

FEATURE INTERVIEW

Jens Weinreich, sports journalist



According to Jens Weinreich, journalist for the Berliner Zeitung and author of *Corruption in Sport*, corruption is an in-depth problem of the sport system and most officials are ignoring it. With the world's attention turned to Germany for the 2006 FIFA World Cup in June, Transparency Watch interviews Jens Weinreich about the prevalence of corruption in sport. >> read more

SPOTLIGHT STORY

Corruption and Sport



Sport is an intimate part of cultural identity and of the education and maturing of young people from around the world, and its successes and scandals help shape the perception of a society and its values. For these reasons, and in light of the global attention that will soon focus on the FIFA World Cup in Germany, Transparency Watch takes a closer look at the issue of corruption in sport. >> read more

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CULTURE



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A newly released corruption index by TI Mexico shows that petty corruption has increased in the last two years. Altogether, Mexicans paid US \$1.8 billion in bribes last year. >> read more



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FEATURE INTERVIEW

Jens Weinreich, sports journalist

By Amber Poroznuk, Christian Pfeifer



With the world's attention turned to Germany for the 2006 World Cup, Transparency Watch spoke to Jens Weinreich, journalist for the Berliner Zeitung and author of Corruption in Sport, about the prevalence of corruption in sport.

TI: Has corruption become more of an issue for sport associations in the past years?

JW: Yes. The most important reason is that global sport activities are a multi-billion dollar business. But this should not imply that there is no personal responsibility anymore.

TI: Does corruption relate exclusively to football, or is it a more general problem? Are there differences between sports and their propensity for corruption? What accounts for this?

JW: It is definitely a general problem. Corruption is an in-depth problem of the sport system, like doping. But most officials are ignoring it. In my books *The Olympic Bog* and *Corruption in Sports*, I have tried to describe the "family" system in global sport, with its special laws and worldwide tax exemptions.

Just a few examples: senior officials of world sport bodies are often treated like top diplomats or even head of states; they demand such treatment in negotiations regarding the organisation of big events. They also demand tax exemptions for big events like the FIFA [*International Football Federation*] World Cup – and they get whatever they ask for from bidding countries.

Corruption in sport is too often discussed only as a phenomenon of players and officials. It is much more. The really big cases have to do with big international crime - drug trafficking, money laundering, political corruption. Billions of dollars are lost to companies connected to the sport system. With the many competitions on the field, with the many bidding competitions for the organisation of prestigious events and lucrative marketing rights, with diplomatic status for officials and lack of border controls, the system promotes the opportunity to do dirty business.

TI: How have you uncovered corruption in sport? Have players or referees talked to you about corruption before their involvement was known?

JW: For me it was never a question of players and referees. The topics I try to uncover are much bigger than corruption on the pitch. The big corruption, the big international crime, is using the sporting system as a money making business. International sport has become a global business, and one cannot fight it alone. Over the last 15 years, dozens of hard working journalists around the world have created a network. The author Andrew Jennings from the UK, who has just published the book *Foull*, which is critical of FIFA, was the driving force; others have followed him.

We need more cooperation between international networks like *Play the Game*, Transparency International and others. We must use new techniques in the fight against corruption to connect people from different parts of the world, from different cultures, with different knowledge and different jobs in the sport system, to create a goodwill network.

TI: Professional sport is a huge economic area. How does corruption in sport differ from corruption in other areas of business?

JW: If I compare my own experiences in sport with other analyses of corruption I have seen, written by prosecutors, scientists and NGOs like Transparency International, I think that we find the same mechanisms. The global sport business, combining sport, politics, media, trade, production and commerce, is a wonderful ground for cheaters at all levels. Sadly no law against corruption in sport exists.

If you look at the many international declarations against corruption -conventions of the United Nations, the European Union and the Americas, for example - they have targeted national governments and

companies at all levels, but nothing is binding and no one is responsible for sport. That is one of the biggest problems. Politicians worldwide provide the system with special laws and exceptions when it comes to bidding processes for hosting events like the Olympic Games or the FIFA World Cup. But there is a huge lack of law and no independent controlling system. Why? Many sport associations act like multinational companies. Why should they be excluded from anti-corruption rules or oversight?

TI: How big are annual profits from professional sport?

JW: While I can't give an overall figure, I do know a bit about the finances of FIFA, the International Olympic Committee and others. Billions of dollars are circulated each year in the sport industry, and a huge part of it is public money. Sport officials and politicians argue that sponsors pay most of the cost of big events. That is definitely not true.

One example: The official organisational budget for the World Cup in 2006 in Germany is about €430 million, and nearly 50 per cent is financed through the ticketing programme. But that 430 million is just the basic organisational budget, without taking stadiums or other infrastructure into account. Together with some students from Leipzig University, I have tried to compile the real amount of public money spent for the World Cup, including things like tax exemptions for FIFA. We came to about €6.5 billion. Of course this is a "virtual" amount and part of it is not used for the World Cup. But there is a big difference between this number and the stated €430 million.

My question is why neither FIFA, the local organising committee, nor the German government provide the worldwide audience with all the facts about money spent on the World Cup? Why couldn't German taxpayers be informed of the financial details of all public accounts at a special website? There is a big lack of transparency. It is always the same: bidding and organising processes of the Olympic Games or big world championships are not transparent enough; there are constantly cases of corruption.

The Olympic Committee officially differentiates between its operational budget, in most cases between US \$1.6 and \$2 billion, and the non-operational budget. It is always controversial and opaque which parts of the infrastructure costs are to be in which budget. One can estimate a non-operational budget - more or less a taxpayer's budget - at around US \$10 billion, such as Athens in 2004, or even much more, like Beijing in 2008. Of course, part of the non-operational money will be used for infrastructure, which affects more than just sport. But there is almost no transparency in the discussion. Instead, there is secrecy and a lack of control, and that is always the first danger sign of corruption.

TI: When public servants ask for bribes, they often argue that they need the extra money to supplement their dismal salaries. Is this the same with sport? Would bigger salaries help erase the potential for corrupt behaviour?

JW: Perhaps generally, this could help in the fight against corruption, but it is surely not the most important way for top executives of international federations and world governing bodies in sport. The sporting system shows very clearly that people are always hungry, too hungry: the executive committee of FIFA recently doubled their own annual remuneration and established a pension system. Did that prevent Jack Warner, the FIFA vice president, from selling prestigious and very expensive World Cup tickets through his family company?

TI: Why do so many cases of corruption result in so few convictions?

JW: As I said before, it is a question of law – or rather, a lack of law. Look at all the reports of the Salt Lake City Olympic scandal. It was a clear case of corruption by TI's definition – but the responsible officials in the U.S. were released by the judge. I have no reason to think that the number of undetected cases in sport would be much smaller than in surrounding society - at least 95 percent. We are talking about the tip of the iceberg.

TI: You wrote a book on FIFA some years ago. What is your impression of FIFA's public commitments to increase transparency and fight corruption?

JW: In FIFA's business, it is hard to tell the difference between "transparency" and PR [*public relations*]. While there might be a new policy on transparency - they now have a financial media conference every year - many important questions are still unresolved. Look at the case of alleged bribing of sport officials, including football officials, connected to the former leading sport marketing company ISL [*International Sports Leisure*].

The case is still under investigation in Switzerland.

FIFA and ISL were always well connected; FIFA officials and ISL defendants remain well connected.

One big problem is the misuse of FIFA funds worldwide. I like TI's definition of corruption very much - **the abuse of entrusted power for private gain**. In this sense, a huge percentage of FIFA politics could be called corruption, despite the fact that the judicial system clears the officials again and again. One should not forget that FIFA operates within its strange own system of law: *we don't go to strangers*, says Mr Blatter, *If we do have problems in our family, we solve the problems in the family*.

TI: Can politics legally influence the organisational structure of sport federations to decrease their vulnerability to corruption, or must change come from public pressure for reform?

JW: I do not have much hope that governments and politicians connected with sport federations and officials are capable and willing to act in a fundamentally new way. I am deeply convinced that the most

important pressure has to come from the media: from people who want to be real journalists, and from non-governmental organisations. They have to put their forces together. One of my suggestions is to organise a worldwide Anti-Corruption Congress on Sport, like the World Anti-Doping Conferences in 1999 and 2003.

TI: How developed is the democratic culture in international sport federations and how much does this influence their vulnerability to corruption?

JW: In many federations, there is almost no democratic culture. What one may clearly judge as corruption according to the TI definition is common behaviour in many areas of sport. One has to understand the “republic of cousins”, the deeply and darkly connected networks within the so-called “families” of officials who have had decades to create such informal measures. Is there self reflection? How great is the ability of self detection? We cannot discuss corruption in sport only as an economic phenomenon. One has to understand the “very special democracy”, the personal and cultural connections as well.

The culture of corruption on every level lies in the sporting system itself. There are too many basic points which support corrupt behaviour in sport. And it is not just players, referees or officials who are corrupt. There is corruption in sport journalism and sport science.

TI: Are you aware of any initiatives to reduce corruption in sport? What would help?

JW: I can't think of any initiatives that come from inside the sport business. Yes, there are some ethical rules in different federations. But I think the Olympic system needs to host a World Anti-Corruption Agency like the World Anti-Doping Agency, with a world anti-corruption code. Sufficient measures have to be implemented in the Olympic Charter. The Olympic world needs a kind of supervisory council, with an important role for non-governmental organisations. I personally back the joint paper between *Play the Game* and Transparency International that was released in November 2005. In fact, I was a part of the working group. It is a beginning. I do think tools such as the *Corruption Perceptions Index*, *Bribe Payers Index* and *Global Corruption Barometer* can and should be worked out for the Olympic world. Corruption indices and things like blacklists are definitely necessary.

There are many ways to work for more transparency in sport. Inspired by *Play the Game*, some journalists founded a sport network in Germany in December 2005. Our goals are to work for better quality in journalism, to strength research and to combine the knowledge of journalists, scientists, sport officials and others.

Biography

Jens Weinreich, sport editor at the Berliner Zeitung, is an investigative journalist and author who specialises in the international politics of sport and the influence of organised crime in sport. He covers the Olympics and world championships in all major sports. Weinreich won the 2005 Wächterpreis, the prestigious German award for investigative journalism, for his work during the Leipzig bid for the Olympic Games 2012. He has written several books about corruption in sport and worked as director of the international TV production “The Untouchable”, a portrait of FIFA President Joseph Blatter, broadcasted in over 20 His latest book is Korruption im Sport.

SPOTLIGHT STORY

Corruption and Sport

By Amber Poroznik



Sport has an unparalleled grip on the collective consciousness of the world. It is an intimate part of cultural identity and of the education and maturing of young people everywhere. For better or worse, its successes and scandals help shape the perception of a society and its values. And in many countries, supposedly apolitical sport reaches into corners that a free media cannot. For these reasons, and in light of the global attention that will soon focus on the World Cup in Germany, *Transparency Watch* takes a closer look at the issue of corruption in sport.

According to *Play the Game*, an organisation devoted to ethical values in sport, the rising incidence of corruption is due to the changing role of sport: its increasing commercialisation and the resultant increase in media coverage, advertising revenue and corporate sponsorship. Star athletes earn salaries comparable to top CEOs, and major sport clubs deal in sums that rival many corporations. The mere presence of such money makes illicit behaviour attractive. Gambling encourages unethical conduct such as bribery of referees, officials or players to fix matches or influence league positions. The construction of sport facilities and the purchase of large amounts of equipment provide fertile fields for corruption in procurement.

Scandals have plagued various sports around the world. But it is in football where allegations of corruption have attracted the most attention. No sport has the same degree of popularity and fascination. Important games attract immense audiences, huge media attention and major corporate sponsorship. An estimated €2.5 billion will be spent on advertising in connection with the 2006 FIFA World Cup.

Where money flows, corruption often follows. Often seen in the media are cases of match fixing to profit from betting or to affect league positions. This was the case with German referee Robert Hoyzer, convicted in 2005 of rigging nine matches in a €2 million fraud. Similar scandals shook football leagues in Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Portugal and, most recently, Italy, where the biggest national club, [Juventus](#), faces a conflict of interest scandal involving club managers, players, referees, coaches, state officials and business.

Bribery and match fixing in football is a global phenomenon. In 2004, three former leading officials of the Kenya Football Federation were charged with bribery of referees and embezzlement of funds.

In China, up to 80 percent of referees in the new football "Super League" are suspected of having taken at least one bribe. Brazil made the news last year with a match-fixing scandal in which investors were found to have bribed referees to fix games for two betting websites. Jack Warner, vice president of FIFA, football's governing body, was found to have been packaging match tickets and travel arrangements for the upcoming World Cup, and selling them exclusively through his own travel agency in Trinidad, an enormous conflict of interest.

But corruption reaches beyond the world of football. Any sport that attracts considerable commercial interest can be vulnerable, in part due to a lack of common principles, sound control systems and clear management structures. Despite the picture painted by news stories of single cases of corruption, the problem does not lie primarily with individual players, referees or judges, but with sports associations and their officials. Those governing sport at the highest levels must themselves be solid examples of integrity and fair play. Examples of corruption in the International Olympics Committee (IOC) and the International Volleyball Association demonstrate that this is not always the case.

The IOC has faced scandals involving bids to host the Games - a venture sure to bring media attention, prestige and capital to any city - as well as corruption linked to its officials. Former IOC vice president Kim Un-Yong was found guilty by the Criminal Court of South Korea of embezzling several million US dollars from the World Tae Kwon Do Federation. Another former IOC official, Mohamad (Bob) Hasan of Indonesia, was sentenced to six years in prison for his involvement in a scheme that cheated the state of US \$75 million.

At the pairs figure skating competition at the 2002 Salt Lake City Olympics, the gold medal was awarded to the Russian team in an alleged trade-off for a Russian judge awarding the ice dancing gold medal to

the French skaters a few nights earlier. A French judge admitted to being pressured to judge the Russian team higher than the Canadians. The International Skating Union suspended the French judge and the president of the French Figure Skating Association, and awarded two sets of gold medals for the event, to the Russian and the Canadian pairs.

In recent years, though some sport associations have adopted ethical guidelines or codes of conduct, their impact has been minimal. For example, although the International Volleyball Federation has adopted a detailed code of conduct, its president, Ruben Acosta Hernandez, continues to head the association despite proven allegations of corruption against him. Those who oppose his continuing tenure risk exclusion from volleyball at every level.

According to Jens Anderson of *Play the Game*, the issue is “not simply adopting ethical guidelines, but having in place credible monitoring and sanctioning practices.” International sports associations are beyond government control and are therefore accountable only to their members. Moreover, despite the prominence of sport and the recent explosion of corruption cases in the media, corruption in sport is not seen as a widespread problem, but rather as a few isolated cases. In addition, there appears to be a lack of expertise on the subject. A number of initiatives have evolved in response to these concerns.

Following workshops on the fight against corruption in sport in Norway in 2005 and at TI's Annual Members Meeting in November 2005, Transparency International signed the *Play the Game Statement for Integrity and Anti-Corruption in Sport*. It sets out general principles for tackling corruption in sport and sport management, to be used as a reference and as a starting point for national sports or associations as they develop codes of conduct. The guidelines are based on the values of transparency, honesty and accountability. The *Statement for Integrity and Anti-Corruption in Sport* provides concrete recommendations to national sport associations, governments and the media.

TI's chapter in Switzerland has driven the issue within TI. The problem of corruption in sport is perhaps more visible in Switzerland because it hosts about 30 percent of international sport associations, including FIFA, the Union of European Football Associations, or UEFA, and the IOC. While there are many facets to the problem, TI Switzerland has chosen to focus its attention on the transfer of players. Based on its findings and on the Independent European Football Review, which defines the parameters of a European Union sport policy, the chapter is organising a roundtable with representatives from FIFA, UEFA, players' agents, team managers, sport lawyers and players to advance the discussion on reducing corruption in sports.

TI Germany founded a working group on sport in July 2005 to create a body of knowledge and to support sport organisations and other interested parties to implement measures to increase transparency. While still in the early stages, the working group intends to hold events to raise awareness of the dangers of a lack transparency and help prevent corruption.

TI Kenya's involvement in sport began in 2001 when the chapter was approached by eight of the 20 Kenyan national league clubs for assistance in investigating concerns about bribery of referees, embezzlement of funds and lack of accountability. Their investigation revealed widespread mismanagement in the Kenya Football Federation (KFF) and a lack of assistance from FIFA.

In 2004, TI Kenya facilitated publication of *For the Good of the Game: Achieving Good Governance, Financial Transparency and Stakeholder Accountability for Saving and Improving Kenyan Football*, which outlined the financial, constitutional, and governance challenges faced by the KFF and presented key issues for the future. In the same year, the inaugural 'Transparency Cup' football match, co-sponsored by TI Kenya and the Department of Governance and Ethics under John Githongo, was held to promote ethical attitudes and contribute to fair play through more transparent processes and activities.

TI Switzerland, TI Germany and TI Belgium participated in a Brussels seminar on money laundering in football and corruption organised at UEFA's initiative by the Institute of European Studies. Representatives of institutions, football clubs and academia discussed money laundering and corruption in European football, identifying its origin and identifying networks used.

Sport associations and those employed by them should be shining examples of integrity and fair play, values that sport as a whole should represent. If these values prove to be insufficient incentives for action against corruption, targeting associations where it hurts most – in their wallets – may prove more effective.

“The image of sport is very important, particularly to sponsors. Usually they are buying a good image when they support a particular sport. Take away that good image and you put funding at risk,” says Sylvia Schenk of TI Germany's working group on sport.

As international interest and media attention grow and international anti-corruption organisations demonstrate the widespread and interconnected nature of corruption in sport, the need for associations, officials, players and referees to commit to ethical behaviour will increase as well.

TRANSPARENCY & CULTURE

By Georg Neumann



Red card for the FIFA family

A review of Andrew Jennings' book, *"FOUL! The Secret World of FIFA: Bribes, Vote Rigging and Ticket Scandals"*

It's a story of money, power, family and football. The glittering cast: FIFA president Joseph "Sepp" Blatter in the starring role. Former IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch and Jean-Marie Weber as supporting players. Confederation of North and Central American and Caribbean Association Football (CONCACAF) president Jack Warner as 'enfant terrible' and Horst "Q" Dassler as the unseen operative pulling strings behind the scenes.

Destroying this familial harmony is investigative reporter Andrew Jennings, revealing the opaque world of FIFA in his new book *FOUL! The Secret World of FIFA: Bribes, Vote Rigging and Ticket Scandals*.



Andrew Jennings is investigative sports reporter at the UK's *Daily Mail*, and author of two controversial and successful books exposing malfeasance at the Olympics (*The Lords of the Rings* and *The New Lords of the Rings*). He specialises in uncovering what he sees as the main enemy of global sportsmanship: corruption. Since 2000 he has been aiming his investigative eye at FIFA and, more specifically, at its president Sepp Blatter in the "citadel" - FIFA headquarters - on Sunny Hill.

His investigation into the FIFA family tree begins with the ticking bomb of their bank records. The starting point – a 1998 payment of one million Swiss francs from marketing firm International Sports and Leisure (ISL) to a "senior official in football" was revealed just as that company's bankruptcy hit the news in 2001. ISL is the company that held the FIFA World Cup marketing rights.

Jennings describes how money started to change FIFA as far back as 1974, following FIFA elections at the World Cup in Germany, when Joao Havelange assumed the organisation's presidency. Taking over from Sir Stanley Rous, Havelange turned an honorary organisation into a professional one, with an annual business volume of US \$660 million. Jennings' main focus, however, lies in the various presidential elections, the networking and campaigning behind the scenes. He offers proof of vote rigging and explains how the organisation is run on the exchange of promises and favours. The story culminates in the 1998 elections, when Blatter took over from Havelange.

Family is one of Blatter's most used expressions when referring to FIFA. It is a fitting description of the network of relations and interdependence in the organisation. Another member in this family plot is FIFA vice president and executive committee member Jack Warner, Blatter's loyal friend. Warner has been involved in a series of dubious affairs, such as the under-17 World Championships in Trinidad and Tobago, and most recently selling tickets for the 2006 FIFA World Cup through his family business, Simpaol Travel. Yet, he has been able to keep his position as CONCACAF president, always finding a way out.

Jennings' book provides lively, interesting and overdue insight into FIFA politics and how mismanagement, misbehaviour and the pursuit of personal gain seem to have had few consequences for its leaders. Its evidence and findings will certainly be fodder for further investigations. Unfortunately, Jennings sometimes appears locked in a private feud with Blatter. By concentrating so heavily on the FIFA president, the prose becomes tendentious and the full breadth of accountability issues in the organisation, such as the allegations against FIFA executive committee member Ricardo Teixeira, comes up short.

In fact, a lot of interesting material gets squeezed into the last two chapters, including the development and outcomes of investigations concerning embezzlement of funds at ISL and an inquiry at FIFA's offices in 2005, a 'spin-off' probe based on information obtained during the ISL investigation.

FOUL!
HOW SOCCER'S
LEADERS RUN
RACKETS,
POCKET BRIBES,
RIG ELECTIONS
AND TOUT WORLD
CUP TICKETS
Andrew Jennings



Blatter, as FIFA's main representative, still receives 'boos' at every public appearance. When tainted FIFA officials such as Teixeira and Warner can remain safely within the family fold despite official commitments to organisational transparency and the establishment of a code of ethics for FIFA officials, it is clear that much remains to be done. The best code of ethics is useless if there is no effective enforcement system to back it up. After ploughing through 360 pages, combing www.fifa.com and carefully scrutinising FIFA's financial report, one key question remains unanswered: exactly how much does FIFA president Blatter make?

FOUL! The Secret World of FIFA: Bribes, Vote Rigging and Ticket Scandals, by Andrew Jennings, was published by HarperCollins on 2 May.

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CORRUPTION Q & A

By Marta Erquicia



TRANSPARENCIA
MEXICANA

TI Mexico released in May the 2005 *National Index on Corruption and Governance*, a measure of the impact of corruption on Mexican households. *Transparency Watch* spoke with Eduardo Bohórquez, Executive Director of Transparencia Mexicana, about the survey.

TI: The 2005 edition of the *National Index on Corruption and Governance* has just been released for the third time, with some startling figures. What does the survey mean in practice?

EB: The *National Index on Corruption and Governance* was designed as a policy oriented tool, to provide clear direction for policy makers in 35 areas of public service delivery. It registers the experience of households in relation to the three levels of government, and even with private companies operating a public service. It not only measures the “petty corruption” of money paid by households for services, but by showing the repeated presence of corruption in a particular service, it highlights a larger structural problem for a government agency. Examining service provision to 22 million households, a pattern in “petty corruption” indicates that the problem of corruption goes beyond the personal integrity of a public servant, to a policy issue or an institutional design problem. More dramatically, a sort of “organised crime” network could be operating a parallel market for public service delivery. This can be particularly harmful to lower income households.

TI: In 2003, the average cost of petty corruption to low income Mexican households was 14 percent. In 2005, it has risen ten percent to 24 percent of household earnings. Why the slide from more successful numbers in 2003?

EB: On average, the net balance of corruption cases for these 35 public services (the national index) increased. At a disaggregated level, some states improved their situation while others did not. A detailed analysis shows that as in any competitive market, with bribery in public services there also are “winners” and “losers”, and that unfortunately the average result is negative for the country and its households in the 2005 edition of the index.

TI: Is this a sign that anti-corruption initiatives in Mexico are failing?

EB: Anti-corruption initiatives are not failing: our analytical tools for understanding the complexity of the problem are improving. The NICG shows that concrete actions to curb corruption are effective. Mexican states have been benefited from policies undertaken to improve concrete corruption-related problems. The index also shows that this needs to be a continuous effort, and that areas in which attention is reduced could very easily go back to their problematic state. Anti-corruption initiatives are increasing and their quality and depth is also improving. However, the frequency of corruption cases for the 35 services measured can change over time if government action is not clearly focused, or if there is a transition period between two democratically elected governments.

TI: What happened to the initial determination of the current Mexican government? Has its attention to corruption decreased?

EB: The existence of more than 30 legal structures in the country for preserving access to information, the independent commissions of the Congress, the openness of the Supreme Court - these among other examples show that the “initial determination” of President [Vincente] Fox has been just the beginning of a wider and more comprehensive effort by Mexican society. This is not just the fight of the president, but rather of our society as a whole.

TI: Are anti-corruption initiatives in general too focused on grand corruption? Which should be addressed first: grand or petty corruption, and which is more likely to positively change peoples’ lives?

EB: The *National Index on Corruption and Governance* brings a good opportunity to explore the theoretical dilemma between “grand” and “petty” anti-corruption efforts. In fact, the results may demonstrate that this dilemma does not exist when thinking about public policies. The *Index* shows not only the relationship of a household and a public service provider; it is also an indicator of more complex phenomena such as poor institutional design or misleading government action. In other words, the *Index*

illustrates that the approval of a Freedom of Information Act, while desirable, will not automatically solve the problem of corruption in water and sanitation. The conclusion is clear: you have to address both problems simultaneously.

TI: What could explain the fact that corruption increased in some Mexican states and decreased in others?

EB: A very simple and concrete answer: corruption is not endemic to Mexico, it is epidemic. For years, corruption was seen as a cultural problem, involving factors such as the national identity or social values. These are very important issues to explain corruption as a social phenomenon, and give good orientation for media campaigns and the societal comprehension of the problem. But in terms of public policies, the presence of “bribes” seems to be more similar to an epidemic outbreak than to a cultural experience. Corruption in public service delivery appears in places where “prophylactic measures” are not in place. In the presence of these factors, among others, corruption patterns change and eventually the results of the *Index* follow.

TI: Which public services improved their ranking and why? Can this be linked to any specific anti-corruption initiative?

EB: Eleven services improved their ranking in the *Index* between 2003 and 2005. As the new data was just released, further research needs to be conducted to put the results into perspective. The initial results can be suggestive of a general trend: that some of the most powerful anti-corruption initiatives in public service delivery are just simple procedures and actions to accomplish what public service delivery is for. Hence, as Mexican households campaign for increased quality of public services, such as appropriate water supply, school registration or regular garbage collection, the risk of it being affected by corruption diminishes as its quality increases.

TI: What has been the reaction of the institutions and states surveyed?

EB: Encouraging. Most institutions and states have reacted favourably to the results and plan to give them further analysis. The results become tools for policy design or a form of external evaluation. At the end, the data comes from the households and not from the experts.

TI: The methodology of the *Index* is quite strong: a strictly random sample of 15,123 households at national level, less than one percent margin of error at the national level, and additional external monitoring, among others. TI chapters in Peru and Paraguay have already replicated the methodology. What would you recommend to chapters in other regions who might want to replicate it as well?

EB: Chapters in Peru and Guatemala have replicated the exercise as well as colleagues in Bolivia. Our recommendation is simple: use the information of these countries to see that in terms public service delivery similarities between countries are at least as relevant as our national differences.

Anti-Corruption Work Around the World

Highlighting the work of the anti-corruption movement, championing a world free of corruption:

[Petty corruption cost Mexicans US \\$1.8 billion in 2005](#)

[TI Switzerland launches whistleblower hotline](#)

[Anti-corruption efforts in EU accession states](#)

Petty corruption cost Mexicans US \$1.8 billion in 2005

By Marta Erquicia



A newly released corruption index by TI's national chapter in Mexico shows that petty corruption has increased in the last two years, costing low income households 24 percent of their earnings in 2005, an increase of 10 percent since 2003. The *National Survey on Corruption and Good Governance* (INCBG) measures bribes paid by Mexican households to obtain public services at municipal, state and national level, and by private businesses.

Examples include paying bribes to apply for various permits, having mail delivered or avoiding parking and driving tickets. The index found that Mexicans paid US \$1.8 billion in bribes last year, through nearly 115 million payments averaging 175 pesos (US \$16) each. Parents of young children and wealthy or highly educated citizens were more likely to pay bribes. This was interpreted by Federico Reyes Heróles, President of **Transparencia Mexicana's** Board of Directors, as a way of "buying time". For many, paying a bribe is simply more efficient.

2005 was the third year the national survey was conducted. Reyes Heróles emphasised that the survey "is an instrument that is sensitive to public policy initiatives from governments. The INCBG registers whether an anti-corruption strategy has been consistent over time or if a government or government agency has lowered the guard, to put it bluntly".

This project was funded by Fundación Televisa, Cemex, Consejo Coordinador Empresarial, Corporación Interamericana de Entretenimiento (CIE) and Televisión Azteca. For more information, see (in Spanish): www.transparenciamexicana.org.mx/ENCBG/

TI Switzerland launches whistleblower hotline

By Kate Sturgess



TI Switzerland has been crusading for the rights and protection of whistleblowers for four years. In an encouraging move, the chapter developed and supported legislation demanding better protection for whistleblowers against unfair dismissal and other forms of discrimination that was adopted by the Swiss Government earlier this year.

The chapter launched an anonymous hotline for whistleblowers in March, a first point of contact where whistleblowers can learn their rights and find out who to contact with an allegation of corruption.

Although it receives the calls through the hotline, TI Switzerland does not investigate cases. It is up to the police or relevant authority to decide how to proceed. In cases where a whistleblower is hesitant or frightened to go public, the chapter may forward the case anonymously to the relevant authority. Where warranted, after examination of the cases the chapter may transfer them to the Institute of Law at Zurich University, which will also monitor the hotline's efficiency in fighting corruption.

The widely reported launch of the hotline was very successful, and the response among users has been positive. The whistleblower hotline is a pilot project, and is currently seeking funding to continue its work. For more information, see:

www.transparency.ch/wDeutsch/dokumente/PressemeldungenPDF/PM_Wistleblower-Hotline_27.03.06.pdf.

TI chapters running Advocacy and Legal Advice Centres in Southeast Europe, Czech Republic and Azerbaijan have anti-corruption hotlines in place that offer legal advice to citizens affected by corruption. These centres are supported by a variety of donors, including the German Foreign Ministry, the European Commission and the US Agency for International Development. For more information, see: www.transparency.org/regional_pages/europe_central_asia/projects_and_activities#alac

Anti-corruption efforts in EU accession states

By Christian Pfeifer



The European Commission recently delayed a final decision about the accession of Bulgaria and Romania to the European Union, pressing for greater inroads on corruption and judicial reform.

Transparency International has worked to combat corruption in the Balkans since the late 1990s, implementing three central programmes in the region:

- Strengthening Civil Society's Capacity to Combat Corruption in South Eastern Europe, funded by the German Development Ministry;
- [Western Balkan Accountability Programme](#), funded by the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- [Advocacy and Legal Advice Centres Programme](#), funded by the German Foreign Ministry and the European Commission.

TI's national chapters play an active role in monitoring progress against corruption in the candidate countries, contributing to the [EU's annual reports](#) on progress towards membership and drafting and promoting anti-corruption laws. In Bulgaria and Romania, chapters have successfully campaigned for anti-corruption legislation, drafted laws, assisted citizens affected by corruption and monitored enforcement of new anti-corruption standards.

Results of these programmes include the foundation and strengthening of anti-corruption civil society groups; drafting and promoting anti-corruption reforms; raising awareness of corruption in the public and media; and establishment of 11 Advocacy and Legal Advice Centres where citizens can receive legal advice on corruption-related problems. For more information on the EU-accession process, see: www.transparency.org/news_room/in_focus/2006/eu_accession

Corruption in the news

Corruption stories of note in the news this month:

[Corruption scandal shakes Italian football](#)

[Putin announces anti-corruption campaign in Russia](#)

[In Nigeria, democracy prevails](#)

Corruption scandal shakes Italian football

By Christian Pfeifer



The recent wave of corruption scandals in football, reaching from Germany to China to Brazil, has now hit Italy. As the *Financial Times* reports, Luciano Moggi, former General Manager of **Juventus**, the most successful Italian football club, is the focal point of a match-fixing scandal. Romano Prodi, Italy's new prime minister, has said the scandal shows "the depth of the ethical crisis in every aspect of life in Italy".

The Australian lists bribery, blackmail, extortion, violence, kidnapping, tax evasion, illegal gambling and money laundering among the tactics for match-fixing in the Italian first division. Involved in these allegations are star players, referees, linesman, club managers, government ministers, judges, tax inspectors, police officers, and even a TV sports show host.

The scandal is seen as lowering Italy's chances of winning the upcoming World Cup in Germany, as national team players and head coach, Marcello Lippi are implicated in the scandal and have been asked to resign. According to the *Calcutta Telegraph*, Lippi is accused of preferring players for the national team who have signed with the players' agency, GEA World, run by Moggi's son, Alessandro. Lippi's son also works at GEA as an agent. The newspaper *7 Days* (United Arab Emirates) notes that Italians are calling for Lippi to retire before the start of the World Cup in order to prevent further damage to the team's reputation.

Putin announces anti-corruption campaign in Russia

By Christian Pfeifer



In his 10 May state-of-the-nation address, Russian President Vladimir Putin called for a stronger anti-corruption effort in his country. The *St. Petersburg Times* and *Novosty* report that Putin described corruption as "unacceptably" high and said he would make the fight against it a key priority for his government.

According to *widereurope.org*, Putin referred in his address to the corrupt bureaucracy that allegedly uses Russia's wealth to further their personal interests. In the address, Putin stated: "... Russia will be prosperous only when the success of every individual will depend not only on his material standards, but also on his decency and his culture".

Two days after the address, the *Moscow Times* carried a story of ten senior law enforcement officials who were fired as a consequence of the new anti-corruption drive. "The work is not over, and not only within Customs," the Russian president is quoted as saying, suggesting that more officials could lose their jobs.

Criticism for Putin's drive came from Georgy Satarov, the Director of Indem, a Russian think tank dealing with corruption. He told the *Moscow Times*: "It's battling corrupt individuals, not corruption". In the same article, political analyst Vladimir Pribylovski added: "The corruption will remain, but the money will be going to a different clan".

The *Moscow Times* further reports that the Federal Security Service played a central role in the termination of the officials, and that some of the fired officials' successors are former KGB colleagues of Putin. The paper reports that the new anti-corruption drive demonstrates the influence of the president's secret service clan.

In Nigeria, democracy prevails

By Kristi Benedict



At the beginning of May, *The Post of Zambia* reported that Nigeria's National Assembly was debating whether President Olusegun Obasanjo would be allowed to amend the Constitution to seek a third presidential term.

Despite other examples of African leaders staying past their mandated terms, Obasanjo's decision to seek a third term had sparked protest and shock on the continent. His desire to change the constitution miffed Nigerians, and Africans in general, because "on a continent bereft of political gains, Olusegun Obasanjo stands out as a leader in whom many Africans see what they regard as somebody who is a role model, a leader they could be proud of", reported *The Post*.

The decision by the National Assembly in mid-May to reject any altering of the Constitution was seen as a "victory for democracy" and was welcomed by Obasanjo, the *Vanguard* reported.

Obasanjo's gracious acceptance of defeat was praised within Nigeria and among other African leaders. *Agence France Presse* reported that South African President Thabo Mbeki heralded Obasanjo's adherence to the principles of democracy as "an outstanding act of statesmanship", and noted that he "spoke to all of us in unequivocal terms to reaffirm our sacred task to entrench democracy throughout our continent".

NEWS FROM THE ANTI-CORRUPTION MOVEMENT

Akere Muna, Cameroon's Man of the Year in 2005

Akere T. Muna, founder and president of Transparency International Cameroon, Vice-Chair of TI and President of the African Lawyers Association, was declared Cameroon's Man of the Year 2005 on 8 April. At the ceremony, Muna reiterated the importance of repatriating Cameroon's stolen assets and investing it in projects for the well-being of the people.

New research on corruption in humanitarian aid

TI Secretariat released a Working Paper on Corruption in Humanitarian Aid, addressing why aid is at risk from corruption and what can be done to minimise that risk. It concludes with suggestions for further investigation and action. Particular issues include risk assessments, accurate targeting and distribution of aid, effective monitoring and evaluation, and ensuring access to information about humanitarian aid programmes. See: www.transparency.org/policy_research/policy_working_paper.

Transparency in aid and reconstruction in Pakistan

The application of public procurement rules at the provincial level was a main recommendation of February's International Workshop on the Transparent Utilisation of Earthquake Reconstruction Funds in Islamabad, organised by TI Pakistan and TI Secretariat. The rules include use of Integrity Pacts to ensure transparency in procurement. Although the rules have been in place at the federal level since 2004, TI stressed that adoption at the provincial level was crucial, because that is where reconstruction funds are administered. The Prime Minister of Pakistan issued a directive on 24 April to Pakistan's four provinces to adopt the rules. For further information, contact Syed Adil Gilani of TI Pakistan at adil.gilani@gmail.com, or Nikola Sandoval at the TI Secretariat at nsandoval@transparency.org.

TI Germany launches *Global Corruption Report 2006* - German edition

TI Germany launched the German version of the *Global Corruption Report 2006* on 16 May. It includes an additional report on corruption in the health care sector in Germany and a comparative analysis of Germany with Austria and Switzerland, as well as full translation of the *Report*. The release coincides with the German government's health care reform process, and the chapter used the opportunity to push for adoption of the *Report's* concrete recommendations. *Jahrbuch Korruption 2006, Schwerpunkt: Korruption im Gesundheitssektor* is available from Parthas Publishers at: www.parthasverlag.de/?bid=132&PHPSESSID=6993b51c248a5ce4275b72708947aa67.

Asia-EU regional workshop on Public Contracting and Procurement

The TI Secretariat, together with Transparency International Indonesia will host the Asia-EU Regional workshop on *Promoting Transparency and Accountability of Local Governments and Deterring Corruption in Public Contracting and Procurement* in Bali, Indonesia from 28- 29 June 2006. For more information on the regional workshop, its program, and the project *Preventing Corruption in Public Contracting: Capacity Building and Networking for Civil Society and Local Governments in Asia*, go to: www.transparency.org/regional_pages/asia_pacific

Huguette Labelle in Morocco

On its 10th anniversary, TI Morocco organised a May conference with experts from the health sector and civil society, and special guest Huguette Labelle, Chair of Transparency International. It included two roundtable discussions, the first on access to health care and corruption in the Moroccan health system, the second on integrity and reforms in the judiciary. The conference also featured a discussion on "*The fight against corruption: imperatives of good governance and requirements of international conventions*", chaired by Dr Labelle.

TI Jordan surveys bribery

The Jordan Transparency Forum (JTF) has published a survey on bribery in Jordan, revealing that eight percent of those surveyed paid bribes more than once, sometimes as much as thousands of Jordanian dinars. The survey, conducted in cooperation with the Arab Archives Institute, was launched at a conference that focused on the promotion of the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) in the Middle East and North Africa region. Organised by TI and JTF, the event was covered by *Al-Jazeera* television and by major Jordanian television networks, alerting the public to the upcoming UNCAC

Conference of States Parties and Forum for the Future conference. JTF has established a six-month action plan to push for the implementation of UNCAC provisions at the national level, including discussions with the Jordanian Parliament on the need for an independent anti-corruption commission.

Transparência Brazil launches search engine and corruption map

Transparência Brazil recently launched two new tools: a multiple search engine and an additional service of their daily corruption news. *Multibusca*, the innovative new search engine designed to collect information on people and corporations related to corruption, collects information from 17 databases and presents the outcomes in one overall result.

The “Deu no Jornal” Project, or daily news on corruption, provides a new service that establishes relationships between people in the public eye, such as judges or politicians, and issues linked to corruption, using news articles included in “Deu no Jornal”. Expressed in the form of a map, the tool illustrates the relations between people mentioned in more than 90 thousand press clippings gathered by the project. For more information, see: www.transparencia.org.br

TI Ecuador supports penal and criminal code revision

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) organised a May seminar in Quito, Ecuador, on the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC). The goal was to promote the adaptation of current Ecuadorian penal/criminal legislation to the standards established by UNCAC. Along with presentations by Dr. Dimitri Vlasissis and Dr. Sandra Valle, respectively Director and Inter-regional Advisor of UNODC, TI's chapter in Ecuador, the Corporación Latinamericana para el Desarrollo, gave a presentation on Penal and Criminal Code Legal Reforms. For more information please contact atobar@cld.org.ec.

Foreign interference in Nicaraguan elections process

In a statement last month to the national media, Etica y Transparencia, TI's chapter in formation in Nicaragua, publicly rejected foreign interference in the presidential elections to be held in November. According to the group, unwelcome involvement of foreign government representatives includes financial support to specific candidates as well as public declaration of their preferred electoral candidate. Visit www.eyt.org.ni for more information.

Protest in Paraguay

Over 35,000 people took to the streets of Asunción, Paraguay, on 29 March to call for the resignation of five members of the Supreme Court of Justice. Through their role on the Court, the five justices made it possible for President Nicanor Duarte Frutos to become the president of his political party - Partido Colorado. This allegedly violated the constitution of Paraguay, which states that the head of state may not hold another position, and led many to question the independence of the judiciary. Transparencia Paraguay was a leading member of the group that organised the demonstration. As a result, members of Congress pressed for prosecution of the five justices.

TI Fiji Election Monitoring

In April, TI Fiji launched its Transparency Commitment Survey and invited the seven main political parties running in the may general elections to respond to a questionnaire on their commitment to maintain transparency and anti-corruption initiatives in Fiji. Six of the seven parties responded, and the responses have been posted on TI Fiji's website at www.transparencyfiji.org. TI Fiji plans to monitor the actions of the new government against their commitments over the life of the next Parliament.

Transparency through Awareness promotes transparent use of funds

The Transparency through Awareness (TTA) Project, funded by the European Commission, concluded in May with recommendations to promote transparency in the management of European Union (EU) structural funds. Chapters in Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Slovakia raised awareness of the issue, shared information and mobilised members of civil society to form multi-stakeholder coalitions. A new structural funds programming phase begins in 2007 and will decide where and how the next funds will be disbursed. Chapters presented final TTA recommendations at press conferences, workshops and roundtable events in May.

A project to promote the transparency of structural funds in Hungary, funded by the Hungarian National Development Office, also concluded. Recommendations were presented at a 5 May press conference by the press coordinator, Noemi Alexa, and TI Europe and Central Asia Director Miklos Marschall.

Training for journalists in Lebanon

The Lebanese Transparency Association (LTA) organised a training workshop for journalists in February on access to information, together with the TI Secretariat and the civil society organisation Article 19. The workshop was designed to educate and inform journalists on the concepts, theory and practice of access to information legislation, while providing examples of how such laws have been introduced and practiced in other countries.

Water Integrity Network meets in Berlin

The Water Integrity Network, an initiative to combat corruption in the water sector, met in Berlin on 8-9 May to reach agreement on its activities, its governance and the funding required. WIN aims to establish an anti-corruption coalition for the water resources and service management sector, an area where TI has already made advances through its national chapters in Argentina, Colombia, Mexico, and Pakistan. Attending were representatives of the interim steering committee members, including the World Bank's Water and Sanitation Programme, the International Water and Sanitation Centre, located in the Netherlands, the Swedish International Water Institute, the Swedish Water and House Department and TI Secretariat. WIN will be officially launched at World Water Week in Stockholm in August.

Russian Federation ratifies UNCAC

The Russian Federation deposited its instrument of ratification of the United National Convention against Corruption on 9 May, bringing to three the number of members of the Group of Eight nations to have ratified: France, UK, and Russia. There are now 52 ratifications and accessions, and 140 signatory countries. The Conference of States Parties will take place in the first week of December, likely in Amman, Jordan. To see the list of ratifications, go to www.unodc.org/unodc/en/crime_signatures_corruption.html

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the e-bulletin of the anti-corruption movement

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CORRUPTION QUOTES

"It's terrible what's happening, especially for the game's [football] image. I could understand if it had happened in Africa, but not in Italy."

Sepp Blatter, President of FIFA

International Herald Tribune (global), 22 May 2006

"The data shows that increasing press freedom lowers corruption, and in turn, lowering corruption [can] increase per capita income three-fold...It is extremely important to approach this critical issue from a hard-nosed evidence basis – and that link is what the data clearly demonstrates."

Daniel Kaufmann, Director of Global Programmes and Governance, World Bank Institute

Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (Asia Pacific region), 1 May 2006

Overall, prosecutors allege [former Philippines president] Estrada amassed about 4 billion pesos (US \$77 million) from illegal gambling payoffs, tax kickbacks and commissions stashed in secret bank accounts under an alias...Estrada told the court he donated his salaries as town mayor and later as senator, vice president and president to three foundations that helped fund scholarships for poor students.

Khaleej Times (Philippines), 19 April 2006

Maria da Penha Limo, a former Brazilian Health Ministry employee, made accusations that a third of the lower house of Congress received bribes to make amendments to the country's national budget. Her lawyer said she told investigators that members of Congress received 10 to 15 percent of the amount they released through budget amendments, in a scheme understood to have involved at least R\$110 million (US \$53.5 million).

Financial Times (UK), 11 May 2006

"Corruption is as deadly as the HIV/Aids virus. It's a cancer, whether it is the 12 official signatures needed on a license, the policeman taking bribes at the border or the tractor that is paid for but not delivered."

Bono

The Guardian (UK), 23 May 2006

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COMING UP

Coming up in June

Organisation of American States General Assembly, 36th Regular Session

Date: 4-6 June 2006

Organisation/Contact: oasweb@oas.org

Further Information: www.oas.org/36ag/english/#

Place: Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

OECD Sixth International Forum on African Perspectives: "2006, Africa on the Move"

Date: 7 June 2006

Contact: Christian.Maloumby@oecd.org

Further Information: www.oecd.org/departement/0,2688,en_2649_15162846_1_1_1_1_1,00.html

Place: Paris, France

Commonwealth Business Council: Globalisation & Sustainable Development Forum 2006

Date: 12 -13 June 2006

Organisation/Contact: zak.osmani@cbcglobal.org

Further Information: www.cbcglobelink.org/cbcglobelink/events/globalisation/overview.htm

Place: London, UK

WiltonPark Conference. Strengthening Democratic Governance: The Role of Civil Society

Date: 12-14 June 2006

Organisation/Contact/Information:

www.wiltonpark.org.uk/themes/economic/conference.aspx?confref=WPS06/10

Place: Sussex, UK

World Economic Forum on East Asia

Date: 15-16 June 2006

Organiser/Contact/Information:

www.weforum.org/site/homepublic.nsf/Content/World+Economic+Forum+on+East+Asia

Place: Tokyo, Japan

WIDER Conference on Aid: Principles, Policies and Performance

Date: 16-17 June 2006

Organiser/Contact: aid-1@wider.unu.edu

Further information: www.wider.unu.edu/

Place: Finland, Helsinki

Business Principles in Trinidad and Tobago

Date: 21 June 2006

Organiser: TI Trinidad and Tobago, TTTI and the Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Commerce

Contact: boydreid@tstt.net.tt

Place: Trinidad and Tobago

Regional Workshop: Promoting transparency and accountability of local governments and deterring corruption in public contracting and procurement

Date: 28-29 June 2006

Organiser: TI Indonesia and TI Secretariat

Contact: lpakeda@transparency.org

Place: Bali, Indonesia

Coming up in July

Civil G8: International Forum of NGOs

Date: 03-04 July 2006

Organiser/Contact: Civil G8 / info@civilg8.ru
Further Information: en.civilg8.ru/actcivil/590.php
Place: Moscow, Russia

2nd World Forum on Human Rights


Date: 10–13 July 2006
Contact: Annie-Claude Thiolat: ac.thiolat@congres-nantes.fr
Further Information: www.forum-humanrights.org/pdf/presentationEN.pdf
Place: Nantes, France

2006 G8 St.PetersburgSummit

Date: 15-17 July 2006
Organiser/Contact: en.g8russia.ru/contacts/
Further Information: en.g8russia.ru/
Place: St. Petersburg, Russia

Transparency for Better Governance: Third regional international conference of administrative sciences

Date: 16 - 20 July 2006
Organiser/Contact: Véronique Fagel, fagel@iiasiisa.be
Further information: www.iiasiisa.be/
Place: Monterrey, Mexico

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MASTHEAD

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