



## National Opinion Poll Press Release (1): Negotiations

### Highlights

- The majority of Palestinians (55 percent) are optimistic about the future.
- A plurality of Palestinians (45 percent) believes the economic welfare of their families has worsened in the past year, while 37 percent believe security in their region has diminished.
- 80 percent of Palestinians believe the PA is serious about the negotiations, though only 20 percent say the same of Israel.
- The majority of Palestinians (54 percent) do not believe negotiations will produce positive results, while an additional 57 percent report having less hope in the peace process than a year ago. Still, 54 percent of Palestinians express support for current negotiations with Israel.
- A plurality of respondents (32 percent) believes the failure of negotiations will not produce any significant changes.
- Overall, 58 percent of Palestinians support non-violent means to end the occupation. While 47 percent of Gaza respondents believe armed resistance is the best method of achieving independence, West Bank respondents are split between negotiations, direct or through the UN (32 percent); armed resistance (30 percent); and non-violent protest (27 percent).
- The majority of Palestinians (60 percent) believe a third intifada is possible in the near future, though only 29 percent would support such an event.

**Publication Date: 4 November 2013**  
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**Sample size: 1,200 Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip**  
**Margin of error:  $\pm 3$  %**

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## **Introduction:**

**AWRAD** recently completed a national opinion poll in which 1,200 Palestinians were surveyed in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. This current press release is one in a series highlighting findings on the following issues: the peace process and current negotiations, reconciliation, government performance, elections, and various other current events. The focus of this specific release is negotiations and the peace process, as well as overall conditions.

### **I. Overall Conditions:**

Though the majority (55 percent) of Palestinians are optimistic about the future, an equal number (57 percent) believes “things are heading in the wrong direction.” In regards to security and economic welfare, respondents express largely negative opinions. 45 percent say their family’s economic situation has become worse since the previous year, while an additional 37 percent state that internal security in their region has diminished.

- **Optimism is greater among respondents in the West Bank than Gaza.** Presently, 59 percent of respondents in the West Bank express optimism for the future, compared to 49 percent of those in Gaza. In contrast, 50 percent of those in Gaza are pessimistic about the future, whereas 40 percent in the West Bank report the same sentiment.
- **Economic welfare falls sharpest in Gaza.** 54 percent of respondents in Gaza state their family’s economic situation has gotten worse in the past year, compared to 39 percent in the West Bank. However, 20 percent of respondents in the West Bank say the fortunes of their family have improved, along with 13 percent in Gaza. 42 percent of those surveyed in the West Bank and 33 percent in Gaza report there has been no change.
- **Security diminished for many.** Similar numbers in the West Bank (38 percent) and Gaza (33 percent) say security has diminished over the past year. Fewer respondents say they have seen improvement: in the West Bank, 28 percent and in Gaza, 23 percent.

### **II. Palestinian-Israeli Negotiations**

While a slight majority of Palestinians (54 percent) support the current round of negotiations, a larger majority (65 percent) is under-informed to varying degrees<sup>1</sup>. In addition, while the majority of Palestinians believe<sup>2</sup> that the PA is serious about peace negotiations (80 percent), only 20 percent of respondents believe the same about Israel. Among international actors, respondents believe that the EU (37

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<sup>1</sup> This statistic is composed of respondents who stated they had “received very limited information” or “haven’t received any information.”

<sup>2</sup> This statistic is composed of respondents who answered “yes” or “to some extent.”

percent) is the most serious, followed by UN members (34 percent), and, finally, the United States (23 percent).

- **Support for negotiations is slightly higher in the West Bank.** 55 percent of respondents in the West Bank support the current round of negotiations, compared to 51 percent in Gaza. Opposition is higher in Gaza (45 percent) than the West Bank (40 percent).
- **Palestinians in the West Bank are better informed than in Gaza.** 36 percent of Palestinians in the West Bank report being somewhat informed about the negotiations, compared to 26 percent in Gaza.<sup>3</sup> 71 percent of Gazans say they are not informed, while 63 percent of those in the West Bank state the same.
- **Belief in PA resolve is slightly higher in Gaza.** 83 percent of respondents in Gaza believe the PA is serious about the present round of negotiations, a slightly higher number than those in the West Bank (79 percent), who feel the same.
- **Skepticism of Israeli resolve is greatest in Gaza.** Only 15 percent of Gazans believe that Israel is serious about the present negotiations. 22 percent of Palestinians in the West Bank express the same sentiment.
- **Confidence in international partners is relatively equal.** The EU and UN are equally trusted regardless in both regions. 37 percent of respondents in Gaza, and 36 percent in the West Bank, believe the EU is serious, while a further 35 percent in Gaza, and 34 percent in the West Bank, believe UN members are resolute. Respondents in the West Bank (25 percent) are slightly more likely to believe the United States is committed to the negotiations than those in Gaza (21 percent).

While a majority supports the present round of negotiations, a similar number of respondents (54 percent) believe the process will not yield positive results. Furthermore, 57 percent of respondents express having less hope for the peace process than a year previously, while an additional 57 percent believe that 20 years beyond the Oslo Accords Palestinians are further away from achieving a state. Nevertheless, a majority of respondents continue to support a two-state solution (54 percent).

- **Respondents in the West Bank are slightly more optimistic about the outcome of negotiations than Gazans.** 37 percent of respondents in the West Bank believe that the current round of negotiations will produce positive results, compared to 30 percent in Gaza. In contrast, 58 percent of Gazans are pessimistic, along with 51 percent in the West Bank.
- **Hope for the peace process also remains greater in the West Bank.** 41 percent of Palestinians in the West Bank report having more hope for

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<sup>3</sup> This statistic is composed of respondents who state they have received information “to a large extent” or “to some extent.”

the peace process than the previous year, compared to 32 percent in Gaza. Pessimism is greater in Gaza, where 62 percent report having less hope, compared to 54 percent in the West Bank.

- **Palestinians in the West Bank believe that Palestinians are closer to an eventual state.** 20 years past the Oslo Accords, 38 percent of respondents in the West Bank believe that Palestinians are closer to achieving a state, compared to 30 percent in Gaza. An equal amount of respondents in both the West Bank (56 percent) and Gaza (59 percent) believe that Palestinians are further away from this goal.
- **Support for the two-state solution greater in the West Bank.** 56 percent of Palestinians in the West Bank express support for the principle of a two-state solution, compared to 50 percent in Gaza. 41 percent in the West Bank oppose such a solution, along with 47 percent in Gaza.

The majority of Palestinians (56 percent) would support Palestinian leadership returning to the UN if the present round of negotiations fails. Furthermore, 32 percent of respondents believe President Abbas will return to the international body if negotiations fail, though an additional 32 percent believe nothing will change. To achieve independence, support for armed resistance stands at 36 percent, compared to non-violent resistance at 24 percent, followed by direct negotiations (20 percent), and an international conference convened by the UN (15 percent).

- **Support for UN solutions is equally popular in both regions. There is equal support** in the West Bank (57 percent) and Gaza (56 percent), support for seeking solutions through the UN if negotiations fail. Opposition is slightly higher in the West Bank (39 percent) than Gaza (35 percent).
- **Respondents in Gaza are most likely to believe failure will be insignificant.** 36 percent of Gazans believe that circumstances will continue unchanged if negotiations fail, compared to 30 percent in the West Bank. Respondents in the West Bank are equally likely to believe that Abbas will return to the UN (28 percent) or a new intifada will erupt (27 percent). While respondents in Gaza are equally likely to believe Abbas will return to the UN (29 percent), they are more skeptical about the outbreak of a new intifada (23 percent). An equal amount in the West Bank (9 percent) and Gaza (7 percent) believe the PA will collapse.
- **Support for armed resistance in Gaza.** Compared to all other options for achieving independence in both regions, support for armed resistance (47 percent) is higher in Gaza. Only 30 percent of respondents in the West Bank express the same support. West Bank respondents are more likely to support non-violent resistance (27 percent) than their counterparts in Gaza (18 percent). Furthermore, respondents in the West Bank (22 percent) are more likely to support direct negotiations between Palestinians and Israelis than those in Gaza (16 percent). Support for an

international conference convened by the UN was equally popular in both regions (16 percent in the West Bank, 14 percent in Gaza).

The majority of Palestinians (60 percent) believe a third intifada is a possibility in the near future. However, only 29 percent would support the outbreak of an intifada, with 31 percent stating they would participate.

- **Palestinians in both regions equally believe that a third intifada is possible in the near future.** 60 percent of respondents in the West Bank and 59 percent in Gaza believe that a third intifada is a possibility in the near future. 33 percent of those in the West Bank disagree, as well as 32 percent in Gaza.
- **Support for a third intifada is higher in Gaza.** 32 percent of respondents in Gaza would support an uprising if it were to occur, and 27 percent in the West Bank. 63 percent of Gazans would not participate, along with 68 percent in the West Bank.
- **Potential participation in a third intifada is higher in Gaza.** If a third intifada were to occur, 35 percent of respondents in Gaza claim they would participate, compared to 28 percent in the West Bank. 55 percent of Gazans state they would not participate, along with 62 percent in the West Bank.