

Progress has been made in recovering the proceeds of grand corruption since entry into force of the UN Convention Against Corruption nearly ten years ago. Still, confiscation of kleptocracy proceeds remains challenging and lengthy. Dedicated resources are essential in this fight. Through the Kleptocracy Asset Recovery Initiative, the U.S. Department of Justice has dedicated specific prosecutorial resources to these actions. In addition to support from Homeland Security Investigations and other federal law enforcement, Kleptocracy Initiative prosecutors are being joined by a recently-established national FBI squad focused on kleptocracy and Foreign Corrupt Practices Act. Timely investigations in the country directly affected by the abuse of office is a second crucial element. Third, enactment and implementation of modern legislation such as non-conviction based confiscation and authority to enforce foreign judgments, is vital. With practical steps, along with innovation and the determination of individual law enforcement officials, further progress can be made.