

PANORAMIC

ENFORCEMENT OF FOREIGN JUDGMENTS

Jordan



LEXOLOGY

Enforcement of Foreign Judgments

Contributing Editors

Elliot Friedman, David Livshiz and Christian Vandergeest

Freshfields

Generated on: September 17, 2025

The information contained in this report is indicative only. Law Business Research is not responsible for any actions (or lack thereof) taken as a result of relying on or in any way using information contained in this report and in no event shall be liable for any damages resulting from reliance on or use of this information. Copyright 2006 - 2025 Law Business Research

Contents

Enforcement of Foreign Judgments

LEGISLATION

- Treaties
- Intra-state variations
- Sources of law
- Hague Convention requirements

BRINGING A CLAIM FOR ENFORCEMENT

- Limitation periods
- Types of enforceable order
- Competent courts
- Separation of recognition and enforcement

OPPOSITION

- Defences
- Injunctive relief

REQUIREMENTS FOR RECOGNITION

- Basic requirements for recognition
- Other factors
- Procedural equivalence

JURISDICTION OF THE FOREIGN COURT

- Personal jurisdiction
- Subject-matter jurisdiction
- Service
- Fairness of foreign jurisdiction

EXAMINATION OF THE FOREIGN JUDGMENT

- Vitiating by fraud
- Public policy
- Conflicting decisions
- Enforcement against third parties
- Alternative dispute resolution
- Favourably treated jurisdictions
- Alteration of awards
- Effect of sanctions

AWARDS AND SECURITY FOR APPEALS

- Currency, interest, costs

Security

ENFORCEMENT AND PITFALLS

Enforcement process
Pitfalls

UPDATE AND TRENDS

Hot topics

Contributors

Jordan

Hammouri & Partners



Tariq Hammouri

tariq@hammourilaw.com

Yotta Pantoula-Bulmer

yotta.b@hammourilaw.com

Omar Sawadha

omar.s@hammourilaw.com

Haitham Al-Hajjaj

haitham.a@hammourilaw.com

Rozana Al Hroob

rozana.h@hammourilaw.com

LEGISLATION

Treaties

Is your country party to any bilateral or multilateral treaties for the reciprocal recognition and enforcement of foreign judgments? What is the country's approach to entering into these treaties, and what, if any, amendments or reservations has your country made to such treaties?

Jordan is a party to several bilateral and multilateral treaties for the reciprocal recognition and enforcement of foreign judgments. However, the process of both recognition and enforcement of foreign judgments under the Jordanian legal system can be described as the equivalent to an exequatur of foreign judgments request, whereby a foreign judgment goes through a process of validation of the requirements set forth by the relevant legal authorities (legislation and case law).

Broadly speaking, Jordan's general approach is to have an active presence in as many unified international and regional systems of judicial procedures as possible, in addition to taking a proactive investment approach. By entering into such bilateral and multilateral treaties, Jordan wishes to provide a secure investment environment operating within a unified rule-based set of judicial frameworks.

A non-exhaustive list of some bilateral and multilateral treaties for the reciprocal recognition and enforcement of foreign judgments to which Jordan is a party is set out below.

Multilateral treaties are:

- the Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards 1958 (the New York Convention);
- the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (signatory and contracting state, 1972);
- the Riyadh Arab Agreement for Judicial Cooperation 1983; and
- the Agreement on the Enforcement of Judgments between the States of the Arab League 1952.

Bilateral treaties are:

- the judicial cooperation treaty between Jordan and Algeria 2001;
- the judicial cooperation treaty between Jordan and Yemen 2001;
- the judicial cooperation treaty in civil, commercial and personal and criminal matters between Jordan and Kuwait 2006;
- the judicial cooperation treaty between Jordan and the United Arab Emirates 1999;
- the judicial cooperation treaty between Jordan and Qatar 1997;
- the judicial cooperation treaty between Jordan and Egypt 1987;
- the judicial cooperation treaty between Jordan and Tunisia 1965; and
- the judicial cooperation treaty between Jordan and Syria 1953.

At the time of writing, and based on research, Jordan has not made any amendments to these treaties.

Jordan has made one reservation on its ratification of the New York Convention.

Law stated - 23 June 2025

Intra-state variations

Is there uniformity in the law on the enforcement of foreign judgments among different jurisdictions within the country?

Jordan has a unified and uniform legislative and jurisdictional system that applies to all Jordanian governorates, and this is also applicable to the system governing the recognition and enforcement of foreign judgments in Jordan.

Law stated - 23 June 2025

Sources of law

What are the sources of law regarding the enforcement of foreign judgments?

For a foreign judgment to be enforced in Jordan, Jordanian legislations stipulate the equivalence of 'exequatur of judgment', meaning that the foreign judgment will be under the process of validation before the competent court in an exequatur request, in which the court of first instance will examine whether the foreign judgment has been issued in conformity with all the requirements stipulated under the relevant law.

Therefore, the exequatur of judgment is regulated under the following sources of domestic law in Jordan:

- the bilateral and multilateral treaties to which Jordan is a signatory regarding the subject matter, and that have been approved by the Jordanian parliament;
- [Jordanian Law of Enforcement of Foreign Judgments No. 8/1952](#); and
- [Jordanian Civil Procedures Code No. 24/1988](#) and its amendments.

Regarding case law sources, broadly speaking, Jordan is a civil law system jurisdiction, meaning that case law is considered a secondary and subordinate source of law to statutory law. However, practically, case law is considered a valid guidance source in Jordan, and the Jordanian judiciary regards case law as a valuable reference source.

Following this, once a foreign judgment has fulfilled the exequatur proceedings, it will be enforced in the same manner as a domestic judgment under [Jordanian Enforcement Law No. 29/2017](#) and its recent amendment.

Law stated - 23 June 2025

Hague Convention requirements

To the extent the enforcing country is a signatory of the Hague Convention on Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Judgments in Civil and Commercial Matters, will the court require strict compliance with its provisions before recognising a foreign judgment?

To date, Jordan is not a signatory to the Hague Convention on Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Judgments 1971 or to the Convention of 2 July 2019 on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Judgments in Civil and Commercial Matters (which is not yet in force).

However, on 13 June 2001, Jordan signed and entered into force the Statute of the Hague Conference on Private International Law and its amendments, which, under article 1, states that its main purpose is 'to work for the progressive unification of the rules of private international law'.

Law stated - 23 June 2025

BRINGING A CLAIM FOR ENFORCEMENT

Limitation periods

What is the limitation period for enforcement of a foreign judgment? When does it commence to run? In what circumstances would the enforcing court consider the statute of limitations of the foreign jurisdiction?

In cases where a bilateral or multilateral treaty has been concluded between Jordan and the country of the foreign judgment, the judgment shall have the power of a writ of execution in Jordan, and under article 8 of Jordanian Enforcement Law No. 29/2017 (the Enforcement Law).

The limitation period for such enforcement shall be 15 years, commencing from the date of the last procedure taken in that regard. However, since parties rarely submit a demand to directly enforce the foreign judgment on an 'as is' basis without first filing a request for exequatur at the court, the limitation period will be determined as below.

In those cases where the foreign judgment cannot be enforced in Jordan unless after filing a request for exequatur, the following points regarding a limitation period apply.

- If the foreign judgment is a foreign arbitral award, Jordanian Law of Enforcement of Foreign Judgments No. 8/1952 (the Law) sets out the definition of an enforceable foreign judgment as 'such awards should be deemed enforceable as a court decision under the laws of the country in which it was issued'. This means that to enforce a foreign arbitral award in Jordan, the award should be deemed enforceable as a court decision under the laws of the country where the award was issued. Consequently, the limitation period for the arbitral award in the country where the award was issued should not be exhausted (ie, it should still be running).
- Based on case law, the previous requirement shall also apply if the foreign judgment is a foreign court judgment; in that case, the limitation period for the court judgment in the country where it was issued should not be exhausted (ie, it should still be running).
- There is no specific limitation period set for bringing a request for an exequatur of a foreign judgment before the competent court under the Law. Nevertheless, the

general rule for a limitation period under the Jordanian legal framework, which is 15 years, might be applied as a limitation period for such request under the Law.

Once the exequatur request under the Law has been finalised and the foreign judgment or award can be enforced in Jordan, article 8 of the Enforcement Law determines that the limitation period for such enforcement shall be 15 years, commencing from the date of the last procedure taken in that regard.

A leave order to enforce the final arbitral award issued by the competent court in the country in which the award was issued is required in Jordan. The Jordanian jurisprudence considers this order to be crucial when determining whether the foreign arbitral award is enforceable, although a leave order is not required under the Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards 1958. The order shall not be considered final unless the other party has been duly notified; moreover, the order shall show that the defendant did not file an application to set aside the leave order. Different jurisdictions have different limitation periods in which the defendant may apply to set aside such orders.

Law stated - 23 June 2025

Types of enforceable order

Which remedies ordered by a foreign court are enforceable in your jurisdiction?

Article 2 of the Law defines an enforceable foreign judgment in Jordan as a judgment issued by a foreign court, including religious courts, relating to civil proceedings and ruling the payment of any amount of money, a judgment on a movable asset or the liquidation of an account, and also includes awards issued by an arbitrator regarding arbitral proceedings.

Article 25 of the Riyadh Arab Agreement for Judicial Cooperation 1983 (the Riyadh Agreement) excludes from judgments that can be enforced any temporary and discretionary legal actions, and judgments regarding bankruptcy cases, taxes and fees. These exclusions apply to judgments from states that are signatories to the Riyadh Agreement.

Once the foreign judgment has fulfilled the exequatur proceedings under article 2 of the Law and article 25 of the Riyadh Agreement, the remedies awarded under the foreign judgment will be enforced in Jordan.

Should a judgment for the recognition of a foreign judgment be issued by the court (after the judgment reaches the stage of being final), it is enforced at the Enforcement Department to collect the amount owed in the foreign judgment and it is subject to the provisions of the Enforcement Law. The judgment is enforced on the defendant's moveable and immovable assets and, in the event that the defendant has no assets, then the party can be imprisoned in accordance with the conditions stipulated in the Enforcement Law.

Law stated - 23 June 2025

Competent courts

Must cases seeking enforcement of foreign judgments be brought in a particular court?

The competent court in Jordan, which settles exequatur requests of a foreign judgment under articles 3 and 4 of the Law, is the court of first instance (the Court) located at the place where the defendant resides. If they do not reside in Jordan, the Court will be the one located in the jurisdiction where the assets of the defendant are located.

However, the competent court for the enforcement of a foreign judgment is the court in the jurisdiction where the Jordanian court issued the judgment, the court of the jurisdiction where the defendant resides, the court of the jurisdiction where the claimant resides or the court in the jurisdiction where the deed of enforceability was issued.

Law stated - 23 June 2025

Separation of recognition and enforcement

To what extent is the process for obtaining judicial recognition of a foreign judgment separate from the process for enforcement?

The general rule as stipulated under the Law is that a foreign judgment cannot be enforced unless it fulfils the exequatur requirements under the conditions set in article 7 of the Law; since the enforcement of a foreign judgment is a separate action that differs from the exequatur request, which precedes the enforcement action.

Once the foreign judgment has fulfilled the exequatur proceedings, it can be enforced in the same manner that a domestic judgment is enforced under the Enforcement Law.

However, there are certain provisions in bilateral treaties to which Jordan is a signatory – such as the judicial cooperation agreement between Jordan and Syria of 1953 – whereby it can be understood that the foreign judgment of one country will have the power of a writ of execution in the other country, without the need to apply the conditions of the Law. Nevertheless, parties rarely submit a demand to directly enforce the foreign judgment on an ‘as is’ basis without first filing a request of exequatur at the Court.

Law stated - 23 June 2025

OPPOSITION

Defences

Can a defendant raise merits-based defences to liability or to the scope of the award entered in the foreign jurisdiction, or is the defendant limited to more narrow grounds for challenging a foreign judgment?

Within the ambit of the Jordanian Law of Enforcement of Foreign Judgments No. 8/1952 (the Law), the court of first instance’s authority over the foreign judgment is solely to examine whether the conditions set out in article 7 of the Law have been satisfied, and not to review the foreign judgment on its merits.

Should a claim be raised for the recognition of a foreign judgment, the defendant cannot object to matters other than those that the court is permitted to reject the claim for the

recognition of a foreign judgment (which are stipulated in article 7 of the Enforcement of Foreign Judgments Law). If one or more of these conditions have not been met, the judgment will not be enforceable in Jordan and the defendant can argue the dismissal of the exequatur based on the lack of those conditions.

In relation to appealing a judgment issued in Jordan for the recognition of a foreign judgment, the Jordanian legislator did not differentiate between methods of appeal for judgments issued by the regular courts for claims that were raised in Jordan and for judgments whose subject is the enforcement of a foreign judgment. As such, those are subject to the same methods of appeal stipulated in the Civil Procedures Code and its amendments and the Regular Courts Formation Law No. 17 for 2001 and its amendments on the matter of litigation being a two-level process (claim and then appeal) as well as an appeal at the Court of Cassation.

However; it should be noted that, in the event that the defendant has already paid the claimed amount or a portion of the claimed amount, the defendant should notify the court of this to have the court to check this payment in accordance with its presented proof. Should it be proved to the court, the court will then register it in the judgment it issues on the matter of the recognition of a foreign judgment.

Law stated - 23 June 2025

Injunctive relief

May a party obtain injunctive relief to prevent foreign judgment enforcement proceedings in your jurisdiction?

The general rule is that a foreign judgment cannot be enforced without fulfilling the exequatur proceedings under the conditions outlined in the Law. Hence, a party cannot obtain injunctive relief in an exequatur request.

Moreover, Jordanian Enforcement Law No. 29/2017 (the Enforcement Law) does not provide for an action of injunctive relief per se, but rather there are other actions available to the debtor under the Enforcement Law – for example, claiming that the assets owned by the debtor cannot be seized under the Enforcement Law.

Law stated - 23 June 2025

REQUIREMENTS FOR RECOGNITION

Basic requirements for recognition

What are the basic mandatory requirements for recognition of a foreign judgment?

The basic mandatory requirements as stated in the Jordanian Law of Enforcement of Foreign Judgments No. 8/1952 (the Law) for an exequatur request should be satisfied. Those requirements are as follows:

.

article 2 states that if the parties wish to enforce an arbitral award in Jordan, the award has to be enforceable under the laws of the country that has issued the award (this condition shall also apply if the parties wish to enforce a court judgment); and

- article 7 sets out seven cases where the court of first instance (the Court) can reject the exequatur request:
 - if the court or tribunal that issued the foreign judgment or arbitral award lacked proper jurisdiction;
 - if the defendant did not carry out their business within the jurisdiction of the court or tribunal that issued the foreign judgment or arbitral award, or if they were not residing within its jurisdiction and did not voluntarily appear before it and did not submit to its jurisdiction (ie, the defendant did not accept the jurisdiction of the tribunal or court or they did not work or reside in an area over which the tribunal or court has jurisdiction);
 - if the defendant was not served with a notice to attend by the tribunal or court that issued the foreign judgment or arbitral award and they did not appear before the court although they were residing or carrying out their business within its jurisdiction (ie, regular proceedings were not followed that allowed the losing party a chance to be heard);
 - if the foreign judgment or arbitral award was obtained by fraud;
 - if the foreign judgment or arbitral award is not final (ie, it is subject to further appeal) between the parties;
 - if the basis of the foreign judgment or arbitral award was based on a subject matter that cannot be heard in the Jordanian courts because it contravenes Jordanian public order or public morality; or
 - if the foreign judgment or arbitral award was issued by a court that does not allow the enforcement of judgments issued by Jordanian courts.

Moreover, in the presence of a bilateral agreement between Jordan and the country where the foreign judgment or arbitral award is given the authority of a writ of execution, the general rule is that there are no mandatory requirements in such instances as the foreign judgment in these instances will be enforced directly without the need for passing a recognition phase. However, based on case law, this is not applied all the time by the Jordanian courts, and still, the mandatory requirements of exequatur under article 7 of the Law are followed even in the presence of a bilateral agreement.

Law stated - 23 June 2025

Other factors

May other non-mandatory factors for recognition of a foreign judgment be considered and, if so, what factors?

Under case law, all factors stated in the Law and the relevant applicable bilateral and multilateral agreements between Jordan and other countries, such as the Riyadh Arab Agreement for Judicial Cooperation 1983 and the Convention on the Recognition and

Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards 1958, are considered mandatory. It should be noted that the factor of reciprocity is considered a mandatory factor as stated in article 7 of the Law.

Law stated - 23 June 2025

Procedural equivalence

Is there a requirement that the judicial proceedings where the judgment was entered correspond to due process in your jurisdiction and, if so, how is that requirement evaluated?

The conditions for the exequatur request of a foreign judgment set out in article 7 of the Law are in fact requirements of due process in the Jordanian legal system. For example, there is a requirement for a fair trial in which the defendant was legally and fairly represented and for the issuing court to be the competent court to settle the subject matter of the judgment. However, if the proceedings followed in the country where the foreign judgment was issued do not allow the conformity of the condition of article 7, the parties may seek other procedures that might assist in convincing the competent court that the conditions of article 7 are fulfilled. It is at the Court's discretion to deem whether such procedures are in conformity with the Law.

If the conditions of article 7 have not been fulfilled in the foreign judgment, the Court may reject the exequatur request and therefore the foreign judgment cannot be enforced in Jordan.

Under case law, the conditions of article 7 will be evaluated by the Court even in the presence of a bilateral or multilateral agreement.

Law stated - 23 June 2025

JURISDICTION OF THE FOREIGN COURT

Personal jurisdiction

Will the enforcing court examine whether the court where the judgment was entered had personal jurisdiction over the defendant and, if so, how is that requirement met?

The court of first instance (the Court) in an exequatur claim shall decide whether the court that issued the foreign judgment had personal jurisdiction over the defendant. Either the court will look into this point by itself (with no prompting by either party) at the court's discretion or the party who is challenging the claim based on this point needs to prove it.

Law stated - 23 June 2025

Subject-matter jurisdiction

Will the enforcing court examine whether the court where the judgment was entered had subject-matter jurisdiction over the controversy and, if so, how is that requirement met?

The Court in an exequatur claim shall decide whether the court that issued the foreign judgment had subject-matter jurisdiction over the defendant in accordance with article 7 of the Jordanian Law of Enforcement of Foreign Judgments No. 8/1952 (the Law).

Law stated - 23 June 2025

Service

Must the defendant have been technically or formally served with notice of the original action in the foreign jurisdiction, or is actual notice sufficient? How much notice is usually considered sufficient?

In an exequatur request, the defendant must have been properly served with a notice as per the applicable method of serving a notice in the law of the country that issued the foreign judgment (in accordance with article 7(1)(d) of the Law). Therefore, any form of notice is acceptable by the Court to fulfil the requirements of exequatur, on the conditions that the method prescribed under the law of the country of origin was followed, that the defendant had a chance to be heard and that they attended the court case or arbitration proceedings. If the defendant had not been notified, then the court will not enforce the foreign judgment.

Law stated - 23 June 2025

Fairness of foreign jurisdiction

Will the court consider the relative inconvenience of the foreign jurisdiction to the defendant as a basis for declining to enforce a foreign judgment?

In an exequatur request, the foreign judgment should correspond to the conditions of article 7 of the Law. Therefore, if any of those conditions were not properly met and such incompatibility with the Law affected the foreign jurisdiction of the court or tribunal, the defendant presented their defence based on this inconvenience (whether it was relative or not), and the Court was convinced, then the Court will consider the relative inconvenience of the foreign jurisdiction to the defendant as a basis for declining the exequatur request and thus the judgment cannot be enforced in Jordan.

Law stated - 23 June 2025

EXAMINATION OF THE FOREIGN JUDGMENT

Vitiation by fraud

Will the court examine the foreign judgment for allegations of fraud upon the defendant or the court?

According to article 7 of the Jordanian Law of Enforcement of Foreign Judgments No. 8/1952 (the Law) and most of the treaties regarding the recognition of foreign judgments to which Jordan is a signatory, the court of first instance (the Court) will examine allegations of fraud.

Law stated - 23 June 2025

Public policy

Will the court examine the foreign judgment for consistency with the enforcing jurisdiction's public policy and substantive laws?

Under article 7 of the Law, the Court may dismiss the exequatur request if the judgment is derived from a lawsuit that cannot be heard by the Jordanian courts on the grounds of public order or public morality and therefore the foreign judgment cannot be enforced in Jordan.

Furthermore, article 5 of the Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards 1958 allows for refusal of the recognition and enforcement of an award if recognition or enforcement would contradict the country's public policy.

Law stated - 23 June 2025

Conflicting decisions

What will the court do if the foreign judgment sought to be enforced is in conflict with another final and conclusive judgment involving the same parties or parties in privity?

Under several treaties signed and ratified by Jordan concerning the recognition of foreign judgments, the Court shall not accept an exequatur request if the subject matter of the foreign judgment has the same parties or parties in privity of an ongoing court case either in Jordan (the state where the foreign judgment will be enforced) or in the country of origin of the judgment, provided that such a case was filed before the date of the exequatur request. In these circumstances, the foreign judgment cannot be enforced in Jordan.

However, regarding a third party or third state in multilateral agreements, article 30 of the Riyadh Arab Agreement for Judicial Cooperation 1983 (the Riyadh Agreement) includes the above condition and, further, extends the same requirement to those cases where the court case was filed in a third country (not the country of origin of the judgment nor the enforcing country).

Article 30 of the Riyadh Agreement includes an exception to this general rule regarding the authority of the enforcing country in such cases, as the enforcing country may order provisional or protective action regardless of ongoing proceedings elsewhere.

Law stated - 23 June 2025

Enforcement against third parties

Will a court apply the principles of agency or alter ego to enforce a judgment against a party other than the named judgment debtor?

The court will not enforce a foreign judgment on a third party who is not a party to the issued judgment. This is because the court, in a claim for the recognition of a foreign judgment, is restricted by the parties mentioned in the foreign judgment and does not change their capacity or legal position. Its role is limited only to investigating whether or not the conditions stipulated for the recognition of a foreign judgment are met or not (in accordance with the provisions of the Enforcement of Foreign Judgments Law) and does not extend to looking into the subject matter of the foreign judgment.

However; one of the procedures of enforcing a judgment in Jordan under article 31 of Jordanian Enforcement Law No. 29/2017 is that the creditor may place a seizure over the debtor's movable assets, money or debts with third parties, even if they are delayed or suspended on condition. Accordingly, the Enforcement Department in Jordan has the authority to enforce the judgment against a party other than the named debtor, but only on the condition that the third party is in possession of assets that are legally owned by the defendant.

The term 'alter ego' is not defined per se in Jordanian legislation. However, it may be possible that a foreign judgment against a parent company can be enforced against the affiliate or affiliates of the company and vice versa, provided that the affiliate company has a unified financial account with the parent company (ie, if the affiliate does not have a separate financial and administrative personality from the parent company). Therefore, judgments against one may be enforced against the other and vice versa.

In the event that the party whom the award is to be enforced against has no assets in Jordan to cover the cost of the award, then a claim can be raised against a third party (provided that the third party has a legal connection with said party that permits raising the claim against the third party). However; it should be noted that the claim that would be raised in this case is not a claim for the enforcement of a foreign judgment but a regular claim that must go through the stages of the claim itself, appeal and then enforcement.

Law stated - 23 June 2025

Alternative dispute resolution

What will the court do if the parties had an enforceable agreement to use alternative dispute resolution, and the defendant argues that this requirement was not followed by the party seeking to enforce?

If the parties do not accept the jurisdiction of the court over the dispute because there was an enforceable agreement to use alternative dispute resolution, it will be considered that the court that issued the foreign judgment was not functionally the competent court. As per article 7 of the Law, this is a reason for the Court to rule the request of the exequatur of the foreign judgment inadmissible and therefore the foreign judgment would not be enforced in Jordan.

Law stated - 23 June 2025

Favourably treated jurisdictions

Are judgments from some foreign jurisdictions given greater deference than judgments from others? If so, why?

Broadly speaking, all foreign judgments are enforceable in Jordan in the same legal way; that is, under the conditions set out in article 7 of the Law.

However, if there is a bilateral treaty between Jordan and a country that gives the foreign judgment of this country the power of a writ of execution, then the judgment of this country will be given greater deference than a judgment issued in a country with which Jordan has not concluded a bilateral treaty.

Law stated - 23 June 2025

Alteration of awards

Will a court ever recognise only part of a judgment, or alter or limit the damage award?

The function of the Court according to the Law is only to examine whether the requirements for exequatur were fulfilled in the foreign judgment to be enforced in Jordan. The court's role is limited only to investigating whether or not the conditions stipulated for the recognition of a foreign judgment are met or not (in accordance with the provisions of the Enforcement of Foreign Judgments Law) and does not extend to looking into the subject matter of the foreign judgment. Should a claim be raised for the recognition of a foreign judgment, the defendant cannot object to matters other than those that the court is permitted to reject the claim for the recognition of a foreign judgment (which are stipulated in article 7 of the Enforcement of Foreign Judgments Law).

However; it should be noted that, in the event that the defendant has already paid the claimed amount or a portion of the claimed amount, the defendant should notify the court of this to have the court to check this payment in accordance with its presented proof. Should it be proved to the court, the court will then register it in the judgment it issues on the matter of the recognition of a foreign judgment.

Furthermore, article 32 of the Riyadh Agreement, which applies only to its parties, states that the claimant can claim against the defendant with only part of the foreign judgment (meaning the foreign judgment will not be enforced in whole) on the condition that the judgment is such that it can be severed.

Moreover, article 5(1)(c) of the Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards 1958 allows the court that settles a recognition action for an arbitration award to separate those matters in which the arbitral tribunal has the authority to settle from those that fall outside the scope of the tribunal's jurisdiction and to recognise only those matters settled in the arbitration award that fall within the ambit of the tribunal's jurisdiction.

Law stated - 23 June 2025

Effect of sanctions

What effect do foreign or domestic sanctions have on the enforcement of foreign judgments in your jurisdiction? Will a court refuse enforcement of a judgment against or in favour of a sanctioned entity or individual? If so, which sanctions regimes do the courts of your jurisdiction recognise?

It should be noted that a foreign judgment is not valid for enforcement automatically in Jordan – a resolution must be issued by the competent Jordanian judicial authority to make the foreign judgment eligible to be enforced in Jordan, and the resolution that is issued by the competent Jordanian judicial authority is the one that will be enforced in Jordan. Accordingly, the Jordanian legislator, in the context of codifying the legal provisions that regulate the mechanism for the enforcement of foreign judgments in the Jordan, has stipulated specific reasons for the purposes of rejecting an application for the enforcement of a foreign judgment submitted to the competent court. Those conditions are explicitly stated in article 7 of the Law, and are as follows.

The court may reject the exequatur request to enforce a foreign judgment in the following reasons:

- if the court or tribunal that issued the foreign judgment or arbitral award lacked proper jurisdiction;
- if the defendant did not carry out his or her business within the jurisdiction of the court or tribunal that issued the foreign judgment or arbitral award, or if his or her domicile was not within its jurisdiction and did not voluntarily appear before it and did not submit to its jurisdiction;
- if the defendant was not served with a notice to attend by the tribunal or court that issued the foreign judgment or arbitral award and did not appear before the court although his/ her domicile or carrying his or her business within its jurisdiction;
- if the foreign judgment or arbitral award has been obtained by means of fraud;
- if the foreign judgment or arbitral award is not final;
- if the basis of the foreign judgment or arbitral award was based on a subject matter that cannot be heard before the Jordanian courts because it is either contradictory to public order or to public morality; or
-

if the foreign judgment or arbitral award was issued by a court that does not allow the enforcement of judgments issued by Jordanian courts.

Accordingly, by examining those reasons that would allow the judge to reject an application for enforcement of a foreign judgment in Jordan, it becomes apparent that the Jordanian legislator has not stipulated any consequences in the event that such foreign judgment is issued by a court that belongs to a country that is under international sanctions. In other words, the Jordanian judge's role is limited to ensuring that the foreign judgment, which is required to be enforced in Jordan, is free from the aforementioned reasons, because if any of those reasons are present they will prohibit the enforcement of the foreign judgment.

Law stated - 23 June 2025

AWARDS AND SECURITY FOR APPEALS

Currency, interest, costs

In recognising a foreign judgment, does the court convert the damage award to local currency and take into account such factors as interest and court costs and exchange controls? If interest claims are allowed, which law governs the rate of interest?

Local currency

In the event that the court issues a judgment for the recognition of a foreign judgment, the court will mention in the judgment it issued that the defendant is obligated to pay the owed amount in the currency stated in the foreign judgment or in its equivalent in local currency, namely, Jordanian Dinars at the time of payment without taking into consideration exchange controls.

Claiming interest

On the matter of claiming interest, it should be noted that the court will rule for legal interest in accordance with what is stated in the foreign judgment, Jordanian public policy and the laws that govern interest.

Law stated - 23 June 2025

Security

Is there a right to appeal from a judgment recognising or enforcing a foreign judgment? If so, what procedures, if any, are available to ensure the judgment will be enforceable against the defendant if and when it is affirmed?

The Law does not specify whether the Jordanian court's judgment in an exequatur request is final or not.

Consequently, and since the Code is applicable, appeals are accordingly an available remedy, and, under article 176 of the Code, the Court of Appeal is the competent domestic court for appealing the judgment of the Court in exequatur requests.

To ensure that the foreign judgment is enforceable against the defendant in the event of an appeal, certain procedures can be followed at the stage of pursuing the execution of the judgment at the Enforcement Department, such as but not limited to, applying for seizure of assets or imprisonment of the debtor based on strict legal adherence.

On the other hand, once the foreign judgment is enforced, article 20 of the Enforcement Law No. 29/2017 sets forth certain decisions issued by the judge of the Enforcement Department that can be applied before the competent court of appeal. Those decisions include, but are not limited to, the judge's decision to seize the debtor's assets, the judge's decision to place a travel ban on the debtor and the judge's decision on whether the debtor's assets can be seized.

Law stated - 23 June 2025

ENFORCEMENT AND PITFALLS

Enforcement process

Once a foreign judgment is recognised, what is the process for enforcing it in your jurisdiction?

The enforcement of a foreign judgment, whether it has the power of a writ of execution or whether the foreign judgment fulfilled the requirements in an exequatur request, will be under the provisions of Jordanian Enforcement Law No. 29/2017.

In general, the process for enforcing a foreign judgment in Jordan presents no significant peculiarities, although the following should be observed in that regard:

- a demand by the claimant should be submitted to the competent enforcement department;
- a notification for enforcement shall be sent to the defendant;
- enforcement can be effected in different ways, such as execution in-kind or monetary execution (usually by instalments); and
- the manner of enforcement selected depends on the type of assets in hand (whether they are movable or immovable).

Law stated - 23 June 2025

Pitfalls

What are the most common pitfalls in seeking recognition or enforcement of a foreign judgment in your jurisdiction?

In general, should the defendant wishing to raise a claim for the recognition of a foreign judgment in Jordan have prepared all required proof and documentation prior to raising the claim, then there is no notable pitfalls for the recognition of the foreign judgment in Jordan

and until the process of enforcement issued by the Jordanian court. This is because the claim for the recognition of a foreign judgment in Jordan is subject to the Enforcement of Foreign Judgments Law, which restricts the court from looking into the subject matter of the foreign judgment and limits its role to only assessing whether or not the criteria stipulated in article 7 of the Enforcement of Foreign Judgments Law (which are listed not by way of examples and are limited to those criteria) are met. That, in turn, would then determine whether or not the foreign judgment can be enforced in Jordan.

A common pitfall on the part of the claimant in relation to the enforcement of a foreign judgment is that the claimant may, due to internal procedures and unforeseen circumstances, require a longer time in preparing, notarising and legalising all relevant documentation that is required for the enforcement claim.

Law stated - 23 June 2025

UPDATE AND TRENDS

Hot topics

Are there any emerging trends or hot topics in foreign judgment enforcement in your jurisdiction?

A hot topic in foreign judgment enforcement in Jordan is that there are certain provisions in some bilateral or multilateral treaties that give the foreign judgment of one country the power of a writ of execution in the other country, without the need to apply the conditions of Jordanian Enforcement Law No. 29/2017. However, it is rare for a party to submit a demand to enforce the foreign judgment immediately on an 'as is' basis without first filing an exequatur request.

Another hot topic is the partial enforcement of a foreign judgment that rules on payment of sums owed, because the court of first instance (the Court) only has the authority to decide whether the judgment fulfilled the exequatur requirements, and not to look into any defence raised over whether part of the debt has already been paid. In such cases, the Court may decide either to enforce the foreign judgment as is – which means the debt may be paid twice once it is enforced – or not to enforce it, which will result in damage or loss to the claimant. However, under article 32 of the Riyadh Arab Agreement for Judicial Cooperation 1983, it is possible to ask for partial enforcement of the foreign judgment if a severable part of the judgment can be enforced. The order of execution may be on the award of the judgment in whole or in part if it is severable. However, if it is an indivisible judgment, then it may be indicated that part of the amount has been collected in the summary of the award, which entails preserving the rights of both the defendant and the claimant.

At present, and to the best of our knowledge, there are no publicised proposals to reform the framework on the exequatur and enforcement of foreign judgments in Jordan. However, an emerging trend can be noted as a result of the updates to debtor notification. In the past, debtor notification was carried out through diplomatic channels (which was time-consuming and expensive, owing to the lengthy procedures that had to be followed by the Jordanian court to notify the debtor). The trend in Jordan now is to use private courier companies to deliver notices to debtors. However, it has been difficult to apply this in practice because of the sophisticated nature of diplomatic notification that requires the involvement of official ministries.

As a general note, an amendment to the Jordanian Enforcement Law that had been made in 2022 was implemented on 25 June 2025. This amendment prevents creditors from imprisoning their debtors due to non-payment of financial debts. Certain debts are excluded from the implementation of this amendment, with those debts being as follows:

- debts related to lease contracts;
- debts related to labour contracts;
- debts related to religious cases;
- debts related to state treasury cases for an amount that is higher than 5,000 Jordanian dinars; and
- debts related to compensation for tort and a civil case tied to a criminal case for an amount that is higher than 5,000 Jordanian dinars.

Law stated - 23 June 2025