

CURTAILING CORRUPTION

People Power for Accountability and Justice

FICHA LIMPA
POR UM BRASIL MELHOR.



CORRUPTION IS -

the misuse of entrusted power for private gain.

Transparency International

a system of abuse of entrusted power for private, collective, or political gain – often involving a complex, intertwined set of relationships, some obvious, others hidden, with established vested interests, that can operate vertically within an institution or horizontally cut across political, economic and social spheres in a society or transnationally.

...the external manifestation of the denial of a right, an entitlement, a wage, a medicine...

Aruna Roy, Co-founder, Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan (MKSS) movement

Research project ...

30 nonviolent movements, campaigns, organized grass-roots initiatives → 16 cases, millions of people, around the world

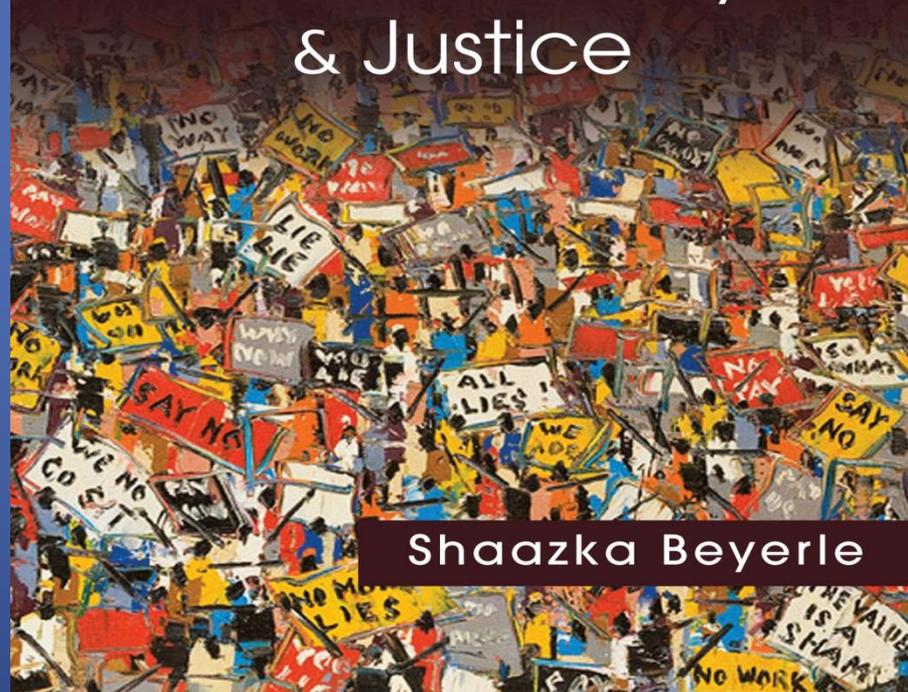
Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Brazil, Egypt, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Italy, Kenya, Mexico, Philippines, Russia, South Korea, Turkey, and Uganda.

NOW MORE... Cambodia, China, UK, USA



Curtailing Corruption

People Power for
Accountability
& Justice



Shaazka Beyerle

A new ten-year meta-case study analysis of citizenship, participation and accountability concluded:

[citizen engagement] “can make positive differences, even in the least democratic settings – a proposition that challenges the conventional wisdom of an institution – and state-oriented approach that relegates opportunities for citizens to engage in a variety of participatory strategies to a more ‘mature’ democratic phase...”



--John Gaventa and Gregory Barrett, “So What Difference Does it Make? Mapping the Outcomes of Citizen Engagement. Institute of Development Studies,” Working Paper, Vol. 2010 No. 347, October 2010.

WHAT IS PEOPLE POWER?

The **CAPACITY** to make our collective voice heard

- is a positive force that constructively confronts and seeks to change injustice, impunity and oppression while pursuing engagement with both powerholders and the public.

A definition:

the social, economic, political and psychological pressure that is exerted by significant numbers of individuals organized together around shared grievances and goals, implementing nonviolent strategies and tactics, such as civil disobedience, non-cooperation, strikes, boycotts, monitoring, petition drives, low-risk mass actions, and demonstrations.



WHAT IS NONVIOLENT ACTION?

The **METHOD** to make our voice heard for transparency, accountability, human rights, justice, and dignity that involves –

- identifying shared grievances and goals
- strategizing, planning, organizing, and communicating
- creating, selecting and sequencing nonviolent tactics.



Tactical range of grass-roots civic initiatives targeting corruption:

- noncooperation
- civil disobedience
- low-risk [mass actions](#) (11.10)
- displays of symbols
- street theatre, visual dramatizations, stunts
- songs, poetry, cultural expressions
- humor
- dilemma actions
- services “report cards” and candidate “report cards”
- [monitoring](#) of officials, institutions, budgets, spending, public services (16.10)
- information gathering, Right to Information procedures
- social audits and [“face the people”](#) fora (14.1)
- social networking technologies (e.g., FB, blogging, SMS, e-petitions, Twittering)
- education and [training](#) (6.10)
- social and economic empowerment initiatives
- youth recreation
- creation of parallel institutions
- anti-corruption [pledges](#), citizen-sponsored awards
- protests, petitions, vigils, marches, sit-ins
- strikes, boycotts, reverse boycotts
- nonviolent blockades
- nonviolent accompaniment.



Dynamics of Civil Resistance to Curb Corruption

DISRUPTION -

disrupts activities, practices, dishonest relationships, and the overall status quo within systems of corruption and illicit financial flows

[Interrupts “business as usual” and changes behavior]



PRESSURE –

applies nonviolent pressure through the **power of numbers** – people raising their collective voice over shared demands, on corruptors who (up to that point) have been unwilling to change the venal status quo;

[Pushes governments, non-state actors and international bodies (e.g. G8) to change policies, and enact/implement legal and administrative measures]



ENGAGEMENT -

wins people over/shifts loyalties/produces “defections” from: the public; government(s); financial sector; multilateral institutions, and international groupings (e.g., G20).



[Not everyone is equally loyal – corruptible – wedded to the corrupt system!]

UNDERLYING WEAKNESS OF TRADITIONAL, TOP-DOWN APPROACHES TO CURBING CORRUPTION

Assumption –

once anti-corruption structures are put in place, illicit practices will change

- But how can all those benefitting from corruption be the ones to curb it?

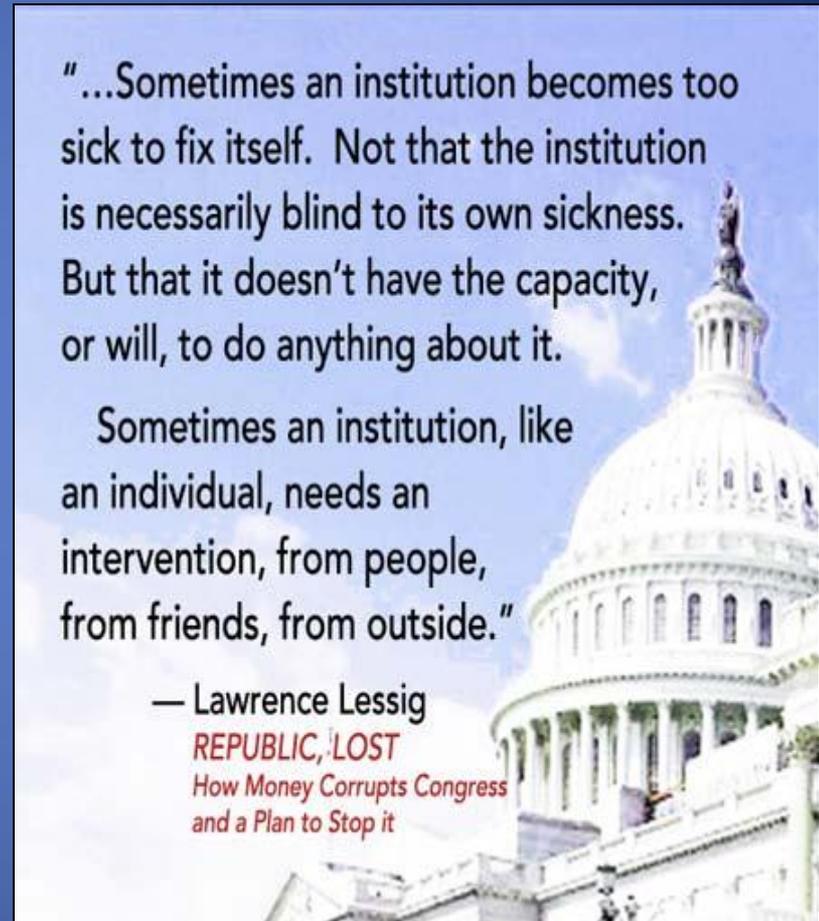
“...Sometimes an institution becomes too sick to fix itself. Not that the institution is necessarily blind to its own sickness. But that it doesn’t have the capacity, or will, to do anything about it.

Sometimes an institution, like an individual, needs an intervention, from people, from friends, from outside.”

— Lawrence Lessig

REPUBLIC, LOST

*How Money Corrupts Congress
and a Plan to Stop it*



STRATEGIC DIMENSION OF PEOPLE POWER TO CURB ILLICIT FINANCIAL FLOWS AND CORRUPTION

- adds *extra-institutional pressure* to push for change, when state and non-state powerholders are:

- indifferent to civic demands
- beholden to special interests
- corrupt and/or unaccountable
- have entrenched vested interests
- and institutional channels are blocked or ineffective.



Top-down and bottom-up approaches are complementary (not mutually exclusive).

People power movements and campaigns can:

- Empower and protect honest officials and integrity champions pursuing accountability, reform and change from within the system
- Empower and protect honest state and non-state powerholders who are caught in the system, feel outnumbered, and fear repercussions if they don't go along with the others



- Disrupt vertical and horizontal forms of corruption
- Create political will to enact policies, laws and administrative mechanisms to curb illicit financial flows and/or to implement them
- Contribute to changing behaviors, practices and general norms regarding corruption and, potentially, illicit financial flows.

4 Principles 4 Success

1) UNITY

- People
- Grievances
- Goals



Making Budgets Work:
People's Views, More Information,
Better Decisions

2) PLANNING

- Organisation
- Strategy
- Tactics (actions)



3) NV DISCIPLINE

4) COLLECTIVE OWNERSHIP/ RESPONSIBILITY





Thank You

