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Results of Palestinian Public Opinion Poll
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Background

Three Palestinian factions carried out a military operation against the Israeli soldiers in Karm Abu Salem near the Gaza Strip which resulted in taking an Israeli soldier as a prisoner of war and in killing another number of them. Following the operation Israel launched its military attacks on the Gaza Strip under the pretext of freeing the soldier. Several Arab and international parties tried to mediate in favor of freeing the Israeli soldier with no avail. The Palestinian factions holding the Israeli soldier avowed that they will not release their prisoner unless Israel agrees on a swap that would free, in return, Palestinian children, women and prisoners who spent a long term in the Israeli jails. Israel refused to negotiate and continued its aggression on the Gaza Strip and arrested a number of Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) members and ministers.

On the other side of the scene, Hezbollah announced taking two Israeli prisoners of war and demanded a swap with Lebanese, Arab, and Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails; Israel rejected Hezbollah's initiative and waged war against Lebanon.

Under the above circumstances several Arab and international reactions were issued; some condemned Israel and others held Hezbollah responsible for the escalation that led to the present crisis. What is really noteworthy is what the secretary of the Arab League has said following the meeting of the Arab foreign ministers; the secretary announced the Middle East peace process dead and said that it has been decided that the case be referred to the United Nations.

The Results

Following are the results of the 22nd Palestinian Public Opinion Poll conducted by the Center for Opinion Polls and Survey Studies at An-Najah National University during the period from July 19 to 21, 2006. **The University sponsors all polls conducted by its Center.**

This poll undertakes the opinion of Palestinian public concerning the new political realities and particularly the war waged by Israel on the Gaza Strip and Lebanon and the position of the Arab countries towards this crisis. In addition the poll evaluates the performance of Palestinian private and public 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 800 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 3.4% of the members of the sample refused to answer the questionnaire.

The General Results:

- 61.1% from among respondents are pessimistic towards the general Palestinian conditions at this stage.
- 87.7 % from among respondents do not feel safe neither for themselves nor for their families and properties under the present circumstances.
- 76% from among respondents say that their economic situation under the current circumstances is deteriorating.

- The positions of the following countries toward the Israeli attacks on Gaza is assessed as 'good' by respondents with the following percentages:
 - 13.9% Egypt
 - 9.2% Jordan
 - 14% Arab countries
 - 15.7% the European Union
 - 4.6% the United States
 - 25% Russia
 - 48.4% Arab Nations
 - 36.5% European Nations

- The treatment of the Israeli attacks on the Gaza Strip by the following Palestinian parties is assessed as 'good' with the indicated percentages:
 - 64.4% the Palestinian Presidency
 - 55.5% the Palestinian Government

- The positions of the following countries towards the Israeli attacks on Lebanon is assessed as 'good' by respondents with the following percentages:
 - 12.1% Egypt
 - 9% Saudi Arabia
 - 9.2% Jordan
 - % 69.3 Syria
 - 53.9% Arab nations



- 89.6% from among respondents assess their attitudes towards the Lebanese people with all their affiliations as 'good'
- 96.3% from among respondents assess their attitudes towards Hezbollah as 'good'.
- 85.2% from among respondents reject a suggestion made by Arab and international parties to free the Israeli soldier immediately provided that Israel releases an undefined number of Palestinian prisoners from Israeli jails at a later time without offering any commitment to indicate the number of prisoners that Israel intends to free nor the date of freeing them.
- 90.9% from among respondents support the demands of the Palestinian factions who hold the Israeli soldier to free him only after a swap deal is concluded with the Israeli Government in which a certain number of Palestinian prisoners will be released within a definite time frame.
- 70.9% from among the respondents support entrusting President Abbas with negotiation to free Palestinian prisoners in return for freeing the Israeli soldier.
- 38.2% from among respondents say that Israel's offer to negotiate with the Palestinian President and not with Hamas to conclude a deal to swap the Israeli soldier with Palestinian prisoners is a reasonable one.
- 51.5% from among respondents reject an Egyptian mediation to solve the problem of the Israeli soldiers.
- 66.3% from among respondents support attaching the case of the soldier held in Gaza with the case of the two prisoners held by Hezbollah provided that Hezbollah only negotiates the case of the three soldiers.
- 26.5% from among respondents say that attaching the case of the Israeli soldier held with the Palestinians with those held with Hezbollah may negatively influence the independent Palestinian decision in other political issues.
- 32.9% from among respondents believe that exiting the present political impasse requires dissolving the Palestinian Authority; 49.63% believe that exiting the present impasse requires going to the negotiation table.
- 39.4% from among respondents say that after signing the Prisoners' Document, the Palestinian factions will remain committed to its items; 26.8% say that they will only comply with those items that serve their party interests.
- 89.5% from among respondents support forming a coalition government that would include all the parliamentary blocs of the PLC.



- 69.9% from among respondents support limiting military operations against Israel within the 1967 borders alongside with political negotiations.
- 57.1% from among respondents consider the PLO the only legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.
- 12.1% from among respondents believe that the peace process between Palestinian and Israelis is still viable
- Respondents assess the performance of the Palestinian institutions as follows:
 - 60.1% the Palestinian Presidency
 - 56.1% the Palestinian Government
 - 53.7% the PLC
 - 39.7% the Judicial System
 - 31.5% the Office of Financial and Administrative Supervision
 - 41.1% the Security Apparatuses
 - 58% the Palestinian Factions
 - 62.2% the Private Organizations
 - 75.8% the Palestinian Universities
 - 61.4% the Municipalities and Local Councils
 - 65.3% the Ministry of Health
 - 60.7% the Ministry of Social Affairs
 - 75.2% the Ministry of Education and Higher Education
 - 41.1% the Ministry of Finance
 - 58.5% the Ministry of Prisoners' Affairs
- As for political affiliation respondents give the following results:

People's Party	1.2%
Democratic Front	1.6%
Islamic <i>Jihad</i>	3.7%
<i>Fateh</i>	30.5%
<i>Hamas</i>	27.9%
<i>Fida</i>	0.4%
Popular Front	4.1%
Palestinian National Initiative	0.6%
I am an independent nationalist	5.7%
I am an independent Islamist	3.6%
None of the above	19.1%
Others	1.5%



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	35.4	36.5	33.7
Pessimistic	61.1	61.7	60.1
No opinion/I do not know	3.5	1.9	6.2
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	11.0	12.5	8.2
To some extent	23.4	24.4	21.6
No	64.3	62.4	67.5
No opinion/I do not know	1.4	0.7	2.6
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	3.7	2.9	5.0
Towards the worst	76.0	76.3	75.4
It stayed the same	20.4	20.3	19.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

How do you assess the position of Egypt towards the Israeli attacks on the Gaza Strip?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Very good	1.3	0.8	2.2
Good	12.6	8.9	18.8
Bad	36.3	37.4	34.5
Very bad	46.9	49.8	41.9
No opinion/I do not know	2.9	3.0	2.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



How do you assess the position of Jordan towards the Israeli attacks on the Gaza Strip?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Very good	1.4	0.7	2.6
Good	7.8	6.3	10.4
Bad	35.0	33.6	37.5
Very bad	53.1	56.8	46.7
No opinion/I do not know	2.7	2.7	2.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

How do you assess the position of other Arab countries towards the Israeli attacks on the Gaza Strip?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Very good	1.1	0.6	2.0
Good	12.9	9.9	18.2
Bad	39.2	4.7	36.7
Very bad	44.3	47.0	39.7
No opinion/I do not know	2.4	1.9	3.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

How do you assess the position of the European Union towards the Israeli attacks on the Gaza Strip?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Very good	1.5	0.7	2.8
Good	14.3	11.3	19.4
Bad	36.8	41.1	29.5
Very bad	42.9	42.6	43.5
No opinion/I do not know	4.5	4.3	4.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

How do you assess the position of the United States towards the Israeli attacks on the Gaza Strip?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Very good	2.6	0.7	6.0
Good	1.9	1.6	2.4
Bad	17.5	18.5	15.8
Very bad	76.1	77.6	73.5
No opinion/I do not know	1.8	1.6	2.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



How do you assess the position of Russia towards the Israeli attacks on the Gaza Strip?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Very good	1.8	0.3	4.2
Good	23.2	24.0	2.1
Bad	36.2	35.7	37.1
Very bad	30.2	29.6	31.3
No opinion/I do not know	8.6	10.3	5.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

How do you assess the position of Arab nations towards the Israeli attacks on the Gaza Strip?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Very good	8.3	8.2	8.4
Good	40.1	39.3	41.5
Bad	29.1	31.9	24.2
Very bad	19.6	18.4	21.8
No opinion/I do not know	2.6	2.2	4.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

How do you assess the position of European nations towards the Israeli attacks on the Gaza Strip?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Very good	2.6	2.2	3.4
Good	33.8	33.8	33.9
Bad	34.6	40.1	25.1
Very bad	22.6	17.0	32.3
No opinion/I do not know	6.4	7.0	5.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

How do you assess the Palestinian Presidency's treatment of the Israeli attacks on the Gaza Strip?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Very good	8.0	5.6	12.2
Good	56.4	56.1	56.9
Bad	19.9	23.8	13.2
Very bad	11.3	9.6	14.0
No opinion/I do not know	4.4	4.9	3.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



How do you assess the Palestinian Government's treatment of the Israeli attacks on the Gaza Strip?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Very good	14.3	14.1	14.8
Good	41.2	45.6	33.5
Bad	25.5	28.2	20.8
Very bad	13.2	5.6	26.5
No opinion/I do not know	5.7	6.5	4.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

How do you assess the position of Egypt towards the Israeli attacks on Lebanon?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Very good	1.5	1.0	2.4
Good	10.6	9.2	13.0
Bad	34.5	35.8	32.3
Very bad	49.4	50.5	47.5
No opinion/I do not know	4.0	3.4	4.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

How do you assess the position of Saudi Arabia towards the Israeli attacks on Lebanon?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Very good	1.8	0.7	3.6
Good	7.2	5.2	10.6
Bad	28.5	28.3	28.7
Very bad	59.0	62.1	53.7
No opinion/I do not know	3.5	3.6	3.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

How do you assess the position of Jordan towards the Israeli attacks on Lebanon?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Very good	1.7	0.9	3.0
Good	7.5	6.3	9.6
Bad	30.5	31.0	29.7
Very bad	57.2	59.0	54.1
No opinion/I do not know	3.1	2.8	3.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



How do you assess the position of Syria towards the Israeli attacks on Lebanon?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Very good	22.6	23.8	20.6
Good	46.6	50.8	39.5
Bad	14.6	13.8	16.0
Very bad	12.3	7.2	21.0
No opinion/I do not know	3.8	4.4	2.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

How do you assess the position of Arab nations towards the Israeli attacks on Lebanon?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Very good	12.6	11.4	14.8
Good	41.3	43.1	38.1
Bad	27.9	30.0	24.2
Very bad	15.3	13.1	19.0
No opinion/I do not know	2.9	2.4	3.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

In general, how do you yourself assess your view of the Lebanese people with all their affiliations?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Very good	43.8	43.9	43.7
Good	45.7	48.7	40.7
Bad	6.4	3.7	11.0
Very bad	1.6	1.3	2.2
No opinion/I do not know	2.4	2.4	2.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

In general, how do you yourself assess your view of Hezbollah?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Very good	79.6	80.7	77.8
Good	16.7	15.4	18.8
Bad	2.4	2.6	2.0
Very bad	0.4	0.6	0.2
No opinion/I do not know	0.9	0.7	1.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



There is a proposal made by some Arab and international parties calling for the immediate release of the Israeli soldier in return for freeing an undefined number of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails provided that Israel does not give any commitment to the number that it intends to free nor to a specific date. Do you support or reject this proposal?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I strongly support	4.4	1.0	10.2
I support	8.4	8.9	7.4
I reject	40.7	48.3	27.5
I strongly reject	44.5	40.0	52.3
No opinion/I do not know	2.1	1.7	2.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

The Palestinian factions holding the Israeli soldier say they will not free him under all circumstances without concluding a deal with the Israeli Government through which a certain number of Palestinian prisoners is freed within a defined time frame. What is your opinion in this offer?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
A reasonable one	75.0	74.0	76.8
An unreasonable one	15.9	17.1	13.8
An offer that complicate things	6.5	6.6	6.4
No opinion/I do not know	2.6	2.3	3.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you support or reject asking Abbas to negotiate with Israel a deal by which Palestinian prisoners are freed in return for freeing the Israeli soldier?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I strongly support	20.8	12.4	35.3
I support	50.1	60.7	31.7
I reject	17.1	18.4	15.0
I strongly reject	9.1	6.0	14.4
No opinion/I do not know	2.9	2.4	3.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

There is news that Israel is ready to negotiate a deal with the Palestinian Presidency, and not with Hamas, that would lead to a swap of prisoners. What is your opinion?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
A reasonable offer	38.2	34.6	44.3
An unreasonable offer	39.2	43.3	32.1
An offer that complicates things	17.3	18.1	15.8
No opinion/I do not know	5.4	3.9	7.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



Do you support or reject an Egyptian mediation to resolve the problem of the Israeli soldier?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I strongly support	7.6	3.4	14.8
I support	36.8	37.6	35.3
I reject	30.7	36.4	20.8
I strongly reject	20.8	18.9	24.0
No opinion/I do not know	4.2	3.7	5.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do reject or support attaching the case of the Israeli soldier held by Palestinians with that of the two soldiers held by Hezbollah, provided that Hezbollah only negotiates the destiny of the three soldiers?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I strongly support	28.9	22.8	39.5
I support	37.4	45.9	22.6
I reject	23.8	24.3	22.8
I strongly reject	6.3	2.7	12.4
No opinion/I do not know	2.8	4.4	2.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you think that attaching the case of the Israeli soldier held by the Palestinians with the case of the two Israeli soldiers held by Hezbollah will influence the Palestinian independent decision on other political issues?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
It will have a positive influence	41.4	39.5	44.7
It will have a negative influence	26.5	26.2	26.9
It will not have any influence	22.4	24.5	18.6
No opinion/I do not know	9.8	9.8	9.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



There are those who say that exiting the current Palestinian political impasse requires dissolving the Palestinian Authority so that the Israeli Occupation will bear the responsibilities of the Palestinian realities in the West Bank and Gaza, and there are those who say that the solution lies in going to the negotiation table. What is your opinion?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I believe that the PA must be dissolved	32.9	29.2	39.5
I believe that Palestinians must go to the negotiation table	49.3	56.8	36.3
No opinion/I do not know	17.8	14.1	24.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

After signing the Prisoners' Document, do you think that the Palestinian factions will be committed to its principles?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes, they will	39.4	36.6	44.3
No, they will not	24.7	26.7	21.2
Each faction will be committed to those items that serves its interest	26.8	26.6	27.1
No opinion/I do not know	9.1	10.1	7.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you support or reject forming a Palestinian coalition government that would include all Parliamentary blocs represented in the PLC?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I strongly support	41.4	33.1	55.7
I support	48.1	56.3	33.9
I reject	6.1	6.7	5.0
I strongly reject	1.8	1.5	2.2
No opinion/I do not know	2.6	2.3	3.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



Do you support or reject limiting Palestinian resistance to the 1967 occupied territories alongside with political negotiations?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I strongly support	24.6	12.8	45.1
I support	45.3	54.2	29.9
I reject	19.1	22.6	13.0
I strongly reject	5.1	4.8	6.4
No opinion/I do not know	5.6	5.6	5.6
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	57.1	51.5	66.9
No	35.5	42.0	24.2
No opinion/I do not know	7.4	6.5	8.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you believe that the peace process between Palestinians and Israelis is still viable?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	12.1	11.6	12.8
No	83.3	84.9	80.6
No opinion/I do not know	4.6	3.5	6.6
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	60.1	34.1	5.8
The Palestinian Government	56.1	37.3	6.6
The PLC	53.7	36.8	9.5
The Judicial System	39.7	44.9	15.4
The Office of Financial and Administrative Supervision	31.5	39.0	19.4
The Security Apparatuses	41.1	51.5	7.4
Palestinian Factions	58.0	34.3	7.7
Civil Society Organizations	62.2	26.0	11.8
Palestinian Universities	75.8	17.1	7.1
Municipalities/local Councils	61.4	31.3	7.3
The Ministry of Health	65.3	28.3	6.4
The Ministry of Social Affairs	60.7	27.4	11.8
The Ministry of Education and Higher Education	75.2	17.7	7.1
The Ministry of Finance	41.1	46.2	12.7
The Ministry of Prisoners Affairs	58.5	28.9	12.6
	West Bank		
	Good	Bad	No opinion/ I do not know
The Palestinian Presidency	58.7	33.9	7.4
The Palestinian Government	60.3	32.2	7.5
The PLC	59.1	31.1	9.8
The Judicial System	41.1	43.8	15.1
The Office of Financial and Administrative Supervision	31.9	46.9	21.1
The Security Apparatuses	38.7	51.8	9.5
Palestinian Factions	54.9	35.8	9.3
Civil Society Organizations	62.1	24.3	13.6
Palestinian Universities	76.9	15.4	7.7
Municipalities/local Councils	68.2	24.9	7.0
The Ministry of Health	69.9	24.3	5.8
The Ministry of Social Affairs	60.7	26.1	13.1
The Ministry of Education and Higher Education	79.3	13.7	7.0
The Ministry of Finance	45.1	39.8	15.1
The Ministry of Prisoners Affairs	62.8	23.7	13.5



	Gaza Strip		
	Good	Bad	No opinion/ I do not know
The Palestinian Presidency	62.5	34.5	3.0
The Palestinian Government	48.9	46.1	5.0
The PLC	44.3	46.7	9.0
The Judicial System	37.3	46.7	16.0
The Office of Financial and Administrative Supervision	30.9	52.7	16.4
The Security Apparatuses	45.3	51.1	3.6
Palestinian Factions	63.3	31.7	5.0
Civil Society Organizations	62.3	28.9	8.8
Palestinian Universities	73.9	20.0	6.0
Municipalities/local Councils	49.7	42.5	7.8
The Ministry of Health	57.3	35.3	7.4
The Ministry of Social Affairs	60.7	29.7	9.6
The Ministry of Education and Higher Education	68.1	24.6	7.2
The Ministry of Finance	34.3	57.1	8.6
The Ministry of Prisoners Affairs	51.1	37.9	11.0

Which of the following political affiliations do you support?

PARTY	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
People's Party	1.2	1.0	1.4
Democratic Front	1.6	1.2	2.4
Islamic <i>Jihad</i>	3.7	2.7	5.4
<i>Fateh</i>	30.5	27.3	36.1
<i>Hamas</i>	27.9	31.7	21.4
<i>Fida</i>	0.4	0.0	1.0
Popular Front	4.1	2.0	7.8
Palestinian National Initiative	0.6	0.0	1.6
I am an independent nationalist	5.7	4.5	7.8
I am an independent Islamist	3.6	3.0	4.6
None of the above	19.1	24.7	9.4
Others	1.5	1.9	1.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0