidated database of Saudi laws

Official sources

Qur'an: King Fahd Glorious Qur'an Printing Complex, Madinah, the Kingdom's official authority for the text of the Mushaf (Mushaf al-Madinah, riwayat of Hafs 'an 'Asim) and the digital certification body for electronic Qur'anic texts

<https://qurancomplex.gov.sa/quran-hafs/>
<https://quran.qurancomplex.gov.sa/>

Basic Law of Governance: Bureau of Experts at the Council of Ministers, official consolidated text	https://laws.boe.gov.sa/BoeLaws/Laws/Viewer/1013378e-27a4-4ca6-a3a8-cd416f569437?lawId=1e087b6f-ad20-4e03-ad03-a9a700f161b6
Sunnah: King Salman Complex for the Prophet's Hadith, Madinah (official Saudi government authority for the Sunnah); texts drawn from the canonical collections: Sahih al-Bukhari, Sahih Muslim, Sunan Abi Dawud	https://my.gov.sa/ar/agencies/17789

The Arabic companion document (sharia-ar) sets the Qur'anic text in Uthmani script, matching the digital text of the Madinah Mushaf; the King Fahd Complex is the certifying authority. Renderings here are the compiler's own, made from the Arabic; Arabic terms of art (*tajassus*, *satr*, *amanah*) are retained where they carry doctrinal weight. Prepared by Wadira, an independent, source-backed reference; cite the live instrument URL. Licence: CC BY 4.0.