

**ROLE OF CORRUPTION IN HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION****Barkat Aftab Ahmed Khalid Ahmed****Abstract**

*Corruption nowadays has become a global phenomenon which every society faces though its degree of intensity varies from country to country and region to region. Despite human rights long history, there is no single universally agreed upon definition of corruption which can be substantiated. Furthermore, its causes, forms and impacts are diverse and multi-faceted. Understanding corruption by itself is a confusing and diverse undertaking. However, it is accepted and agreed that corruption is injurious to public administration, undermines democracy, degrades the moral fabrics of the society and violates human rights and social fabric of the society. The pain of corruption touches to all the human beings but it disproportionately affects the vulnerable sections of the society since they are weak and prone to ill effects in a notorious way. It reinforces discrimination, exclusion and arbitrariness prevalent in a society. Corruption is a universal problem undermining universal value-human rights that affects poor and down trodden people in a big way. However, on the contrary, guarantying human rights to each strata of society whether rich or poor in general and ensuring non-discrimination and participation in particular are useful preventive tools for corruption as they ultimately empower the society and create social accountability. The article explores the relationships between corruption and human rights in a broader way. It is argued that, the struggle to promote human rights and the campaign against corruption share a great deal of common ground since they intersect with each other. Both are struggling for the orderly and decent life of humans rooted in dignity and equality which is desired by all the human beings throughout the world. The article concludes the discussion by asserting that a concerted and inclusive approach is essential to overcome the problems of corruption and the violations of human rights prevalent universally.*

**Key Words:** Human Rights Activists, Corruption. Human rights, Human Dignity, Vulnerable Sections of the Society, Anti-Corruption Activists.



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**Introduction**

*Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely.*

*Lord Acton (1834-1902)*

Corruption has existed ever since the mankind grew as one of the worst and, at the same time, most widespread forms of behavior, which is injurious to the administration of public affairs and administration of justice and tranquility. Notwithstanding the long history and the much evident spread of corruption in today's society, it seemed difficult to arrive at a common definition. However, it is a situation where money, power and fame arbitrary use and discrimination talks. People are judged not by what they are but what they have and from where they belong. It is one of the greatest challenges of the modern and contemporary world 'which undermines good government, fundamentally distorts public policy, leads to misallocation of resources, harms the private sector and private sector development, and particularly hurts the poor people and their own interest'. It compels the private sector to engage in rent-seeking activities rather than competitive activities. Nevertheless, corruption hurts more the most vulnerable sections of the society, such as women, children, minorities, indigenous peoples, migrant workers, persons with disabilities, those with HIV/AIDS, refugees, prisoners and those who are poor among the poorest. Corruption is incompatible with the ideals of equality and justice which is universal. It diminishes human dignity and thereby prevents the realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms which ideally should be there in a society. Corruption is proving to be a stumbling block in hampering the global movement for the realization of human rights.

This article first lays down the concept of corruption by discussing its definition, causes, forms and consequences thereto. It then discusses the notion of human rights such as its definition, foundation (if any), nature and categories with a view to make a connection with corruption. The third section explores the relationship between corruption and human rights. Finally, the fourth section concludes the discussion by asserting that an integral approach is essential to overcome the problems of corruption and the violations of human rights around the world.

### **1. Corruption and its Complexities**

*Just as it is impossible not to taste the honey or the poison that finds itself at the tip of the tongue, so it is impossible for a government servant not to eat up, at least a bit of the King's revenue. Just as fish under water cannot possibly be found out either as drinking or not drinking water, so government servants employed in the government work cannot be found out taking money.*<sup>6</sup>

*Kautilya, 300 B.C*

Corruption is more readily condemned than defined and explained. It is a subject of research

by many scholars from various disciplines of line. Nevertheless, disagreements persist not only about how to stem it, but even about its definition, causes, forms and consequences. Such a lack of consensus reflects the complexity of the problem. Defeated by the problems of defining corruption, Justice Potter Stewart asserted that ‘I know it when I see it’. Scholars approach corruption from sociological to moral and economic point of view. Depending upon their concepts, they attribute different meanings, causes, forms and consequences for corruption.<sup>9</sup>

But this article is not attempting to resolve all these complexities of corruption. Instead, it tries to put some conceptual notes about corruption with the objective of making it at the center of human rights discussion in the article’s framework.

**1.1 The Definition of Corruption:** The term “corruption” comes from the Latin word *corruptio* which means “moral decay, wicked behavior, putridity or rottenness”. Defining the concept corruption is not as easy as one recognizes its presence. It varies from region to region and remains largely contextual. As the reasons and effects of corruption are different depending on the context of the country, it is perhaps not surprising that it is difficult to formulate a single comprehensive definition that covers all the manifestations of corruption.

Literature unanimously recognizes that corruption is an ancient, wide spread and pervasive problem,

that continues to be a factor in every-day live around the world, in both developed and Underdeveloped countries. It can be said that corruption is a universal phenomenon without universal definition. Like human rights, the definition of corruption is culturally diverse. For instance, one man’s bribe may be another man’s gift. Even though there is no single universally agreed definition of corruption, it is defined in various ways. Usually corruption is defined as ‘an illegal act that involves the abuse of a public trust or office for some private benefits and gains’, or ‘the misuse of public office for private gain.’. Such definition has two limitations in the current understanding of corruption. It only deals with corruption in the public sector while excluding corruption in the private sector and only covers the beneficiaries of proceeds of corruption while it also covers the act of giving. Transparency International (TI) defines corruption as ‘misuse of entrusted power for private gain’. The TI’s definition is similar with the usual definition except it includes private sector corruption in a broader way. The World Bank (WB) defined corruption as ‘an abuse of public authority for the purpose of acquiring personal gain’. Mc Mullan holds that a public official is corrupt: *If he accepts money or money’s worth for doing something that he is under a duty to do*

*anyway, that he is under a duty not to do, or to exercise a legitimate discretion for improper reasons.*

There is also a definition of corruption in the economics field; for example, Robert Klitgaard has defined corruption in terms of an equation: Corruption = Monopoly Power + Discretion - Accountability. While United Nations Development Program (UNDP) equated as corruption= (Monopoly Power + Discretion) - (Accountability + Integrity + Transparency).

In the legal terms, the term corruption is usually used to group certain criminal acts which correspond to the general notion of an abuse of entrusted power. International conventions against corruption reflect this, since they do not define corruption but instead enumerate criminal acts that lead to corruption.

Defining corruption is immensely difficult to do. But for the purpose of this article, corruption is defined as a misuse of given power for private gain against the rights of others and giving officials undeserved benefit or advantage.

**1.2 The Reasons of Corruption:** Available research reveals that the causes of corruption are diverse and depend on the different environments. TI held that corruption is rearing its ugly head in more and more severe ways due to the softening of social values, with the broader public interest and social responsibility being subordinated to the enhancement of material status in the personal ethics of many. Besides, lack of transparency and accountability in the public integrity systems are contributory factors for corruption. There is also a biblical explanation for the reasons of corruption. After Adam broke the law and committed sin to his posterity, what follows upon this is, ‘the corruption of nature derived unto them from him’; by which is meant, ‘the general depravity of mankind, of all the individuals of human nature, and of all the powers and faculties of the soul, and organs of the body’. As Human nature is imperfect, corruption will exist in all human efforts. Selfishness and greed are the contributing elements of human imperfection which leads to corruption.

As noted by Ringera in a speech delivered at the Commonwealth lawyer’s conference, the causes of corruption are economic, social, institutional, political. The economic factors of corruption are inter-mixed to pecuniary considerations, representing corruption that is need-driven as opposed to greed driven. This concept is further confirmed by TI in attributing poverty and low salary as causes of corruption. Increase of wants and inability to maintain one’s family lives forces officials to compromise public trust and honesty for some personal benefits. Institutional causes of corruption include monopoly and wide discretionary powers for public officers, poor accountability, lack of effective and efficient enforcement of the

law, absence of institutional mechanisms to deal with corruption, existence of a weak civil society, and the absence of freedom of press. Klitgaard shares the same view with Ringera by holding that corruption is prevalent when ‘someone has absolute power over a good or service, has the discretion to decide whether you receive it and how much you get, and is not accountable.’ The political causes of corruption arise from the structure and functions of political institutions, and the acquisition and exercise of political power and implementations of laws. While societal reasons refer to the attitudes and practices of the masses. As the problem of corruption is multi-faceted, its reasons are also diverse.

### **1.3 The Forms of Corruption**

Corruption grows itself in different ways in different circumstances. But there are some types of corruption which occur in every system in every society. These are massive corruption, petty corruption, active corruption, passive corruption, political corruption and systematic corruption.

Massive corruption occurs when a high level government official committed acts that distort policies or the central functioning of the state, enabling him/her to benefit at the expense of the public good. It is a type of corruption which pervades the highest levels of a national government, leading to a broad erosion of confidence in good governance, rule of law and economic stability. It negates the functioning of the central government. Petty corruption is an everyday abuse of given power by low- and mid-level public officials in their interactions with ordinary citizens, who often are trying to access basic goods or services in places like hospitals, schools, police departments and other agencies. It is a situation where a public official ask or expects money for doing an act which he or she is ordinarily required by law to do, or when a bribe is paid to obtain services which the official is prohibited from providing. Bribery, embezzlement, theft, fraud, extortion, nepotism, favoritism, and Clientelism (classifications of corruption by the United Nations Office on Drug and Crime (UNODC)) can be clubbed under either grand corruption or petty corruption depending upon the amount of cash lost and the sector where it occurs. In discussions of transactional crimes such as bribery; ‘active bribery’ usually refers to the offering or paying of the bribe, while ‘passive bribery’ refers to the receiving of the bribe. This type of corruption describes the demand and supply side of corruption. Political corruption on the other hand is the manipulation of policies, institutions and laws of procedure in the allocation of resources and financing by political decision makers, who abuse their position to sustain their power, status and wealth. Systematic corruption occurs where corruption penetrates the entire

society to the point of being

accepted as a means of conducting everyday transactions. It is a situation in which the all major institutions and processes of the state are routinely dominated and used by corrupt individuals and groups, and in which many people have few practical alternatives to dealing with corrupt officials. It affects institutions and influences individual behavior at every levels of a political and socio-economic system. Such form of corruption is embodied in specific socio-cultural environments, and tends to be monopolistic, organized and difficult to control

#### **1.4 The Effects of Corruption**

*Corruption deepens poverty, it debases human rights; it degrades the environment; it derails development, including private sector development; it can drive conflict in and between nations; and it destroys confidence in democracy and the legitimacy of governments. It debases human dignity and is universally condemned by the world's major faiths.*

*The Durban Commitment to Effective Action Against Corruption, 1999*

Corruption is damaging for the simple cause that important decisions are determined by ulterior motives, with no concern for the consequences for the wider community. As Balogun describes it, “depending on its *form* and *gravity*, corruption is capable of rewarding indolence and penalizing hard work, undermining morale and *esprit de corps*, compromising a country's external security, threatening internal order and stability, and generally slowing down the pace of Economic growth and sustainable development”. Kumar also notes that corruption affects economic growth, discourages foreign investment and business outsourcing diverts resources for infrastructure development, health and other public services, education, and anti-poverty initiatives and programs. He further adds that corruption poses serious challenges for governance, as States cannot achieve the goals of development for all without ensuring corruption-free governance.

Corruption lowers investment, which in turn adversely affects overall economic performance. Perhaps more importantly, corruption undermines social welfare by redistributing a nation's 'wealth in a manner that generates stress or exasperates existing ones. Keuleers notes that high levels of corruption significantly aggravate poverty.

Above all, corruption leaves impact on the integrity of the political system and neither allows for the protection of human rights and the promotion of human freedoms nor for the development of democracy. It implies discrimination and injustice and disrespect for human dignity. While corruption violates the rights of all those affected by it, it has a massive impact on people that belong to groups that are exposed to particular risks; such as women,

children, minorities, indigenous peoples, migrant workers, persons with disabilities, those with HIV/AIDS, refugees, prisoners and those who are poor. In some cases, it is their vulnerability that makes certain groups easy victims of corruption. For instance, corrupt officials may extract money from migrant workers who lack citizenship by threatening them with deportation in the knowledge that they cannot complain. Many would argue that corruption can have beneficial effects such as non-violent access to government affairs and administration, when political channels are clogged, or as a means of lessening the potentially crippling tension between the civil servant and the politician by linking them in an easily discerned network of self-interest. Moreover, counter-arguments are easily acceptable. They rely on the fact that corruption leads to economic inefficiency and waste, because of its effect on the allocation of funds, on production, and on consumption. Benefits/Gains obtained through corruption are unlikely to be transferred to the investment sector as ill-gotten money is either used in conspicuous consumption or is transferred to foreign bank accounts. Rose Ackerman further argues that corruption is able to feed on itself and thereby produce higher illegal payoffs that ultimately, outweigh economic growth.

**1.5 Corruption as a Violation of Human Rights:** United Nations (UN) treaty bodies and special procedures have concluded that, where corruption is widespread, States cannot fulfill with their human rights obligations. Whenever there is widespread corruption, it can be said that, there will follow violation of human rights. There are three links between corruption and violation of human rights. These are, when corruption is a direct, indirect or remote cause for the violations of human rights.

Corruption may be directly linked to a violation of human rights. When a corrupt act is deliberately done as a means to violate a right, it may gain undue and unfair advantage to others. For example, a bribe offered to a judge directly affects the independence and impartiality of that judge and hence violate the right to a fair trial. Corruption may also directly violate a human right when a State (or somebody acting in an official capacity) acts or fails to act in a particular way that prevents individuals from having access to that right. For instance, when an individual bribe a doctor to obtain a medical treatment or bribe a school master to obtain a place for his/her kid at school, the right to health and education respectively are directly violated by the acts of corruption.

There are times when corruption plays an active role for the violation of human rights. It is a situation where corruption is one of the factor among others for the violation of human rights. When corruption during an electoral process raises concerns about the accuracy of the final result, social unrest and protests may occur in society which may result into loss of lives. In

such a case, the right to political participation may be violated directly, and repression and/or suppression of the social protests may also cause serious violation of human rights. Nevertheless, the electoral corruption would not necessarily be the only or determining causes of such riots or their repression. Many other factors might contribute and, to that extent, the corruption has a remote role to the violations after the social unrest and protests if things go wrong.

But the article is limited only to those situations of human rights violations by the direct causes of corruption. That is corruption *per se* as a violation of human rights.

**2. Human Rights:** As an idea, human rights have been constantly evolving throughout human history. They have been intricately tied to laws, customs and religions throughout the ages and decades. Their importance change with time according to human needs and interests. As any discussion about human rights should distinguish the philosophical, political and legal accounts. The philosophy of human rights explains the *raison d'être* of human rights while the politics tells us that which set of human rights are in need of immediate evaluation, which set of human rights should we recognize and how can we judge the human rights behavior of the other. However, the law of human rights deals with a detail account of internationally agreed values, customs, standards or rules regulating the conduct of States towards their own citizens and towards non-citizens.

But a detail discussion of the philosophical, political and legal perspectives of human rights will not be made for the simple reason that it is out of the scope. Instead, the essential elements of the concept of human rights which give a bird's-eye view of the above perspectives will be made. By doing so, the objective is to make a connection between human rights and corruption. With this view the following sections explores and discusses the definition (if any), the bases, nature and categories of human rights.

**1.5 Basis of Human Rights:** Most people tend to take the validity of human rights for granted. Certainly, for many non-philosopher, human rights may too obviously appear to rest upon self-evidential truth and universal valid moral principles. However, experts did not enjoy such license for epistemological complacency. There are two major theories of thought regarding the philosophical foundations of human rights. These are the foundation list and the anti- foundation list schools of thought.

The foundationalist argues that there are philosophical foundations for human rights and dignity. They base their argument on moral philosophy, religion and natural law. For foundationalist, interest and will school of thought are the grounds which give rise to a moral



basis for human rights. Supporters of interest theory argue that the principal function of human rights is to protect and promote certain essential human interests. According to this approach, human rights are based on the idea of human nature as human nature is expressed in human needs. But this idea is criticized in the sense that human needs are diverse. The will theory on the other hand tries to establish the philosophical foundations of human rights upon a single human attribute: the capacity for freedom. For the will theorists every human has a will and freedom to complete his will no matter how his/her will is bad or good. They argue that what is distinctive about human agency is the capacity for freedom and that this has to constitute the core of any account of rights. Will theorists view human rights as originating in, or reducible to a single constituent right. But natural law theorists held that the theory of natural law led to natural rights which are closely related to modern human rights. While others held that the bases for human rights is religion. Especially the concept of human dignity and equality which is enshrined in the world's major religions is used as base for human rights. The aspiration to protect the human dignity of all human beings is at the core of the idea of human rights. The idea that humans are free and equal is also used as a ground for the conception of human rights. The anti-foundationalists on the other hand different view that human rights are contingent historical facts without philosophical foundation. Contemporary ideas like democracy and justice gives rise to the bases for human rights. They argue that human rights are responses to the gross atrocities happening to mankind.

**1.6 Nature of Human Rights:** All human rights are universal, indivisible and interdependent and interrelated. The international community must treat human rights globally in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing, and with the same emphasis. While the significance of national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds must be borne in mind, it is the duty of States, regardless of their political, economic and cultural systems, to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms.<sup>76</sup>

*Vienna Declaration and Program of Action, 1993*

Human That it is a famous proverb that “rights do not have to be given, bought, earned, or inherited; they belong to humans simply because they are human”. They are inherent to each and every individual. They exist in spite of the fact that one has the will or capacity to exercise them. Besides, human rights exist independently of the will of either an individual human being or a group of people. Human rights are applicable to all people everywhere at all times regardless of race, sex, religion, ethnicity, political or other opinion, national or

social origin. They are the birth rights of all human beings and thereby universal. However, there are arguments against the universality of human rights. Opponents of universality argue that human rights are culturally relative. Human rights are inalienable in the sense that they cannot be taken away; no one has the right to deprive another person of them for any reason. People still have human rights even when the laws of their countries do not recognize them. Human rights are undividable, interdependent and interrelated that they are equal in importance and equally essential for the respect and dignity of each person. Human beings need them all to live a good life. In other words, the violation or lack of a single human right affects the entire set of rights and thereby undermine the human quest of living a dignified life.

**1.7 Categories of Human Rights:** Human rights either for philosophical account or for simplicity are categorized in different ways depending upon different parameters. One of such classifications is grouping rights in to negative, active and positive rights. A negative right is a right not to be subject to interference by others. These form the classical liberal rights as articulated in the philosophy of John Lock. Active human rights imply the right to participate in the political process as outlined by Jean-Jacques Rousseau. Positive rights on the other hand impose duties on the part of the duty bearer to do positive actions. These are economic, social and cultural rights for which one find basis in the philosophy of Karl Marx. The categorization of rights into negative, active and positive is based on the duty they impose on the duty bearer.

Karel Vasak on his part has developed the notion of generation of rights. According to him, there are three generation of human rights. The first generation includes economic, social and cultural rights; the second generation includes civil and political rights; and the third generation includes the right to development, peace and environment. The basis for such division is the time of evolution of human rights. The generational division of human rights by itself led to the emergence of the idea of another category; i.e., liberty rights (civil, social and political rights), equality rights (economic, social and cultural rights), and solidarity rights (right to development, peace and environment). For the purpose of this article the category of civil and political rights; economic, social and cultural rights; and environmental and developmental rights is adopted in discussing the impacts of corruption on human rights for the sake of simplicity.

**2.3 Economic, Social, Political, Civil and Cultural Rights:** Under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) States are obligated to: take steps, individually and through international assistance and co-operation, especially economic and technical, to the maximum of its available resources, with a view to achieving progressively the full realization of the rights recognized in the present Covenant by all appropriate means, including particularly the adoption of legislative measures.

States are under obligation to give the ever increasing resource to the progressive realization of rights recognized under the covenant, prohibited from taking deliberately measures and provide public service such as food, education, health, water and house by taking into account the principles of availability, accessibility, acceptability and adoptability. Corruption implies that the State is not taking steps in the right direction. When funds are stolen by corrupt officials, or when access to healthcare, education and housing is dependent on bribes, a state's resources are clearly not being used maximally to realize economic, political social and cultural rights. In the subsequent paragraphs below, corruption as a violation of the right to food, housing and health will be discussed with a view to analyzing the impacts of corruption on the enjoyment of socio-economic and cultural rights.

The right to food also referred to as the right of every one to be free from hunger, is a component part of the more general right to an adequate standard of living.<sup>119</sup> The core contents of the right to food are explained by the Committee on Economic, Political, Social and Cultural Rights in its General Comment No. 12. Corruption can compromise the realization of this right. Corruption is identified as one of the seven economic obstacles that hinder the realization of the right. In 1996, the Declaration of the World Food Summit mentioned corruption as the causes of food insecurity as it diverts resources allocated for food to private uses. Hence, when resources given for food are diverted to private uses, the right to food will be violated by the acts of corruption.

The right to housing like that of the right to food is one of the component elements of the right to an adequate standard of living. It focuses on the obligation to ensure that every one has housing that is safe, healthy and adequate. In addition, the right forbids discrimination in the field of housing, as well as forced or arbitrary evictions or acts of unjust dispossession from their houses. Corruption may violate this right by restricting one or more of its elements. Besides, as discrimination is inherent in acts of corruption, it will violate the right to adequate housing.

**2.4 Developmental and Environmental Rights :** All the people have the right of self-determination, the right to freely dispose of their natural wealth and resources and thereby freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development. Simultaneously they have a right to live in a clean environment. A government that tolerates or actively engages in the corrupt transfer of ownership of national wealth to the enjoyment of some nationals, who occupy positions of power or influence in the society operates to deny the people, individually and collectively, their right to freely use, exploit and dispose of their natural wealth in a manner that advances their development. The facts and the decision in the Social and Economic Rights Action Centre (SERAC) and Another v. Nigeria case are illustrative of how corruption by the Nigerian military government negatively impacted on the rights of the people of Ogoni land to inter alia, freely dispose of their wealth and natural resources, and to live in a satisfactory environment favorable to their development.

**Ensuring Non-Discrimination and Participation:** Giving effect to the enforcement of human rights in general no doubt will reduce the problem of corruption. But there are also some norms and principles of human rights which the anti-corruption campaign shares. Guarantying these norms and principles will prevent corruption. These norms and principles are non-discrimination and participation. The principle of non-discrimination is fundamental to human rights. Both the international human rights instruments and general comments of the treaty bodies confirmed that the principle of non-discrimination is the basic principle of human rights and thereby States parties are required to implement it without any condition. Corruption is linked with discrimination for two simple reasons. Firstly, because corruption distorts the allocation of public resources, which causes the administration of public services to become discriminatory and arbitrary. Individuals or groups of people are left without access to a service, for example, because they cannot or refuse to pay a bribe or do not belong to a given client network. Second, corruption is associated with discrimination based on race, color, sex, language, religion, political opinion, national or social origin or sexual orientation. In Europe, for example, it appears that Roman people are disproportionately asked to pay bribes when they seek access to health and education services. Corruption has a large impact on people who are victims of discrimination. Under a human rights framework, the principle of non-discrimination requires States to take affirmative action to ensure that disempowered groups and those suffering from structural discrimination such as indigenous peoples, migrant workers, persons with disabilities, persons with HIV/AIDS, refugees, prisoners, the poor, women, old age people and children have fair access to services and resources. However, corruption reinforces exclusion and discrimination and tends to magnify

and exacerbate pre-existing human rights problems.

**2.5 Social Empowerment:** When human rights are guaranteed, the society will be empowered. This is because the ever increasing resources and alternatives are open to ordinary citizens. In its classic postulation, social empowerment entails making strong civil society in order to enhance its political and economic vitality, providing more orderly paths of access and rules of interaction between State and society, and balancing economic and political opportunities. Where it is successful, social empowerment will not totally remove corruption. It can, however, provide necessary support for institutional reforms, weaken the combinations of monopoly, discretion, and lack of accountability that make for systemic corruption, and help institutionalize reform for the long term by linking it to lasting interests contending in active political and social the gambit of legislative laws.

**Conclusion:** Corruption is a worldwide problem offending a universal value -human rights. Corruption *per se* is a violation of human rights and dignity. Preventing corruption plays an important role for the realization of human rights. Simultaneously, guarantying human rights in general and ensuring non-discrimination and participation in particular will reduce the incidents of corruption. Whenever these are done, there will be social and political empowerment which creates social accountability. The anti-corruption campaign and the human rights movement have something to share in common which is betterment of the society. Both are struggling hard for the orderly and decent life of humans rooted in dignity and equality. Thus, it is important to note that an integrated and concerted approach is required if it is said the interests of the society are respected. This is made by acknowledging that human rights can play a preventive role for corruption; and reducing the incidents of corruption will be a great lip forward for the enforcement of human rights in civilized society. Such understanding opens the door to the existing human rights mechanisms on which to base further action against corruption, since corruption is a violation of human rights in itself. Human rights monitoring mechanisms such as international and regional human rights commissions and courts, UN complaint mechanisms or national human rights systems will be useful to remedy corrupt practices indulged in by select few who are greedy. This brings the anti-corruption and human rights activists together for the fight against corruption and violations of human rights to have a decent society to live in.

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