

High Tide: From Iran Aiding Syria To Pakistan PM's Court Appearance

By Samuel Rubinfeld

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

Bribery:

Pleading guilty costs money: Former New York State Sen. Carl Kruger [spent more than \\$1 million](#) from his campaign account on legal fees, prison consultants and financial planners before pleading guilty to bribery. (City & State NY)

The FCPA Blog [runs a response](#) by the original author of a paper the day after publishing a critique of that paper, and [talks](#) to the defense lawyer for John O'Shea. The FCPA Professor [revisits](#) a compliance defense and [analyzes](#) the Marubeni enforcement action. Thebriberyact.com [explains](#) what the Mabey & Johnson recovery of dividends really means. Mike Volkov [discusses](#) anti-corruption risks for private equity pertaining to portfolio companies. The FCPA Americas blog [calls](#) a Mexican delay in the implementation of the OECD anti-bribery convention the "mañana syndrome." James McGrath [tells you what to do](#) when the internals don't hurt.

Two Filipino-Americans [pleaded not guilty](#) in a corruption scandal rocking a San Diego County school system. More [here](#). (GMA News, ABS-CBN News)

Wilmer-Hale reviews 2011 and previews this year in its latest [client alert](#) (pdf). K&L Gates [published](#) its 2012 outlook. Covington & Burling's [client alert](#) (pdf) discusses the Mabey & Johnson case. Bryan Cave has a [client alert](#) about dividends at risk due to bribes.

The Cato Institute is [worried sick](#) about what it calls runaway prosecutors pursuing FCPA cases.

Richard Alderman, outgoing head of the U.K. Serious Fraud Office, would like [broader crime definitions](#) so the agency's work could be improved (FT Adviser)

The sentencing of a former Secaucus mayor for taking a bribe has been [postponed](#) until March. (Bergen Record)

Montenegro's sale of its telecom still [haunts the place](#) years later. (SE Times)

Money Laundering:

The U.K. [dropped](#) one of the corruption charges lodged against a former Nigerian state governor. (All Africa)

Zambia's former first lady was [summoned](#) to face money-laundering allegations. She doesn't appear to have been contacted for comment. More [here](#). (Bernama, Africa Review)

Pakistan [arrested](#) 13 currency dealers on money-laundering charges. They don't appear to have been contacted for comment. (Express Tribune)

In less than a month, Rwandan authorities [intercepted](#) Rwf714 million in suspicious funds at the airport. (All Africa)

Sanctions:

U.S. officials [uncovered an effort](#) by Iran to help it mask oil exports and evade embargoes by America and Europe. France [sees](#) new European Union sanctions against Iran coming by next week. China's premier [defended](#) its country's vast oil trade with Iran while stressing its help in preventing Tehran from acquiring nuclear weapons. Japan's government is [not yet talking](#) to refiners about cutting oil imports. More [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#). (Wall Street Journal, Reuters, AFP, Bloomberg, Guardian, Dow Jones Newswires *sub req*, Reuters, AFP, Bloomberg)

Sanctions are [threatening the production](#) of Iran's first thermal power plant. Meanwhile, Iran [said](#) it's ready to talk about its nuclear program, though the U.S. had no proof of that. The U.S. [rejects the notion](#) from Israel that its sanctions program has been ineffective. More [here](#), [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#). (The National, Wall Street Journal, Haaretz, Reuters, BBC, Commentary, EU Observer)

Could the economic downturn in Syria caused by sanctions [hurt worse](#) than the crackdown by the Bashar al-Assad regime? Time is [running out](#) on the mandate for the Arab League monitors. More [coverage](#) of planned new EU sanctions. China says the Arab League has been [effective](#) so far. More [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#). (Al Jazeera, Reuters, CNN, AFP, Global Post, BBC, Al Arabiya)

Much of the assets tied to the regime of Zein al-Abidine Ben Ali and his associates is [still inaccessible](#) to the new Tunisian government. (Financial Times *sub requi*)

Transparency:

Ethisphere [announced](#) its top-100 influential people in business ethics for 2011.

Malaysia's anti-graft agency is going to [monitor](#) the declaration of assets by judges. (TrustLaw)

Angola's government [denied a report](#) by Human Rights Watch that \$32 billion is missing that is said to be linked with the state's oil company. (Reuters)

General Anti-Corruption:

Pakistan's prime minister [appeared](#) at a contempt hearing, during which the supreme court said the country's president could lose his immunity from prosecution of corruption. The contempt ruling was [adjourned](#). More [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#). (Al Jazeera, Reuters, NY Times, Guardian, McClatchy)

Peru's vice president [resigned](#) amid a corruption probe but had, as of earlier this week, held onto his seat in the Congress. More [here](#) and [here](#). (Reuters, Global Post, Univision News)

Chinese bureaucrats [like their cars fancy](#). An uprising in Wukan [exposed](#) corruption underlining the Chinese system. China was [warned](#) about corruption by a rising star in the People's Liberation Army. More [here](#). (Ottawa Citizen, Vancouver Sun, Sydney Morning Herald, China Daily)

India's Odisha state "[set a record of sorts](#)" in enforcing corruption. A fund manager gives some perspective on [corruption risks](#) in investing in India. Another view is [here](#). (Odissa Diary, Daily Telegraph, Reuters Breakingviews)

Albania's Supreme Court [acquitted](#) a former prime minister of corruption charges connected to a state hydropower contract. More [here](#). (AP, Reuters)

As an investigation into alleged campaign finance violations by New York City Comptroller John Liu continues, his fundraising [dries up](#). More [here](#). (Wall Street Journal, NY Times)

The latest on a corruption trial against Toronto cops is available [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#). (CBC News, Postmedia News, CBC News)

Bahrain may [set up](#) an anti-corruption panel. (Gulf Daily)

Nigeria's anti-corruption officers [raided the offices](#) of the agency that oversees the sale of fuel. Activists [say](#) corruption at the agency is what sparked protests recently, though they also say the unions that led them have been compromised. (BBC, Sahara Reporters)

If the West is really serious about combating corruption in the rest of the world, it can start by cleaning up its own act, according to [this column](#). (Foreign Policy)

A Maldivian judge was [arrested](#) for alleged corruption. He had, as of the report, not yet commented. (BBC)

Can you make a film about corruption in Africa and [not be corrupted](#)? (The Independent)