

PRESS RELEASE

**191 Women Contesting on 175 National & Provincial General Seats –
The Researchers**

Islamabad: January 14, 2008: The Researchers, a non-profit research based organization is undertaking observation of 65 selected national and provincial assemblies' constituencies (37 National, 28 Provincial) being contested by women in General Elections-2008.

In this regard The Researchers will field almost 400 electoral processes observer – both international and domestic – at constituency level. A comprehensive report covering pre-election, election-day and post-election period will be produced within one month of the completion of process. This project is first-ever documentation of its kind not only in Pakistan but in Asian region focusing exclusively on the observation of women contested constituencies.

As per the final list issued by the Election Commission of Pakistan, The Executive Director Mr. Aazar Ayaz said that 72 women candidates are contesting in 63 National Assembly constituencies while 119 women are in the run for 112 Provisional Assemblies' general seats.

The province-wise breakup of women candidates of National Assembly seats in Punjab is 49 in 46 constituencies, in Sindh 15 candidates would be contesting from 12 constituencies, whereas in NWFP & Balochistan there are 3 women each in 2 constituencies each of both provinces respectively, while for 1 constituency of Islamabad 2 candidates are contesting.

The province wise breakup of women contesting for Provincial Assembly seats is 11 Women from 10 Constituencies of NWFP, 73 women from 68 constituencies in Punjab, 27 contestants in 28 constituencies and 8 women candidates from 6 constituencies of Sindh and Balochistan respectively, he added.

NOTE: The TR will soon release the data by categorizing it as per political party.

About The Researchers

The Researchers (TR) is a research-based civil society organization with sister organizational linkages in 85 districts of Pakistan. TR is also the regional convener and secretariat of Women in Politics in Asia Forum (WPAF), which was established in the year 2005. Both TR & WPAF have been gradually moving towards their target of increased research-based documentation on women's political progress at national, regional and international level.

WPAF has its regional linkages through its country chapters in Thailand and South Korea with King Pradjadhopik Institute (KPI) and Korean Institute of Women in Politics (KIWP), respectively. The objective for the country chapters is to promote national research and cross-fertilize regional research focusing democracy and women's participation. The detail about TR & WPAF can be found at www.theresearchers.org & www.wpaf.org, respectively.