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### Punishment of the one who leaves Islaam

I am currently in a philosophy of religion class and my teacher is an atheist. He claims that under an Islamic state if a born Muslim converts to another religion he is killed. Please tell me if this is true.

Praise be to Allaah.

The punishment for apostasy (riddah) is well-known in Islaamic Sharee'ah. The one who leaves Islaam will be asked to repent by the Sharee'ah judge in an Islaamic country; if he does not repent and come back to the true religion, he will be killed as a kaafir and apostate, because of the command of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him): "Whoever changes his religion, kill him." (Reported by al-Bukhaari, 3017).

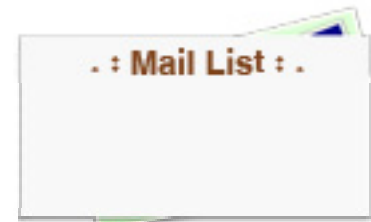
It is well-known in Sharee'ah that the punishments (hudood) are not carried out on minors, because they have not yet reached the age of responsibility; but in the case of those who have reached the age of responsibility, the punishment (hadd) applies, without a doubt.

The person who knows the truth and believes in it, then turns his back on it, does not deserve to live. The punishment for apostasy is prescribed for the protection of the religion and as a deterrent to anyone who is thinking of leaving Islaam. There is no doubt that such a serious crime must be met with an equally weighty punishment. If the kuffaar do not give people the freedom to cross a red light, how can we give freedom to people to leave Islaam and disbelieve in Allaah when they want to?

It seems that the intention of the teacher mentioned in the question was to shock the students with news of this ruling, in order to mislead them from the way of Allaah. You must respond and explain to him and the other students as much as you can.

May Allaah make you and us bearers of His Message and defenders of His Sharee'ah.

Islam Q&A  
Sheikh Muhammed Salih Al-Munajjid



» [Can we testify that a man is a believer if he regularly attends prayers in the mosque?.](#)

» [Do not betray the one who betrays you.](#)

» [He gave his wife money to do Hajj then he died; is it permissible for her to use it for something other than Hajj?.](#)

» [Sending pictures of the traveller to reassure people that they are fine is not a case of necessity.](#)

» [Working for a company that cheats, and the ruling on working in a company in which some things are permissible and some are haraam.](#)

» [He has repented from a relationship with a non-mahram woman but he still loves her and feels attached to her.](#)

» [Is it permissible for the muhrim \(pilgrim in ihram\) to cover his head when sleeping?.](#)

» [Can the mother ask the father for payment in return for breastfeeding her children from him?.](#)

» [The advantages of the haafiz in this world and in the Hereafter.](#)

» [He cannot find any work except renovating churches.](#)

