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GALLUP PAKISTAN POLL FINDINGS ON

LIBYA ATTRACTS PAKISTANI SYMPATHIES

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LIBYA ATTRACTS PAKISTANI SYMPATHIES

A recent Gallup poll shows strong sympathy among the Pakistani public for Libya in its confrontation with the United States of America. The poll also shows that Colonel Kaddafi enjoys a favorable image in Pakistan.

In a nation- wide survey conducted by Gallup Pakistan simultaneously in nearly one hundred statistically selected cities and towns all over Pakistan 68% of the respondents said that Pakistani government should file an official protest against American economic sanctions and military threats to Libya. 71% supported the idea that Pakistan should mediate to solve the differences between the US and Libya.

But the more interesting findings were views on the issue of public's direct and personal involvement in anti-US protests. 42% of the respondents supported anti-US rallies on the Libyan issue while 36% opposed them. The remaining 22% did not express any opinion.

The Gallup survey also sought public evaluation of Kaddafi as a leader. The Libyan leader who appeared as a hero in Pakistan about a decade ago during an Islamic summit conference seems to have retained his popular image despite many shifts in his policies since then. Nearly 56% of the respondents rated him as a very good leader. Another 17% considered his leadership credentials as fairly good. Only 6% rated Colonel Kaddafi as a bad or very bad leader. 21% expressed no opinion.

Lately America had threatened to use military action against Libya and it had imposed economic sanctions against it. What in your view should be our attitude in this situation?

Percent of respondents			
	agree	disagree	No opinion
Pakistan should file official protest against Americas action	68	15	17
Pakistan should try to mediate	71	14	15
Pakistani people should stage protest rallies against America.	42	36	22

In response to another open ended question in the Gallup survey, Kaddafi turns out to be the second most popular Muslim leader scoring to King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and ranking higher than Imam Khomeini who appears as the third most popular leader.