



## **Corruption Perceptions Index 2015: Corruption still rife but 2015 saw pockets of hope**

### ***Transparency International calls on people everywhere to speak out against corruption***

*Yerevan, 27 January 2016* – 2015 showed that people working together can succeed in the battle against corruption. Although corruption is still rife globally, more countries improved their scores in the 2015 edition of Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index than declined.

Overall, two-thirds of the 168 countries on the 2015 index scored below 50, on a scale from 0 (perceived to be highly corrupt) to 100 (perceived to be very clean).

Yet in places like Guatemala, Sri Lanka and Ghana, citizen activists in groups and on their own worked hard to drive out the corrupt, sending a strong message that should encourage others to take decisive action in 2016.

*"Corruption can be beaten if we work together. To stamp out the abuse of power, bribery and shed light on secret deals, citizens must together tell their governments they have had enough.*

*"The 2015 Corruption Perceptions Index clearly shows that corruption remains a blight around the world. But 2015 was also a year when people again took to the streets to protest corruption. People across the globe sent a strong signal to those in power: it is time to tackle grand corruption," said José Ugaz, Chair of Transparency International.*

Grand corruption is the abuse of high-level power that benefits the few at the expense of the many, and causes serious and widespread harm to individuals and society. It often goes unpunished.

This year Transparency International is calling on all people to take action by voting at [unmaskthecorrupt.org](http://unmaskthecorrupt.org). We want to know which cases the public most believe merit urgent attention to send a message that we will take a stand against grand corruption.

Brazil was the biggest decliner in the index, falling 5 points and dropping 7 positions to a rank of 76. The unfolding Petrobras scandal brought people into the streets in 2015 and the start of judicial process may help Brazil stop corruption.

Good news stories on the fight against corruption can be found on our website **here about Mongolia, here on Guatemala and here on whistleblowing** and include successes from our network of more than 100 chapters.

### **The results**

The index covers perceptions of public sector corruption in 168 countries.

Denmark took the top spot for the 2nd year running, with North Korea and Somalia the worst performers, scoring just 8 points each.

Top performers share key characteristics: high levels of press freedom; access to budget information so the public knows where money comes from and how it is spent; high levels of integrity among people in power; and judiciaries that don't differentiate between rich and poor, and that are truly independent from other parts of government.

In addition to conflict and war, poor governance, weak public institutions like police and the judiciary, and a lack of independence in the media characterise the lowest ranked countries.

The big decliners in the past 4 years include Libya, Australia, Brazil, Spain and Turkey. The big improvers include Greece, Senegal and UK.

The Corruption Perceptions Index is based on expert opinions of public sector corruption. Countries' scores can be helped by open government where the public can hold leaders to account, while a poor score is a sign of prevalent bribery, lack of punishment for corruption and public institutions that don't respond to citizens' needs.

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In the CPI 2015 Armenia's score is 35, and it ranks 95-98th with Mali, Mexico and Philippines. Its rank is nearly the same as in 2014, when Armenia shared 94-98th places, given that instead of 168, 175 countries and territories were ranked in 2014.

Similar to the previous years, Estonia tops, remaining the leader among post-Communist countries with a CPI score of 70 (in 2014 it was 69) and it ranks 23-26th with Chile, France and United Arab Emirates. Armenia continues to fall behind almost all the countries of Eastern and Southern Europe (except Kosovo). Compared with the former Soviet states, it is behind Baltic republics and its neighbor Georgia, which has the same score as last year (CPI score 52). Among its neighbors Turkey, which suffered sufficient drop in score (42) compared with previous year (it was 45 in 2014) is still ahead of Armenia. Yet, like in the previous years, Armenia is ahead of its two other neighbors - Azerbaijan and Iran, with their CPI scores remaining unchanged compared with 2014 (29 and 27 respectively).

At the same time, Armenia, like in previous years, is ahead of other countries of Eurasian Economic Union, namely, Belarus with its CPI score 32 (in 2014 it was 31) ranking 107-111th, Russia with its score 29 (in 2014 it was 27) ranking 119-122th, and Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan sharing 123-129th positions with their CPI score 28.

*Transparency International is the global civil society organisation leading the fight against corruption.*