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About PATTAN-Coalition38

PATTAN is one of the leading civil society organisations of Pakistan and has been working to empower marginalised classes to make state and govt bodies accountable for improving governance of elections, disasters and rights. Currently, PATTAN is the secretariat of Coalition38 - a largest network of CSOs, labour unions, CBOs, and intellectuals.

Coalition38 aims to influence the state institutions for the implementation of Articles 3; 29; 37, and 38 of Pakistan's Constitution in letter and spirit through research, awareness raising, social mobilization, networking of civil society including marginalised people and women.

PRESS RELEASE

While comprehensive investigation of the conduct of Pakistan's election must be held under an independent commission, to steer the country out of ever deepening uncertainty audit of Form 47 and Form 45s of each constituency under the supervision of District Session Judge, and in the presence of candidates/elections agents as well as independent observers and media must be completed on urgent basis.

Islamabad 18 February 2024. The Pakistan's general election of 8th February has lost its credibility entirely as the national and international community including the UNO have been demanding thorough probe. The confession of Mr. Liaqat Ali Chattha Commissioner of Rawalpindi Division of rigging – declaring losers as winners in the whole division has further deepened the uncertainty in the country.

Our group PATTAN-Coalition38 – a largest, an independent and self-financed election observation body had observed the elections 2024. While we fully support the demand for thorough and holistic investigation of the conduct of election from delimitation of constituencies to the announcement of the election results as well as denying election symbol to PTI, selection and appointment of DROs and ROs, suspension of internet and cellular services on the polling day, preparation and tampering of Form 47s and unexplainable delays in the announcement of results etc. we strongly demand to start audit of Form 47 in light of Form 45s of each constituency under the supervision of Session Judges and in the presence of candidates/election agents, independent observers and media persons. In order to prevent further controversy, we suggest to make arrangements for providing live coverage to the whole process. This will also enhance peoples' trust and confidence in democratic elections.

Moreover, we demand immediate removal of Chief Election Commissioner as he has miserably failed at each phase of the conduct of election. It is worth to remind that under the Article 218 of Pakistan's Constitution the Election Commission is responsible to hold free, fair, just, honest and transparent election. He has miserably failed us. Therefore, in his presence as CEC, the proposed audit of Form 47s and Form 45s can't be held.

Since, PATTAN had observed and analyzed the whole electoral process of the election, we are confident to note that rigging at each step of the election was likely to be part of a grand strategy. Therefore, it appears necessary to investigate the role of its authors, the implementers and who are the possible beneficiaries.

Finally, whistle blowing policy demands complete protection to the whistle-blowers as it helps build peoples' trust in democracy, rule of law, and helps control corrupt practices. We note with deep concern that the Caretaker government instead of providing full protection to the whistle blower has taken him into custody. We strongly condemn this harassment and arrests of the whistle-blower.

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