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TINZ Media Release

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Transparency International New Zealand

New Zealand demonstrates how strong integrity systems are the best antidote for corruption

New Zealanders can celebrate International Anti-Corruption day by acknowledging this years achievements.

The New Zealand Defence Force, along with the United Kingdom, have been the only countries so far to receive an 'A' in the TI Government Defence Anti-Corruption Index. They are both ranked as the most transparent Defence Force in the world.

After 12 years, the NZ Government ratified the United Nations Convention Against Corruption. Joining 177 other signatories to the agreement, it is a legally binding global agreement to address corruption in the private and public spheres.

The Organised Crime and Anti-corruption Legislation and all 15 Acts were passed in November 2015. With cross party support for the omnibus legislation. This legislation aims to strengthen the law to combat organised crime and corruption.

New Zealand improved it's ranking for the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). This is largely attributable to greater evidence of detection and enforcement on anti- corruption measures by the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) and NZ Police

The Serious Fraud Office has four on-going investigations into foreign bribery.

In October, Ministers outside Cabinet Louise Upton attended the OGP forum in Mexico.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade has funded four Pacific Chapters, with oversight by TINZ of the Pacific Integrity Initiative.

Looking forward from Anti-Corruption Day, New Zealand needs to pick up its pace for the National Action Plan and ensuring public sector agencies integrity systems match our Defence Force. We look forward to you showing your leadership as an elected representative on these matters in 2016.

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Notes to editors:

1. 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](http://transparency.org.nz/Anti-Corruption-Training) (transparency.org.nz/Anti-Corruption-Training) 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](http://transparency.org.nz/2013/Integrity-Plus-2013-New-Zealand-National-Integrity-System-Assessment) and is actively engaged in the implementation of its recommendations. (<http://transparency.org.nz/2013/Integrity-Plus-2013-New-Zealand-National-Integrity-System-Assessment>)

2. About Transparency International

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

3. Today is anti-corruption day.

Corruption is a serious crime that can undermine social and economic development in all societies. No country, region or community is immune.

This year UNODC and UNDP have developed a joint global campaign, focusing on how corruption affects education, health, justice, democracy, prosperity and development.

Visit <http://www.anticorruptionday.org/> for more information

4. For further inquiries please contact:

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