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Results of Palestinian Public Opinion Poll
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Background

When the exchange of verbal accusations prevailed and when the two major Palestinian factions started to resort to arms pushing the conflict to the verge of internal fighting accompanied by a state of paralysis in the public sector due to the strike, Palestinians finally found no way out of the political and financial impasse other than a unity government that would include all parliamentary factions in addition to some independent figures. President Abbas and Prime Minister Hanyia promised Palestinians to form a unity government before the end of November, and the media point out that a national unity government has become very imminent, especially that rumors leaked out by some officials that an agreement on the general framework of the government has already been accomplished.

On the other side of the scene, the Israeli army committed another massacre in Beit Hanon in the Strip that resulted in the massive killing of more than 20 civilians. The political outcome of the massacre was a veto by the US in the Security Council that aborted the Arab countries' attempt to pass a resolution that condemns Israel.

On the Palestinian side public schools teachers suspended their strike after an agreement was concluded with the Minister of Education and Higher Education on a specific procedure to pay their salaries. As a result of this agreement students went back to their schools.

The Results

Following are the results of the 24th Palestinian Public Opinion Poll conducted by the Center for Opinion Polls and Survey Studies at An-Najah National University during the period from November 16 to 18, 2006. **The University sponsors all polls conducted by its Center.**

This poll undertakes Palestinian public opinions as relate to the new political realities, particularly the unity government, the priorities of Palestinian people, the expectations of Palestinian people from the new government, Palestinian opinions in forms of resistance, in addition to an assessment of the performance of Palestinian institutions.

The opinions represented in the results reflect those of the study; they do not represent by any means the opinion of An-Najah National University.



The sample included 1360 persons whose age group is 18 and above and who have the right to vote. The enclosed questionnaire was distributed on 860 persons from the West Bank and 500 persons from the Gaza Strip. The sample was drawn randomly and the margin of error is about $\pm 3\%$; still 3.8% of the members of the sample refused to answer the questionnaire.

The General Results:

- 41.8% of respondents were pessimistic towards the general Palestinian conditions at this stage.
- 86.8% of respondents did not feel safe neither for themselves nor for their families and properties under the present circumstances.
- 69.5% of respondents said that their economic situation under the current circumstances is deteriorating.
- 74.8% of respondents said that the local security conditions deteriorated.
- 42.8% of respondents said that their priority at the present stage is putting an end to the security mayhem.
- 54.3% of respondents said that a unity government is the most ideal form of government for running the country's affairs.
- 65.5% of respondents said that the agreement reached on a unity government will free Palestinian people from the political and financial sanctions; 23.5% said the opposite.
- 56.2% of respondents said that *Hamas* movement is really in favor with a successful unity government: 33.4% said the opposite.
- 59.3% of respondents said that *Fateh* movement is really in favor of a successful unity government: 30.5% said the opposite.
- 30.7% of respondents said that the major reason behind the delay in forming a unity government was outside interference and 22.9% said that it was disagreement over the political program of the government.
- 29.6% of respondents support the idea that the future unity government should only be a services government.
- 48.8% of respondents supported the idea that negotiation should only be the responsibility of the PLO.
- 82.9% of respondents supported the reformation of the PLO so that it would include all Palestinian factions, including those which are not part of it.
- As for the priorities of the future Palestinian government respondents saw the following:
 - 84.4% were in favor of imposing order on the local security conditions
 - 83.5% were in favor of creating job opportunities.
 - 82.8% were in favor of improving the economic conditions and encouraging investments.



- 82.7% were in favor of improving public health services.
- 82.6% were in favor of improving public education.
- 78.7% were in favor of carrying out court verdicts.
- 77.6% were in favor of improving the work of local councils.
- 80.1% were in favor of reforming the security apparatuses.
- 59.9% of respondents supported armed operations inside Israel; 34.9% rejected them.
- 65.7% of respondents supported concentrating armed operations within the borders of the 1967 occupied territories
- 42.4% of respondents rejected firing rockets at Israeli targets from the Gaza Strip.
- 43.2% of respondents said that firing rockets against Israeli targets from the Gaza Strip hurts the Palestinian cause; 34.7% said it serves the Palestinian cause positively.
- 34.9% of respondents said the form of struggle that best serves the Palestinian cause is the armed struggle.
- 69.6% of respondents said that kidnapping foreign journalists and sympathizers with Palestinians hurts the Palestinian cause.
- 85.4% of respondents said that there is some outside intervention in the Palestinian decision; 8.7% said that it is an Arab intervention, 18.4% said that it is a foreign one, 72.5% said that it is both foreign and Arab, and 75% said that this intervention is a negative one.
- Within the present circumstances 31.4% of respondents said that they think of emigrating.
- 31.2% of respondents said that that they may emigrate if proper living conditions become available to them abroad.
- 43.7% of respondents said that the main cause that compels them to think of emigrating is lack of security; 23.8% said that it is the poor economic situation.
- 66.9% of respondents supported completing local councils elections in the areas where they were not conducted yet.
- 45.5% of respondents supported the coming of Bader forces from Jordan to the Palestinian territories; 31.7% of respondents said that Bader forces are capable of imposing order in the Palestinian territories
- Respondents assessed the performance of the following institutions as "good" with the following percentages:
 - 53.2% Palestinian Presidency
 - 43.5% Palestinian Government
 - 40.4% Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC)
 - 34.3% judicial system
 - 31.8% security apparatuses



- 70.4% Palestinian universities

- As for political affiliation respondents gave the following results:

People's Party	1.3%
Democratic Front	1.2%
Islamic <i>Jihad</i>	3.9%
<i>Fateh</i>	34.9%
<i>Hamas</i>	18.4%
<i>Fida</i>	0.8%
Popular Front	4.9%
Palestinian National Initiative	0.8%
I am an independent nationalist	7.2%
I am an independent Islamist	4.2%
None of the above	20.8%
Others	1.6%

The General Results of the Poll

Are you optimistic or pessimistic towards the general Palestinian situation at this stage?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Optimistic	41.8	37.6	49.2
Pessimistic	56.0	61.0	47.4
No opinion/I do not know	2.1	1.4	3.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Under the current situation, do you feel that you, your family and your properties are secure?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	12.6	11.5	14.6
To some extent I do	30.0	27.9	33.6
No	56.8	60.2	51.0
No opinion/I do not know	0.5	0.3	0.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



Under the current circumstances in which direction has your economic situation developed?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Towards the best	4.4	2.8	7.2
Towards the worst	69.5	72.0	65.2
It stayed the same	26.1	25.2	27.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

In your opinion, how did security conditions develop within the last months?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Towards the best	6.0	3.0	11.2
Towards the worst	74.8	76.4	72.0
It stayed the same	18.1	19.3	16.0
No opinion/I do not know	1.1	1.3	0.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

What is your top priority at this stage?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Improving the economic situation	33.4	31.7	36.2
Putting an end to the security mayhem	42.8	41.7	44.6
Creating job opportunities	15.1	17.1	11.8
Improving public health services	7.1	8.1	5.4
Other	1.0	0.8	1.2
No opinion/I do not know	0.6	0.5	0.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

What form of government do you see fit to run the Palestinian Authority's affairs?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
A unity government	54.3	58.5	47.2
An independent national technocrat government	23.2	18.8	30.6
A government from <i>Hamas</i>	7.0	7.1	6.8
A government from <i>Fateh</i>	10.5	9.0	13.2
No opinion/I do not know	5.0	6.6	2.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



In your opinion, would an agreement to form a unity government free Palestinian people from the political and financial sanctions imposed on them?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	65.5	65.1	66.2
No	23.5	24.7	21.6
No opinion/I do not know	11.0	10.2	12.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you think that *Hamas* is really in favor of a successful unity government?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	56.2	60.0	49.6
No	33.4	28.6	41.6
No opinion/I do not know	10.4	11.4	8.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you think that *Fateh* is really in favor of a successful unity government?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	59.3	55.2	66.2
No	30.5	32.6	27.0
No opinion/I do not know	10.2	12.2	6.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

In your opinion what is the reason behind the delay in the formation of a unity government?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
The disagreement over the political program of the government	22.9	21.2	25.8
The disagreement over the distribution of portfolios	20.2	14.7	29.8
Outside interference	30.7	35.3	22.8
<i>Hamas</i> and <i>Fateh's</i> reluctance to have political partnership.	20.7	21.6	19.2
Other	0.8	0.9	0.6
No opinion/I do not know	4.6	6.3	1.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



Do you support or reject that the role of the future government be limited to providing services to people without having anything to do with the political affairs?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I support	29.6	29.3	30.0
I reject	63.8	65.1	61.6
No opinion/I do not know	6.6	5.6	8.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do support or reject giving the responsibilities of negotiations with Israel to the PLO only?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I support	48.8	44.9	55.6
I reject	42.9	47.9	34.4
No opinion/I do not know	8.2	7.2	10.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you support or reject reforming the PLO so that it would include all Palestinian factions including those which are not already included?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I support	82.9	84.7	80.0
I reject	12.1	10.2	15.2
No opinion/I do not know	5.0	5.1	4.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

**In your opinion what are the priorities of the future government?
(Give your preferences on a 0-10 scale)**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Imposing order on local security conditions	8.4404	8.5465	8.2580
Creating job opportunities	8.3515	8.5360	8.0340
Improving the economic conditions and encouraging investments	8.2801	8.3849	8.1000
Upgrading public health services	8.2699	8.8209	7.8380
Upgrading public education services	8.2618	8.5349	7.7920
Carrying out court verdicts	7.8743	8.0872	7.5080
Improving the performance of local councils (municipalities)	7.7551	7.9105	7.4880
Restructuring security apparatuses	8.0088	8.2314	7.6260



Do you support or reject armed operations inside Israel?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I strongly support	23.4	19.0	31.0
I support	36.5	37.4	35.0
I reject	28.1	30.8	23.4
I strongly reject	6.8	7.1	6.4
No opinion/I do not know	5.1	5.7	4.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you support or reject concentrating Palestinian resistance within the 1967 borders alongside with political negotiations?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I strongly support	21.7	14.3	34.4
I support	44.0	50.2	33.2
I reject	23.8	25.7	20.4
I strongly reject	5.7	3.6	9.4
No opinion/I do not know	4.9	6.2	2.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do support or reject firing rockets by Palestinian factions from the Strip against Israel?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I strongly support	17.1	14.1	22.4
I support	35.5	39.1	29.4
I reject	30.8	32.8	27.4
I strongly reject	11.6	8.5	17.0
No opinion/I do not know	4.9	6.5	3.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do think that firing rockets from the Gaza Strip against Israel hurts or helps Palestinian national struggle?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
It helps	34.7	30.8	41.4
It hurts	43.2	46.7	37.2
It is useless	13.2	18.5	17.6
No opinion/I do not know	3.9	4.0	3.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



In your opinion and under the current local and international circumstances what form of struggle would best serve the Palestinian cause?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Peaceful struggle (demonstrations; sit ins--)	14.6	14.1	15.6
Armed struggle	34.9	34.0	36.6
Diplomatic struggle (international stands and forums)	15.0	13.8	17.0
Resorting to negotiations as in the past	27.4	30.9	21.2
Other	4.8	3.5	7.0
No opinion/I do not know	3.3	3.7	2.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do think that kidnapping and detaining sympathizers and journalists by some would help Palestinian struggle?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
It serves	7.8	4.2	14.0
It hurts	69.6	76.4	58.0
It is useless	20.7	17.4	26.2
No opinion/I do not know	1.9	2.0	1.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you think that there is an outside interference in the Palestinian political decision?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	85.4	78.4	81.8
No	10.0	9.1	11.6
No opinion/I do not know	4.6	3.5	6.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

If your response to the above question is "yes", do you think that the interference is -----?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Arabic	8.7	4.8	15.9
Foreign	18.4	21.3	13.2
Both Arabic and foreign	72.5	73.5	70.7
No opinion/I do not know	0.3	0.4	0.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



Generally, how do you assess the interference in the Palestinian political decision?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Positive	9.5	8.0	12.2
Negative	75.0	77.4	70.7
Without effect	11.7	12.1	11.0
No opinion/I do not know	3.8	2.5	6.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Under your current circumstances, do you think of emigrating to another country?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	31.4	25.8	41.0
No	67.6	73.5	57.4
No opinion/I do not know	1.0	0.7	1.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

If proper conditions are made available to you to live outside Palestine, will you think of emigrating?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	31.2	28.1	36.4
No	68.1	71.0	63.0
No opinion/I do not know	0.7	0.8	0.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

What is the main cause that would make you think of emigrating?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Lack of security	23.8	21.9	26.3
The poor economic situation	43.7	47.1	39.1
Fear of a civil war	7.4	5.0	10.6
The absence of a possible political breakthrough that would give some hope	20.9	22.7	18.4
No opinion/I do not know	3.4	3.3	5.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



Do you support or reject the completion of the local councils' elections at the present time?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I support	66.9	72.0	58.2
I reject	26.3	22.9	32.0
No opinion/I do not know	6.8	5.1	9.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Lately, there has been a talk about the possibility of the coming of *Bader* Corps from Jordan to the Palestinian Territories for the purpose of putting an end to the present security disorder. Are in favor of the coming of these troops?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	45.5	40.9	53.4
No	43.5	49.7	32.8
No opinion/I do not know	11.0	9.4	13.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you think that *Bader* Corps will be able to control the security situations in the Palestinian Territories?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	31.7	29.7	35.2
No	49.1	52.4	43.4
No opinion/I do not know	19.2	17.9	21.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



In general how do you assess the performance of the following Palestinian institutions?

	Total		
	Good	bad	No opinion/ I do not know
The Palestinian Presidency	53.2	40.2	6.6
The Palestinian Government	43.5	49.6	6.9
The PLC	40.4	48.9	10.7
The Judicial System	34.3	53.4	12.4
The Security Apparatuses	41.8	62.1	6.2
Palestinian Universities	70.4	22.1	7.4
West Bank			
	Good	Bad	No opinion/ I do not know
The Palestinian Presidency	44.8	46.0	9.2
The Palestinian Government	43.6	46.9	9.5
The PLC	37.8	48.1	14.1
The Judicial System	29.3	58.6	12.1
The Security Apparatuses	27.2	65.5	7.3
Palestinian Universities	72.8	19.1	8.1
Gaza Strip			
	Good	Bad	No opinion/ I do not know
The Palestinian Presidency	67.6	30.2	2.2
The Palestinian Government	43.2	54.4	2.4
The PLC	44.8	50.2	5.0
The Judicial System	42.8	44.4	12.8
The Security Apparatuses	39.6	56.2	4.2
Palestinian Universities	66.4	27.4	6.2



Which of the following political affiliations do you support?

PARTY	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
People's Party	1.3	1.0	1.8
Democratic Front	1.2	1.0	1.4
Islamic <i>Jihad</i>	3.9	2.7	6.0
<i>Fateh</i>	34.9	30.5	42.6
<i>Hamas</i>	18.4	19.0	17.4
<i>Fida</i>	0.8	0.1	2.0
Popular Front	4.9	3.4	7.4
Palestinian National Initiative	0.8	0.8	0.8
I am an independent nationalist	7.2	7.0	7.6
I am an independent Islamist	4.2	4.5	3.6
None of the above	20.8	28.4	7.8
Others	1.6	1.6	1.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0