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Results of Palestinian Public Opinion Poll
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Background

Employees at public institutions went into an open strike after six months of not receiving their salaries and after the absence of any hope in the horizon for the Palestinian Government to secure a regular payment of their salaries. The strike was interpreted by some as an attempt to cause the Government to collapse; others saw the strike as a legal right that aims to enable employees to obtain their financial rights without any political intentions.

On the other side of the scene, President Abbas and Prime Minister Hanyya are leading negotiations to arrive at an agreement to form a national coalition government according to an agenda that would be approved by all Palestinian factions, particularly *Hamas* and *Fateh*.

Within the current political, financial and security crisis that the Palestinian people in the 1967 occupied territories are going through, some voices arose calling for a comprehensive solution for all of these problems. Some called for dissolving the Palestinian Authority after questioning its expediency; others called for new Presidential and PLC elections as a possible solution for the deteriorating political, economic and security realities. Such voices, however, fall on deaf ears as the official level is concerned; be it the Presidency or the Government.

The Results

Following are the results of the 23rd Palestinian Public Opinion Poll conducted by the Center for Opinion Polls and Survey Studies at An-Najah National University during the period from September 7 to 9, 2006. **The University sponsors all polls conducted by its Center.**

This poll undertakes the Palestinian public opinion with reference to the new political realities, particularly the strike of government employees, the formation of a national coalition government, conducting early presidential and PLC elections, Palestinian views of methods and forms of resistance and an assessment of the performance of Palestinian institutions, particularly universities.

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 4.7% of the members of the sample refused to answer the questionnaire.

The General Results:

- 66.2% of respondents were pessimistic towards the general Palestinian conditions at this stage.
- 88% of respondents did not feel safe neither for themselves nor for their families and properties under the present circumstances.
- 73.5% of respondents said that their economic situation under the current circumstances is deteriorating.
- 63.8% of respondents supported the strike of the public sector employees; 34.3% rejected it.
- 59% of respondents supported the strike of government school teachers; 39.4% rejected it.
- 92.5% of respondents, regardless of their support or rejection, said that the demands of employees are just; 6.3% said the contrary.
- 54.7% of respondents assessed the position of the Palestinian Government towards the strike as "bad".
- 49.5% of respondents assessed the position of the Palestinian Presidency towards the strike as "bad".
- 51.9% of respondents assessed the position of the PLC towards the strike as "bad".
- 55.4% of respondents believed that the strike is the ideal way for employees to obtain their rights.
- 48.2% of respondents believed that the ideal solution is dissolving the Government if it fails to pay the salaries; 25% believed that the solution lies in the acceptance of the present conditions and the return to work.
- 50.4% of respondents believed that the on-going debate to form a national coalition government will succeed.
- 84.9% of respondents supported the formation of a national coalition government; 11.3% rejected.
- 63% of respondents said that a national coalition government will be able to uplift the siege imposed on Palestinian people: 26.6% said the opposite.
- 51.6% of respondents believed that *Fateh* movement is concerned with forming a national coalition government.
- 44.6% of respondents believed that *Hamas* movement is concerned with forming a national coalition government.
- 73.8% of respondents said that forming a national coalition government serves the interest of all Palestinian people.



- 16.5% of respondents said that overcoming the current political and financial crisis can be accomplished through dissolving the PA, 20.4% through conducting early legislative and presidential elections, 24.1% through leaving things as they are awaiting a divine solution, and 31% said that it can be accomplished through dissolving the Palestinian Government and forming a new one.
- 59% of respondents believed that conducting early legislative elections would be considered a coup against the results of the legislative elections: 33.3% said the opposite.
- 47.1% of respondents believed that conducting early presidential elections would be considered a coup against the results of the presidential elections: 43.2% said the opposite.
- 56% of respondents supported conducting early presidential elections; 38.9% rejected.
- 60.4% of respondents supported conducting early legislative elections; 34.6% rejected.
- 51.5% of respondents said that an early PLC elections will relieve Palestinian people of the present crisis; 38.5% said the opposite.
- 17.4% of respondents will vote for a *Hamis* candidate if a new Presidential elections are conducted; 37.9% will vote for a *Fateh* candidate.
- 18.8% of respondents will vote for A *Hamis* bloc if a new PLC elections are conducted; 34.8% will vote for a *Fateh* bloc.
- IF two blocs only run for a new PLC elections, 25.1% of respondents will elect a *Hamis* coalition; 42.6% will elect a PLO coalition.
- 29.9% of respondents believed that an early presidential and PLC elections would relieve Palestinian people of the present political and financial crisis; 26.5% believed the opposite.
- 61.3% of respondents supported military operations inside Israel; 32.8% rejected them.
- 62.3% of respondents supported concentrating resistance within the 1967 occupied territories.
- 42.5% of respondents rejected launching rockets from the Gaza Strip against Israel.
- 36.7% of respondents said that launching rockets from the Gaza Strip against Israel hurts the Palestinian cause; 36.5% said it serves it.
- 36% of respondents believed that the best form of resistance that best serves the Palestinian cause is the armed struggle.
- 70.4% of respondents assessed the performance of the Palestinian universities as "good".
- Of the West Bank respondents will advise a student to pursue his education at An- Najah National University.
- Of the Gaza respondents will advise a student to pursue his education at The Islamic University.



- Respondents assessed the performance of the following institutions as "good"
 - 49.8% Presidential Institution
 - 40.1% Palestinian Government
 - 37.4% PLC
 - 30.8% Legislative System
 - 33% Security Apparatuses
- As for political affiliation respondents give the following results:

People's Party	1.0%
Democratic Front	1.7%
Islamic <i>Jihad</i>	3.3%
<i>Fateh</i>	36.2%
<i>Hamas</i>	20.7%
<i>Fida</i>	0.6%
Popular Front	4.6%
Palestinian National Initiative	0.8%
I am an independent nationalist	6.5%
I am an independent Islamist	3.6%
None of the above	20.5%
Others	0.6%



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	32.0	28.6	37.8
Pessimistic	66.2	70.1	59.4
No opinion/I do not know	1.8	1.3	2.8
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	11.8	10.9	13.4
To some extent I do	28.5	24.8	34.8
No	59.5	64.2	51.4
No opinion/I do not know	0.2	0.1	0.4
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	5.5	3.7	8.6
Towards the worst	73.5	77.0	67.6
It stayed the same	21.0	19.3	23.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

In General do you support or reject the strike of government employees?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I strongly support	27.3	17.7	43.8
I support	36.5	42.0	27.0
I reject	26.5	31.7	17.4
I strongly reject	7.8	6.2	10.6
No opinion/I do not know	2.0	2.4	1.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



In general, do you support or reject the strike of public schools teachers?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I strongly support	25.8	17.4	40.2
I support	33.2	36.6	27.4
I reject	29.4	36.0	18.0
I strongly reject	10.0	7.9	13.6
No opinion/I do not know	1.5	2.0	0.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Regardless of your support or rejection of the strike, do you believe that the demands of employees are just?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	74.6	85.5	55.8
To some extent they are	17.9	9.9	31.8
No	6.3	4.0	10.2
No opinion/I do not know	1.3	0.7	2.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

How do you assess the position of the Palestinian Government towards the demands of the employees?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Very good	9.6	6.0	15.6
Good	29.5	31.9	25.4
Bad	36.5	41.3	28.4
Very Bad	18.2	12.8	27.6
No opinion/I do not know	6.2	8.0	3.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

How do you assess the position of the Palestinian Presidency towards the demands of the employees?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Very good	9.3	3.5	19.2
Good	33.8	29.8	40.6
Bad	35.8	41.9	25.4
Very Bad	13.7	14.9	11.6
No opinion/I do not know	7.5	10.0	3.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



How do you assess the position of the PLC towards the demands of the employees?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Very good	7.5	3.4	13.0
Good	29.8	29.7	30.0
Bad	36.8	40.3	30.8
Very bad	15.1	10.6	22.8
No opinion/I do not know	10.4	15.1	3.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you believe that the strike is the ideal way for employees to obtain their rights?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	55.4	54.0	57.8
No	40.4	42.6	36.8
No opinion/I do not know	4.2	3.5	5.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

If the current government can not secure funds to pay salaries regularly, what is the solution in your opinion?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Dissolving the current Government	48.2	45.5	52.8
Accepting reality and going back to work	25.0	23.1	28.2
Other	21.6	27.2	12.0
No opinion/I do not know	5.2	4.2	7.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

There is an on-going debate among the Palestinian factions for the formation of a coalition government. Do you believe that the debate will succeed?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	50.4	48.7	53.2
No	37.9	40.7	33.2
No opinion/I do not know	11.7	10.6	13.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



Do you support or reject the formation of a coalition government?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I support	84.9	85.8	83.2
I reject	11.3	10.6	12.4
No opinion/I do not know	3.9	3.6	4.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

If a national coalition government is formed, do you think that it will be capable of uplifting the political and financial siege imposed on the PA?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	63.0	62.0	64.8
No	29.6	28.7	23.0
No opinion/I do not know	10.4	9.3	12.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you think that *Fateh* is really concerned with forming a national coalition government?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	51.6	49.0	56.2
No	34.5	37.1	30.0
No opinion/I do not know	13.9	14.0	3.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you think that *Hamas* is really concerned with forming a national coalition government?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	44.6	46.4	41.6
No	40.8	39.5	43.0
No opinion/I do not know	14.6	14.1	15.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

In your opinion, whose interest would a national coalition government serve?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
<i>Fateh's</i> interest	10.2	10.0	10.6
<i>Hamas'</i> interest	7.8	4.5	13.4
The interest of all Palestinian people.	73.8	77.2	67.8
No opinion/I do not know	8.2	8.3	8.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



In your opinion, how would the current financial and political crisis be bridged?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Dissolving the Palestinian Authority	16.5	16.9	16.0
Conducting early legislative and presidential elections	20.4	20.1	20.8
Dissolving the current Palestinian Government and forming a new one	31.0	28.6	35.0
Leaving things as they are awaiting a breakthrough	24.1	25.6	21.6
No opinion/I do not know	8.0	8.8	6.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you think that conducting early legislative elections will form a coup against the results of the last elections?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	59.0	62.9	52.4
No	33.3	29.0	40.8
No opinion/I do not know	7.6	8.1	6.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you think that conducting early presidential elections will form a coup against the results of the last elections?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	47.1	52.8	37.4
No	43.2	37.7	52.6
No opinion/I do not know	9.7	9.5	10.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you support or reject early legislative elections?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I strongly support	23.1	10.1	45.4
I support	37.3	44.5	24.8
I reject	26.3	34.2	12.8
I strongly reject	8.3	5.6	13.0
No opinion/I do not know	5.0	5.6	4.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



Do you support or reject early presidential elections?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I strongly support	19.1	11.7	31.8
I support	36.8	42.3	27.4
I reject	30.6	35.3	22.4
I strongly reject	8.3	5.5	13.2
No opinion/I do not know	5.1	5.1	5.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you think that conducting early legislative elections will help Palestinian people to overcome the current crisis that they go through?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	51.5	46.2	60.6
No	38.5	44.4	28.4
No opinion/I do not know	10.0	9.4	11.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

If presidential elections were held now, which one of the following candidates would you vote for?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
<i>Fateh's</i> candidate	34.9	28.7	45.6
<i>Hamas'</i> candidate	17.4	17.3	17.4
A national independent candidate	12.1	12.2	12.0
An Islamist independent candidate	6.8	7.9	5.0
A candidate of the leftist movements	3.8	2.9	5.4
None of the above	20.9	26.2	11.8
No opinion/I do not know	4.0	4.8	2.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

If legislative elections were held now, which one of the following blocs would you vote for?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
<i>Fateh's</i> bloc	34.8	29.9	43.2
<i>Hamas'</i> bloc	18.8	18.5	19.4
An independent nationalist bloc	10.4	10.8	9.8
An independent Islamist bloc	6.2	7.1	4.6
The leftist movements bloc	5.1	4.0	7.2
None of the above	20.7	25.2	13.0
No opinion/I do not know	3.9	4.5	2.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



If early legislative elections were held and only two blocs ran for elections, which one would you vote for?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
A coalition between Hamas and other Islamic factions	25.1	27.3	21.2
A coalition of PLO parties	42.6	38.0	50.6
I will vote for neither of them	26.6	28.3	23.8
No opinion/I do not know	5.7	6.4	4.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you think that early presidential and legislative elections will help Palestinian people to overcome the current political and financial crisis?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	29.9	27.8	33.6
Maybe	39.8	35.8	46.6
No	26.5	32.2	16.6
No opinion/I do not know	3.8	4.2	3.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you support or reject armed Palestinian operations inside Israel?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I strongly support	21.5	14.7	33.4
I support	39.8	44.2	32.2
I reject	25.0	29.4	17.4
I strongly reject	7.8	4.9	12.8
No opinion/I do not know	5.9	6.9	4.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you support or reject limiting Palestinian resistance against Israel to the 1967 occupied territories in addition to political negotiations?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I strongly support	17.8	13.4	25.4
I support	44.5	51.6	32.2
I reject	21.0	23.1	17.4
I strongly reject	9.9	3.5	21.0
No opinion/I do not know	6.8	8.4	4.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



Do you support or reject the launching of rockets by Palestinian factions against Israel from the Gaza Strip?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I strongly support	19.3	14.5	27.6
I support	33.2	38.6	24.0
I reject	31.8	34.8	26.8
I strongly reject	10.7	6.0	18.8
No opinion/I do not know	4.9	6.0	2.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you think that launching rockets against Israel from the Strip will hurt or serve the national Palestinian resistance?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
It will serve	36.5	35.0	39.2
It will hurt	36.7	38.8	33.0
It is useless	21.5	20.7	23.0
No opinion/I do not know	5.2	5.5	4.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

In your opinion and within the current local and international circumstances, what form of resistance would best serve the Palestinian cause?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Nonviolent struggle	10.4	11.9	8.0
Armed struggle	36.0	33.7	40.0
Diplomatic struggle	13.4	11.7	16.2
Resorting to negotiations as before	29.4	29.9	28.6
Other	5.7	7.4	2.8
No opinion/I do not know	5.0	5.3	4.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Under the current circumstances, how do you assess the performance of Palestinian Universities?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Very good	20.2	19.2	22.0
Good	50.1	52.6	46.0
Bad	17.2	17.0	17.6
Very bad	6.5	4.5	9.9
No opinion/I do not know	6.0	6.7	4.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



Regardless of distance, place of dwelling or the social and financial circumstances, if you are to give advice to a student to join a university in the West Bank, which one of the following will you advise him/her to join?

	West Bank
The American University in Jenin	2.4
Birzeit University	24.4
Bethlehem University	8.5
An Najah National University	43.8
Al Quds University	4.0
Al Quds Open University	14.1
Hebron University	10.8
No opinion/I do not know	3.7
Total	100.0

Regardless of distance, place of dwelling or the social and financial circumstances, if you are to give advice to a student to join a university in the Gaza Strip, which one of the following will you advise him/her to join?

	Total
Al Azhar University	18.4
The Islamic University	39.8
Al Aqsa University	22.8
Al Quds Open University	12.4
No opinion/I do not know	6.6
Total	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	49.8	44.1	6.1
The Palestinian Government	40.1	51.9	7.9
The PLC	37.4	52.6	10.0
The Judicial System	30.8	53.2	16.0
The Security Apparatuses	33.0	56.3	10.7
	West Bank		
	Good	Bad	No opinion/ I do not know
The Palestinian Presidency	40.3	51.9	7.8
The Palestinian Government	37.2	52.6	10.2
The PLC	37.2	50.3	12.4
The Judicial System	29.3	55.1	15.6



The Security Apparatuses	27.8	63.1	9.1
	Gaza Strip		
	Good	Bad	No opinion/ I do not know
The Palestinian Presidency	66.0	30.8	3.2
The Palestinian Government	45.2	50.8	4.0
The PLC	37.6	56.6	5.8
The Judicial System	33.4	49.8	16.8
The Security Apparatuses	42.0	44.4	13.6

Which of the following political affiliations do you support?

PARTY	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
People's Party	1.0	0.7	1.4
Democratic Front	1.7	1.4	2.2
Islamic <i>Jihad</i>	3.3	2.3	5.0
<i>Fateh</i>	36.2	31.0	45.0
<i>Hamas</i>	20.7	21.4	19.6
<i>Fida</i>	0.6	0.2	1.2
Popular Front	4.6	2.9	7.4
Palestinian National Initiative	0.8	0.8	0.8
I am an independent nationalist	6.5	6.0	7.2
I am an independent Islamist	3.6	4.0	3.0
None of the above	20.5	28.6	6.6
Others	0.6	0.6	0.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0