

**Press Release**

**Beirut, 18<sup>th</sup> of October 2005**

**Lebanon on Transparency International's Corruption  
Perceptions Index (CPI –2005)**

Transparency International simultaneously launches today its Corruption Perceptions Index 2005 worldwide. For the third time since the inception of the index in 1995, Lebanon and other Arab countries are ranked in the index.

The Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) of Transparency International, which is one of the most acknowledged indices on corruption available, ranks 159 countries which included this year Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Sudan, United Arab Emirates, Tunisia, Yemen and Lebanon.

Transparency International (TI) has been publishing this annual index since 1995. It has evolved into a leading indicator in the social sciences. The TI Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) ranks countries in terms of the degree to which corruption is perceived to exist amongst public officials, and politicians. The CPI focuses on corruption in the public sector and defines corruption as the abuse of public office for private gain. It is a composite index, drawing on 16 different polls and surveys from 10 independent institutions carried out amongst business people and country analysts, including surveys of both residents and non-residents. A minimum of three surveys is required for a country to be included in the CPI.

Transparency International's Secretariat (TI-S) prepares the CPI centrally in Germany under the supervision of a team of international specialists. TI's National Chapters, such as the Lebanese Transparency Association (LTA), do not participate in the findings of this index nor do they contribute to it in any way. The relationship with the abovementioned sources is directly with TI-S to ensure more independence and impartiality. Hence, the Lebanese Transparency Association has not contributed to the CPI and is currently analysing its impact, its root causes and its ramifications in the Lebanese and Arab contexts.

It is noteworthy that the CPI measures perceptions of corruption and not corruption itself; thus, it reflects the image that respondents have of political and administrative corruption in the ranked country. After combining the results from the various available sources every country is given a score out of 10. Then the countries are ranked, based on their score, from the least corrupt to the most corrupt.



## The Lebanese Transparency Association

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Lebanon received a score of 3.1 out of ten and ranked at the low position of 83 amongst the 159 ranked countries. This year's score is, however, an improvement of the previous year in which Lebanon scored 2.7 and was ranked at 97 out of the 146 ranked countries. In other words, despite the increase in the number of the surveyed countries by 13, Lebanon's rank still managed to improve by 14 places.

Still, Lebanon ranked below the average score of 3.9 of the Arab region and it only outranked Algeria (97), Yemen (103), Palestine (107), Libya (117), Iraq (137) and Sudan (144). All other surveyed Arab countries have lower levels of corruption: Oman (28), United Arab Emirates (30), Qatar (32), Bahrain (36), Jordan (37), Tunisia (43), Kuwait (45), Saudi Arabia (70), Syria (70), Egypt (70), and Morocco (78).

The Lebanese Transparency Association calls upon all interested parties to look into the CPI, analyse its results, and share their views with the public opinion through the media, in order to enrich the debate, and raise the awareness as to the threats of corruption and its impact on Lebanon, its image and investors' interests in it. For further information, please do not hesitate to contact us or to consult our website: [www.transparency-lebanon.org](http://www.transparency-lebanon.org)