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**ULRS1032-91**

**COURSE NAME**

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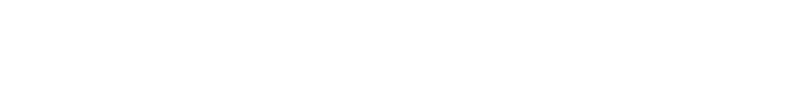
**INTERGRITY AND ANTI-CORRUPTION**

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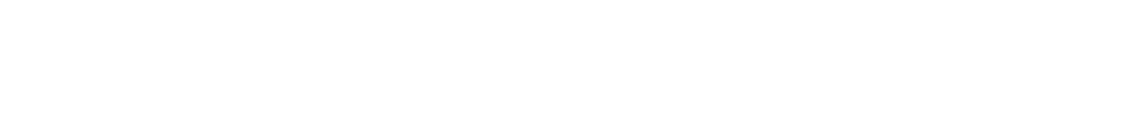
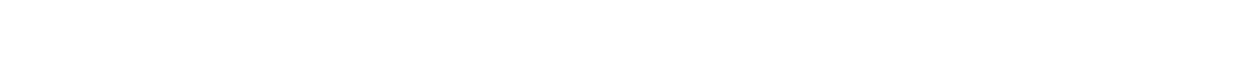
**SEMESTER 1, SESSION 2024/2025**

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**Topic: Police Corruption in the US**

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# **INTRODUCTION**

The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Community (MACC) defines corruption as the act of providing or receiving any kind of incentive, whether in cash or in-kind, for carrying out a task related to one's job description. The corruption is very dangerous because it can happen anywhere whether in business, the courts, the media and in civil society and also the other sectors from health and education to infrastructure and sports. Corruption occurs behind closed doors, frequently with the assistance of professional facilitators like bankers, attorneys, accountants, and real estate brokers; opaque financial systems; and anonymous shell corporations that facilitate the growth of corruption schemes, the launder and concealment of corrupt practices. Corruption adjusts to shifting conditions and situations. Regulations, laws, and even technological advancements might cause it to alter.

Moreover, the action of corrupt can be done by anyone like politicians, government officials, public servants, businessmen or even member of the public. However, the party that will be the focus of this article is corruption of police. Before people go deeper into this topic, it is crucial to know the meaning of police corruption so people can have better understanding and make this topic become more relatable. Police corruption is a type of police misconduct in which officers violate their political obligations and abuse their authority for personal gain. One or more officers may be involved in this kind of corruption. Public trust, departmental policy coherence, human rights, and legal violations with grave repercussions are all threatened by internal police corruption. Bribery, theft, sexual assault, and discrimination are just a few of the many ways that police corruption manifests itself.

Last but not least, by understanding the causes, case studies, community impact, and steps to stop police misconduct in greater depth is crucial to preventing the action of corruption among the community from becoming even worse in future.

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# **US POLICE CORRUPTION CASES**

Black Lives Matter Movement (BLM) and Related Cases

**George Floyd (2020):** George Floyd, an unarmed Black man, was killed when a Minneapolis police officer, Derek Chauvin, knelt on his neck for over 9 minutes. The incident sparked global protests under the BLM banner, focusing on systemic police brutality and racial discrimination. Chauvin's conviction for murder became a symbol of the urgent need for police reform, accountability, and calls to defund police departments. This case underscored the widespread frustration over racial injustice and excessive force used by law enforcement.

**Breonna Taylor (2020):** Breonna Taylor, a 26-year-old Black woman, was fatally shot in her home during a botched no-knock raid in Louisville, Kentucky. The incident triggered widespread protests questioning police procedures, the use of no-knock warrants, and accountability in law enforcement. Although legal proceedings were initiated against the officers involved, the outcomes led to widespread dissatisfaction over the perceived lack of justice and accountability.

Excessive Force Against University Protests (Israel-Palestine War)

**Police Responses to Recent Campus Protests (2023-2024):** University students protesting the Israel-Palestine conflict reported multiple instances of excessive force by law enforcement. Police tactics included the use of tear gas, pepper spray, and batons, alongside arbitrary arrests and rough detainment procedures. These incidents have drawn sharp criticism of law enforcement for overreaching and violating the rights of peaceful demonstrators. Civil rights advocates argue that such heavy-handed measures suppress free speech and discourage civic participation. The events have also underscored concerns about the over-militarization of campus police forces and have drawn parallels to historic crackdowns on university protests during the 1960s civil rights and Vietnam War movements.

**Tyre Nichols (2023)**

Tyre Nichols, a 29-year-old Black man, was brutally beaten by five Memphis police officers during a traffic stop. Nichols died three days later from his injuries. The officers, all Black, were charged with second-degree murder, kidnapping, and other charges related to the assault. The case led to widespread protests, particularly because of the graphic body camera footage that showed Nichols being repeatedly kicked, punched, and beaten while restrained. Nichols’ death reignited national debates about police brutality and the need for systemic reform, even among officers of the same racial background as the victim.

**The "LA Sheriff's Deputy Scandal" (2023)**

In 2023, multiple Los Angeles County sheriff’s deputies were implicated in a growing scandal involving widespread corruption, including sexual assault, drug dealing, and misuse of public resources. These incidents were reported in the context of a gang-like culture within the department, where deputies formed "cliques" that engaged in criminal activities. The scandal raised serious questions about accountability and oversight in law enforcement agencies. The Sheriff’s Department faced public criticism for its failure to address corruption within its ranks, contributing to growing concerns over police misconduct at all levels of law enforcement.

# **PATTERN AND TRENDS IN US POLICE CORRUPTION**

**1.Racial Bias and Use of Force**Data consistently shows a higher incidence of force being used against people of color, particularly Black and Hispanic communities. Studies such as *Mapping Police Violence* highlight racial disparities in police stops, arrests, and shootings. These trends point to systemic biases within law enforcement that disproportionately impact marginalized communities.

**2.Militarization of Police Forces**The increased militarization of police forces, fueled by the acquisition of surplus military equipment, has escalated the use of excessive force during peaceful protests. This militarization contributes to the perception of police as an occupying force rather than public protectors, straining trust between law enforcement and the communities they serve.

**3.Lack of Accountability**Accountability remains a critical issue, as many cases see delays in charges, lenient punishments, or internal investigations that favor police officers. Additionally, the use of "qualified immunity" often shields officers from civil lawsuits, making it difficult to achieve justice and transparency in cases of misconduct**.**

**4.Social media and Technology**The rise of body cameras and smartphones has increased public awareness of police misconduct. Viral videos of incidents have played a crucial role in exposing corruption, fueling movements like Black Lives Matter (BLM), and forcing greater transparency in handling cases of police misconduct. Social media has amplified calls for reform, bringing these issues to the forefront of public and political discourse.

**5. Economic Exploitation Through Policing**In some jurisdictions, police departments rely on fines, fees, and asset forfeiture as significant revenue streams. This practice disproportionately impacts low-income individuals, perpetuating cycles of poverty and contributing to mistrust between law enforcement and economically disadvantaged communities.

**6. Corruption in Internal Investigations**Internal investigations are often criticized for bias, as police departments frequently investigate their own officers. This practice leads to a lack of impartiality, with many allegations of misconduct being dismissed or under-investigated, reinforcing a culture of impunity.

**7. Disparities in Policing by Geography**Urban areas, particularly those with higher crime rates and larger minority populations, often experience more aggressive policing tactics. In contrast, suburban and rural areas may see less scrutiny of police misconduct, highlighting geographic disparities in the application of law enforcement practices and accountability.

**8.Union Protections and Influence**Police unions wield significant power in protecting officers accused of misconduct. They often negotiate contracts that make it difficult to discipline or dismiss officers for unethical behavior. These protections can hinder efforts to hold officers accountable and reform problematic practices within departments.

# **CAUSES OF POLICE CORRUPTION IN THE U.S**

1. **Money**  
   Economic incentives and financial pressures are leading contributors to police corruption in the United States. Many officers face low salaries and inadequate compensation for the risks associated with their work, which makes them more susceptible to accepting bribes or engaging in illicit activities for financial gain. For instance, bribery schemes might involve overlooking illegal acts or providing protection to criminal enterprises in exchange for money. Economic disparities in certain regions exacerbate the problem, creating a cycle where officers see corruption to supplement their income **(Chappell, 2022; Newburn, 1999).**Systemic issues like underfunded police departments further amplify the problem. When departments operate on limited budgets, resources for adequate training, oversight, and fair compensation are often compromised. This creates an environment where corruption becomes an attractive option for officers looking to alleviate their financial burdens. Solutions like raising salaries, offering performance-based bonuses, and enhancing fiscal oversight within police departments have been proposed to mitigate the influence of money in fostering corrupt practices (**Newburn, 1999; U.S. Department of Justice, 2022).**
2. **Personal Issues**  
   Personal factors, including psychological stress, addiction, and moral weaknesses, play a crucial role in fostering police corruption. Officers often work in high-stress environments involving exposure to violence, long hours, and life-threatening situations. These pressures can take a psychological toll, leading some officers to engage in unethical behavior as a form of escapism or self-preservation. For example, substance abuse or gambling problems might drive an officer to accept bribes or misuse their authority **(Chappell, 2022).**

The issue is compounded when departments fail to provide adequate mental health support and ethical training. Officers dealing with unresolved personal challenges may become vulnerable to misconduct. Implementing comprehensive mental health programs, providing access to counseling, and fostering a culture of open dialogue about personal challenges can significantly reduce the risk of corruption stemming from personal issues **(Newburn, 1999; U.S. Department of Justice, 2022).**

1. **Training and Leadership Issues**  
   The lack of proper training and weak leadership structures are major enablers of police corruption. Training programs in many departments fail to emphasize ethical decision-making and accountability. This leaves officers ill-equipped to handle situations where their integrity is tested, making them more likely to succumb to corrupt practices. Moreover, when leadership fails to model ethical behavior or enforce disciplinary actions, it sends a message that misconduct is acceptable or can be overlooked **(Chappell, 2022; Newburn, 1999).**Strong leadership is vital in setting the tone for organizational behavior. Departments with leaders who prioritize integrity and transparency are more likely to discourage corruption. Comprehensive training programs that focus on ethics, accountability, and the consequences of corruption can help instill a culture of professionalism and reduce misconduct. Regular assessments and leadership evaluations can also help in identifying and addressing gaps in accountability structures **(U.S. Department of Justice, 2022; Chappell, 2022).**
2. **Lack of Transparency**  
   A significant driver of police corruption is the lack of transparency within law enforcement agencies. When internal operations, disciplinary actions, and investigative processes are shielded from public scrutiny, opportunities for corruption multiply. Such opacity allows officers and leadership to operate without accountability, fostering an environment where unethical behavior is tolerated or concealed **(Newburn, 1999; Chappell, 2022).**

Addressing this requires systemic changes to improve transparency and accountability. Implementing civilian oversight boards, protecting whistleblowers, and ensuring public access to records of disciplinary actions are effective ways to build trust and reduce corruption. Public accountability measures, such as body cameras and transparent reporting systems, also deter misconduct and ensure that officers operate with integrity **(U.S. Department of Justice, 2022; Newburn, 1999).**

1. **Cultural Norms and Group Dynamics**  
   Police departments with a culture of silence or a "blue wall" mentality can perpetuate corruption. Group loyalty and peer pressure often discourage officers from reporting misconduct within their ranks. In some cases, corruption becomes normalized, with newer recruits learning unethical practices from seasoned officers. When unethical behaviors are tolerated or justified as part of the job, corruption becomes entrenched **(Newburn, 1999; U.S. Department of Justice, 2022).**To address this, fostering a culture of accountability is essential. Encouraging officers to speak out against corruption without fear of retaliation and establishing mechanisms to break the "blue wall" can help eradicate systemic corruption.
2. **Ineffective Oversight and Accountability Mechanisms**  
   Weak or inconsistent oversight mechanisms allow corruption to go unchecked. Internal affairs departments often lack the resources or independence to effectively investigate misconduct. In some cases, political influence or conflicts of interest further undermine accountability. When officers perceive a low likelihood of being caught or punished, they are more likely to engage in corrupt activities (Chappell, 2022).  
   Strengthening oversight bodies, ensuring their independence, and implementing external audits can improve accountability. Civilian oversight boards and independent review commissions are effective tools to monitor police behavior and address corruption.
3. **Weak Legal and Judicial Systems**  
   Inefficiencies within the broader legal and judicial systems can also contribute to police corruption. Inconsistent enforcement of laws, lenient penalties for misconduct, and a lack of coordination between agencies create loopholes that corrupt officers can exploit. In some cases, legal protections for officers may be misused to shield them from accountability **(Newburn, 1999).**Reforming legal frameworks to close loopholes, establishing clear consequences for misconduct, and ensuring swift and fair prosecution of corrupt officers are necessary steps to address this issue.

By addressing these seven causes—money, personal issues, training and leadership problems, lack of transparency, cultural norms, ineffective oversight, and weak legal systems—law enforcement agencies can create a framework for reducing corruption and fostering public trust.

# **IMPACT OF POLICE CORRUPTION**

## **Social moves and protest:**

Following of the George Floyd incident, the first protest emerged at Minneapolis where Floyd was arrested and murdered. Over 2000 cities in over 60 countries were support these “Black Lives Matter” movement.

## **2. Lost public trust:**

When citizens slowly realized that police officers engage in corruption such as gang activity and drug involvement which happened back in 1998 the Rampart scandal. This causes loss of trust of many people towards the police which supposed to be the citizen protection rather than a threats especially in underprivileged areas.

## **3. Crime rates increased:**

Many illegal activities are possible to do because of the police corruption that allow the criminal to bribe the police officer to avoid being arrested. Police officer that also taking part in crimes such as stealing or robbery which make crime even more common in United States.

## **4. Economics consequences:**

Settlement for lawsuits related to misconduct is one of the major economic effects due to the police corruption. In Minneapolis, taxpayers paid 27 million dollars to settle Floyd’s murder with his family. Because it takes a huge amount of money, Minneapolis had to use their general fund and self-insurances fund to together to cover the cost. This causes Minneapolis budget for 2021 to allocate 28 million dollars to health services as it does for this settlement.

# **ACTIONS TO PREVENT POLICE CORRUPTION**

## **Set Up Anonymous Reporting** Anonymous reporting systems allow both citizens and officers to report misconduct without fear of retaliation. These systems should protect the identities of whistleblowers and share investigation results with the public to build trust and transparency.

**Best Practices:**

* + Introduce hotlines, mobile apps, and online platforms for anonymous reporting.
  + Ensure independent bodies oversee reports to eliminate bias.
  + Regularly publicize success stories to encourage more people to report misconduct.

**Example:** New York City saw a 20% increase in reported misconduct cases between 2015 and 2020 after launching anonymous reporting systems (DOJ, 2020).

1. **Teach Police Ethics**  
   Integrating ethics training into regular police education helps officers understand the significance of integrity and the consequences of corruption. Real-life examples and scenario-based learning improve engagement and comprehension.

**Key Strategies:**

* + Use case studies of corruption to highlight real-world consequences.
  + Incorporate role-playing exercises where officers practice ethical decision-making in challenging situations.
  + Provide refresher courses to reinforce ethical standards throughout an officer’s career.

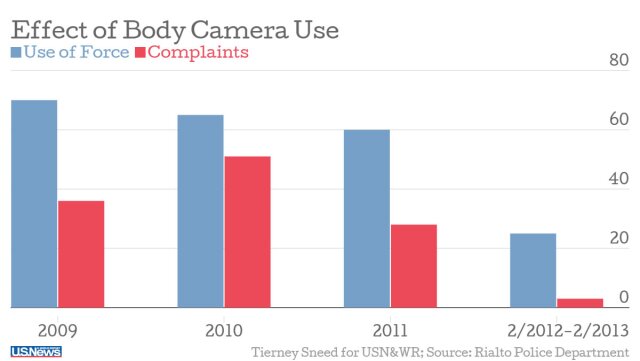
**Impact:** Departments with strong ethics training reported a 15% drop in corruption cases (PERF, 2021).

1. **Use Body Cameras**  
   Body-worn cameras (BWCs) are effective tools for accountability and transparency. They deter misconduct by officers and provide evidence for investigations.

**Implementation Guidelines:**

* + Mandate the use of cameras during all public interactions.
  + Establish strict penalties for officers who fail to activate or tamper with cameras.
  + Provide public access to recordings in cases of high public interest.

**Example:** After Seattle made body cameras mandatory in 2016, reports of excessive force decreased by 30% within three years (Seattle PD Report, 2019).

 Figure 1: Effect of Body Camera Use

1. **Check Police Finances**Financial audits help detect and prevent misuse of department funds. Transparent budgeting ensures accountability and builds public trust.

**Steps for Effective Oversight:**

* + Conduct annual independent audits to review all financial transactions.
  + Use digital tracking systems for real-time monitoring of expenditures.
  + Publish financial reports online for public access.

**Example: Chicago's financial reforms led to an 18% reduction in budget misuse cases within two years (Chicago Oversight Report, 2023).**

1. **Community Monitoring**Engaging citizens in oversight of police actions fosters trust and ensures external accountability. Civilian review boards can investigate complaints and recommend reforms.

**Key Features of Community Monitoring:**

* + Establish independent civilian review boards with diverse representation.
  + Give boards access to records and authority to recommend disciplinary actions.
  + Conduct regular town hall meetings to update the public on police activities.

**Example: New York's Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB) has been instrumental in reducing police misconduct through citizen oversight (Kane & White, 2017).**

1. **Punish Corruption Strictly**Implementing strict consequences for corruption discourages unethical behavior and promotes accountability.

**Recommended Practices:**

* + Enforce zero-tolerance policies for bribery, abuse of power, and illegal activities.
  + Maintain a public database of officers involved in corruption or misconduct.
  + Ensure swift and transparent disciplinary actions for all violations.

**Impact: Departments with strict anti-corruption policies saw a 35% reduction in repeat offenses (DOJ, 2022).**

1. **Work with the Community**Strong relationships between police and communities reduce corruption by fostering transparency and mutual accountability.

**Community Engagement Activities:**

* + Organize regular forums where citizens can discuss concerns with officers.
  + Launch joint safety projects where police and residents collaborate to address local issues.
  + Promote community policing to build trust through consistent and positive interactions.

**Example: Community policing initiatives increased public trust in law enforcement by 10% (NIJ, 2020).**

1. **Implement Early Intervention Systems (EIS)**Early intervention systems use data to identify patterns of problematic behavior among officers before they escalate into corruption or misconduct.

**Key Elements:**

* + Monitor complaints, use-of-force incidents, and absenteeism to identify at-risk officers.
  + Provide targeted training or counseling for identified officers.
  + Regularly review and update intervention criteria based on new data.

**Example: In Los Angeles, EIS programs helped reduce officer misconduct cases by 25% within five years (LAPD Report, 2021).**

1. **Strengthen Whistleblower Protections**Encouraging officers to report internal corruption requires robust safeguards against retaliation.

**Steps to Protect Whistleblowers:**

* + Create independent agencies to handle whistleblower complaints.
  + Enforce strict penalties for retaliation against whistleblowers.
  + Offer incentives, such as awards or promotions, for officers who expose corruption.

**Example: The UK’s whistleblower protections in law enforcement increased reporting of misconduct by 40% within a decade (Transparency International, 2020).**

1. **Mandate Periodic External Reviews**External audits and reviews by third-party organizations bring unbiased oversight to police departments.

**Best Practices:**

* Partner with non-governmental organizations or independent agencies for comprehensive reviews.
* Publish review findings and recommendations for public access.
* Implement suggested reforms promptly to address identified issues.

**Example: Periodic reviews of Baltimore’s police department after the 2015 consent decree led to substantial reforms in training, policies, and accountability systems (Baltimore DOJ Report, 2020).**

# **SUMMARY**

To effectively combat police corruption, a comprehensive approach centered on transparency, accountability, and trust is essential. By implementing measures such as anonymous reporting systems, both citizens and officers can report misconduct without fear of retaliation, fostering a culture of openness. Ethics training ensures officers understand the importance of integrity and equips them with the skills to navigate ethical challenges. Body cameras serve as a vital tool for accountability, providing evidence for investigations and deterring misconduct by ensuring interactions are recorded.

Regular financial audits and transparent budgeting practices are critical to uncover and prevent the misuse of departmental funds, while community involvement, such as citizen review boards and oversight committees, adds an external layer of accountability. These mechanisms not only build trust between law enforcement and the communities they serve but also ensure that police actions align with public expectations.

In addition, early intervention systems and strict consequences for corruption help identify and address problematic behaviors before they escalate, promoting a zero-tolerance approach to unethical conduct. Strengthening whistleblower protections encourages internal accountability by safeguarding officers who report misconduct. Periodic external reviews conducted by independent bodies further enhance transparency by providing unbiased assessments of police practices and recommending necessary reforms.

By integrating these measures, police departments and communities can collaboratively create a fairer and more just system. This holistic approach not only reduces opportunities for corruption but also strengthens public trust, ensuring that law enforcement operates with integrity and serves the best interests of society.

# **CONCLUSION**

Examining the problem of police corruption reveals that it is still a complicated and multidimensional issue that erodes public confidence, skews the legal system, and feeds cycles of wrongdoing within law enforcement. Police corruption is frequently the result of systemic shortcomings, such as insufficient oversight, insufficient accountability procedures, and cultural dynamics that allow unethical behavior to continue. It is not just a matter of individual misconduct.  
  
Beyond the immediate victims, police corruption has far-reaching effects that weaken social cohesiveness and impede the development of equitable law enforcement. The very foundations of justice and equality are undermined when those tasked with upholding the law commit corrupt acts, which breeds cynicism and impunity among both officers and citizens.

A comprehensive strategy that includes strong accountability frameworks, structural reforms, and a determined effort to uphold professionalism and integrity within law enforcement organizations is needed to combat police corruption. Rebuilding trust and ensuring that police forces fulfil their intended role as guardians of public safety and rights require transparency, community involvement, and independent oversight bodies.

Furthermore, corruption can be considerably decreased by establishing an ethical corporate culture that includes thorough training programs, equitable pay, and a zero-tolerance policy for wrongdoing. However, societal commitment, political will, and cooperation between the public and private sectors are required to support such measures.

In the end, fighting police corruption is a shared duty that necessitates advocacy, vigilance, and an unwavering commitment to justice rather than just being the responsibility of law enforcement organizations. Societies can create policing systems that adhere to their core principles of justice, accountability, and public service by tackling the underlying causes and enacting long-lasting reforms.

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