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WJP RULE OF LAW INDEX 2014 SURVEYS GLOBE ON GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY, CRIME, FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS, ACCESS TO JUSTICE, AND MORE – MOROCCO RANKS 52ND OUT OF 99 COUNTRIES OVERALL

NEW YORK – Morocco ranks 52nd globally and 5th among 7 Middle East and North African countries in overall rule of law performance, according to the World Justice Project’s *WJP Rule of Law Index 2014*. Denmark (Western Europe and North America), Uruguay (Latin America and the Caribbean), Botswana (Sub-Saharan Africa), New Zealand (East Asia and Pacific), Georgia (Eastern Europe and Central Asia), Sri Lanka (South Asia), and the United Arab Emirates (Middle East and North Africa) led in their respective regions.

According to the report, “Morocco ranks 52nd overall and it has seen improvements as a result of ongoing reforms in the areas of open government (ranking 46th globally and first in the region), order and security (ranking 44th overall and 8th among income peers), and regulatory enforcement (ranking 36th globally and 3rd among income peers). Morocco also outperforms most lower-middle income countries in the area of constraints on government powers (ranking 46th overall and 6th among income peers). Despite the progress achieved, substantial challenges remain in the dimensions of protection of fundamental rights (ranking 84th and 19th among income peers), and control of corruption (ranking 62nd). The civil justice system ranks 51st overall and the criminal justice system 81st, mainly due to due process violations, harsh conditions at correctional facilities, and political interference.”

The Index relies on over 100,000 household and expert surveys to measure how the rule of law is experienced in everyday life around the world. Performance is assessed through 44 indicators organized around 8 themes: constraints on government powers, absence of corruption, open government, fundamental rights, order and security, regulatory enforcement, civil justice, and criminal justice. More than 500 variables are computed to produce these indicators for every country.

“Effective rule of law helps reduce corruption, alleviate poverty, improve public health and education, and protect people from injustices and dangers large and small,” said William H. Neukom, WJP Founder and CEO. “Wherever we come from, the rule of law can always be strengthened.”

Key findings for the Middle East and North Africa region (includes Egypt, Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia, and the United Arab Emirates):

- **Strengths:** The Middle East and North Africa region as a whole ranks in the top half of the world in most categories, including order and security, control of corruption, effective regulatory enforcement, and effective civil and criminal justice.

- **Rule of law challenges:** The most serious rule of law challenges facing the region are its deficient protection of fundamental rights, limited accessibility of official information, and relatively weak constraints on government powers.
- **Best and worst performers:** The best overall rule of law performer in the region is the United Arab Emirates, ranking 27th globally. The worst are Egypt and Iran, ranking 74th and 82nd among the 99 countries included in the Index.
- **Trends to watch:** Morocco showed the most improvement in the region during the past year, while Iran deteriorated the most. Egypt saw a significant deterioration in the area of constraints on government powers.

Morocco rankings (1 is best):

OVERALL GLOBAL RANK: 52/99

OVERALL REGIONAL RANK: 5/7

FACTOR	GLOBAL RANK	REGIONAL RANK	INCOME RANK
Constraints on Government Powers	46/99	4/7	6/24
Absence of Corruption	62/99	6/7	9/24
Open Government	46/99	1/7	6/24
Fundamental Rights	84/99	5/7	19/24
Order and Security	44/99	5/7	8/24
Regulatory Enforcement	36/99	3/7	3/24
Civil Justice	51/99	5/7	6/24
Criminal Justice	81/99	7/7	16/24

A copy of the full Index, including Morocco’s full country profile and global key findings, can be downloaded at: worldjusticeproject.org/rule-of-law-index

About the World Justice Project

The World Justice Project (WJP) is an independent, multidisciplinary organization working to advance the rule of law around the globe. Establishing the rule of law is fundamental to achieving communities of opportunity and equity—communities that offer sustainable economic development, accountable government, and respect for fundamental rights. Our work engages citizens and leaders worldwide and from all work disciplines to advance the rule of law. Through our mutually reinforcing programs of Research and Scholarship, the WJP Rule of Law Index, and Engagement, WJP seeks to stimulate government reforms, develop practical programs at the community level, and increase public awareness about the foundational importance of the rule of law. Learn more at www.worldjusticeproject.org.