

Ethics and Corruption Empirical study in the Libyan Police Force

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Abstract: The purpose of this paper is to examine the relationship between corruption and ethics among members of the police force in Libya. An explanation of this relationship offers possible solutions to reduce and ultimately eradicate the corruption. Results indicated significant relationship between ethics and corruption in the Libyan police force; this will enhance police management efforts in fighting against corruption. In addition, it also aims to improve the integrity of the police in order to enable the police organisation to carry out its duties. This paper is limited to examine the influence of ethics and corruption in the Libyan police force. This paper helps police management by providing useful information the influence of ethics and corruption in the Libyan police organisation and how can they benefit from this information in reducing the opportunity for corruption among members of the police force. This paper fills the current research gap by providing preliminary information on corruption in the Libyan Police Force; this study would be the first attempt to examine the relationship between ethics and corruption in the [LPF].

Key words: Corruption, Police force, Ethics.

Background:

Corruption in Libya:

In the report to the United Nations Program of Governance in Arab countries, called the Corruption Perception Index (CPI), Libya received 2.5 points in 2009, while in 2008 it received 2.6 and was ranked 130th among 180 countries in the world behind Syria, but was in better position than Yemen. In 2008, it was ranked 126th among 180 countries in the world, behind Egypt and Lebanon. In 2007 Libya received 2.5 points and was ranked 131st among 180 countries, tied with Iran, Yemen, and slightly ahead of Syria. Libya recorded 2.7 points in 2006 and was ranked 105th together with Iran, among 163 countries. It also ranked 117th among 159 countries in the world and received 2.5 point in 2005; in 2004, 2.5 points and 108th among 146 countries in the world while it received 2.1 point in 2003 and ranked 118th among 133 countries in the world [see Figures 1.1, 1.2] (POGAR, 2009).

Transparency International issued its annual report on the CPI in 2010, and Libya was given 2.2 points and ranked 146th among 178 countries on the CPI (Transparency International, 2010). In 2011 Arab Spring countries—and many Eurozone countries, particularly those affected by the financial crisis—are doing worse and worse, based on a recent report issued by Transparency International on the CPI, according to which Libya scored 2 points and ranked 168 amongst 182 countries in the world (Transparency International, 2011). The above maintained countries ranks and scores for Corruption Perceptions Index is based on how corrupt their public sector is perceived to be.

The perceived level of corruption on public sector indicated on a scale of 0 - 10, where 0 means that a country is Malaysia.

The perceived level of corruption on public sector indicated on a scale of 0 - 10, where 0 means that a country is perceived as highly corrupt and 10 means that a country is perceived as very clean. Ranks indicate a country position relative to the other countries included in the index. The reports published by Transparency International show the increasing perception of corruption in Libya from 2003 to 2011. This indicates a serious corruption problem in Libya that must be addressed to build public safety, stability, and development.

Unfortunately, the police force in Libya also faces a serious corruption problem. There is little literature or empirical study describing these practices. Most of the information about police corruption in Libya is available in daily newspapers (electronic and paper) published in Libya. The Departments of Research and the Studies of Organization for Transparency Libya and the Libya Human and Political Development Forum (2007) have undertaken joint studies and discussed the results of a questionnaire on corruption in the regime, state institutions, and people's organizations in Libya in 2006. Respondents ranked the police force highest in their perception of the spread of corruption. The Transparency Libya Team (2009) uncovered an increase in extortion at all levels. How many citizens or businessmen have been the victims of this type of extortion from a senior officer in Security? For example, a traffic officer might stop drivers and seize their drivers' licenses or car-related documents; extortion would take the form of swapping the license for money, cigarettes, or a sandwich. Transparency Libya published

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information on a range of corrupt practices committed by a chief of police, which included bribery, embezzlement, nepotism, and extortion (Transparency Libya, 2010). According to the newspaper *Libya Quryna* (2010), as confirmed by the Secretary of the General People's Committee for Public Security, the police force in Libya is suffering falsification, and the spread of corrupt practices such as cronyism (*wasta*), nepotism, bribery, and "courtesy." Because of the lack of research into the police force, this study will be the first attempt to examine the relationship between ethics, and corruption in the LPF.

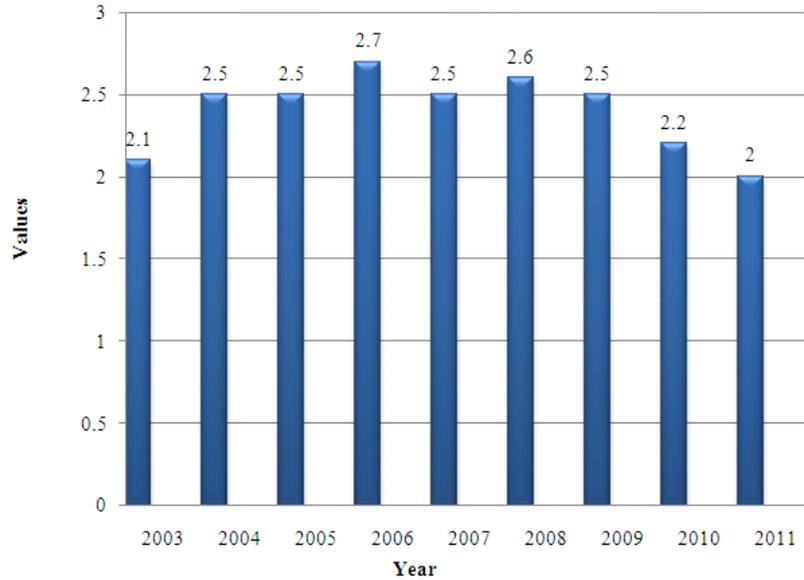


Fig. 1.1: Libya Corruption Statistics.
Source: United Nations Program of Governance in Arab Countries (POGAR, 2009).

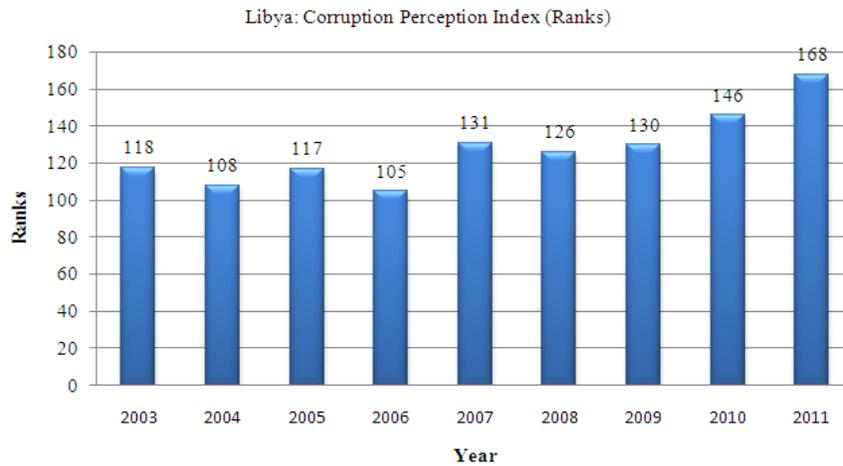


Fig. 1.2: Libya Corruption Statistics.
Source: United Nations Program of Governance in Arab Countries (POGAR, 2009).

Police Ethics:

Terrance A. Johnson and Raymond W. Cox III (2005) conducted a study on police ethics: organizational implications note that law enforcement organizations must embrace ethics as a critical tool for effective decision making. An ethical agenda in ethic’s training for officers begin at the academy, but it is more than simply adding more hours of classes on ethics. It begins by emphasizing the importance of judgment and decision making equal to the need to be a physical presence in the community. Ethical practice must be reinforced in the workplace. The culture of being above the law ends only when organizational leaders enforce rules against corrupt behavior and then recognize the right behavior. Corruption cannot survive a scrutiny, nor can it live, if the organization itself is an opposition to it.

D.O. Adebayo (2006) discusses ethical attitudes and pro-social behavior in the Nigerian police using multiple regression analyses. A total of 163 of the Nigerian police force represented the sample size of the study. In this study, results indicated that to the disclose an opposite relationship between unethical attitudes and pro-social behavior among police officers with high or average levels perceived organizational support and public recognition, while among police officers with low levels perceived organizational support and public recognition there was a positive relationship between unethical attitudes and the pro-social behavior.

Mike Dowie (2009) discusses ethics and integrity in the Hong Kong police force and realized the importance of promoting ethical standards to the police members in the fight against corruption at every level, because without ethical values, everything the police are doing is a flaw. Dowie stated that the Hong Kong police force expects all members to be aware of the need to comply with the forces values. Therefore, the police have sought to embed ethics and police integrity as core policing philosophies throughout the entire organization. Also, to reduce the risk of corruption Hong Kong police force had encouraged all the officers to report any suspected malpractice and corruption involving other members of the police force. Officers making such reports will be encouraged to avail themselves of the service of a support officer, who will be assigned to provide moral and practical support.

Louise Westmarland (2010) analyzed a data from a survey of police officers who were asked about their attitudes towards police corruption, unethical behavior and minor infringements of police rules. The study found that most of the officers regarded on certain actions, such as those involving the acquisition of goods or money, as much worse than behavior involving illegal brutality or bending of rules in order to protect colleagues from criminal proceedings. Moreover, officers view acquisitive crime such as taking money or property as very serious and not acceptable, even if the amount of money is relatively small, such as in the case of the late serving pub, illicit speeding fine or repair shop backhanders. This is the behavior they would be quite likely to report on. Other behaviors, such as excessive force and bending the law to protect a drunk driving colleague which is considered as serious, but they would be less likely to report on it than some of the larger financially rewarding corrupted behavior.

Methodology:

Design and Sampling:

The researcher personally administered the questionnaire. While the questionnaire will be written in English, because Arabic is the respondents' language, it will have to be translated to tap the respondent's attitudes, perceptions, and feelings. A questionnaire is the best way to collect data in a short period of time, and the researcher has the opportunity to introduce the research issues and motivate the respondents to offer frank answers. It is also less expensive and consumes less time than interviews (Sekaran, 2003). The study used a probability sampling procedure. Specifically, stratified random sampling was used because of the differentiated information required regarding various strata and parameters within the population. This method is considered the most efficient among all probability designs. Libya is a country with a population of 6.3 million (International Monetary Fund, 2011) and has about 120,000 police members. Sekaran (2003) simplified the size decision by providing a table that ensures a good decision model, which provides a generalized scientific guideline for sample size decisions. This table indicates that when $N=1,000,000$, $S=384$; this is the last number in his table for sample size decisions, where N is the total number of the target population and S is the sample size for the target population. In this study 384 were chosen as sample size based on estimating our target population according to the above-mentioned standard.

Measurement of Variables:

The dependent variable in this study is **police corruption**. A total of 36 items were used in this study to measure the dependent variable, adopted from Almir Maljevic, *et al.* (2006). The Cronbach's Alpha scale in the sample of police officers has very high reliability, above of 0.78. **Ethics** was estimated using measures adopted from Adebayo's study (2005) of ethical attitudes and prosocial behavior in the Nigerian police. A total of 21 items were used to measure the independent variables. This construct will be appropriate for this study because it was conducted in the field of policing. The Cronbach's Alpha scale reported 0.71.

Results:

Multiple Regression analysis:

The descriptive table above shows the mean and standard deviation (M (SD)) of all the variables in the study. Standard multiple regression reveal a significance relationship the independent and dependent variables. Ethics

scores high mean which was (4.08) and standard deviation was (0.345). The dependent variable, police corruption has mean score of 3.67(0.180). The respondents were 384 in total.

Table 1: Descriptive Statistics for all variables

	Mean	SD	N
Police corruption	3.6682	.17961	384
Ethics	4.0820	.34460	384

Correlations Between Independent and Dependent Variables:

The next output table above was the correlations between all the variables. From the table, the researcher can detect which of the variables that shows a significant correlation. They were shown as colored values.

Table 2: Correlations between variables.

		Police corruption	Ethics
Pearson Correlation	Police corruption	1.000	.168
	Ethics	.168	1.000
Sig. (1-tailed)	Police corruption	.	.000
	Ethics	.000	.
N = 384			

The researcher can determined that the dependent variable, police corruption were significantly correlated to the independent variable ($p < 0.05$). The result of the correlations can be reported as below;

Police corruption and Ethics, $r = 0.168$, $p < 0.05$.

From the results above, police corruption has a positive relationships with the independent variable (Ethics). Results of the correlational analysis reports that corruption and ethics are highly correlated, $r = 0.168$. The closer the r value to 1, the stronger the relationship.

Table 3: Coefficients Table between all Independent variables.

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	2.894	.204		14.209	.000
	Ethics	.102	.026	.195	3.919	.000
Dependent Variable: Police Corruption						

The next part of the output is the Coefficients table; the Coefficients table shows the significance between independent variable and dependent variable (police corruption). The significant values are shaded in color.

The Unstandardized Coefficients B column, gives the coefficients of the independent variable (ethics) in the regression equation.

$$\text{Police corruption} = 2.894 + 0.102 \text{ Ethics}$$

Ethics has high influence on Police Corruption which was (0.102), has been reported in the Standardized Beta Coefficient column. T – tests were performed to test the two-tailed hypothesis that the beta value is significantly higher or lower than zero. From the table, the study hypothesized variable was significant (shown in the colored coefficient table), $p < 0.05$.

As a conclusion, from the multiple regression tests performed to assess the correlation between police corruption and ethics, the study concluded that there was a significant correlation between police corruption and ethics. The variables were correlated to each other ($p < 0.05$).

Discussion and Conclusion:

The current study was designed to examine the influence of ethics on corruption among members of the police force in Libya. The results show a significant positive relationship between corruption and ethics in the Libyan police force. Results of the correlational analysis indicates the significance positive relationship between corruption and ethics ($r = 0.168$, $p < 0.05$), this findings are expected based on research questions and the study hypothesis. This result suggests that among the sample of the Libyan police an increase in reported corruption is associated with unethical behavior. Thus, the Libyan police management must focus in improving ethics training

within members of the police force to enhance in government efforts in reducing the opportunity for corruption. In conclusion, the finding of the study has shown increasing attention in recent decades to the importance of the inclusion of ethical standards to regulations that should be respected by the workers in the public and private organizations to avoid ethics scandals including corruption which has been rising day by day, where neglecting the attention to such ethical issues in the police organization have negative impacts on society as a whole. Because of the police organization plays the importance role in the stability of the society and the protection of lives and property. Future research will be focus in conducting more comprehensive research using questionnaire and interview in investigating the influence of ethics and corruption in the Libyan police.

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