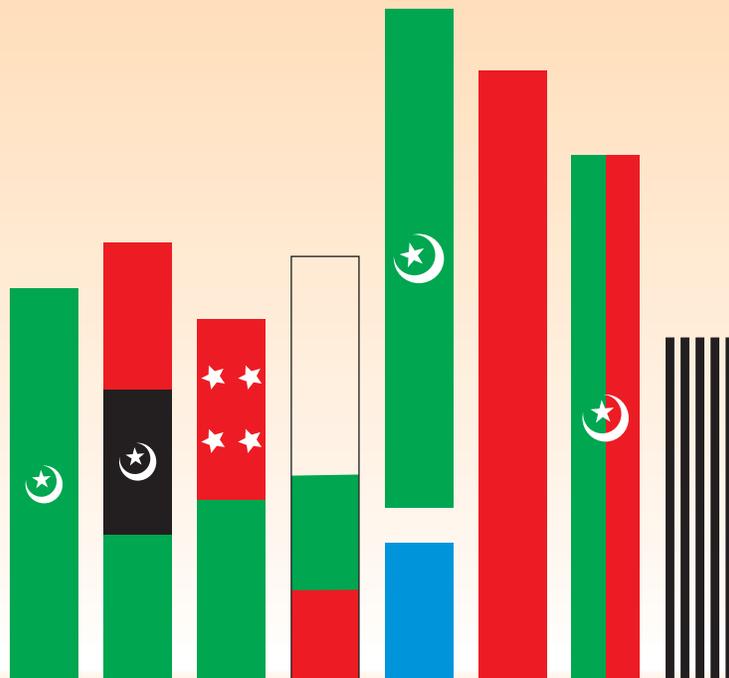


MONITOR

Political Parties' Internal Democracy
September 2016



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This monitor is meant to identify key developments during the month on Internal Democracy of Political Parties in Pakistan. In this issue:



Muttahida Quami Movement (MQM) – MQM celebrates birthday of party founder

On September 18, 2016, the founder and chief of MQM, Mr. Altaf Hussain's 63rd birthday celebration ceremony took place in London and Canada. It is rather strange that the founder chief, who is still living, his birthday is celebrated every year by various party chapters around the world with much zeal and vigor. While it may not be a new spectacle in Pakistan's political culture, MQM tends to walk the extra mile in glorifying and expressing its favorability for an individual over a democratic political party system.



Muttahida Quami Movement (MQM)–MQM - Pakistan sacks London- based leadership

On August 27, 2016,¹ the new head of MQM Pakistan, Dr. Farooq Sattar, declared complete disconnection with Mr. Altaf Hussain and the London office. This took place in response to a countrywide condemnation of the party chief's anti-state remarks that instigated party activists to attack local media houses in Karachi. Almost a month later, on the occasion of Mr. Altaf Hussain's birthday celebration ceremony on September 20, 2016 in London, Mr. Nadeem Nusrat, Convener of the MQM Coordination Committee, said that no one could separate the *Mohajir* community from Mr. Altaf Hussain and that MQM was nothing without him.

Following this statement by Mr. Nadeem Nusrat, the MQM-Pakistan held a meeting of the *Rabita* Committee, which was chaired by Dr. Farooq Sattar, at the party's temporary headquarters in Karachi on the same day, September 20, 2016. As a result of this meeting, it was decided to expel London-based Mr. Nadeem Nusrat along with members Mr. Wasay Jalil, Mr. Mustafa Azizabadi and Mr. Qasim Ali Raza.² According to media reports, the meeting had also decided that the basic membership of any member or office-bearer would be terminated if they were found involved in any act against the country's integrity and solidarity.



MQM's London-based Convenor Mr. Nadeem Nusrat addressing a party gathering in London



Muttahida Quami Movement (MQM) – MQM-Pakistan dissidence against MQM Chief

On September 21, 2016, the Sindh Assembly unanimously passed a resolution condemning Mr. Altaf Hussain for his controversial speech of August 22, 2016 and the resultant violence in

1. MQM in uncharted waters as Sattar ditches Altaf, DAWN, August 28, 2016, as accessed on September 12, 2016 at <http://www.dawn.com/news/1280497/mqm-in-uncharted-waters-as-sattar-ditches-alfat>
2. Dr. Sattar-led MQM sacks four London-based leaders, DAWN, September 21, 2016, as accessed on November 9, 2016 at <http://www.dawn.com/news/1285040/dr-sattar-led-mqm-sacks-four-london-based-leaders>

Karachi.³ The resolution also demanded action in accordance with Article 6 of Pakistan's Constitution (High Treason) against persons who raised anti-Pakistan slogans and caused violence in the country. This resolution was also supported by MQM lawmakers and was read out in the house by MQM Parliamentary Party Leader in the Sindh Assembly Syed Sardar Ahmed.

This was followed by a reaction from the London-based leadership on the same day when it announced the dissolution of the Coordination Committee along with the complete organisational structure of the party.⁴ London-based Convener Mr. Nadeem Nusrat criticised MQM members of the Sindh Assembly for tabling such a resolution against the party chief. He asked for their resignations and demanded that they contest fresh election in their personal capacity as they had been elected through Mr. Altaf Hussain.

According to media reports, Dr. Farooq Sattar clarified that the MQM-Pakistan lawmakers would not quit their assembly seats. He also said that the Coordination Committee and all other organisational offices of the party would remain operational. However, later on the night of September 21, 2016, MNA Mr. Sufyan Yusuf became the first lawmaker to quit the MQM-Pakistan and announced that he would tender his resignation from the National Assembly.

According to the tweets of Mr. Nadeem Nusrat reported in the media, he said that even though Mr. Altaf Hussain had voluntarily handed over all powers to the Coordination Committee of Pakistan in the greater interest of the party, deleting his name from the party's constitution was uncalled for and was done in an illegal and dictatorial manner. He said that the Mr. Altaf Hussain's powers were given to him by his party workers and only a few people could not take away his powers from him. He also clarified that the constitution of the party could only be amended in the presence of the Convener and a full quorum of the Coordination Committee and party workers.

 **Muttahida Quami Movement (MQM) – MQM Convener to make a new party in Pakistan**

In light of the clear split between the London and Pakistan based leadership of the MQM, on September 25, 2016, the

London-based Convener Mr. Nadeem Nusrat has been tasked by MQM Chief Mr. Altaf Hussain to organise a new set-up of the MQM in Pakistan.⁵ According to media reports, Mr. Nadeem Nusrat has been appointed in-charge of every single affair of the party and tasked to build a pro-Altaf MQM in Karachi. He has been asked to build contacts at all levels in the MQM organisation and form national, Karachi and local structures of the party to give an alternative to MQM-Pakistan now taken over by Dr. Farooq Sattar, Khawaja Izhar and Mr. Faisal Sabzwari. Apparently, and according to party sources, Mr. Nusrat enjoys full trust of the MQM Chief.

 **Muttahida Quami Movement (MQM) – Karachi mayor renounces his support for London-based MQM Leadership**

On September 26, 2016, Karachi's newly-elected Mayor Mr. Wasim Akhtar announced that his loyalties lay towards the MQM-Pakistan and that he did not need to take dictation from anyone. He sent in a handwritten statement to Dawn Newspaper saying that the MQM was a democratic political party and not a cult and its members could not be used as tools of exploitation. He wrote, "I would like to clarify in unequivocal terms that MQM is Pakistan based and registered as a political party here. It has in categorical terms disassociated itself from London and it neither needs its support nor needs to take dictation from everyone."⁶

Only two days before Mr. Waseem Akhtar's statement from prison, the MQM leadership in London had demanded immediate release of the Karachi mayor so that he may serve Karachi and take up its municipal challenges. Apparently, the rift between the two chapters of the party is so strong that Mr. Waseem Akhtar did not even accept the words of support from the London leadership.

 **Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) – Development schemes requested from candidates**

According to a media report published on September 27, 2016, PML-N leaders have been asked to submit development schemes for each constituency without any discrimination as to whether or not they were elected

3. Sindh PA passes resolution against Altaf unanimously, The News, September 22, 2016, as accessed on November 9, 2016 at <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/151750-Sindh-PA-passes-resolution-against-Altaf-unanimously>
4. London-based Muttahida leadership strikes back, DAWN, September 22, 2016, as accessed on November 9, 2016 at <http://www.dawn.com/news/1285321/london-based-muttahida-leadership-strikes-back>
5. Altaf tasks Nusrat to make new MQM in Pakistan, The News, September 26, 2016, as accessed on November 9, 2016 at <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/152757-Altaf-tasks-Nadeem-Nusrat-to-make-new-MQM-in-Pakistan>
6. Mayor rejects support from London-based leadership, DAWN, September 27, 2016, as accessed on November 9, 2016 at <http://www.dawn.com/news/1286289/mayor-rejects-support-from-london-based-mqm-leader>

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MNAs in the 2013 election.⁷ Specific forms have been distributed among sitting members in August 2016, in which each PML-N member is required to give his or her priority for development schemes, such as health, water, road infrastructure or other civic issues after surveying their respective constituencies.

A committee had also been formed led by Sheikh Aftab, MNA and Minister of State and retired Captain Mohammad Safdar, MNA to which the party leaders will submit their schemes. It is reported that the Federal Government plans to spend from Rs. 200 million to Rs. 500 million in each constituency for development work.



Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) – Party Reorganisation in South Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa nearing finishing line

On September 6, 2016, former Governor of Punjab and PPP leader Makhdom Ahmed Mehmood, who is a member of PPP's South Punjab Coordination Committee informed the media that party's organising committee had completed its assigned work regarding the reorganisation of the party in south Punjab.⁸ The committee was required to recommend at least 3 names for each organisation in the province up to the district level on the basis of political standing, past performance, reputation for integrity and overall acceptability among the workers. Makhdom Ahmed Mehmood informed his party leaders that recommendations had been sent to party Chairman Mr. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari who will now choose the PPP South Punjab office-bearers.

As per official notification on the PPP website, following were members of the South Punjab Coordination Committee:⁹

1. Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani
2. Makhdom Ahmed Mehmood
3. Mr. Shaukat Mahmood Basra
4. Mr. Tooichi Khan
5. Mr. Nawazish Ali Pirzada

However, as per media report published in The News

referenced earlier, the South Punjab committee includes:

1. Makhdom Ahmed Mehmood
2. Mr. Mehmood Hayat Tochi Khan
3. Mr. Shaukat Basra
4. Khawaja Rizwan Alam
5. Mr. Abdul Qadir Shaheen
6. Ms. Shugufta Ch.

PPP's KP Coordination Committee headed by Mr. Rahimdad Khan has also been reported to complete its work regarding recommendations of future office-bearers of the party in KP.¹⁰

On September 20, 2016, it was reported that the South Punjab chapter of the PPP led by former Prime Minister Mr. Yousuf Raza Gilani had finalised recommendations for the positions of President, General Secretary and Information Secretary in districts of Multan, Bahawalpur and Dera Ghazi Khan divisions.¹¹ Earlier on September 6, 2016, the same was reported by Makhdom Ahmed Mehmood.



Jamaat - e - Islami (JI) – Meetings of the Jamaat's Central Consultative Council and Central Working Committee

On September 12, 2016, the Jamaat-i-Islami Amir, Senator Siraj-ul-Haq, summoned a three-day meeting of the Central Consultative body (Shura) in order to review the JI's 'Corruption-Free Pakistan' campaign and the progress on Panama Leaks investigation on September 23, 2016. A meeting of the JI Central Working Committee was also to be held at the JI Head Office at Mansoor in Lahore on Sept 22, 2016.¹²

After these meetings of the Jamaat were held, Senator Siraj-ul-Haq addressed the media stating that the JI Shura had reviewed Jamaat's Corruption Free Pakistan campaign and resolved to continue it till every penny of the stolen wealth was recovered and the thieves were sent behind bars.¹³ He said that the JI wanted a completely ruthless and

7. Defeated PML-N Candidates to oversee development, DAWN, September 28, 2016, as accessed on November 9, 2016 at

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1286563/defeated-pml-n-candidates-to-oversee-development>

8. PPP reorganization in South Punjab completed, The News, September 7, 2017, as accessed on November 9, 2016 at

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/148309-PPP-reorganisation-in-South-Punjab-completed>

9. PPP announces organizing committees, PPP Official Website, April 14, 2016, as accessed on November 9, 2016 at <http://www.ppp.org.pk/ppp-announces-organizing-committee-for-punjab/>

10. PPP likely name provincial president after Eid, DAWN, September 13, 2016, as accessed on November 9, 2016 at <http://www.dawn.com/news/1283854/ppp-likely-to-name-provincial-president-after-eid>

11. Nominations for PPP South Punjab offices finalized, DAWN, September 20, 2016, as accessed on November 9, 2016 at

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1284897/nominations-for-ppp-south-punjab-offices-finalised>

12. JI to review anti-graft drive, DAWN, September 13, 2016, at <http://www.dawn.com/news/1283818/ji-to-review-anti-graft-drive>

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transparent accountability in which not only the Prime Minister but he himself would be subjected to ruthless accountability. He announced that the JI would hold conferences against corruption at provincial level and stage a sit-in in Faisalabad on September 30, 2016.

Jamaat - e - Islami (JI) – Deputy Chiefs appointed

On September 23, 2016, an official notification on the JI website stated that the Amir, Senator Sirajul Haq, in consultation with the JI Central Consultative body (Shura), had nominated Prof. Muhammad Ibrahim Khan and Dr. Farid Ahmed Piracha as Deputy Chiefs of the JI. They took the oath of their new office at the Shura session.

Pakistan Tehreek - e - Insaf (PTI) – PTI Founders Group meeting



PTI Founders Group Conference in Islamabad on Sept 4, 2016

On September 4, 2016, the dissident Founders Group of PTI held their first National Consultative Conference with a mandate to free the party from the clutches of “dictators and forces of status quo”.¹³ The Conference was convened by one of the founding members and former Information Secretary of the party, Mr. Akbar S. Babar, who had filed a petition back in November 2014 with the Election Commission of Pakistan and alleged corruption and violation of laws in collection of donations and management of party funds by party leadership.

The Group called for immediate resignation of KP Chief Minister Mr. Pervaiz Khattak and all PTI ministers for being involved in corruption. The Group also demanded a

judicial inquiry into the distribution of development funds in KP and asked the PTI Chairman Mr. Imran Khan to present himself for accountability before an independent commission comprising impartial party members. Mr. Babar alleged that Mr. Imran Khan as the party chief had failed to enforce fundamental principles of transparency, accountability, and merit in the party affairs. He also said that the Group demanded full implementation of all orders of the PTI Election Tribunal that was formed in 2015 headed by Justice (r) Wajihuddin Ahmed, including the expulsion of Mr. Jahangir Khan Tareen, Mr. Pervaiz Khattak, Mr. Aleem Khan and Mr. Nadir Leghari from the party on charges of corruption.

The Group rejected the appointment of all PTI office bearers that had been made in June 2016 by the party Chairman and demanded restoration of the PTI constitution and immediate restoration of Mr. Tasneem Noorani as Chief Election Commissioner who had resigned in March 2016. Mr. Babar said that a 'Central Committee' of the PTI Founders Group and provincial and district levels committees would be formed very soon.

Following are names of some attendees of the conference:

1. Former DG of the KP Ehtesab Commission, Lt. Gen. (R) Hamid Khan
2. Former PTI Punjab Founding President Mr. Saeedullah Khan Niazi - a first cousin of Mr. Imran Khan
3. Former PTI Secretary General Admiral Javed
4. Syed Hassan Shah
5. Khawaja Imtiaz
6. Mr. Mehmood Khan and
7. Former PTI Karachi President Commander Raza Hussain Shah

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) – Dissolution of PTI Youth Wing, Women Wing and Labour Wing and resultant resignation of PTI Additional Secretary General

On September 10, 2016, PTI Secretary General Mr. Jahangir Tareen issued a notification announcing the dissolution of the PTI Youth Wing, Women Wing and Labour Wing at the central and provincial levels.¹⁵ This decision, the statement added, was made in consultation with the Chairman and the provincial heads of the party

13. Jamaat stands by Kashmiris, The Nation, September 24, 2016, as accessed on November 9, 2016 at <http://nation.com.pk/lahore/24-Sep-2016/jamaat-stands-by-kashmiris>

14. PTI dissidents vow to free party from dictators, DAWN, September 5, 2016, as accessed on November 9, 2016 at <http://www.dawn.com/news/1282173/pti-dissidents-vow-to-free-party-from-dictators>

15. Secretary General Notification, September 10, 2016, PTI Official Website, as accessed on November 9, 2016 at <http://www.insaf.pk/about-us/office-of-the-secretary-general/item/1792679-secretary-general-notification-10-sep2016>

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with the purpose of harmonising the work of the wings with the mother party. It also stated that these wings would be reorganised once again at the 'regional' levels.

On September 18, 2016, the party youth wing announced a revolt against Mr. Jahangir Tareen and said it would start a countrywide campaign against the leader. As per media reports, the party's wing printed protest banners and posters to display them against Mr. Tareen during the PTI Raiwind protest march that was due to take place on September 30, 2016.¹⁶ The party's Labour Wing had also reacted in the same way and declined to accept any decisions of Mr. Tareen. Later the same day, PTI Additional Secretary General Mr. Saifullah Niazi resigned from his post, reportedly due to differences with PTI leader Mr. Jahangir Tareen.¹⁷ Whether his resignation has been accepted or not is still unclear.

A notification of clarification on September 19, 2016 was issued by the Central Media Department of PTI, that there were no rifts within the party and that the PML-N was

creating scandals in the media in order to impact the PTI Raiwind March.¹⁸ Mr. Tareen also dispelled the reports of a revolt and said that people who brought these disagreements out in the public were working on the PML-N's agenda.

Despite these claims, the disputes are apparent as during PTI Chairman Mr. Imran Khan's speech announcing the Raiwind March on September 18, 2016, members of the dissolved youth wing raised slogans for its revival. According to media reports, they also submitted a resolution to the chairman's office in order to seek reversal of the Secretary General's dissolution order.

It goes without saying that the decision should have been taken after consulting the relevant stakeholders in the party, such as, at least the heads of all the party wings that were dissolved. It is reported in the media that Ms. Munaza Hassan, MNA and Head of the PTI Women Wing, was informed of the decision through a notification without any prior consultation or communication.



Anti-Tareen posters reportedly printed by the dissolved youth wing of PTI; Source: The News

16. PTI Youth Wing revolts against Jehangir Tareen, The News, September 19, 2016, as accessed on November 9, 2016 at <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/150949-PTI-youth-wing-revolts-against-Jehangir-Tareen>
17. Imran's close aide Saifullah resigns, Geo News, September 18, 2016, as accessed on November 9, 2016 at <https://www.geo.tv/latest/114929-Internal-strife-Imrans-close-aide-Saifullah-Niazi-resigns-from-party-post>
18. PTI Press Release, PTI Official Website, September 19, 2016, as accessed on November 9, 2016 at <http://www.insaf.pk/news/national-news/item/1792705-ptis-press-releases-19-sep2016>

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Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) – Resignation of Justice (r) Wajihuddin Ahmed

On September 24, 2016, Justice (r) Wajihuddin Ahmad emailed his resignation (from basic membership of the party) letter to the PTI Chairman.¹⁹ He is reported to have said that the party has reached a stage where neither he is interested in remaining a part of it, nor is there space left for people like himself. He asserted that the PTI had lost its way and its ideology.

In August 2015, the PTI Chairman had already suspended Justice Wajihuddin's basic membership for repeatedly violating party discipline by issuing statements to the press. Justice Wajihuddin had served as the PTI Chief Election Commissioner, and had also headed a two-member Election Tribunal for the purpose of investigating complaints of irregularities in the party elections of 2013. As a result of the tribunal proceedings, he had ordered the cancellation of membership of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Pervez Khattak, Secretary General Jahangir Tareen and a few others, for influencing the outcome of the intra-party elections.

Justice Wajihuddin's resignation came during a time when party infighting is already going on and PTI's Additional Secretary General Saifullah Niazi had also resigned from

his post earlier in the same month. Since the indefinite postponement of party elections announced in April 2016 by the Chairman, on the pretext of keeping party's focus on campaigning for an accountability movement against Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, following the Panama papers revelations, it seems that a number of party workers, leaders and parliamentarians are not happy over the way party affairs are being managed.

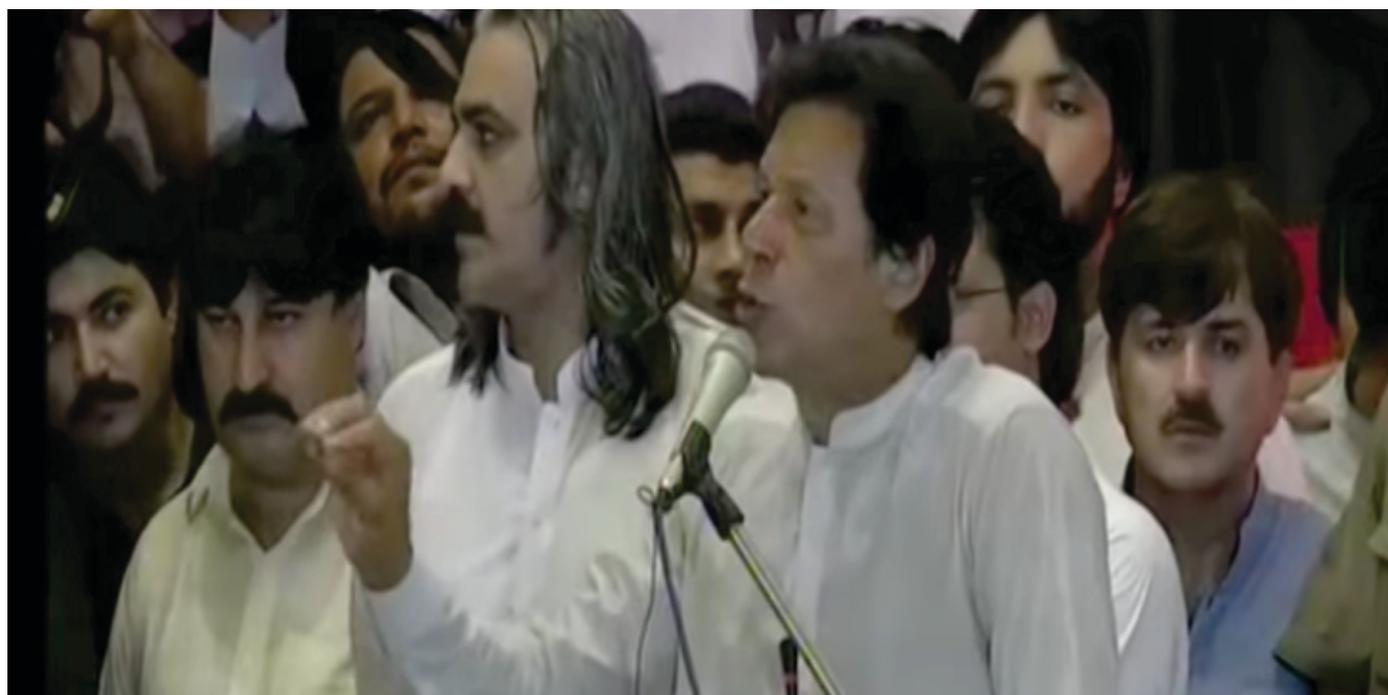


Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) - Raiwind March

Before the announcement of the date and strategy of PTI's Raiwind March, PTI Chairman Mr. Imran Khan summoned a party meeting on September 18, 2016 in Islamabad to which PTI's central leadership as well as legislators at provincial, regional and district levels were invited to attend.

After the meeting, he addressed a convention of his party workers in which he made important announcements regarding the protest march, terming it, “a historical accountability movement to rid the country of corruption and a corrupt elite who are hell-bent upon maintaining the status quo”.

He also talked about fissures emerging within the party as a result of the dissolution of important wings of the party on September 10, 2016 and called for unity in the party.



PTI Chairman addressing party workers convention in Islamabad on September 18, 2016

19. Justice Wajihuddin resigns, DAWN, September 26, 2016, as accessed on November 9, 2016 at <http://www.dawn.com/news/1286116/retired-justice-wajihuddin-ahmad-resigns-from-pti>



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