



AFRICA CENTER  
FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES

Rule of Law and Conflict Dynamics

*Africa's Contemporary Security Challenges Course*

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# Rule of Law

Everyday interactions between residents and state security/justice actors



Mutual respect, accountability, transparency

Popular trust in state security and justice institutions, institutional legitimacy



More sustainable and effective prevention and response to conflict, violence, crises

## Four Universal Principles of the Rule of Law

The rule of law is a framework of laws and institutions that embodies four universal principles:



### 1. Accountability

The government as well as private actors are accountable under the law.



### 2. Just Laws

The laws are clear, publicized, stable, and just; are applied evenly; and protect fundamental rights, including the security of persons, contract and property rights, and certain core human rights.



### 3. Open Government

The processes by which the laws are enacted, administered, and enforced are accessible, fair, and efficient.



### 4. Accessible & Impartial Dispute Resolution

Justice is delivered timely by competent, ethical, and independent representatives and neutrals who are accessible, have adequate resources, and reflect the makeup of the communities they serve.

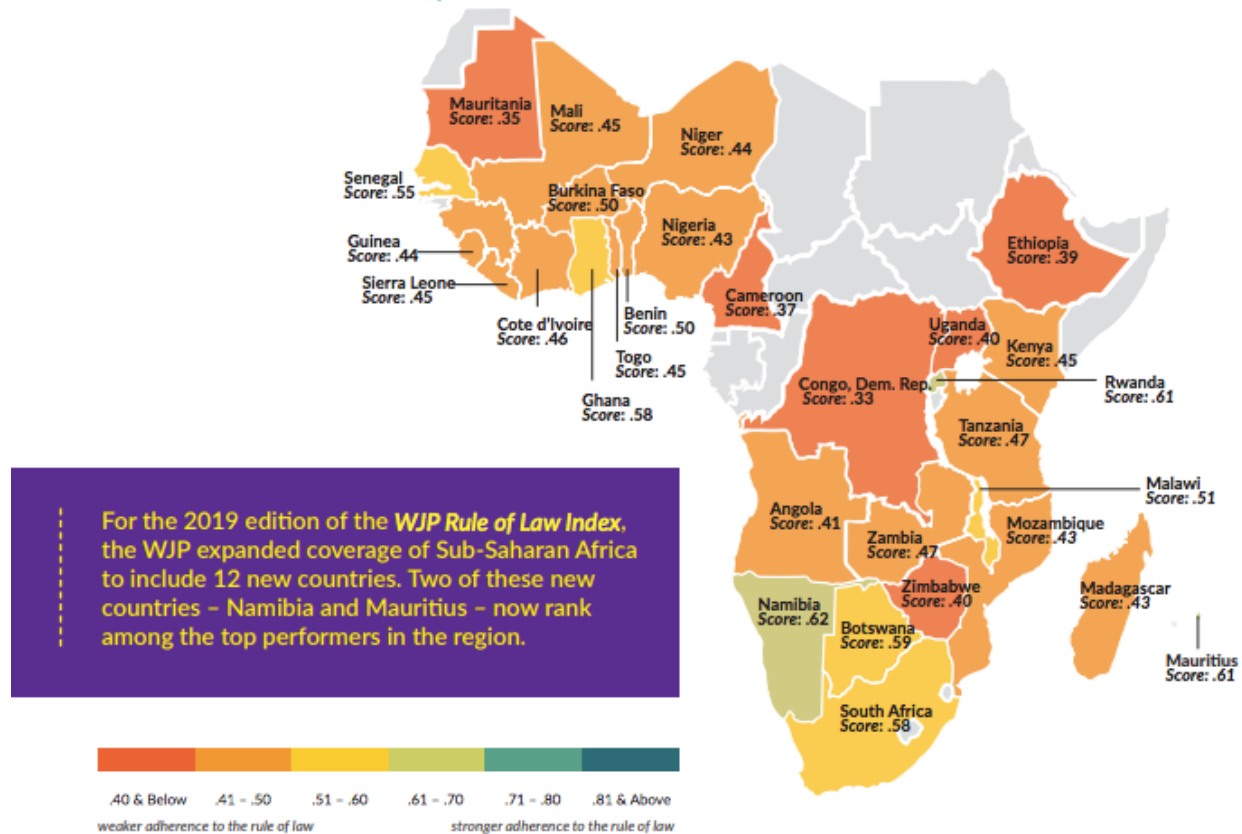
Source: World Justice Project, “What Is the Rule of Law?”  
<https://worldjusticeproject.org/about-us/overview/what-rule-law>.

# World Justice Project

WJP Rule of Law Index 2019

## Rule of Law in Africa

Figure 7: Rule of law performance across Sub-Saharan Africa.



Source: World Justice Project, *Rule of Law Index 2019 Insights*, p. 16.

# Ibrahim Index of African Governance

## Safety & Rule of Law

2017 AFRICAN  
AVERAGE SCORE/100.0

52.6

CHANGE  
2008-2017

-2.5

SLOWING  
DETERIORATION



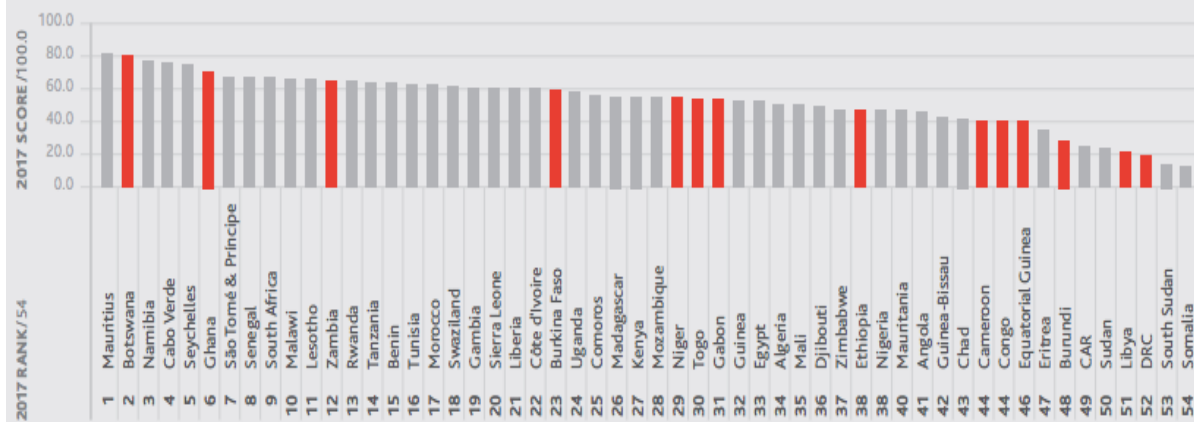
<b>Rule of Law</b>	<b>53.9</b>	<b>+0.6</b>
<b>Transparency &amp; Accountability</b>	<b>35.3</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Personal Safety</b>	<b>46.2</b>	<b>-6.1</b>
<b>National Security</b>	<b>75.1</b>	<b>-4.4</b>

DIRECTION OF CHANGE 2008-2017  
(NUMBER OF COUNTRIES)

- 19 Improved
- 33 Deteriorated
- 1 No change
- 1 Not available



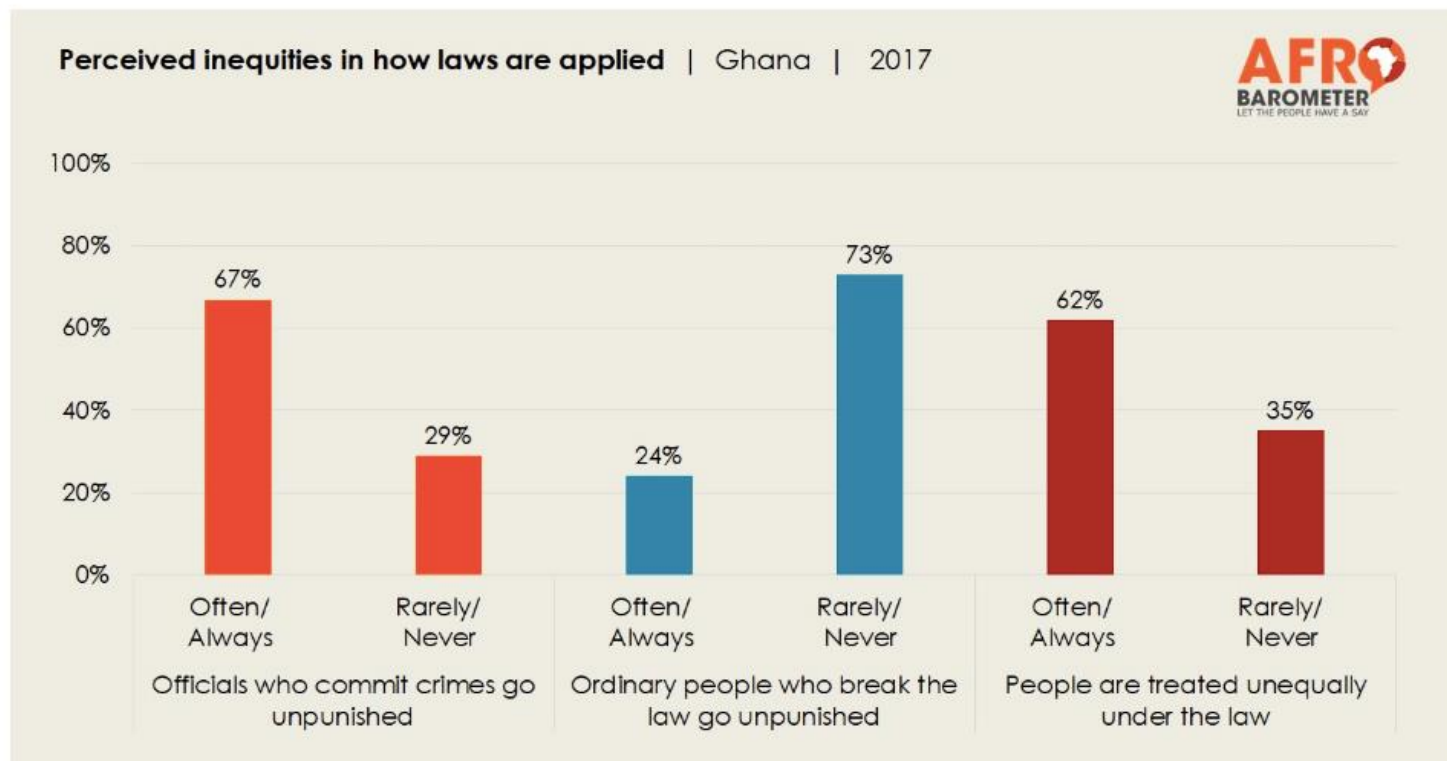
African countries: Safety & Rule of Law, countries showing 'Increasing Deterioration' (2017)



Source: Mo Ibrahim Foundation, "Ibrahim Index of African Governance 2018 Index Report," pp. 26-27.

# Afrobarometer

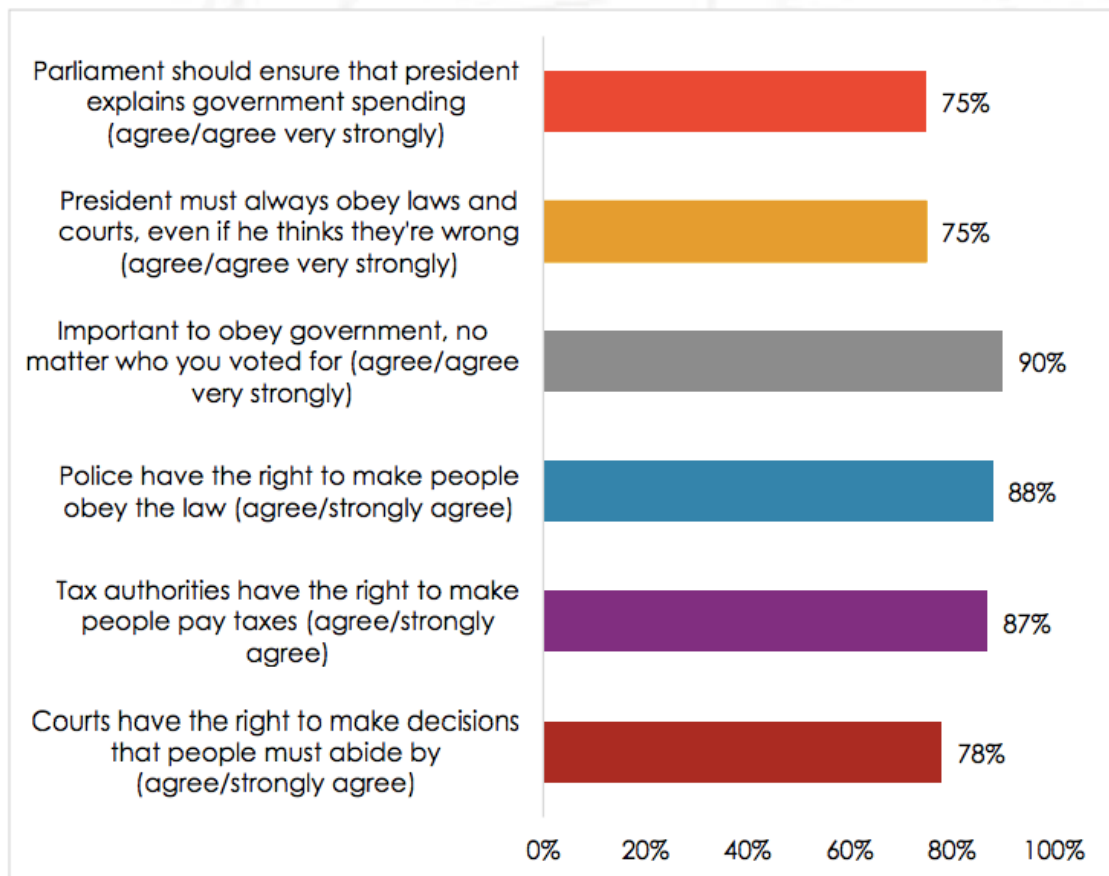
## Ghanaians strongly endorse rule of law but see inequities in how laws are applied



Source: Mawusi Yaw Dumenu & Daniel Armah-Attah, "Ghanaians strongly support rule of law but see inequities in how laws are applied," Afrobarometer Dispatch 104, 2018.

# Afrobarometer

Figure 1: Citizens endorse the rule of law | Ghana | 2017



Source: Mawusi Yaw Dumenu & Daniel Armah-Attah, "Ghanaians strongly support rule of law but see inequities in how laws are applied," Afrobarometer Dispatch 104, 2018.



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