



16 out of 23 Recorded Postings and Transfers among Police in Punjab

Summary

This report is based on data gathered by District Long-Term Observers (DLTOs) of the Free and Fair Election Network (FAFEN) during February 6-21, 2013. It highlights 23 postings and transfers recorded in 11 districts across Pakistan. Eight of the districts were in Punjab, two in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), and one in Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA). FAFEN DLTOs monitor postings and transfers of civil servants that could be relevant to the 2013 General Elections..

Most of the 23 transfers and postings (20, or 87%) were recorded in eight districts of Punjab. The highest number was noted in the police department of Punjab, with 16 transfers constituting 69% of all cases.

Postings and Transfers by Region

DLTOs reported 23 cases of postings and transfers in the judiciary, police, district administration, education department and other district government departments in 11 districts during the month of February.

Legal Framework

Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) issued two notifications on January 22 and February 6, 2013 on the theme of government recruitments. The second notification offers additional clarity about the first.

According to the ECP, no recruitment of government personnel may take place before the elections unless the position was advertised before August 31, 2012 or on a case-by-case basis of necessity.

ECP's notifications reinforce the pre-election ban on postings and transfers of government officials. These last-minute movements of personnel have the potential to influence election processes and results, both in terms of the pre-electoral environment and because civil servants serve on Election Day as polling staff and otherwise.

Province/Region	No. of Districts	Name of Districts
Punjab	8	Vehari, Okara, Khanewal, Rawalpindi, Sialkot, Gujranwala, Hafizabad, Sargodha
KP	2	Nowshera, Haripur
FATA	1	Kurram Agency
Total	11	

Most of the transfers and postings (20, or 87%) were recorded in eight districts of Punjab, namely Vehari, Okara, Khanewal, Rawalpindi, Sialkot, Gujranwala, Hafizabad and Sargodha.

Two transfers and postings were made in two Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) districts (Nowshera and Haripur) and one agency in FATA (Kurram Agency).

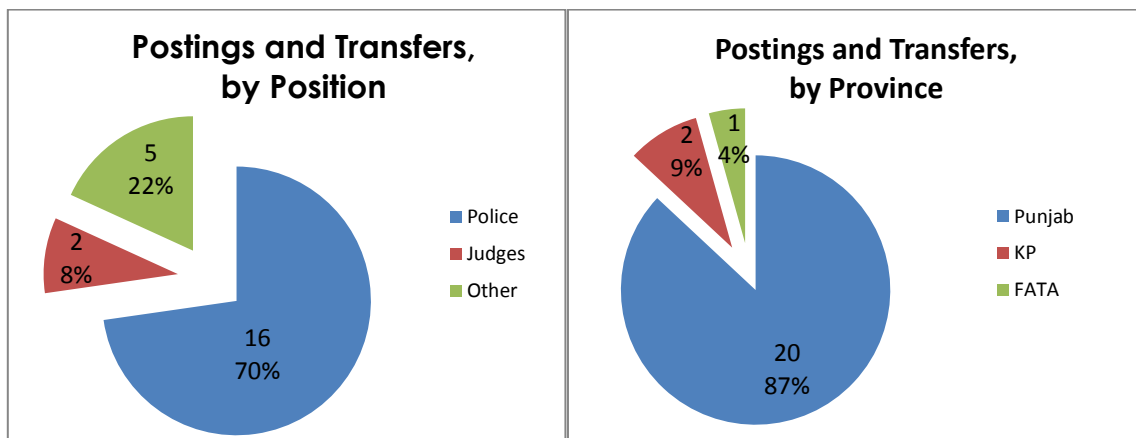
Postings and Transfers by Position

The highest number of postings and transfers was observed in the police department of Punjab constituting more than two-thirds (69%) of all cases. A total of 13 Station House Officers (SHOs), two District Police Officers (DPOs) and one Senior Superintendent Police (SSP) Operations were transferred in Punjab.

The SHOs were changed in Okara, Khanewal, Rawalpindi, Sialkot and Hafizabad. DPOs in Sargodha and Sialkot were shifted, along with SSP Operations in Rawalpindi.

One District and Sessions Judge was transferred in Vehari, one civil judge in Khanewal, an Assistant Commissioner (AC) in Vehari, and another (unspecified) civil servant in Gujranwala. One Executive District Officer (EDO) was transferred in Kurram Agency of FATA, and two other (unspecified) public servants in Nowshera and Haripur districts of KP.

Position	Punjab	KP	FATA	Total
SHO	13	0	0	13
DPO	2	0	0	2
SSP Operations	1	0	0	1
Civil Judge	1	0	0	1
District & Sessions Judge	1	0	0	1
Assistant Commissioner	1	0	0	1
EDO Education	0	0	1	1
Other District Officials	1	2	0	3
Total	20	2	1	23



Recommendations

Based on information gathered in 11 districts, FAFEN recommends:

1. ECP should rigorously enforce its notifications and other laws barring the last-minute postings and transfers of state employees around the country before elections.

2. All public departments, including the police, should vigilantly follow these notifications and laws to ensure transparency and fairness in the upcoming elections.

About FAFEN

The Free and Fair Election Network (FAFEN), established in 2006, is a coalition of 42 leading civil society organizations working to strengthen all forms of democratic accountabilities in Pakistan. Governed by the Trust for Democratic Education and Accountability (TDEA), FAFEN also implements robust programs in-between elections related to monitoring parliamentary affairs, connecting constituents to their elected representatives, monitoring the performance of public and elected institutions and advocating electoral and democratic reforms.

FAFEN Election Program

FAFEN is implementing a long-term election observation program nationwide, including both pre- and post-electoral processes. FAFEN is deploying 130 District Long-Term Observers (DLTOs) across the country to monitor all phases of elections. FAFEN's Constituency Long-Term Observers (CLTOs) will observe the political campaigns in all National Assembly constituencies during the two months prior to Election Day. In addition, FAFEN will deploy more than 43,000 trained, non-partisan citizens to monitor polling stations across the country on Election Day.

All FAFEN observers adhere to the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) Code of Conduct for National Observers as well as the Global Principles for Non-Partisan Election Observation and Monitoring by Citizen Organizations (April 2012). FAFEN's 10-month observation process, that began on February 1, 2013, will help keep all election stakeholders informed on issues relevant to fairness and transparency at every stage of the election process.

FAFEN Election Observation Methodology

FAFEN's election observation activities are based on the Constitution and laws of Pakistan, global best practice standards for elections, as well as the legal obligations of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), ratified by Pakistan in 2010. FAFEN LTOs use standardized checklists to report electronically to the FAFEN Election Observation Secretariat in Islamabad regularly. FAFEN compiles data and information from around the country to issue regular thematic updates for the consideration of voters and election stakeholders.

FAFEN LTOs monitor and report on the activities of District Election Commissioner (DEC) offices, preparations of elections such as appointment and training of election officials, the process of candidate nominations, and compliance with the ECP's Code of Conduct for political parties and candidates (after the announcement of election schedule). In addition, LTOs observe and report on compliance of the executive branch with legal responsibilities and ECP regulations, including restrictions on transfers of civil service personnel and initiation of new development schemes. LTOs also monitor political and electoral intimidation and violence, the actions of the police and other security forces, and the overall political environment during the pre-election period.