

Special Press Release
PANAMA LEAKS CASE

Panama Leaks Case: Close to majority (48%) Pakistanis believe that the Panama Leaks verdict would come against Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif (24%) or his family (24%); 57% agree that regardless of the verdict's nature, Imran Khan has emerged victorious in the case, both morally and politically; apathy is anticipated from 41% Pakistanis if Prime Minister is disqualified. (GALLUP & GILANI PAKISTAN POLL)

Islamabad, April 19, 2017

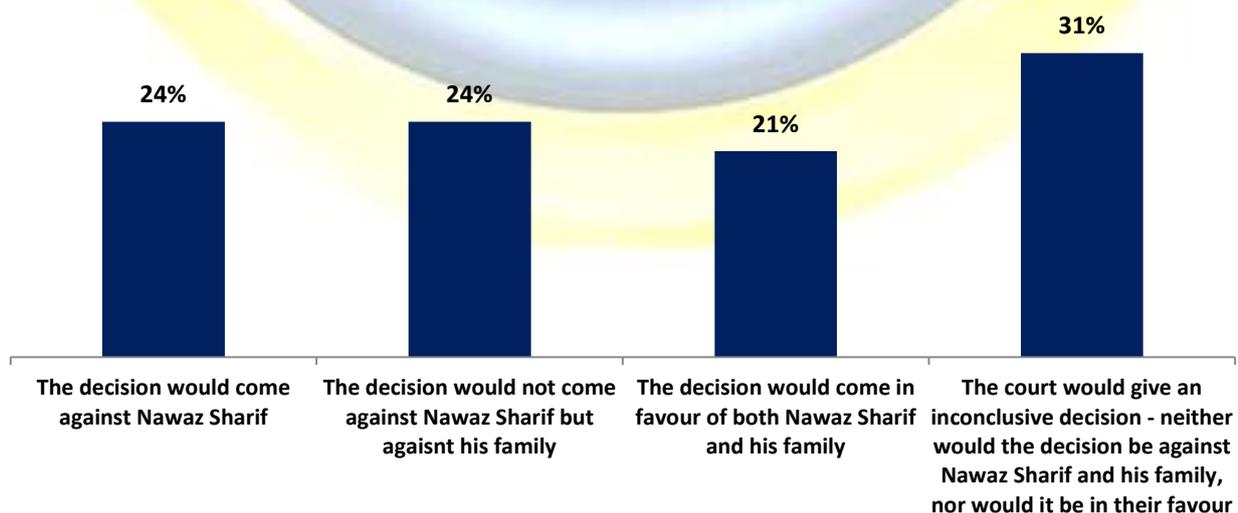
Gallup Pakistan, the Pakistani affiliate of Gallup International conducted a nationwide survey on public perception regarding the Panama Leaks Case. Gallup Pakistan is releasing this press release in relation to the upcoming Panama Leaks Verdict. The recent survey was carried out among a sample of 1865 men and women in rural and urban areas of all four provinces of the country, during April 03 – April 10, 2017. The expected error margin is estimated to be approximately $\pm 2-3$ per cent at 95% confidence level.

Some excerpts from this survey's findings have been released to limited segments of media last week. For complete report please click [here](#).

1. Expectations from the Panama Leaks Verdict? 48% Pakistani believe the verdict would come against Nawaz Sharif (24%) or his family (24%).

A nationally representative sample of adult men and women from across the four provinces was asked the following question, "Please keep the Panama Leaks case in mind and tell in your opinion which of the following could be the result of the case?" In response, 24% said that the decision would come against Nawaz Sharif, 24% said the decision would not come against Nawaz Sharif but against his family, 21% said that the decision would come in favour of both Nawaz Sharif and his family, while 31% said the court would give an inconclusive decision, neither would the decision be against Nawaz Sharif and his family, nor would it be in their favour.

Question: "Please keep the Panama Leaks case in mind and tell in your opinion which of the following could be the result of the case?"



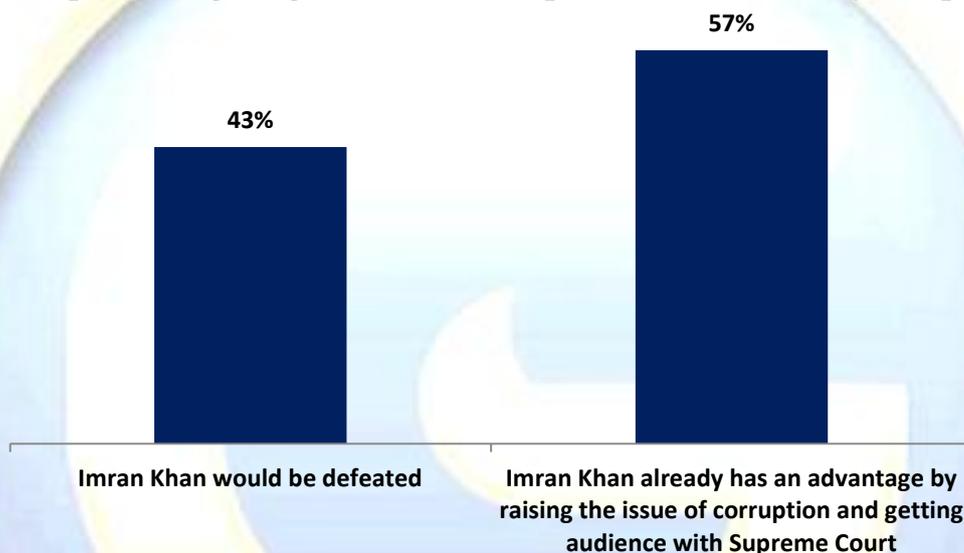
Source: Gallup & Gilani Pakistani Poll

Field work conducted by Gallup & Gilani Pakistan, the Pakistani affiliate of Gallup International Association
 (www.gallup-international.com; www.gallup.com.pk, www.gilanifoundation.com)

2. Imran Khan to win even if decision comes in favour of Nawaz Sharif

The nationally representative sample of adult men and women from across the four provinces was further asked the following question, “Suppose the Panama Leaks decision comes in favour of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. Some people think that if the decision is in favour of Nawaz Sharif, it would be a defeat for Imran Khan, while others think Imran Khan already has an advantage by raising the issue of corruption and getting audience with Supreme Court. What is your opinion?” In response, 43% said that if the decision is in favour of Nawaz Sharif, Imran Khan would be defeated, while 57% agreed that Imran Khan already has an advantage by raising the issue of corruption and getting an audience with Supreme Court.

Question: “Suppose the Panama Leaks decision comes in favour of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. Some people think that if the decision is in favour of Nawaz Sharif, it would be a defeat for Imran Khan, while others think Imran Khan already has an advantage by raising the issue of corruption and getting audience with Supreme Court. What is your opinion?”

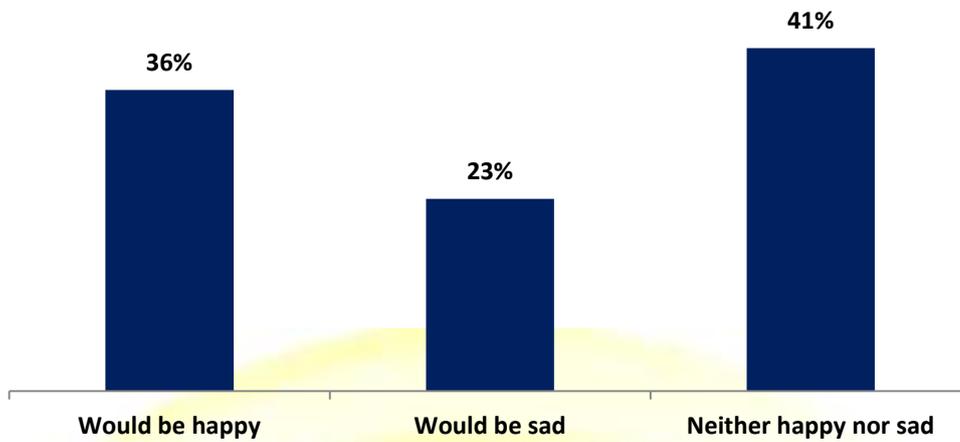


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3. Public Sentiment if PM is Disqualified: Apathy anticipated from 41% Pakistanis

The nationally representative sample of adult men and women from across the four provinces was further asked the following question, “Suppose if the Supreme Court disqualifies Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in the Panama Leaks case, what would be your emotions on the decision?” In response, 36% said they would be happy, 23% said they would be sad, while 41% said they would neither be happy nor sad.

Question: “Suppose if the Supreme Court disqualifies Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in the Panama Leaks case, what would be your emotions on the decision?”

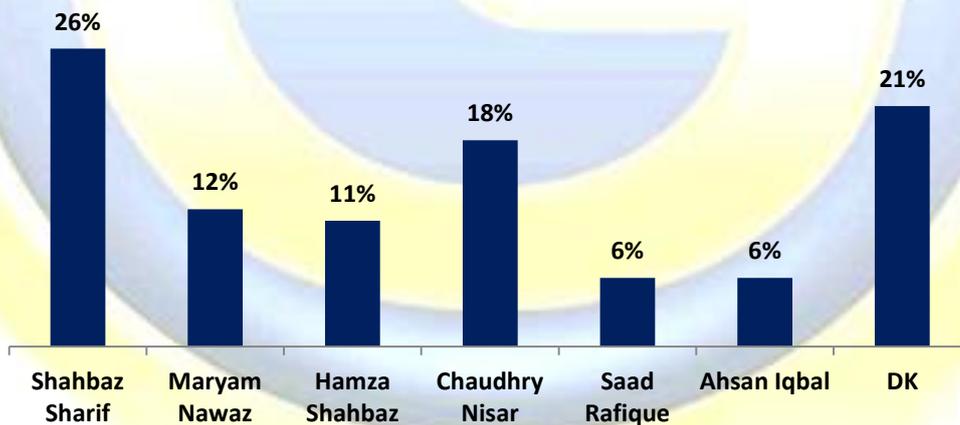


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**4. Ideal candidate for Prime Minister if PM Nawaz Sharif is disqualified:
 26% support Shahbaz Sharif; 18% Chaudhry Nisar**

The nationally representative sample of adult men and women from across the four provinces was further asked the following question, “Suppose if the Supreme Court’s decision comes against Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and he is disqualified, then in your opinion who should be the Prime Minister of Pakistan?” In response, 26% said Shahbaz Sharif should be the Prime Minister of Pakistan in case Nawaz Sharif is disqualified, 12% said Maryam Nawaz, 11% said Hamza Shahbaz, 18% said Chaudhry Nisar, 6% each said Saad Rafique and Ahsan Iqbal, while 21% did not know.

Question: “Suppose if the Supreme Court’s decision comes against Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and he is disqualified, then in your opinion who should be the Prime Minister of Pakistan?”



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Interestingly, 49% support a Sharif family candidate. If those who did not give a response were excluded, 62% respondents favour a political transition to another Sharif.

Note: The survey question was close ended and the question responses cannot be considered as voting intentions.

Commentary by Gallup Pakistan:

Just a day before the announcement of Panama Case verdict, the analysis of public opinion shows a bleak picture with respect to PML-N and especially the Sharif family. Even if the verdict is in one or the other form positive for the ruling government, it seems that in the Court of Public Voters/ Citizens, the charges of corruption have found a receptive audience. For a third time Prime Minister, a significant majority planning to show apathy or joy, on possible disqualification on charges of corruption, is definite moment of self-reflection and for Pakistan's democratic transition a question mark.

On the other hand, it must be remembered that when it comes to Panama Leaks Case and its verdict, the two parties are in fact the Supreme Court and PML-N; both have enjoyed significant public trust and legitimacy.

Therefore, when a significant majority of survey respondents say they would accept the court's judgement, without being sad or happy, they are in fact siding with the Rule of Law in the country.

Two years ago, during the sit-in by PTI, 2/3rd of the public opinion was against the resignation of PM or any attempts to overthrow the government.

The two situations are not identical but it is worth noting that a legally backed hypothetical dismissal of a PM (such as one that may be done by a Supreme Court) is supported whereas dismissal by mob / widespread protest is opposed in the fast changing Pakistani society.

Opinion Poll from Gallup Pakistan
The Pakistani Affiliate of Gallup International



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Gilani Research Foundation is a not for profit public service project to provide social science research to students, academia, policy makers and concerned citizens in Pakistan and across the globe.

Gilani Research Foundation is headed by Dr. Ijaz Shafi Gilani who pioneered the field of opinion polling in Pakistan and established Gallup Pakistan in 1980. Currently Dr. Gilani, who holds a PhD from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and has taught at leading universities in Pakistan and abroad, is Chairman of Gallup Pakistan.

If you have any further questions regarding this poll, please feel free to contact us.

Best Regards,

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of Gallup Pakistan
(1980-2017)