



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

Military Action in Waziristan: Opinion Poll Gilani Poll/ Gallup Pakistan

Islamabad, November 3, 2009

A recent Gilani poll conducted during the last week of October 2009 by Gallup Pakistan shows Pakistani public's views and perceptions on the military action in South Waziristan.

Support for the Military Action: 51% support it, 13% oppose it and a significant 36% are unsure.

People Responsible for the Operation: Only 25% blame Taliban whereas majority hold America and Pakistan's own government responsible (35% & 31% respectively); 8% blame the Pakistan's Army, and 1% gave no response.

Effectiveness of the Operation: 36% are hopeful it will bring peace, 37% believe it will worsen the situation and 27% are unsure.

Whose War is it? 37% say it is Pakistan's own war, 39% believe it is Americas war, while 22% think that both Pakistan and America have shared interest in this war.

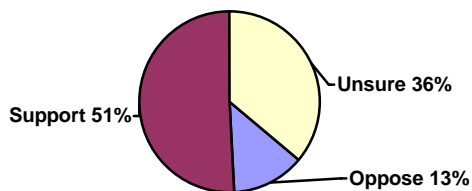
According to this survey, there is a cautious support in the Pakistani public opinion for the military action currently underway in South Waziristan against the Taliban. Fifty one percent (51%) support it, 13% oppose it, while 36% say they are unsure. But while a majority supports the military action against the Taliban insurgency, only a small number of 25% hold them responsible for the crisis that has called for military action, the remaining place the blame on America and Pakistan's own government and politicians, almost equally slapped on the two of them: 35% on the United States and 31% on Pakistani government and politicians, 8% put the blame on Pakistani army and 1% did not respond.

Will the military action bring peace to the area and improve the situation? Public opinion is sharply divided on this question: 36% believe the situation will improve, 37% believe it will further deteriorate, while the remaining 27% say they are unsure.

The sharpest change from previous surveys is on the question of whose war is it, Pakistan's or America's? Public opinion is still divided on the issue but many more consider it Pakistan's own war compared to a year ago. In the latest survey 37% consider it Pakistan's own war, 39% consider it America's war but a sizeable 22% consider it to be a war in which Pakistan and the US have shared interest and 2% did not answer. In 2008, only 23% considered military action in the North to be Pakistan's own war.

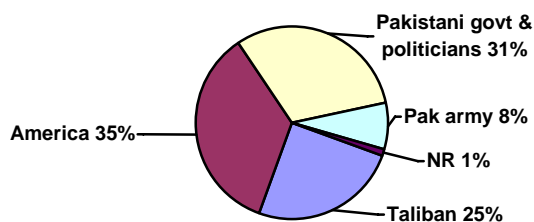
More details of the survey will be analyzed and released later in the week.

“Some people think that the government is doing wrong by doing military action in South Waziristan due to which thousands of people have been dislocated, while others believe that this operation is necessary for the interest of the country. What is your opinion?”



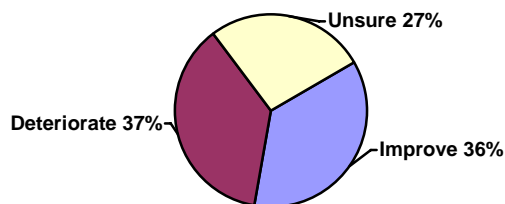
Source: Gilani Poll conducted by Gallup Pakistan, the Pakistani affiliate of Gallup International Association (www.gallup-international.com; www.gallup.com.pk)

“In your view who is more responsible for the crisis in Waziristan?”



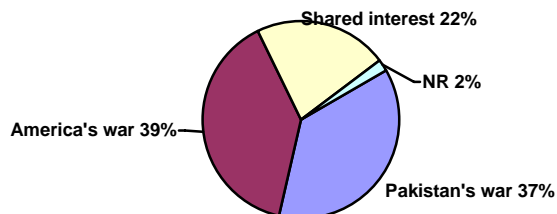
Source: Gilani Poll conducted by Gallup Pakistan, the Pakistani affiliate of Gallup International Association (www.gallup-international.com; www.gallup.com.pk)

“Some people believe that after the military action the situation will improve in South Waziristan, where as others believe it is going to worsen. What is your viewpoint?”



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

“Some people believe that the war going on in South Waziristan is Pakistan’s own war, some believe it is only America’s war, while others believe it is in the interest of both Pakistan and America. What is your viewpoint?”



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

The survey was carried out among a nationally representative sample of more than 2700 men and women in the rural and urban areas of all four provinces of Pakistan. The sample comprised a cross-section of all age, income, education, and linguistic groups in the country. The error margin for a survey of this kind is $\pm 2-3\%$ at 95% confidence level. The field work was done face to face during the last week of October 2009.

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 politics and other issues see website www.gallup.com.pk

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