



Fifteen Office-bearers of Parties Allege Violence and Intimidation against Workers

Introduction

This report is based on direct interviews of political party office-bearers conducted by District Long-Term Observers (DLTOs) deployed across the country by the Free and Fair Election Network (FAFEN). It has been compiled from data gathered between March 18 and 22, 2013, from 79 districts - 26 in Punjab, 22 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), 18 in Sindh, 10 in Balochistan, and three in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA). FAFEN DLTOs use a standardized interview format for discussions with political party office-bearers, which includes three questions on violence.

DLTOs conducted 894 interviews with the office-bearers of various political parties during the reporting period. In 15 (1.7%) instances, the office-bearers reported acts of violence and/or intimidation against party workers. However, 868 office-bearers (97%) did not report such incidents. Seven respondents (0.8%) declined to answer questions about violence. Responses were missing in the remaining four interview reports (0.4%).

One-third of reports of violence and/or intimidation were from Sindh (5, or 33%), followed by Punjab (4, or 27%), Balochistan (3, or 20%), FATA (2, or 13%) and KP (1, or 7%).

Number of Reported Acts of Violence and Intimidation against Party Workers				
Province/ Region	Attack Reports	Intimidation Reports	Stopped from Campaigning	Totals
Balochistan	2	1	0	3
FATA	1	1	0	2
KP	1	0	0	1
Punjab	1	2	1	4
Sindh	3	2	0	5
Total	8	6	1	15

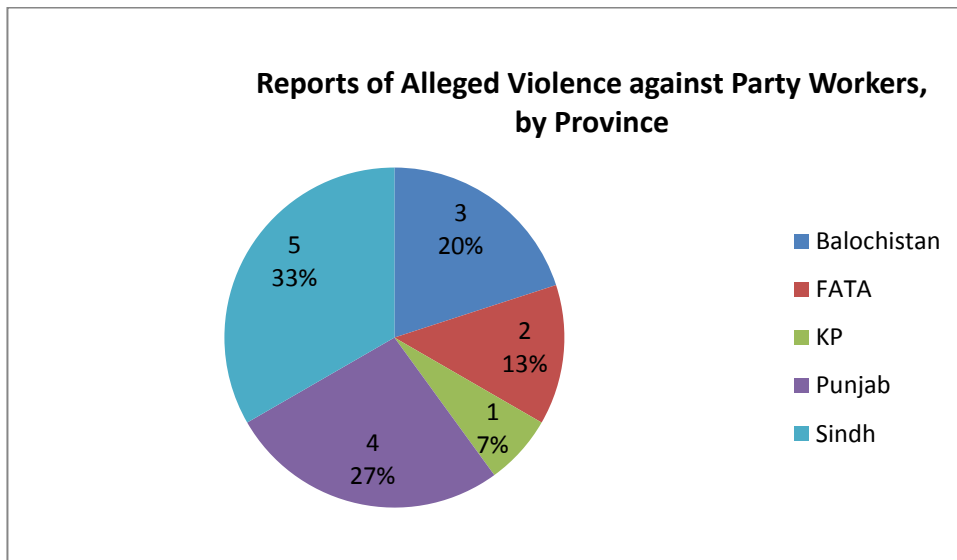
The 15 office-bearers reporting violence and/or intimidation against their party workers belonged to eight different political parties. Office-bearers reporting these incidents belonged to Balochistan National Party (BNP) and Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarian (3 each, or 20% of the total); followed by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) and Jamaat-e-Islami (2 each or 13%); and Sunni Tehreek (ST), Pakistan Muslim League (PML) and Awami National Party (1 each or 7%).

Among the 15 reports of violence and/or intimidation, eight office-bearers said their workers

were attacked, six party representatives reported acts of intimidation, and one political party office-bearer said the party workers were stopped from campaigning.

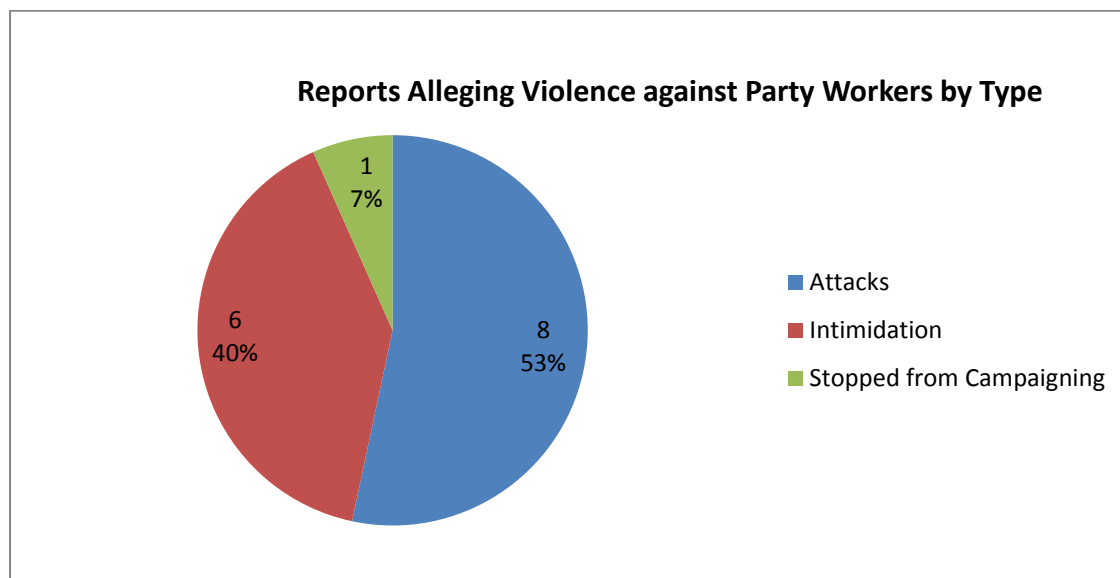
1. Province-wise Violence against Party Workers

The highest number of responses related to acts of violence or intimidation were from Sindh (5, or 33% of the total 15), followed by Punjab (4, or 27%), Balochistan (3, or 20%), FATA (2, or 13%) and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (1 or 7%).



2. Nature of Actions against Party Workers

More than half of the 15 responses of violence/intimidation were about attacks against party workers (8, or 53%), followed by acts of intimidation against party workers (6, or 40%), while one response (7%) was about party workers being stopped from campaigning.



2.1 Physical Attacks

Eight office-bearers representing six separate political parties reported physical attacks against their party workers: three in Sindh, two in Balochistan and one each in Punjab, KP and FATA. Two office-bearers each of BNP and PPPP reported attacks against their workers, followed by one each of PTI, Jamaat-e-Islami (JI), MQM and ST.

Number of Reports of Attacks on Party Workers		
Province/Region	Political Parties	Number of Reports
Sindh	JI, MQM, ST	3
Punjab	PPPP	1
KP	PTI	1
Balochistan	BNP	2
FATA	PPPP	1
Total		8

2.2 Intimidation

A total of six office-bearers reported intimidation against their party workers: two each in Sindh and Punjab and one each in Balochistan and FATA. Cases of intimidation against party workers were reported by one office-bearer each of ANP and MQM in Sindh, PML-Q and PTI in Punjab, BNP in Balochistan, and PPPP in FATA.

Number of Reports of Intimidation of Party Workers		
Province/Region	Political Parties	Number of Reports
Sindh	ANP, MQM	2
Punjab	PML-Q, PTI	2
KP	--	--
Balochistan	BNP	1
FATA	PPPP	1
Total		6

2.3 Stopping Party Workers from Campaigning

FAFEN received one report from JI claiming that their party workers were stopped from campaigning in Punjab.

Recommendations

Based on information reported by political parties around the country, FAFEN recommends:

1. All relevant government departments, including ECP and police, should work together to enforce the laws of Pakistan, including election laws, to protect the safety and security of all political contestants and their campaign workers and supporters.
2. ECP should take the lead to coordinate with all relevant government departments, including police, to make security plans for each district and constituency in advance of General Election 2013 for the benefit of all election stakeholders.

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, as of 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. 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.