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Gallup SNAP POLL: Court Verdict against Nawaz Sharif
PUBLIC OPINION IS SHARPLY DIVIDED

Results released on: April 7, 2000



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***Gallup SNAP POLL: Court Verdict against Nawaz Sharif
PUBLIC OPINION IS SHARPLY DIVIDED - April 7, 2000***

According to a snap poll conducted by Gallup Pakistan, views are sharply divided among those who support the court verdict against former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and those who oppose it. According to the survey 54% said the verdict was fair while 46% said it was given under government pressure. But there is little support for violent protest against the court decision. When asked: "What in your view should the supporters of Nawaz Sharif do?" Only 10% supported street protests, 38% supported a court battle while 52% said the supporters should simply accept the verdict.

The poll was conducted by Gallup Pakistan, the Pakistani affiliate of Gallup International hours after the court in Karachi gave its verdict on the issue. The survey was conducted among more than 500 statistically selected men and women in the major urban areas of the country.

Responding to the Gallup poll 51% of the respondents believed the higher courts will reduce the sentence, 11% believed they will acquit Nawaz Sharif while 38% thought the sentence will be maintained. According to the survey 63% of the respondent believed the court decision was good from the view point of the country's future, while 37% said it was bad for the country.

The survey was conducted by Gallup Pakistan, the Pakistani affiliate of Gallup International among a representative sample of more than 500 men and women in the major urban areas of the country. The sample included a cross section of people belonging to various age, income, education and linguistic backgrounds. The text of this report can also be seen on the internet at www.gallup.com.pk.

Question: Some people believe that the Court decision against Nawaz Shairf was done according to the law, others believe it was given under government pressure. What is your view?

Percent of respondents

According to law	54%
Under government pressure	46%

Question: In your view will the High Court and the Supreme Court maintain the verdict given today or would you say that the sentence may be reduced or that Nawaz Sharif might be acquitted in the Superior Courts?

Percent of respondents who expect the sentence will be

Maintained	38%
Reduced	51%
Overtured (Acquittal)	11%

Question: What in your view should the supporters of Nawaz Sharif do now: Accept the verdict quietly, come out on the streets to protest or fight a legal battle?

Percent of respondents

Accept the verdict quietly	52%
Fight a legal battle	38%
Come out on roads to protest	10%

Question: In your view is the Court verdict good for the future of the country or bad for it?

Percent of respondents

Good	63%
Bad	37%

Source: Gallup Snap poll, April 6, 2000