

Parking Tickets Illuminate International Corruption!

As far as long-standing feuds go, the tiffle between the City and the U.N. over diplomatic immunity for [parking tickets](#) is always a good one. Currently the tab for diplomats unpaid parking ticket bill runs to [18 million](#), not much of which Gotham is likely to see anytime soon. But at least now some clever researchers have put all those tickets to [some good use](#). In a [paper](#) [PDF] for the National Bureau for Economic Research, Ray Fisman and Edward Miguel have found that the number of parking tickets that a country's diplos accumulate is a swell way to measure the corruption found in their home countries. From the papers abstract:

Diplomatic immunity means there was essentially zero legal enforcement of diplomatic parking violations, allowing us to examine the role of cultural norms alone. This generates a revealed preference measure of corruption based on real-world behavior for government officials all acting in the same setting. We find tremendous persistence in corruption norms: diplomats from high corruption countries (based on existing survey-based indices) have significantly more parking violations.

Biggest surprise to us? Some countries actually do pay their parking tickets. Like Canada, Norway and... Colombia?

Contact the [author](#) of this article or email tips@gothamist.com with further questions, comments or tips. By [Garth Johnston](#) in [News](#) on July 8, 2006 2:17 PM

CORRUPTION RANK COUNTRY VIOLATIONS PER DIPLOMAT

- 1. KUWAIT 246.2**
- 2. EGYPT 139.6**
- 3. CHAD 124.3**
- 4. SUDAN 119.1**
- 5. BULGARIA 117.5**
- 6. MOZAMBIQUE 110.7**
- 7. ALBANIA 84.5**
- 8. ANGOLA 81.7**
- 9. SENEGAL 79.2**
- 10. PAKISTAN 69.4**