

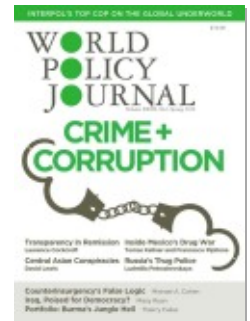


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## Map Room: Global Graft

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# MAP ROOM

## GLOBAL GRAFT

Last November, Transparency International released its fifteenth annual Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI), ranking 180 countries and territories on a scale of zero to ten—with zero the most corrupt, ten the purest. Only 49 nations scored five or above. New Zealand ranked highest with a grade of 9.4; Somalia, not surprisingly, ranked lowest with 1.1—both filling the same slots they had a year earlier. But other nations bounced up and down the scale from 2008 to 2009, earning points for reforms, crackdowns, and rhetoric, or losing points amid new scandals. Here are nine of the biggest movers and shakers of the past year.

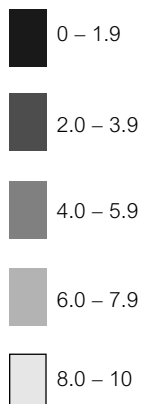
**MEXICO, 72 to 89 (-17):** When Felipe Calderon became president in December 2006, he made it a priority to crack down on the explosion of drug violence in Mexico—rooting out politicians and local law enforcement officers believed to be on the payrolls of the nation's drug cartels. In 2009, Mexicans witnessed standoffs between local and federal officers, and the arrest of 10 of the country's mayors charged with links to local crime syndicates. The result was a heightened awareness by Mexicans of the shocking extent to which corruption has pervaded their government.

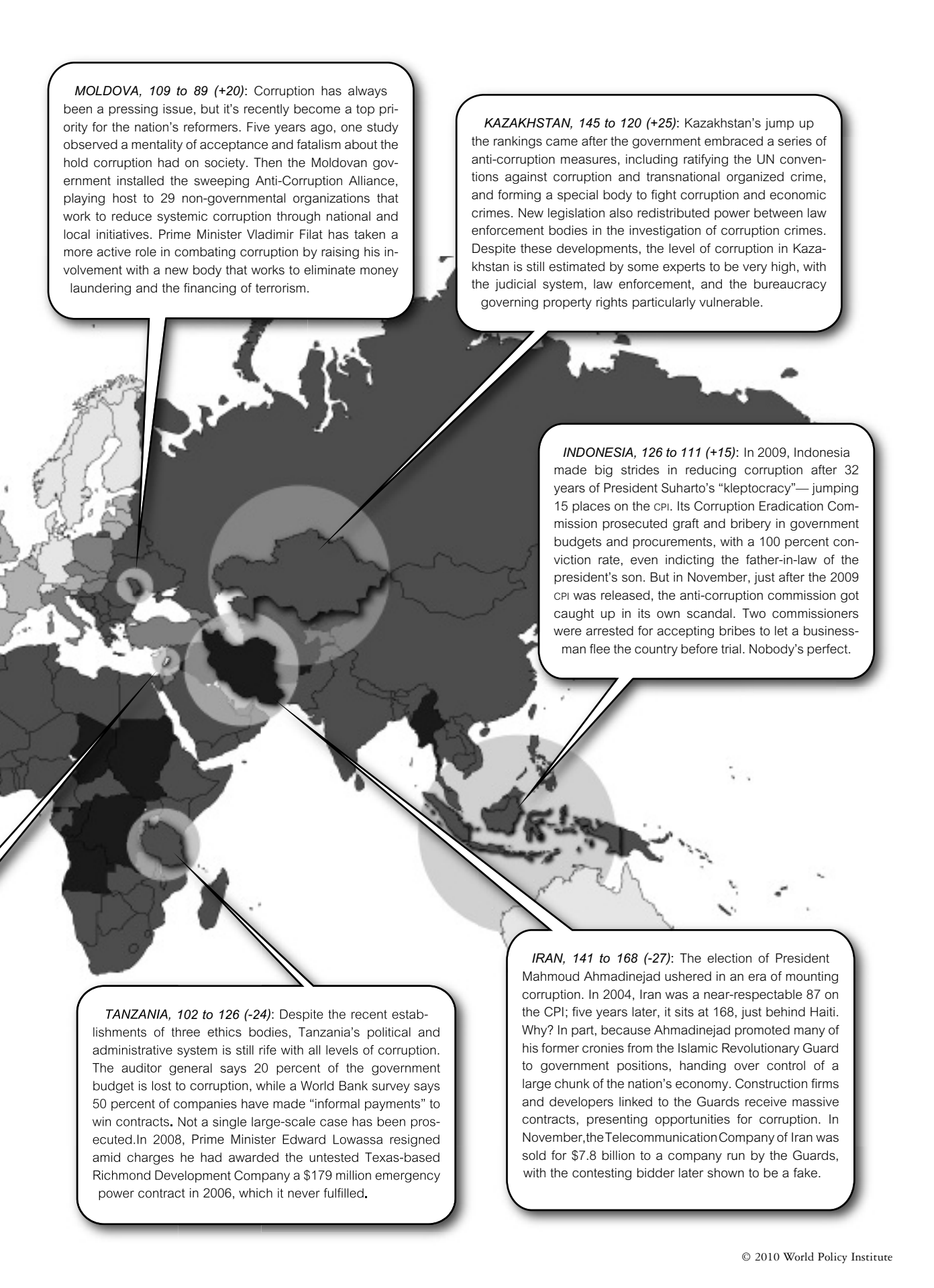
**BOLIVIA, 102 to 120 (-18):** President Evo Morales lost credibility last year in a bribery scandal. Santos Ramirez, president of the state oil company and a close Morales aide, was caught taking bribes worth more than \$1 million in exchange for oil contracts. The deals became public after bandits killed a Bolivian oil executive carrying a \$450,000 bribe for Ramirez's brother-in-law. As the scam unraveled publicly, Morales fired Ramirez—after initially defending him—placing the company under tighter scrutiny. Eventually, Hugo Morales, Evo's brother, was linked to the thieves who killed the executive. The widely publicized scandal saw Bolivians lose faith in key institutions of the state.

**THE GAMBIA, 158 to 106 (+52):** The Gambia's president, Yahya Jammeh, seized power in a military coup in 1994. His slogan: "transparency, accountability, and probity." Since then, Gambia has been on a rollercoaster ride up and down the CPI ranks: 90th in 2004, 158th in 2008, back up to 106th in 2009. Jammeh has been involved in a host of scandals, including using millions of dollars of Gambian tax receipts as "gifts" at the naming ceremony of his son. By the end of 2008, Jammeh returned to his sermon of transparency, lining up cabinet ministers for scrutiny by an anti-corruption commission, though it is understood that the president's personal wealth is still growing.

**LEBANON, 102 to 130 (-28):** In last year's parliamentary elections, candidates railed against bribe-taking by incumbents and praised new electoral laws, including a ceiling on campaign spending. But candidates themselves hid funds in multiple accounts and tapped streams of cash from throughout the region to pay rivals to withdraw, buy positive TV coverage, and offer free plane tickets for expatriates to come home and vote.

### CORRUPTION INDEX





**MOLDOVA, 109 to 89 (+20):** Corruption has always been a pressing issue, but it's recently become a top priority for the nation's reformers. Five years ago, one study observed a mentality of acceptance and fatalism about the hold corruption had on society. Then the Moldovan government installed the sweeping Anti-Corruption Alliance, playing host to 29 non-governmental organizations that work to reduce systemic corruption through national and local initiatives. Prime Minister Vladimir Filat has taken a more active role in combating corruption by raising his involvement with a new body that works to eliminate money laundering and the financing of terrorism.

**KAZAKHSTAN, 145 to 120 (+25):** Kazakhstan's jump up the rankings came after the government embraced a series of anti-corruption measures, including ratifying the UN conventions against corruption and transnational organized crime, and forming a special body to fight corruption and economic crimes. New legislation also redistributed power between law enforcement bodies in the investigation of corruption crimes. Despite these developments, the level of corruption in Kazakhstan is still estimated by some experts to be very high, with the judicial system, law enforcement, and the bureaucracy governing property rights particularly vulnerable.

**INDONESIA, 126 to 111 (+15):** In 2009, Indonesia made big strides in reducing corruption after 32 years of President Suharto's "kleptocracy"—jumping 15 places on the CPI. Its Corruption Eradication Commission prosecuted graft and bribery in government budgets and procurements, with a 100 percent conviction rate, even indicting the father-in-law of the president's son. But in November, just after the 2009 CPI was released, the anti-corruption commission got caught up in its own scandal. Two commissioners were arrested for accepting bribes to let a businessman flee the country before trial. Nobody's perfect.

**TANZANIA, 102 to 126 (-24):** Despite the recent establishments of three ethics bodies, Tanzania's political and administrative system is still rife with all levels of corruption. The auditor general says 20 percent of the government budget is lost to corruption, while a World Bank survey says 50 percent of companies have made "informal payments" to win contracts. Not a single large-scale case has been prosecuted. In 2008, Prime Minister Edward Lowassa resigned amid charges he had awarded the untested Texas-based Richmond Development Company a \$179 million emergency power contract in 2006, which it never fulfilled.

**IRAN, 141 to 168 (-27):** The election of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad ushered in an era of mounting corruption. In 2004, Iran was a near-respectable 87 on the CPI; five years later, it sits at 168, just behind Haiti. Why? In part, because Ahmadinejad promoted many of his former cronies from the Islamic Revolutionary Guard to government positions, handing over control of a large chunk of the nation's economy. Construction firms and developers linked to the Guards receive massive contracts, presenting opportunities for corruption. In November, the Telecommunication Company of Iran was sold for \$7.8 billion to a company run by the Guards, with the contesting bidder later shown to be a fake.