



## ECP Code of Conduct Violations

Pre-U38/06-May -2013

# 830 Code Violations, including Controversial Speeches

## Introduction

The Free and Fair Election Network (FAFEN) has deployed Constituency Long Term Observers (CLTOs) in every National Assembly constituency across the country to observe the pre-election campaign period. These CLTOs report violations of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) Code of Conduct for Political Parties and Candidates, among other topics.

This update is based on reports gathered by CLTOs between April 20 and 26, 2013, from 131 constituencies – 86 in Punjab, 22 in Sindh, 16 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), four in Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) and three in Balochistan.

## Summary

FAFEN observers recorded a total of 830 Code of Conduct violations. Of these, 10 cases were of speeches arousing controversy or personal criticism of other candidates. FAFEN Pre-Election Update 35 (26 April 2013) reported 11 similar observed cases. A related FAFEN press release on 30 April 2013 urged ECP to take more action to “Stop Incitements to Sectarian Violence.”

Observers reported two actions against women voters and 41 instances of illegal voter inducement. Other observed violations include weapons display (41 instances), rallies causing inconvenience (39), aerial firing/fireworks (18), and use of loudspeakers (63 instances).

Half of the observed Code of Conduct violations were visual campaign materials exceeding allowable sizes, including banners, hoardings, leaflets and posters (414, or 49.9%). Other violations noted were wall chalking/graffiti (202,

## Legal Framework

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) issued a Code of Conduct for Political Parties and Candidates on 28 January (and again 27 March) 2013.

ECP has banned “speeches calculated to arouse parochial and sectarian feelings and controversy or conflicts between genders, sects, communities and linguistic groups” (Article 15) and the use of “abusive language” (Article 16) and personal criticism (Article 17) against other candidates.

With regard to women, campaigners may not “propagate against the participation of any person in the elections on the basis of gender ... (Article 19), but “shall encourage women to participate in the election process” (Article 20).

Meals and gifts to voters are also banned. Candidates may not “bribe” voters (Article 4) or induce voters with promises of specific development schemes (Article 14).

Rallies must be notified and organized for the purpose of “avoiding heavy traffic congestion and inconvenience of the general public” (Article 39).

Wall chalking and loudspeakers are banned (Article 11), as are aerial firing, fireworks and carrying weapons (Article 29) during election campaigning.

The sizes of campaign materials are limited by the Code, namely for banners (3x9 feet), hoardings (3x5 feet), posters (2x3 feet), and leaflets (9x6 inches) (Article 12). Campaign materials may not be posted on public (Article 10) or private (Article 27) property without written permission.

or 24.3%). These two categories constitute three-fourths (616, or 74.2%) of observed violations.

Violations were committed by 20 political parties and independent candidates. Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) committed almost one-third of the violations (244, or 29.3%), followed by almost one-fifth by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) (154, or 18.5%), Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians (PPPP) (144, or 17.3 %), independent candidates (96, or 11.5%) and Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) (42, or 5.1%).

Almost three-quarter of violations were reported in Punjab (614, or 73.9%), followed by Sindh (125, or 15.1%) and KP (80 or 9.6%). Only eight Code violations (0.96%) were reported from FATA and three (0.3 %) in Balochistan.

<b>Number of Code of Conduct Violations, by Type</b>	
<b>Nature of Violation</b>	<b>Number of Incidents</b>
Actions against Women Voters	2
Speech Arousing Controversy or Abusing Other Candidates	10
Aerial Firing or Fireworks	18
Rallies Causing Inconvenience	39
Display of Weapons	41
Illegal Inducements to Voters	41
Use of Loudspeakers	63
Illegal Campaign Material	616
<b>Total</b>	<b>830</b>

<b>Reporting National Assembly (NA) Constituencies April 20 to April 26, 2013</b>		
<b>Province /Region</b>	<b>Number of NA Constituencies</b>	<b>NA Constituencies</b>
Punjab	86	NA-153, NA-83, NA-157, NA-172, NA-101, NA-98, NA-184, NA-124, NA-52, NA-82, NA-81, NA-107, NA-105, NA-155, NA-78, NA-149, NA-194, NA-189, NA-196, NA-166, NA-170, NA-106, NA-195, NA-104, NA-126, NA-169, NA-125, NA-127, NA-150, NA-135, NA-64, NA-156, NA-154, NA-190, NA-68, NA-51, NA-50, NA-122, NA-168, NA-123, NA-75, NA-113, NA-111, NA-53, NA-110, NA-114, NA-152, NA-90, NA-77, NA-55, NA-146, NA-116, NA-93, NA-67, NA-171, NA-145, NA-112, NA-66, NA-80, NA-65, NA-158, NA-85, NA-120, NA-151, NA-167, NA-94, NA-99, NA-175, NA-117, NA-72, NA-71, NA-74, NA-118, NA-73, NA-140, NA-128, NA-102, NA-192, NA-139, NA-159, NA-89, NA-109, NA-188, NA-181, NA-160, NA-182
Sindh	22	NA-238, NA-211, NA-212, NA-236, NA-234, NA-240, NA-250, NA-200, NA-219, NA-221, NA-255, NA-253, NA-226, NA-232, NA-199, NA-215, NA-217, NA-223, NA-258, NA-220, NA-242, NA-204
KP	16	NA-10, NA-11, NA-27, NA-5, NA-15, NA-26, NA-34, NA-16, NA-9, NA-2, NA-28, NA-24, NA-29, NA-35, NA-12, NA-13
FATA	4	NA-37, NA-38, NA-39, NA-40
Balochistan	3	NA-260, NA-261, NA-269
<b>Total</b>	<b>131</b>	

## **1. Campaign Violations Other than Visual Materials**

### **1.1 Speech Arousing Controversy or Abusing Candidates (Code Articles 15, 16 and 17)**

FAFEN observers recorded 10 violations of the ECP Code of Conduct related to speech tending to arouse controversy or personal criticism of other candidates. Six of such cases were reported in Punjab, three in KP and one in Sindh. Violators included three PTI candidates, two independent candidates and one JI candidate. Two violations were committed by PML-N workers, one jointly by PPPP and Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM), and one by unidentified persons.

Three PTI candidates in NA-35 (Malakand, KP), NA-153 (Multan, Punjab) and NA-181 (Layyah, Punjab) delivered inflammatory speeches against their opponents, as did two independent candidates in NA-188 (Bahawalnagar, Punjab) and NA-107 (Gujrat, Punjab) and a JI candidate in NA-35 (Malakand Protected Area, KP).

Workers of a PML-N candidate accused their opponents in NA-27 (Lakki Marwat, Punjab) of siding with terrorists during inflammatory speeches, while party workers in NA-89 (Jhang, Punjab) dubbed their opponents quarrelsome and rigid.

A female candidate of MQM was allegedly mocked/harassed in NA-238 (Thatta, Sindh) by unidentified motorcyclists, while a PTI candidate in NA-153 (Multan, Punjab) was reportedly harassed by PPPP and MQM workers.

### **1.2 Actions against Women Voters (Code Articles 19 and 20)**

FAFEN observers reported two incidents of actions against women voters in Punjab, both by PML-N party workers or candidates. Workers of PML-N in NA-83 (Faisalabad) allegedly plan to bar women from voting under a secret understanding between candidates/political parties and community elders. A PML-N candidate in NA-157 (PP-215, Khanewal) allegedly bribed women not to participate in a meeting of his political opponent and warned them of dire consequences if they voted for his opponent.

### **1.3 Illegal Inducements to Voters (Code Articles 4 and 14)**

FAFEN observers reported 41 incidents – 30 in Punjab, six in KP, four in Sindh and one in Balochistan – in which candidates allegedly tried to attract voters by distributing money, food or other commodities and/or by promising jobs or specific development schemes. Violators included 12 PPPP candidates, 11 PML-N candidates, eight independent candidates, six PTI candidates, two Pakistan Muslim League (PML) candidates and one candidate each of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islami-Fazal ur Rehman (JUI-F) and Ahle Sunnat Wal Jamaat (ASWJ).

#### **Punjab**

A PML-N candidate in Mianwali (NA-71) gave cash to voters and promised government jobs. In the same constituency the PML-N candidate distributed sewing machine and food items. He also funded the construction of toilets and installation of hand pumps in various areas.

In Faisalabad (NA-77), two independent candidates in separate gatherings promised jobs for potential voters and distributed food items. In NA-85 (Faisalabad), a PML-N candidate arranged meals for voters.

In two separate gatherings in NA-98 (Gujranwala), PML-N candidates promised jobs for potential voters.

A PML candidate in Gujrat (NA-104) distributed cash among rickshaw drivers for displaying his campaign material on their vehicles, while a PTI candidate from the same constituency distributed bats among people.

An independent candidate in Narowal (NA-116) promised jobs and arranged feasts for voters in two gatherings, while PPPP and PML-N candidates from the same constituency promised jobs for voters in separate gatherings.

A PPPP candidate in two gatherings in Lahore (NA-118) gave away motorbikes and food items to constituents. An independent candidate in Lahore (NA-125) distributed food items among potential voters.

A PPPP candidate in NA-139 (Kasur) arranged feast for his voters, and a PTI candidate in the same constituency promised jobs for voters and gave away food items. In NA-140 (Kasur), an independent candidate and a PML candidate distributed food items among voters.

A PML-N candidate in Multan (NA-152) distributed clothes among potential voters, while a PTI candidate in Multan (NA-153) promised jobs and distributed food items in three gatherings. A candidate of ASWJ in Khanewal (NA-156) was seen seeking votes on religious grounds, which ECP has reportedly also banned.

In Khanewal (NA-158), a PPPP candidate arranged feast for his voters. An independent candidate in Vehari (NA-169) provided fuel and CNG for vehicles of his voters. A PML-N candidate in Rahim Yar Khan (NA-192) arranged feasts to attract potential voters.

## KP

In Swabi (NA-12), a JUI-F candidate arranged a feast for his voters. In NA-24 (Dera Ismail Khan), a PPPP candidate funded installation of water pumps in various areas. Likewise, candidates of PTI, PPPP and PML-N in NA-35 (Malakand) arranged feasts and gave away food items to their potential voters in separate gatherings.

## Sindh

A PPPP candidate in NA-215 (Khairpur) gave away hand pumps to two families and distributed cash among many people. Another PPPP candidate in NA-258 (Karachi) pledged a water supply scheme in the constituency, while a PML-N candidate distributed goods among voters.

## Balochistan

In NA-260 (Quetta-cum-Chaghi-cum-Mastung), a PPPP candidate promised jobs for his voters and arranged a feast.

### 1.4 Display of Weapons (Code Article 29)

FAFEN observers reported 41 incidents – 21 in Punjab, 11 in Sindh and 9 in KP – in which candidate supporters or party workers displayed weapons at public places. PML-N had the most violations with 12 instances, followed by PPPP (8), ANP and PML (4 each), JUI-F (3), PTI and independent candidates (2 each), and ASWJ, MQM, National Peoples Party (NPP), Pakistan Awami Tehreek, PML-Functional (PML-F), PPP-Shaheed Bhutto (PPP-SB) (1 each).

Display of Weapons, by Party and Province				
Political Parties	Total No. Violations	Punjab	KP	Sindh
PML-N	12	11	0	1
PPPP	8	1	1	6
ANP	4	0	4	0
PML	4	4	0	0
JUI-F	3	0	3	0
PTI	2	2	0	0
Independent Candidates	2	1	1	0
ASWJ	1	1	0	0
MQM	1	0	0	1
NPP	1	0	0	1
Pakistan Awami Tehreek	1	1	0	0
PML-F	1	0	0	1
PPP-SB	1	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>11</b>

PML-N workers were seen carrying guns in 11 gatherings in Punjab (NA-52, NA-65, NA-71, NA-75, NA-82, NA-85, NA-89, NA-106 and NA-159) and one in Sindh (NA-212). PPPP workers were seen with weapons at six gatherings in Sindh (NA-211, NA-212, NA-217, NA-221 and NA-236), one in Punjab (NA-109) and one in KP (NA-5).

Awami National Party (ANP) workers were seen carrying weapons in four gatherings in KP (NA-12, NA-13, NA-35) while PML supporters were seen with weapons in four gatherings in NA-104 (Gujrat, Punjab). Workers of JUI-F were seen with weapons in NA-27 (Lakki Marwat) and PTI supporters in NA-71 (Mianwali) and NA-65 (Sargodha), all in Punjab.

In NA-168 (Vehari, Punjab), supporters of independent candidates were seen carrying weapons. The supporters of an independent candidate in NA-26 (Bannu, KP) were also observed with weapons.

In Sindh, PPP-SB and NPP workers were seen carrying weapons in NA-211 (Naushero Feroze), as were MQM workers in NA-238 (Thatta). In Punjab, Pakistan Awami Tehreek workers in NA-116 (Narowal) and ASWJ workers in NA-90 (Jhang) were seen with weapons.

### 1.5 Aerial Firing and Fireworks (Code Article 29)

PPPP supporters were seen setting off firecrackers at two rallies in NA-145, NA-146 (Okara, Punjab) and also outside party offices in NA-51 and NA-50 (Rawalpindi, Punjab). Fireworks were seen at a PML-N rally in NA-167 (Vehari, Punjab) while supporters of Balochistan National Party-Mengal (BNP-M) set off firecrackers in NA-269 (Khuzdar).

FAFEN observers recorded 11 instances of aerial firing during the observation period: four by MQM in Sindh (NA-219, NA-220, NA-223); three by PML-N in Punjab (NA-117, NA-71 and NA-146); two by independent candidates in NA-74 (Punjab) and NA-242 (Sindh) and one each by PTI in Punjab (NA-71) and PPPP supporters/workers in Punjab (NA-146).

## 1.6 Use of Loudspeakers (Code Article 11)

FAFEN observers noted 63 instances in which candidates and/or their supporters were found using loudspeakers for electioneering. A total of 45 of these incidents were recorded in Punjab, eight in Sindh, seven in KP, two in FATA and one in Balochistan.

The highest number of violations was observed by PML-N candidates (16), followed by PTI (15), independent candidates (10), PPPP (9), JI (6), JUI-F (2) and one each by MQM, ASWJ, ANP, Jeay Sindh Qaumi Mahaz (JSQM) and NPP.

Illegal Use of Loudspeaker, by Party and Province						
Political Party	KP	Punjab	Sindh	Balochistan	FATA	Total
PML-N	1	14	1	0	0	<b>16</b>
PTI	0	15	0	0	0	<b>15</b>
Independent Candidates	1	7	0	0	2	<b>10</b>
PPPP	0	4	5	0	0	<b>9</b>
JI	3	3	0	0	0	<b>6</b>
JUI-F	2	0	0	0	0	<b>2</b>
MQM	0	1	0	0	0	<b>1</b>
ASWJ	0	1	0	0	0	<b>1</b>
ANP	0	0	0	1	0	<b>1</b>
JSQM	0	0	1	0	0	<b>1</b>
NPP	0	0	1	0	0	<b>1</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>63</b>

## 1.7 Rallies causing Inconvenience (Code Article 39)

A total of 39 instances were observed in which political campaign rallies caused traffic congestion and other inconvenience to the public. Punjab had the most rallies violating the ECP Code (27), followed by Sindh (8), KP (3), and FATA (1).

Twelve cases of traffic and inconvenience were caused by PML-N campaigners, followed by PTI with 10, PPPP (6), independent candidates (4), NPP and JI (2 each) and one each by PML, MQM and JUI-F.

Twelve PML-N rallies in NA-71, NA-66, NA-75, NA-90, NA-125, NA-140, NA-159, NA-170, NA-175, NA-181 and NA-223 caused traffic jams and inconvenience to the public. Ten PTI rallies in NA-15, NA-50, NA-75, NA-125, NA-155, NA-157, NA-159, NA-160 and NA-170 resulted in traffic jams and other inconvenience.

Six PPPP rallies in NA-50, NA-128, NA-167, NA-182 and NA-211 caused inconvenience to the public by disrupting traffic, while four rallies of independent candidates in NA-40, NA-75, NA-204 and NA-238 also caused traffic jams and inconvenience.

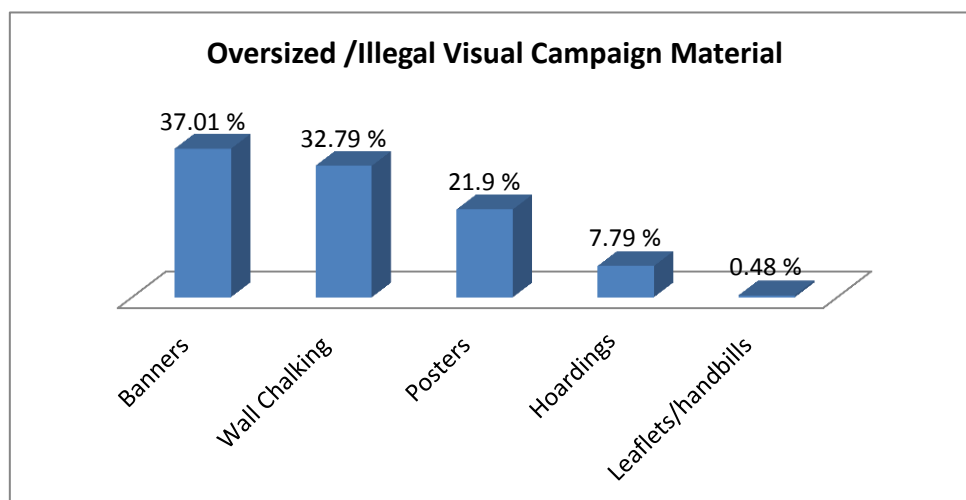
Two NPP rallies in NA-211 and two JI rallies in NA-29 resulted in traffic jams. Rallies of JUI-F, MQM and PML in NA-149, NA-238 and NA-157 also caused traffic jams.

## 2. Illegal Visual Campaign Material

In all, 616 instances of illegal visual campaign material were reported across the country between April 20 and April 26. The highest number of violations was reported in Punjab (471), followed by Sindh (88), KP (52), and five in FATA.

Oversized banners/panaflexes were seen at 228 places (37.0%). Parties' and candidates' wall chalking/graffiti were seen at 202 locations (32.8%), despite a blanket ban. FAFEN observers noted posters above allowed size at 135 locations (21.9%), hoardings/billboards at 48 locations (7.8%) and leaflets/handbills larger than the allowed dimensions at three locations (0.5%).

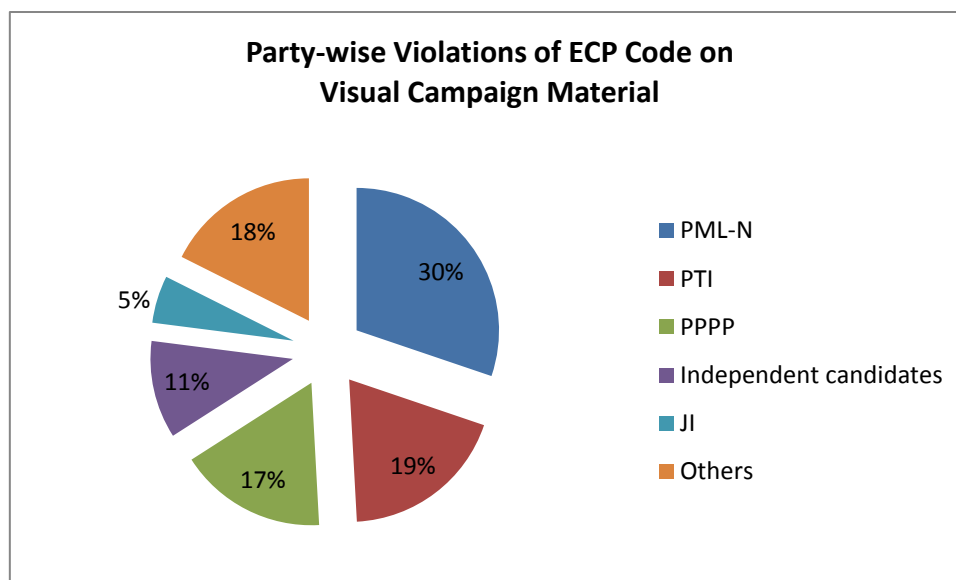
Visual Campaign Material Violations, by Type on Government Property (GP) and Private Property (PP)												
Province /Region	Banners/ Panaflex (larger than 3X9 feet)		Wall Chalking /Graffiti (banned)		Hoardings/ Billboards (larger than 3X5 feet)		Posters (larger than 2X3 feet)		Leaflets /Handbills larger than 9x6 inches		Total	
Punjab	201		132		39		96		3		471	
	GP	PP	GP	PP	GP	PP	GP	PP	GP	PP	GP	PP
	89	112	14	118	12	27	85	11	3	0	203	268
Sindh	10		39		4		35		0		88	
	GP	PP	GP	PP	GP	PP	GP	PP			GP	PP
	2	8	33	6	2	2	32	3			69	19
KP	16		29		5		2		0		52	
	GP	PP	GP	PP	GP	PP	GP	PP			GP	PP
	0	16	3	26	1	4	2	0			6	46
FATA	1		2		0		2		0		5	
	GP	PP	GP	PP			GP	PP			GP	PP
	0	1	0	2			0	2			0	5
<b>Totals</b>	<b>228</b>		<b>202</b>		<b>48</b>		<b>135</b>		<b>3</b>		<b>616</b>	





PML-N committed 185 or 30.0% violations, followed by PTI with 116 or 18.8% violations, PPPP (103 or 16.7%), independent candidates (68 or 11.0%), and JI (33, or 5.4%).

Other parties with visual materials that violated the ECP Code include PML (23 instances), MQM (20), JUI-F (16 instances), JSQM (13), ANP (10), Sunni Tehreek (7), NPP (5), ASWJ and PPP-SB (4 each), PML-F (3), PPP-Sherpao (PPP-S) and Pakistan Awami Tehreek (2 each), and Jamhoori Watan Party (JWP) and Pukhtunkhwa Milli Awami Party (PKMAP) (one each).



## 2.1 Banners/Panaflexes (Code Article 12)

Oversized banners/panaflexes were seen at 228 places in various constituencies across the country. Of these locations, 201 were in Punjab, 16 in KP, 10 in Sindh and one in FATA. Such material was seen at 137 private (Code Article 27) and 91 government properties (Code Article 10).

Oversized Banners/Panaflexes, by Party and Location			
Political Parties	Total Number of Violations	Government Property	Private Property
PML-N	91	30	61
PTI	42	19	23
PPPP	34	18	16
Independent Candidates	21	12	9
PML	12	3	9
JI	9	6	3
MQM	5	2	3
JUI-F	3	0	3
ANP	3	0	3
PML-F	2	0	2
PPPS	2	0	2
ASWJ	1	0	1
Sunni Tehreek	1	0	1
NPP	1	0	1



JSQM	1	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>137</b>

Candidates belonging to PML-N had the highest number of violations at 91, followed by PTI (42), PPPP (34), independent candidate (21), PML (12), JI (9), MQM (5), JUI-F and ANP (3 each), PML-F and PPP-S (2 each), and ASWJ, Sunni Tehreek, NPP and JSQM (one each)

## 2.2 Wall Chalking (Code Article 11)

Wall chalking was observed at 202 places: 132 in Punjab, 39 in Sindh, 29 in KP and two in FATA. Candidates belonging to PTI had the most violations (52), followed by PML-N (38), PPPP (33), independent candidates (23), JI (16), JUI-F (13), MQM (7), JSQM and Sunni Tehreek (6 each), NPP, PPP-SB and Pakistan Awami Tehreek (2 each) and ANP and JWP (1 each). One-quarter (50) of the violations were on government property and 152 on private property.

Wall Chalking/Graffiti, by Party and Location			
Political Parties	Total Number of Violations	Government Property	Private Property
PTI	52	6	46
PML-N	38	9	29
PPPP	33	14	19
Independent Candidates	23	1	22
JI	16	1	15
JUI-F	13	2	11
MQM	7	3	4
JSQM	6	6	0
Sunni Tehreek	6	1	5
NPP	2	2	0
PPP-SB	2	2	0
Awami Tehreek	2	2	0
ANP	1	0	1
JWP	1	1	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>152</b>

## 2.3 Hoardings/Billboards (Code Article 12)

FAFEN observers noted 48 hoardings larger than the ECP's allowed 3x5 feet size: 39 in Punjab, five in KP and four in Sindh. Candidates belonging to PML-N had the highest number of violations at 17, followed by PML (7), PPPP (6), independent candidates (5), ANP (4), PTI and MQM (3 each) and JI, ASWJ and NPP with one each. Two-thirds (33) of these violations were on private and 15 on government properties.

Oversized Hoardings/Billboards, by Party and Location			
Political Parties	Total Number of Violations	Government Property	Private Property
PML-N	17	5	12
PML	7	1	6

PPPP	6	2	4
Independent Candidates	5	2	3
ANP	4	1	3
PTI	3	2	1
MQM	3	1	2
JI	1	1	0
ASWJ	1	1	0
NPP	1	1	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>31</b>

## 2.4 Posters (Code Article 12)

FAFEN observers noted 135 instances in which campaign posters violated ECP size specifications: 96 in Punjab, 35 in Sindh and two each in KP and FATA. The most violations were by PML-N (37), followed by PPPP (30), independent candidates (19), PTI (18), JI (7), JSQM (6), MQM (5), PML (4), PPP-SB, ANP, ASWJ (2 each) and PML-F, PkMAP and NPP (1 each). These violations included 119 on government property and 16 on private property.

Oversized Posters, by Party and Location			
Political Parties	Total Number of Violations	Government Property	Private Property
PML-N	37	32	5
PPPP	30	26	4
Independent Candidates	19	15	4
PTI	18	17	1
JI	7	7	0
JSQM	6	6	0
MQM	5	4	1
PML	4	4	0
PPP-SB	2	2	0
ANP	2	2	0
ASWJ	2	2	0
PML-F	1	1	0
PKMPA	1	1	0
NPP	1	0	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>16</b>

## 2.5 Leaflets/Handbills (Code Article 12)

FAFEN observers reported three violations in this category on government property. Two oversized leaflets were of PML-N and one by PTI, all in Punjab.

## Recommendations

ECP has appointed more than 400 monitoring teams across the country to monitor political activities in General Election 2013. Based on its observations of violations around the country of the ECP Code of Conduct, FAFEN recommends the following:

1. ECP monitoring teams should respond to violations identified by FAFEN pre-election observers in each National Assembly constituency as well as reliable information gathered by other partisan and non-partisan sources.
2. ECP should communicate all enforcement actions taken against violators to the media and the public.

## **About FAFEN**

The Free and Fair Election Network (FAFEN), established in 2006, is a coalition of 42 leading civil society organizations working to strengthen all forms of democratic accountabilities in Pakistan. Governed by the Trust for Democratic Education and Accountability (TDEA), FAFEN also implements robust programs in-between elections related to monitoring parliamentary affairs, connecting constituents to their elected representatives, monitoring the performance of public and elected institutions and advocating electoral and democratic reforms.

## ***FAFEN Election Program***

FAFEN is implementing a long-term election observation program nationwide, including both pre and post-electoral processes. FAFEN has deployed almost 400 District and Constituency Long-Term Observers (DLTOs and CLTOs) across the country to monitor all phases of elections. In addition, FAFEN will deploy more than 43,000 trained, non-partisan citizens to monitor polling stations across the country on Election Day. FAFEN's 10-month observation process, which began on February 1, 2013, helps keep all election stakeholders informed on issues relevant to fairness and transparency at every stage of the election process.

## ***FAFEN Election Observation Methodology***

FAFEN's election observation activities are based on the Constitution and laws of Pakistan, global best practice standards for elections, as well as the legal obligations of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), ratified by Pakistan in 2010. All FAFEN observers adhere to the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) Code of Conduct for National Observers as well as the Global Principles for Non-Partisan Election Observation and Monitoring by Citizen Organizations (April 2012). FAFEN LTOs use standardized checklists to report electronically to the FAFEN Election Observation Secretariat in Islamabad regularly. FAFEN compiles data and information from around the country to issue regular thematic updates for the consideration of voters and election stakeholders.

FAFEN LTOs monitor and report on the activities of District Election Commissioners (DECs) and other ECP officials related to preparations for elections, including appointment and training of election officials, and the process of candidate nominations. LTOs also observe compliance with the ECP's Code of Conduct for political parties and candidates, and compliance of the executive branch with legal responsibilities and ECP regulations, including restrictions on transfers of civil service personnel and initiation of new development schemes. In addition, LTOs monitor political and electoral intimidation and violence, the actions of the police and other security forces, and the pre-election political environment.