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PRESS RELEASE

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**NEW INDEX: US PUBLIC FEAR MORE FOR THEIR SAFETY THAN
PEOPLE LIVING IN EGYPT, BANGLADESH AND THE SUDAN**

- **The United States is the 11th most prosperous country in the world but its high crime rate and incidents of police brutality have made people fear for their safety**

The United States may be one of the most prosperous countries in the world, but its citizens fear more for their safety than people living in Egypt, Bangladesh and the Sudan, according to the results of an international index.

The annual [Prosperity Index](#) ranks 142 countries across eight categories: the Economy, Entrepreneurship & Opportunity; Governance; Education; Health; Safety & Security; Personal Freedom; and Social Capital.

The 2015 Index (www.prosperity.com), published today by the Legatum Institute, an international think tank, based in London, shows that the US is the 11th most prosperous country in the world. It performs well in seven of the eight categories that make up a nation's prosperity, notably the strength of its economy (11th) and the good quality of its health (1st) and education (9th) systems. The US also ranks 15th when it comes to the Personal Freedom it offers its citizens.

However, the results of this year's index shows that the people in the US do not feel safe. The US finished 33rd in the Safety & Security category, well below the rankings of all the other most prosperous countries.

According to the index:

- In the last year, 17% of Americans reported being victims of crime. This is the same number as in Costa Rica and is above that of Honduras (15%) not to mention Canada (13%) and the United Kingdom (13%).
- 26% of Americans do not feel safe walking alone at night. This is higher than Egypt (25%), Sudan (22%) and Bangladesh (18%). Singapore is the world-leader in terms of feelings of safety, with only 7% of people feeling unsafe walking alone at night.

According to data used by the Legatum Institute in the Index, the United States also suffers from relatively high levels of state-sponsored violence, including brutality and imprisonment by the state. The data suggests that the United States has similar levels of political violence to South Africa and Turkey.

The 5 most prosperous countries are:

1. Norway
2. Switzerland
3. Denmark
4. New Zealand
5. Sweden

The 5 least prosperous countries are:

1. Central Africa Republic
2. Afghanistan
3. Haiti
4. Chad
5. Burundi

Nathan Gamester, Programme Director of the Prosperity Index, said:

“The US is among the most prosperous countries in the world. This is due to a number of factors including a firm belief in the rule of law, the quality of its health and education systems and the fact that it is one of most open and free nations in the world.

“However, our findings indicate that people do not feel as safe in the US than they do in other parts of the world, including places which have struggled with violent conflicts recently such as Egypt. If the US wants to become a more prosperous country it really needs to make drastic improvements to ensure its citizens feel safe and secure.”

To access the full report, data, and analysis, visit www.prosperity.com

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About the Legatum Institute

The Legatum Institute seeks to identify the drivers of prosperity, which we define as both wealth and wellbeing. Our signature product is the *Legatum Prosperity Index™*, a unique global assessment of national prosperity that assesses 142 countries and is an essential tool for governments across the globe. For more information please go to www.li.com and www.prosperity.com.