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TINZ Media Release

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Transparency International New Zealand

New Zealand Defense Force given good marks in just released index.

Crimes Bill passage addresses recommended improvements

In an index released yesterday at the ASEAN Defence Minister's conference in Malaysia, The New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) is ranked the most transparent and least corrupt in the region.

NZDF is the only force given an "A" for its strong integrity systems across risk areas of personnel, procurement, operations, political, and finance in the just released Government Defence Anti-corruption Index for the Asia Pacific Region.

According to the 2015 UK Special Defence Project index report: "New Zealand's approach to military operations is an exceptional example of global best practice."

Still the report called for improvements including ratification of UNCAC, more aggressive prosecution of foreign bribery and bidding company compliance.

"Now we need to leverage off the Defence Forces 'A' ranking by following through on the recommendations from the review and by continuing to establish the same systems for maintaining integrity right through the public service," says Transparency International New Zealand (TINZ) Director Janine McGruddy.

Ms. McGruddy notes "This report focuses on how things are done, not why. It does not address serious concerns including delays in responses to OIA requests and the basis of decision making. I would like to see similar scrutiny looking at the "why" of defence and all government decision making from civil society in the future."

On the day this report was released Parliament coincidentally passed the Organised Crimes and Anti-Corruption Amendment Bill (Bill) removing the final obstacle to ratification of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) setting the stage for its ratification before Christmas.

Finally ratifying UNCAC—which New Zealand signed in 2003—"will eliminate a disservice to the impressive standards set by our Defence Force," says Ms McGruddy.

Today is a great day to celebrate New Zealand successes.

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Notes to editors:

1. About the Government Defence Anti-corruption Index (GI)

The Government Defence Anti-Corruption Index (GI) assesses the existence and effectiveness of institutional and informal controls to manage the risk of corruption in defence and security institutions and of their enforcement.

Transparency International's team of experts draws together evidence from a wide variety of sources and interviewees across 77 indicators to provide the government with a detailed assessment of the integrity of their defence institutions.

This index is released by the UK Special Defence Project funded by UK Defence,

The 2015 Asia-Pacific report publishes the country risk rankings derived from this data and examines the trends across the region.

[Government Defence Anti-corruption index media release](#)
[Government Defence Anti-corruption index home](#) with infographics
[Asia Pacific Index Report](#)

2. About Transparency International New Zealand:

Transparency International New Zealand (TINZ) is the local chapter of the global organisation - <http://www.transparency.org.nz/>. TINZ works to actively promote the highest levels of transparency, accountability, integrity and public participation in government and civil society in New Zealand and the Pacific Islands.

Transparency International New Zealand provides a free [Anti-Corruption Training Tool](#) designed by leading experts in the field, and enables organisations to provide training for their personnel. This was developed in partnership with the Serious Fraud Office and BusinessNZ

Transparency International New Zealand published the [Integrity Plus 2013 New Zealand National Integrity System Assessment](#) and is actively engaged in the implementation of its recommendations.

3. About Transparency International

Transparency International is the global civil society coalition leading the fight against corruption - <http://www.transparency.org/>.