

UNDER EMBARGO – DO NOT PUBLISH UNTIL:

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BANGLADESH RANKED 102 OUT OF 113 COUNTRIES ON RULE OF LAW, RISING ONE POSITION

World Justice Project (WJP) Releases 2017-2018 WJP Rule of Law Index

WASHINGTON, DC (31 January 2018) – The World Justice Project (WJP) today released the *2017-2018 WJP Rule of Law Index*[®] which measures rule of law adherence in 113 countries worldwide based on more than 110,000 household and 3,000 expert surveys. Featuring primary data, the *WJP Rule of Law Index* measures countries' rule of law performance across eight factors: Constraints on Government Powers, Absence of Corruption, Open Government, Fundamental Rights, Order and Security, Regulatory Enforcement, Civil Justice, and Criminal Justice.

Bangladesh rose one position for overall rule of law performance (from 103 in the 2016 WJP Rule of Law Index) to 102 out of 113 countries in the 2017-2018 edition. Its score places it at 4 out of 6 countries in the South Asia region*, 24 out of 30 among lower middle income countries, and 102 out of 113 countries and jurisdictions worldwide.

The top three overall performers in the 2017-2018 *WJP Rule of Law Index* were Denmark (1), Norway (2), and Finland (3); the bottom three were Afghanistan (111), Cambodia (112), and Venezuela (113).

Globally, a majority of countries worldwide saw their scores decline since the publication of the last *WJP Rule of Law Index* (in October 2016) in the areas of human rights, checks on government powers, and civil and criminal justice.

Regionally, South Asia's top performer in the *Index* is Nepal which rose 5 positions to 58th place out of 113 countries worldwide. With the exception of Afghanistan, which stayed in 111th place, all of the countries in this region improved in the global ranks. Sri Lanka improved the most dramatically, moving up 9 positions to 59th place out of 113 indexed countries.

The *WJP Rule of Law Index*[®] is the world's leading source for original data on the rule of law. The *Index* relies on more than 110,000 household and 3,000 expert surveys to measure how the rule of law is experienced and perceived in practical, everyday situations by the general public worldwide.

Performance is measured using 44 indicators across eight primary rule of law factors, each of which is scored and ranked globally and against regional and income peers: Constraints on Government Powers, Absence of Corruption, Open Government, Fundamental Rights, Order and Security, Regulatory Enforcement, Civil Justice, and Criminal Justice.

"Effective rule of law is the foundation for communities of equity, opportunity, and peace," said William H. Neukom, WJP founder and CEO. "No country has achieved a perfect realization of the rule of law. The *WJP Rule of Law Index* is intended to be a first step in setting benchmarks, informing reforms,

stimulating programs, and deepening appreciation and understanding for the foundational importance of the rule of law.”

The complete 2017-2018 report—including country profiles, data visualizations, methodology, and download options—is available on January 31 at: www.worldjusticeproject.org/rule-of-law-index

BANGLADESH RANKINGS

WJP Rule of Law Index 2017-2018 performance (1 is best)

BANGLADESH OVERALL GLOBAL RANK: 102/113

BANGLADESH OVERALL REGIONAL RANK*: 4/6

FACTOR	REGIONAL RANK*	INCOME RANK**	GLOBAL RANK
Constraints on Government Powers	6/6	23/30	98/113
Absence of Corruption	4/6	19/30	93/113
Open Government	4/6	15/30	75/113
Fundamental Rights	6/6	28/30	106/113
Order and Security	4/6	24/30	102/113
Regulatory Enforcement	4/6	21/30	94/113
Civil Justice	5/6	24/30	106/113
Criminal Justice	5/6	21/30	96/113

*Countries measured in the South Asia region: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka

** Lower-middle income countries: Bangladesh, Bolivia, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, El Salvador, Georgia, Ghana, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Tunisia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Zambia

ABOUT THE WORLD JUSTICE PROJECT:

The World Justice Project (WJP) is an independent, multidisciplinary organization working to advance the rule of law worldwide. Effective rule of law reduces corruption, combats poverty and disease, and protects people from injustices large and small. It is the foundation for communities of equity, opportunity, and peace—underpinning development, accountable government, and respect for fundamental rights. Learn more at: www.worldjusticeproject.org

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