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## Islamabad Courts Sentence 13 PTI Supporters to Six Months for November Protests

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Islamabad’s district and sessions courts sentenced 13 Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) supporters to six months in prison on July 24, 2025, for their roles in the November 2024 “Final Call” protests, while acquitting one. The protests, demanding the release of PTI founder Imran Khan, led to violent clashes and significant disruption. This article examines the court rulings, the context of the protests, and their broader implications.

The sentences, handed down across three cases at Ramna police station and one at Tarnol, targeted PTI activists involved in the November 24–27, 2024, protests, which saw supporters march to Islamabad’s D-Chowk, defying security barriers. The protests, led by PTI’s Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur and Bushra Bibi, Khan’s wife, resulted in chaos, with four Rangers personnel and a policeman martyred, per Dawn. The courts convicted the 13 under the Peaceful Assembly and Public Order (PAPO) Act, while an Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) discharged 12 of the same individuals in a separate October 2024 case, citing insufficient evidence, according to Dawn.

PTI claims the crackdown was politically motivated, alleging a dozen supporters died, a claim the government denies. Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi justified the arrests of nearly 1,000 protesters, stating they protected public safety, per Reuters. Social media posts on X, like those from @ZeshanSyed08, reflect outrage over the sentences, viewing them as an attack on PTI’s right to protest. The Islamabad High Court (IHC) had previously deemed the protests unlawful for lacking permission, citing security concerns during a Belarusian delegation’s visit, per Dawn.

The rulings highlight Pakistan’s polarized political climate, with PTI’s push for Khan’s release clashing against government efforts to maintain order. While the sentences signal a firm stance against unrest, PTI’s acquittals in related cases suggest judicial scrutiny of evidence. The convictions risk further inflaming tensions, testing Pakistan’s commitment to balancing dissent with stability in a volatile political landscape.