



5.9. Effectiveness and integrity of the judiciary

While sources described the judiciary as being ‘formally’¹¹⁷³ or ‘for the most part’ independent from the other state powers, it was noted that it ‘has not been entirely independent’ since 2024 as political oversight over the judiciary increased as a result of the 2024 and 2025 constitutional amendments.¹¹⁷⁴ For further information on the implications of these constitutional reforms for the judiciary, see section [5.2. Major judicial and constitutional reforms](#) above. In broad terms, the court system was ‘marred’ by endemic corruption, intimidation, lack of security, low rates of conviction for serious offences,¹¹⁷⁵ as well as lengthy trials¹¹⁷⁶ coupled with significant backlogs of cases.¹¹⁷⁷ Moreover, the prosecution system was reported to have limited authority and independence, being under-financed, undertrained, and subject to political pressure.¹¹⁷⁸ According to the findings of Transparency International (TI) Pakistan’s National Corruption Perception Survey (NCPS) 2025, the judiciary was viewed as the country’s third most corrupt public institution, being perceived as corrupt by 14 % of respondents across Pakistan’s four provinces. At provincial level, public perceptions of the judiciary as being corrupt were comparatively higher in KP (18 %) and Punjab (17 %) than in Sindh and Balochistan (12 % each).¹¹⁷⁹

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Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2025 – Pakistan, 2025, [url](#), section F1

- [1174](#)

Britannica, Pakistan, last updated 30 March 2026, [url](#)

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