

PRESS RELEASE

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Transparency International releases first TI Global Corruption Barometer survey, developed with Gallup International

If citizens had a magic wand the world over, they would most like to eliminate corruption from political parties

In three countries out of four, political parties are singled out as the institution from which citizens would most like to eliminate corruption, most acutely in Argentina and Japan. The courts – most notably in Peru and Indonesia - then police are deemed the next most ripe for reform, followed by medical services and education

Berlin, 3 July 2003 --- Three out of ten respondents singled out political parties as the institution from which they would like to eliminate corruption if they were given a magic wand, according to the Transparency International Global Corruption Barometer, a new survey of the general public in 47 countries on all continents. The survey was commissioned from Gallup International by Transparency International (TI), the world's leading anti-corruption organisation. The TI Global Corruption Barometer measures attitudes towards corruption and expectations of future corruption levels. Over time, the survey will measure trends in attitudes.

Political parties were revealed in 33 of the countries surveyed to be the institution from which citizens would most like to eliminate corruption. This preference was most acutely expressed in Argentina and Japan, where more than half of all respondents picked political parties. The courts were identified by one in seven respondents worldwide, most notably in Peru and Indonesia, where they were pinpointed by one in three. The police were singled out by one in nine respondents worldwide, and by one in three in Hong Kong, Malaysia, Mexico and Nigeria. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Georgia and Poland, one in five selected medical services.

"The people of the world are sending a clear message to political leaders: they have to rebuild the trust of ordinary people," said TI Chairman Peter Eigen. "Transparency International has been working around the globe to call political parties to account when it comes to campaign finance, and in challenging elected politicians to live up to their campaign promises on fighting corruption. It is time to recognise the full extent of corruption among political elites in both the developed and developing worlds, and the need to curtail conflicts of interest and political immunity."

"The results of the TI Global Corruption Barometer amount to a call to governments to heed their citizens, and the clearest way they can do so is to make a commitment to sign the forthcoming UN Convention Against Corruption and to make sure that it is a Convention with teeth," said Jeremy Pope, Executive Director of TI's Centre for Innovation and Research. He continued: "First, governments should support and strengthen Article 10 of the Convention, to prevent conflicts of interest and by requiring declarations of all significant financial donations to political parties. This Article should be extended to include candidates as well as parties. Secondly, it is important that public officials, including elected politicians, are subject to extradition in the case of corruption." The final drafting session of the UN Convention begins in Vienna on 21 July 2003.

The Transparency International Global Corruption Barometer 2003

A total of 40,838 people were surveyed in 47 countries in the Voice of the People survey, a general household survey conducted by Gallup International in July 2002. The survey included a series of questions on behalf of Transparency International, specifically the TI Global Corruption Barometer survey. In addition, 1,315 adults were surveyed in the Palestinian Authority by the Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research in April 2003, the results of which are not included in the overall totals.

30,487 people were polled in 44 of the countries on the following question*. They were asked: *If you had a magic wand and you could eliminate corruption from one of the following institutions, what would your first choice be?*

Country	Business licensing %	Courts %	Customs %	Education System %	Political parties %	Utilities (Telephone etc.) %	Medical services %	Immigration, passports %	Police %	Private sector %	Tax revenue %	Other %
Argentina	3.6	19.2	3.2	4.3	58.2	0.5	0.9	0.2	3.1	0.6	3.4	2.7
Austria	7.5	8.4	2.7	2.7	35.7	3.9	5.7	6.9	10.8	2.7	12.0	0.9
Bolivia	18.2	7.7	10.8	2.4	34.8	2.2	1.2	1.2	16.0	0.9	3.7	0.9
Bosnia & Herzegovina	14.5	17.0	4.2	6.6	24.2	2.4	20.4	0.3	4.8	1.7	3.5	0.3
Bulgaria	9.9	19.8	16.5	4.8	20.2	3.3	14.3	0.9	4.1	1.8	2.7	1.7
Cameroon	3.8	31.0	6.5	11.1	10.4	1.2	11.2	2.1	13.7	3.2	4.3	1.4
Canada	3.2	8.3	1.8	6.5	39.7	2.3	9.7	8.8	5.7	4.4	5.7	3.8
Colombia	2.4	3.4	3.4	8.8	38.0	8.1	8.8	1.0	8.5	1.4	12.9	3.4
Costa Rica	4.3	8.6	14.0	3.2	29.0	1.1	2.2	12.9	5.4	4.3	15.1	0
Croatia	12.9	21.6	0.4	2.8	18.6	4.2	22.5	1.9	4.9	3.4	2.5	4.2
Denmark	4.0	16.3	1.8	2.2	36.1	2.2	11.5	4.8	7.7	6.2	3.3	4.0
Dominican Republic	2.0	12.1	6.1	8.1	25.3	13.1	0	2.0	4.0	0	8.1	19.2
Finland	9.5	27.7	0.7	1.3	38.0	1.6	6.1	3.6	4.2	3.1	3.9	0.3
Georgia	4.8	18.1	8.2	6.0	12.4	4.5	19.7	0.9	13.4	0.4	6.0	5.7
Germany	4.9	8.6	0.8	3.1	39.2	3.9	9.9	7.8	2.9	7.2	10.5	1.2
Guatemala	3.0	8.0	14.0	12.0	27.0	6.0	4.0	8.0	10.0	6.0	2.0	0
Hong Kong	1.7	8.9	5.4	3.9	15.4	4.8	3.3	1.3	35.4	12.1	5.0	2.8
India	2.0	3.8	1.8	24.9	41.2	4.4	4.0	0.5	12.8	1.4	2.1	1.2
Indonesia	5.8	32.8	3.2	8.7	16.3	11.1	1.8	0.4	10.2	2.8	6.4	0.7
Ireland	3.9	8.8	0.8	3.7	38.3	0.8	13.4	5.1	10.3	2.7	10.7	1.4
Israel	2.5	14.8	1.0	10.2	33.4	9.6	8.4	3.3	7.1	1.7	5.6	2.3
Italy	10.4	18.0	1.1	4.4	29.0	4.4	15.0	4.0	3.8	1.3	7.2	1.5
Japan	8.7	3.7	1.4	3.8	51.9	4.0	7.3	0.2	9.6	1.2	2.8	5.4
Korea (South)	19.1	10.3	3.0	15.7	27.9	6.2	3.7	0.1	5.0	2.9	6.0	0.1
Luxembourg	9.8	18.1	1.6	4.9	15.6	5.3	9.3	7.9	5.8	4.9	12.6	4.2
Macedonia	8.5	15.4	17.9	9.4	28.2	2.7	8.5	0.9	2.8	0.6	3.3	1.8
Malaysia	6.8	8.5	8.0	5.0	24.6	0.8	1.3	4.0	32.0	3.5	3.6	1.9
Mexico	2.9	6.6	3.3	8.7	19.9	9.0	3.5	1.4	36.5	0.8	6.1	1.1
Netherlands	4.0	10.0	1.0	0.6	27.1	0.8	6.7	11.5	7.7	26.3	3.5	0.8
Nigeria	4.3	4.8	3.0	12.6	27.0	7.4	3.4	1.1	32.1	0.7	2.5	1.2
Norway	12.5	12.3	2.8	1.4	19.7	1.6	4.9	17.2	6.0	17.2	3.0	1.4
Palestinian Authority	7.4	8.6	3.2	16.4	10.4	4.7	4.6	2.4	23.8	1.5	3.8	8.5
Panama	3.0	15.0	6.0	2.0	35.0	10.0	3.0	3.0	11.0	2.0	2.0	8.0
Peru	2.6	35.0	3.1	2.3	15.9	10.0	2.0	3.1	10.0	2.3	9.7	4.1
Poland	5.8	15.4	2.2	5.0	27.2	3.5	21.6	0.7	11.1	1.8	4.5	1.2
Portugal	9.2	14.8	1.4	4.2	18.7	4.6	18.7	6.2	6.7	0.7	14.5	0.2
Romania	15.1	20.2	2.7	2.9	24.3	1.6	12.6	1.2	6.4	1.9	9.3	1.7
Russian Federation	5.3	10.9	1.1	8.8	24.5	8.3	15.3	2.0	17.9	0.4	4.2	1.3
South Africa	2.1	3.9	0.2	14.4	21.1	5.5	11.3	6.0	23.8	3.5	5.1	3.1
Spain	4.7	26.6	2.3	3.8	34.8	0.9	3.4	11.3	1.6	2.3	6.8	1.6
Sweden	8.2	16.2	2.4	1.7	19.3	2.9	12.8	11.6	9.7	7.5	6.3	1.4
Switzerland	5.8	9.8	1.3	4.9	23.0	4.1	13.6	11.5	6.2	6.0	10.2	3.6
Turkey	7.1	6.6	3.4	11.7	42.5	5.1	7.3	0.8	6.2	1.5	4.8	3.0
UK	2.7	8.6	1.7	4.0	41.2	1.1	10.5	8.8	11.8	3.6	4.8	1.3
USA	3.4	9.1	1.1	8.6	39.1	1.6	10.1	8.3	7.2	4.4	3.8	3.2
Overall total (%)	7.0	13.7	4.2	7.5	29.7	4.1	8.4	3.3	11.5	3.1	5.2	2.2

* Data was missing for this and other questions from Gallup International data for Pakistan, China and Brazil

Colombians and Indonesians are most optimistic that corruption will fall

When asked about the future, more people expected corruption to increase than expected it to fall over the next three years. Three out of ten said that it would increase and one in five said that it would fall. One in four respondents expected the level of corruption to stay the same. In Colombia and Indonesia, the most optimistic people in the survey, a majority expected corruption levels to decrease. A clear majority of Cameroonians, Georgians, Indians, Israelis, Dutch, Norwegians, South Africans and Turks expected corruption to increase in their countries.

Figures are available in full at www.transparency.org/surveys for the 45 countries covered by the question **Do you expect the level of corruption to change in the next three years? If so, how?** The most optimistic and pessimistic are detailed below.

The optimists

Country	Increase a lot %	Increase a little %	Stay the same %	Decrease a little %	Decrease a lot %	Don't know/no response %
Colombia	14.0	10.0	11.7	28.3	32.0	4.0
Croatia	7.8	10.8	30.2	34.6	9.2	7.4
Indonesia	10.0	7.8	25.9	41.0	13.7	1.6
Ireland	9.8	17.0	27.2	27.4	14.8	3.8

The uncertain...

Country	Increase a lot %	Increase a little %	Stay the same %	Decrease a little %	Decrease a lot %	Don't know/no response %
Costa Rica	32.3	9.1	16.2	24.2	15.2	3.0
Nigeria	27.9	16.6	8.2	18.0	20.6	8.6

The pessimists

Country	Increase a lot %	Increase a little %	Stay the same %	Decrease a little %	Decrease a lot %	Don't know/no response %
Cameroon	39.4	15.1	13.3	15.3	4.7	12.1
Georgia	34.6	20.6	11.5	9.2	1.3	22.8
India	55.8	18.5	13.6	6.7	1.2	4.1
Israel	19.0	39.5	23.0	7.4	1.6	9.6
Netherlands	21.5	37.9	20.0	4.5	0.0	16.2
Norway	6.7	43.5	29.2	10.5	1.6	8.5
South Africa	36.1	14.7	13.5	19.3	10.8	5.6
Turkey	37.2	19.4	14.7	9.0	3.0	16.7

Overall

Overall total (%)	20.1	22.0	27.1	15.4	4.6	10.8
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Corruption hits the poor hardest, the rich least

Two out of five respondents on a low income believe that corruption has a very significant effect on their personal and family life

The TI Global Corruption Barometer survey posed a series of questions about the effect of corruption on values and different sectors of life, namely personal and family life, the business environment, political life, and the culture and values of society. “Attitudes towards corruption and its impact vary substantially across the world, and not simply owing to different levels of corruption,” explained Fredrik Galtung, TI Head of Research. “Notably, though, corruption hits the poor hardest. Two out of five respondents on a low income believe that corruption has a very significant effect on their personal and family life. The same answer came from only one in four respondents on a high income.”

“This is further evidence,” said Peter Eigen, “that corruption hits hardest the poor and vulnerable. Corruption makes it impossible for millions of people, especially in developing countries, to earn an honest living.”

Figures are available for the 45 countries covered by the following questions at www.transparency.org/surveys

Respondent’s beliefs about how corruption affects his personal and family life and its association to their level of income

	<i>Not significantly</i>	<i>Somewhat significantly</i>	<i>Very significantly</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Income</i>	%	%	%	<i>number</i>
Low	29.7	29.3	41.0	13583
Medium	36.7	35.7	27.5	9325
High	44.5	30.1	25.4	3291
Refused to answer	40.9	28.0	31.1	5395
Overall total	35.1	31.1	33.8	31594

While only one in three respondents stated that corruption very significantly affects personal and family life, two-thirds of all respondents said corruption affects their personal and family life somewhat or very significantly.

Respondent’s beliefs about how corruption affects his/her personal and family life

A very significant impact

<i>Country</i>	<i>Not significantly</i>	<i>Somewhat significantly</i>	<i>Very significantly</i>
Bosnia and Herzegovina	8.1%	22.2%	69.7%
Bulgaria	4.6%	18.9%	76.5%
Costa Rica	13.1%	22.2%	64.6%
Turkey	14.0%	19.6%	66.4%

An insignificant impact

<i>Country</i>	<i>Not significantly</i>	<i>Somewhat significantly</i>	<i>Very significantly</i>
Denmark	73.4%	20.9%	5.7%
Finland	85.6%	12.5%	1.9%
Germany	76.0%	17.4%	6.6%
Luxembourg	71.0%	19.2%	9.7%

Overall

Overall total	35.1%	31.1%	33.8%
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More than half said that corruption has a very significant effect on political life, and in total seven out of eight said that corruption somewhat or very significantly affects political life. Three out of four respondents in Argentina, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Indonesia and Turkey believe that corruption has a very significant effect on political life. At the other end of the spectrum, in Pakistan and the US more than half believe that corruption does not have a significant influence on political life.

“The TI Global Corruption Barometer reinforces the belief of citizens that the institution most in need of reform is political parties if corruption is to be overcome,” said Peter Eigen. “Six out of every seven people around the world think corruption has a significant impact on the political life of their countries.”

Respondent’s beliefs about how corruption affects political life

A very significant impact

<i>Country</i>	<i>Not significantly</i>	<i>Somewhat significantly</i>	<i>Very significantly</i>
Argentina	3.3%	3.7%	93.0%
Bolivia	3.4%	11.6%	85.0%
Bosnia and Herzegovina	2.7%	15.9%	81.4%
Georgia	5.4%	19.3%	75.3%
Indonesia	4.0%	17.0%	79.0%
Turkey	8.4%	14.3%	77.4%

An insignificant impact

<i>Country</i>	<i>Not significantly</i>	<i>Somewhat significantly</i>	<i>Very significantly</i>
Canada	42.6%	44.3%	13.1%
Pakistan	53.7%	36.9%	9.5%
USA	59.8%	33.1%	7.1%

Overall

Overall total	15.5%	29.3%	55.1%
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Nearly half of respondents believe that corruption has a very significant effect on the business environment, and four out of five thought it affects the business environment somewhat or very significantly. In Argentina, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Guatemala, Hong Kong, Macedonia and Turkey, three out of four respondents said that corruption has a very significant impact on the business environment. In Pakistan, Portugal and the US, in contrast, more than half said it does not have a significant affect on the business environment.

Respondent’s beliefs about how corruption affects the business environment

A very significant impact

<i>Country</i>	<i>Not significantly</i>	<i>Somewhat significantly</i>	<i>Very significantly</i>
Argentina	2.6%	9.5%	87.9%
Bosnia and Herzegovina	4.4%	20.1%	75.5%
Bulgaria	1.7%	16.5%	81.8%
Cameroon	7.1%	22.1%	70.8%
Guatemala	4.4%	20.1%	75.5%
Hong Kong	1.7%	16.5%	81.8%
Macedonia	2.6%	9.5%	87.9%
Turkey	7.8%	14.4%	77.8%

An insignificant impact

<i>Country</i>	<i>Not significantly</i>	<i>Somewhat significantly</i>	<i>Very significantly</i>
Pakistan	55.9%	36.8%	7.4%
Portugal	53.9%	26.1%	20.0%
USA	53.8%	38.8%	7.4%

Overall

Overall total	17.1%	34.2%	48.6%
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Almost one in two respondents said that corruption very significantly affects the culture and values of society, while four out of five said there was a somewhat or very significant effect.

Respondent’s beliefs about how corruption affects the culture and values of society

A very significant impact

<i>Country</i>	<i>Not significantly</i>	<i>Somewhat significantly</i>	<i>Very significantly</i>
Argentina	3.1%	11.8%	85.1%
Bolivia	2.6%	18.7%	78.7%
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1.0%	16.7%	82.3%
Turkey	8.2%	15.7%	76.1%

An insignificant impact

<i>Country</i>	<i>Not significantly</i>	<i>Somewhat significantly</i>	<i>Very significantly</i>
Bulgaria	55.3%	26.2%	18.6%
Finland	53.8%	36.5%	9.7%
Pakistan	54.7%	35.4%	9.9%

Overall

Overall total	20.1%	36.2%	43.7%
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The TI Global Barometer is a survey of international attitudes, expectations and priorities on corruption, developed with Gallup International’s “Voice of the People” survey. The data analysis was conducted by Frances Smith and Professor Ross Homel of the Key Centre for Ethics, Law, Justice and Governance at Griffith University, Queensland, Australia.

The full data of the TI Global Corruption Barometer is available at www.transparency.org/surveys