



# Civil society in asset recovery: stronger together

**Agatino Camarda, CiFAR - Civil Forum for Asset Recovery**

IFF in developing countries: Stolen Assets and the Role of the  
Media and Civil Society (CSOs)

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# Civil society in asset recovery

- Broad understanding of civil society
  - CSOs
  - Academia
  - Journalists

# Civil society's place in asset recovery

Government manages process



Civil society holds government to account



# 1. Civil society and investigations

- Uncovering corruption and tracing the assets
- Civil society vS. government investigations

## 2. Civil society, freezes and confiscations

- Cross-country coordination
- Supporting governments in understanding legal requirements
- Making asset recovery an accessible topic and inform the public
- Promoting necessary reform to make asset recovery more effective

# 3. Civil society and asset return



# Challenges and opportunities

- New field, potential for more actors, especially from the South / countries of origin of stolen assets
- More cooperation across different civil society actors
- Stronger cooperation between South and North



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# Why North Africa?

- Asset theft and asset recovery in the aftermaths of the “Arab Spring”
- Space for new civil society actors
- Space for cooperation between the two sides of the Mediterranean



- Bring a new generation of young journalists to the field of asset theft and asset recovery
- Investigating and reporting both on asset recovery cases and asset theft
- Countries involved





We aim to:

- ✘ provide the journalists with the skills and knowledge on investigating cross-border corruption, illicit financial flows and asset recovery
- ✘ build a network that develops stories across both countries of origin and countries of destination and in cooperation with civil society.



# Outputs



1. Training on the basics of asset recovery and illicit financial flows as well as investigating corruption
2. Camp in Tunisia in January to form groups and plan stories
3. Mentoring throughout the whole project
4. By end of project, the journalists will develop outlines and plans to investigate and publish the stories



# Thank you

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