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GALLUP PAKISTAN POLL FINDINGS ON

**URBAN PUBLIC OPINION EQUALLY DIVIDED ON EXILE OF
NAWAZ SHARIF.**

Results released on: December 16, 2000



H-45, St.52,F-7/4, Islamabad, Pakistan. Tel +92-51-2655630, Fax +92-51-2655632,

Email: isb@gallup.com.pk

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URBAN PUBLIC OPINION EQUALLY DIVIDED ON EXILE OF NAWAZ SHARIF - December 16, 2000

According to a survey conducted by Gallup Pakistan in the major urban areas of all the four provinces of the country, the urban public opinion is equally divided between those who favour the government decision to exile Nawaz Sharif and those who oppose it: 45% favoured the decision, 45% opposed and 10% were undecided. But a majority, according to the survey considered the exile decision a mockery of legal system: 64% said that the government showed total disregard for the courts, whereas 35% agreed with the view that the exile was carried out through a lawful pardon by the president. There are however significant provincial differences in views. In Punjab support of the decision to exile Nawaz Sharif exceeds its opposition, while it is the opposite in the other three provinces. The survey was conducted among 800 men and women who were statistically selected from the major urban centres of all the four provinces of Pakistan and represented a cross section of various ages, socio-economic and linguistic backgrounds.

The survey further showed that while a majority of the population, across political affiliations, believed that court cases against Nawaz Sharif, Benazir Bhutto and Asif Zardari were justified, they nevertheless favoured moving beyond accountability in the interest of national progress. Sixty four percent (64%) believed that court cases against Nawaz Sharif were justified; 77% believed the cases against Benazir and Zardari were justified. All the same, 62% agreed with the view that in order to make progress, the country should move beyond the accountability of Nawaz and Benazir; while 38% believed that the country could not progress until there Nawaz Sharif and Benazir Bhutto were accounted for.

Regarding the future political setup in the country, exactly half of the respondents (50%) favoured the restoration of national assemblies and handing over power to politicians. The other half was split among those who favoured a national government representing all political and religious parties (31%) and those who favoured the status quo situation of a military government (18%).

Considering the pivotal role of Saudi Arabia in brokering Nawaz Sharif's exile, the survey asked a question about the impact of this event on Saudi image among Pakistanis. Thirty six percent (36%) said their image of Saudi Arabia had improved as a result of this event, 22% said it worsened, while 42% said their view remained unchanged.

The survey was conducted by Gallup Pakistan, the Pakistani affiliate of Gallup International among a statistically representative sample of 800 men and women in the major urban areas of all the four provinces of the country. The field work was done face to face during December 13-15, 2000. The error margin for a sample of this type is $\pm 4\%$ at 95% confidence level.

**URBAN PUBLIC OPINION EQUALLY DIVIDED ON EXILE OF NAWAZ SHARIF
(45% each way; 10% undecided).
But Majority Views it as a mockery of the legal system (64%).**

Table 1

Question: Recently the government has sent Mian Nawaz Sharif and his family in exile and the President has pardoned him. Some people believe this step of the government is a good step, others believe it is a bad step. What is your view?

Good	45
Bad	45
Don't know	10

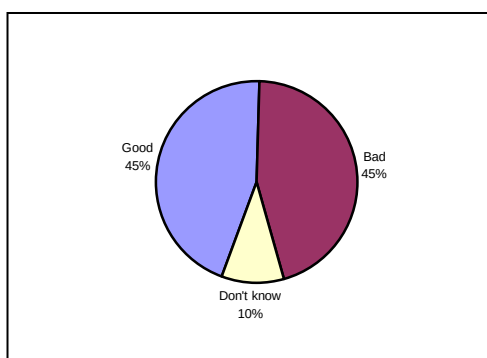


Table 2

Question: Some people believe that Mian Nawaz Sharif has taken the right step by accepting to go into exile, others feel he has shown cowardice. What is your view?

Good step	48
Cowardice	45
Don't know	7

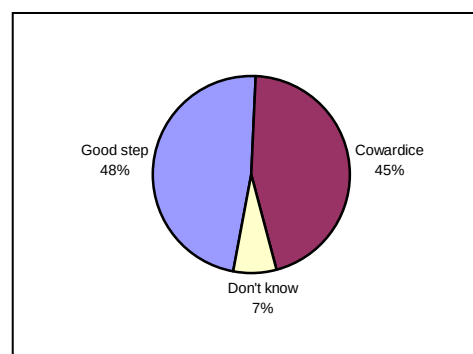
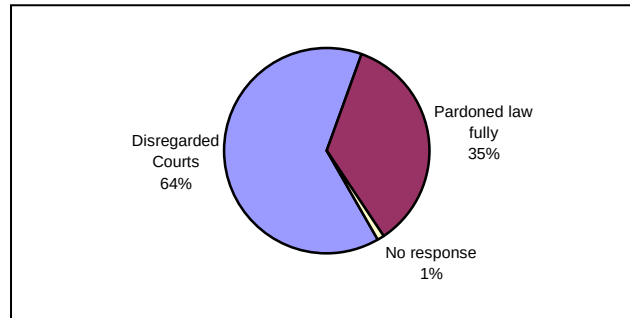


Table 3

Question: Some people believe that by sending Nawaz Sharif into exile (on its own) the government has disregarded (ridiculed) the courts; others disagree and say that Nawaz was pardoned by the President

according to law. What is your view?

Disregarded Courts	64
Pardoned lawfully	35
No response	1



MAJORITY ACROSS POLITICAL AFFILIATIONS BELIEVES THAT CORRUPTION CASES AGAINST NAWAZ (65%) AND BENAZIR (77%) ARE JUSTIFIED. But they want the country to now move beyond accountability (62%).

Table 4

Question: Would you say the court cases against Nawaz Sharif are fair or unfair?

(Read in rows)

	Fair	Unfair	NR
Among All voters	65	34	1
ML voters	51	48	1
PPP voters	78	21	1
Other voters	74	25	1

Table 5

Question: And would you say the court cases against Benazir Bhutto and Asif Zardari are fair or unfair?

(Read in rows)

	Fair	Unfair	NR
Among All voters	77	22	1
ML voters	78	21	1
PPP voters	65	34	1
Other voters	83	16	1