Morocco Public Opinion Survey Report
Draft

The findings reported below are a brief summary of the main findings extracted from the opinion poll carried out by Information International for the benefit of ACRLI during the period between 10/05/06 and 22/05/06. The report contains the following: methodology of the survey, demographics, as well as reports on the judiciary, media, and parliament pillars.

I- Methodology

Eight hundred participants from various areas in Marrakech (23%), Casablanca (63.5%) and Rabat (13.5%) participated in this survey. The survey used a stratified sampling procedure. Gender distribution in the sample was titled in favor of male participants (49.8% male, 49.1% female).

II- Missing Data Analysis

The overall refusal rates reached 18.3% of the participants approached for this survey. The overall pattern of missing responses did not exceed 5%. This indicates that the questionnaire, on the whole, did not create unexpected complications for participants. However, closer attention to the pattern of missing data points to

1- **Item 43** "The parliamentarians endure illegal pressures" had the highest rate of missing data with 23.8% of participants reporting their inability to assess this item. Either participants felt the item to be too sensitive or they did not feel confident enough to provide an assessment on that question.
2- Two items hovered around the 22% rate of missing data. These are **item 28** "To what extent do journalists accept favors/bribes" (21.5%) and **item 39** "A limit for campaign spending is set" (22.8%).

These three items seemed to be the most problematic for our samples. Other items with lower values of missing data may be of interest to authors, and are provided in appendix C, p. 4.

III- Demographics

The following information is presented in percentages.

Gender	Male	49.8
	Female	49.1
	N/A	1.1
Marital status	Married	42.4
	Single	٤٨,٤
	Other (divorced/widowed)	8.2

IV- Reports per pillar: Judiciary

a- General findings

An important finding is that the state of the judiciary in Morocco tends to be negatively evaluated by members of the general public. Out of the 18 specific questions asked, 15 were negatively evaluated (see section c below).

Furthermore, the two tables below indicate that only 28.9% of participants have dealt with the courts in Morocco, while the overwhelming majority (71.1%) have never been to court. Interestingly, of the 28.9% who have had an experience with the court system in Morocco, 51.1% of participants reported having paid or having been asked to pay bribes or honoraries to court staff, while a quarter of participants (25.3%) have reported being asked to bribe the judge presiding the case. Participants seem to be relatively unsatisfied with their judges' performance and their lawyers' level of discretion and honesty. However, they seem to be a little more satisfied with their lawyers' competence.

Have you ever dealt with the courts in your country?	Yes	28.9
	No	71.1
If yes, in which context?	As a plaintiff	٣٣,٣
	As a defendant	٢٧,٧
	As an accused	١٢,١
	As an victim	١٠,٨
	As an witness	١٦,٠
Have you paid or been asked to pay bribes or honoraries to the court staff?	Yes	51.1
	No	48.9
Has anyone asked you to give gifts or pay money to the judge who is presiding your case?	Yes	25.3
	No	74.7

	large extent	**N.**	**small extent**
60. To what extent was your lawyer discreet and honest?	46.4	3.3	50.2
61. To what extent was your lawyer competent in dealing with your case	48.6	5.2	46.2
62. To what extent are you satisfied with the way that the Judge handled your case?	34.8	7.6	57.6
63. To what extent was the judge who was handling your case competent	39.4	7.9	52.7

b- Positive Evaluation: Item analysis

Only two items and one general evaluation question received a favourable evaluation. Judges are perceived to have an acceptable level of personal integrity and have relevant professional skills. These evaluations are reflected in the overall evaluation of the competence of judges in Morocco.

Main dimensions	9. Judges have the relevant professional skills	2.49
	7. Judges are generally perceived as having a high degree of personal integrity	2.95
General evaluation	16. The judges in your country are competent	2.72

Note: Scores represent the average (mean) for each item on a scale from 1 to 5. Scores below 3 reflect a positive evaluation of the item, while scores above 3 reflect a negative evaluation".

c- Negative Evaluation: Item analysis

The table below presents the negatively rated items in rank order of importance. The mean numbers (X) refer to the mean of discontent associated with each item (means higher than 3 indicate a negative evaluation. Scale range: 1 to 5).

		Dim	**X**
Main dimensions	12. Litigations are conducted in a professional and timely manner (without any delays)	Com	4.27
	8. Citizens have easy access to Judicial Rulings	Int	3.99
	10. The cost of litigation in your country is affordable for everybody	Com	3.91
	13. Judgments are enforced in a consistent and effective manner and without external interference	Com	3.91
	11. The court proceedings are managed in a transparent manner	Com	3.76
	4. The judiciary fights corruption wherever it exists	Int	3.74
	5. Court decisions are made in total impartiality (equal treatment and no discrimination)	Int	3.73
	6. The principle of equality before the law is strictly enforced	Int	3.67
	2. Judges who give wrongful rulings are penalized	Ind	3.65
	3. The laws that enhance the integrity of society are implemented accurately and effectively	Int	3.57
	1. Interference and Pressure are exerted on Judges to influence their decision making	ind	3.16

The overall evaluations by participants of the four main dimensions of the state of the judiciary are presented below: generally, participants rated all dimension negatively. Only one overall dimension was rated positively, and was discussed in section b above (competence of judges).

		X
Ge	18. Generally, the judiciary in your country enforces justice	3.68

	15. The judges in your country are honest and are not corrupt	3.59
	17. The judges in your country are impartial when reviewing cases	3.56
	14. The judges in your country are independent and no one influences them	3.31

d- Reform Questions

The questionnaire included a series of "reform" questions to which participants were asked to rate the importance of the need to reform specific dimensions within the judiciary. Participants ranked the reform in the following order:

	X
21. Reforms are needed to enhance the efficiency of the judiciary	1.43
20. Reforms are needed to enhance the judiciary integrity	1.45
19. Reforms are needed to enhance the independence of the judiciary	1.59
22. Reforms are needed to enhance the competence of the judges	1.69

V- Reports per pillar: Media

a- General findings

Overall, participants rated the state of the media somewhat unfavourably. Most items received a negative evaluation and are presented in section b. The table below shows that participants have an extensive use of the media outlets available, such as newspapers, TV, and Radio, with TV sources being the most relied upon for information. Interestingly, the Internet and informal networks of information such as religious and social groups are not relied upon for information.

	large extent	N.	small extent
64. To what extent do you use the Newspapers and Magazines to obtain the information you need	59.7	.9	39.4
65. To what extent do you use the TV to obtain the information you need	86.2	.8	13
66. To what extent do you use the Radio to obtain the information you need	52.2	1.3	46.6
67. To what extent do you use the Internet to obtain the information you need	41.5	1	57.5
68. To what extent do you use the Social and Religious groups to obtain the information you need	34.2	9	56.8
69. To what extent do you use other means to obtain the information you need	No other means were mentioned		

b- Frequencies of specific items

Assessment of individual item responses indicated somewhat a negative evaluation of the state of the media in Morocco. Participants rated 5 items negatively and 4 positively. Specifically, participants perceived the media to be influenced by both governmental and non-governmental sources and journalist seem to have marginally curtailed freedom of expression. Furthermore, the

media is perceived to lack impartiality and balanced reporting, and fails to present diverse political, social or economical news. Detailed findings are reported in the table below.

	large extent	N.	small extent
23. To what extent do journalists enjoy freedom of expression without fear of reprisal	50.4	4.3	45.2
26. To which degree is the media influenced/ pressured by government	59.9	8.4	31.7
27. To which degree is the media influenced/ pressured by non-governmental parties (exp: private corporations, political groups, other social groups)	50.9	10.5	38.6
28. To what extent do journalists accept favors/bribes	36.9	17.2	45.9
29. To what extent does the content of the media reflect the diversity in society	56	4.1	39.8
31. In your opinion, to what extent does the media provide you with impartial and balanced views	42.3	5	52.7
32. In your opinion, to what extent does the media provide you with the diverse political, economic and social views that you need.	44.5	3.8	51.7
33. To what extent does the media hire its employees without discrimination (racial, gender, political)	26.2	10.3	63.5
34. To what extent can you receive the various types of media that interest you (TV, Radio, printed press, internet)	77	2	20.9

Moreover, when asked about the general evaluation of the three main dimensions assessing the state of the media in Morocco, participants favourable evaluated two items and negatively evaluated one.

	X
30. Generally, journalists have sufficient qualifications to perform their duties competently	2.59
25. The media is able to report openly on all types of issues (political, religious, social)	2.93
24. Sanctions against journalists and media organizations are arbitrarily imposed (e.g. denial or suspension of credentials, closure., seizure) (R)	3.09

c- Reform Questions

The questionnaire included a series of "reform" questions in which participants were asked to rate the importance of reform. Reforms were ranked as follow:

	X
37. Reforms are needed to enhance the efficiency of the media	1.36
36. Reforms are needed to enhance the integrity of the media	1.39
35. Reforms are needed to enhance the independence of the media	1.52

VI-Reports per pillar: Participation

a- Negative Evaluation: Item analysis

The overall evaluation of the parliament and participation pillar was negative. Participants rated 12 of the 14 items assessing the state of parliament in a negative fashion.

Interestingly though, 49.8% of surveyed participants indicated that they did participate in the last general parliamentary elections, 47.9% of participants stated they did not participate in the last elections, while 2.4% refrained from answering the question.

b- Item analysis

The state of the parliament in Morocco tends to be negatively evaluated by the participants. Out of the 14 specific items, 13 were negatively evaluated and are presented in rank order in the table below:

	X
42. The parliamentarians in my district interact with their constituents	4.31
48. Parliamentarians do not misuse their posts for illegal benefits	4.25
45. Parliamentarians fight corruption	4.18
39. A limit for campaign spending is set	4.11
44. Parliamentarians monitor all the actions of the ministers	3.90
41. The parliament truly represents the social and political forces in the society	3.87
46. Parliament legislates effectively	3.86
47. Parliamentarians care about issues pertaining to the public	3.86
40. The authority that oversees elections is trusted and impartial	3.77
50. Parliamentarians are competent	3.76
49. The elections in my country are conducted in a free and honest way	3.73

38. Candidates for Parliamentary seats enjoy equal competition chances	3.42

c- Positive Evaluation

Two items were positively evaluated: "All citizens who meet the legal requirements are able to run for parliament" (x = 2.61) and "The parliamentarians do not endure illegal pressures" (x = 2.86).

d- Reform Questions

Participants highlighted the need for reforms in all dimensions of parliament participation and are ranked order in the table below.

	X
54. Reforms are needed to enhance the integrity of the parliament	1.31
55. Reforms are needed to enhance the performance of the parliament	1.34
53. Reforms are needed to enhance the independence of the parliament	1.47
52. Reforms are needed to enhance representation and participation in parliamentary elections	1.57