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WJP RULE OF LAW INDEX 2014 SURVEYS GLOBE ON GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY, CRIME, FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS, ACCESS TO JUSTICE, AND MORE – NEPAL RANKS 57TH OUT OF 99 COUNTRIES OVERALL

NEW YORK – Nepal ranks 57th globally and 2nd among 6 South Asian 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, “Nepal ranks 57th globally and it outperforms its regional peers and most other low income countries in several dimensions of the rule of law. The country's best performance is in the area of protection of fundamental rights (ranking 48th overall and first among regional and income peers). It has also shown improvements in the areas of constraints of government powers (ranking 45th overall and first among income peers), open government (ranking 61st and first among income peers), order and security (ranking 55th), and regulatory enforcement (ranking 56th). Rule of law areas of particular concern in Nepal include corruption, especially among the judiciary and the legislature, instability of the legal framework, the use of violence to redress personal grievances, limitations in the accessibility and affordability of civil justice, due process violations, and poor conditions at correctional facilities.”

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 South Asia region (includes Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka):

- **Strengths:** Countries in South Asia generally perform better than countries in other regions in protecting the freedoms of speech and assembly and the right to petition, as well as in guaranteeing judicial independence and other non-governmental checks on the government.
- **Rule of law challenges:** South Asia, as a region, is the weakest performer overall in most dimensions of the rule of law. Corruption is generally present in these countries in all branches

of government, as well as in the police and the military. Regulatory enforcement is poor, and civil courts are slow and ineffective. While crime rates are not as high as in other regions of the world, civil conflict and the use of violence to redress personal grievances are major threats to stability and progress.

- **Best and worst performers:** The best overall rule of law performer in the region is Sri Lanka, ranking 48th globally. The worst is Afghanistan, ranking 98th among the 99 countries included in the Index.
- **Trends to watch:** Nepal showed the most improvement during the past year, while other countries in the region, including India, saw very little change during the same period.

Nepal rankings (1 is best):

OVERALL GLOBAL RANK: 57/99

OVERALL REGIONAL RANK: 2/6

FACTOR	GLOBAL RANK	REGIONAL RANK	INCOME RANK
Constraints on Government Powers	45/99	2/6	1/16
Absence of Corruption	73/99	3/6	6/16
Open Government	61/99	3/6	1/16
Fundamental Rights	48/99	1/6	1/16
Order and Security	55/99	1/6	4/16
Regulatory Enforcement	56/99	1/6	2/16
Civil Justice	75/99	1/6	9/16
Criminal Justice	52/99	3/6	4/16

A copy of the full Index, including Nepal'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.