



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 of Technology (MIT) and has taught at leading universities in Pakistan and abroad, is Chairman of Gallup Pakistan.

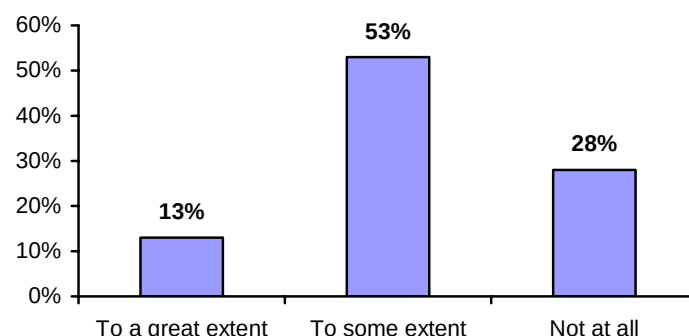
66 % Believe Human Rights Are Observed in Pakistan: GILANI POLL / GALLUP PAKISTAN

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According to a Gilani Research Foundation survey carried out by Gallup Pakistan, two thirds of Pakistanis (66%) believe human rights are observed in Pakistan to a great or some extent, but only six in ten believe there is equality before the law. When the respondents were read out a list of human rights it was seen that majority believe that all of those are followed in Pakistan: Right to **Freedom of Religion** (90%), Right to **Freedom of Expression** (78%), Right to **Marriage with consent** of the intending spouses (78%), Right to **Freedom from Torture** (64%), Right to **Just and Favorable Remuneration** (65%), **Equality before the Law** (61%).

A nationally representative sample of men and women from across the country were asked “*In your view, to what extent are human rights laws obeyed in Pakistan?*” Thirteen percent (13%) believe they are obeyed to a great extent and the majority, 53%, of the respondents claimed human rights laws are observed to some extent, whereas, 28% think they are not at all followed in Pakistan. Interestingly a proportionately higher percentage of ruralites (71%) as compared to urbanites (57%) believe human rights laws are acted upon in Pakistan to a great or some extent.

“In your view, to what extent are the human rights laws obeyed in Pakistan?”



Source: Gilani Poll conducted by Gallup Pakistan,
the Pakistani affiliate of Gallup International Association (www.gallup-international.com; www.gallup.com.pk)

In a follow up question respondents were read out a few basic human rights and were asked the extent to which each of them were enforced in Pakistan. The results for each indicated interesting variations in perspectives about Pakistani society.

The overwhelming majority of Pakistanis think right to freedom of religious practice is observed in Pakistan to some or a great extent. Fifty one percent (51%) of the respondents think that “**Right to Freedom of Religion**” is enjoyed by everyone in Pakistan to a great extent. Thirty nine percent (39%) said it is enjoyed to some extent and only 9% believe Pakistanis do not have the freedom to practice the religion of their choice. In a country where 95% or more of the population belongs to the same religion, it is not surprising that most people do not feel their right to religious freedom is infringed upon by the state or by society.

Forty one percent (41%) believe that “**Right to Freedom of Expression**” is observed in Pakistan to a great extent. Thirty one percent (31%) think it is to some extent and 21% of the respondents do not think there is freedom of expression in Pakistan. One of the reasons of this favourable opinion is the perception that Media is becoming increasingly free in Pakistan (please refer to recent [Gilani Poll on Media dated May 19, 2009](http://www.gallup.com.pk/pollshow.php?id=2009-05-19)). (<http://www.gallup.com.pk/pollshow.php?id=2009-05-19>).

Another human right, “**Right to Marriage with free and full consent of the intending spouses**” is believed to be obeyed in Pakistan to a great extent by 34% of the respondents. Forty four percent (44%) said it is followed to some extent, where as 21% do not believe this rule is fulfilled. Almost equal percentage of men and women said that the above mentioned marriage rule is followed in Pakistan.

Public Opinion is divided on the issue of torture. A third of the sample (33%) think “**Right to Freedom from Torture**” is observed in Pakistan to a great extent. Another third (31%) think it is observed to some extent and 35% think it is not observed at all.

According to 26% of the respondents the following “**Right to Just and Favorable Remunerated for Work**” is obeyed to a great extent. Thirty nine percent (39%) believe it to be obeyed to some extent whereas 33% of the respondents believe that it is not at all followed in Pakistan.

According to 38% of the respondents, the statement, “**Equality before the Law**” is not at all true for Pakistan. Twenty four percent (24%) claimed this particular human rights rule is followed in Pakistan to a great extent and 37% believe it is acted upon to some extent.

“In your view, to what extent are the following human rights laws observed in Pakistan?”

Right	Great Extent	Some extent	Not at all	Don't know
Freedom of Religion	51%	39%	9%	1%
Freedom of Expression	41%	31%	21%	7%
Marriage with consent	34%	44%	21%	1%
Freedom from Torture	33%	31%	35%	1%
Just and Favorable Remuneration	26%	39%	33%	2%
Equality before the Law	24%	37%	38%	1%

Source: Gilani Poll conducted by Gallup Pakistan,
the Pakistani affiliate of Gallup International Association (www.gallup-international.com; www.gallup.com.pk)

The study was released by Gilani foundation and carried out by Gallup Pakistan, the Pakistani affiliate of Gallup International. The latest survey was carried out among a sample of 2690 men and women in rural and urban areas of all four provinces of the country, during May 2009. Error margin is estimated to be approximately $\pm 2-3$ per cent at 95% confidence level.

Gallup Pakistan proposes that its poll results be attributed as Gilani Poll conducted by Gallup Pakistan, the Pakistani affiliate of Gallup International. This is to distinguish our polls from polls on Pakistan sometimes released by other organizations not part of Gallup International Association (www.gallup-international.com) and referred to by the same title. Also please see necessary Disclaimer on our website (www.gallup.com.pk). Gallup Pakistan takes responsibility for only its own polls on Pakistan.

For more survey data on social related and other issues see website www.gallup.com.pk

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