



## ECP Code of Conduct Violations

Pre-U28/12-April-2013

# Political Rallies Violate ECP Code of Conduct

## Introduction

The Free and Fair Election Network (FAFEN) has deployed Constituency Long-Term Observers (CLTOs) in every National Assembly constituency across the country to observe all electoral processes including election campaigning. This Pre-Election Update is based on CLTO reports about political rallies held between March 24 and April 1, 2013.

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) Code of Conduct for Political Parties and Candidates is intended to ensure a level playing field among all parties and candidates, and to maintain security and convenience of the general public during the campaign period.

## Summary

CLTOs from 27 constituencies reported a total of 58 rallies by candidates of 14 political parties and independent candidates from March 24 to April 1, 2013. Of the 58 rallies, 27 were held in 13 constituencies of Sindh, 21 in eight constituencies of Punjab, eight in four KP constituencies and two in as many constituencies of Balochistan.

Eight rallies were held outside the residence of opponents/candidates/political leaders, 26 rallies caused inconvenience to people and traffic including one in which there were fireworks. Thirty-three rallies were held at locations that were not

## Legal Framework

The Code of Conduct for political parties and candidates for General Elections 2013 issued by the election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on January 28, 2013 stipulates that:

(29) Aerial firing, use of crackers and other explosives at public meetings ... by any person shall not be allowed.

(34) The Political Parties and candidates shall hold public rallies and processions only at the place or places through the routes specified for the purpose. Such places and routes shall be pre-determined in every city and town by district/local administration in consultation with respective candidates or their authorized representatives and be notified for public information.

(39) The organizers [of rallies] in consultation with the District administration shall take steps in advance to arrange for passage of the procession so that there is no blockage of or hindrance to traffic thus avoiding heavy traffic congestion and inconvenience of the general public.

notified to the public by the district administration. Multiple violations were observed in some rallies.

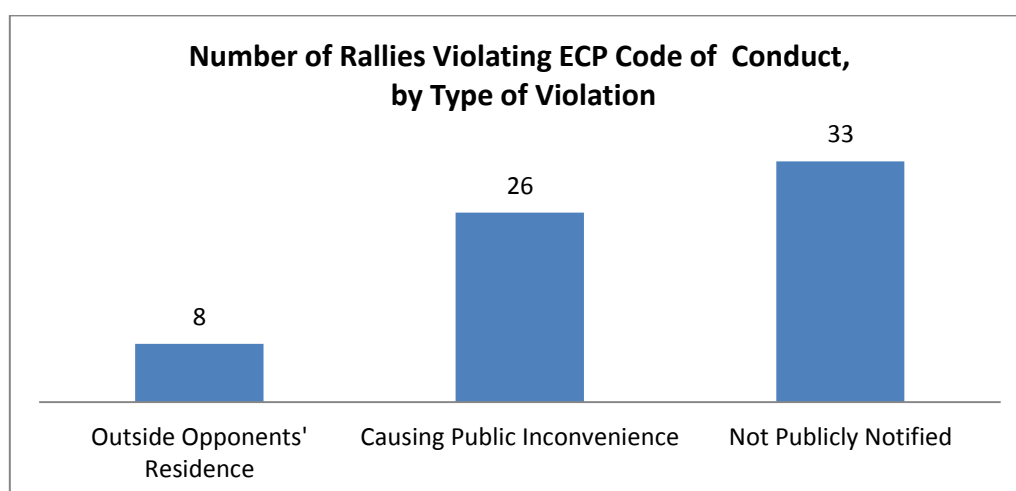
The largest number of violations of the ECP Code of Conduct was at rallies held by Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians (PPPP) with 22 violations at 13 rallies. Observers noted 18 violations at 13 rallies of Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N). Rallies of independent candidates included six code violations, followed by rallies of Pakistan Muslim League (PML), Pakistan Muslim League-Functional (PML-F), Pakistan Awami Tehreek (PAT) with three violations each.

At rallies of Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM), Jamaat-e-Islami (JI), Jeay Sindh Qaumi Mahaz (JSQM), and Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Samiul Haq (JUI-S), observers noted two violations each. One violation of the ECP code was recorded at rallies of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazlur Rehman (JUI-F), Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Pakistan Peoples Party-Shaheed Bhutto (PPP-SB), and National Peoples Party (NPP), while no violations were seen at Awami National Party (ANP) rallies.

Province	Number of Constituencies	Number of Rallies	National Assembly (NA) Constituencies
<b>Sindh</b>	13	27	NA-211, NA-206, NA-202, NA-220, NA-219, NA-203, NA-213, NA-233, NA-201, NA-232, NA-221, NA-223, NA-200
<b>Punjab</b>	8	21	NA-147, NA-141, NA-143, NA-144, NA-90, NA-140, NA-161, NA-146
<b>KP</b>	4	8	NA-15, NA-20, NA-22, NA-28
<b>Balochistan</b>	2	2	NA-270, NA-272
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>58</b>	

## Violations of ECP Code of Conduct at Rallies, by Type

According to FAFEN observers, eight rallies were held outside the residence of opponents/candidates/political leaders, 26 rallies caused inconvenience to people and traffic including one in which there were fireworks. Thirty-three rallies were held at locations that were not notified to the public by the district administration.

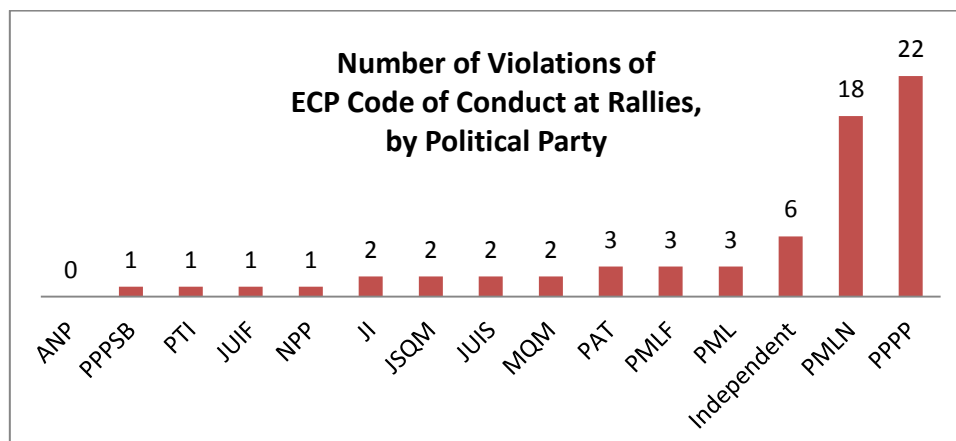


## Party-wise Violations of ECP Code of Conduct at Rallies

Among 13 rallies held by PPP, FAFEN observers noted 22 violations of the ECP Code of Conduct. PPP held two rallies outside the residence of opponents/candidates/political leaders in NA-123 and NA-144. Ten rallies were held at un-notified locations, and caused inconvenience to people and traffic.

Observers witnessed 13 rallies held by PML-N and recorded 18 violations. Nine rallies of PML-N were held at un-notified places, one was outside the residence of opponents/candidates/political leaders, and eight caused inconvenience to public including one in which there were fireworks.

Independent candidates held four rallies, including two in NA-144, outside the residence of opponents/candidates/political leaders, and another rally that caused inconvenience to people. A rally in NA-15 was not publicly notified.



PML organized two rallies in NA-140 and NA-141 of Punjab, one of which caused inconvenience to the public and the other was held outside the residence of an opponent/candidate/political leader. Another rally in NA-220 (Sindh) was held at an un-notified place.

PML-F held two rallies in NA-200 and NA-202 (Sindh), and both were not notified. The rally held in NA-200 also caused inconvenience to the public. MQM organized a rally in NA-220 of Sindh that was not notified. A rally held in NA-141 (Punjab) caused inconvenience to the public.

Rallies of JUI-S in NA-90 (Punjab) and JSQM in NA-219 (Sindh) were held at un-notified places and also caused inconvenience to the public. Jl held a rally in NA-141 that was not notified, and another that caused inconvenience to the public.

Pakistan Awami Tehreek held two rallies in NA-206, NA-221 (Sindh) at un-notified places, while the one held in NA-206 also caused inconvenience to public. Rallies of PTI, JUI-F and NPP in NA-202 (Sindh), were held without public notification.

<b>Party-wise Number of Rallies Violating ECP Code of Conduct</b>					
<b>Political Parties</b>	<b>NA Constituencies</b>	<b>Total observed rallies</b>	<b>Outside opponent residence</b>	<b>Un-notified location</b>	<b>Causing public inconvenience</b>
<b>ANP</b>	NA-28	1			
<b>PAT</b>	NA-206, NA-221	2		2	1
<b>Indepen dent</b>	NA-141, NA-202, NA-15, NA-144, NA-144, NA-22, NA-22, NA-232	8	4	1	1
<b>JI</b>	NA-28, NA-141, NA-272, NA-161	4		1	1
<b>JSQM</b>	NA-219	1		1	1
<b>JUIF</b>	NA-22, NA-202, NA-28	3		1	
<b>JUIS</b>	NA-90	1		1	1
<b>MQM</b>	NA-211, NA-141, NA-220	3		1	1
<b>NPP</b>	NA-202	1		1	
<b>PML</b>	NA-270, NA-220, NA-140, NA-141	4	1	1	1
<b>PMLF</b>	NA-202, NA-200	2		2	1
<b>PMLN</b>	NA-147, NA-90, NA-141, NA-203, NA-140, NA-213, NA-146, NA-146, NA-147, NA-20, NA-221, NA-221, NA-223	13	1	9	8
<b>PPPP</b>	NA-206, NA-202, NA-143, NA-144, NA-220, NA-143, NA-203, NA-147, NA-233, NA-146, NA-201, NA-201, NA-202	13	2	10	10
<b>PPPSB</b>	NA-220	1		1	
<b>PTI</b>	NA-202	1		1	
<b>Total</b>		<b>58</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>26</b>

## **Recommendation**

FAFEN urges ECP to make every effort, with police and other government departments, to enforce its Code of Conduct for political parties and candidates equitably and consistently during the campaign period and on Election Day.

## 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 has deployed almost 400 District and Constituency Long-Term Observers (DLTOs and CLTOs) across the country to monitor all phases of elections. In addition, FAFEN will deploy more than 43,000 trained, non-partisan citizens to monitor polling stations across the country on Election Day. FAFEN's 10-month observation process, which began on February 1, 2013, helps 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. 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 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 Commissioners (DECs) and other ECP officials related to preparations for elections, including appointment and training of election officials, and the process of candidate nominations. LTOs also observe compliance with the ECP's Code of Conduct for political parties and candidates, and 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. In addition, LTOs 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.