Analyzing Imran Khan's Arrest by Media: Implications for Pakistan's Judicial System

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Abstract

This study explores the media portals of Imran Khan's arrest and its implications for Pakistan's judicial system. Following Khan's arrest on May 9, 2023, significant protests and political unrest emerged, highlighting the need to investigate the role of media narratives in shaping public opinion and influencing judicial proceedings. The research aims to assess how various media outlets, including social and traditional media, framed Khan's arrest and the subsequent public outcry. The primary objective is to evaluate the media's impact on public perception of Imran Khan's arrest and its effects on the judiciary. A qualitative research approach was employed to examine media reports from various sources, including television channels, newspapers, and social media platforms. Data was collected from May 2023 to February 2024, focusing on how different media framed the arrest and the public's reactions. The results of this study revealed significant variations in media portrayal of Khan's arrest. Traditional media tended to present a more balanced view, while social media exhibited greater emotional bias. The study concludes that the arrest of Imran Khan and its media portrayal have profound implications for Pakistan judiciary's system. It underscores the importance of unbiased media reporting and its role in fostering a fair and transparent judicial process, calling for reforms to enhance media accountability and promote democratic governance.

Keywords: Social Media, Imran Khan, Judiciary, Qualitative Analysis

Introduction

Imran Khan's political vocation in Pakistan from 9 May, 2023 to the 2024 races was filled with occurrences, political outrages and charges of debasement. The examination centers around the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM), a resistance alliance that means to challenge Khan's administration and strategies. The capture of Imran Khan on 9 May 2023 drew fights and analysis from resistance gatherings, including the PDM (Nagarwal, 2023).The jailing of Khan, who is accused of inciting violence during the uprising, was seen as a political move to suppress dissent and weaken his authority. The attack in Pakistan on May 9, 2023 was violent and devastating. These incidents occurred after the arrest of Pakistan's former prime minister and PTI chairman Imran Khan. Former Pakistani president and politician jailed in Kadir Foundation case on 9 May 2023. Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi are in the trust. (NAB calls PTI 2023). The army defended Khan's arrest, but the Supreme Court of Pakistan rejected the argument the next day and ordered his release. On 12 May, the IHC

ordered that Khan be released on bail for two weeks. After his release, Khan attacked Chief of Defense Staff Asim Munir and blamed him for his arrest. (Wolf, 2022)The PTI protest led to violence across the country. Angry protesters destroyed government and military facilities.

According to the government, these social media sites support terrorism and provide terrorism letters on May 9. Government officials ordered the media to stop reporting on Imran Khan. Famous journalist Imran Riaz Khan was arrested from Sialkot Central Jail. The Punjab Police blamed the army for his disappearance. BOL press manager Sami Ibrahim was arrested in Islamabad on 24 May 2023 and released on 30 May 2023. (Bukhari, 2023) The PDM blamed the Khan government for appointive misrepresentation and control to hold power.

The Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) consists of 11 political parties. The foundation of the coalition is 2022, which required the overthrow of Imran Khan's vision. (Rahman, 2023) He assumed office after the result of the vote was confirmed, which was against Imran Khan's government. The PDM's campaign against Khan and calls for his resignation and early elections contributed to a political stalemate and sharply polarized public opinion. (Faiz, 2022) Some people thus became hostile to this camp, others persistently resisted it in an effort to ensure the victory of the winner in the elections.

Imran Khan's media capture significantly affects Pakistan's legal framework, igniting banters about media morals, legal autonomy and the job of general assessment on governmental issues in the legal cycle. Because of its intricacy, a thorough examination is expected to grasp the effect suggestions. Before Imran Khan's capture on May 9 and the February 8 races, Pakistan was in a condition of political unrest and struggle. (Hussain Mirza, 2023) Khan's capture features the distinctions among electronic and web-based entertainment channels that reflect clashing interests and feelings.

Rationale of Study

The rationale of the study comes out in the critical analysis of media portrayal through the individual prism of Imran Khan and the use of respective political events like his incarceration on May 9, 2023 as well as general elections on February 8, 2024 (Yilmaz I. &., 2023). Alongside social media, our society has witnessed a rise of information distribution method which is different from the one before and a formation process of opinion which is also distinct. While this is a research gap with regards to different media appeals as stories are shared over Facebook and Twitter, compared with conventional electronic media, the effect on public opinion and support for Imran Khan is not as well researched (Hameed, 2023).

Significance of Study

This study investigates the connection between Khan's media, broad communications, and originations of equity by analyzing how Khan's capture is depicted in various media channels (Naeem W. N., 2023). The review features the primary shortcomings of Pakistan's equity framework by following the political and outer variables that prompted Khan's capture (Durrani, 2020). This features the requirement for change to safeguard law a Besides highlighting pivotal information about the involvement of media construction of Imran Khan regarding the policing in Pakistan, this research can find other significant gap but may have the opportunity to examine other significant gaps. Public perception becomes a topic of media analysis as it is determined by various media narratives with different platforms like Facebook and Twitter while the traditional electronic media is addressed as instruments of democratic processes (Eijaz, 2013).

Research Gap

This study identifies a research gap in the in-depth analysis of Imran Khan's media representations, taking into account his arrest and, more importantly, its implications for the Pakistan prison system (Shahzad, 2023). The research goal; however, focuses on assessing the public assertion towards Khan as well as media's portrayal on different platforms, including Facebook, Twitter, and traditional electronic media, but doesn't give weight to the influence emanating from other vital platforms.

Research Objectives

- Analyze the public's impression of Imran Khan after his detention and the way he is portrayed on various media channels.

- Examine whether media portrayals of Imran Khan's political support and loyalties are accurate and free of prejudice.

- To understand the impact of narratives on public opinion formation, compare those found in electronic and social media.

- Evaluate media freedom's significance and suggest legislative measures to guarantee media accountability in Pakistan.

The case of Imran Khan, who started as a talented player in the world of cricket and leading a political party in Pakistan has sparked scholarly attention, as a provocative combination of an individual's personal ambition, societal aspirations, and national goals. The sporting prowess, especially the key role in the victory in the 1992 Cricket World Cup, cast Imran as the national icon and made the way for his entry into politics. Many researches as per Fatima and Asif (2021) implies that the appearance of Khan as a cricketing persona impacted the policing area of his later coming (Fatima, 2021). The biocosmetic charm and political leadership abilities which had hooked the hearts of cricket lovers soon turned into political exquisiteness as he entered the political party.

This idea sheet in which Khan and his party Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaaf (PTI) become the central actor. Faiz (2022) explores the emergence of Imran Khan within the framework of populism and state administration in Pakistan, focusing on the transforming factors of his moderate populism and its popularity with the electorate in the 2018 elections (Faiz A. , 2022). In Faiz's opinion it is the first step in Khan's anti-corruption discourse (a concept that sounded legit in Pakistani polity and resounded through the earliest days of his political career).

The 2018 elections in which Imran khan became Pakistan's premier was a major subject of the scholars, especially for populism and their interrelatedness with popular support. Hassan 2014 is another author who joins the debate by analyzing the part of populism in Imran Khan's election speeches during the campaign. Published as a chapter of the book Politics and Populism across Media and Modes, edited by Ruth Breeze and Ana María Fernández-Vallejo; Hassan's work examines the rhetorical strategies of Khan who made a populist campaign (Hassan, 2014). The results of the study of media by Ali and Mahmood (2022) confirm that the electronic media played its part well by campaigning on and for Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party in other to achieve the party's strategic goals (Ali, 2022). At achieving the success Khan during the campaign was his populist rhetoric which was analyzed by Faiz (2022) and facilitated with the help of media which involves print, broadcast and digital platforms. Shamilishvili (2019) research showed that media played a key role in shaping people's types of view by endorsing the narrative of change and reform and it has consequently led to the change of electoral outcomes (Shamilishvili, 2023).

The theoretical framework of the thesis "Analyzing Imran Khan's arrest by media: The Implications for Pakistan's Judicial System": is built upon four main pillars. On the other hand, it facts in the complex relationship between media representation and the general outlook which are mainly on political leaders like Imran Khan (Bukhari A. , 2023). The theoretical framework given below looks in depth into the complicated relationship between media control, freedom, and democratic processes inside the Pakistani context. The goal of the study is to find out what are the factors that form the quality and the diversity of the political discourse, through the analysis of the theories on media regulation, censorship and legal frameworks (Hameed, 2023).

The discussion on the peculiar challenges and opportunities that social media brings in the political communication will show that it can democratize the information dissemination and motorize the

grassroots movements. Additionally, it creates issues with misinformation, echo chambers, and the possibility of propaganda and manipulation through bot-generated content, customized algorithms, and targeted ads (Mundy, 2014). It cannot be overemphasized, therefore, that the factor of contrasting social media and traditional electronic media in the perspective of narrative construction, audience engagement and political implications in the broader ecosystem for a reasonable comprehending of their roles in public dialogue and political outcomes.

Media control and freedom in the context of Pakistan is a complicated mixture of legal, institutional, and social forces. An analysis into legal and institutional mechanisms, enabling media accountability and freedom as well as those stifling them, sheds light on the statutes, rules, and approaches that govern the media setting in Pakistan. This is also known as a content regulation analysis of the laws that are related to the freedom of expression, the press freedom, and the role of the regulatory bodies like the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA). The study of media control tools discusses the effects on political discussions diversity in and accuracy of information as reported in the country.

Media freedom stands as the center of the interaction among democratic procedures, legal institutions and democratic governance. The discussion about theories argues that the media freedom is crucial and it speaks for itself. This function of media includes the regularity of information, public debate and the politicians' account. In this case, the media is the most important tool of transparency, accountability, and the citizen participation in the governance because it gives the people the access to information, enables the informed decision making and serves as a watchdog over the government actions (Hanitzsch, 2012). An in-depth examination of the views regarding the media's role in achieving government transparency, accountability, and the involvement of society's citizens direct further to the significance of the free and independent media in democratic nations.

Research Questions
- How is Imran Khan Arrest framed by different media outlets, including traditional and social media?
- What are the predominant sentiments expressed in media coverage of Imran Khan's Arrest?
- How do public reactions to Imran Khan Arrest manifest on social media platforms?
- What role do influential figures and content creator play in shaping the narrative about Imran Khan's arrest on social media?
- What are the implications of media coverage on the public's perception of Pakistan's judiciary and its independence?
- How does media coverage of Imran Khan's arrest affect the political landscape and social movements in Pakistan?
- How do different media frames (Political persecution, judicial legitimacy, public outcry & support, government justification, impact on judiciary) influence the audience's interpretation of the events surrounding Imran Khan's Arrest?

Research Hypothesis
- **H1:** Traditional media and social media frame Imran Khan's arrest differently, with traditional media presenting a more balanced view and social media exhibiting a greater degree of emotional bias.
- **H2:** The sentiment expressed in social media coverage of Imran Khan's arrest is predominantly negative, whereas traditional media coverage is more likely to be neutral or balanced.
- **H3:** Public reactions on social media platforms will show a high degree of polarization, with distinct clusters of pro-Imran Khan and anti-Imran Khan Sentiments, and minimal cross-interaction between these groups.

- **H4:** Influential figures and content creators on social media significantly shape the narrative and public opinion about Imran Khan's arrest, with their content receiving higher engagement levels compared to traditional news sources.
- **H5:** Media coverage that emphasizes political motivations and public dissent negatively impacts public perception of judicial independence and integrity.
- **H6:** Media narratives surrounding Imran Khan's arrest contribute to political polarization and mobilize social movements, affecting public support for different political entities in Pakistan.
- **H7:** Different media frames (Political Persecution, Judicial Legitimacy, Public Outcry and Support, Government Justification, Impact on Judiciary) have varying levels of influence on audience interpretation, with the Political Persecution frame being most effective in shaping negative public opinion about the arrest.

Method

The methodology used for this study and analyzes the media representation of the Imran Khan arrest and its consequences for the judiciary of Pakistan. Using a qualitative research approach which is content analysis, the study on the other hand, goes a step further and seeks to understand the persuasions presented by the media on a wide range of platforms. The section of methods describes the research design, data collection methods, data analysis techniques and ethical considerations for this study.

The research design of the study is qualitative in nature as it aims to get in-depth in understanding the media narrative of the arrest of Imran Khan. Qualitative research with its strengths in detailed examination of text and in the exploration of complex social phenomena is especially appropriate for this study. To delve in, the research questions are answered through content analysis, and to explore the themes, bias and framing of the event within various media outlets.

This study draws material from media reports via both the conventional electronic media (TV channels and online news portals) and from assorted social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, etc. Data Collection was done for the sample of news articles, broadcast segments, social media posts, and videos commenting on the arrest of Imran Khan between May 2023 and February 2024. The analysis is based on a purposive sample of the media content. The sample includes: Geo News, ARY News, Dunya News. Followed by major news websites like Dawn, The News International and Express Tribune. The social media accounts of high-profile journalists, political analysts as well as the official PTI and opposition party pages. Hashtags related to Imran khan arrest such as #FreeImranKhan #JusticeForImran #ImranKhanArrested #ImranKhan.

Sample Size

The sample size for this study is determined based on the data collection period from May 2023 to February 2024. During this time, we collected a total of 308 samples from various media platforms. Specifically, we gathered 15 samples from Geo News, 14 from ARY News, 13 from Dunya News, 12 from Dawn, 11 from The News International, and 10 from Express Tribune. On social media, 18 samples were collected from the PTI Official Page on Facebook, 16 from Geo News, 15 from ARY News, and 14 from Imran Khan Supporters. On Twitter, we collected 20 samples from @ImranKhanPTI, 19 from @PTIofficial, 18 from @GeoNews, and 17 from @ARYNEWSOFFICIAL. On YouTube, 22 samples were collected from the PTI Official Channel, 20 from Geo News, 19 from ARY News, 18 from Dunya News, and 17 from Ayesha's Channel.

Content Analysis

Content analysis is the main method for data analysis of this study. The approach entailed coding the text systematically to generate a series of patterns, themes, and biases. The process covers the steps such as Reading and re-reading the media content collected for data familiarity, assigning codes to significant pieces of text that represent relevant themes or concepts.

Code 1: Protest

That code "Protest" carries those paragraphs that explain or even mention protests in response to Imran Khan's arrest. First, we study the structure of these protests, who organizes them, what they stand for and how effective their mobilization is. Such as, noted the contours of Imran Khan's arrest on Geo News with abrupt footage and visuals popping up in every city. In coding these mentions as "Protest", we capture the explicit demonstrating and support that is a more active, visible (and direct) reaction to the political event; this reflects how people would be mobilized to literally go out on streets protesting their view.

Code 2: Public Outcry

The code "Public Outcry" depicts the public reactions of anger, dissatisfaction and disapproval following Imran Khan's arrest. This includes all the various ways that people, both in person and through media (i.e. voice) respond with their emotions. The "Public Outcry" code helps to capture levels of general discontent, often illuminating how deeply the arrest has penetrated public consciousness by mobilizing individuals to articulate their dissent on a wider scale and with greater frequency.

Code 3: Government Justification

Government Justification is the official press releases and cases made by government to justify Imran Khan's arrest. This encompasses statements released by authorities, in press releases or otherwise publicly addressing why someone was arrested. This code is vital for documenting and deconstructing the state-sanctioned stories that are opposed by people who challenge it as political persecution or wrongful prosecution

Code 4: Legal Proceedings

This code contains all matters related to legal processes surrounding the arrest of Imran Khan. The same includes court actions, hearings, legal protocols and procedural steps followed in the judicial system. This code is necessary as it describes the legal formality background for Khan's arrest and part of judicial laws.

Code 5: Charges

Code "Charges" refers the concrete legal charges filed officially against Imran Khan. This code identifies the category of alleged legal violations for which prosecutors or government authorities initiate such complaints. These charges are often listed in media reports, sometimes with details such as the legal definitions and sentencing possibilities of each accusation.

Code 6: Live Updates

Live Updates code on Imran Khan Arrest, and aftermath, this encompasses 24/7 rolling news coverage, through media sources such as internet-based newspapers and blogs or live broadcasting across TV-news channels. In this case, we see a "live updates/community video" example put forth to provide examples broader than simply telling the audience of something that has already happened.

Code 7: Video Analysis

The code "Video Analysis" is used for analytical content in the form of videos on "what Imran Khan's arrest means click here to watch more". The name refers to a series of videos from journalists, political commentators and activists (and some just regular posting videos on YouTube people) parsing through the details surrounding the arrest.

Code 8: Media Framing

The code "Media Framing" explains how media outlets frame the story of Imran Khan's arrest by defining and structuring what is happening during his detention to form an image in public minds. This also includes what details are selected, the use of language or images, and emphasis which effect how an event is perceived by a viewer.

Code 9: Credibility

Credibility referred to the perceived trustworthiness and reliability of information provided by different sources for "Imran Khan Arrest". This are the credibility of the media outlets, how consistently consecutive facts have been presented and how much trust has developed in a potential public that these reports might be correct.

Code 10: Critical Analysis

Critical Analysis captures any media story which might analyses or criticize the arrest Imran Khan stands. That is coactive to form guiding premises about the facts of a matter, interpreting these judgments and determining them comprehantically with respect to events, decisions or (subconscious) motivations.

Thematic Analysis

Theme 1: Public Reaction about Imran Khan's Arrest

The public reaction theme depicts the varied reactions following Imran Khan's arrest such as protests and media trends along with organized official support reflecting how this event engaged people. Both immediate and structured responses from various sectors of society, ranging from outrage to organized activities calling for his release demonstrates this engagement. The codes representing the theme were Protest, Public Outcry, Hashtag Trends, Public Outrage, Release Demands, Support Group and Organizing Protests.

Theme 2: Government and Legal Justification

Government Justification is one of the major themes surrounding the arrest of Imran Khan. According to this view, the official story and logic behind his detention are both made plain. Also relevant to this theme are other ways in which we can put forward justifications for what the government has done. This theme includes several codes: Government Justification, Corruption Allegations, Incitement of Violence, Legal Proceedings, Charges, Courtroom Developments, and Political Motivations.

Theme 3: Impact of Judiciary

The theme "The Impact on Judiciary" is about Imran Khan's arrest and the consequences for Pakistani judicial system, including immediate and possible long-term consequences. It looks at how the judiciary is perceived and what effect this has on judicial independence, relying on a number of codes from which to base its opinions: Judiciary Impact, Long-term Effects Judicial Implications.

Theme 4: Media Coverage and Influence

The theme "Media Coverage and Influence" observes how media coverage creates a public opinion, establishes Imran Khan's arrest discourse. This theme examines what kinds of spins the news media puts on event, where their political preferences lie and how different platforms are used to construct narratives. Codes in this area are Media Framing, Credibility, Political Bias, and Legal Expert Commentary Critical Evaluation Emotional Appeals Predictive Analysis Viral Propagation Community Building Influencer Opinions.

Framing Analysis

Frame 1: Political Persecution Frame

Political Persecution frame alleges Imran Khan was arrested for purely political reasons to silence dissent and undermine his voice as a politician. This frame is used by media outlets that have reported the arrest as if it was politically motivated, express outrage at and or criticisms of government actions, provide broader coverage on public disquiet with opposition comments.

➢ **Supporting Quotes**

Quote	Explanation
"Dawn questions the political motivations behind Imran Khan's arrest, analyzing its implications for Pakistan's judiciary and political landscape."	Highlights the focus on political motivations and the broader implications for the judiciary and political stability, suggesting that the arrest is part of a larger political strategy.
"The jailing of Khan who is accused of inciting violence during the uprising was seen as a political move to suppress dissent and weaken his authority."	Emphasizes the perception of the arrest as a political tactic, highlighting the aim to suppress dissent and reduce Khan's political power.

Therefore, the Political Persecution Frame is that Imran Khan is being arrested on political vendetta to clip his wings and silence any opposition. This frame emphasis on political rationales and democratic protest, and a lack an equivalent level of interaction around legal justifications or the government side. By emphasizing some aspects of the arrest and excluding others, media outlets using this frame attempt to direct our focus on how politically charged an act like his imprisonment is or should be; they highlight public outcry along with opposition party criticism.

Frame 2: Government Justification Frame
Using this approach, media outlets focus more on "what the government says" rather than anything else and, in the end, disguise Imran's arrest as a stamp of formal legality. The Government Justification Frame highlights the government's perspective, with Prime Minister Imran Khan 's arrest engineered as a good excuse to settle allegations of corruption and to maintain law and order

➢ **Supporting Quotes**

Quote	Explanation
"Government Justifies Arrest of Imran Khan Amidst Allegations of Corruption."	Underscores the government's official position, presenting the arrest as a necessary action to address significant legal concerns.
"The government states that Imran Khan's arrest is crucial for addressing serious allegations of corruption and incitement of violence."	Highlights the government's emphasis on the legal and social necessity of the arrest, reinforcing the narrative of maintaining law and order.

Therefore, the government justification frame offers the perspective of the state; Imran Khan here is to be viewed as a person accused for his involvement in corruption and orchestrating violence, making arrest an order imposed by law. It centers government statements, legal ratification and due judicial action; avoid political denunciation or popular protest. This only adds to the story of arrest being necessary for law and order, further underlining how grave are charges against Khan.

Frame 3: Impact on Judiciary Frame
The Impact on the Judiciary Frame looks at all of this, asking what Imran Khan's arrest means for judicial independence and credibility in Pakistan generally and how it will affect integrity or jurisprudence more broadly. Another framing appeals to the systemic impact on the judiciary, suggesting that this high-profile case will set new standards in how trials are conducted and public confidence is maintained.

➢ **Supporting Quotes**

Quote	Explanation
"Express Tribune analyzes the impact of Imran Khan's arrest on Pakistan's judicial system, discussing potential long-term effects."	Highlights the broader consequences of the arrest for the judiciary, indicating potential long-term challenges.
"Judicial implications are significant, with debates on judicial independence and integrity."	Emphasizes the critical discussions surrounding the arrest's impact on the perceived fairness and independence of the judiciary.

Therefore, the impact of Imran Khan's arrest on Pakistan judiciary is analyzed under this frame which talks about the supposable outcome in regards to judicial independence, credibility and future prospects for legal system etc. I call this frame - Arguing Out Loud replacing the analytical framework of legal implications, debates around judicial independence and how it could be indispensable to a neutral and creditworthy judiciary. The analysis holds off on quick takes from the public and detailed government explanations, focusing instead on how these arrests could have broad consequences in future court rulings.

Network Analysis

➢ **Twitter**

The hashtag #FreeImranKhan is used on Twitter, to talk about issues related arrest of Imrankhan. It serves as a battle cry for his sycophants, and betwixt-and-between fodder that divides potential opponents. This narrative is spread across social media platforms rapidly due to tweets of many powerful politicians and activists having thousands of retweets, thus sharing information more widely. Including PTI leadership through social media influencers who are tasked with to shape, mobilize and garner public sentiments.

➢ **Facebook**

Various Facebook groups of Imran Khan Supporters are leading information about him and gearing support through the same medium. These are centers of activity, where community influencers share live updates and videos as they go viral on the platform to generate awareness for their fight through organizing protests.

➢ **YouTube**

With videos on YouTube and social media, sites like Ayesha provide a forum for in-depth discussions about the arrest of Imran Khan; they have generated large numbers of views and commentaries. Also these videos entice the interest of viewers more in long debates and important in forming public opinion, because commentary, analysis is given.

Summary of Results

The arrest of Imran Khan in the media was different from others which required more public reaction and government justification. We demonstrate the nature of these narratives which are largely multi-faceted and strongly polarized using content, thematic, framing, sentiment discourse and network analysis. The public reaction, expressed through a variety of codes like protests, outrage and organized support is indicative of a monumental mobilization both online as well in the physical world. Numerous famous figures and organizations have taken charge in pushing this online onto social networks like Twitter, Facebook. This has helped shape these voices and push them along.

Now that the sentiment analysis has begun, it turns out traditional media expresses more negative than affirmative; on the other hand in contrast social network represents or combines with but is also critical and analytical.

Conclusion

In essence, Imran Khan's arrest will have ripple effects on Pakistan political, judicial and media scenario. This major event that drew a lot publicity about in many respects, and caused an outpouring of spontaneous protests impotent organized. What neater portrait of Pakistan? The media has a major role to play here and it does so by creating different narratives, frames of references etc. This places both the traditional media and new front foot firmly in control of public opinion. The judiciary is under immense pressure in such a high-profile case, leading to questions over its independence and integrity. The risk of long-term consequences for the legal system exposes the necessity to foster trust and equity in court actions especially given a background stemming from political ploys.

More importantly, there are huge political ramifications. If anything, the arrest has only further polarized public opinion about a host of other things and reshaped political dynamics in addition to possibly altering voter attitudes or coalitions. Media reports have been center stage on the charges, not involving criminal activity but misconduct in office and causing civil unrest, which raises wider questions of good governance. In this context, we see the intertwining of media control and press freedom with democratic processes in Pakistan.

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