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Results of Palestinian Public Opinion Poll
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Background

Confrontations in the Gaza Strip are renewed after an air of optimism prevailed among Palestinian people following the formation of the Unity Government. Palestinian citizens were optimistic prior to these confrontations that the new Unity Government will restore order in the Palestinian streets through implementing a security plan. New realities imposed themselves and the new government has not succeeded in implementing its security plan yet. In the same context, the Minister of Interior Affairs resigned protesting, as he says, not granting him enough political power that would enable him to execute his responsibilities properly.

On the political side, things are stand still; nothing tangible has been achieved towards ending the political and financial sanctions imposed on the Palestinian Authority despite the tremendous efforts made by ministers to end the siege. The crisis of salaries, which have not been paid to employees, is escalating especially after the strike declared by public employees threatening of a total collapse of the educational and health sectors.

As for the relationship with Israel, more than one Palestinian official declared that the regular meetings between President Mahmoud Abbas and the Israeli Prime Minister have been stopped on an Israeli request. It is worth mentioning that these meetings, according to Palestinian government officials were useless.

On the battlefield Israel continues its policy of killing, destructions and frequent incursions inside most areas of the West Bank and threatening to invade the Gaza Strip.

The Results

Following are the results of the 27th Palestinian Public Opinion Poll conducted by the Center for Opinion Polls and Survey Studies at An-Najah National University during the period from May 17-19, 2007. **The University sponsors all polls conducted by its Center.**

Palestinian public opinion poll no. 27 undertakes the current political realities especially the Mecca Accord, the formation of the Unity Government, the priorities of the Palestinian people and what is expected of the newly formed government, in addition to the performance of some Palestinian institutions and other issues.

The sample included 1361 persons whose age group is 18 and above and who have the right to vote. The enclosed questionnaire was distributed on 861 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 2.7% of the members of the sample refused to answer the questionnaire.

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 General Results:

- 82.7% of respondents are pessimistic towards the general Palestinian conditions at this stage.
- 92% of respondents do not feel safe neither for themselves nor for their families and properties under the present circumstances.
- 79.2% of respondents said that their economic situation under the current circumstances is deteriorating.
- 82.2% of respondents said that the local security conditions deteriorated.
- As for the priorities of the future Palestinian government respondents saw the following:
 - 58.6% were in favor of imposing order on the local security conditions
 - 10.7% were in favor of creating job opportunities.
 - 16.1% were in favor of solving the problem of salaries.
- 90.9% of respondents assessed the current Palestinian conditions in the Palestinian territories as "bad"; 8.2% assessed them as "good".
- 6.9% of respondents believed that the Mecca Accord signed between *Fateh* and *Hamas* will hold for a long period of time.
- 19.1% of respondents believed that the Unity Government will continue to perform its duties during the coming period; 68.6% believed it will collapse
- 35.3% of respondents believed that *Hamas* is really concerned with the success of the Palestinian Unity Government.
- 37% of respondents believed that *Fateh* is really concerned with the success of the Palestinian Unity Government.
- 24% of respondents believed that the Unity Government succeeded, if partially, to ease up the political sanctions imposed on the Palestinian Authority; 70.9% believed that it failed.
- 21.4% of respondents believed that the Unity Government succeeded, if partially, to uplift the financial sanctions imposed on the Palestinian Authority; 74.5% believed that it failed.
- 18.6% of respondents believed that the Unity Government was able to implement the security plan that it declared to put an end to security mayhem; 73.5% believed it was not.
- 49.2% of respondents said that they are in favor of continuing the strike of the employees of the public sector since the present government is unable to secure their salaries.
- 26.6 % of respondents believed that the current government is capable of securing the salaries of the employees within the near future.
- 28.7% of respondents believed that the Unity Government is capable of solving the problem of salaries.



- 71.4% of respondents asked the current government to resign if it fails to improve the security and financial conditions.
- If the current government fails to achieve its mission, 48.1% of respondents saw that the alternative is conducting new elections; 24.3% saw that it is dissolving the Palestinian Authority, 22.2% saw that it is the formation of a new government.
- 46% of respondents supported dissolving the Palestinian Authority while 47.1% rejected that.
- 37.9% of respondents believed that there is a possibility for reaching an agreement between the Palestinian factions to form a new government if the current government fails; 51.4% saw the contrary.
- 34.6% of respondents believed that the Unity Government will survive until the end of this year under the current circumstances; 51.2% believed the contrary.
- 48.2% of respondents believed that the resignation of the Minister of the Interior Affairs is one step towards the collapse of the National Unity Government.
- 59% of respondents believed that the recent confrontations practically aborted the Mecca Accord.
- 19% of respondents believed that the National Unity Government is currently capable of controlling the conditions in the Gaza Strip; 75.4% believed the contrary.
- 59.3% of respondents believed that the resignation of the Minister of Interior Affairs will create a new crisis between *Fateh* and *Hamas* over the position of a new minister.
- 24.8% of respondents believed that the National Unity Government came as a result of the desire of both *Fateh* and *Hamas* to share authority; 27% believed that it came as a result of the pressure exerted by the Palestinian Public, 18.7% believed that it came as a result of pressure exerted by Arab countries.
- 49.6% of respondents supported the Arab Initiative for Peace as a basis for a settlement in the Middle East.
- 45.3% of respondents supported the US Middle East Plan which proposes easing up the movements of Palestinian people in return for a cease in firing rockets from the Gaza Strip; 48.3% rejected the US plan.
- 43% of respondents rejected firing rockets from the Gaza Strip against Israel.
- 40.4% of respondents said that firing rockets from the Gaza Strip against Israel hurts the Palestinian cause; 32.5% said it serves it.
- 62.3% of respondents supported a call on the Palestinian factions by the Palestinian Authority to return to a truce with Israel; 31.8% rejected that.
- Respondents assessed the performance of the National Unity Government in the following domains during the two months of its duration in power as follows:



	Good	Bad
Education	23%	73.6%
Health	21.7%	75.3%
Security	7.6%	90.4%
Securing salaries	4.1%	93.5%
Creating job opportunities	4.3%	92.9%
International relations	18.6%	71.9%
Relation with Palestinian factions	17.2%	76.6%
Fighting corruption	12.5%	83.1%

- Respondents assessed the performance of the following institutions as "good" with the following percentages:

Presidential Institution	45.7%
Palestinian Government	26.3%
Palestinian Legislative Council	22.2%
Judicial System	19%
Security Apparatuses	22.5%
Palestinian Universities	68.9%

- 52.2% of respondents supported the idea that negotiation should only be the responsibility of the PLO; 42.1% opposed that
- 76.2% of respondents supported the reformation of the PLO so that it would include all Palestinian factions, including those which are not part of it; 18.1% opposed that.
- 33.1% of respondents will vote for a *Fateh* candidate if a new Presidential elections are conducted; 16.8% will vote for a *Hamas* candidate.
- 32.2% of respondents will vote for a *Fateh* bloc if a new PLC elections are conducted 17.4% will vote for a *Hamas* bloc.
- As for political affiliation respondents gave the following results:

People's Party	1.2%
Democratic Front	1.9%
Islamic <i>Jihad</i>	2.4%
<i>Fateh</i>	34.3%
<i>Hamas</i>	18.7%
<i>Fida</i>	0.3%
Popular Front	4.4%
Palestinian National Initiative	0.5%
I am an independent nationalist	6.5%
I am an independent Islamist	3.5%
None of the above	25.6%
Others	0.7%



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	15.4	18.5	10.0
Pessimistic	82.7	80.4	86.8
No opinion/I do not know	1.9	1.2	3.2
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	7.3	10.0	2.8
To some extent I do	26.9	26.1	28.2
No	65.1	63.6	67.6
No opinion/I do not know	0.7	0.2	1.4
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	2.6	3.6	1.0
Towards the worst	79.5	79.2	80.0
It stayed the same	17.9	17.2	19.0
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	3.9	3.5	4.6
Towards the worst	82.2	83.4	80.2
It stayed the same	12.9	12.3	14.0
No opinion/I do not know	1.0	0.8	1.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



What is your top priority at this stage? (Choose only one)

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Putting an end to the security mayhem	58.6	52.5	69.0
Creating job opportunities	10.7	10.2	11.6
Uplifting check points	7.1	10.3	1.6
Solving the problem of salaries	16.1	17.4	13.8
Improving public health services	1.7	2.1	1.0
Improving public education	3.7	5.6	0.4
Others	1.6	1.4	2.0
No opinion/I do not know	0.5	0.5	0.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

How do you assess the conditions of Palestinians living in the Palestinian territories at the present circumstances?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Excellent	0.9	0.3	1.8
Good	7.3	6.7	8.4
Bad	44.5	44.9	43.8
Very bad	46.4	47.2	45.2
No opinion/I do not know	0.8	0.8	0.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you think that the Mecca Accord will hold for long between *Fateh* and *Hamas*?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	6.9	6.3	8.0
No	67.2	68.4	65.2
May be	21.6	20.3	23.8
No opinion/I do not know	4.3	5.0	3.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you think that the National Unity Government will continue to perform its duties in the coming period or will collapse?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
It will continue to perform its duties	19.1	17.5	21.8
It will collapse	68.6	70.6	65.0
No opinion/I do not know	12.3	11.8	13.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



Do you think that *Hamas* is really concerned with the success of a Unity Government?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	35.3	39.4	28.2
No	54.4	50.1	62.0
No opinion/I do not know	10.3	10.6	9.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you think that *Fateh* is really concerned with the success of a Unity Government?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	37.0	34.6	41.0
No	50.9	54.2	45.2
No opinion/I do not know	12.1	11.1	13.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you think that the National Unity Government succeeded, if partially, to ease up the political sanctions imposed on the Palestinian Authority?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	24.0	21.5	28.4
No	70.9	73.8	66.0
No opinion/I do not know	5.1	4.8	5.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you think that the National Unity Government succeeded, if partially, to ease up the financial sanctions imposed on the Palestinian Authority?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	21.4	20.2	23.4
No	74.5	76.7	70.8
No opinion/I do not know	4.1	3.1	5.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you think that the current government is capable of implementing the security plan that it declared to put an end to the security mayhem?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	18.6	19.4	17.2
No	73.5	72.7	74.8
No opinion/I do not know	7.9	7.9	8.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



Employees of the public sector resorted to resume their strike again since the current government is capable of securing their salaries. Do you support their strike?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	49.2	43.3	59.4
No	45.9	53.2	33.4
No opinion/I do not know	4.8	3.5	7.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you think that the present government is capable of securing the salaries of its employees in the near future?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	26.6	31.0	19.0
No	61.8	59.3	66.0
No opinion/I do not know	11.6	9.6	15.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you think that the National Unity Government is capable of solving the problem of salaries?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	28.7	33.8	20.0
No	60.5	57.3	66.0
No opinion/I do not know	10.8	8.9	14.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

If the current government fails to improve the security and economic conditions, will you ask this government to resign?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	71.4	71.3	71.6
No	23.1	23.9	21.8
No opinion/I do not know	5.4	4.8	6.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

If the current government fails in performing its duties, what is the alternative?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Conducting new elections	48.1	42.5	57.6
Dissolving the Palestinian Authority	24.3	26.9	19.8
Forming a new government	22.2	23.8	19.4
No opinion/I do not know	5.4	6.7	3.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



Lately, there have been voices calling for dissolving the Palestinian Authority. Do you support or reject this motion?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I support	46.0	50.4	38.4
I reject	47.1	43.1	54.0
No opinion/I do not know	6.9	6.5	7.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

If the current government resigns, do you think that there will be a possibility for an agreement between the factions to form a new government?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	37.9	43.3	28.6
No	51.4	48.5	56.4
No opinion/I do not know	10.7	8.1	15.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Under the current circumstances, do you think that the National Unity Government will survive until the end of this year?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	34.6	39.3	26.6
No	51.2	48.2	56.4
No opinion/I do not know	14.2	12.5	17.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you think that the resignation of the Minister of the Interior Affairs is one step towards the collapse of the National Unity Government?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	48.2	47.0	50.2
No	39.8	41.0	37.6
No opinion/I do not know	12.0	12.0	12.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you think that the last confrontations in the Gaza Strip practically aborted the Mecca Accord?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	59.0	58.5	59.8
No	35.1	35.5	34.4
No opinion/I do not know	5.9	5.9	5.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



Do you think that the National Unity Government is capable of controlling the situation in the Gaza Strip at the present?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	19.0	19.0	18.8
No	75.4	77.5	71.8
No opinion/I do not know	5.7	3.5	9.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you think that the resignation of the Minister of the Interior will initiate a new crisis between *Fateh* and *Hamas* over the vacant position at the Ministry?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	59.3	59.3	59.2
No	27.9	28.8	26.4
No opinion/I do not know	12.8	11.8	14.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you think that the National Unity Government came as a result of--?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
The desire of <i>Fateh</i> and <i>Hamas</i> to share authority?	24.8	21.8	29.8
Pressures exerted by the Palestinian Public	27.0	27.8	25.8
Pressures exerted by some Arab countries	18.7	14.8	25.4
Foreign pressures	23.5	28.8	14.4
No opinion/I do not know	6.0	6.9	4.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

The Last Arab Summit held in Riyadh considered the Arab Peace Initiative as the basis of a peace settlement in the Middle East. Do you support or reject this notion?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I support	49.6	45.8	56.2
I reject	40.3	44.7	32.8
No opinion/I do not know	10.1	9.5	11.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



The US presented a security plan calling for easing up the movement of Palestinians between their cities, villages, and refugee camps in return for a cease in firing rockets from the Gaza Strip. Do you support or reject this Plan?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I support	45.3	41.7	51.6
I reject	48.3	53.1	40.2
No opinion/I do not know	6.3	5.2	8.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

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

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I strongly support	23.7	20.9	28.4
I support	27.3	32.8	18.0
I reject	31.1	31.5	30.4
I strongly reject	11.9	8.5	17.8
No opinion/I do not know	6.0	6.4	5.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

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

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
It helps	32.5	31.5	34.4
It hurts	40.4	41.5	38.6
It is useless	22.9	22.9	22.8
No opinion/I do not know	4.2	4.2	4.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

There is a call from the PA to the armed Palestinian factions to resort to the truce with Israel. Do you support or reject this call?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I support	52.3	63.8	59.8
I reject	31.8	31.2	32.8
No opinion/I do not know	5.9	5.0	7.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



During the two months that the National Unity Government has been in power, how do you assess its performance in the following domains?

Total				
	Good	Bad	No opinion /I do not know	Total
Education	23.0	73.6	3.4	100.0
Health	21.7	75.3	2.9	100.0
Maintaining security	7.6	90.4	1.9	100.0
Securing salaries	4.1	93.5	2.4	100.0
Creating job opportunities	4.3	92.9	2.9	100.0
International relations	18.6	71.9	9.6	100.0
Relations with the Palestinian factions	17.2	76.6	6.2	100.0
Fighting corruption	12.5	83.1	4.4	100.0
West Bank				
	Good	Bad	No opinion /I do not know	Total
Education	12.2	84.2	3.6	100.0
Health	9.4	87.8	2.8	100.0
Maintaining security	6.9	91.3	1.9	100.0
Securing salaries	2.4	95.2	2.1	100.0
Creating job opportunities	3.9	93.7	2.3	100.0
International relations	15.7	76.5	7.8	100.0
Relations with the Palestinian factions	15.0	78.7	6.3	100.0
Fighting corruption	12.0	83.4	4.6	100.0
Gaza Strip				
	Good	Bad	No opinion /I do not know	Total
Education	41.6	55.4	3.0	100.0
Health	43.0	53.8	3.2	100.0
Maintaining security	9.0	89.0	2.0	100.0
Securing salaries	6.6	90.4	3.0	100.0
Creating job opportunities	4.8	91.8	3.8	100.0
International relations	23.6	63.0	12.6	100.0
Relations with the Palestinian factions	21.0	73.0	6.0	100.0
Fighting corruption	13.4	82.6	4.0	100.0



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

Total				
	Good	Bad	No opinion /I do not know	Total
Palestinian Presidency	45.7	48.1	6.2	100.0
Palestinian Government	26.3	68.5	5.2	100.0
Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC)	22.2	70.7	7.1	100.0
Judicial system	19.0	71.2	9.8	100.0
Security apparatuses	22.5	72.3	5.2	100.0
Palestinian universities	68.9	24.0	7.1	100.0
West Bank				
	Good	Bad	No opinion /I do not know	Total
Palestinian Presidency	45.9	46.3	7.8	100.0
Palestinian Government	23.1	71.1	5.8	100.0
Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC)	23.1	68.1	8.8	100.0
Judicial system	20.6	68.3	11.1	100.0
Security apparatuses	21.3	72.7	6.0	100.0
Palestinian universities	78.6	13.8	7.5	100.0
Gaza Strip				
	Good	Bad	No opinion /I do not know	Total
Palestinian Presidency	45.4	51.0	3.6	100.0
Palestinian Government	31.8	64.0	4.2	100.0
Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC)	20.6	75.2	4.2	100.0
Judicial system	16.2	76.2	7.6	100.0
Security apparatuses	24.6	71.6	3.8	100.0
Palestinian universities	52.2	41.4	6.4	100.0



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

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I support	52.2	49.5	56.8
I reject	40.1	44.3	33.0
No opinion/I do not know	7.7	6.3	10.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you support or reject the reformation of the PLO so that it would include all nonmember Palestinian factions?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I support	76.2	83.2	64.2
I reject	18.1	12.7	27.4
No opinion/I do not know	5.7	4.2	8.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

If new presidential elections are conducted, whom do you vote for?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
For a <i>Fateh</i> candidate	33.1	26.6	44.4
For a <i>Hamas</i> candidate	16.8	14.1	21.4
For a candidate from the left	5.7	4.3	8.0
For an independent candidate	16.4	19.7	10.6
No opinion/I do not know	28.1	35.3	15.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

If new PLC elections are conducted, whom do you vote for?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
For a <i>Fateh</i> candidate	32.2	27.1	41.0
For a <i>Hamas</i> candidate	17.4	15.7	20.4
For a candidate from the left	5.5	3.9	8.2
For an independent candidate	17.0	18.8	13.8
No opinion/I do not know	27.9	34.5	16.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



Which of the following political affiliations do you support?

PARTY	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
People's Party	1.2	0.6	2.2
Democratic Front	1.9	1.4	2.8
Islamic <i>Jihad</i>	2.4	2.7	2.0
<i>Fateh</i>	34.3	30.0	41.8
<i>Hamas</i>	18.7	17.9	20.2
<i>Fida</i>	0.3	0.0	0.8
Popular Front	4.4	3.7	5.6
Palestinian National Initiative	0.5	0.6	0.4
I am an independent nationalist	6.5	7.3	5.0
I am an independent Islamist	3.5	3.0	4.2
None of the above	25.3	32.1	13.6
Others	0.7	0.5	1.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0