

**United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN),
Working Group on Exonyms
10th Meeting, Tainach/Tinje, Austria, April 28-30, 2010**

**Endonyms versus Exonyms:
A Case Study in Standardization.
With a List of Names of Arab Countries
and Their Major Cities**

by

Bogusław R. Zagórski,

*Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names
Outside the Republic of Poland
Head Office of Geodesy and Cartography (GUGiK), Warsaw, Poland,
e-mail: boguslaw.zagorski@transmontana.pl*

Preface¹

The aim of this paper is to discuss and shed light on the endonym-exonym controversy as it appears within the Arabic linguistic space stretching continuously over wide expanses of Asia and Africa between the Atlantic and the Indian Ocean, covering a number of political entities. A crucial problem of all-Arab toponymy standardization will also be touched upon. The paper is accompanied by a list of toponyms: country and major city names of the Arab World².

1. Definitions and disclaimers

A. *Country*: any political and geographical entity, either a sovereign state or a territory of unsettled political status. Here it is for enumerative purposes only; a discussion of the political status of any such country is neither an aim nor a part of this study.

B. *Arab country*: any country in which the Arabic language is either an exclusive official language, or at least one of its official languages. It is for formal linguistic purposes only; a discussion of the actual proportion of Arabic-speaking population in the ethnic composition of the country, its political and cultural self-identity and affiliation, or an international definition and recognition of any such entity, are neither an aim nor a part of this study. A list of the Arab countries fulfilling these criteria will follow in Appendix I.

C. *Arabic language*: Arabic belongs to a family of Semitic languages, together with such modern living languages like: Amharic, Aramaic, Hebrew, Maltese, Tigrinya and others; Modern Standard Arabic (MSA), its letters (with complete

1 I thank Dr Philip W. Matthews and Ms. Natalia K. Zagórska-Thomas for their assistance me with this paper.

2 The list was prepared within the framework of toponymic research and studies carried out at the Ibn Khaldun Institute in Piastów, using its library's collections of books and maps.

vowels) and its rules (specially word building paradigms) only will apply in this article, with the exclusion – in principle - of any locally spoken Arabic dialect and orthographic variants resulting thereof (dialects and MSA generally coexist within the diglossia system). Furthermore, discussion of an official and/or actual status of any dialect or language well established in the area, other than MSA, is neither an aim nor a part of this study, even though such dialects and languages might be mentioned on occasions.

D. Orthography: The Arabic script consists of 28 letters which design consonants and semi-consonants (these are used, among others, to note down long vowels). A system of additional graphic signs (*tashkīl* تَشْكِيل), generally omitted in everyday use, helps to note down short vowels and determines the actual function of semi-consonants in a word. Without them reading becomes a continuous process of reconstructing a proper pronunciation of words. The Arabic script makes no difference between capital letters and lower case letters; any capitalizations in a Roman transliteration of Arabic proper names are therefore purely conventional and largely follow the habits of European languages (which, in their turn, are not always unanimous on this point). The system used for transliteration of Arab names into the Roman alphabet (Romanization) is the one conventionally called *Amended Beirut System*, as used in Poland. The original *Beirut System* has in the last fifty years undergone several changes, proposed by Arab experts. It has not yet been finally approved by all Arab countries in its most practical and applicable version, nor has it been applied on larger scale. Not willing to postpone works on Arabic toponymy any longer, the Polish team decided on the immediate use of the Beirut System in its present shape.

E. *Major cities*: all cities with 100 000 inhabitants or more. This category also includes all capital cities, even if their number of inhabitants is lower than the above. Furthermore, a few other towns of particular regional importance are added to the list, irrespective of their actual size.

F. *Endonym*: a local name in MSA. Spelling (with complete both consonants and vowels) as well as syntax of the MSA will be applied; they will be decisive and restrictive - they will always be given priority in case of available diverging versions of a given name in order to assure congruency and uniformity.

G. *Exonym*: any relevant name which is not in MSA. It also applies to names in alternate official languages and other locally well established languages and dialects. Variant forms of names used in Arabic outside the original locality will also be considered exonyms.

H. *Variant names*: alongside with standard toponyms in the attached list (see Appendix II) some variant Arabic names plus selected exonyms in European languages (English, French, German and Polish) have been added as examples of existing toponymic discrepancies, while alternate French, Hebrew (Romanized), Somali and Tigrinya (Romanized) names as well as geographical coordinates serve the purpose of easier identification of the named objects.

I. *Reliability*: the present list is a working text and has no official character. Every possible care was taken so as to assure relevancy of named objects, and correctness of all cited names. However, it results from uneven reliability of certain sources of information as well as from divergences between available data that the present list should be considered as tentative and may be subject to further verifications and rectifications.

2. Why this list? Problem setting

An exonym can only be defined in relation to and in opposition to endonym (see 1.F-G). Therefore, discussing the question of the relationship between the two terms requires, first of all, the building up of a list of endonyms which will be helpful as a reference point for any further considerations.

The list enclosed below (see Appendix II) presents the names of all Arabic countries (see 1.A-B and Appendix I) and their major cities (see 1.E), in the common official language of all those countries, usually called Modern Standard Arabic - MSA (see 1.C).

It should be remembered that:

a. both MSA, and the classical language (*al-^carabiyyah al-fuṣḥá*), of which MSA is a direct continuation, have always been used as a matter of convention only, rather than occupying the position of a mother tongue. MSA remains very much distinct (including phonology and word formation paradigms) from any of the modern Arabic spoken dialects. MSA is mainly used in official public situations;

b. the classical Arabic (*al-^carabiyyah al-fuṣḥá*), the most cherished constituent part of the Arab culture, the language of the Qur'an, the extensive literature of the Arab World, a great part of the Eastern Christianity and of the Islamic World. It is theoretically unchangeable;

c. MSA which constitutes just one element of the phenomenon of the Arab diglossia, was at the origin and remains the main factor of the all-Arab identity.

d. modern living Arabic dialects (*al-lahjah, ad-dāriyah*) are not a popular result of distortion of the MSA or *al-fuṣḥá*, but they are independent, individual entities taking their origin in earlier spoken Arabic dialects, existing from times immemorial in the Arabian Peninsula and undergoing their own evolution in time and space since then; they are very much changeable entities;

e. Some countries also observe the phenomenon of diglossia in a different manner: their population speaks one non-Arabic language daily (or even formally), but retains Arabic as a link to the outer Arab social and cultural space with which they like to identify themselves; as it seems, a non-Arabic mother tongue may still agree with Arabic self-identity (at least on a political level).

The names of countries and cities include all the vowel signs (*fathāh* for *a*, *ḍammah* for *u*, *kasrah* for *i*, and *sukūn* for the lack of a vowel) necessary for an unequivocal reading of every Arabic word (*tashkīl*, see 1.D). This aspect is of particular importance since Arabic written documents (e.g. maps, lists of names) seldom contain vowels without which the actual reading/pronunciation may substantially differ from one reader to another.

It is noticeable that even official documents presenting various tables of transliteration from Arabic into Roman characters often omit those vowels from names supposed to serve as models and examples. As a result, an outside audience is left with ambiguities and without help to solve them.

All in all, the compiler of the present list has not found a similar one among official or unofficial Arabic documents and has thought it useful to present it on this occasion of discussing the endonym-exonym controversy. Any remarks from the audience concerning this subject matter will be much appreciated, with a perspective of building up a larger structure and encompassing a much bigger number of properly named geographical features of various kinds.

3. The concept of endonym

My restrictive and clear-cut definitions of endonyms and exonyms formulated in this paper (see 1.F-G) are necessary in order to find a way among

a large number of endonyms of various kinds, coming from numerous minority languages and other well established languages³ in the area (such as French in the ex-French possessions in North Africa, even though it no longer retains its earlier formal status there). These definitions are not meant to disregard those that were earlier coined within UNGEGN and do not aim at undermining difficult on-going discussions on their actual and/or conventional contents and meaning⁴. Linguistic, social and political situations in geographical name-giving are plentiful. Long lasting discussions on place names that link people to their cultural heritage bear witness to the complexity, delicacy and sensitivity of this issue on a world scale.

The rich diversity of the Arab countries reflected in their history, culture and cultural policies requires a very rigorous analysis and standardization procedure, along well drawn simple lines and transparent definitions, devoid – as much as possible – of any ambiguity, subjectivity and solutions based on individual persuasions and viewpoints; these should be omitted as much as possible as they inevitably lead to further lengthy and repetitive discussions on basic issues.

Equivocality in geographical terminology and nomenclature resulting from political disintegration and the still visible burden of the colonial past in the Arab world can be avoided and/or positively counterbalanced through a general international agreement on uniform MSA standards in dealing with place names in all Arab countries from the Atlantic to the Indian Ocean.

All-Arab agreement on that principle has been formally achieved but still awaits its practical implementation.

3 The expression/term *a well established language* has no meaning sharply defined by UNGEGN and therefore may be used in various applications with meanings resulting from actual contexts; to use the words of Prof. Herman Bell it is specially a *blessing to minority languages*. It does not mean, however, that it could be used in regard of Arabic spoken dialects which, as such, have no officially fixed standards and enter into the game in par or in contest with the AMS which evenly overlaps with them on upgraded levels of communication and replaces them on all-Arab scale. Dialects, as regards the problem of standardization, cannot compete with MSA which retains its exclusive position of an official language in all Arabic countries.

4 Specially highly competent and deeply insightful deliberations by Dr Peter Jordan, Paul Woodman and other members and guest speakers of UNGEGEN.

4. Good old solutions

Confusion in the Arab geographical naming has long been apparent. Medieval Arabs were already aware of the danger it posed to their linguistic integrity and successful communication. Remarkable toponymic dictionaries were then conceived and written by such geographers-lexicologists like Al-Bakrī (11th c., „Mu^cjam mā ista^cjam”), Yāqūt ar-Rūmī (13th c., „Mu^cjam al-buldān”) and Al-Ḥimyarī (15th c., „Ar-Rawḍ al-mi^cṭār fī khabar al-aqṭār”), to name only a few. They take precedence in showing ways of solving the problem through standardization, in quite a modern sense of the word, and were well ahead of their own times.

However, modern dictionaries of Arabic geographical names in Arabic, completely vowelled (like the works mentioned above), do not seem to exist.

5. The remedy seems simple, but the real problem is still there

The recipe for a remedy seems simple: modern dictionaries (gazetteers) of *official names* in MSA that should be fully vocalized. The simplicity of this undertaking is apparent but not quite true. Its implementation requires people competent not only in geography, but first of all in Arabic linguistics and history, with well developed academic consciousness enabling them to distinguish between the reality of a standard and what is coming from non-standard reality of the Arabic dialects.

The problem is delicate: standardizing Arab geographical names requires the deliberate application of *normative rules* rather than *descriptive rules*. That implies difference between *recorded names* and *official names*.

Descriptive rules should in principle envisage – at the first stage – collecting and registering colloquial (spoken) forms of names, as used among the local people.

Then, those popular *recorded names* should be – in the second stage - formally adapted (one may also say *translated*) to the different standard phonology and syntax of MSA, which in its formal shape is directly based on the classical Arabic.

It means the transmission of the names from *source (departure) languages* (Arabic dialects) to a *target language* (MSA).

The relationship between those dialects and MSA is a subject of a permanent on-going discussion on various levels.

In the most common perception the Arab dialects are nothing else but distorted forms of the literary language; this opinion is comparatively widespread (specially among uneducated people) and used in ideologically motivated discussions.

However, the academic world would rather agree on classifying the dialects, from a purely linguistic point of view, as being truly individual and distinct Arabic languages. Here the awareness of reality is greater.

It is known that – as with other Semitic languages and alphabets – strictly formalized Arabic word structures offer certain licence to readers to reconstruct vowelings in a non-vowelled text according to well known patterns (word formation paradigms) and following the thematic requirements of a context. However, there are still many cases when the same consonantal structure (a sort of a skeleton of a word) may be supplanted with different sets of vowels and read differently; e.g. سليم [s l y m] Salīm/Sulaym, حسن [ħ s n] Ḥasan/Ḥusn, ملك [m l k] Malak/Malik/Mulk/Milk etc.

The existing *domain of the spoken language* (dialect speech and pronunciation) daily coincides and develops separately from the *domain of the*

written language (MSA writing and standard spelling). The customary way of writing without vowels is very much a part of the Arabic life and literary style, oriented mainly towards dialectal, oral communication. In a non-vocalized text both writers and readers find elasticity and ease which become severely restricted when moulded into rigid MSA forms.

The ambiguity in reading unvowelled consonantal structures appears in common words, personal names and place names alike. It arises from the personal persuasions and presumptions of individual Arab readers, naturally inclined to follow the habits of their respective mother tongues (*dialect-oriented attitude*), thus being contrary to the idea of all-Arab standardization (*MSA-oriented attitude*). However, it should be said clearly that there is no possibility to proceed with standardization of names in MSA based on local dialectal pronunciation. It is a contradiction in itself and may result in making uniformity in the common Arab cultural space (referring – in principle – to the idea of one indivisible language) unachievable, null and void.

Prof. Witold Doroszewski, a Polish linguist, concluded that „*the tools of thinking are words*”. In the situation of Arabic diglossia (dialect plus MSA) dialectal words (inclusive of all kinds of names in their dialectal forms) are definitely tools of the everyday thinking processes of native Arab speakers. On the one hand, transformation (translation) of names into MSA upgrades their prestige in the perception of interlocutors. However, on the other hand, it creates a certain uneasiness and mental discomfort because the names may sound artificial in the ears of an unaccustomed listener. Communicating “my/our” names to the outside world in forms which do not coincide with the traditions of „our” speech and are not supported by “our” daily usage and routine, is the direct effect of the Arabic diglossia. Alienating the names from their daily context and customary users may provoke a more or less open opposition, either

deliberate or even unconscious, to MSA standardization procedures. This, in turn, could eventually lead to *de facto* linguistic and cultural disintegration.

One living example of disintegration of the Arab linguistic uniformity is Malta (Mālīṭah مَالِيطَة). Due to historical conditions the Arabic dialect of Malta, originally nothing else than one of the Maghribian group of Arabic dialects⁵, developed into a sovereign entity, written down with the use of the Roman alphabet and standardized in its own right, disregarding the idea of all-Arab uniformity. And furthermore, only a few years ago this variety of Arabic became one of the official languages of the European Union⁶. This situation is irreversible, just like the existence of the Dutch or the Luxemburger literary languages which at some point in history emerged out of the group of the German spoken dialects.

Similar processes may, although not necessarily analogically, be repeated in other parts of the Arab world if the adherence to local linguistic values takes precedence over those of MSA.

However, only those standardized place names, resulting from MSA-oriented procedures, with all the vowels (integral parts of standardized forms), would constitute the final stage of preparing the *official names* – a formally approved national gazetteer, according to international rules and regulations.

And when it comes to the *official names* in Arabic, in opposition to what we should call *unofficial* (with a wide range of real meanings of the term), several formal questions make their appearance:

a. what is the source and origin of those *official names*?

b. what does it exactly mean that they deserve the name *official*? Were they approved (with complete vowels) by a competent names authority of the concerned country?

⁵ That is alongside the rich variety of other Mauritanian, Moroccan, Algerian, Tunisian and Libyan dialects, as well as now extinct Andalusian and Sicilian Arabic.

⁶ Any attempt at drawing origins of the Maltese language from the Old Phoenician is only motivated by a local national mythology and cannot be supported by any serious academic argument.

c. are they the only form of geographical name formally admitted to use by the national administration in the public sphere, inclusive of educational institutions?

d. are they effectively used there?

e. were they – in their complete shape – officially presented by a *giving* country to international *receivers* and users?

Answers to these questions will allow to assess relevance and usability of those *official names* from the point of view of the international receivers, both Arab and non-Arab speaking ones.

Two more points of detail on the Arab standardized place names.

Diacritics constitute an integral part of standardized Arabic name forms. In MSA they are: one, two or three dots above a letter, and one or two dots under a letter. Some Arabic letters have the same shape as others and differ only in the number of dots. Change or omission of such dots changes the pronunciation and the meaning of the word absolutely. It goes without saying that so-called *hā' muhmilah* (هـ), which too often (both in Arabic and Arabicized names) replaces a *tā' marbūṭah* (ط), in careless writing and printing, should be carefully avoided and marked correctly with two dots above in the Arabic text wherever applicable, e.g. حماة and غزّة , not حماه or غزّه (so as not to confuse it with an original word root *hā'* in such names like Al-Manzah المَنْزَه or Al-Muntazah المُنْتَزَه). There are cases where the *hā' muhmilah* on Arabic maps erroneously replaces even the feminine ending *ā'*, like this one: البيضة instead of البيضاء .

If the definite article *al-* أَل (with its phonetic and graphic variants: *ad-*, *an-*, *ash-* etc.) is a part of a name, it is an integral part of it and should not be omitted – as one likes, like it happens frequently - neither in the original Arabic, nor in the Romanization.

Now let us review some other problems connected with standardization.

6. Non-Arabic names versus Arabic ones

Names of non-Arabic origin are plentiful in the Arab World where they usually constitute a toponymic *substratum* (while *adstratum* names of foreign origin are few in the Arab World⁷). In some countries like Djibouti, Somalia, Eritrea and Comoros or some areas in Sudan and Northern Iraq (Kurdistan) they constitute an almost unique toponymic layer. Arabic official forms of those names are, more often than not, just their phonetic adaptations and in spite of being genetically a separate layer, should be treated in conjunction with the toponymy of other Arabic-speaking areas. Naturally, the names in the original living languages deserve also individual treatment, apart from Arabic.

The problem is not new in the Arabic culture. An old expression: *al-ʿarabiyyah wa-al-muʿarrabah*, meaning *Arabic and Arabized*, may apply to tribes, texts, terms and names alike. It testifies to a long tradition of treating such social and linguistic entities as a single inclusive group (although not quite homogeneous as regards their origin), remaining in opposition to non-Arab entities.

Therefore we have to deal with three groups of toponyms:

- a. Arabic names of Arabic origin (*al-asmā' al-ʿarabiyyah*);
- b. Arabized names of non-Arabic origin (*al-asmā' al-muʿarrabah*) (Ancient, Berber, Nubian, Somali, etc.);
- c. Living non-Arab names (Berber, Nubian, Somali, etc.).

In some areas local non-Arabic names are strongly intermixed with Arabic names. There are numerous names of Berber origin interwoven with Arabic ones in the Maghribian countries (from Western Egypt to Mauritania). In Egypt many

⁷ Many French, Spanish and Italian geographical names replaced the local ones during the colonial period in North Africa; most of these were subsequently abandoned and new Arab names were introduced instead, as soon as the concerned countries (Mauritania, Western Sahara, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Libya) regained independence. The question of *substratum* and *adstratum* in the Holy Land is a separate case (see section 8 of this paper).

place names of today, constituting a part of a well established Arabic toponymic layer, take their origin from earlier languages spoken in the area, such as Old Egyptian. In the Syrian region (in its wider sense) the onomastic patterns of the Aramaic and other Semitic languages are often repeated and can easily be detected in place names. Latin and Greek left traces in the toponymy of North Africa and the Levant. Such names of non-Arabic origin cannot be correctly read unless they are supplied with all the necessary vowels.

A Lebanese geographical name like Bcharré (here written in French) presents more than one possible orthography: both بشرية and بشري are attested in Arabic written sources (including official ones). How to fully vocalize and read it? Can we put a *sukūn* (no-vowel sign) over the first consonant? That sounds very inappropriate from the point of view of MSA. We should rather apply here a *fathāh* (sign for the vowel *a*) over the first letter *bā'* ب which is etymologically a remnant abbreviation of an old Aramaic word for *house* - *bēt* (Arabic: *bayt* بَيْت). Every syllable in this name presents another challenge as regards the standardization procedures.

This is about Arabicized forms of non-Arab toponyms, either coming from dead or living languages. However, their original forms in local non-Arab living languages may be called *parallel endonyms*, requiring a separate treatment as a minority (or in some areas even a majority) cultural heritage which deserves protection, preservation and standardization in its own right.

Seeking old etymologies may indeed be helpful in attempts at setting standards for repeating phenomena (like an abbreviation: *bā'* ب for *bayt* بَيْت). However, we should be cautious and should not go to extremes and make far fetched conclusions such as adapting the standard spelling of the Arab topographical (generic) term *kawm* كَوْم (pl. *akwām* أَكْوَام or *kimān* كَيْمَان) to its alleged (but not quite true?) Greek source form *kōmé*. Applying a careful and critical approach in similar situations is advised.

7. Internal exonyms

There is a category of exonyms which deserves a special treatment and which I would like to call *internal exonyms*, although at the first sight this may seem to be a contradiction in itself. These are names of places which can be found in Arabic usage outside the Arabic country where they are located. The explanation for their appearance is following. There are 26 Arab countries (see the Appendix I) and only some of them have set up their own national place names authorities with the purpose of standardizing and disseminating correct and official lists (gazetteers) of geographical names. Original Arabic maps, produced by the individual countries themselves, are very few on the market. Authors and publishers of general maps and atlases in Arabic (for general users as well as for educational purposes) take the easier path and retranslate names from easily available international publications in Roman characters (usually English or French). The incorrectly retranslated and misinterpreted names penetrate the publications on all-Arab scale. A number of them became permanent despite their obvious irrelevance.

This inconsistency and lack of harmony later lead to several different exonyms being used for one object in one and the same publication. The same names cannot be identified in different publications. Names in the text differ from those appearing on accompanying maps, etc.⁸

A few examples.

a. A French name Agadir, reflecting more or less accurately the original pronunciation of a city name (Arabic from Berber) in Morocco, is locally spelled Akādīr أَكَادِير in Arabic, with the addition of three dots above the letter

⁸ Paraphrasing the words of Michel Malherbe, we could say *les lieux à dénominations multiples*.

kāf (كَ). This is the local way to mark the pronunciation of *g* as in *good*; however, that combination does not exist in MSA and is therefore in most cases simply dropped out in print or in handwriting. Eastern Arab map producers usually do not take original Moroccan names (because of difficult access to original name publications) and retranslate the name Agadir from French as أَغَادِير *Aghādīr* following the usual pattern of Arabicizing European *g* with the use of a letter *ghayn*. Moroccan Agadir, an Arab city of international reputation, became known in the Eastern part of the Arab world under the artificially coined Arabic exonym and this is what I propose to call an *internal exonym*.

The same name is also well known to exist in Algeria and it refers to a historical part of the old city of Tilimsān تِلْمَسَانَ . (Fr.: Tlemcen). In Algeria it is spelled أَقَادِير *Aqādīr* according to local usage of noting down non-standard Arab sound *g* with the use of a letter *qāf*, which is in agreement with the pronunciation of the local Arab dialects.

b. Then, as far as the name of the city of Tlemcen is concerned, the common lack of vowel signs in writing resulted in widely accepted Eastern-Arab spelling of Tilimsān as Talmasān. That latter form better fits customary Arabic word structure patterns and sounds „more Arabic” to an average unprepared Arab ear; however, it is not true. It is of no relevance to local naming tradition and creates a new reality of its own, an exonymic duplicate.

c. Likewise, in the Arab East the original letter *qāf* in genuine Arabic names like الْقَيَّارَةَ *Al-Qayyārah* or الْقَصَبَ *Al-Qaşab* is occasionally replaced with a letter *kāf* that has a bar above it (كَ) as in today's Pashtu, Persian and Urdu or earlier in Ottoman Turkish). Meanwhile, in the Arab West the same letter *qāf* may be replaced with a *kāf* with three dots above it (كَ) as in the names: الْقَلْتَةَ / الْقَلْتَةَ *Al-Qaltah* or الْقُوَيْرَةَ / الْقُوَيْرَةَ *Al-Quwayrah*. The reason is a wish to reflect its dialectal pronunciation as *g*, disregarding the name's Arabic origin and etymology. Such irregularities cannot be justified.

d. Another easily distorted consonant is the original *kāf* ك , which may turn into dialectal *ch* چ in such names as: الْحَسَكَة Al-Ḥasakah / Al-Ḥasechah or الشُّبَيْكَة Ash-Shubaykah / Ash-Shbīchah. In the next step, the letter *ch* چ may eventually be changed into *jīm*: الشُّبَيْجَة Ash-Shubayjah. New creations, which mean nothing in Arabic, result from too strong an attachment to dialectal forms.

e. Some Arab names of Arab countries and their capitals, which are of non-Arabic origin, may have a double consonant at the beginning which is not admissible in MSA. In such cases MSA, according to centuries-old tradition of Arabicizing foreign borrowings, supplies an additional prosthetic prefixed vowel at the beginning of the word, an *a*, *i*, or *u* before the two consonants (thereby creating an additional syllable). Alternatively, it separates the two consonants with an additional infix vowel (of a phonetic value that most easily fits with the neighbouring consonants). In a syllable with a cluster of two consonants before a vowel at the beginning of the word: *ccv*, the vowel and the consonant may interchange their positions: *cvc*, or turn into a construction of two syllables, either *cv-cv* or *vc-cv*.

Two countries, Mauritania and Chad, have similar problems. According to the information drawn from indigenous Arab informers and local publications, the name of Mauritania's capital is Inwākshūṭ إنْوَآكْشُوط (Fr.: Nouakchott) but it is too often rendered in Arabic outside Mauretania without the initial *i*. The same happens with the Mauritanian city of Inwādhībū إنْوَآذِيْبُو (Fr.: Nouadhibou).

Similarly, the name of the capital of Chad: إْتْشَاد Itshād is Injāmīnah إِنْجَامِيْنَة (Fr.: N'Djaména). Both the country's and the capital's names often lose their initial vowel in Arabic, creating an ambiguity as to their correct form.

In any case, adding (or restoring) appropriate prefixed or infix vowels should be executed at the stage of national standardization of geographical

names with the use of Arabic vowelised script, and not leaving the problem unsolved until the stage of transliteration.

It may be reminded, for comparison, that the Andalusian city of Granada (thus called in Spanish) had in history two distinct versions of the name in Arabic: Gharnāḥah غَرْنَاطَة and Ighranāḥah إِغْرَنْاطَة . This is an example how two prosthetic vowels, either a suffix or an infix, may be variably used in one and the same name.

f. A non-Arabic name of the country like Djibouti may cause another difficulty when it is internationally known in its French spelling. Its original name Jībūtī جيبوتي was distorted and written down in Arabic, on a publicly displayed poster, with a very correct letter *jīm* (ج) preceded by an unnecessary letter *dāl* (د) - which stems directly from the French spelling (and lettering) and is an effect of a direct unreflective retransliteration of the name from French into Arabic. Several years ago, that poster with the country name دجيبوتي was used to announce an official meeting of representatives of Arab countries in Beirut. The meeting was devoted to Arab geographical names.

Naturally, these difficult names of non-Arab origin are well known in the countries concerned but they are not easily available in their correct spelling in official publications on an international scale.

g. The question of generic terms in topography becomes troublesome with the appearance of double forms of one and the same word and the attribution of different meanings to them, like, for example, a dialectal *wēd* and a literary *wādī*, or a dialectal *kōm* and a literary *kawm*. Difficulty in putting clear-cut limits between various levels of communication (dialect versus MSA) creates a danger of such double or triple written forms as well as practical usages. In fact, in the past this phenomenon enormously helped to develop the general Arabic vocabulary in an additive way and create long sets of synonyms, near synonyms and homonyms, originating from various dialects. Tolerating the same in

modern toponymy would lead to disintegration of any communication system based on consistent rule: 1 object corresponds to 1 name, or alternatively: 1 name corresponds to 1 object.

8. A special case: Israel and Palestine

A specially complex case which must be signalled here, is the treatment of Arabic names in Israel and Palestine.

The speakers of Arabic in Israel within the pre-1967 border lines, who compose ca. 20% of the country's population, have little influence on the linguistic policy of the country. They are required by the administration not to use genuine, traditional Arab names of places but, instead, Arabic transliterations of their new Hebrew names⁹. However, the use of those „Israeli Arabic” names is restricted to situations enforced officially and finds no application in Arabic publications produced by the Arabs themselves outside the sphere of influence of the Israeli administration (similarly to previously existing artificial „Lithuanian Polish” names, see note 9).

And thus Arabic Al-Majdal **أَلْمَجْدَل** has become either Ashkilūn **أَشْكِوْن** or Ashqilūn **أَشْقُوْن** (both versions attested). This stemmed from

⁹ This reminds us, for comparison, of Soviet regulations concerning the use of geographical names in the Polish language by local Polish-speaking population in Lithuania: original Polish names were not allowed and therefore expunged from texts by the censorship office. Polish editors were forced to use only names in Lithuanian pronunciation but retranscribed with Polish letters, from one Latin alphabet into another (as Wilnius or Panewezys, transcribed from Lithuanian Vilnius and Panevėžys, instead of correct Polish Wilno and Poniewież). Such production of artificial geographical names was received as something very exotic in Poland where they were never used. In Lithuania that curious system disappeared immediately from practical life with the collapse and disintegration of the Soviet Union, although there are still trends within certain Lithuanian circles that aim at the reintroduction of the previous toponymic system, under the pretext that – in their opinion – local Poles are not genuine Poles but „Polonized Lithuanians” that should be reabsorbed by „their mother Lithuanian nation”, willingly or not. The question of Polish signposts (as well as that of personal names) in Lithuania remains unsolved, contrary to and in violation of general regulations of the European Union as well as official bilateral Polish-Lithuanian agreements.

Hebrew Ashqelon. Similarly Jerusalem, or Al-Quds أَلْقُدْس in Arabic, was officially renamed Ūrushalīm أُورُشَلِيم, after Hebrew Yerushalayim¹⁰.

At the same time, we can observe in Israel a new phenomenon. It is the appearance of new names in Arabic, being translations of the original Hebrew names (new towns for which earlier Arabic names did not exist before creation of the State of Israel with its new urban network). The Hebrew name of the biggest city in the country, Tel Aviv (meaning the Spring Hill), is formally transliterated into Arabic as Tall Abīb تَلّ أبيب (which is meaningless). The creative power of the Arabic language, even in difficult circumstances, lead to the formation of another, translated version of the same name, viz. Tall ar-Rabīc تَلّ الرّبّيع (Spring Hill in Arabic) which has already shown up not only in the spoken language but also in print, and certainly gained notoriety.

Generally, all geographical names in Israel can be arranged in the following toponymic layers:

a. historical substratum of all kinds of geographical names in extinct Ancient languages: Phoenician, Kanaanite, Aramaic, Hebrew, Greek, Roman etc.. Living traces of these may be distinguished in present Arabic and Hebrew toponymy;

b. living Arabic names (from 7th c. onwards), falling within two categories: *al-asmā' al-ʿarabiyyah* and *al-asmā' al-muʿarrabah*;

c. new Hebrew names (from 20th c. onwards), being:

c1. reused Ancient names located in their old places, sometimes tentatively;

c2. newly coined Hebrew names replacing Arabic toponyms;

c3. new toponymic creations for newly created features;

d. new Arabic names coined after Hebrew ones by the Israeli administration;

¹⁰ Arabic name Ūrushalīm was earlier known to Arabic historians as that of the Ancient entity, but was never used in reference to the contemporary city.

e. new Arabic names arising spontaneously within the Arab linguistic environment.

Meanwhile, the West Bank areas of Palestine, with its new network of Jewish settlements, are subject to an in-flowing organized wave of new Hebrew toponyms connected with Jewish colonization. Both the settlements and their names remain unaccepted and unintegrated by the local population. The phenomenon of alien Hebrew names being imposed in the Arab linguistic environment works for developing hostile feelings among those worrying about integrity of their endangered Arab cultural heritage in toponymy. This procedure seems far from internationally set standards and promises rather little probability of being accepted by the native population.

What is *substratum* and what is *adstratum* in these conditions, which forms of these name should be treated as endonyms, and which as exonyms, and by whom, is difficult to assess categorically. Any linguistic judgment on this issue may be easily criticized on subjective political grounds.

8. Conclusions

a. The Arab countries face the necessity, first of all, of executing toponymic standardization procedures with academic precision, based on MSA and with the use of all vowels necessary for unambiguous reading of official names, as it has been agreed. All in all, this procedure can only be successfully completed when carried out by a well qualified team of specialists in linguistics and history, basing their work on careful and unbiased research, study and analysis of all kinds of historical documents as well as contemporary evidence. The concerted action should be supported technically by skilled scientists (geographers, geologists, topographers, ethnographers and cartographers). This is an absolute prerequisite of much desired quality and uniformity.

b. A clear distinction should be established by toponymic experts between MSA and dialect forms, as well as between MSA and any other languages in the area, to prevent any double use in MSA and creation of even more exonyms (repeated endonyms?).

c. The specific phenomenon of internal exonyms should be recognized and prevented.

d. Careful etymological investigations, knowledge of rich and diversified terminology (generic terms) related to geographical features in various regions, local history: all these elements will be helpful in the establishment of correct official place names lists. To achieve that we need to pass from *variable recorded names* to *official standard names*, gathered in *national gazetteers* conceived along uniform principles.

e. It is only when the question of national standardization is properly handled, according to the decisions which have been taken, but not yet fully implemented, that the transliteration procedures can be performed (almost mechanically at that stage). Selection of a particular transliteration system seems to be still an open question. That problem would require a separate analysis and discussion in respect of the necessary consistency (possible use across all Arab countries) and practical applicability. Specially careful consideration should be given to a technical feasibility study in regard to special signs, which may cause trouble in practical use (unusual fonts, uncommon and awkward looking correspondences between Arabic and Roman letters, rules concerning the use of hyphens, etc.).

f. Exonyms for geographical objects in the Arab world are plentiful, specially for the names of countries and major cities, in most of major languages other than Arabic. It is incumbent on the experts responsible for any of those languages to study the situation and to find solutions best responding to actual local cultural requirements. It may be useful to investigate and analyse the

Polish experience in this field¹¹, as regards its possible adaptation to other languages.

g. Creation of artificial place names in the areas where Arabic-speaking population has no influence on the local linguistic policy, where toponymy is used as the political weapon, will certainly raise new problems and tensions to be faced by the international community. Regrettably, avoiding those in the present political situation seems to be almost impossible.

h. Finally, treatment of names in minority or alternate languages is a separate problem and should not be mixed with that of standardization procedures carried out in Arabic. Experience and information gathered in the realization of the former may of course assist with the latter, and vice versa. However, they remain two different issues and should be treated separately.

Liability waiver: Neither the author of this article nor the GUGiK express opinion or take stand on territorial claims or political status of any given territory mentioned in this paper and disclaim all responsibility resulting thereof, all considerations contained herein being of purely toponomastic character.

¹¹ See the official website of the Polish Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names Outside the Republic of Poland (KSNG): <http://www.gugik.gov.pl/komisja/english/index.php>.

Appendix I: List of the Arab countries¹²
(in alphabetical order of their English names):

in Africa:

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Algeria | (Al-Jazā'ir الْجَزَائِر), |
| Chad | (Itshād إتشَاد) ¹³ , |
| Comoros | (Al-Qumur الْقُمْر), |
| Djibouti | (Jībūtī جيبوتي), |
| Egypt | (Miṣr مِصْر), |
| Eritrea | (Iritriyā إرتريا), |
| Libya | (Lībiyā لِيبيَا) ¹⁴ , |
| Mauritania | (Mawrītāniyā مَوْرِيْتَانِيَا), |
| Morocco | (Al-Maghrib الْمَغْرِب), |
| Somalia | (Aṣ-Ṣūmāl الصُّومَال), |
| Sudan | (As-Sūdān السُّودَان), |
| Tunisia | (Tūnis تُونِس), |
| Western Sahara | (Aṣ-Ṣaḥrā' al-Gharbiyyah الصَّحْرَاءُ الْغَرْبِيَّة) ¹⁵ ; |

in Asia:

| | |
|--------------|---------------------------------------|
| Bahrain | (Al-Baḥrayn الْبَحْرَيْن), |
| Iraq | (Al-'Irāq الْعِرَاق), |
| Israel | (Isrā'īl إِسْرَائِيل) ¹⁶ , |
| Jordan | (Al-Urdunn الْأُرْدُن), |
| Kuwait | (Al-Kuwayt الْكُوَيْت), |
| Lebanon | (Lubnān لُبْنَان), |
| Oman | ('Umān عُمَان), |
| Palestine | (Filasṭīn فِلَسْطِين) ¹⁷ , |
| Qatar | (Qaṭar قَطَرْ), |
| Saudi Arabia | (As-Su'ūdiyyah السُّعُودِيَّة), |
| Syria | (Sūriyah سُورِيَّة), |
| UAE | (Al-Imārāt الْأِمَارَات), |
| Yemen | (Al-Yaman الْيَمَن). |

12 For the sake of clarity, only short names of the countries will be used in this paper. 22 countries form the League of the Arab States, 2 are not members of that organization and 2 have unsettled political status.

13 Not a member of the League of the Arab States.

14 In Libyan political language, for reasons beyond the context of this paper, the country name Lībiyā لِيبيَا is often replaced by the generic term Al-Jamāhīriyyah الْجَمَاهِيرِيَّة (State of Masses), a part of the official long name of the country. We should perhaps call it a parallel (variant/replacing) endonym?

15 Territory of yet unsettled status.

16 Not a member of the League of the Arab States. In Arabic political language, for reasons beyond the context of this paper, the country name Isrā'īl إِسْرَائِيل is often replaced by such terms as Al-Kiyān aṣ-Ṣihyawnī الْكِيَانُ الصِّهْيَوْنِي (Zionist Entity), Filasṭīn al-Muḥtallah فِلَسْطِينُ الْمُحْتَلَّة (Occupied Palestine) or Al-Kiyān al-Muḥtall الْكِيَانُ الْمُحْتَلَّ (Occupied Entity). These expressions can be categorized as parallel exonyms with a strong political and emotional connotation at a time.

17 Territory of yet unsettled status.

Appendix II: List of the endonyms
(in English alphabetical order, by countries;
including selected variant names and exonyms)

| Algeria Al-Jazā'ir (Fr.: Algérie; Ger.: Algerien; Pol.: Algeria) | الْجَزَائِر | Geographical coordinates |
|--|--|-------------------------------------|
| Al-Aghwāṭ (Fr.: Laghouat) | الأغواط | 33° 48' N 2° 53' E |
| Al-°Ayn al-Bayḍā' (Fr.: Aïn Beïda) | العَيْنُ البَيْضَاءُ | 36° 48' N 3° 17' E |
| Al-Bulaydah (Fr.: Blida) | البُلَيْدَة (بليدة) | 36° 28' N 2° 50' E |
| Al-Jalfah (Fr.: Djelfa) | الجَلْفَة | 34° 40' N 3° 15' E |
| Al-Jazā'ir (Eng.: Algiers; Fr.: Alger; Ger.: Alger; Pol.: Algier) | الْجَزَائِر | 36° 47' N 3° 3' E |
| Al-Khurūb (Fr.: El Khroub) | الْخُرُوب | 36° 16' N 6° 42' E |
| Al-Madiyyah (Fr.: Médéea) | المَدِيَّة | 36° 16' N 2° 45' E |
| Al-Masīlah (Fr.: M'Sila) | المَسِيلَة | 35° 42' N 4° 32' E |
| Ash-Shalaf (Fr.: Chlef) | الشَّلَف | 36° 10' N 1° 20' E |
| Al-°Ulmah (Fr.: El Eulma) | العُلْمَة | 36° 9' N 5° 41' E |
| Al-Wādī (Fr.: El Oued) | الْوَادِي (الْوَاد) | 35° 59' N 4° 10' E |
| °Annābah (Fr.: Annaba) | عَنَابَة | 36° 54' N 7° 46' E |
| °Ayn al-Wisārah (Fr.: Aïn Oussera) | عَيْنُ الوَسَارَة (عَيْنُ وَسَارَة) | 35° 27' N 2° 54' E |
| °Ayn Tamūshant (Fr.: Aïn Témouchent) | عَيْنُ تَمُوشَنْت | 35° 18' N 1° 8' W |
| Bāb az-Zuwwār | بَابُ الزُّوَّار | 36° 43' N 3° 11' E |

| | | |
|--|--|--------------------|
| (Fr.: Bab Ezzouar) | | |
| Barāqī (Fr.: Baraki) | بَرَاقِي | 36° 40' N 3° 6' E |
| Bārīkah (Fr.: Barika) | بَارِيكَة (بَرِيكَة) | 35° 23' N 5° 22' E |
| Bashshār (Fr.: Béchar) | بَشَّار | 31° 37' N 2° 13' W |
| Bātinah (Fr.: Batna) | بَاتِنَة | 35° 34' N 6° 11' E |
| Bijāyah (Fr.: Béjaïa; Bougie) | بِجَايَة (بوقِي) | 36° 45' N 5° 5' E |
| Biskirah (Fr.: Biskra) | بِسْكَرَة | 34° 51' N 5° 44' E |
| Burj Bū °Urayrīj (Fr.: Bordj Bou Arréridj) | بُرْج بُو عُرَيْرِيْج (برج بو الرارج) | 36° 4' N 4° 46' E |
| Burj al-Kīfān (Fr.: Bordj El Kiffan) | بُرْج الكِيْفَان | 36° 45' N 3° 11' E |
| Bū Sa°ādah (Fr.: Bou Saâda) | بُو سَعَادَة | 35° 12' N 4° 11' E |
| Ghardāyah (Fr.: Ghardaïa) | غَرْدَايَة | 32° 29' N 3° 40' E |
| Ghulayzān (Fr.: Rélizane; Ighil Izane) | غُلَيْزَان (اغيل ازان) | 35° 45' N 0° 33' E |
| Jījal (Fr.: Jijel) | جِيْجَل | 36° 48' N 5° 46' E |
| Khanshalah (Fr.: Khenchela) | خَنْشَلَة | 35° 26' N 7° 8' E |
| Mas°ad (Fr.: Messaâd) | مَسْعَد | 34° 10' N 3° 30' E |
| Mu°askar (Fr.: Mascara) | مُعَسْكَر | 35° 24' N 0° 8' E |
| Mustaghānim (Fr.: Mostaganem) | مُسْتَاغَانِم | 35° 56' N 0° 5' E |
| Qālamah (Fr.: Guelma) | قَالَمَة | 36° 28' N 7° 26' E |
| Qusanṭīnah (Eng.: Constantina; Fr.: Constantine; Ger.: Konstantina; Pol.: Konstantyna) | قُسَنْطِينَة | 36° 22' N 6° 37' E |
| Sa°īdah (Fr.: Saïda) | سَعِيدَة | 34° 50' N 0° 9' E |
| Saṭīf (Fr.: Sétif) | سَطِيف | 36° 11' N 5° 24' E |

| | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Sīdī Bu-l-°Abbās (Fr.: Sidi Bel Abbès) | سِيْدِي بُلْعَبَّاس | 35° 12' N 0° 38' W |
| Sukaykidah (Fr.: Skikda) | سُكَيْكِيْدَة | 36° 52' N 6° 54' E |
| Sūq Ahrās (Fr.: Souk Ahras) | سُوْق أَهْرَاس | 36° 17' N 7° 57' E |
| Tabassah (Fr.: Tébessa) | تَبَسَّة | 35° 24' N 8° 7' E |
| Tīhart (Fr.: Tiaret) | تِيَهْرْت (تِيَارْت - تِيَهَارْت) | 35° 22' N 1° 19' E |
| Tilimsān (Fr.: Tlemcen) | تِلْمَسَان | 34° 52' N 1° 19' W |
| Tuqqurt (Fr.: Touggourt) | تُقُرْت (تَوْقُورْت - تَوْغُورْت) | 36° 6' N 6° 4' E |
| Wahrān (Eng.; Fr., Ger., Pol.: Oran) | وَهْرَان | 35° 42' N 0° 38' W |
| Warqalah (Fr.: Ouargla) | وَرَقْلَة (وارقلا) | 31° 57' N 5° 20' E |
| Bahrain Al-Baḥrayn (Fr., Ger.: Bahrain; Pol.: Bahrajn) | | |
| الْبَحْرَيْن | | |
| Al-Manāmah (Eng., Fr., Ger., Pol.: Manama) | الْمَنَامَة | 26° 14' N 50° 35' E |
| Al-Muḥarraḡ | الْمُحَرَّق | 26° 15' N 50° 37' E |
| Ar-Rifā° | الرِّفَاع | 26° 8' N 50° 33' E |
| Jidd Ḥafṣ | جِدِّ حَفْص | 26° 13' N 50° 33' E |
| Madīnat Ḥamad | مَدِينَة حَمَد | 26° 7' N 50° 30' E |
| Madīnat °Īsá | مَدِينَة عِيْسَى | 26° 10' N 50° 33' E |
| Salmābād | سَلْمَابَاد | 26° 11' N 50° 31' E |
| Sitrah | سِيْتْرَة | 26° 9' N 50° 37' E |
| Chad Itshād | | |
| إِتْشَاد (تشاد) | | |

| | | |
|--|----------------------------|---------------------|
| (Fr.: Tchad; Ger.: Tschad; Pol.: Czad) | | |
| Injāmīnah (Eng.: Njamena; Fr.: N'Djaména; Ger.: Ndschamena; Pol.: Ndžamena) | إِنْجَامِينَا (نجامينا) | 12° 7' N 15° 3' E |
| Mūndū (Fr.: Moundou) | مُونْدُو | 8° 34' N 16° 5' E |
| Sārih (Fr.: Sarh) | سَارِه | 9° 9' N 18° 23' E |
| Abū Shahr (Fr.: Abéché) | أَبُو شَهْر (ابيشي) | 13° 49' N 20° 49' E |
| | | |
| Comoros Al-Qumur (Fr.: Comores; Ger.: Komoren; Pol.: Komory) | الْقَمْر | |
| Mūrūnī (Eng., Fr., Ger., Pol.: Moroni) | مُورُونِي | 11° 41' S 43° 16' E |
| Fūmbūnī (Fr.: Fomboni) | فُومْبُونِي | 12° 16' S 43° 45' E |
| Mūtsāmūdū (Fr.: Mutsamudu) | مُوتْسَامُودُو | 12° 58' N 45° 12' E |
| | | |
| Djibouti Jībūtī (Eng., Fr.: Djibouti; Ger.: Dschibuti; Pol.: Dżibuti) | جِيْبُوتِي (دجيبوتي) | |
| °Alī Ṣabīḥ (Fr.: Ali Sabièh) | عَلِي صَبِيح | 11° 10' N 42° 42' E |
| °Artah (Fr.: Arta) | عَرْتَا | 11° 31' N 42° 50' E |
| Dukhayl (Fr.: Dikhil) | دُخَيْل | 11° 6' N 42° 23' E |

| | | |
|--|----------------------------|---------------------|
| Jībūtī (Eng., Fr., Ger.: Djibouti; Pol.: Dżibuti) | جيبوتي | 11° 36' N 43° 15' E |
| Tājūrah (Fr.: Tadjoura) | تاجورة (تاجوراء) | 11° 47' N 42° 53' E |
| Ūbūk (Fr.: Obock) | أوبوك | 11° 58' N 43° 17' E |
| | | |
| Egypt Miṣr (Fr.: Egypte; Ger.: Ägypten; Pol.: Egipt) | مِصر | |
| Abū Kabīr | أبو كبير | 30° 44' N 31° 40' E |
| Akhmīm | أخميم | 26° 34' N 31° 44' E |
| Al-°Arīsh | العريش | 31° 8' N 33° 48' E |
| Al-Fayyūm | الفيوم | 29° 19' N 30° 50' E |
| Al-Ghardaqah (Eng., Fr., Ger., Pol.: Hurghada) | الغردقة | 27° 14' N 33° 50' E |
| Al-Ḥawāmidīyyah | الحوامدية | 29° 54' N 31° 15' E |
| Al-Iskandariyyah (Eng.: Alexandria; Fr.: Alexandrie; Ger.: Alexandrien; Pol.: Aleksandria) | الإسكندرية (اسكندرية) | 31° 12' N 29° 54' E |
| Al-Isma°iliyyah (Eng., Fr., Ger., Pol.: Ismailia) | الإسماعيلية (اسماعيلية) | 30° 35' N 32° 16' E |
| Al-Jīzah (Eng.: Giza/Gizeh; Fr.: Gizèh/Guiza/Guizé; Ger.: Gise/Giseh; Pol.: Giza) | الجيزة | 30° 1' N 31° 13' E |
| Al-Maḥallah al-Kubrā | المحلة الكبرى | 30° 58' N 31° 10' E |
| Al-Manṣūrah | المنصورة | 31° 3' N 31° 30' E |

| | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Al-Maṭariyyah | أَلْمَطَرِيَّة | 31° 11' N 32° 2' E |
| Al-Minyā | أَلْمِنْيَا | 28° 6' N 30° 45' E |
| Al-Qāhirah (Eng.: Cairo; Fr.: Le Caire; Ger.: Kairo; Pol.: Kair) | أَلْقَاهِرَة (قاهرة - مصر) | 30° 2' N 31° 13' E |
| Al-Qāhirah al-Jadīdah (Eng.: New Cairo; Pol.: Nowy Kair) | أَلْقَاهِرَة الْجَدِيدَة | 30° 6' N 31° 20' E |
| Al-Uqṣur (Eng. Ger.: Luxor; Fr.: Louxor; Pol.: Luksor) | الأُقْصُر | 25° 41' N 32° 39' E |
| Al-Warrāq | أَلْوَرَّاق (وراق الحضر) | 30° 6' N 31° 13' E |
| Aswān | أَسْوَان | 24° 5' N 32° 53' E |
| Asyūṭ | أَسْيُوط | 27° 11' N 31° 11' E |
| As-Sunbullāwayn | أَلْسُنْبُلَاوَيْن (السمبلاوين) | 30° 53' N 31° 27' E |
| As-Suways (Eng., Fr., Pol.: Suez; Ger.: Sues) | أَلْسُوَيْس | 29° 58' N 32° 33' E |
| Az-Zaqāzīq | أَلزَّقَازِيق | 30° 35' N 31° 31' E |
| Banhā | بَنَهَا | 30° 28' N 31° 11' E |
| Banī Suwayf | بَنِي سُوَيْف | 29° 5' N 31° 5' E |
| Bilbays | بِلْبَيْس | 30° 25' N 31° 34' E |
| Būr Safājah | بُور سَفَاجَة (سفاجا , سَفَاجَة) | 26° 44' N 33° 56' E |
| Būr Sa'īd (Eng., Ger., Pol.: Port Said; Fr.: Port-Saïd) | بُور سَعِيد | 31° 16' N 32° 18' E |
| Damanhūr | دَمَنْهُور | 31° 2' N 30° 28' E |
| Disūq | دِسُوق | 31° 8' N 30° 39' E |
| Dumyāṭ | دُمِّيَاط | 31° 25' N 31° 48' E |
| Ḥulwān | حُلْوَان | 29° 51' N 31° 20' E |
| Jirjā | جِرْجَا | 26° 20' N 31° 53' E |

| | | |
|---|---|---------------------|
| Kafr ad-Dawwār | كَفْر الدَّوَّار | 31° 8' N 30° 7' E |
| Kafr ash-Shaykh | كَفْر الشَّيْخ | 31° 7' N 30° 56' E |
| Madīnat al-°Āshir Min Ramaḍān | مَدِينَة العَاشِر مِن رَمَضَانَ (لَعَاشِر مِّن رَمَضَانَ) | 30° 18' N 31° 45' E |
| Madīnat Sittat Uktūbir | مَدِينَة سِتَّة أَكْتُوبِر (ستة اكتوبر) | 29° 49' N 31° 3' E |
| Mallawī | مَلَّوِي | 27° 44' N 30° 50' E |
| Marsá Maṭrūḥ | مَرَسَى مَطْرُوح | 31° 21' N 27° 14' E |
| Mit Ghamr | مِيت غَمْر | 30° 43' N 31° 16' E |
| Qalyūb | قَلْيُوب | 30° 11' N 31° 12' E |
| Qinā | قِنَا | 26° 10' N 32° 43' E |
| Rafaḥ | رَفَح | 31° 18' N 34° 14' E |
| Rashīd | رَشِيد | 31° 24' N 30° 25' E |
| Sawhāj | سَوْهَاج | 26° 33' N 31° 42' E |
| Shibīn al-Kawm | شَبِين الكَوْم | 30° 33' N 31° 1' E |
| Shubrā al-Khaymah | شُبْرَا الخَيْمَة | 30° 6' N 31° 15' E |
| Ṭanṭā | طَنْطَا | 30° 47' N 31° 0' E |
| | | |
| Eritrea Iritriyā (Fr.: Eritree; Ger.: Eritrea; Pol.: Erytrea) | إِرْتَرِيَا (ايريتريا) | |
| °Aṣab (Tigr.: Āseb) | عَصَب | 13° 0' N 42° 44' E |
| Asmarah (Tigr.: Āsmera) (Eng., Fr., Ger., Pol.: Asmara) | أَسْمَرَة (اسمرا , اسمرى) | 15° 20' N 38° 56' E |
| Karan (Tigr.: Keren) | كَرَن | 15° 47' N 38° 28' E |
| Muṣawwa ^c (Tigr.: Mits'iwa) | مُصَوَّع | 15° 36' N 39° 28' E |
| Tasanāy (Tigr.: Teseney) | تَسَنَاي | 15° 8' N 36° 40' E |
| | | |

| <p style="text-align: center;">Iraq Al-°Irāq (Fr.: Iraq; Ger., Pol.: Irak))</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">العِرَاق</p> | |
|---|--|---------------------|
| Abū Ghurayb | أبو غُرَيْب | 33° 17' N 43° 58' E |
| Al-°Amārah | الْعَمَارَة (عمارة) | 31° 50' N 47° 9' E |
| Al-Baṣrah | الْبَصْرَة (بصرة) | 30° 33' N 47° 50' E |
| Ad-Dīwāniyyah | الدِّيَوَانِيَّة (ديوانية) | 31° 59' N 44° 56' E |
| Al-Fallūjah | الْفَلُوجَة (فلوجة) | 33° 20' N 43° 46' E |
| Al-Ḥadīthah | الْحَدِيثَة (حديثة) | 34° 8' N 42° 22' E |
| Al-Ḥillah | الْحِلَّة (حلة) | 32° 29' N 44° 25' E |
| Al-Kūfah | الْكُوفَة (كوفة) | 32° 2' N 44° 24' E |
| Al-Kūt | الْكُوت (كوت – كوت العمارة) | 32° 30' N 45° 50' E |
| Al-Mawṣil | المَوْصِل (موصل) | 36° 20' N 43° 8' E |
| An-Najaf | النَّجَف (نجف) | 31° 59' N 44° 20' E |
| An-Nāṣiriyyah | النَّاصِرِيَّة (ناصرية) | 31° 2' N 46° 16' E |
| Al-Qā'im | القَائِم (قائم) | 34° 22' N 41° 7' E |
| Ar-Ramādī | الرَّمَادِي (رمادي) | 33° 25' N 43° 18' E |
| Ar-Ruṭbah | الرُّطْبَة (رطوبة) | 33° 2' N 40° 17' E |
| As-Samāwah | السَّمَاوَة (سماوة) | 31° 18' N 45° 17' E |

| | | |
|--|---|---------------------|
| As-Sulaymāniyyah | السُّلَيْمَانِيَّة (سليمانية) | 35° 33' N 45° 25' E |
| Az-Zubayr | الزُّبَيْر (زبير) | 30° 23' N 47° 43' E |
| Baghdād (Eng.: Baghdad; Fr., Ger., Pol.: Bagdad) | بَغْدَاد | 33° 21' N 44° 25' E |
| Ba ^q ūbah | بَعْقُوبَة | 33° 45' N 44° 38' E |
| Bāyjī | بَائِجِي | 34° 56' N 43° 29' E |
| Dahūk | دَهُوك | 36° 52' N 43° 0' E |
| Ḥalabjah | حَلَبْجَة | 35° 11' N 45° 59' E |
| Hīt | هَيْت | 33° 38' N 42° 49' E |
| Irbīl | إِرْبِيل | 36° 11' N 44° 1' E |
| Al-Iskandariyyah | الْأَسْكَانْدَرِيَّة | 32° 53' N 44° 21' E |
| Karbalā' | كَرْبَلَاء | 32° 36' N 44° 2' E |
| Kirkūk | كِرْكُوك | 35° 28' N 44° 28' E |
| Sāmarrā' | سَامَرَاء | 34° 12' N 43° 52' E |
| Tall 'Afar | تَلَّ عَفَر (تلعفر) | 36° 22' N 42° 27' E |
| Zākhū | زَاخُو | 37° 8' N 42° 41' E |
| | | |
| Israel Isrā'īl (Fr., Ger.: Israel; Pol.: Izrael) | إِسْرَائِيل | |
| Al-Ludd (Heb.: Lod) | اللُّدَّ | 31° 58' N 34° 54' E |
| Al-Majdal // Ashkilūn / Ashqilūn (Heb.: Ashqelon) | الْمَجْدَل // أَشْكِلُون / أَشْقِيلُون | 31° 40' N 34° 35' E |
| Al-Quds // Ūrushalīm (Heb.: Yerushalayim) (Eng., Fr., Ger.: Jerusalem; Pol.: Jerozolima) | أُورُشَلِيم // الْقُدْس | 31° 46' N 35° 14' E |

| | | |
|--|---|---------------------|
| An-Nāṣirah (Heb.: Naz̄erat) (Eng., Fr.: Nazareth; Ger.: Nasaret; Pol.: Nazaret) | النَّاصِرَة | 32° 42' N 35° 18' E |
| Ar-Ramlah (Heb.: Ramla) | الرَّمْلَة | 31° 55' N 34° 52' E |
| Banī Birāq (Heb.: Bene Beraq) | بَنِي بِرَاق | 32° 5' N 34° 50' E |
| Bāt Yām (Heb.: Bat Yam) | بَات يَام | 32° 1' N 34° 45' E |
| Bi'r as-Sab° (Heb.: Be'er Sheva') | بَيْر السَّبْع | 31° 14' N 34° 47' E |
| Bītāḥ Tikfā (Heb.: Petaḥ Tiqwa) | بِيْتَا ح تِكْفَا | 32° 5' N 34° 53' E |
| Ḥayfā (Heb.: Hefa) | حَيْفَا | 32° 50' N 35° 0' E |
| Ḥūlūn (Heb.: Holon) | حَوْلُون | 32° 1' N 34° 46' E |
| Kifār Sābā (Heb.: Kefar Sava) | كِفَار سَابَا | 32° 10' N 34° 56' E |
| Natāniyā (Heb.: Netanya) | نَتَانِيَا | 32° 20' N 34° 51' E |
| Raḥūbūt (Heb.: Rehovot) | رَحُوبُوت | 31° 54' N 34° 49' E |
| Ramāt Ghān (Heb.: Ramat Gan) | رَمَات غَانَ | 32° 5' N 34° 49' E |
| Rīshūn Litsiyūn | رِيشُون لِتْسِيُون | 31° 58' N 34° 48' E |
| Tall Abīb-Yāfā / Tall ar- Rabī - Yāfā (Heb.: Tel Aviv-Yafo) Eng., Fr., Ger.: Tel Aviv- Yafo; Pol.: Tel Awiw-Jafa) | تَلّ أَبِيب يَافَا / تَلّ الرَّبِيع يَافَا | 32° 4' N 34° 48' E |
| Umm al-Faḥm (Heb.: Umm el-Faḥm) | أَمّ الفَحْم | 32° 31' N 35° 59' E |
| Usdūd // Ashdūd (Heb.: Ashdod) | أَشْدُود // أُسْدُود | 31° 49' N 34° 39' E |
| | | |

| | | |
|---|--------------------|---------------------|
| Jordan Al-Urdunn (Fr.: Jordanie; Ger.: Jordanien; Pol.: Jordania) | الأردنّ | |
| Al-°Aqabah | أَلْعَقَبَة | 29° 31' N 35° 0' E |
| Al-Karak | أَلْكَرَّك | 31° 11' N 35° 42' E |
| °Ammān (Eng., Fr., Ger., Pol.: Amman) | عَمَّان | 31° 57' N 35° 56' E |
| Ar-Ruṣayfah | الرُّصَيْفَة | 32° 1' N 36° 3' E |
| As-Salt | أَلْسَلْط | 32° 3' N 35° 44' E |
| Az-Zarqā' | أَلزَّرْقَاء | 32° 5' N 36° 6' E |
| Irbid | إرْبِيد | 32° 33' N 35° 51' E |
| Jarash | جَرَش | 32° 17' N 35° 54' E |
| Ma°ān | مَعَان | 30° 12' N 35° 44' E |
| Mādabā | مَادَبَا | 31° 43' N 35° 48' E |
| | | |
| Kuwait Al-Kuwayt (Fr.: Koweït; Ger.: Kuwait; Pol.: Kuwejt) | أَلْكُوَيْت | |
| Al-Farwāniyyah | أَلْفَرْوَانِيَّة | 29° 16' N 47° 55' E |
| Al Jahrā' | أَلجَهْرَاء | 29° 20' N 47° 40' E |
| Al-Kuwayt (Eng., Ger.: Kuwait; Fr.: Koweït; Pol.: Kuwejt) | أَلْكُوَيْت | 29° 20' N 47° 59' E |
| Ash-Shu°aybah | أَلشُّعَيْبَة | 29° 3' N 48° 8' E |
| Ḥawallī | حَوَّلِي | 29° 19' N 48° 2' E |
| | | |
| Lebanon | | |

| | | |
|--|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| Lubnān (Fr., Pol.: Liban; Ger.: Libanon) | لُبْنَان | |
| Bayrūt (Fr.: Beyrouth) (Eng. Ger.: Beirut; Pol.: Bejrut) | بَيْرُوت | 33° 52' N 35° 30' E |
| Şaydā' (Fr.: Sidon) | صَيْدَاء | 33° 33' N 35° 22' E |
| Şūr (Fr.: Tyre) | صُور | 33° 16' N 35° 11' E |
| Ṭarābulus (Fr.: Tripoli) (Eng., Ger.: Tripoli; Pol.: Trypolis) | طَرَابُلُس | 34° 26' N 35° 51' E |
| Zaḥlah (Fr.: Zahlé) | زَحَلَة | 33° 51' N 33° 53' E |
| | | |
| Libya Lībiyā (Fr.: Libye; Ger.: Libyen; Pol.: Libia) | لِيْبِيَا | |
| Ajdābiyah | أَجْدَابِيَّة (اجدابيا) | 30° 46' N 20° 14' E |
| Al-°Azīziyyah | الْعَزِيزِيَّة | 32° 32' N 13° 1' E |
| Al-Bayḍā' | الْبَيْضَاء | 32° 46' N 21° 43' E |
| Al-Khums | الْخُمْس | 32° 39' N 14° 16' E |
| Al-Marj | الْمَرْج | 32° 30' N 20° 54' E |
| Az-Zāwiyah | الزَّوَيَّة | 32° 45' N 12° 44' E |
| Banghāzī | بَنْغَازِي | 32° 7' N 20° 4' E |
| Banī Walīd | بَنِي وُلَيْد | 31° 46' N 13° 59' E |
| Darnah | دَرْنَة | 32° 46' N 22° 39' E |
| Gharyān | غَرِيَان | 32° 10' N 13° 1' E |
| Izlīṭan | إِزْلِيْطَن (زليطن , زليتن) | 32° 28' N 14° 34' E |
| Miṣrātah | مِصْرَاتَة | 32° 23' N 15° 6' E |
| Nālūt | نَالُوت | 31° 52' N 10° 59' E |

| | | |
|---|---|---------------------|
| Sabhā | سَبْهَا | 27° 2' N 14° 26' E |
| Ṣabrātah | صَبْرَاتَة | 32° 47' N 12° 29' E |
| Surt | سُرْت | 31° 13' N 16° 35' E |
| Ṭarābulus (Eng., Fr., Ger.; Tripoli; Pol.: Trypolis) | طَرَابُلُس | 32° 53' N 13° 11' E |
| Tarhūnah | تَرْهُونَة | 32° 26' N 13° 38' E |
| Ṭubruq (Eng., Fr., Ger.; Tripoli; Pol.: Trypolis) | طُبْرُق | 32° 5' N 32° 59' E |
| Yafran | يَفْرَن | 32° 4' N 12° 31' E |
| | | |
| Mauritania Mawrītāniyā (Fr.: Mauritanie; Ger.: Mauritanien; Pol.: Mauretania) | مَوْرِيْتَانِيَا | |
| Al-Kīfah (Fr.: Kiffa) | أَلْكِيْفَة (كيفا) | 16° 37' N 11° 24' W |
| An-Ni°mah (Fr.: Néma) | النَّعْمَة (نعمة) | 16° 37' N 7° 15' W |
| Aṭār (Fr.: Atar) | أَطَار | 20° 31' N 13° 3' W |
| Az-Zuwayrāt (Fr.: Zouérate) | أَلزُوَيْرَات | 22° 42' N 12° 29' W |
| Inwādhībū (Fr.: Nouadhibou) | إِنْوَادِيْبُو (نواديبو) | 20° 54' N 17° 4' W |
| Inwākshūṭ (Fr.: Nouakchott) (Eng.: Nouakchott; Ger.: Nuakschot; Pol.: Nawakszut/Inwakszut) | إِنْوَاكْشُوْط (نواكشوط – نواك الشط) | 18° 6' N 15° 57' W |
| Kayhaydī (Fr.: Kaédi) | كَيَهَيْدِي | 16° 9' N 13° 30' W |
| Rūṣū | رُوصُو | 16° 30' N 15° 49' W |

| | | |
|--|------------------------------|---------------------|
| (Fr.: Rosso) | | |
| Shinqīt (Fr.: Chinguetti) | شِنْقِيْط (شِنْقِيْطِي) | 20° 27' N 12° 22' W |
| | | |
| Morocco Al-Maghrib (Fr.: Maroc; Ger.: Marokko; Pol.: Maroko) | المَغْرِب | |
| Ad-Dār al-Bayḍā' (Fr.: Casablanca) (Eng., Ger., Pol.: Casablanca) | الدَّارُ البَيْضَاءُ | 33° 35' N 7° 36' W |
| Akādīr (Fr.: Agadir) | أَكَادِيْر (اِغَادِيْر) | 30° 24' N 9° 36' W |
| Al-°Arā'ish (Fr.: Larache) | العَرَائِشُ | 35° 12' N 6° 9' W |
| Al-Ḥusaymah (Fr.: Al Hoceïma) | الحُسَيْمَة | 35° 15' N 3° 56' W |
| Al-Jadīdah (Fr.: El Jadida) | الجَدِيْدَة | 33° 15' N 8° 30' W |
| Al-Khamīsāt (Fr.: Khémisset) | الخَمِيْسَات | 33° 49' N 6° 4' W |
| Al-Muḥammadiyyah (Fr.: Mohammedia) | المُحَمَّدِيَّة | 33° 41' N 7° 23' W |
| Al-Qaṣr al-Kabīr (Fr.: Ksar el Kebir) | القَصْرُ الكَبِيْر | 35° 0' N 5° 59' W |
| Al-Qunayṭirah (Fr.: Kénitra) | القُنَيْطِرَة | 34° 16' N 6° 36' W |
| An-Nāzūr (Fr.: Nador) | النَّازُوْر (النَّاضُوْر) | 35° 11' N 2° 56' W |
| Ar-Rashīdiyyah (Fr.: Er Rachidia) | الرَّشِيْدِيَّة | 31° 56' N 4° 26' W |
| Ar-Ribāt (Fr.: Rabat) (Eng., Ger., Pol.: Rabat) | الرِّبَّاط | 34° 2' N 6° 50' W |

| | | |
|---|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Āsafī (Fr.: Safi) | آسْفِي | 32° 18' N 9° 15' W |
| Aṣīlah (Fr.: Asilah) | أَصِيْلَة (اصيلا ازيلة) | 35° 28' N 6° 2' W |
| Aṣ-Ṣuwayrah (Fr.: Essaouira) | أَلصُّوَيْرَة (السويرة) | 31° 30' N 9° 46' W |
| Azammūr (Fr.: Azemmour) | أَزْمُور | 33° 17' N 8° 21' W |
| Banī Mallāl (Fr.: Beni Mellal) | بَنِي مَلَال | 32° 20' N 6° 21' W |
| Barkān (Fr.: Berkane) | بَرْكَان | 34° 56' N 2° 20' W |
| Fās (Fr.: Fès) | فَاس | 34° 2' N 4° 59' W |
| Kalmīm (Fr.: Guelmim; Goulimine, Guelmin) | كَلْمِيم | 28° 59' N 10° 3' W |
| Khunayfirah (Fr.: Khénifra) | خُنَيْفِرَة | 32° 56' N 5° 40' W |
| Khuraybiqah (Fr.: Khouribga) | خُرَيْبِقَة (خوريبكا) | 32° 53' N 6° 54' W |
| Marrākush (Fr.: Marrakech) | مَرَّاكُش | 31° 38' N 8° 0' W |
| Miknās (Fr.: Meknès) | مِكْنَّاس | 33° 54' N 5° 33' W |
| Ṣafrū (Fr.: Sefrou) | صَفْرُو | 33° 50' N 4° 50' W |
| Salā (Fr.: Salé) | سَلَا | 34° 4' N 6° 48' W |
| Saṭṭāt (Fr.: Settat) | سَطَّات | 33° 0' N 7° 37' W |
| Ṭanjah (Fr.: Tanger) | طَنْجَة | 35° 48' N 5° 48' W |
| Tārūdānt (Fr.: Taroudant) | تَارُودَانْت | 30° 29' N 8° 52' W |
| Tāzah (Fr.: Taza) | تَازَة | 35° 2' N 5° 16' W |

| | | |
|---|----------------------|---------------------|
| (Fr.: Taza) | (تازا) | |
| Tiṭwān (Fr.: Tétouan) | تِطْوَان | 35° 34' N 5° 22' W |
| Tiznīt (Fr.: Tiznit) | تِزْنِيْت | 29° 43' N 9° 43' E |
| Wajdah (Fr.: Oujda) | وَجْدَة | 34° 40' N 1° 54' W |
| Warzāzāt (Fr.: Ouarzazate) | وَرَزَاذَات | 30° 55' N 6° 55' W |
| Wazzān (Fr.: Ouezzane) | وَزَّان | 34° 48' N 5° 36' W |
| Zākūrah (Fr.: Zagora) | زَاكُورَة (زكورة) | 30° 19' N 5° 50' W |
| | | |
| Oman ‘Umān (Fr., Ger., Pol.: Oman) | عُمَان | |
| Ad-Duqm | أَلْدُقْم | 19° 39' N 57° 42' E |
| Al-Buraymī | أَلْبُرَيْمِي | 24° 15' N 55° 45' E |
| As-Sīb | أَلْسَيْب | 23° 41' N 58° 11' E |
| Bawshar | بَوْشَر | 23° 32' N 58° 23' E |
| ‘Ibrī | عِبْرِي | 23° 14' N 56° 30' E |
| Masqaṭ (Eng.: Muscat; Fr., Ger., Pol.: Maskat) | مَسْقَط | 23° 37' N 58° 35' E |
| Maṭraḥ | مَطْرَح | 23° 37' N 58° 34' E |
| Nizwá | نِزْوَى | 22° 56' N 57° 32' E |
| Ṣalālah | صَلَالَة | 17° 0' N 54° 6' E |
| Ṣuḥār | صُحَار | 24° 22' N 56° 45' E |
| | | |
| Palestine Filastīn (Fr.: Palestine, | فِلَسْطِين | |

| | | |
|---|------------------------|---------------------|
| Ger.: Palästina; Pol.: Palestyna) | | |
| Al-Bīrah | الْبَيْرَة | 31° 54' N 35° 13' E |
| Al-Khalīl | الْخَلِيل | 31° 32' N 35° 6' E |
| Al-Quds (Eng., Fr., Ger.: Jerusalem; Pol.: Jerozolima) | الْقُدْس | 31° 46' N 35° 14' E |
| Arīḥā | أْرِيْحَا | 31° 52' N 35° 27' E |
| Bayt Laḥm | بَيْت لَحْم | 31° 43' N 35° 12' E |
| Ghazzah | غَزَّة | 31° 30' N 34° 28' N |
| Jabāliyah | جَبَالِيَّة | 31° 32' N 34° 30' E |
| Janīn | جَنِين | 32° 28' N 35° 18' E |
| Khān Yūnus | خَان يُونُس | 31° 21' N 34° 19' E |
| Nābulus | نَابْلُس | 32° 13' N 35° 16' E |
| Qalqīliyah | قَلْقِيلِيَّة | 32° 11' N 34° 58' E |
| Rafaḥ | رَفْح | 31° 18' N 34° 15' E |
| Rām Allāh | رَام اللّٰه | 31° 54' N 35° 12' E |
| Ṭūlkarm | طُولكَرْم (طول كرم) | 32° 19' N 35° 2' E |
| | | |
| Qatar Qaṭar (Fr.: Qatar; Ger., Pol.: Katar) | قَطْر | |
| Ad-Dawḥah (Eng., Fr., Ger.: Doha; Pol.: Dauha) | الدَّوْحَة | 25° 17' N 51° 32' E |
| Al-Khawr | الْخَوْر | 25° 41' N 51° 30' E |
| Ar-Ruways | الرُّوَيْس | 26° 8' N 51° 13' E |
| Al-Wakrah | الْوَكْرَة | 25° 10' N 51° 36' E |
| Ar-Rayyān | الرَّيَّان | 25° 18' N 51° 27' E |
| Dukhān | دُخَان | 25° 25' N 50° 47' E |

| | | |
|--|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| Madīnat ash-Shamāl | مَدِينَةُ الشَّمَالِ | 26° 7' N 51° 13' E |
| Umm Sa'īd | أُمُّ سَعِيدٍ (مَسْعِيد) | 25° 0' N 51° 33' E |
| Saudi Arabia As-Su'ūdiyyah (Fr.: Arabie Saoudite; Ger.: Saudi-Arabien; Pol.: Arabia Saudyjska) | السُّعُودِيَّة | |
| Abhā | أَبْهَا | 18° 13' N 42° 30' E |
| Ad-Dammām | الدَّمَّام | 26° 26' N 50° 7' E |
| °Afīf | عَفِيف | 23° 55' N 42° 56' E |
| Al-Hufūf | الْهَفُوف | 25° 22' N 49° 34' E |
| Al-Jubayl | الْجُبَيْل | 27° 1' N 49° 40' E |
| Al-Kharj | الْخَرْج | 24° 20' N 47° 30' E |
| Al-Khubar | الْخُبَر | 26° 17' N 50° 12' E |
| Al-Madīnah al-Munawwarah (Eng., Ger.: Medina; Fr. Médine; Pol.: Medyna) | الْمَدِينَةُ الْمُنَوَّرَةُ | 24° 28' N 39° 36' E |
| Al-Mubarraz | الْمُبَرَّر | 25° 25' N 49° 35' E |
| Al-Qaṭīf | الْقَطِيف | 26° 33' N 50° 0' E |
| °Ar'ar | عَرْعَر | 30° 59' N 41° 2' E |
| Ar-Riyāḍ (Eng. Fr., Ger.: Riadh; Pol.: Rijad) | الرِّيَاض | 24° 38' N 46° 43' E |
| Aṭ-Ṭā'if | الطَّائِف | 21° 16' N 40° 25' E |
| Az-Zahrān | الزَّهْرَان | 26° 18' N 50° 8' E |
| Buraydah | بُرَيْدَة | 26° 20' N 43° 59' E |
| Dhahabān | ذَهَبَان | 21° 56' N 39° 8' E |
| Ḥafr al-Bāṭin | حَفْرُ الْبَاطِن | 28° 27' N 45° 58' E |
| Hā'il | حَائِل | 27° 33' N 41° 42' E |
| Jīzān | جِيزَان | 16° 54' N 42° 32' E |

| | | |
|---|------------------------|---------------------|
| | (قيزان) | |
| Juddah | جُدَّة | 21° 29' N 39° 12' E |
| Khamīs Mushayṭ | خَمِيس مُشَيِّط | 18° 18' N 42° 44' E |
| Makkah al-Mukarramah (Eng.: Mecca; Fr. La Mecque; Ger., Pol.; Mekka) | مَكَّة الْمُكْرَمَة | 21° 27' N 39° 49' E |
| Najrān | نَجْرَان | 17° 29' N 44° 8' E |
| Ra's al-Khafjī | رَأْس الْخَفْجِي | 28° 25' N 48° 30' E |
| Ra's Tannūrah | رَأْس تَنْوْرَة | 26° 42' N 50° 6' E |
| Sayhāt | سَيِّهَات | 26° 29' N 50° 3' E |
| Tabūk | تَبُوك | 28° 23' N 37° 20' E |
| | | |
| Somalia Aṣ-Ṣūmāl (Fr.: Somalie; Ger.: Somalien; Pol.: Somalia) | الصُّومَال | |
| °Ābid Wāq (Som.: Caabudwaaq / Cabuud Waaq) | عَابِد وَاَق | 6° 13' N 46° 23' E |
| Bādān (Som.: Badhan) | بَادَان | 10° 43' N 48° 21' E |
| Barāwah (Som.: Baraawe) | بَرَاوَة | 1° 6' N 44° 3' E |
| Barbarah (Som.: Berbera) | بَرْبَرَة | 10° 25' N 45° 2' E |
| Bārṭīrah (Som.: Baardheere) | بَارْطِيرَة | 2° 20' N 42° 17' E |
| Bayḍābū / Bayduwah (Som.: Baydhabo) | بَيْدُوَة / بَيْضَابُو | 3° 7' N 43° 39' E |
| Balad Wayn (Som.: Beledweyne) | بَلَد وَيْن | 4° 45' N 45° 12' E |
| Būrāmāh (Som.: Booraame) | بُورَامَة | 3° 27' N 42° 33' E |

| | | |
|---|------------------------------|---------------------|
| Būr [°] ū (Som.: Burco) | بُورَعُو | 9° 31' N 45° 32' E |
| Būsāsū / Bandar Qāsīm (Som.: Boosaaso) | بَنْدَر قَاسِيم / بُوَسَاسُو | 11° 17' N 49° 11' E |
| Ghālkā [°] yū (Som.: Gaalkacyo) Galcaio | غَالِكَاغِيُو | 6° 47' N 47° 26' N |
| Ghāldūgūb (Som.: Galdogob) | غَالْدُوغُوْب | 7° 3' N 47° 8' E |
| Harghaysah (Som.: Hargeysa) | هَرْغَيْسَة | 0° 27' N 42° 43' E |
| Hūddūr (Som.: Xuddur) Oddur | حُوْدُوْر | 2° 58' N 45° 32' E |
| Kīsīmāyū (Som.: Kismaayo) | كَيْسِمَايُو | 0° 22' S 42° 32' E |
| Lās 'Ānūd (Som.: Laascaanood) | لَاس عَانُوْد | 8° 28' N 47° 21' E |
| Maqdīshū (Som.: Muqdisho) (Eng., Fr.: Mogadisho; Ger.: Mogadischo; Pol.: Mogadiszó) | مَقْدِيْشُو | 2° 4' N 45° 22' E |
| Markah (Som.: Marka) Merca | مَرْكَة | 1° 43' N 44° 53' E |
| Qarrāwah (Som.: Garoowe) | قَرَّاوَة | 8° 24' N 48° 30' E |
| Zayla [°] (Som.: Saylac) | زَيْلَع | 11° 21' N 43° 29' E |
| | | |
| Sudan As-Sūdān (Fr.: Soudan: Ger., Pol.: Sudan) | السُّوْدَان | |
| Ad-Duwaym | الدُّوَيْم | 14° 0' N 32° 19' E |
| Al-Fāshir | أَلْفَاشِير | 13° 38' N 25° 21' E |
| Al-Junaynah | الْجُنَيْنَة | 13° 27' N 22° 27' E |
| Al-Khurṭūm | الْخُرْطُوْم | 15° 36' N 32° 32' E |

| | | |
|---|------------------------------|---------------------|
| (Eng., Fr., Khartoum; Ger.: Khartum; Pol.: Chartum) | | |
| Al-Qaḍārif | أَلْقَضَارِف | 14° 2' N 35° 24' E |
| Al-Ubayyiḍ | أَلْأَبْيَض | 30° 11' N 30° 13' E |
| °Aṭbarah | عَطْبَرَة | 17° 42' N 33° 59' E |
| Būr Sūdān | بُور سُودَانَ (بورتسودان) | 19° 37' N 37° 14' E |
| Jūbā | جُوبَا | 4° 51' N 31° 37' E |
| Kassalā | كَسَلَة (كسلا) | 15° 28' N 36° 24' E |
| Kūstī | كُوسْتِي | 13° 10' N 32° 40' E |
| Niyālā | نِيَالَة (نيالا) | 12° 3' N 24° 53' E |
| Umm Durmān | أَمُّ دُرْمَانَ (امدرمان) | 15° 38' N 32° 30' E |
| Wad Madanī | وَدِّ مَدَنِي (وادي مدني) | 14° 24' N 33° 32' E |
| Wāw | وَاو | 7° 42' N 28° 0' E |
| Yāmbiyū | يَامْبِيُو | 4° 34' N 28° 25' E |
| Yāy | يَاي (يي) | 4° 6' N 30° 41' E |
| | | |
| Syria Sūriyah (Fr.: Syrie; Ger.: Syrien; Pol.: Syria) | سُورِيَة (سوريا) | |
| Al-Bāb | أَلْبَاب | 36° 22' N 37° 31' |
| Al-Ḥajar al-Aswad | أَلْحَجَرُ الْأَسْوَد | 33° 28' N 36° 18' E |
| Al-Ḥasakah | أَلْحَسَكَة | 36° 29' N 40° 45' E |
| Al-Lādhiqiyyah | أَللَاذِقِيَّة | 35° 31' N 35° 47' E |
| Al-Qāmishlī | أَلْقَامِشْلِي | 37° 2' N 41° 14' E |
| Al-Qunayṭirah | أَلْقُنَيْطِرَة | 33° 7' N 35° 49' E |

| | | |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|
| Ar-Raqqah | الرَّقَّة | 35° 57' N 39° 1' E |
| As-Safīrah | السَّفِيرَة | 36° 4' N 37° 22' E |
| As-Suwaydā' | السُّوَيْدَاء | 32° 42' N 36° 34' E |
| Ath-Thawrah | الثَّوْرَة | 35° 52' N 38° 34' E |
| Dar ^ʿ ā | دَرَعَا | 32° 37' N 36° 6' E |
| Dayr az-Zawr | دَيْر الزَّوْر | 35° 20' N 40° 9' E |
| Dimashq (Eng.: Damascus; Fr.: Damas; Ger.: Damaskus; Pol.: Damaszek) | دِمَشْق | 33° 30' N 36° 18' E |
| Dūmā | دُومَا | 33° 35' N 36° 24' E |
| Ḥalab (Eng., Germ., Pol.: Aleppo; Fr.: Alep)) | حَلَب | 36° 12' N 41° 11' E |
| Ḥamāh | حَمَاة | 35° 8' N 35° 45' E |
| Ḥimṣ | حِمص | 34° 44' N 36° 43' E |
| Idlib | إِدْلِب | 35° 55' N 36° 38' E |
| Ma ^ʿ arrat an-Nu ^ʿ mān | مَعْرَة النُّعْمَان | 35° 38' N 36° 40' E |
| Salamiyah | سَلْمِيَة | 35° 1' N 37° 3' E |
| Ṭarṭūs | طَرطُوس | 34° 53' N 35° 55' E |
| | | |
| Tunisia Tūnis (Fr.: Tunisie; Ger.: Tunesien; Pol.: Tunezja) | تُونِس | |
| Al-Munastīr (Fr.: Monastir) | الْمُنَسْتِير | 35° 47' N 10° 50' E |
| Al-Qaṣrayn (Fr.: Kasserine) | الْقَصْرَيْن | 35° 11' N 8° 48' E |
| Al-Qayrawān (Fr.: Kaïrouan) | الْقَيْرَوَان | 35° 41' N 10° 7' E |

| | | |
|--|---|---------------------|
| Aryānah (Fr.: L'Ariana) | أَرِيَانَة | 36° 52' N 10° 11' E |
| Bājah (Fr.: Béja) | بَا جَة | 36° 44' N 9° 11' E |
| Banzart (Fr.: Bizerte) | بَنْزَرْت | 37° 17' N 9° 52' E |
| Bin °Arūs (Fr.: Ben Arous) | بِين عَرُوس | 36° 45' N 10° 13' E |
| Qābis (Fr.: Gabès) | قَابِس | 33° 53' N 10° 7' E |
| Şafāqis (Fr.: Sfax) | صَفَاقِس | 34° 44' N 10° 46' E |
| Sūsah (Fr.: Sousse) | سُوسَة | 35° 49' N 10° 38' E |
| Tūnis (Fr.: Tunis) (Eng., Ger., Pol.: Tunis) | تُونِس | 36° 48' N 10° 11' E |
| | | |
| UAE Al-Imārāt (Fr.: EAU; Ger.: VAE; Pol.: ZEA) | الإِمَارَات | |
| Abū Zaby (Eng., Fr., Ger.: Abu Dhabi; Pol.: Abu Zabi) | أَبُو ظَبْي | 24° 28' N 54° 22' E |
| °Ajmān | عَجْمَان | 25° 24' N 55° 26' E |
| Al-°Ayn | أَلْعَيْن | 24° 13' N 55° 46' E |
| Al-Fujayrah | أَلْفُجَيْرَة | 25° 8' N 56° 21' E |
| Ash-Shāriqah | أَلشَّارِقَة | 25° 22' N 55° 23' E |
| Dubayy | دُبَيّ | 25° 15' N 55° 17' E |
| Ra's al-Khaymah | رَأْس أَلْخَيْمَة | 25° 47' N 55° 57' E |
| Umm al-Qaywayn | أَمّ الْقَيَوَيْن | 25° 35' N 55° 34' E |
| | | |
| Western Sahara Aṣ-Şaḥrā' al-Gharbiyyah (Fr.: Sahara Occidental; Ger.: Westsahara; | أَلصَّحْرَاءُ أَلْغَرْبِيَّة | |

| | | |
|---|----------------------------|---------------------|
| Pol.: Sahara Zachodnia) | | |
| Abū Judūr (Fr.: Boujdour) | أَبُو جُدُور (بو جادور) | 26° 8' N 14° 30' W |
| Ad-Dākhilah (Fr.: Dakhla / Ad Dakhla) | الدَّاحِلَة (الدخلة) | 23° 42' N 15° 56' W |
| Al-Quwayrah (Fr.: Güera) | أَلْقَوَيْرَة (الكويرة) | 20° 50' N 17° 6' W |
| Al-°Uyūn (Eng., Fr., Ger.: Laâyoune; Pol.: Al-Ujun) | أَلْعُيُون (لعيون) | 27° 10' N 13° 12' W |
| As-Samārah (Fr.: Semara) | أَلْسَمَارَة (سمارا) | 26° 44' N 11° 41' W |
| Bi'r al-Ḥilw (Fr.: Bir Lehlu) | بَيْرُ الْحِلْو | 26° 21' N 9° 34' E |
| | | |
| Yemen Al-Yaman (Fr.: Yemen; Ger., Pol.: Jemen) | أَلْيَمَن | |
| °Adan | عَدَن | 13° 30' N 43° 57' E |
| Al-Ḥudaydah | أَلْحُدَيْدَة | 14° 48' N 43° 12' E |
| Al-Mukallā | أَلْمُكَلَا | 14° 32' N 49° 8' E |
| Dhamār | ذَمَار | 14° 33' N 44° 24' E |
| Ibb | إِبَّ | 13° 58' N 44° 11' E |
| Ṣan°ā' (Eng., Fr., Ger., Pol.: Sana) | صَنْعَاء | 15° 21' N 44° 12' E |
| Ta°izz | تَعِزَّ | 13° 34' N 44° 2' E |