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Results of Palestinian Public Opinion Poll
No. 49
11-13 September 2014

Background

After more than fifty days of war on the Gaza Strip, a long term ceasefire agreement was reached under the auspices of Egypt. Egypt called upon both the Israelis and the Palestinians to abide by a complete ceasefire on both sides that will coincide with the opening of all crossings between the Gaza Strip and Israel. The ceasefire and the opening of the crossings should facilitate the passage of humanitarian and relief aids and construction materials. The fishing zone will be open starting from a range of 6 nautical miles. Indirect negotiations between the two sides to resolve the other subjects will be resumed within a month of the implementation of the ceasefire.

After more than seven years of Palestinian division and as a result of the negotiations that took place between Fateh and Hamas, an agreement to end the division was reached. Three files were submitted to the reconciliation committee. The first addressed the formation of a national technocrat government with all details related to its implementation and tasks. According to the agreement, a national unity government was formed which was favorably received on the local, regional and international levels. The second file is related to the PLO Committee, all subjects pertaining to the reformation of the Palestinian National Council (PNC) and the tasks related to the PLO Committee as a temporary frame of a leadership for the Palestinian people. The third file discusses the Presidential and PLC elections defining their dates, principles and the bases on which they will be conducted.

The Results

Following are the results of the Palestinian Public Opinion Poll no. 49 conducted by the Center for Opinion Polls and Survey Studies at An-Najah National University during the period from 11-13 September 2014. **The University sponsors all polls conducted by its Center.**

This poll undertakes the Palestinian public opinion on the new political realities, the results of the last war on the Gaza Strip, the boycott campaign and the possibility of conducting presidential, legislative and local council elections, in addition to the political affiliations of Palestinian people.

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 2.4% 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, by any means, represent the opinion of An-Najah National University.



The General Results:

- 82.9% of respondents believed that Israel is the side that began the last war on the Gaza Strip while 6.5% believed that the war was initiated by Hamas and the other Palestinian factions.
- As for the items of the Cairo Agreement that respondents thought Israel will comply with, they were as follows:
 - Opening the border crossings between the Gaza Strip and Israel 57.6%.
 - The gradual cancellation of the protective zone on the borders of the Gaza Strip 41.9%.
 - The gradual expansion of the fishing zone 57.6%
 - Starting the reconstruction of the Gaza Strip 65.6%
 - Establishing a sea port 31.4%
 - Reconstructing and operating Gaza airport 30.9%
- 91.2% of respondents saw that Israel was the side that targeted civilians during the last war, 4.3% saw that it was Hamas and the other Palestinian factions who targeted civilians.
- 46.7% of respondents believed that Egypt will open Rafah Crossing permanently when the Palestinian Presidential Guards take charge of running it; 8.5% believed that Egypt will open Rafah Crossing even if the situation stays as it is now.
- 83.2% of respondents supported the decision of the Palestinian Authority (PA) to join international organizations.
- 84.6% of respondents supported the decision of the PA to join the International Criminal Court
- 72.8% of respondents believed that there will be new military encounters with Israel in the Gaza Strip in the near future.
- 76.3% of respondents supported firing rockets against Israel if Israel does not meet the obligations of the last Cairo Agreement.
- 43.8% of respondents expected the success and endurance of the Palestinian reconciliation; 47.2% expected its failure.
- 92.3% of respondents supported boycotting Israeli goods and products.
- 63.8% of respondents expected the success of the boycott campaign of Israeli goods and products; 30.1% expected its failure. .
- 87.6% of respondents assessed the degree of unity among the Palestinian factions during the last war on Gaza as 'good'.
- 57.1% of respondents assessed the role the UNRWA played during the last war on the Gaza Strip as 'good'
- 60.3% of respondents assessed the role the Red Cross played during the last war on the Gaza Strip as 'good'
- 48.7% of respondents assessed the role the PLO played during the last war on the Gaza Strip as 'good'
- 62.4% of respondents assessed the role President Mahmoud Abbas played during the last war on the Gaza Strip as 'good'
- 61.2% of respondents assessed the role the Palestinian Unity Government played during the last war on the Gaza Strip as 'good'



- 97.8% of respondents said that they followed up the media coverage of the last war on the Gaza Strip to a large extent.
- 89% of respondents believed that the media coverage of the last war on the Gaza Strip was adequate.
- 81.4% of respondents supported President Mahmoud Abbas' plan to address the Security Council to obtain a decision compelling Israel to withdraw from the Palestinian territories occupied in 1967.
- 57.5% of respondents supported a Palestinian and Israeli return to negotiations after the end of the last war on the Gaza Strip; 37.6% rejected.
- 61% of respondents supported adding other countries to the auspices of the negotiations besides the United States.
- 14.8% of respondents saw that the USA is serious this time in leading the negotiations between the Palestinians and the Israelis to a successful end.
- 7.6% of respondents considered the US an honest arbitrator between the two sides of the conflict.
- 90.9% of respondents looked at the US policy towards the Palestinian issue as generally biased towards the Israeli side; 3.2% said that it is biased towards the Palestinian side while 4% said that it is neutral.
- 56.4% of respondents supported the two-state solution provided that there will be a Palestinian state living side by side with Israel; 38.8% rejected.
- 26.3% of respondents supported the one-state solution in which both Palestinians and Israelis enjoy equal rights; 68.3% rejected
- 30.8% of respondents said that they are optimistic towards the success of the peace process between the PA and Israel; 63.3% said that they are pessimistic
- Under the current circumstances, 57.5% of respondents expected the rise of a third intifada in the West Bank.
- 49.3% of respondents supported the rise of an armed uprising (intifada) in the West Bank; 44.2% rejected.
- 56.7% of respondents supported the rise of a nonviolent, unarmed popular uprising (intifada); 35.7% rejected.
- 45% of respondents expected that if elections are conducted in the present time in the Palestinian Territories, they will be fair.
- 82.5% of respondents said that they will participate in the coming presidential elections. From among those who said they will participate, 25.6% said that they will give their votes to Fateh's candidate; 27% said they will give their votes to Hamas' candidate.
- 82.2% of respondents said that they will participate in the coming legislative elections. From among those who said they will participate, 25.9% said that they will give their votes to Fateh's candidates; 28.4% said they will give their votes to Hamas' candidates.
- If PLC elections are to be conducted, 26.2% of respondents expected the winning of Fateh movement; 39.7% expected the winning of Hamas.
- 82.2% of respondents said that they will participate in the coming municipality and local council elections. From among those who said they will participate,



22.7% said that they will give their votes to Fateh's candidates, 23.8% said they will give their votes to Hamas' candidates and 10.2% said they will give their votes to the representative of their family or clan.

- In case PLC elections will be conducted, 35.7% of respondents preferred conducting elections on the basis of electoral lists; 28.4% preferred conducting them on the basis of persons.
- 33.8% of respondents preferred conducting local council and municipality elections on the basis of electoral lists; 33.8% preferred conducting them on the basis of persons.
- 29.8% of respondents said that the current political, security and economic circumstances compel them to desire emigrating.
- 47.2% of respondents expressed fear for their lives under the present circumstances.
- 54.4% of respondents said that they are pessimistic of the general Palestinian situation at this stage.
- 58% of respondents said that they neither feel safe for themselves nor for their families and properties under the current circumstances.
- As for political affiliation, respondents gave the following results:

People's Party	0.4%
Democratic Front	1.1%
Islamic Jihad	4.0%
Fateh	25.7%
Hamas	25.7%
Fida	0.2%
Popular Front	2.8%
Palestinian National Initiative	0.5%
I am an independent nationalist	5.6%
I am an independent Islamist	2.1%
None of the above	31.2%
Others	0.7%



The General Results of the Poll

In your opinion who initiated the War in the Gaza Strip?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Israel	82.9	84.8	79.6
Hamas and the other Palestinian Factions	6.5	5.1	9.0
Both sides	8.8	8.0	10.0
No opinion/I do not know	1.8	2.1	1.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

The last Cairo Agreement included a number of items, which of the following items do you think Israel will comply with?

	Total				
	Yes	To some extent	No	No opinion/ I do not know	Total
Opening the border crossings between the Gaza Strip and Israel	24.5	33.2	40.0	2.4	100.0
The gradual cancellation of the protective zone on the borders of the Gaza Strip	13.4	28.5	53.2	4.9	100.0
The gradual expansion of the fishing zone	22.6	35.0	40.4	2.0	100.0
Starting the reconstruction of the Gaza Strip	33.8	31.8	32.2	2.2	100.0
Establishing a sea port	13.7	17.7	64.0	4.6	100.0
Reconstructing and operating the airport	13.0	17.9	64.3	4.8	100.0
	West Bank				
	Yes	To some extent	No	No opinion/ I do not know	Total
Opening the border crossings between the Gaza Strip and Israel	14.8	33.4	49.7	2.2	100.0
The gradual cancellation of the protective zone on the borders of the Gaza Strip	12.0	27.1	57.0	4.0	100.0
The gradual expansion of the fishing zone	18.4	31.2	48.7	1.7	100.0
Starting the reconstruction of the Gaza Strip	30.3	28.4	39.7	1.6	100.0
Establishing a sea port	11.7	20.0	64.3	4.0	100.0
Reconstructing and operating the airport	11.7	19.2	65.3	3.7	100.0
	Gaza Strip				
	Yes	To some extent	No	No opinion/ I do not know	Total
Opening the border crossings between the Gaza Strip and Israel	41.2	32.8	23.4	2.6	100.0
The gradual cancellation of the protective zone on the borders of the Gaza Strip	15.8	31.0	46.8	6.4	100.0
The gradual expansion of the fishing zone	29.8	41.6	26.2	2.4	100.0
Starting the reconstruction of the Gaza Strip	39.8	37.6	19.4	3.2	100.0
Establishing a sea port	17.0	13.8	63.4	5.8	100.0
Reconstructing and operating the airport	15.2	15.6	62.6	6.6	100.0



It is said that the last war on the Gaza Strip targeted civilians to a large extent. Which of the two sides was targeting civilians more?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Israel	91.2	93.5	87.2
Hamas and the other Palestinian Factions	4.3	1.6	8.8
Both sides	4.2	4.4	3.8
No opinion/I do not know	0.4	0.5	0.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

When do you think Egypt will completely open the Rafah Crossing?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
When the Palestinian Presidential Guards take charge of running it	46.7	40.1	58.0
Egypt will open it even if the situation stays as it is now	8.5	10.2	5.4
Egypt will not open it completely under all circumstances	35.5	41.9	24.6
No opinion/I do not know	9.3	7.8	12.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you support or reject the decision of the PA to join the international organizations?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I support	83.2	82.1	85.0
I reject	12.4	14.8	8.4
No opinion/I do not know	4.4	3.1	6.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you support or reject the decision of the PA to join the International Criminal Court ?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I support	84.6	86.4	81.6
I reject	10.8	10.9	10.6
No opinion/I do not know	4.6	2.7	7.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



Do you think there will be military encounters with Israel in the Gaza Strip in the near future?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	72.8	76.5	66.4
No	19.1	18.6	20.0
No opinion/I do not know	8.1	4.9	13.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you support or reject firing rockets against Israel if Israel does not meet its obligations to the last Cairo Agreement?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I support	76.3	80.5	69.0
I reject	18.9	16.3	23.4
No opinion/I do not know	4.9	3.3	7.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you expect the Palestinian reconciliation to succeed and endure?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
It will succeed and endure	43.8	42.1	46.6
It will fail	47.2	53.6	36.2
No opinion/I do not know	9.0	4.3	17.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you support or reject boycotting Israeli goods and products?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I support	92.3	93.6	90.0
I reject	6.5	6.0	7.4
No opinion/I do not know	1.2	0.3	2.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you expect the success or the failure of the campaign of boycotting Israeli goods and products in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
It will succeed	63.8	64.7	62.2
It will fail	30.1	31.9	27.2
No opinion/I do not know	6.1	3.5	10.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



How do you assess the degree of unity among Palestinian factions during the last war on the Gaza Strip?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Good	87.6	87.8	87.2
Bad	10.3	11.2	8.8
No opinion/I do not know	2.1	1.0	4.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

How do you assess the role the UNRWA played during the last war on the Gaza Strip?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Good	57.1	47.4	73.8
Bad	37.4	45.5	23.6
No opinion/I do not know	5.4	7.1	2.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

How do you assess the role the Red Cross played during the last war on the Gaza Strip?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Good	60.3	60.6	59.8
Bad	34.9	34.3	35.8
No opinion/I do not know	4.9	5.1	4.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

How do you assess the role the PLO played during the last war on the Gaza Strip?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Good	48.7	47.9	50.0
Bad	42.0	43.8	38.8
No opinion/I do not know	9.3	8.3	11.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



How do you assess the role President Mahmoud Abbas played during the last war on the Gaza Strip?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Good	62.4	66.4	55.6
Bad	31.7	28.5	37.2
No opinion/I do not know	5.9	5.1	7.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

How do you assess the role the Palestinian Unity Government played during the last war on the Gaza Strip?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Good	61.2	68.3	49.0
Bad	28.3	20.2	42.2
No opinion/I do not know	10.5	11.5	8.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Were you following the media coverage of the last war on the Gaza Strip?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
To a great extent	75.1	70.8	82.6
To some extent	22.6	27.0	15.2
I have not followed it	2.1	2.1	2.0
No opinion/I do not know	0.1	0.1	0.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you think the media coverage of the last war on the Gaza Strip was adequate?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	61.9	61.3	63.0
To some extent	27.1	27.4	26.4
No	9.6	10.0	8.8
No opinion/I do not know	1.5	1.3	1.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



Do you support or reject President Mahmoud Abbas' plan to approach the Security Council to obtain a decision asking Israel to withdraw from the 1967 Palestinian Territories?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I support	81.4	82.0	80.4
I reject	14.3	15.5	12.4
No opinion/I do not know	4.3	2.6	7.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Now that the war on the Gaza Strip has come to an end, do you support or reject a return of the Israelis and the Palestinians to negotiations?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I support	57.5	56.0	60.0
I reject	37.6	41.6	30.8
No opinion/I do not know	4.9	2.3	9.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you support or reject adding other countries besides the United States to the auspices of the negotiations?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I support	61.0	60.8	61.4
I reject	31.0	34.9	24.4
No opinion/I do not know	7.9	4.3	14.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you think that the USA is serious this time in its endeavors to bring the peace negotiations between the Palestinians and the Israelis to successful end?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	14.8	11.7	20.0
No	78.4	84.7	67.6
No opinion/I do not know	6.8	3.6	12.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



Do you consider the USA a fair arbitrator in the current negotiations between the two sides of conflict?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	7.6	5.5	11.4
No	87.4	92.8	78.2
No opinion/I do not know	4.9	1.7	10.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

In general how do you see the policy of the US towards the Palestinian cause?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Biased towards Israel	90.9	94.5	84.6
Biased towards the Palestinians	3.2	1.4	6.2
Neutral	4.0	3.3	5.2
No opinion/I do not know	2.0	0.8	4.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you support or reject the two-state solution provided that a Palestinian state is created to live side by side with Israel?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I strongly support	14.6	11.7	19.6
I support	41.8	46.0	34.6
I reject	23.9	27.1	18.4
I strongly reject	14.9	13.4	17.6
No opinion/I do not know	4.7	1.7	9.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you support or reject a one-state solution in which Palestinians and Israelis enjoy equal rights?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I strongly support	7.5	4.3	13.0
I support	18.8	18.1	20.0
I reject	42.1	50.2	28.0
I strongly reject	26.2	25.5	27.4
No opinion/I do not know	5.4	1.9	11.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



Do you consider yourself optimistic or pessimistic towards the success of the peace process between the Palestinian Authority and Israel?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Optimistic	30.8	31.5	29.6
Pessimistic	63.3	66.4	58.0
No opinion/I do not know	5.9	2.1	12.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

In view of the present realities, do you expect the rise of a third intifada in the West Bank?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	57.5	58.4	56.0
No	32.6	37.3	24.4
No opinion/I do not know	9.9	4.3	19.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you support or reject the rise of an armed intifada in the West Bank?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I support	49.3	43.5	59.2
I reject	44.2	53.7	27.8
No opinion/I do not know	6.5	2.8	13.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you support or reject the rise of popular, unarmed and nonviolent resistance?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I support	56.7	63.1	45.6
I reject	35.7	34.5	37.6
No opinion/I do not know	7.6	2.3	16.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

If elections are to be conducted in the Palestinian Territories at the present time do you think that they will be fair?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	45.0	43.1	48.2
No	43.0	49.1	32.6
No opinion/I do not know	12.0	7.8	19.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



If presidential elections are held in the present time, to whom from among the following do you give your vote?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
An independent candidate	8.2	7.4	9.6
A candidate from the left	1.9	1.4	2.8
A candidate from Hamas	22.3	22.0	22.8
A candidate from Fateh	21.1	16.3	29.4
A national independent candidate	4.9	5.3	4.0
An Islamic independent candidate	3.1	2.7	3.8
I will not participate in the elections	17.5	21.0	11.4
I have not decided yet	21.0	23.8	16.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

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

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
An independent ticket	7.3	7.2	7.4
A ticket from the left	2.2	1.4	3.6
A ticket from Hamas	23.4	23.5	23.2
A ticket from Fateh	21.3	16.5	29.4
A national independent ticket	4.0	4.7	3.0
An Islamic independent ticket	3.2	2.3	4.6
I will not participate in the elections	17.8	20.7	12.8
I have not decided yet	20.9	23.7	16.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

If new legislative elections are to be held today, which of the following will win?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
An independent Islamists bloc	3.8	2.6	6.0
An independent Nationalist bloc	4.7	3.1	7.4
A Fateh bloc	26.2	22.9	31.8
A Hamas bloc	39.7	47.4	26.4
A bloc from leftist organizations	1.0	0.9	1.2
No opinion/I do not know	24.6	23.0	27.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



If municipality and local council elections are to be held, who do you vote for?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
A block that represents the family or clan	8.5	11.4	3.8
An independent ticket	7.5	7.6	7.2
A ticket from the left	1.9	1.8	2.0
A ticket from Hamas	19.8	18.4	22.2
A ticket from Fateh	18.9	12.4	29.6
A national independent ticket	3.0	3.8	1.8
An Islamic independent ticket	3.4	3.3	3.6
I will not participate in the elections	18.1	20.4	14.4
I have not decided yet	18.8	20.9	15.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

In case PLC elections are conducted, do you prefer conducting them on the basis of electoral lists or on the basis of persons?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Electoral lists	35.7	32.7	40.8
Persons	28.4	32.1	22.0
Mixed	24.6	27.0	20.6
No opinion/I do not know	11.3	8.3	16.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you prefer conducting local council elections on the basis of electoral lists or on the basis of individual candidates?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Electoral lists	33.8	30.9	38.6
Individual candidates	33.8	40.4	22.8
Mixed	21.1	20.6	22.0
No opinion/I do not know	11.3	8.1	16.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



Do the current political, security and economic circumstances compel you to desire emigrating abroad?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	29.8	20.5	45.8
No	68.4	79.2	49.8
No opinion/I do not know	1.8	0.3	4.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Are you worried about your life under the present circumstances?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	47.2	37.0	64.8
No	51.0	62.3	31.4
No opinion/I do not know	1.8	0.7	3.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

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

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Optimistic	41.8	45.8	34.8
Pessimistic	54.4	52.8	57.2
No opinion/I do not know	3.8	1.4	8.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Under the present circumstances, do you feel that you, your family and your properties are safe?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	24.1	27.2	18.8
May be	33.9	33.3	35.0
No	41.3	39.4	44.4
No opinion/I do not know	0.7	0.1	1.8
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	0.4	0.1	1.0
Democratic Front	1.1	1.4	0.6
Islamic Jihad	4.0	1.5	8.2
Fateh	25.7	21.0	33.6
Hamas	25.7	26.0	25.2
Fida	0.2	0.0	0.6
Popular Front	2.8	2.4	3.4
Palestinian National Initiative	0.5	0.5	0.6
I am an independent nationalist	5.6	5.8	5.2
I am an independent Islamist	2.1	1.9	2.6
None of the above	31.2	38.7	18.2
Others	0.7	0.6	0.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0