



# Office-Bearers of Political Parties Claim Violence, 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 February 1 and 28, 2013, from 51 districts - Sindh (20 districts), Punjab (18), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (7), Balochistan (4), and one each in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) and the Frontier Regions (FRs). FAFEN DLTOs use a standardized interview format for discussions with political party office-bearers, including three questions on violence.

DLTOs conducted a total of 3,810 interviews with the office-bearers of various political parties. In 178 (4.6%) instances, the office-bearers reported acts of violence and/or intimidation against party workers. On the other hand, 3,550 office-bearers (93.1%) did not note incidents of violence or intimidation. Twenty respondents (0.5%) did not give answers, while these responses were missing in 62 reports (1.62%).

The largest number of reports of violence and/or intimidation were from Sindh (89, or 50%), followed by Punjab (60, or 33.7%), KP (16, or 8.98%), Balochistan (11, or 6.1%) and FATA and FRs (1 each, or 1%).

Number of Reported Acts of Violence and Intimidation against Party Workers				
Regions	Attack Reports	Intimidation Reports	Stopped from campaigning	Total Acts
Balochistan	3	4	4	11
FRs	1	0	0	1
KP	6	8	2	16
Punjab	14	31	15	60
Sindh	31	50	8	89
FATA	0	1	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>178</b>

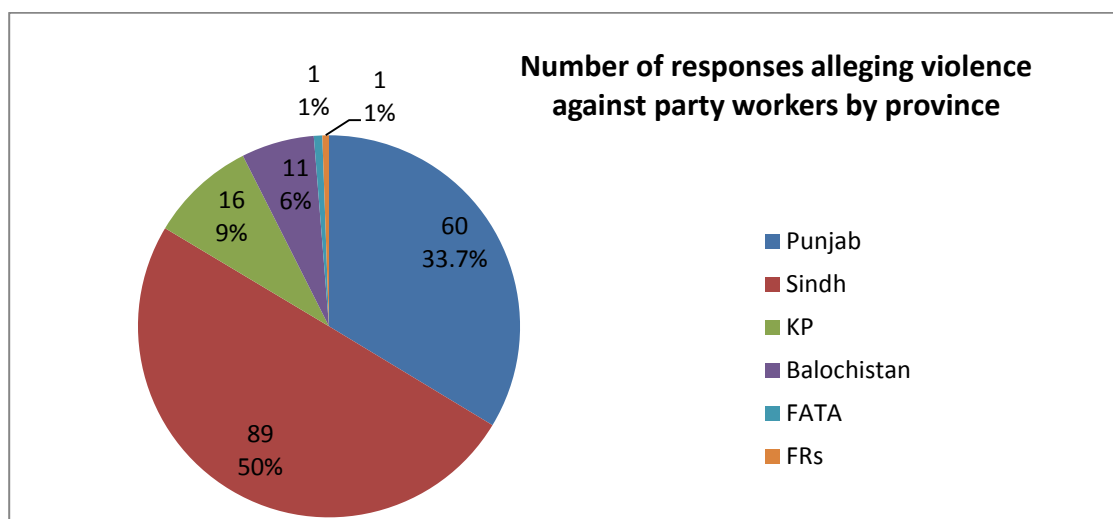
The 178 office-bearers reporting violence and/or intimidation against their party workers belonged to 24 separate political parties. Most office-bearers (28, or 15.7% of the total) belonged to Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) who claimed incidents of violence and/or intimidation against their party workers, followed by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (24, or 13.5%), and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz and Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians (14 each, or 15.7% combined). The remaining 98 responses (55% of the total) were by office-bearers of other political parties including Awami National Party, Awami Tehreek, Balochistan National Party, Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan, Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (F), Pakistan Muslim League (Q), Sindh Taraqi Pasand Party and others.

Among the 178 reports of violence and/or intimidation, 55 office-bearers said their workers were attacked, 94 party representatives reported acts of intimidation, and 29 political party office-bearers said their workers were stopped from campaigning.

## 1. Number of Reports of Violence against Party Workers

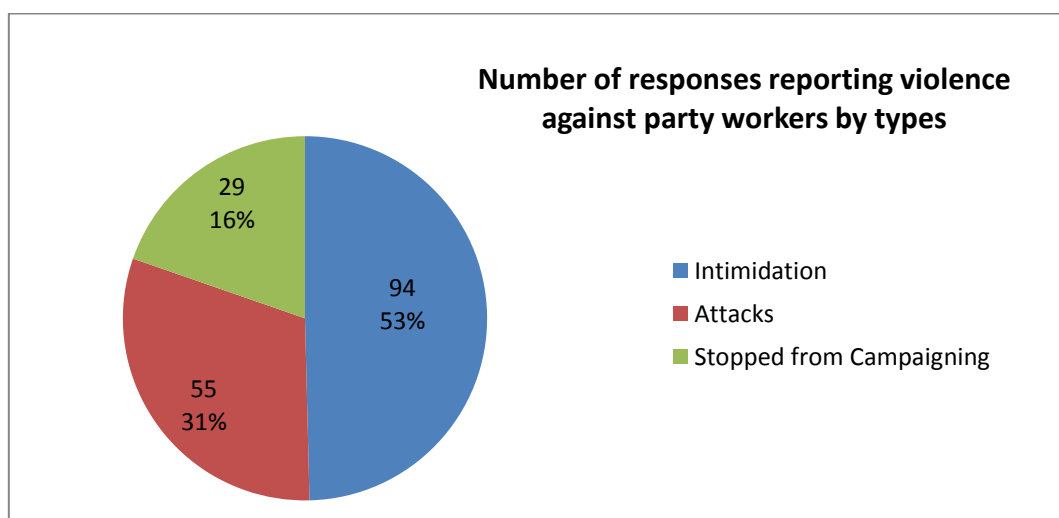
### 1.1 By Province

The most responses related to acts of violence/or intimidation were from Sindh (89, or 50% of the total 178), followed by Punjab (60, or 33.7%), KP (16, or 8.98%), Balochistan (11, or 6.1%) and FATA and FRs (1 each, or 1%).



## 2. Nature of Responses

A third of the 178 responses of violence/intimidation were about attacks against party workers (55, or 31%); acts of intimidation against party workers (94, or 53%) while 29 or 16% were about party workers being stopped from campaigning.



## 2.1 Physical Attacks

Office-bearers representing political parties reported physical attacks against their party workers in districts across Pakistan. A total of 55 office-bearers representing 19 separate political parties reported physical attacks: 31 in Sindh, 14 in Punjab, six in KP, three in Balochistan and one in the Frontier Regions.

Nine MQM office-bearers reported attacks against their workers, followed by six Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) office-bearers, and five each of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and the Awami National Party (ANP). Thirty-six office-bearers of 16 other political parties also reported attacks on their workers.

Province	Political parties reporting attacks on their workers	Number of parties reporting attacks on their workers	Number of office-bearers alleging physical attacks on their workers
<b>Balochistan</b>	BNP, NP	2	3
<b>FRs</b>	Jl	1	1
<b>KP</b>	ANP, PML-Q, PML-N, PTI, one other	5	6
<b>Punjab</b>	MQM, PML-N, PPPP, PML-Q, JUI-F, PTI, any other	6	14
<b>Sindh</b>	ANP, Awami Tehreek, Jl, JUP-N, MQM, Pakistan Awami Tehreek, PML- F, PML-N, PPP-SB, PPPP, STP, SUP, ST	13	31
Total		<b>28</b>	<b>55</b>

## 2.2 Intimidation

Office-bearers of at least 20 political parties reported intimidation of their party workers in different districts across the country. The exact number cannot be calculated because the names of certain parties were not recorded as part of the data-gathering process.

A total of 94 office-bearers reported intimidation against their party workers: 50 in Sindh, 31 in Punjab, eight in KP, four in Balochistan, and one in FATA.

Cases of intimidation against party workers were reported by 16 MQM office-bearers, followed by PTI (11) and the PPPP (8). The remaining 59 responses regarding cases of intimidation were received from 17 separate political parties across the country.

Province	Name of the Political Party	Number of Parties alleging intimidation against their workers	Number of Responses of parties' office-bearers alleging intimidation against their workers
<b>Balochistan</b>	BNP, JUI- S	2	4
<b>FATA</b>	Jl	1	1
<b>KP</b>	ANP, MQM, PML-Q, PPPP, PTI, others Jl, JUI-F, MQM,	5	8

<b>Punjab</b>	Pakistan Awami Tehreek, Pakistan Awami Tehrik-e-Inqilab, PML-N, PML-Q, PML- Qasim, Pakistan Sariaki Party, PTI, others	11	31
<b>Sindh</b>	ANP, Awami Tehreek, JI, JUP-F, PML-F, PML-N, PPP-SB, PPPP, PTI, STP, ST	11	50
<b>Total</b>		<b>30</b>	<b>94</b>

## 2.3 Stopping Party Workers from Campaigning

FAFEN received 29 reports from at least 19 political parties claiming that their party workers were stopped from campaigning. Fifteen political party office-bearers reported such incidents in Punjab, eight in Sindh, four in Balochistan and two in KP. Eight office-bearers of PTI reported campaign restrictions against their party workers, while two office holders each of PPPP, PML-N, PPP-SB and STP also reported cases of campaign restrictions. Thirteen office-bearers of nine other political parties also claimed cases of campaign restrictions against their party workers.

Province	Name of the Political Party	Number of parties reporting campaign restrictions against their workers	Number of responses of parties' office-bearers alleging campaign restrictions against their party workers
<b>Balochistan</b>	JUP-N, MQM, PML-F, PML-N, PPP-SB, PTI, STP	7	4
<b>KP</b>	NP, PPP-SB, PTI	3	2
<b>Punjab</b>	ANP, PML-N	2	15
<b>Sindh</b>	Bahawalpur National Awami Party, MQM, Pakistan Awami Tehreek-e-Inqilab, PML-Q, PPPP, PTI, others	7	8
<b>Total</b>		<b>19</b>	<b>29</b>

## 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.