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High Tide: From Alderman Bids Adieu To Assad's Luxury Lifestyle

By Samuel Rubinfeld

A roundup of corruption-related news from Dow Jones and other sources. You can also receive a newsletter version of Corruption Currents [here](#).



Mike Lucas

Bribery:

Richard Alderman, director of the U.K. Serious Fraud Office, [steps down](#) Friday after a four-year tenure at the helm of an office wrought with diplomatic pressure despite an enhanced enforcement mandate. (Bloomberg)

A former Democratic Party treasurer in Indonesia [received](#) four years and 10 months in prison for his role in a bribery scandal. The party said it “[respects](#)” the sentence. More [here](#) and [here](#). (Jakarta Post, Jakarta Globe, ABC News, AFP)

Panama's president [denied](#) allegations that an Italian businessman tied to a sex scandal involving Silvio Berlusconi offered his government bribes. (Inside Costa Rica)

The FCPA Blog [notices](#) graft in China's certification industry and [picks up](#) an op-ed from Alexandra Wrage. Tom Fox [finds the holy grail](#) of adequate procedures principles. The FCPAProfessor [toasts Alderman](#). The FCPAmericas blog [wants young blood](#) to fuel anti-corruption reform in Colombia. A [roundup of client alerts](#) from JDSupra's Tumblr.

Is it bribery when a lobbyist [pays for access](#) to a member of Congress? (NPR)

Are you [complacent](#) about U.K. Bribery Act compliance? (Shoosmiths)

More coverage of the hearing in the Mohamed bin Hammam case is [here](#). Another look at the sentencing memo from former New York State Sen. Carl Kruger is [here](#). (AP, City & State)

The Wrage piece on great expectations from compliance programs is [here](#). (Corporate Counsel)

Money Laundering:

Rules to prevent money laundering [aren't foolproof](#). (Bergen Record)

A senior fellow at the Cato Institute [argues](#) that a World Bank study shows anti-money laundering programs hurt the poor. (Forbes)

It's been a year since [the Black Friday crackdown](#) on online poker. (Online Casino Reports)

The political scandal surrounding the death of a British businessman in China has [cast a spotlight](#) on how Chinese make and spend ill-gotten gains. More [here](#). (Guardian, Global Post)

Sanctions:

The luxurious lifestyle of Bashar al-Assad and his wife will be the next target of European Union sanctions, diplomats [said](#). Leaders in the U.S., France and their allies said the United Nations plan is the [last chance for peace](#) in Syria, and they threatened further measures if Damascus doesn't comply. (AFP, Wall Street Journal)

The U.S. said it [takes China at its word](#) that it abides by sanctions imposed on North Korea after a report saying the country provided technology used in a failed rocket launch. More [here](#) and [here](#). (AFP, BBC, LA Times)

Iran's oil minister once again [threatened](#) to cut off oil sales to Europe ahead of a planned embargo that goes into effect in July. A deputy minister said ending a subsidy due to sanctions [saved the nation \\$10 billion](#) last year. (AP, Dow Jones)

Transparency:

An attendee at the Open Government Partnership meeting [shared his thoughts](#) on what transpired there this week. (Eaves.ca)

General Anti-Corruption:

Dozens of corruption investigations within the Department of Homeland Security are [getting a fresh look](#) from federal officials. (Center for Investigative Reporting)

Corruption is [widespread in Quebec](#), the head of the province's anti-corruption unit said, noting the unit has 17 ongoing investigations. More [here](#) and [here](#). (Globe and Mail, CTV.ca, Winnipeg Free Press)

Ukraine's jailed former prime minister, Yulia Tymoshenko, [went on trial](#) for fresh charges of corruption and she faces up to 12 more years in prison if convicted. (Reuters)