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Results of Palestinian Public Opinion Poll
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Background

President Mahmoud Abbas announced the 26th of July the date for conducting a referendum on the National Conciliation Document of the Prisoners. By making this announcement, the President put an end to all disputes concerning conducting the referendum. Abbas has made it clear more than once that the referendum is a means and not an end in itself; if the on-going debate among the Palestinian political factions reaches an agreement on the National Conciliation Document of the prisoners, the agreement will be an alternative to the referendum.

Following the President's move, the PLC members began studying the legal implication of the referendum and Hamas hastened to refuse the mere idea of conducting a referendum considering national debate as the only way to settle differences among Palestinians. Further, Hamas considered the referendum a way that by passes the last Legislative Council elections. The Public Front made its reservations on the referendum, but did not reject it. The political factions that support the referendum point out that the Palestinian people are the only source of power that determines the final say in disputed issues. They maintain that the referendum does not evade the results of the elections, and that the basic Palestinian law does not prohibit such procedure.

The Results

Following are the results of the 21st Palestinian Public Opinion Poll conducted by the Center for Opinion Polls and Survey Studies at An-Najah National University during the period from June 12 to 13, 2006. **The University sponsors all polls conducted by its Center.**

This poll undertakes the opinion of Palestinian public concerning the upcoming political issues, particularly the proposed referendum on the National Conciliation Document of the Prisoners, in addition to an assessment of the performance of the Palestinian Presidential Institution and the Palestinian Government

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 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 3.3% of the members of the sample refused to answer the questionnaire.

The General Results:

- 70.3% from among respondents express their pessimism towards the general Palestinian situation at this stage.
- Under the current situation, 88.1% from among respondents do not feel secure neither for themselves nor for their families and properties.
- 51.8% from among respondents assess the performance of the Palestinian President as "good"
- The following percentages given by respondents assess the performance of the Palestinian Government in different domains as "good"
 - Its general performance 42.8%
 - Its performance in maintaining security 40%
 - Its performance in developing the economy 22.6%
 - Its performance in developing health care 43.3%
 - Its performance in developing international relations 29.2%
- 66.9% from among respondents say that their economic situation under the current circumstances is deteriorating.
- 64.1% from among respondents consider the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) as the only legitimate representative of Palestinian people.
- 56.4% from among respondents support the Palestinian President's decision to hold a referendum on the National Conciliation Document of Prisoners; 38 % reject the referendum.
- 59.1% from among respondents support the referendum if the Palestinian national debate fails to reach an agreement on the Prisoners' Document; 37.8% support conducting the referendum even if the national debate succeeds in reaching an agreement.
- 79.8% from among respondents support the item in the Prisoners' Document which calls for Palestinian People's right to establish their independent Palestinian state on all territories occupied in 1967 with Jerusalem as its capital.
- 80.1% from among respondents support the item in the Prisoners' Document which calls for developing and activating the PLO and the joining of Hamas and Islamic Jihad Movements to the PLO which is the legitimate and sole representative of the Palestinian people wherever they are located.
- 79.5% from among respondents support the item in the Prisoners' Document which calls for the right of the Palestinian people in resistance and in clinging to the various means of resistance and which calls for concentrating resistance in the 1967 occupied territories alongside with political action, negotiations, diplomatic action and the continuation of popular and mass resistance against the occupation in its various forms, policies and places of existence.



- 76.4% from among respondents support the item in the Prisoners' Document which calls for setting up a Palestinian plan towards comprehensive political action and to unify the Palestinian political discourse on the basis of the Palestinian national consensus, the Arab legitimacy and the international resolution that grant justice to the Palestinian people who are represented by the PLO, the PNA (as president and government) and the Islamic and national factions.
- 85.9% from among respondents support the item in the Prisoners' Document which calls for forming a national coalition government on a basis that secures the participation of all parliamentary blocs, especially Fateh and Hamas and the political forces that desire to participate on the basis of this document and a joint program to upgrade the Palestinian situation on the local, Arab, regional and international levels – a strong national government that would face challenges and enjoy Palestinian political support.
- 67.5% from among respondents support the item in the Prisoners' Document which states that the administration of the negotiations is the jurisdiction of the PLO and the President of the PNA on the basis of adhering to the Palestinian national goals and achieving these goals on condition that any final agreement must be presented to the new PNC for ratification or put to a general referendum whenever it is possible.
- 92.1% from among respondents support the item in the Prisoners' Document which stresses the refugees' right of return clings to their rights and to call on the international community to implement resolution 194 which stipulates the right of refugees to return and to be compensated.
- 88.6% from among respondents support the item in the Prisoners' Document which calls for forming a unified resistance front under the name "Palestinian resistance front" to lead and engage in resistance against the occupation and to unify and coordinate action and resistance and to form a unified political reference for this front.
- 92.2% from among respondents support the item in the Prisoners' Document which calls for denouncing all forms of split that can lead to internal conflicts, condemning the use of arms in solving internal conflicts, banning the use of arms among the members of the Palestinian people, stressing on the sanctity of the Palestinian blood and abiding by dialogue as the only means of solving disagreements.
- 89.8% from among respondents support the item in the Prisoners' Document which calls for the need to reform and develop the Palestinian security institution with all its branches on modern basis and in a manner that makes it more capable of assuming its task in defending the homeland and the citizens, in confronting the aggression and the occupation, in maintaining security and public order, in implementing the laws and ending the state of chaos and security outlaw state, in ending the forms of public armed presence and parades and in confiscating chaotic weapons.
- 48.7% from among respondents support holding early legislative elections in case the national dialogue reaches a dead end.



- 35.7% from among respondents support holding early legislative elections if the referendum on the Prisoners' Document succeeds.
- 43.6% from among respondents support holding early legislative elections if the referendum on the Prisoners' Document fails.
- As for political affiliation respondents give the following results:

People's Party	0.7%
Democratic Front	2.3%
Islamic <i>Jihad</i>	4.3%
<i>Fateh</i>	32.3%
<i>Hamas</i>	25.6%
<i>Fida</i>	0.3%
Popular Front	5.7%
Palestinian National Initiative	0.7%
I am an independent nationalist	5.3%
I am an independent Islamist	4.1%
None of the above	18.0%
Others	0.8%



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	27.0	26.6	27.8
Pessimistic	70.3	71.7	68.0
No opinion/I do not know	2.6	1.7	4.2
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	11.1	10.3	12.4
To some extent	33.7	31.2	37.8
No	54.1	57.7	48.6
No opinion/I do not know	0.9	0.7	1.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

How do you assess the performance of the Palestinian President since the formation of the new government?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Very good	12.4	10.0	16.6
Good	39.4	40.3	37.8
Bad	24.2	23.6	25.4
Very bad	19.2	20.9	16.2
No opinion/I do not know	4.8	5.2	4.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Generally, how do you assess the performance of the new government since its formation?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Very good	13.4	12.7	14.6
Good	29.5	30.2	28.2
Bad	34.3	36.0	31.4
Very bad	15.8	13.0	20.6
No opinion/I do not know	7.1	8.1	5.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



How do you assess the performance of the new government in the following aspects?

Total				
	Good	Bad	No opinion / I do not know	Total
Maintaining security	40.0	50.9	9.0	100.0
Developing economy	22.6	65.2	12.2	100.0
Developing health care	43.3	46.5	10.2	100.0
Developing international relations	29.2	56.4	14.3	100.0
West Bank				
	Good	Bad	No opinion / I do not know	Total
Maintaining security	40.4	47.7	11.8	100.0
Developing economy	24.9	61.3	13.8	100.0
Developing health care	44.6	42.7	12.7	100.0
Developing international relations	32.8	51.6	15.7	100.0
Gaza Strip				
	Good	Bad	No opinion / I do not know	Total
Maintaining security	39.4	56.4	4.2	100.0
Developing economy	18.6	72.0	9.4	100.0
Developing health care	41.0	53.0	6.0	100.0
Developing international relations	23.2	64.8	12.0	100.0

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

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
It improved	7.6	5.3	11.6
It deteriorated	66.9	69.2	63.0
It stayed the same	25.4	25.4	25.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you consider the PLO the only legitimate representative of the Palestinian people?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	64.1	62.5	66.8
No	29.5	31.8	25.6
No opinion/I do not know	6.4	5.7	7.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



President Mahmoud Abbas issued a presidential statement that calls for holding a popular referendum on 26/7/2006 on the National Conciliation Document of the Prisoners. This referendum will be held if the Palestinian national dialogue fails to reach an agreement until that date. Do you support or reject holding this referendum?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I strongly support	18.7	10.3	33.0
I support	37.7	45.8	23.8
I reject	19.9	19.4	20.8
I strongly reject	18.1	18.0	18.4
No opinion/I do not know	5.6	5.6	4.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

If the Palestinian national dialogue fails to reach an agreement on the National Conciliation Document of the Prisoners, do you support or reject the referendum?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I strongly support	18.6	11.0	31.6
I support	40.5	47.9	27.8
I reject	17.1	16.8	17.6
I strongly reject	17.3	17.2	17.6
No opinion/I do not know	6.5	7.1	5.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

If the Palestinian national dialogue succeeds in reaching an agreement on the National Conciliation Document of the Prisoners, do you support or reject the referendum?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I strongly support	12.6	6.0	24.0
I support	25.2	28.8	19.0
I reject	32.6	34.8	29.2
I strongly reject	23.9	23.9	23.8
No opinion/I do not know	5.5	6.4	4.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you support or reject conducting early PLC elections in case the national dialogue comes to a dead end?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes, I support	48.7	44.9	55.2
No, I reject	46.1	50.3	39.0
No opinion/I do not know	5.1	4.8	5.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



If the referendum on the Prisoners' Document succeeds, do you support or reject conducting early PLC elections?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes, I support	35.7	30.8	44.2
No, I reject	57.7	63.0	48.0
No opinion/I do not know	6.8	6.3	7.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

If the referendum on the Prisoners' Document fails, do you support or reject early PLC elections?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	43.6	39.1	51.2
No	48.6	54.0	39.2
No opinion/I do not know	7.9	6.9	9.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



The Results of the Palestinian Opinion Poll in some of the Items of the National Conciliation Document of the Prisoners

"The Palestinian people's right to establish their own independent state on all the 1967 occupied territories with Jerusalem as its capital."

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I strongly support	37.5	32.2	46.6
I support	42.3	48.7	31.4
I reject	9.4	9.8	8.8
I strongly reject	7.2	7.4	6.8
No opinion/I do not know	3.6	2.0	6.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

"The development and activation of the PLO and the joining of Hamas and Islamic Jihad Movements to the PLO which is the legitimate and sole representative of the Palestinian people wherever they are located."

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I strongly support	30.6	29.0	38.6
I support	49.4	55.2	39.6
I reject	10.8	11.8	9.0
I strongly reject	4.0	4.4	3.2
No opinion/I do not know	5.1	2.6	9.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

"The right of the Palestinian people in resistance and in clinging to the option of resistance with the various means and focusing the resistance in the occupied territories of 1967 alongside with the political action and negotiations and diplomatic action and continuation of popular and mass resistance against the occupation in its various forms and policies."

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I strongly support	33.1	27.5	42.6
I support	46.4	52.4	36.2
I reject	10.7	11.1	10.0
I strongly reject	4.9	5.1	4.6
No opinion/I do not know	4.8	3.8	6.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



"To set up a Palestinian plan towards comprehensive political action and to unify the Palestinian political discourse on the basis of the Palestinian national consensus program and Arab legitimacy and the international legitimacy resolutions that grant justice to the Palestinian people who are represented by the PLO and the PNA (as president and government), and the national and Islamic factions."

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I strongly support	31.2	24.6	42.6
I support	45.2	53.5	30.8
I reject	12.9	11.5	15.2
I strongly reject	5.1	5.8	3.8
No opinion/I do not know	5.7	4.5	7.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

"To form a national unity government on a basis that secures the participation of all parliament blocs, especially Fatah and Hamas and the political forces that desire to participate on the basis of this document and the joint program to upgrade the Palestinian situation at the local, Arab, regional and international levels and to confront the challenges through having a strong national government that enjoys Palestinian popular and political support."

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I strongly support	35.6	31.2	43.2
I support	50.3	56.3	39.8
I reject	7.3	6.4	8.8
I strongly reject	2.9	3.4	2.0
No opinion/I do not know	4.0	2.7	6.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

"Administration of the negotiations is the jurisdiction of the PLO and the President of the PNA on the basis of clinging to the Palestinian national goals and to achieve these goals on condition that any final agreement must be presented to the new PNC for ratification or to hold a general referendum wherever it is possible."

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I strongly support	25.9	21.1	34.0
I support	41.6	47.6	31.2
I reject	17.8	17.0	19.2
I strongly reject	7.7	7.9	7.4
No opinion/I do not know	7.1	6.4	8.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



"The need to ----- stress on the right of return and to cling to this right and to call on the international community to implement Resolution 194 which stipulates the right of the refugees to return and to be compensated."

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I strongly support	52.4	46.8	62.0
I support	39.7	45.6	29.4
I reject	3.0	3.4	2.9
I strongly reject	1.7	2.4	0.4
No opinion/I do not know	3.2	1.7	5.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

"To work on forming a unified resistance front under the name 'Palestinian resistance front' to lead and engage in resistance against the occupation and to unify and coordinate action and resistance and to form a unified political reference for the front."

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I strongly support	41.4	36.1	50.4
I support	47.2	54.2	35.2
I reject	5.3	4.9	6.0
I strongly reject	2.2	2.3	2.0
No opinion/I do not know	3.9	2.4	6.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

"To denounce all forms of split that can lead to internal conflicts and to condemn the use of weapons regardless of the reasons in settling internal disputes and to ban the use of weapons among the members of the Palestinian people and to stress on the sanctity of the Palestinian blood and to abide by dialogue as the sole means to solve disagreements."

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I strongly support	57.5	55.1	61.8
I support	34.7	40.0	25.6
I reject	2.9	2.3	4.0
I strongly reject	1.8	1.5	2.2
No opinion/I do not know	3.1	1.2	6.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



"The need to reform and develop the Palestinian security institution with all its branches on a modern basis and in a manner that makes them capable of assuming their tasks in defending the homeland and the citizens and in confronting the aggression and the occupation and to maintain security and public order and implement the laws and end the state of chaos and security chaos and end the forms of public armed presence and parades and the confiscation of chaotic weapons."

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I strongly support	51.2	46.6	59.2
I support	38.6	44.9	27.6
I reject	4.2	3.5	5.4
I strongly reject	2.1	2.4	1.6
No opinion/I do not know	3.9	2.6	6.2
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	0.7	0.5	1.2
Democratic Front	2.3	0.9	4.6
Islamic Jihad	4.3	2.8	6.8
Fateh	32.3	29.0	37.8
Hamas	25.6	27.3	22.6
Fida	0.3	0.2	0.4
Popular Front	5.7	5.0	7.0
Palestinian National Initiative	0.7	0.8	0.4
I am an independent nationalist	5.3	5.1	5.6
I am an independent Islamist	4.1	4.4	3.6
None of the above	18.0	23.0	9.4
Others	0.8	0.9	0.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0