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Jordan among lowest-scoring countries on political finance regulation

29 out of 31 countries assessed fail at enforcing political finance laws, regardless of how weak or strong their regulations

Washington D.C., Friday, March 30, 2012 – Regardless of how weak or sophisticated their political financing regulations are, countries around the world are equally failing to effectively regulate the flow of money into politics, a new report finds. The Global Integrity Report: 2011, a major investigative study of 31 countries, was released today by Global Integrity, an award-winning international nonprofit organization that tracks governance and corruption trends globally.

Twenty-nine countries out of a 31-country sample scored less than 60 on a 100-point scale on questions assessing the effectiveness of laws regulating individual and corporate donations to political parties, as well as the auditing of those donations and campaign expenditures. Government monitoring agencies tasked with enforcing such laws typically lack investigative power and often have little to no authority to impose sanctions.

Jordan scored only 13 out of 100 on effectiveness of its party financing regulations, while the existing set regulations on this area received a higher score: 67 out of 100. Jordan lacks regulations on individual candidates financing and disclosure of political financing information to the public (0 out of 100), placing the country among the lowest-scoring of 31 assessed on both aspects.

Are the regulations governing the political financing of parties effective?

<u>Germany</u>	<u>83</u>
<u>Colombia</u>	<u>71</u>
<u>Ireland, Mexico</u>	<u>58</u>
<u>Georgia</u>	<u>54</u>
<u>Indonesia</u>	<u>50</u>
<u>Macedonia, Serbia</u>	<u>33</u>
<u>United States, Tajikistan</u>	<u>29</u>
<u>Azerbaijan, Kosovo and Bosnia and Herzegovina</u>	<u>25</u>
<u>Ukraine</u>	<u>21</u>
<u>Algeria, Liberia, Uganda, Vietnam</u>	<u>17</u>
<u>Jordan, Mongolia, Venezuela</u>	<u>13</u>
<u>Armenia, Ghana</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>India, Malawi</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>Burkina Faso, China, Kenya, Nicaragua, Sierra Leone, Zimbabwe</u>	<u>0</u>

“We remain deeply concerned by the lack of progress globally on effectively regulating the flow of large sums of private money into the elections process in many countries,” said Global Integrity’s Executive Director, Nathaniel Heller. “Political financing remains the number one corruption risk around the world, and absent meaningful reforms will continue to hinder many other open government and transparency initiatives,” said Heller.

The Global Integrity Report: 2011, which seeks to assess the medicine applied against corruption rather than the actual disease of corruption at the national level, also assessed other areas of government transparency and accountability. These include conflicts of interest regulations, freedom of the press, and law enforcement accountability.

It covers developed countries such as the U. S., Ireland, and Germany as well as dozens of the world’s emerging markets and developing nations, from Algeria to Ukraine to China. Rather than measure perceptions of corruption, the report assesses the accountability mechanisms and transparency measures in place (or not) to prevent corruption through 320 “Integrity Indicators” as well as journalistic reporting of corruption. Gaps in those safeguards suggest where corruption is more likely to occur.

Other major findings of the report include the following:

- **Anti-corruption agencies often fail to fulfill expectations.** Many anti-corruption agencies assessed in 2011 are heavily politicized and are not independent from the governments they are ostensibly tasked with monitoring. A lack of capacity and political independence is quite often accompanied by a lack of citizen complaints to the agencies, in large part because whistle-blower protections are weak or non-existent in many countries.
- **In 29 of the 31 countries assessed, government bureaucracy is considered an extension of the ruling party or is routinely utilized for partisan purposes.** The boundaries between public resources and party activities remain blurry in most countries assessed, with the exceptions of the U.S. (100 score) and Ireland (75 score).
- **Several countries experienced noticeable improvements or declines in their anti-corruption safeguards since they were last assessed.** Liberia, Armenia and Tajikistan showed the biggest improvements, while Mongolia, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kenya, Liberia, Mexico, Mongolia, Sierra Leone, Venezuela and Zimbabwe saw decreases in performance.

“The country assessments that comprise the Report offer among the most detailed, evidence-based evaluations of anti-corruption mechanisms available anywhere in the world,” said Heller. “They provide policymakers, activists, and citizens alike with the information to understand the governance challenges unique to each country and to take action.”

The Global Integrity Report is the product of months of on-the-ground reporting and data gathering by a team of more than 100 in-country journalists and researchers who prepared close to a million words of text and more than 10,000 data points for their respective countries.

The 2011 report covers:

Algeria	Indonesia	Serbia
Armenia	Ireland	Sierra Leone
Azerbaijan	Jordan	Tajikistan
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Kenya	Uganda
Burkina Faso	Kosovo	Ukraine
China	Liberia	United States
Colombia	Macedonia	Venezuela
Georgia	Malawi	Vietnam
Germany	Mexico	Zimbabwe
Ghana	Mongolia	
India	Nicaragua	

To access full results, please visit <http://www.globalintegrity.org/report>.

Global Integrity is an innovation lab that produces high-quality research and creates cutting-edge technology to advance the work of a global network of civic, public, and private reformers pursuing increased transparency and accountability in governments. In addition to our core team, we collaborate with a global network of more than 1,300 in-country contributors and partners who take our technologies, tools, and information to where they are most useful – the local level. For more information about the organization, visit <http://www.globalintegrity.org> and follow us on Twitter ([@globalintegrity](#)).

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