

# Research evidence for the relationship between corruption and civil liberties

Transparency International

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## Theory

Corrupt individuals have proven very adept at finding ways to get around formal constraints, which is why grassroots and bottom-up approaches to fighting corruption tend to be more sustainable in the long run than isolated institutional and legal reform. Often, well-intentioned laws are poorly enforced and institutions lack the “teeth” to make anti-corruption efforts truly effective. Civil society and media are essential in applying pressure and keeping governments honest and accountable.

Freedom of association, or the ability of people to form groups and influence public policy, is vital to anti-corruption. CSOs play a key role in denouncing violations of rights or speaking out against breaches of law. Similarly, a free and independent media serves an important function in investigating and reporting incidences of corruption. The voices of both civil society and journalists put a spotlight on bad actors and can help trigger action by law enforcement and the court system.

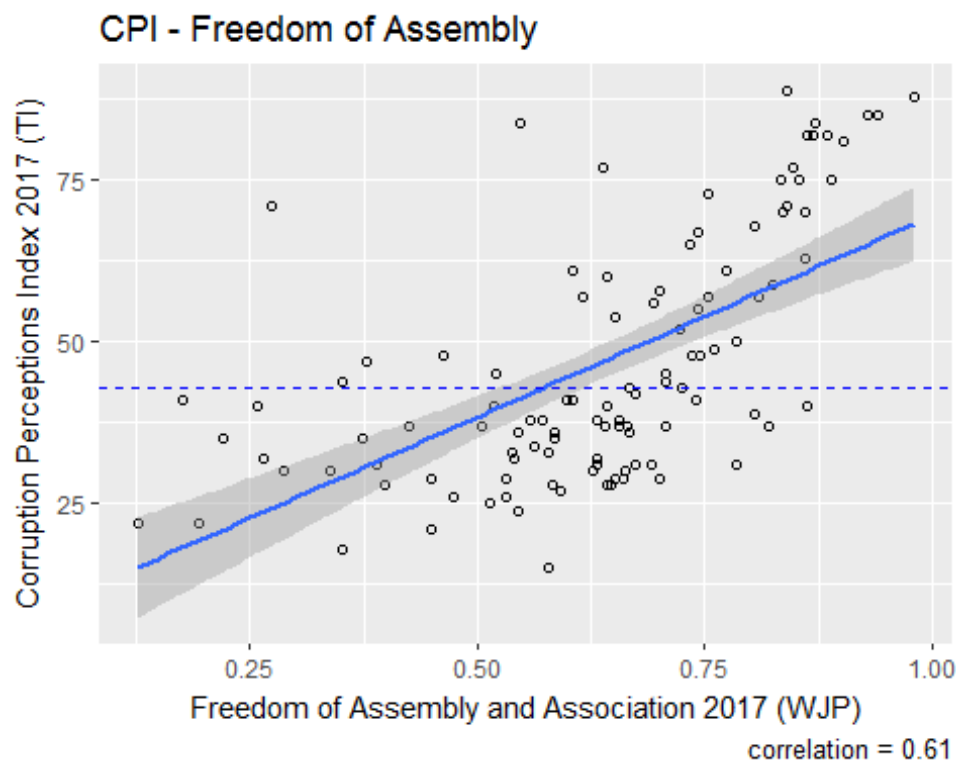
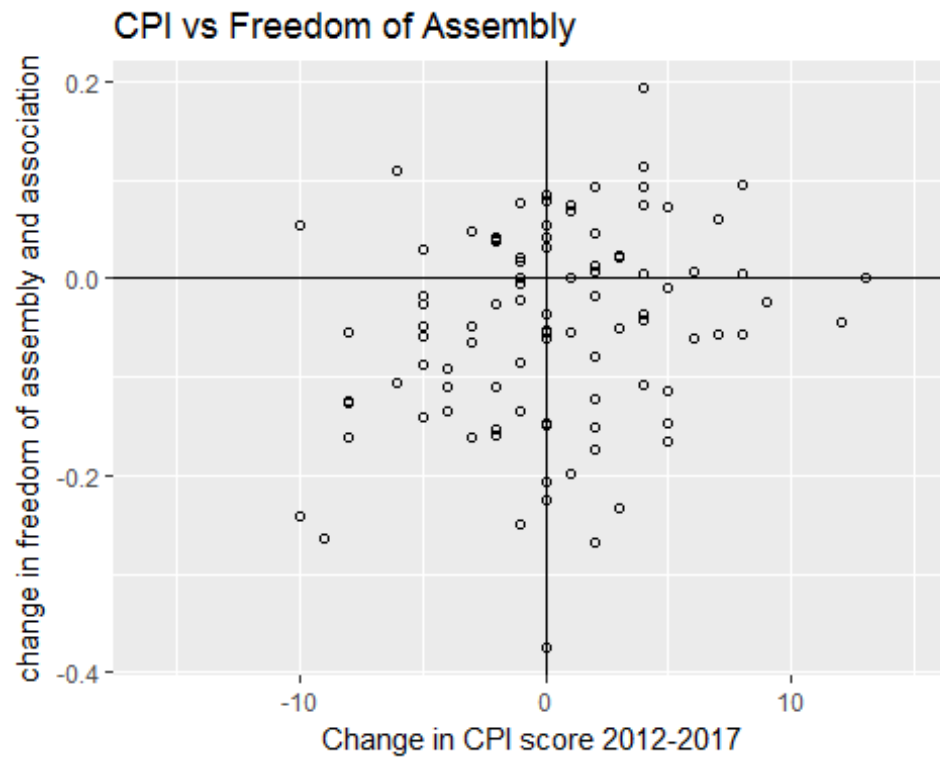
## Freedom of Assembly and Association

Taken from the World Justice Project.

Measures whether people can freely attend community meetings, join political organizations, hold peaceful public demonstrations, sign petitions, and express opinions against government policies and actions without fear of retaliation

A good way to operationalize the concept of civic space.

Correlation with CPI2017: 0.61 and statistically significant



## Press Freedoms

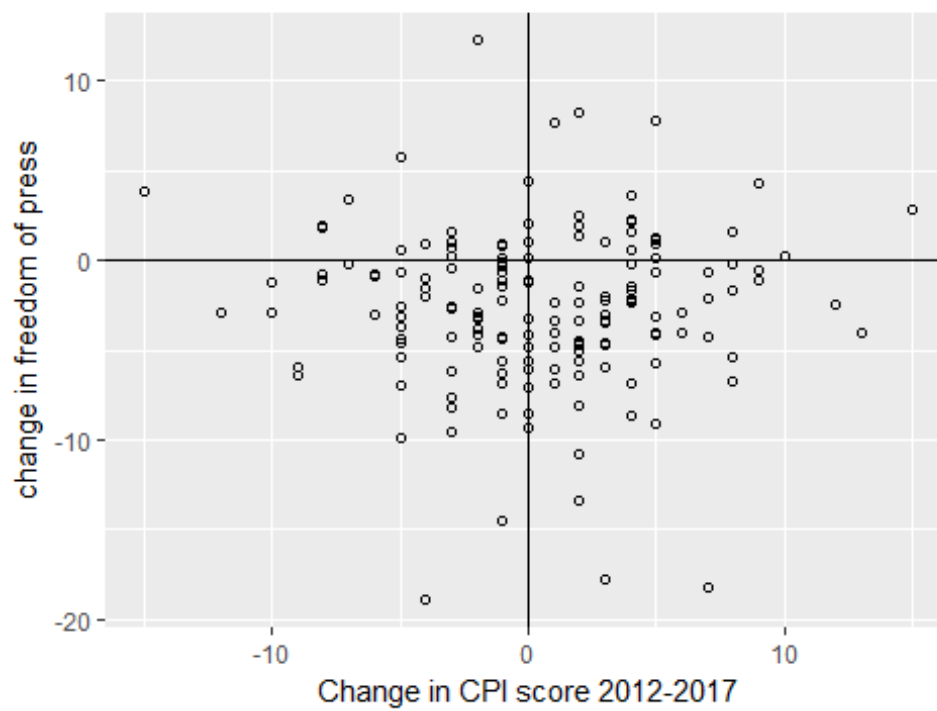
Taken from Reporters without Borders.

- Degree to which opinions are represented in the media.
- Degree to which the media are able to function independently of sources of political, governmental, business and religious power and influence.
- The environment in which news and information providers operate.
- The impact of the legislative framework governing news and information activities.
- Measures the transparency of the institutions and procedures that affect the production of news and information.
- Measures the quality of the infrastructure that supports the production of news and information.
- Measures the level of abuses and violence.

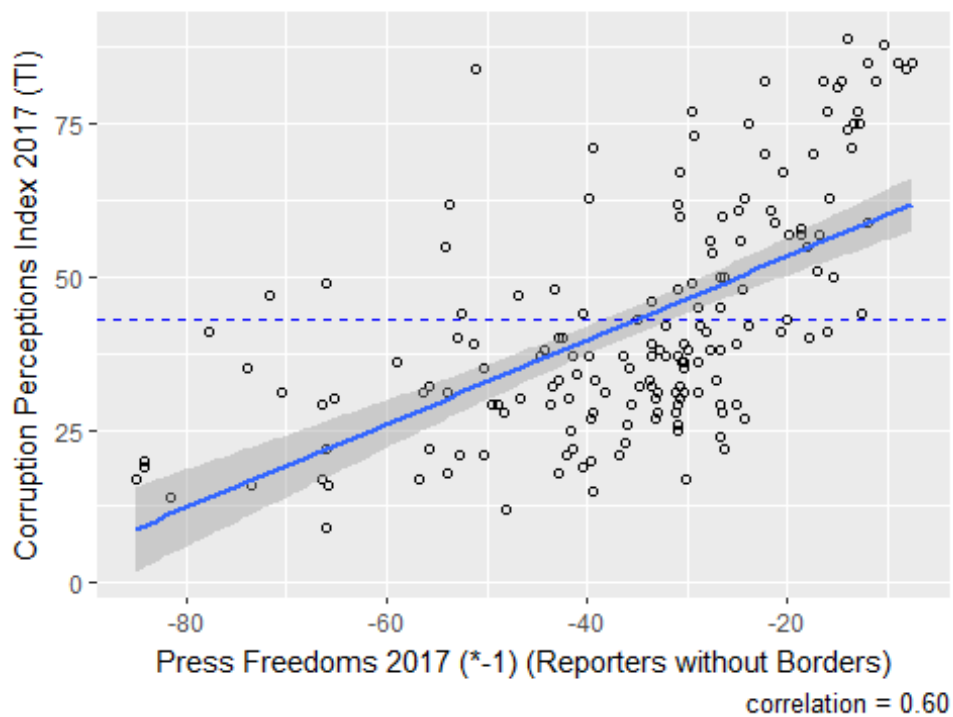
A good way to operationalize the ability of journalists to speak up.

Correlation with CPI2017: 0.60 and statistically significant

CPI vs Freedom of press



CPI - Press Freedoms



## Freedom of Expression

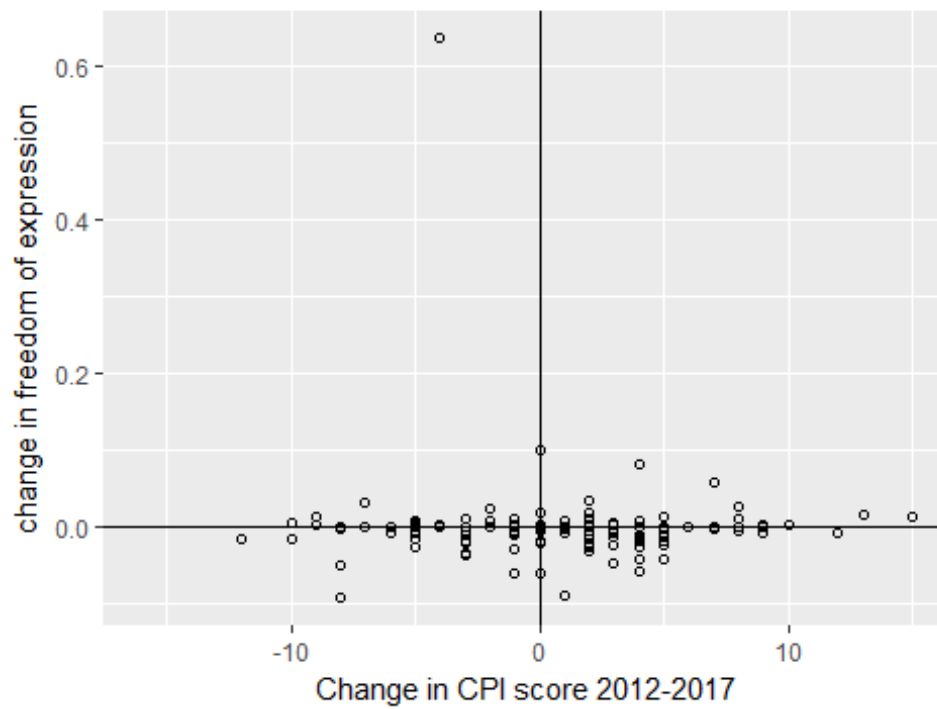
Taken from Varieties of Democracy.

To what extent does government respect press & media freedom, the freedom of ordinary people to discuss political matters at home and in the public sphere, as well as the freedom of academic and cultural expression?

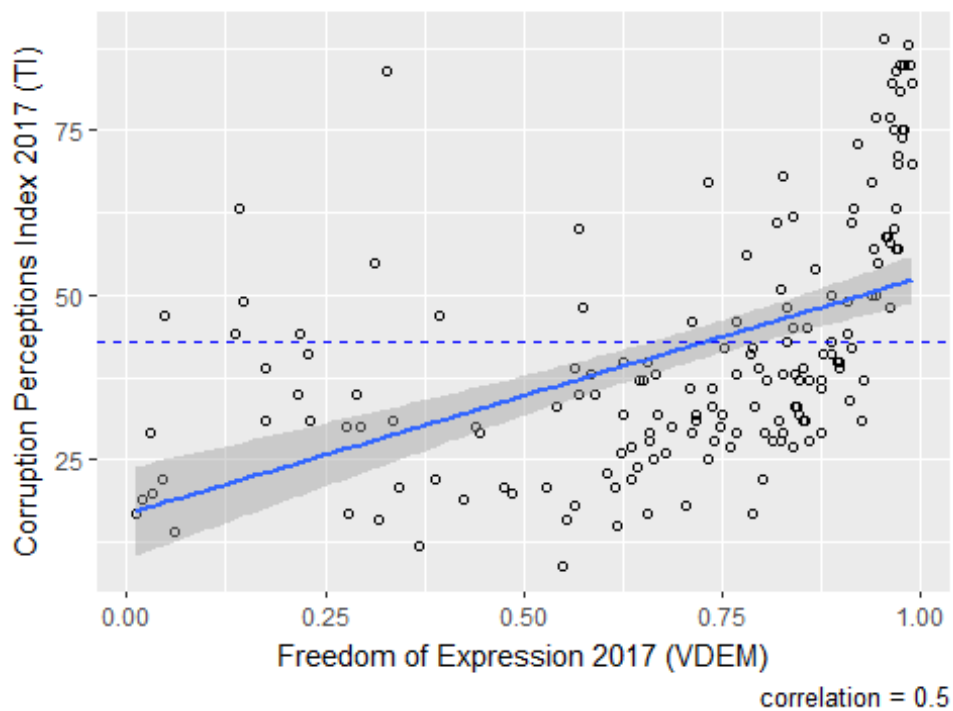
A good way to operationalize the concept of ability to speak up.

Correlation with CPI2017: 0.50 and statistically significant

CPI vs Freedom of expression



CPI - Freedom of Expression



## Civil Society Participation

Taken from Varieties of Democracy.

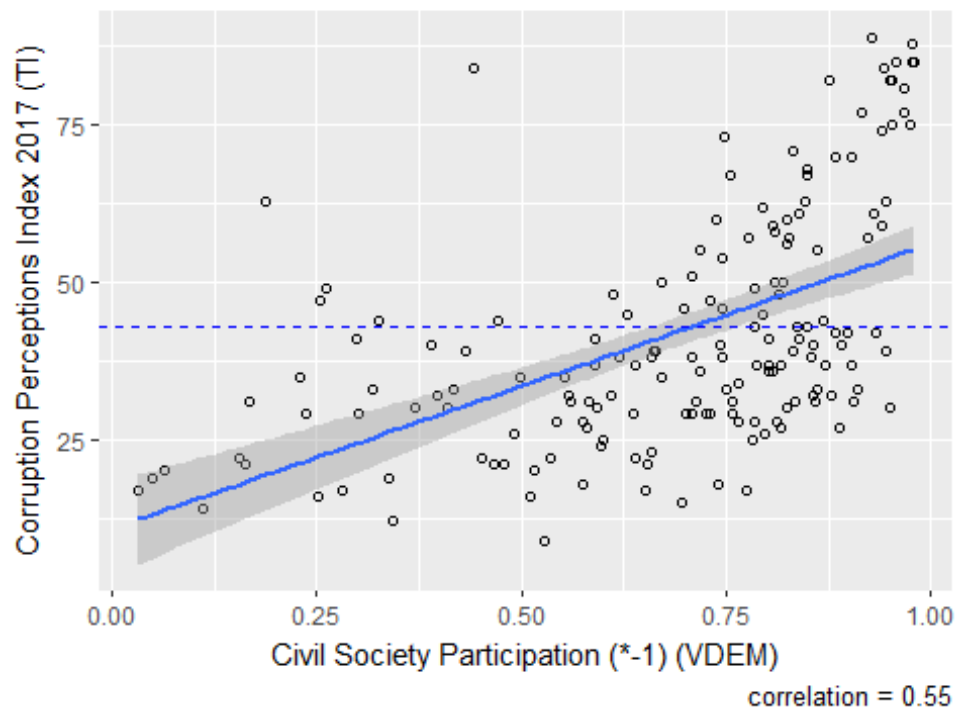
Are major CSOs routinely consulted by policymakers; how large is the involvement of people in CSOs; are women prevented from participating; and is legislative candidate nomination within party organization highly decentralized or made through party primaries?

A good way to operationalize the concept of civic space.

Correlation with CPI2017: 0.54 and statistically significant

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## [1] 0.5396582
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CPI - Civil Society Participation



CPI vs Civil Society Participation

