

## Press Release

Date: 6 February 2008

### Public Opinion Index for Governorates

- **Governors of Qalqilya, Tulkarm and Hebron get the best evaluations, whereas Governors of Jabalya, Rafah, and Gaza City were at the bottom of the list.**
- **PLC members representing Qalqilya, Ramallah and Jericho get the highest evaluations, whereas the representatives of Gaza, Jabalya, and Rafah governorates get the least favorable evaluations.**
- **Support for Hamas is highest in Gaza City (29%) and Deir elBalah (25%).**

The Arab World for Research and Development (AWRAD) is conducting opinion polling at the district level, where all 16 Palestinian districts in the West Bank and Gaza are included in the study. AWRAD had created an index composed of a number of indicators to evaluate the performance of various institutions and parties in these districts. The index includes evaluation of Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) members, governors, government services, local councils and feeling of security. The results illustrate the difference between the percentage of those who evaluated the institutions positively (excellent or good) and the percentage of those who evaluated their performance negatively (less than average or weak). The difference between these two percentages is presented as plus or minus values to indicate positive and negative evaluation. In a few cases, the value is zero to indicate that the positive evaluation and the negative evaluation are equal. In addition, the poll assesses the popularity of all political groups in each district. The results for Hamas and Fateh are presented as percentages showing their support in each district. The current presentation shows the results for (January 2008 and November 2007) at the same time to allow for comparison, but also to show overall trends in the districts. The districts were ranked according to the combined results of both November 2007 and January 2008 polls. The national sample size is 3200 (with a margin of error of plus or minus 2%) and the sample size for each district is 200 (with a margin of error close to plus or minus 5%). Dr. Nader Said, the General Director of AWRAD, confirmed that the data show significant differences between the views of respondents in the West Bank and Gaza, where Gazans are less satisfied with the performance of all institutions compared with West Bank respondents. In addition, the sense of insecurity is higher in many West Bank districts including Jerusalem (under Israeli control) than most Gaza districts despite the fact that Gaza was under attack during the field work to collect the data for the latest poll.

The following are the main results for districts:

### **1. Governorates' Offices:**

In both polls (November 2007 and January 2008), the governor's office of Qalqilya received the highest positive evaluation (+40, +40). It was followed by the Nablus governorate (+28, +25) and Salfit (+23, +24). The governorate of Tulkarm is in fourth place (+15, +13), Ramallah (+21, +5) and Jericho (+12, +12). The lowest evaluation went to the Jabalya – North Gaza governorate (-38, -13), followed by Rafah (-19, -29), Gaza (-20, -19) and Deir elBalah (-11, -14).

### **2. PLC members**

The evaluation of PLC representatives tends to be on the negative side. That is natural given the fact that the current PLC has not functioned during the last two years. In most districts, the evaluation was on the negative side. Still the Qalqilya respondents gave their representatives the highest positive evaluation out of all districts (+16, +11). Qalqilya was followed by Jericho (+12, 0), Ramallah (+4, +1) and Salfit (+8, -5). All other PLC representatives received evaluations that are more negative than positive in November 2007 and January 2008. The least positive evaluations went to the representatives of Nablus at number 13 out of the 16 districts with grades of (-17, -27), Rafah who came at number 14 with grades of (-24, -24), Khan Yunis at 15 with grades of (-38, -15) and Jabalya at number 16 with grades of (-44, -11).

### **3. Government services**

The respondents were asked to evaluate the services provided by government institutions in general. The most positive evaluation was in Qalqilya (+33, +31), followed by Tulkarm (+33, +21), Salfit (+27, +26), Jericho (+26, +23), and Hebron (+31, +12). The least favorable evaluation was in Deir elBalah at number 13 with grades of (-2, -4), Rafah at number 14 with grades of (-3, -12), and Gaza City at number 15 with grades of (-14, -19). The least favorable evaluation went to government services in the district of Jabalya – North of Gaza which came at number 16 with grades of (-29, -13).

### **4. Local councils**

The evaluation of local councils was general to all local councils in each district. This poll recognizes that there are differences between one council and another. The data however show the overall evaluation of councils in each district, which would help the Ministry of Local Government to detect which districts need more attention. In general, the evaluation of local councils was on the positive side. This might be due to their increasing role in providing services under the closure. The councils of Hebron and Qalqilya districts were evaluated most positively by the respondents and came at the top of the list with (+51, +41) for Hebron and (+40, +41) for Qalqilya. In third place came the district of Ramallah (+44, +21), followed, in fourth place, by Tulkarm district (+35, +23) and Salfit district in fifth place (+31, +24). The least favorable evaluation went to the local councils in the districts of Jabalya at number 15 (-22, -13) and Gaza City at number 16 with (-36, -13).

## **5. Feeling of security**

Palestinians were questioned about their feeling of security for themselves, their families and property. This question was only posed in the January 2008 poll. The results show that the percentage of those who declare insecurity is higher than the percentage of those who declare security in all districts. The least sense of security is declared by the respondents of Bethlehem district (-49), Ramallah district (-46), Jerusalem (-35), Khan Yunis, Jenin and Nablus districts (-32 each) and Tubas and Jericho districts (-31 each).

## **6. Support for Fateh**

Support for Fateh varies greatly from one district to another. The data show that it had declined by about 10% in the West Bank and Gaza in general since last November. The bulk of the decline was in Gaza. Fateh, however, receives its highest support in the districts of Qalqilya (41%, 53%), Jabalya (43%, 38%), Deir elBalah (43%, 38%), Rafah (39%, 39%) and Khan Yunis (49%, 27%). The least support for Fateh is in Jerusalem (22%, 22%).

## **7. Support for Hamas**

Support for Hamas is highest in the Gaza City district (24%, 29%), followed by Deir elBalah (14%, 25%), Rafah (14%, 25%), Jabalya (15%, 22%), Khan Yunis (15%, 19%) and Hebron (17%, 18%). The least support for Hamas is in Nablus (8%, 5%), which was well known to be a stronghold for the movement as illustrated in the latest 2006 PLC elections. Support for Hamas in Jerusalem is at (9%, 19%) for November 2007 and January 2008.

## Public opinion Index for governorates

### Indicators evaluating the performance of institutions at the governorate level<sup>1</sup>

	Governors office		PLC members		Government institutions		Local councils		Feeling of security <sup>2</sup>	Support for .....			
										Fateh (%)		Hamis (%)	
	11/07	1/08	11/07	1/08	11/07	1/08	11/07	1/08	1/08	11/07	1/08	11/07	1/08
Jenin	7+	1+	22-	12-	16+	3+	24+	9+	32-	31	34	9	8
Tulkarm	15+	13+	20-	19-	3+	21+	35+	23+	46-	34	28	12	10
Qalqilyeh	40+	40+	16+	11+	33+	31+	40+	41+	9-	41	53	13	15
Nablus	28+	25+	17-	27-	2+	5+	28+	13+	32-	37	33	8	5
Salfit	23+	24+	8+	5-	27+	26+	31+	24+	26-	36	38	9	8
Tubas	8+	3+	15-	15-	13+	23+	15+	16+	31-	34	37	9	14
Ramallah/Al-Biereh	21+	5+	4+	1+	18+	10+	44+	21+	46-	31	33	11	16
Jerusalem	3-	11-	17-	21-	2+	16-	18+	14+	35-	22	22	9	19
Jericho	12+	12+	12+	0	26+	23+	2+	4-	31-	36	31	10	11
Bethlehem	7+	1-	4-	22-	9+	8-	18+	17+	49-	42	26	15	13
Hebron	13+	6+	1-	11-	31+	12+	51+	41+	28-	32	38	17	18
Jabalya	38-	13-	44-	11-	29-	13-	22-	13-	21-	50	34	15	22
Gaza	20-	19-	18-	7-	14-	19-	36-	13-	20-	39	28	24	29
Deir elBalah	11-	14-	32-	4-	2-	4-	16+	10+	18-	43	38	14	25
Khan Yunis	4-	6-	38-	15-	5-	4+	3+	16-	32-	49	27	15	19
Rafah	19-	29-	24-	24-	3-	12-	18+	14-	22-	39	39	14	25

1. All values in this table represent the percentage difference between those who gave a positive evaluation and those who gave a negative evaluation. The popularity of Fateh and Hamas are absolute values of the percentage support for each party.

2. January 2008 results only.



## **Detailed Districts' Results**

**Field work: 16-18 January 2008**

**Total Sample Size: 3200**

**Sample Size per district: 200**

**Margin of error for national sample:  $\pm 2\%$**

**Margin of error for district sample:  $\pm 5\%$**

**1. At the present time, do you feel safe/secure (about yourself, your family and property)?**

	Jenin	Tulkarem	Qualqilya	Nablus	Salfit	Tubas	Ramallah	Jerusalem	Jericho	Bethlehem	Hebron	Jabalya	Gaza	Deir elBalah	Khan Yunis	Rafah
Yes	23.0	14.0	27.6	16.0	26.5	21.6	13.5	24.5	21.0	14.0	18.0	32.0	29.5	32.5	22.0	29.0
To an extent	22.0	26.0	36.2	36.5	21.5	25.6	27.0	16.5	27.5	23.5	36.0	15.5	21.5	17.0	24.5	20.0
No	55.0	60.0	36.2	47.5	52.0	52.8	59.5	59.0	51.5	62.5	46.0	52.5	49.0	50.5	53.5	51.0

**2. What do you think is the most important priority in your district?**

	Jenin	Tulkarem	Qualqilya	Nablus	Salfit	Tubas	Ramallah	Jerusalem	Jericho	Bethlehem	Hebron	Jabalya	Gaza	Deir elBalah	Khan Yunis	Rafah
Health services	12.0	8.0	20.1	17.5	17.0	19.5	17.0	16.0	20.5	14.5	11.0	11.0	16.0	20.0	10.5	12.5
Education	8.5	15.0	10.1	16.0	15.0	8.5	15.5	11.0	10.5	13.0	12.0	11.5	11.5	8.0	7.5	13.5
Roads	3.0	2.0	3.5	1.5	6.0	1.0	7.0	6.5	2.0	4.0	2.5	4.0	4.5	1.0	1.0	1.0
Economic conditions	46.5	31.5	42.2	36.5	31.0	35.5	30.5	27.0	41.0	32.5	34.5	44.5	37.5	39.0	26.5	44.5
Resolve social security problems	23.5	36.5	22.6	25.5	24.0	27.0	27.0	29.5	24.0	28.0	38.0	21.0	26.5	26.0	34.5	16.5
Environment	3.0	4.5	1.5	0.5	3.0	0.5	1.5	5.5	1.0	6.0	2.0	7.0	3.5	2.0	3.0	3.5
Other please specify	3.5	2.5		2.5	4.0	8.0	1.5	4.5	1.0	2.0		1.0	0.5	4.0	17.0	8.5

**3. How would you rate the performance of the PLC members who represent your district?**

	Jenin	Tulkarem	Qualqilya	Nablus	Salfit	Tubas	Ramallah	Jerusalem	Jericho	Bethlehem	Hebron	Jabalya	Gaza	Deir elBalah	Khan Yunis	Rafah
Excellent	3.5	3.0	9.0	2.5	7.5	5.0	3.5	2.5	10.0	6.0	0.5	8.0	14.1	15.0	13.0	7.5
Good	17.0	14.5	30.2	7.5	19.5	15.5	27.5	17.5	21.0	13.5	23.5	23.0	18.6	20.5	13.5	16.0
Average	27.5	28.5	31.2	27.0	30.0	24.0	26.5	22.5	26.5	31.0	29.5	24.0	22.1	18.0	27.5	20.5
Less than medium	7.5	13.0	12.1	5.5	3.0	10.0	3.5	8.0	6.5	5.5	7.5	6.5	3.5	3.0	4.5	5.0
Weak	25.5	24.0	16.1	31.0	28.5	26.0	26.0	32.5	24.5	36.0	27.5	35.0	36.2	36.5	37.0	43.0
Don't Know	19.0	17.0	1.5	26.5	11.5	19.5	13.0	17.0	11.5	8.0	11.5	3.5	5.5	7.0	4.5	8.0

**4. How would you rate the performance of the government institutions that service your district?**

	Jenin	Tulkarem	Qualqilya	Nablus	Salfit	Tubas	Ramallah	Jerusalem	Jericho	Bethlehem	Hebron	Jabalya	Gaza	Deir elBalah	Khan Yunis	Rafah
Excellent	5.0	4.0	7.0	3.0	8.0	13.5	6.5	1.5	6.5	2.9	3.0	4.5	10.5	11.1	11.0	4.0
Good	24.0	34.5	37.2	27.0	34.5	30.0	30.0	22.1	37.0	23.6	34.0	25.5	16.0	21.6	25.5	23.5
Average	38.5	40.0	41.7	36.0	37.5	30.5	30.0	24.1	31.0	33.6	30.0	25.0	24.0	25.6	29.5	29.0
Less than medium	5.0	8.0	7.5	6.5	3.0	7.5	4.0	3.0	3.0	6.4	7.5	6.0	5.0	4.0	3.0	4.0
Weak	20.5	9.5	5.5	18.0	14.0	13.5	22.5	37.7	17.5	27.1	17.5	36.5	41.0	32.2	29.5	36.0
Don't Know	7.0	4.0	1.0	9.5	3.0	5.0	7.0	11.6	5.0	6.4	8.0	2.5	3.5	5.5	1.5	3.5

**5. How would you rate the performance of your governor's office?**

	Jenin	Tulkarem	Qualqilya	Nablus	Salfit	Tubas	Ramallah	Jerusalem	Jericho	Bethlehem	Hebron	Jabalya	Gaza	Deir elBalah	Khan Yunis	Rafah
Excellent	4.0	6.5	6.5	17.5	7.0	4.5	4.5	1.7	6.0	3.5	2.5	5.0	6.0	6.5	5.5	4.0
Good	24.0	26.0	46.7	21.0	33.0	19.0	20.5	10.0	25.5	25.5	29.0	20.0	15.0	17.5	22.5	14.0
Average	27.0	27.5	28.6	32.5	33.0	19.0	21.5	6.7	26.0	27.5	29.0	25.5	18.5	25.0	28.0	23.5
Less than medium	5.5	5.0	7.0	3.5	2.5	6.0	3.5	1.7	4.5	5.5	6.5	5.0	3.5	4.5	2.0	5.0
Weak	22.0	15.0	6.0	10.5	13.5	15.0	16.0	21.7	15.0	24.5	19.0	32.5	36.5	33.0	31.5	42.0
Don't Know	17.5	20.0	5.0	15.0	11.0	36.5	34.0	58.3	23.0	13.5	14.0	12.0	20.5	13.5	10.5	11.5

**6. How would you rate the performance of your local council?**

	Jenin	Tulkarem	Qualqilya	Nablus	Salfit	Tubas	Ramallah	Jerusalem	Jericho	Bethlehem	Hebron	Jabalya	Gaza	Deir elBalah	Khan Yunis	Rafah
Excellent	17.0	14.5	18.1	5.0	7.5	14.5	16.0	8.5	6.5	18.5	18.5	4.5	6.0	9.5	7.0	3.5
Good	28.5	32.5	39.7	32.5	42.0	28.5	31.0	33.0	25.5	29.5	41.5	24.0	22.5	32.5	19.5	22.0
Average	24.0	27.5	24.1	30.5	24.0	24.5	23.0	26.0	24.0	20.5	20.0	24.5	29.0	24.0	29.5	31.0
Less than medium	5.5	8.0	4.5	7.5	6.0	5.0	3.0	3.0	7.0	5.0	3.5	2.5	4.5	3.5	2.5	4.0
Weak	21.5	15.5	13.1	17.0	20.0	22.0	22.5	24.5	28.5	26.0	15.0	39.5	37.0	28.0	40.5	36.0
Don't Know	3.5	2.0	0.5	7.5	0.5	5.5	4.5	5.0	8.5	0.5	1.5	5.0	1.0	2.5	1.0	3.5

**7. If PLC elections took place today, which one of the following groups – lists will you vote for?**

	Jenin	Tulkarem	Qualqilya	Nablus	Salfit	Tubas	Ramallah	Jerusalem	Jericho	Bethlehem	Hebron	Jabalya	Gaza	Deir elBalah	Khan Yunis	Rafah
Fateh	33.5	28.0	52.5	33.0	38.0	36.5	33.0	21.5	30.5	25.5	38.0	34.0	27.5	38.0	26.5	38.5
Hamas	8.0	10.0	14.5	4.5	8.0	13.5	15.5	19.0	11.0	12.5	18.0	22.0	28.5	25.0	19.0	24.5
Others /Non	58.5	62.0	33.0	62.5	54.0	50.0	51.0	59.5	58.5	62.0	44.0	44.0	44.0	37.0	54.5	37.0