



مركز العالم العربي للبحوث والتنمية  
Arab World for Research & Development

## **Results of AWRAD Palestine Poll A National Opinion Poll in West Bank and Gaza Strip**

*Performance of Palestinian Leaders*  
*Living Conditions*  
*Performance of Governments*  
*Rebuilding Gaza*  
*Popularity of Political Factions*  
*Presidential Election*  
*Legislative Elections*  
*Negotiations*  
*Third Intifada- Uprising*  
*"ISIS" Phenomena*  
*Operations Decisive Storm*

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**Fieldwork: 4-6 April 2015**  
**Sample Size: 1200 Palestinian in the West Bank and Gaza**  
**Margin of error:  $\pm 3\%$**

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## **Highlights:**

**An absolute majority (92 percent) of Palestinian respondents believe that ISIS does not represent "true Islam".**

**49 percent believe that the Saudi-led military campaign in Yemen is unjustified; one third believes otherwise.**

**Only 1 percent of Gaza respondents stated that the economic situation of their families has improved since last year, while 74 percent stated that it has declined.**

**Approval rate of President Mahmoud Abbas is below 50 percent for the first time in his tenure as the President of the PA.**

**A majority of Gaza respondents (68 percent) stated that Hamas is not doing enough to alleviate the suffering of the Gaza population. Similarly, (57 percent) of Gaza respondents stated that neither the PA nor the international organizations are doing enough.**

**Marwan Bargouthi is the most popular leader and Fatah's popularity reaches 33 percent.**

**39 percent of respondents have stated that they undecided or will not vote in the next PLC election.**

**82 percent of respondents support the immediate conduct of legislative and presidential elections in the West Bank and Gaza.**

**45 percent of respondents will not vote or do not know who will they vote for in a presidential election.**

**67 percent of respondents oppose the outbreak of a third Intifada at this time.**

**50 percent of respondents oppose the immediate resumption of negotiations between the PA and Israel.**

**20 years after Oslo, 64 percent of respondents believe that the Palestinians are farther away from achieving their goal of a Palestinian state than they were 20 years ago.**

## **Introduction**

The following are the results and analysis of the latest Arab World for Research & Development (AWRAD) poll. This poll is part of AWRAD's Compass which tracks the opinions, attitudes and perceptions of the Palestinian public in every corner of modern day Palestine.

The present survey was fielded from April 4-6, 2015. Some key events preceded the fielding of the questionnaire. Firstly, the poll was fielded after the victory of the right in the recent Israeli

elections. Other major events occurring before the fieldwork included: the 2015 Arab League Summit in Egypt, the assault and seizure of the Yarmouk Refugee Camp by ISIS, the attacks of the Saudi-led coalition in Yemen, Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah's recent visit to Gaza, Israel's continued seizure of Palestinian tax revenues, the failure of the PA to pay full salaries to its employees for the last five months and the entry of the Palestinians to the International Criminal Court.

AWRAD Palestine Poll is a nationally representative survey of 1,200 face-to-face interviews across the West Bank and Gaza. The survey yields a  $\pm 3$  percent margin of error. The sample is a random probability sample. All socioeconomic groups are represented, and all geographic areas are covered by this poll. For more details on the sample, please refer to [www.awrad.org](http://www.awrad.org). The survey was carried out by AWRAD researchers under the supervision of AWRAD's President, Dr. Nader Said-Foqahaa.

## **Descriptive Analysis**

### **1. Overall Living Conditions:**

- The results reveal that the economic situation of Palestinian families is worse than it was a year ago. 54 percent of respondents state that the economic situation of their family is worse than it was a year ago, while 37 percent state that the economic situation of their family "did not change." Only 8 percent of respondents stated that economic situation of their families is better that it was a year ago.
- A visible gap exists between the views of Gaza and West Bank respondents. Only 1 percent of Gaza respondents believe that the economic situation of their family has improved since last year, compared to 13 percent in the West Bank. Furthermore, 74 percent of Gaza respondents stated that the economic situation of their families is worse than it was a year ago, while 43 percent of West Bank respondents shared that view. 38 percent of respondents stated that the economic situation of their family has remained the same, 24 percent in Gaza and 44 percent in the West Bank.
- 35 percent of respondents believe that Palestine is heading in the right direction, a 20-point drop from June 2014, when 55 percent of respondents stated that Palestine is heading in the right direction. 58 percent of respondents stated that, in general, the current state of affairs in Palestine is heading in the wrong direction. Notably, an evident geographic gap (25 points) exists between the opinions of Gaza and West Bank respondents. 74 percent of respondents in Gaza believe that the current state of affairs in Palestine is heading in the wrong direction, while only 49 percent of West Bank respondents shared the same sentiment. Alternatively, 24 percent of Gaza respondents stated that Palestine is heading in the right direction, while 42 percent of West Bank respondents shared that view.
- On the one hand, a majority of Palestinians (54 percent) remain optimistic about the future. This constitutes a 9-point drop from June 2014. On the other hand, 44 percent of

respondents are pessimistic about the future. Optimistic views are more widespread in the West Bank (59 percent) and less so in Gaza (46 percent).

- When asked about the security situation, 18 percent of respondents believe the security in their area of living has improved. 43 percent of respondents stated that the security situation in their area of living has remained the same. 38 percent of respondents stated that the security situation is worse than it was a year ago. There are no significant differences between the West Bank and Gaza.

## **2. Leadership and Government:**

- The approval rate of President Abbas has fallen to the lowest point in the history of his tenure as the President of the PA. 38 percent of respondents approve of his job performance, a 20 percent drop from June 2014. In contrast, 54 percent of respondents express disapproval, a 23 percent increase from June 2014. 7 percent of respondents stated that they have no answer or do not know.
- The drop in approval is visible across both the West Bank and Gaza. In June of 2014, 55 percent of Gaza respondents expressed approval of Abbas' performance, yet the current poll reveals that only 34 percent of Gaza respondents continue to express approval today. Similarly, in June of 2014, 60 percent of West Bank respondents stated that they approve of the president's job, a sentiment expressed by only 41 percent of West Bank respondents in the current round.
- 36 percent of respondents describe the performance of the Hamdallah government as average. 27 percent consider its performance positive, and 30 percent believe it is negative.

## **3. Rebuilding Gaza:**

- A majority of Palestinians (55 percent) believe that Hamas is not doing enough to alleviate the suffering of the population of Gaza. 37 percent believe they are doing enough and 8 percent are uncertain.
- Similarly, a majority of respondents (55 percent) believe that the PA is not doing enough to alleviate the suffering of the population of Gaza. 39 percent believe they are doing enough and 6 percent are uncertain.
- A similar percentage of respondents (55 percent) believe that international organizations, including the United Nations, are not doing enough to alleviate the suffering of the population of Gaza. A similar 37 percent believe these organizations are doing enough and 8 percent are uncertain.
- Respondents in Gaza (68 percent) are more likely to believe that Hamas is not doing enough than those in the West Bank (47 percent). A geographic gap of 11 points exists between the views of Gaza respondents and West Bank respondents. 57 percent of Gaza respondents believe that the PA is not doing enough to alleviate the suffering of the Gaza population. Lastly, 57 percent of Gaza respondents believe that international

organizations, including the United Nations, are not doing enough to alleviate the suffering of the population of the Gaza Strip.

#### **4. Evaluation of Political Leaders and Parties in Palestine:**

- Among the different Palestinian political actors, Marwan Bargouthi receives the most positive evaluations, and lowest negative evaluation. 36 percent of respondents stated that performance of Marwan Bargouthi is positive, while 19 percent stated that it was negative. 30 percent stated that his performance is average. 16 percent do not know or have no answer.
- The positive evaluation of President Mahmoud Abbas are on the decline. 30 percent of respondents believed the performance of President Mahmud Abbas is positive. This represents a 6-point drop since October of 2014. On the other hand, 39 percent evaluated his performance as negative, while 29 percent stated that it is average. 3 percent of respondents stated that they do not know or have no answer.
- 28 percent of respondents evaluated the performance of Ismail Haniyeh as positive. 36 percent stated it was negative, while 29 evaluated his performance as average. 8 percent of respondents stated that they do not know or have no answer.
- In a two-way presidential race between President Mahmoud Abbas and Khaled Meshaal, 35 percent of respondents will vote for Abbas and 20 percent for Khaled Meshaal. It is important to observe that none of the candidates could win a majority of the votes. Furthermore, the largest segment of respondents (46 percent) stated that they will not vote (28 percent), or are undecided or have no answer (18 percent). Among the voters and taking into consideration the margin of error, AWRAD estimates that Abbas would receive 60 percent of the vote while Meshaal would receive 40 percent. The results are similar in a potential two-way presidential race between President Mahmoud Abbas and Ismail Haniyeh.
- In a two-way presidential race between Marwan Barghouthi and Ismail Haniyeh, Barghouthi would win 40 percent of the vote and Ismail Haniyeh will receive 19 percent of the vote. Once again, in this scenario, 42 percents of respondents stated that they will not vote, are undecided or have no answer. This is largest group of respondents and their choices on election-day will be vital in shaping the results of any future election. Among the voters and taking into consideration the margin of error, AWRAD estimates that Marwan would receive 64 percent of the vote while Haniyeh would receive 40 percent.
- When asked about six different political leaders running in a presidential election, Marwan Barghouthi receive 35 percent of the popular support and Khaled Meshaal receives 17 percent. All other candidates, including Dr. Salam Fayyad, Dr. Mustafa Barghouthi, and Ahmad Saadat will individually receive 4 percent or less of the vote. It is very important to note that the largest group of respondents (36 percent) will not vote, are undecided or do not have an answer.

- If a PLC election were held today, 33 percent of respondents state that they will vote for a Fatah list and 17 percent of respondents state that they will vote for a Hamas list. A PFLP list and a Mubarada list receive between 2 and 3 percent. All other lists might individually get 1 percent or less of the vote. It is possible that a unified list of left wing political parties will be able to garner a larger portion of the vote. Once again, the largest segment of respondents (38 percent) stated that they will not vote, are undecided or do not have an answer.

### **5. Support for Elections:**

- An absolute majority (80 percent) continues to support the immediate conducting of legislative elections in the West Bank and Gaza. 14 percent oppose such elections, and 6 percent have no answer or do not know.
- Similarly, 83 percent of the respondents support the immediate conducting of presidential elections in the West Bank and Gaza. 13 percent are opposed, and 5 percent have no answer or do not know.
- This represents a 11 percent decrease in support for immediate legislative elections and a 8 percent decrease in support for immediate presidential elections.

### **6. Negotiations:**

- 50 percent of respondents stated that they oppose the immediate resumption of negotiations between the PA and Israel, while 44 percent of respondents support the immediate conduct of negotiations.
- The majority of Palestinians (64 percent) stated that 20 years after the Oslo Accords, Palestinians are farther away from achieving their goal of a establishing the Palestinian state. 29 Percent stated that Palestinians are closer.

### **7. A Third Intifada (Uprising):**

- Furthermore, a majority (67 percent) of respondents stated that they oppose an immediate outbreak of a Third Intifada. In contrast, 26 percent would support the outbreak of an Intifada at the present time.
- 34 percent of respondents stated that they support an Intifada as a mean to establish the independent Palestinian state. 61 percent stated that they oppose a new Intifada as a mean of achieving an independent Palestinian state. Notably, only 30 percent of West Bank respondents expressed support for a new Intifada as a means of achieving Palestinian statehood, while roughly two thirds (64 percent) expressed opposition.

### **8. Current Events:**

- Only 4 percent of respondents believe that ISIS represents true Islam. An absolute majority of Palestinians 92 percent believe that ISIS does not represent Islam.
- Further, an absolute majority (92 percent) of Palestinians do not believe that the practices of ISIS are justifiable, 4 percent of respondents do not know have no answer.

- 49 percent of Palestinian respondents oppose the airstrikes of the Saudi-led coalition, while 33 percent are supportive and 18 percent are uncertain. Respondents in the Gaza Strip (44 percent) are more supportive of the airstrikes than their counterparts in the West Bank (27 percent).