

## PRESS RELEASE

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**Embargoed until 6:01 CET/00:01 EST 10.00 AM PST, Tuesday, 25 January 2022**

# 2021 CORRUPTION PERCEPTIONS INDEX REVEALS A DECADE OF STAGNATING CORRUPTION LEVELS AMID HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES & DEMOCRATIC DECLINE

27 countries hit historic lows

Berlin-Karachi , 25 January 2022 – The [2021 Corruption Perceptions Index \(CPI\)](#) released today by Transparency International shows that corruption levels remain at a standstill worldwide, with 86 per cent of countries making little to no progress in the last 10 years.

Transparency International found countries that violate civil liberties consistently score lower on the CPI. Complacency in fighting corruption exacerbates human rights abuses and undermines democracy, setting off a vicious spiral. As these rights and freedoms erode and democracy declines, authoritarianism takes its place, contributing to even higher levels of corruption.

**Delia Ferreira Rubio, Chair of Transparency International said:**

*“Human rights are not simply a nice-to-have in the fight against corruption. Authoritarian approaches destroy independent checks and balances and make anti-corruption efforts dependent on the whims of an elite. Ensuring people can speak freely and work collectively to hold power to account is the only sustainable route to a corruption-free society.”*

**Justice (R) Nasira Iqbal, Vice-Chair, Transparency International Pakistan said:**

*“The absence of Rule of Law and State Capture has resulted in substantial low CPI 2021 score of Pakistan compared to CPI 2020, from 31/100 to 28/100 and rank from 124/180 to 140/180, whereas there is no change in CPI 2021 Scores of India and Bangladesh from CPI 2020.*

*The 8 Sources and respective period of collection of data by them, used to calculate the CPI 2021 for Pakistan are as under:*

1. Bertelsmann Stiftung Transformation Index 2022 (January and June 2021)
2. Economist Intelligence Unit Country Risk Service 2021 January to December 2021)
3. Global Insights Business Conditions and Risk Indicators 2020 (September 2020)
4. The PRS Group International Country Risk Guide 2021 (September 2020 to August 2021)
5. World Bank Country Policy and Institutional Assessment 2020 (August 2020)
6. World Economic Forum Executive Opinion Survey 2020 (February and July 2020)
7. World Justice Project Rule of Law Index 2021 (October 2020 and May 2021)
8. Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem) 2021 (April 2021) “

## GLOBAL HIGHLIGHTS

The CPI ranks 180 countries and territories by their perceived levels of **public sector corruption** on a scale of zero (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean).

The CPI global average remains unchanged at 43 for the tenth year in a row, and two-thirds of countries score below 50.

- The top countries on the index are **Denmark** (88), **Finland** (88) and **New Zealand** (88), all of which also rank in the top 10 per cent in the world on the [Democracy Index](#) civil liberties score.
- **Somalia** (13), **Syria** (13) and **South Sudan** (11) remain at the bottom of the CPI. Syria is also ranked last in civil liberties (Somalia and South Sudan are unrated).

## CORRUPTION, HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY

As anti-corruption efforts stagnate and deteriorate, human rights and democracy are under attack. This is no coincidence. The continued use by governments of the COVID-19 pandemic to erode human rights and democracy could also lead to sharper declines across the globe in the future.

Of the 23 countries whose CPI score significantly declined since 2012, 19 also declined on the civil liberties score. Moreover, out of the [331 recorded cases](#) of murdered human rights defenders in 2020, 98 per cent occurred in countries with a CPI score below 45.

Transparency International calls on governments to act on their anti-corruption and human rights commitments and for people across the globe to join together in demanding change.

**Daniel Eriksson, Chief Executive Officer of Transparency International said:**

*“In authoritarian contexts where control over government, business and the media rests with a few, social movements remain the last check on power. It is the power held by teachers, shopkeepers, students and ordinary people from all walks of life that will ultimately deliver accountability.”*