

*Baseline Survey  
Report*

# **TORTURE** in the eyes of **Media**



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# TORTURE

in the eyes of media

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Baseline Survey Report

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## Background

Individualland (IL), a private, non-profit organisation, is in the process of carrying out the first phase of the Engaging Media on the issue of torture. IL will be carrying out training and sensitisation of media personnel working in the print and electronic media, with the key focus on their capacity building and sensitisation.

IL initiated this process in October 2011. The first step was to develop tools to conduct a baseline survey to gauge perceptions of media personnel regarding torture in the society and the role of the media. The aim of the baseline survey was to gauge the current level of sensitization within the print and electronic media, with regard to torture. Once the tools were developed and pilot tested, the Baseline Survey (BLS) was initiated in March 2012 along with sensitisation sessions.

The baseline survey was designed with the following objectives:

- (a) To gauge the prevalent perception level of journalists belonging to both print and electronic media with reference to torture in the criminal justice system of Pakistan
- (b) To enhance our own understanding of torture in the criminal justice system of Pakistan.

The data and information gathered through the base line survey are presented in this report, with the in-depth and critical analysis of all the districts covered during the survey. The analysis and these results will further be employed to develop initiatives regarding the issue of torture in the country.

In order to achieve the objective, a close ended questionnaire consisting of sixteen questions on torture was developed and was used as a tool for the baseline survey. The questionnaire was designed in a way that it could be easily understood, and was truly representative. The questionnaire was administered to the participants who were present in the training sessions, at the start of each session. A total of 276 questionnaires were administered in 11 survey districts. The respondents comprised 101 journalists from the electronic and 175 from the print media through simple random sampling. In each of the districts approximately 25 respondents were administered questionnaires.

## Limitations of the survey

There were a few limitations faced by the project team during the survey and the organization had to work within these limitations. For instance, the survey did not include a large target group and there was a limitation of time, in the collection and evaluation of information. As the survey was based on random sampling and a close ended questionnaire so there were certain shortcomings of the chosen methodology. A survey can only reflect the attitudes of the sample group at that specific time, not their actual behavior. It is quite possible that while the respondents may have depicted a certain opinion in their response, their approach towards that subject might differ in practical life. However, despite the limitations, the survey was chosen as it is a good tool to gauge general perceptions of respondents.

### Geographical area of the survey

The IL team carried out the Baseline Survey throughout Pakistan in 11 districts as mentioned below:

Punjab	Sindh	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	Baluchistan
Lahore	Karachi	Peshawar	Quetta
Gujranwala	Hyderabad	Mardan	Pishin
Multan	Sukkur		
Faisalabad			

The above mentioned districts were chosen on the basis of media monitoring which revealed that most of the reporting on torture cases ( or what passed off as reporting ) originated from these cities. Therefore, these districts were chosen as the first phase of journalists capacity building on the issue of reporting effectively on torture. The only change in terms of project areas was Faisalabad which replaced Abbottabad, the latter being our original choice. However, the Abbottabad Press Club was not cooperative and demanded an "attendance allowance" which is unethical.

# Overall Findings

The following figures and graphs present a brief description of the perception of journalists in the four provinces encompassed in the survey.

## Punjab

Sr. No.	Questions	Responses	Lahore	Gujranwala	Multan	Faisalabad	Total
1	In your opinion, what is Torture?	The action or practice of inflicting severe pain on someone as a punishment or in order to force them to do or say something.	17	12	16	13	58
		To give mental anguish.	2	8	5	2	17
		Psychological suffering.	4	0	2	2	8
2	Is there a difference between torture and violence?	Yes	21	24	19	13	77
		No	4	0	6	5	15
3	Are you aware of the UN Resolution on Convention Against Torture (CAT)?	Yes	6	7	5	4	22
		No	18	17	18	12	65
4	In your opinion does a Pakistani Domestic law address the issue of Torture properly?	Yes	3	8	2	9	22
		No	22	15	23	10	70
5	Do you think the use of torture against suspected terrorists/ criminals in order to get confession can often be	Justified	1	5	1	4	11
		sometimes justified	11	14	15	9	49
		Never be justified	11	4	9	5	29
6	In your opinion, who are most subjected to torture?	Male	4	3	9	6	22
		Female	20	20	15	10	65
7	In your opinion, identify the force(s) carrying out most cases of torture:	Police	12	18	21	12	63
		Intelligence services	5	5	2	3	15
		Security forces	7	1	0	1	9
		Prison officials	0	0	0	0	0
8	Is media creating awareness about the issue of torture amongst society?	Yes	6	20	15	17	58
		No	18	4	8	2	32
9	Do media have access towards proper information regarding torture incidents?	Yes	7	15	6	12	40
		No	17	7	16	7	47

## Sindh

Sr. No.	Questions	Responses	Karachi	Sukkur	Hyderabad	Total
1	In your opinion, what is Torture?	The action or practice of inflicting severe pain on someone as a punishment or in order to force them to do or say something.	18	12	12	42
		To give mental anguish.	1	4	3	8
		Psychological suffering.	5	10	4	19
2	Is there a difference between torture and violence?	Yes	22	20	12	54
		No	3	7	12	22
3	Are you aware of the UN Resolution on Convention Against Torture (CAT)?	Yes	8	10	13	31
		No	17	16	11	44
4	In your opinion does a Pakistani Domestic law address the issue of Torture properly?	Yes	6	3	13	22
		No	19	24	11	54
5	Do you think the use of torture against suspected terrorists/ criminals in order to get confession can often be	Justified	8	2	9	19
		sometimes justified	11	14	6	31
		Never be justified	3	9	9	21
6	In your opinion, who are most subjected to torture?	Male	12	12	11	35
		Female	11	13	14	38
7	In your opinion, identify the force(s) carrying out most cases of torture:	Police	8	22	16	46
		Intelligence services	12	3	4	19
		Security forces	3	0	4	7
		Prison officials	2	3	1	6
8	Is media creating awareness about the issue of torture amongst society?	Yes	12	23	18	53
		No	13	4	6	23
9	Do media have access towards proper information regarding torture incidents?	Yes	11	17	12	40
		No	14	10	12	36

## Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Sr. No.	Questions	Responses	Peshawar	Mardan	Total
1	In your opinion, what is Torture?	The action or practice of inflicting severe pain on someone as a punishment or in order to force them to do or say something.	11	12	23
		To give mental anguish.	5	8	13
		Psychological suffering.	2	5	7
2	Is there a difference between torture and violence?	Yes	22	26	48
		No	1	0	1
3	Are you aware of the UN Resolution on Convention Against Torture (CAT)?	Yes	1	2	3
		No	22	19	41
4	In your opinion does a Pakistani Domestic law address the issue of Torture properly?	Yes	4	2	6
		No	18	24	42
5	Do you think the use of torture against suspected terrorists/ criminals in order to get confession can often be	Justified	1	11	12
		sometimes justified	8	14	22
		Never be justified	12	1	13
6	In your opinion, who are most subjected to torture?	Male	6	5	11
		Female	16	21	37
7	In your opinion, identify the force(s) carrying out most cases of torture:	Police	8	18	26
		Intelligence services	4	8	12
		Security forces	12	0	12
		Prison officials	0	0	0
8	Is media creating awareness about the issue of torture amongst society?	Yes	18	14	32
		No	4	12	16
9	Does media have access towards proper information regarding torture incidents?	Yes	3	10	13
		No	19	13	32

## Baluchistan

Sr. No.	Questions	Responses	Quetta	Pishin	Total
1	In your opinion, what is Torture?	The action or practice of inflicting severe pain on someone as a punishment or in order to force them to do or say something.	16	7	23
		To give mental anguish.	7	2	9
		Psychological suffering.	5	7	12
2	Is there a difference between torture and violence?	Yes	23	16	39
		No	6	6	12
3	Are you aware of the UN Resolution on Convention Against Torture (CAT)?	Yes	9	3	12
		No	21	19	40
4	In your opinion does a Pakistani Domestic law address the issue of Torture properly?	Yes	9	3	12
		No	21	17	38
5	Do you think the use of torture against suspected terrorists/ criminals in order to get confession can often be	Justified	5	3	8
		sometimes justified	16	10	26
		Never be justified	7	5	12
6	In your opinion, who are most subjected to torture?	Male	10	10	20
		Female	19	9	28
7	In your opinion, identify the force(s) carrying out most cases of torture:	Police	16	4	20
		Intelligence services	10	6	16
		Security forces	3	8	11
		Prison officials	0	1	1
8	Is media creating awareness about the issue of torture amongst society?	Yes	22	8	30
		No	8	11	19
9	Do media have access towards proper information regarding torture incidents?	Yes	9	6	15
		No	20	13	33

### Do you think the use of torture against suspected terrorists/ criminals in order to get confession can often be

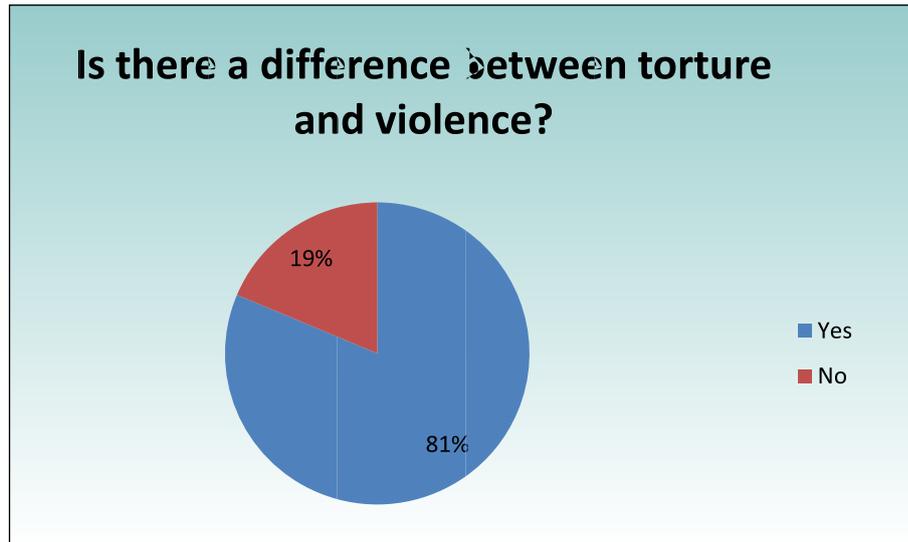


From 276 journalists surveyed in all the 11 districts of the country, 20 percent or 11 journalists in Punjab, 19 in Sindh, 12 in KPK and 8 in Baluchistan i.e. a total of 50 journalists replied saying that it was justified. Whereas 50 percent of the journalists (49 in Punjab, 31 in Sindh, 22 in KPK and 26 in Baluchistan i.e. a total of 128 journalists) replied saying that it was justified in some cases. However 30 percent of the 276 journalists replied saying that it could never be justified.

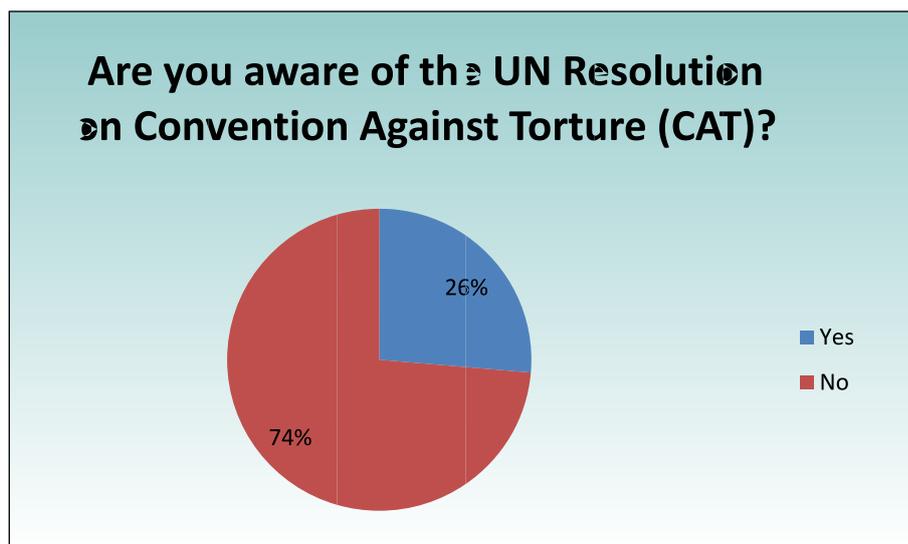
### In your opinion, what is Torture?



When the journalists were asked to define torture, 61 percent of the journalists replied saying that it was infliction of severe pain on someone as punishment, whereas 19 percent believed that it was to give psychological suffering. However 20 percent thought that torture was to give mental anguish.



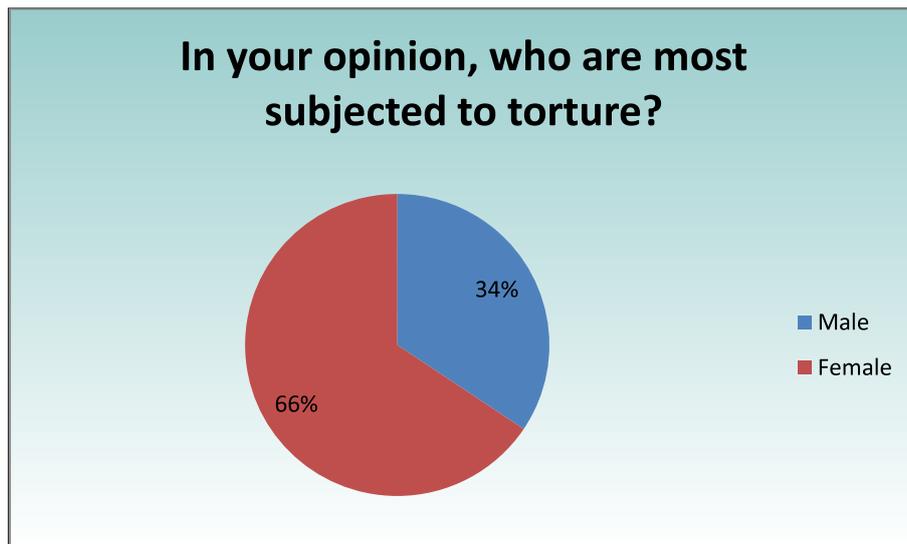
81 percent of the total respondents replied saying that there was a difference between torture and violence whereas 19 percent respondents replied otherwise.



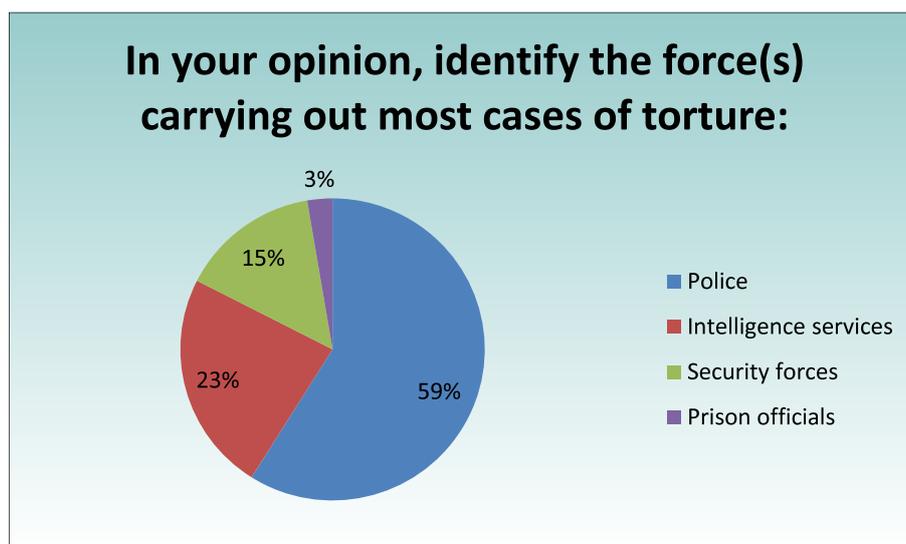
26 percent journalists knew about UN resolution on convention against torture whereas 74 percent of the journalists did not know about the UNCAT resolution.



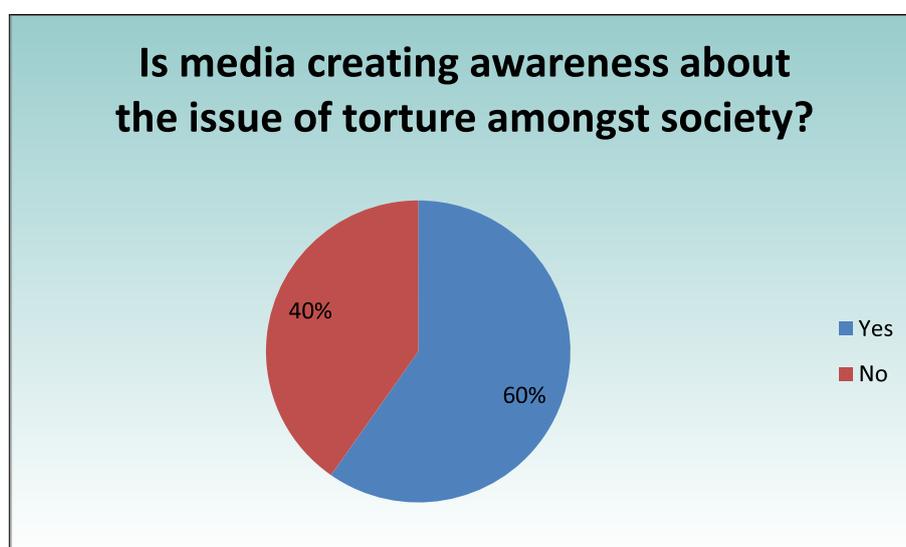
23 percent journalists were of the opinion that Pakistani laws address the issue of torture whereas 77 percent journalists thought otherwise.



Out to the 276 journalists surveyed, 66 percent of them believed that females are mostly subjected to torture whereas 34 percent thought that males are subjected to torture.



Out of the 276 journalists surveyed 59 percent of them believed that police departments carry out most of the torture, whereas 23 percent thought intelligence agencies carry out torture, 15 percent thought security forces do and 3 percent believed that prison officials carry out most of the torture.



60 percent believed that media is creating awareness about torture among the society whereas 40 percent thought otherwise.

During the survey, journalists were asked whether torture against suspected terrorists / criminals could be justified. In response to this query 20 percent respondents considered it to be justified, 50 percent were of the opinion that it could be occasionally justified, while 30 percent rejected it totally. This, in our opinion is a very significant finding, as torture has been condemned globally and as per United Nations Convention against Torture (UNCAT), under no circumstances, even in times of war, can torture be justified. However, the earlier mentioned result indicates that a significant number of respondents (50percent) considered torture to be justified, under certain conditions.

The definition of torture under UNCAT Article I has been clearly defined as including both “psychological” and “physical” suffering.<sup>1</sup> Based on this, the journalists were asked about their understanding on torture. 61 percent of the respondents considered torture to be “the action or practice of inflicting severe pain on someone as a punishment or in order to force them to do or say something”, whereas 19 percent considered it to be psychological only. This shows that the basic understanding of the respondents regarding torture was adequate, as they were aware of the physical and psychological aspects of torture.

81 percent of respondents were aware of the distinction between violence and torture while 19 percent were not. The absence of adequate laws pertaining to torture in Pakistan and the low level of sensitisation on the subject could be the reason behind this. When they were asked to quote different instances differentiating torture and violence, very few journalists related torture to the practice undertaken by state officials (police, state agencies, army etc). It has been further observed that 43 percent of the respondents had attended a training workshop on the subject of torture before, whereas 55 percent had not. These are grounds for further sustained engagement with media on the subject, while also for carrying out advocacy to clarify the legal ambiguities.

34 percent of the respondents were of the view that males are mostly subjected to torture, while 66 percent were of the view that females are more victimised. When probed further, it was revealed that the respondents were confusing domestic violence with torture, thus reflecting their understanding of the phenomenon. The survey results also revealed that 26 percent of the respondents were aware of the United Nations Convention against torture (UNCAT) while 74 percent were not. On the subject of domestic laws addressing the issue of torture, 22 percent of the respondents gave an affirmative response, while 77 percent rejected this notion and were of the opinion that Pakistani laws do not address the issue of torture adequately. When asked about the various categories of torture victims 56 percent were of the view that ordinary people are mostly the victims, 6 percent believed that terrorists are typically tortured, 4 percent were of the view that ethnic and religious minorities are frequently subjected to torture, while 18 percent considered journalists and 8 percent believed prisoners to be at the receiving end.

The survey also asked to identify the element(s) carrying out or behind torture incidences. In response, 59 percent believed it to be the police, 23 percent considered intelligence agencies to be the culprit, 15 percent were of the view that security forces are involved and 3 percent pointed out prison officials. This shows that according to the journalists police are the ones who practice torture the most. 56 percent of the journalists believed that physical torture was the most common form whereas 37 percent of the journalists believed that mental form of torture was most widely prevalent. Beating is perceived to be the most common form of “physical torture” according to the journalists who were surveyed during this survey. Across the 11 districts 74 percent of the journalists viewed beating as the most common form, as compared to electric shocks which was only opted for by only 3 percent of the participants. 45 percent of the surveyed journalists viewed humiliation as the most common form of psychological torture, whereas 2 percent also pointed out that forcing someone to be a witness to torture was a common method of creating psychological suffering.

The remaining four questions were targeted towards the role of media regarding the issue of torture. In spite of belonging to the media, most of the journalists and reporters were not satisfied by its role in addressing the issue of torture. When they were asked how torture cases were reported in the media, 38 percent respondents said media adequately reported torture

<sup>1</sup>Human Rights Web1997. Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. Retrieved on: July 16, 2012. Retrieved from: <http://www.hrweb.org/legal/cat.html>.

cases while 53.9 percent disagreed. Regarding the awareness raising role of the media on torture, 59 percent believed that it is creating awareness in society, while 35 percent did not. When asked whether the media had access to information regarding torture, 39 percent replied in affirmative while 50 percent were of the view that media had no proper access to information. On the question of information about sources regarding torture incidents, 15 percent respondents viewed documentary evidence as the main source, whereas 7 percent of the journalists believed that verbal accounts of officials constituted as the main source, while 71 percent cited torture survivors themselves to be the main source of information.

Punjab had the most number of journalists who were sensitised about the issue of torture. 77 journalists replied by saying that they knew the difference between torture and violence. After Punjab, in KPK out of the total of 49 journalists, 48 were aware about torture. Whereas in Sindh 54 journalists and 39 in Baluchistan reported to be aware what torture was. As compared to this in Punjab 11 journalists replied by saying that torture was justified and 49 journalists replied by saying that it is sometimes justified, similarly in Sindh 19 journalists replied by saying that it was justified and 31 journalists replied by saying it was sometimes justified. In KPK 12 journalists replied by saying that it was justified whereas 22 said that it is sometimes justified whereas in Baluchistan 8 replied by saying that it was justified whereas 26 journalists said that it was sometimes justified.

The survey findings reflect the fact that not only there is a lack of legal knowledge regarding the subject of torture within the media, but there is also **an acceptance** of this practice to a certain extent. It is the role of the media to sensitise society on the horrific implications of torture, but if the media itself has a certain acceptance of this practice, then sustained engagement is required to change this view. The journalists and reporters also have to be made aware of the legal and technical details on torture, in order to enhance their capacity for in- depth reporting. In addition, it is evident from the analysis that most of the information on the subject is based on personal observations, as 55 percent of the total survey respondents had never attended a workshop on the subject. If the media is to be utilised as an ally for highlighting and preventing torture, while abolishing its acceptance within the criminal justice system, then the media will have to be sensitised on the issue.

# Provincial Level Analysis

## Provincial Level Analysis

### Punjab Province

Four districts were surveyed in the province of Punjab namely Lahore, Gujranwala, Faisalabad and Multan. From Punjab, there were 94 respondents (60 from print and 34 from electronic media.) A small percentage of the participants, except those belonging to Gujranwala, had attended training on torture reporting before. Although a healthy percentage i.e. 83.69 percent of the respondents throughout the province knew that torture and violence were two different entities, there was no understanding on what torture really was. According to most of the participants i.e. 70 percent, torture was perceived as physical pain. There was also minimal awareness of UNCAT, as 67 percent of the respondents did not have any knowledge of it.

20 percent of the respondents from Lahore, 76 percent from Gujranwala, 48 percent from Multan and 31 percent from Faisalabad had attended a training workshop on torture before. In Lahore 84 percent of the participants responded that there was a difference between torture and violence, whereas 16 percent were of the opinion that there was no difference between the two. On the other hand in Multan, 76 percent of the participants said that both were different, while in Gujranwala, 100 percent respondents replied that torture and violence were different practices. These results were encouraging as they demonstrated that journalists in all these three cities were familiar with the term. However, there was no in depth information.

In Lahore 74 percent, in Multan 70 percent and in Gujranwala 60 percent of the total participants were of the view that torture was “the action or practice of inflicting severe pain on someone as a punishment or in order to force them to do or say something. In Lahore 8 percent, Gujranwala 32 percent and in Multan 20 percent respondents opted for “mental anguish” as the definition of torture.

72 percent of the total participants in Lahore, 68 percent in Gujranwala and 72 percent in Multan were not aware of the UN Convention against Torture (UNCAT). This is an indication in itself that most of the people in the province are not aware of the term “torture.”

### Sindh Province

A total of three districts were surveyed in the province of Sindh. The districts were Karachi, Sukkur and Hyderabad thus a total of 81 respondents from Sindh i.e. 45 from print and 36 from electronic media. The survey findings revealed differing understanding of torture district wise. Most of the respondents thought that torture was the infliction of severe physical pain despite the fact that torture also constitutes psychological suffering as well. 68 percent from Karachi, 46.43 percent from Sukkur and 52 percent from Hyderabad had previously attended a training workshop on torture. In Karachi 50 percent of the participants responded that there was a difference between torture and violence. This answer depicts that there is a mixed understanding about the definition of torture. However this difference between torture and violence constitutes the basic understanding of torture and the participants that attended torture workshops before knew this initially. In contrast to Karachi, Sukkur and Hyderabad had different views. In Sukkur 74 percent, while in Hyderabad, 86 percent of the total respondents replied that torture and violence were two different practices. These results were somewhat surprising as Karachi, being the capital of the province and most developed of the three in terms of education and economy was expected to give better results than the other two cities.

In Karachi 75 percent, Sukkur 46.15 percent and Hyderabad 63.16 percent of the total participants were of the view that torture was “the action or practice of inflicting severe pain on someone as a punishment or in order to force them to do or say something”. On the other

hand in Karachi only 1 respondent circled the choice of “mental anguish”, in Sukkur 38.46 percent and in Hyderabad 15.79 percent of the respondents replied by saying that torture was to give mental anguish. This shows that the journalists viewed physical punishment as the main source of torture, whereas mental anguish also accounts for torture. In Hyderabad 15.79 percent and in Sukkur 38.46 percent journalists chose mental anguish. 68 percent in Karachi, 61 percent in Sukkur and 45.83 percent in Hyderabad were not aware of the UN Resolution on Convention against Torture (UNCAT). This shows that above 50 percent of the respondents are unaware about UNCAT. If journalists are unaware of the international conventions pertaining to human rights violations, it can lead to hampering of efforts undertaken by the journalist community to form a pressure group opposing the government in this regard.

### **Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province**

In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the survey was carried out in two districts of Peshawar and Mardan with 50 respondents (29 print and 21 electronic.) Like all the other provinces, journalists were not generally aware of the term torture. However, one thing that was different from other provinces was the fact that in both survey districts, a healthy percentage of the respondents knew that torture and violence are different practices.

95.65 percent from Peshawar and 100 percent of the total respondents from Mardan were of the view that there was a difference between torture and violence, which is an encouraging sign. It further concretizes the fact that journalists in both the districts are aware of the difference between torture and violence.

However, despite their understanding about the difference between torture and violence, journalists in Peshawar were unaware of UNCAT. 95 percent in Peshawar while 90 percent of the total participants in Mardan were not aware of the UN resolution on Convention Against Torture (CAT).

In Peshawar, 13 percent said that they had attended a training workshop on torture while in Mardan, the percentage was slightly more at, (38 percent).

61 percent of the total participants in Peshawar and 48 percent in Mardan were of the view that torture was “the action or practice of inflicting severe pain on someone as a punishment or in order to force them to do or say something”, while 11 percent in Peshawar and 20 percent in Mardan said torture was “psychological suffering.” It is obvious from the results of this question that journalists in Peshawar also do not have a clear understanding of the term torture.

81 percent of the total respondents in Peshawar and 92 percent in Mardan were of the view that Pakistani Domestic laws do not address the issue of torture properly. This shows that the basic understanding of journalists working in KPK is comprehensive enough to differentiate between torture and about Pakistani domestic laws not addressing torture properly. However despite this they are still vague on the subject of psychological sufferings and the existence of a convention which condemns torture.

### **Baluchistan Province**

In Baluchistan, two districts i.e. Quetta and Pishin were surveyed with a total number of 52 respondents (28 from print and 24 from electronic media.)

When the journalists in these two cities were asked whether they had attended any workshop regarding torture before, it was seen that 53 percent of the respondents from Quetta had attended it before, whereas in Pishin, only 32 percent of the participants had attended it before.

In Quetta 79 percent of the participants responded that there was a difference between torture and violence. In Pishin, 72 percent of the participants said that both torture and violence were dissimilar practices. So, it can be understood from these results that most of the people in the area are at least aware that torture and violence is not the same thing.

In Quetta 57 percent of the total participants, and in Pishin 43 percent were of the view that torture was “the action or practice of inflicting severe pain on someone as a punishment or in order to force them to do or say something”. In Quetta, 25 percent of the total respondents while in Pishin 12 percent ticked the choice of “mental anguish.” Interestingly in Pishin, 44 percent of the respondents were of the view that torture was “psychological suffering” as compared to a meagre 18 percent in Quetta.

In the latter half of the questionnaire, a question was included “Are you aware of the United Nations Resolution on Convention against Torture?” The answer to this question in both the cities was not very encouraging as in Quetta, 70 percent or 21 participants were not aware of the UN Resolution on Convention Against Torture (CAT) while in Pishin, 19 of the total 22 respondents or 86 percent were not aware of the UNCAT.

# District Level Analysis

## District Level Analysis

### Punjab Province

#### Lahore

In Lahore, the survey comprised of 25 journalists belonging to both print as well as electronic media. It was revealed that only 20 percent of the respondents had attended a training session on torture before.

The term “torture” was fragmented into three parts in the question “the action or practice of inflicting severe pain on someone as a punishment or in order to force them to do or say something”, “physical suffering” or “to give mental anguish”. 17 out of the 25 respondents were of the view that torture was “the action or practice of inflicting severe pain on someone as a punishment or in order to force them to do or say something” 4 reiterated that torture is “psychological suffering” whereas 2 believed that torture was “mental anguish.”

Another question “Is there a difference between torture and violence?” was put to the journalists. 21 out of the total participants were of the view that torture and violence are both different practices whereas 4 respondents said there was no difference.

18 out of the 25 participants were not aware of the UN Resolution on Convention against Torture (CAT), while 6 respondents were aware of it. 1 respondent did not answer the question.

18 respondents out of 25 said that media was not creating any awareness amongst the society while 6 participants said “yes” it was on the issue of torture.

#### Gujranwala

In Gujranwala, 25 journalists belonging to both print and electronic media were administered the questionnaire.

Out of the total of 25 respondents, 19 had attended a training workshop on torture while remaining 6 had not.

The journalists were asked about their views regarding the definition of torture. To this 12 out of 25 respondents felt that torture was “the action or practice of inflicting severe pain on someone as a punishment or in order to force them to do or say something”, while 8 respondents felt that torture was “to give mental anguish”. The remaining 5 participants did not answer the question and interestingly, none of the respondents selected the third option to this question i.e. psychological suffering.

When asked whether there was a difference between torture and violence, 24 out of 25 participants felt that there is a difference between torture and violence, while only 1 respondent was of a view that there is no difference between torture and violence.

A question was also put forth which asked whether the journalists were aware of the United Nations resolution on Convention against torture. 17 out of 25 participants were not aware of the UN Resolution on Convention against Torture, while 7 were aware of the UN resolution on Convention against Torture (CAT).

15 out of the total 25 respondents were of the view that Pakistani domestic law does not address the issue of torture adequately, while 8 respondents said they do.

When asked, “Is the media creating any awareness on the issue of torture amongst society?” 20 out of 25 respondents said that media was indeed creating awareness about the issue of torture amongst society while the remaining 5 thought otherwise.

## Multan

In Multan a total of 25 respondents were surveyed. Out of the total respondents 12 said “yes” they had attended a training workshop on torture while the remaining 13 had “never” attended a training workshop on torture.

Similarly when these journalists were asked what, in their view, was torture, 16 of the total 25 respondents said that torture was “the action or practice of inflicting severe pain on someone as a punishment or in order to force them to do or say something”, while 5 respondents felt that torture was “to give mental anguish” 2 participants were of the view that torture was “psychological suffering”

When these participants were asked whether there was a difference between torture and violence. To this, 19 out of the total 25 respondents said “yes” while the remaining 6 said no” there is no difference between torture and violence.

Only 5 out of 25 respondents were aware of UNCAT while 18 participants said they were not aware of the UN resolution on Convention against Torture (CAT).

23 out of 25 respondents felt that in their opinion, Pakistani domestic law does not addresses the issue of Torture adequately, while 2 participants said yes, Pakistani domestic law addresses the issue of Torture.

When these journalists were asked, “Is media creating awareness on the issue of torture amongst the society?”, 15 out of the total 25 respondents said “yes”, media was indeed creating awareness about the issue of torture amongst society while 8 respondents thought otherwise.

## Faisalabad

In Faisalabad a total of 19 respondents were surveyed. When they were asked whether they had attended a training workshop on torture, of the total respondents 6 said “yes” they had attended a training workshop on torture while the remaining 13 had “never” attended a training workshop on torture.

Similarly when these journalists were asked that in their view, what is torture? 13 out of the total 19 respondents said that torture was “the action or practice of inflicting severe pain on someone as a punishment or in order to force them to do or say something”, while 2 respondents felt that torture was “to give mental anguish” 2 participants were of the view that torture was “psychological suffering.”

When these participants were asked whether there was a difference between torture and violence, 13 out of the total 19 respondents said “yes” while the remaining 5 said ‘no.’

When the participants were asked about the United Nations resolution on the Convention against Torture, only 4 out of 19 participants answered that they were aware of it while 12 participants said they were not aware of the UN resolution on Convention against Torture (CAT).

Similarly, when the journalists were asked, “Does Pakistani Domestic law properly addresses torture?”, 10 out of 19 of the total respondents felt that in their opinion, Pakistani domestic law does not address the issue of Torture adequately, while 9 participants said yes, it does.

When these journalists were asked, “Is media creating awareness on the issue of torture amongst society?”, 17 out of the total 25 respondents said “yes”, media was indeed creating awareness about the issue of torture amongst society while 2 respondents thought otherwise.

## Sindh Province

### Karachi

In the provincial capital of Sindh, the survey covered a total of 25 journalists belonging to both print as well as electronic media. When these journalists were asked whether they have received any training on the issue of torture, a mix of results were observed. Out of the total, 13 respondents or 52 percent had attended a training workshop on torture before while the remaining 12 or 48 percent had never attended such training.

18 respondents or 75 percent of the total participants were of the view that torture was “the action or practice of inflicting severe pain on someone as a punishment or in order to force them to do or say something”, 5 respondents said torture was “physical suffering” while 1 participant said torture was “to give mental anguish”. Only one participant was of the opinion that mental anguish constituted torture whereas the rest did not believe that mental anguish also constituted torture.

When asked whether there was a difference between torture and violence, 86 percent replied yes “there is a difference between torture and violence” while the other 14 percent or 3 respondents answered that there is no difference between torture and violence.

17 participants or 68 percent were not aware of the UNCAT, while 8 respondents or 32 percent were aware of it.

76 percent respondents were of the view that Pakistani Domestic laws do not address the issue of Torture adequately, whereas 24 percent or 6 respondents thought otherwise.

When journalists were asked that is media creating awareness on the issue of torture amongst the society. 13 respondents or 52percent said that media is not creating any awareness amongst the society while 48 percent or 12 participants said “yes.”

### Sukkur

In Sukkur 30 journalists belonging to print as well as electronic media were administered the baseline survey questionnaire.

Out of the total respondents 46.43 percent said yes they had attended a training workshop on torture while 53. 57 percent had never attended a training workshop on torture.

Similarly, the journalists were asked about their view regarding the definition of torture. To this some 46.15 percent of the total respondents felt that torture was “the action or practice of inflicting severe pain on someone as a punishment or in order to force them to do or say something”, while 38.46 percent respondents felt that torture was “to give mental anguish” and 15.38 percent of the respondents said that torture was “psychological suffering”.

Later on journalists were asked whether there was a difference between torture and violence. 74 percent respondents felt that there is a difference between torture and violence, while 26 percent felt that there was no difference between torture and violence.

38 percent were aware of the UNCAT. While 61 percent of the respondents said that they are not aware of the UN resolution on Convention against Torture (CAT).

89 percent of the total respondents felt that in their opinion Pakistani domestic laws do not address the issue of torture adequately. While 11 percent said yes Pakistani domestic laws address the issue of Torture properly.

85 percent of the total respondents felt that media is creating awareness on the issue of torture amongst society while 15 percent thought otherwise.

## Hyderabad

In Hyderabad a total of 26 journalists belonging to print as well as electronic media were administered the questionnaire.

When the journalists were asked, had they ever attended a training workshop on torture before? 68 percent of the respondents replied that they had attended a workshop on torture before where as 32 percent of the participants had not.

63.16 percent replied by saying that the action or practice of inflicting severe pain on someone as a punishment or in order to force them to do or say something, whereas 15.79 percent of the respondents replied by saying that torture was to give mental anguish while 21.05 percent replied by saying that psychological suffering in their opinion was torture.

50 percent of the respondents replied that there was a difference between torture and violence where as 50 percent of the respondents replied by saying there was “no” difference between the two.

Similarly when the journalists were asked about the United Nations resolution on Convention against Torture, 54.17 percent of the participants replied by saying that yes they were aware where as 45.83 percent replied that they weren’t.

When asked, in your opinion do Pakistani domestic laws address the issue of torture adequately? 54.17 percent of the respondents replied by saying “yes” it does where as 45.83 percent of the participants replied by saying no.

When asked, is media creating awareness amongst the society on the issue of torture. It was seen that 75 percent of the participants replied by saying ‘yes’ media is creating social awareness where as 25 percent believed otherwise.

## Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province

### Peshawar

In the provincial capital of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the survey covered a total of 24 journalists belonging to both print as well as electronic media.

When asked whether they have attended any workshop on torture. Out of total 24 respondents, 3 respondents or 13.04 percent replied affirmatively, 20 or 86.98 percent replied they have never attended such training before.

After this when the journalists were asked, in their view what torture was, 11 respondents or 61.1 percent of the total participants were of a view that torture was “the action or practice of inflicting severe pain on someone as a punishment or in order to force them to do or say something”, where as 2 respondents or 11.11 percent said torture was “physical suffering” while 5 participants or 27.28 percent said torture was “to give mental anguish”.

Then the participants were asked whether there was a difference between torture and violence. To this 95.65 percent of the participants replied “yes” while 4.35 percent of the respondents answered “no”.

On the other hand when participants were asked whether they were aware of the United Nations resolution on Convention against Torture, 22 participants or 95.65 percent said no, while 1 respondent or 4.35 percent of the participants were aware of it.

Apart from the international laws the journalists were asked that in their view do Pakistani domestic laws adequately address the issue of torture. 81.82 percent of the respondents were of the view that Pakistani Domestic law does not address the issue of Torture adequately, whereas 18.18 percent respondents thought the otherwise.

When these participants were asked “Is media creating awareness on the issue of torture amongst society”, to this 18 respondents or 81.82 percent said “yes” while 18 percent or 4 participants said “no”.

### Mardan

In Mardan a total of 26 respondents were surveyed. When they were asked whether they had attended a training workshop on the issue torture? Out of the total respondents 38.46 percent said “yes” they have attended a training workshop on the issue of torture while 54 percent have “never” attended a training workshop on torture.

Similarly when these journalists were asked, what is torture in their view? To this 48 percent of the total respondents replied that torture was “the action or practice of inflicting severe pain on someone as a punishment or in order to force them to do or say something”, while 32 percent respondents felt it is “to give mental anguish” and 20 percent of the respondents said it is “psychological suffering”.

When these participants were asked is there a difference between torture and violence. To this all the participants or 100 percent respondents felt that there is a difference between torture and violence.

When the participants were asked about the United Nations resolution on the Convention against Torture, out of the total respondents, 90.48 percent of the respondents said that they were not aware of the UNCAT, while 9.52 percent were aware of it.

Similarly when they were asked do Pakistani Domestic laws adequately address torture? 92 percent of the total respondents no, while 8 percent said yes.

When these journalists were asked is the media creating awareness on the issue of torture amongst the society, 53 percent of the total respondents felt that media is creating awareness on the issue of torture amongst society while 47 percent thought otherwise.

### Baluchistan Province

#### Quetta

In the provincial capital of Baluchistan, the survey covered a total of 30 journalists belonging to both print as well as electronic media. When these journalists were asked whether they have received any training on the issue of torture, a mix of results were observed. Out of the total 30 participants, 16 respondents or 53 percent had attended a training workshop on torture before while the remaining 14 or 47 percent had never attended such training.

16 or 57percent of the total participants were of the view that torture was “the action or practice of inflicting severe pain on someone as a punishment or in order to force them to do or say something”, 25 percent respondents said torture was “psychological suffering” while 18 percent participant said torture was “to give mental anguish”.

Later on the participants were asked about the difference between torture and violence. To this 79 percent of the respondents replied ‘yes’ there is a difference between torture and violence where as the remaining 21 percent of the respondents replied ‘no.’

Similarly when the journalists were asked whether they are aware of the UNCAT, 30 percent of the participants replied by saying yes, where as 70 percent weren’t aware of it.

When asked that in your opinion do Pakistani domestic laws address the issue of torture adequately? 30 percent of the respondents replied by saying ‘yes’, where as 70 percent of the participants were of the view that they do not address torture.

When asked, is media creating awareness amongst the society on the issue of torture, 73 percent of the participants replied by saying ‘yes’, where as 27 percent believed otherwise.

## Pishin

In Pishin a total of 22 journalists were surveyed. When they were asked whether they had attended a training workshop on torture? Out of the total 22 respondents 32 percent said 'yes', while 68 percent had 'never' attended a training workshop on torture.

When asked, what is torture in their view? 7 respondents or 44 percent of the total participants were of the view that torture was "the action or practice of inflicting severe pain on someone as a punishment or in order to force them to do or say something", where as 7 respondents or 44 percent said torture was "psychological suffering" while 2 participants or 12 percent said torture was "to give mental anguish."

After asking them about their view regarding torture, the participants were asked whether there was a difference between torture and violence. To this 73 percent of the participants replied "yes", while the other 27 percent of the respondents answered "no".

On the other hand when these participants were asked whether they were aware of the UNCAT, 19 participants or 86 percent were not aware, while 3 respondents or 14 percent of the participants were aware of it.

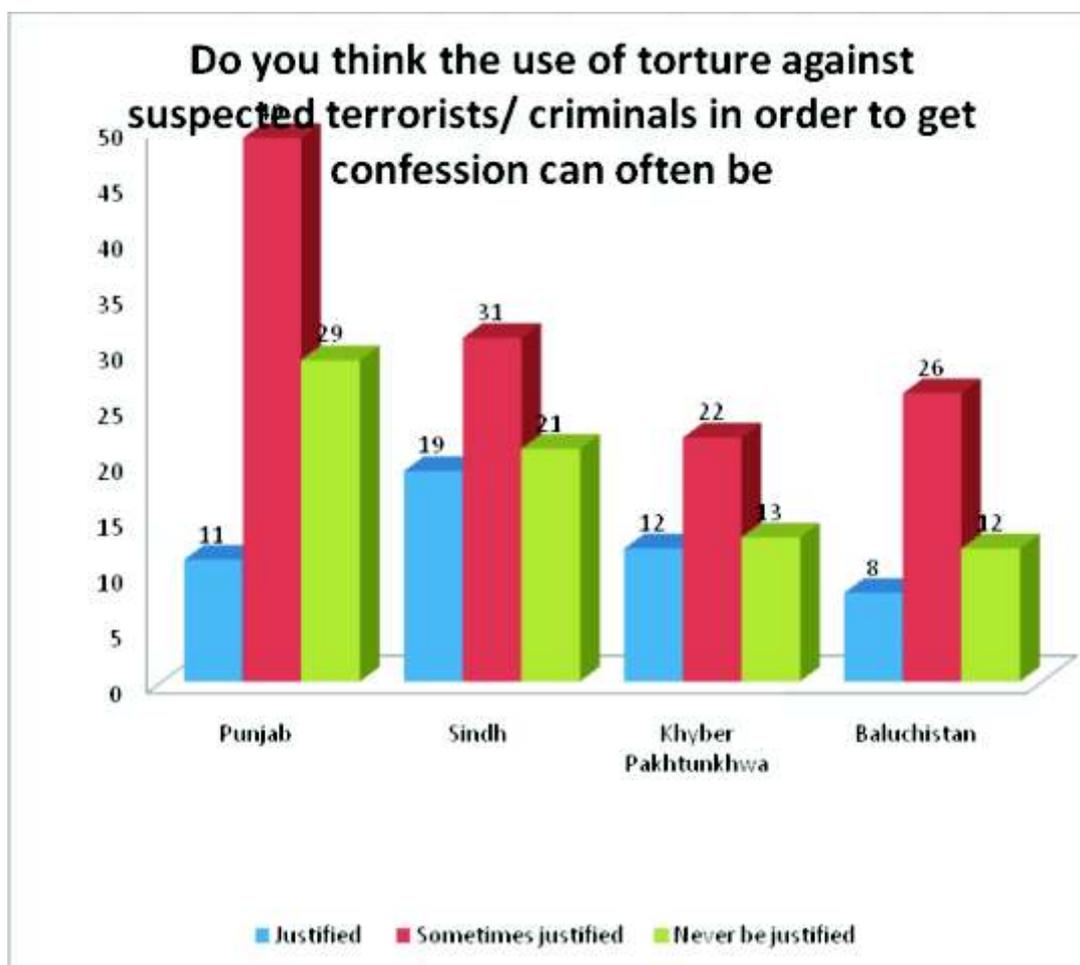
Apart from international laws, journalists were asked in their view do Pakistani domestic laws properly address the issue of torture. To this 85 percent of the respondents were of the view that Pakistani Domestic laws do not address the issue of Torture properly, whereas 15 percent respondents thought the other way round.

When these participants were asked "Is media creating awareness on the issue of torture amongst society", 8 respondents or 42 percent said 'yes', while 58 percent or 11 participants said "no".

# Conclusion

## Conclusion

The objective of this survey was to assess the perception of journalists about the practice of torture in the criminal justice system of Pakistan. The most terrifying finding of this survey was that a high percentage (see the graph below) of journalists were of the view that use of torture was justified. 18.11 percent of the total respondents added that torture was completely justified, while 46.3 percent added that it can sometimes be justified. Unfortunately, this finding points towards the growing insensitivity in the society regarding torture and other such practices. Our society has gradually been transformed into a militarized society, and use of force and coercion is not considered to be an obnoxious act. Even the public uses violence as means of achieving their goals, which also points towards the lack of confidence in the law enforcement agencies. This change in the attitude is evident from examples like the recent public lynching of two brothers in Sialkot and public execution of dacoits in Karachi.



The lack of knowledge and awareness of the journalists on the issue of torture can be related to the lack of proper training. There remains a further need to sensitize more and more journalists, especially crime beat reporters, so that they are able to properly report about atrocities committed by state officials. Another reason is that a majority of the journalists in Pakistan do not have a journalism background and all they learn about this field is after joining the occupation. Although, with experience they develop their expertise on various issues but

there are few areas such as “issue of torture” which cannot be learned only with experience, but need formal training.

Fortunately, our journalists, at the least majority of them (78 percent) are aware that torture was different from violence and with frequent training workshops a difference can be created.

Torture is an illegal practice throughout the world and condemned by all the states in the world. However, torture cases in Pakistan are on the rise. Media is a tool which can be used to end or at least minimise this practice in Pakistan, but that can only happen if the media persons themselves consider it illegal. Majority of journalists throughout Pakistan consider torture as only physical pain. However, torture can be psychological suffering or mental anguish as well. While writing a crime report, the journalists inappropriately use “torture”, even to define cases of domestic violence. This is the reason that during the survey, 50 percent of the participants voiced that torture was the “action or practice of inflicting severe pain on someone as a punishment or in order to force them to do or say something” whereas 25 percent of the journalists chose mental anguish and 16.66 percent picked psychological suffering.

Domestic violence, which, unfortunately, is also a common practice in Pakistan, also does not come under the category of torture, but journalists usually consider it torture. 60 percent of the participants in the survey replying that women are usually subjected to torture in Pakistan concrete the fact. UNCAT clearly describes that torture was specific to law enforcement agencies. It is a fact that women are the most frequent targets of domestic violence in our country. Therefore, journalists due to their lack of understanding consider that women are mostly subjected to torture.

Individualland (IL) does not claim the results of this survey to be accurate. Results of this survey only reflect a general perception of the journalists in the various parts of the country about “torture”. It is important that awareness is created, not only among journalists but among the general public as well. In order to create awareness at the national level, it is important that media personnel should be trained, so that the message can be spread accurately.

# Annexure 1

## **Annexure 1**

Detailed Survey Results (attached in the enclosed CD)

**Individualland**  
Creating space for the individual

**Individualland creates choices! As an innovative research-based consultancy and advocacy group we open up space for the individual. Our focus is the role of the media and to generate a peaceful discourse in society. We are working to increase the number of responsible journalists, media-literacy among citizens and a greater acceptance for different ways to live.**

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