



Jerusalem Office  
Tel.: +972-2-532 83 98  
Fax: +972-2-581 96 65  
Email: [info@fespal.org](mailto:info@fespal.org) Web:  
[www.fespal.org](http://www.fespal.org)



POBox: 25047 Jerusalem  
Tel: 02-2976555  
Fax: 02-2976557  
Email: [poll@jmcc.org](mailto:poll@jmcc.org)  
Website: [www.jmcc.org](http://www.jmcc.org)

## **Poll No. 87 July 2016**

---

**Skepticism over local council elections; majority to participate**

**Rejection of the Jordanian option and disregard for the French initiative**

**Marwan Barghouthi is second choice, Fatah at the forefront**

**Setback in performance of “undemocratic” PA**

### **Local council elections: skepticism in spite of desire to hold them**

An opinion poll conducted by the Jerusalem Media and Communications Centre (JMCC) in cooperation with Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung showed that the majority of those polled (55.9%) most of whom are from the Gaza Strip, do not expect that local council elections, recently ratified by the Cabinet, would be held, as opposed to 35.8% who expected the elections to be held on time.

Moreover, the majority (61.3%) of those polled said they would participate in elections if they are held, while 34.0% said they did not want to participate. It is noteworthy that a majority of 65.2% oppose holding local council elections in the West Bank without the Gaza Strip as opposed to 27.6% who said the contrary.

### **The Jordanian option will not help ending the occupation**

The poll, which was conducted on July 8-12, 2016, on a random sample of 1,200 people, showed that the majority (73.5%) of respondents opposed a solution that includes an end to the occupation on condition that the West Bank becomes part of Jordan, as opposed to 21.6% who supported this option. Moreover, the majority of those polled, 79.9% ruled out the possibility that Israel would relinquish control over the West Bank, even if to Jordan, as opposed to 11.3% who said the contrary.

### **The French initiative: unknown and makes no difference either way**

It is worth noting that the majority of respondents or 68.3% said they were not informed at all or very little informed about the French initiative, while only 25.8% said they were highly or moderately informed about it. In a question asked only to respondents who said they were informed about the French peace initiative as to whether it would harm or serve the Palestinian cause, a large percentage, or 48.9%, said it would not make any difference. Contrarily, 28.2% said the initiative was a good development that serves the Palestinian cause, and 18.3% said it was a bad development that would harm the Palestinian cause.

### **Egypt, Europe, the United States, and then Russia**

In regards to a question about the marginalization of the Palestinian cause as a result of the current events in the region, a large percentage of those polled, or 15.3%, said Egypt was the most concerned with the Palestinian cause. This was followed by a close 15.1% of respondents who said the European Union was the most concerned; 13.7% said the United Nations, 11.3% said Saudi Arabia; 8.6% answered the United States, then Russia 3.8%.

### **Military operations are harmful**

The poll showed a retreat in the percentage of those who support military operations as an appropriate response in the current situation, dropping from 50.9% in December 2012, to 42.7% in October 2014 and then to 37.3% this July. Contrarily, the percentage of those who oppose military operations and find them to be harmful to Palestinian interests rose from 42.0% in December 2012, to 50.4% in October 2014, reaching 52.9% this July.

### **The PA is undemocratic and freedom of expression is limited**

The majority of respondents, 53.2% said they believed the Palestinian Authority (PA) was undemocratic, while 35.5% believed it was democratic. Meanwhile, the majority of those polled, or 50.9% said freedom of expression was permissible to a small extent in PA-controlled territories while 23.4% said was not permissible at all. Only 21.1% said they believed freedom of expression was largely permissible in PA-controlled territories.

### **The Rafah Crossing: Israel, Egypt or Hamas?**

The majority of those polled, 32.8% put responsibility for the closure of the Rafah Crossing on Israel. In second place, the public was nearly split on who was more responsible, Hamas or Egypt. 26.1% said Egypt while 25.6% held Hamas responsible.

### **Factions and politicians: Barghouthi after the President**

Fatah remains the most popular among Palestinian factions, at 33.1%, followed by Hamas, at 14.3%; the PFLP came in at 3.4%, while 35.9% of respondents said they do not trust any faction.

Furthermore, President Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) remains the most popular figure among political leaders, at 14.9%, followed by Marwan Barghouthi at 9.3%, Ismail Haniyeh at 8.8% and Mohammed Dahlan at 4.7%. Meanwhile, a large percentage, or 35.9% said they do not trust anyone.

However, if presidential elections were held today and President Abbas (Abu Mazen) did not run, a large percentage, or 14.8%, said they would vote for Marwan Barghouthi, who enjoys equal popularity among respondents in the West Bank and Gaza. He was followed by Ismail Haniyeh, at 7.8%, who had a higher percentage of supporters in the Gaza Strip, Mohammed

Dahlan followed with a close 7.4%, also with a higher percentage of supporters in the Gaza Strip.

Palestinian public opinion was split over the performance of President Abbas in doing his job. 50.6%, mostly from Gaza, said they were dissatisfied with the way in which he deals with his job as President of the PNA, as opposed to 44.6%, mostly from the West Bank, who said they were satisfied with his performance.

A similar split in opinion was over whether the President was in control of the internal situation. 50.5% said he was not control at all or was somewhat in control of the situation, most of whom were from the Gaza Strip. Contrarily, 44.9% said he is in full or is somewhat in control of the Palestinian internal situation, most of whom were from the West Bank.

It should be noted that the poll showed a setback in the public's evaluation of the PA's performance in general. The percentage of those who rate the PA's performance as good dropped from 57.4% in August of last year to 50.8% in June of this year. Contrarily, the percentage of those who assessed the PA's performance as bad rose from 41.4% last August to 46.2% this July.

### Methodology:

A random sample of **1200** people over the age of 18 was interviewed face-to-face throughout the West Bank and Gaza Strip between **8<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of July 2016**. The interviews were conducted in randomly selected homes, and the subjects inside each home were also selected randomly according to Kish tables. The interviews were conducted in 130 sampling points chosen randomly according to population.

In the West Bank **750** people were surveyed from the following areas:

**Hebron:** Hebron, Sa'ir, Beit Kahil, Taffuh, Adu-dhariya, Halhul, Kharas, Dura, Yatta, Beit 'einun, Al-Rihiya, Al- Fawwar refugee camp. **Jenin:** Jenin, Qabatiya, Al-Yamun, Jaba', Kafr Dan, Rummana, Sanur, Beit Qad, Jenin refugee camp. **Tubas:** Tammun, Wadi al-Far'a. **Ramallah & al-Bireh:** Al-Bireh, Ramallah, Beituniya, Bir Zeit, Abwein, Qibya, Yabrud, Ein 'Arik, Al-'Am'ari refugee camp. **Jericho:** Jericho, Al-Jiftlik. **Jerusalem :** Al-Ram and Dahiat al Bareed, Hizma, Abu Dis, Jaba', Beit Hanina, Shu'fat, Old City, Silwan, Ras-Al-Amoud, Qalandia refugee camp. **Bethlehem:** Bethlehem, Beit Fajjar, Al-Khader, Husan, Artas, Ayda refugee camp. **Nablus:** Beit Furik, Nablus, Urif, Beit Iba, Sarra, Majdal Bani Fadel, Balata refugee camp. **Salfit:** Az-Zawyeh, Deir Istiya. **Tulkarem:** Bal'a, Tulkarem, Deir al-Ghusun, Far'un, Seida. **Qalqilya:** Qalqilya, Jayyus.

In the Gaza Strip : **450** people were surveyed from the following areas:

**Gaza:** al-Rimal a-Shamali, al-Rimal a-Janoubi, a-Zeitoun, a-Shuja'ia, a-Tufah, a-Daraj, a-Naser, a-Sheikh Radwan, Tal al-Hawa, al-Mughraga, Shati Refugee Camp . **Khan Younis:** Khan Younis, Absan al-Kabira, Abasan al-Saghira, Bani Suheila, al-Qarara, Khuza', Khan Younis Refugee Camp. **Rafah:** Rafah, Shouket a-Soufi, Rafah Refugee Camp. **Gaza North:** Jabalia, Beit Lahia, Beit Hanoun, Jabalia Refugee Camp. **Deir al-Balah:** Deir al-Balah, Buriij, -Zawaydeh, Nussirat, al-Maghazi Refugee Camp, Bureij Refugee Camp, Deir al-Balah Refugee Camp.

The margin of error is  $\pm 3$  percent, with a confidence level of 95%.

#### Sample Distribution

52.5% of the respondents were from the West Bank ,10% from Jerusalem, 37.5% from the Gaza Strip.

16.7% said they live in villages, 8.8% in refugee camps, and 74.5 % in towns/cities.

50.5% were male, 49.5% were female.

67.9 % were married, 25.9%, single, 4.4% widowed 1.0 % divorced, 0.8 % no answer.

The average age of the respondents was 36.7 years.

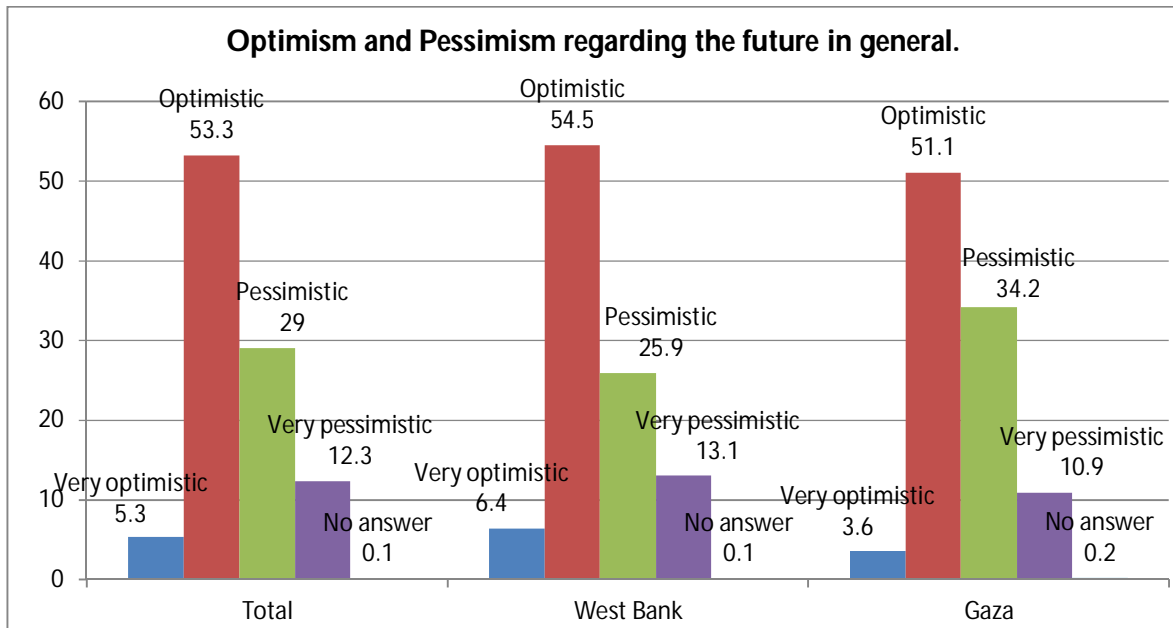
#### Occupation of Respondents

- Students 12.3%
- Laborers 11.4%
- Housewives 35.2%
- Farmers/fishermen 2.3 %
- Craftsmen 1.0%
- Businessmen/private business 8.0%
- Public Sector Employees 12.2%
- Private Sector Employees 6.6%
- Professionals (e.g. doctors/lawyers/ pharmacists/engineers) 1.2%
- Unemployed 8.5%
- Retired 1.3%,
- No answer 0.0%.

**Results:**

Q1. To what extent do you feel optimistic or pessimistic regarding the future in general? Would you say that you are very optimistic, optimistic, pessimistic, or very pessimistic?

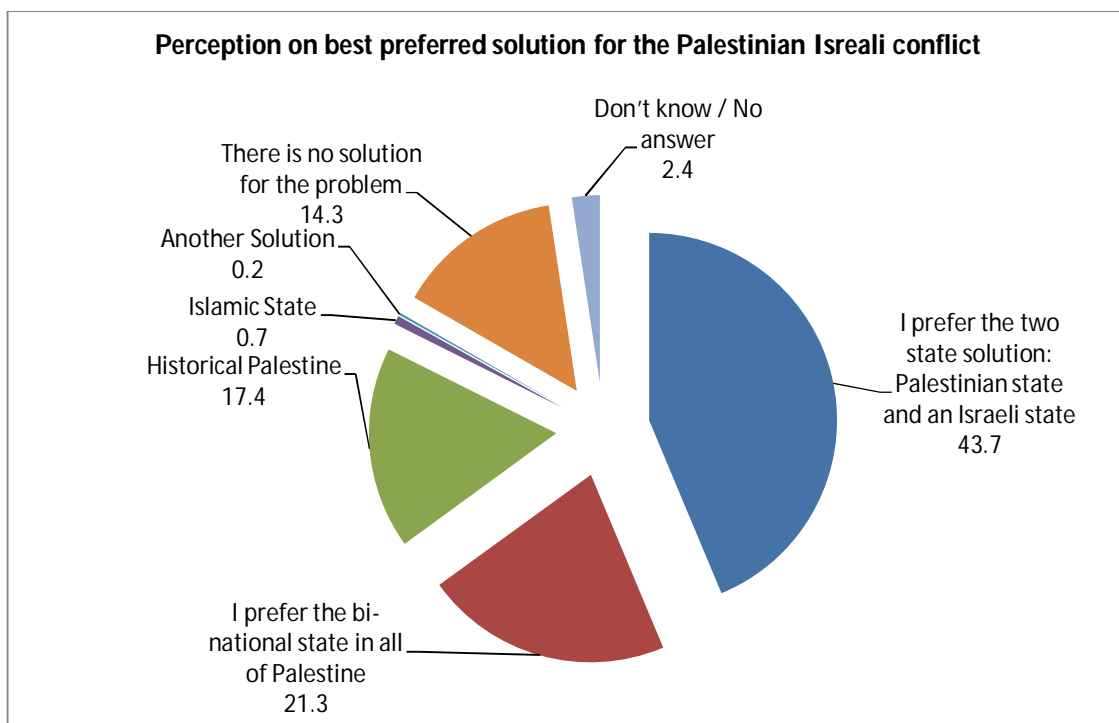
	Total n= 1200	West Bank n= 750	Gaza n=450
Very optimistic	5.3	6.4	3.6
Optimistic	53.3	54.5	51.1
Pessimistic	29.0	25.9	34.2
Very pessimistic	12.3	13.1	10.9
No answer	0.1	0.1	0.2



Q2. Some believe that the two state formula is the most preferred solution for the Palestinian-Israeli conflict; others believe that Historical Palestine cannot be divided into two states, so the best solution would be to have a bi-national state in all of Palestine where Palestinians and Israeli enjoy equal rights. Which solution do you prefer?

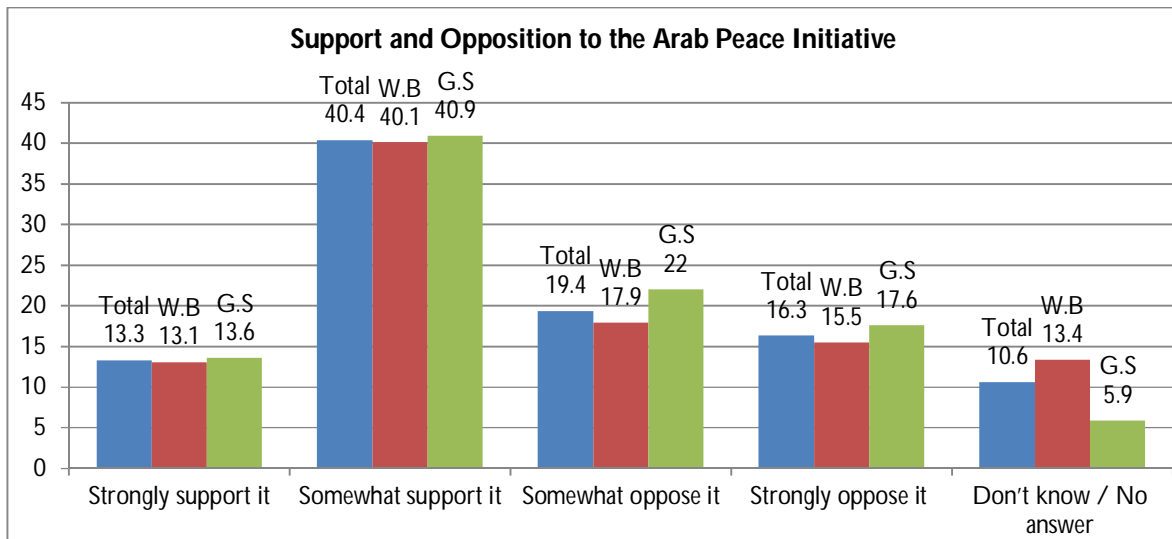
	Total n= 1200	West Bank n= 750	Gaza n=450
I prefer the two state solution: Palestinian and an Israeli	43.7	44.7	42.0
I prefer the bi-national state in all of Palestine	21.3	22.5	19.1
Historic Palestine *	17.4	15.3	20.9
Islamic state *	0.7	0.7	0.7
I prefer another solution	0.2	0.1	0.2
There is no solution for the problem	14.3	13.6	15.6
Don't know\ no answer	2.4	3.1	1.5

\* These answers were not included as part of the options read to the interviewee



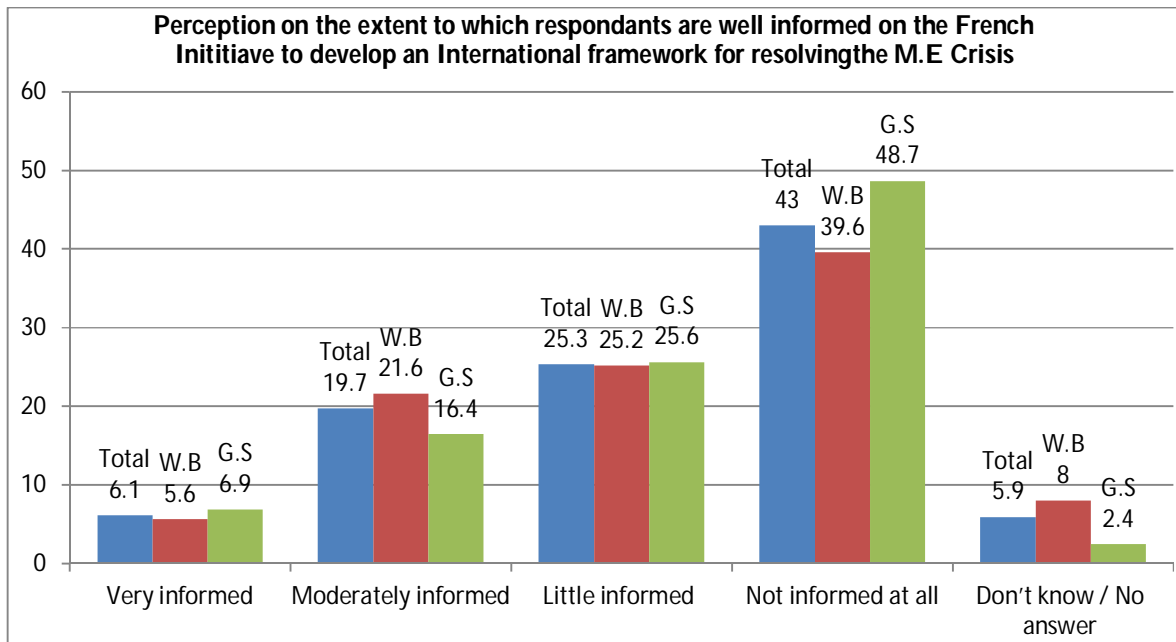
Q3. To what extent do you support or oppose the Arab Peace Initiative? Do you strongly support it, somewhat support it, somewhat oppose it, or strongly oppose it?

	Total <b>n= 1200</b>	West Bank <b>n= 750</b>	Gaza <b>n=450</b>
Strongly support it	13.3	13.1	13.6
Somewhat support it	40.4	40.1	40.9
Somewhat oppose it	19.4	17.9	22.0
Strongly oppose it	16.3	15.5	17.6
Don't know \ no answer	10.6	13.4	5.9



Q4. In the context of the French initiative, an international conference was recently held in Paris in order to develop a new international framework for resolving the Middle East crisis. How informed are you about this initiative? Very informed, moderately or little informed, or not informed at all?

	Total n= 1200	West Bank n= 750	Gaza n=450
Very informed	6.1	5.6	6.9
Moderately informed	19.7	21.6	16.4
Little informed	25.3	25.2	25.6
Not informed at all	43.0	39.6	48.7
Don't know \ no answer	5.9	8.0	2.4

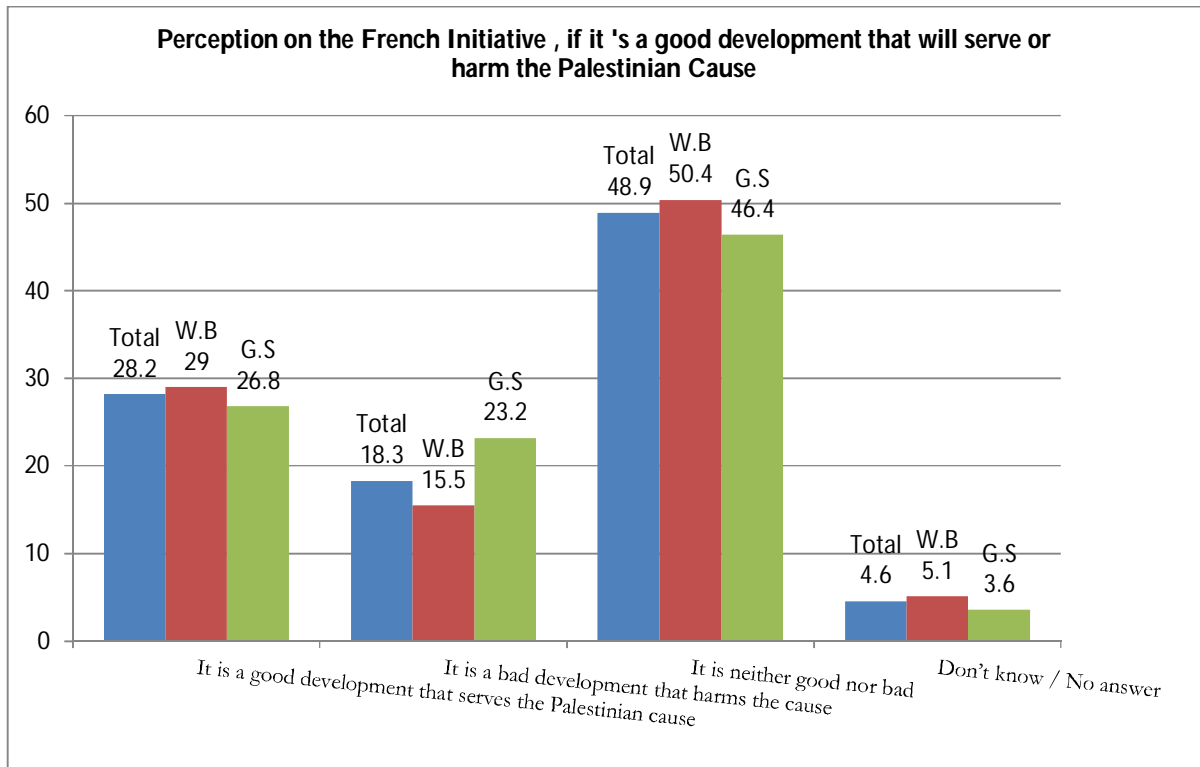




Q5. Do you consider the French initiative to be a good development that serves the Palestinian cause? Or is it a bad development that harms the cause? Or is it neither good nor bad?

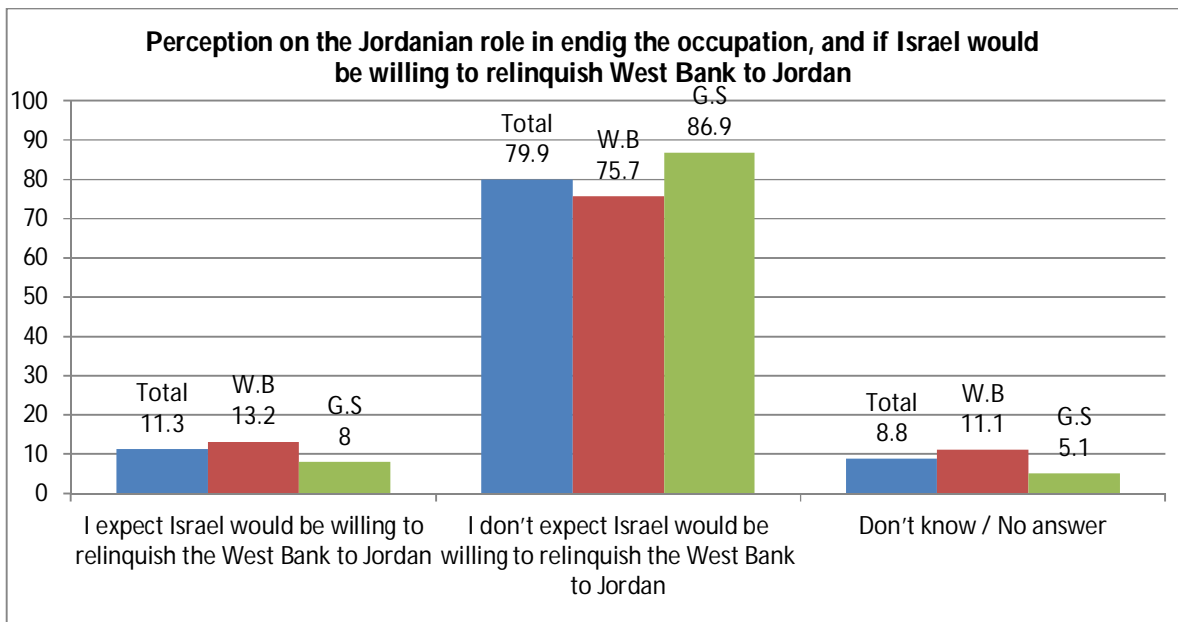
	Total	West Bank	Gaza
	n= 613	n= 393	n=220
It is a good development that serves the Palestinian cause	28.2	29.0	26.8
It is a bad development that harms the cause	18.3	15.5	23.2
It is neither good nor bad	48.9	50.4	46.4
Don't know \ no answer	4.6	5.1	3.6

\* This question was asked to those who answered 'informed' in the previous question.



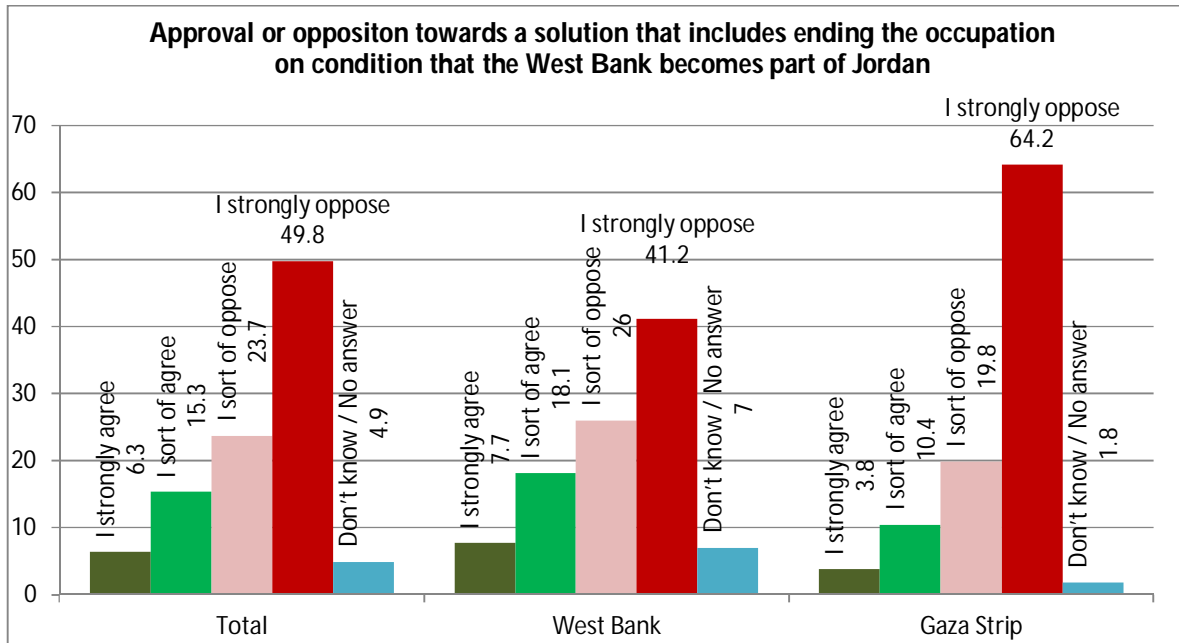
Q6. News has been recently circulating about the Jordanian role in ending the occupation. Do you expect Israel would be willing to relinquish the West Bank to Jordan or not?

	Total n= 1200	West Bank n= 750	Gaza n=450
I expect Israel would be willing to relinquish the West Bank to Jordan	11.3	13.2	8.0
I don't expect Israel would be willing to relinquish the West Bank to Jordan	79.9	75.7	86.9
Don't know \ no answer	8.8	11.1	5.1



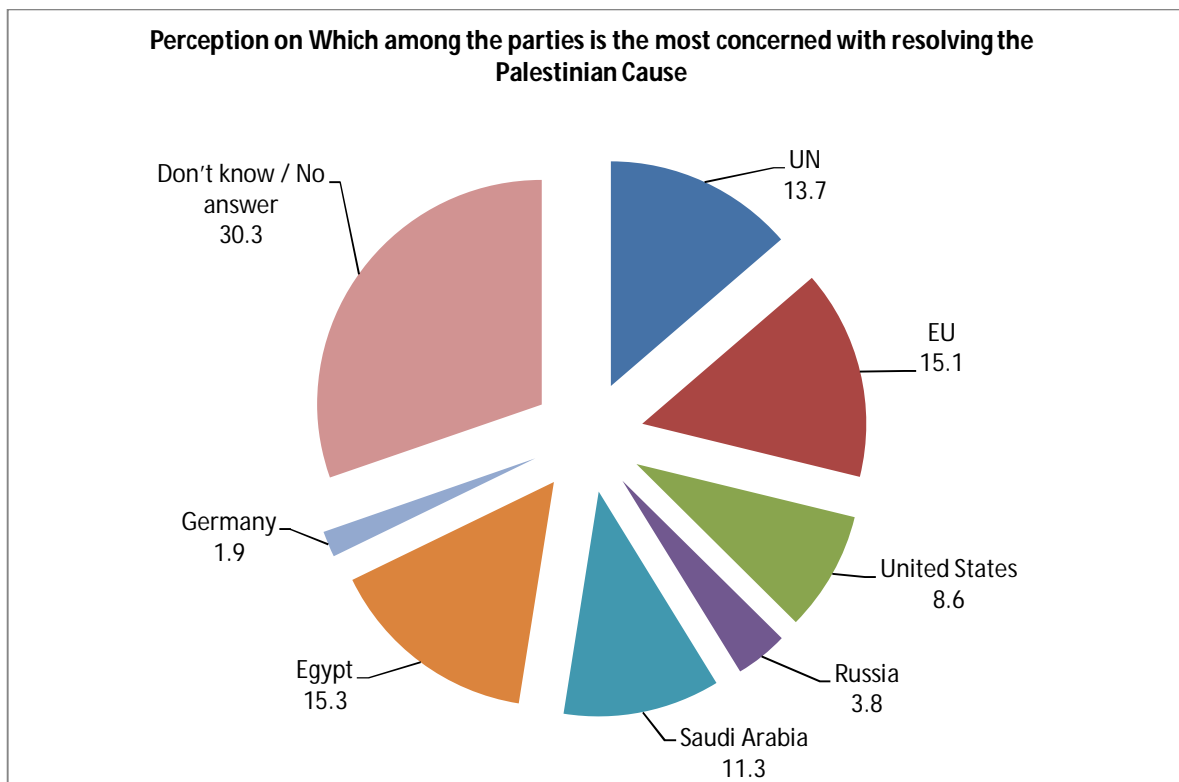
Q7. Do you agree or oppose a solution that includes ending the occupation on condition that the West Bank becomes part of Jordan?

	Total n= 1200	West Bank n= 750	Gaza n=450
I strongly agree	6.3	7.7	3.8
I sort of agree	15.3	18.1	10.4
I sort of oppose	23.7	26.0	19.8
I strongly oppose	49.8	41.2	64.2
Don't know \ no answer	4.9	7.0	1.8



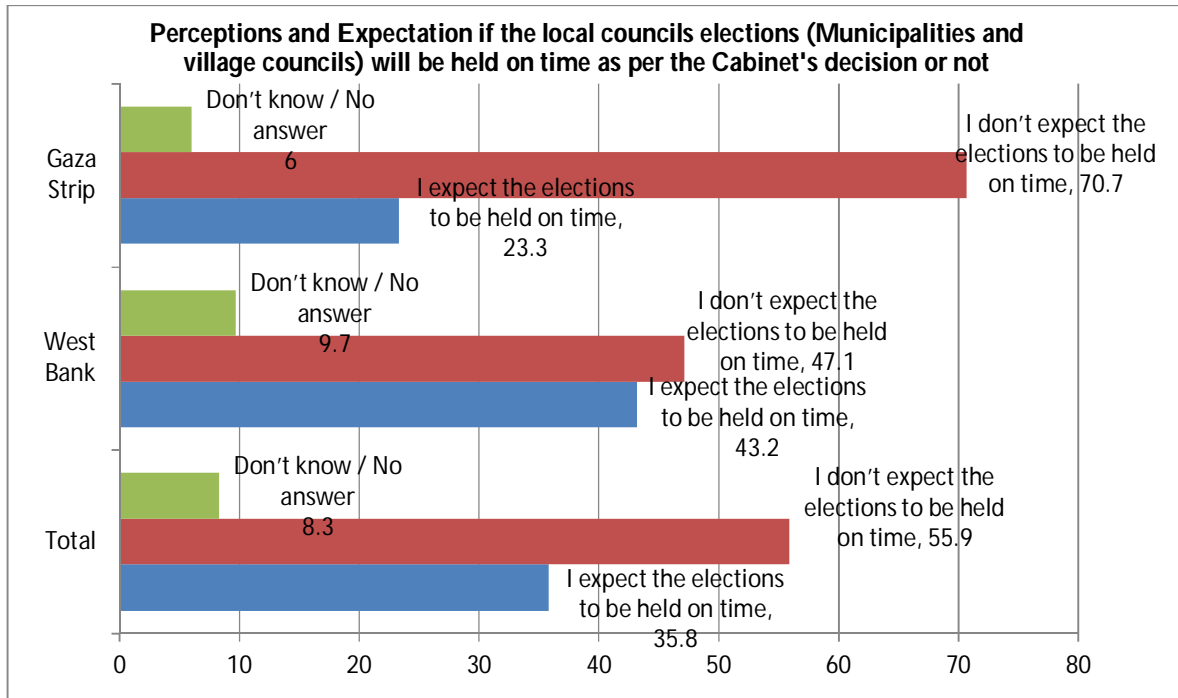
Q8. Many believe the Palestinian cause has been marginalized because of the current events in the Arab region. Which among the following parties do you think is the most concerned with resolving the Palestinian cause?

	Total n= 1200	West Bank n= 750	Gaza n=450
UN	13.7	12.0	16.4
EU	15.1	14.5	16.0
United States	8.6	10.9	4.7
Russia	3.8	4.9	2.0
Saudi Arabia	11.3	10.7	12.2
Egypt	15.3	12.9	19.3
Germany	1.9	2.8	0.4
Don't know \ no answer	30.3	31.3	29.0



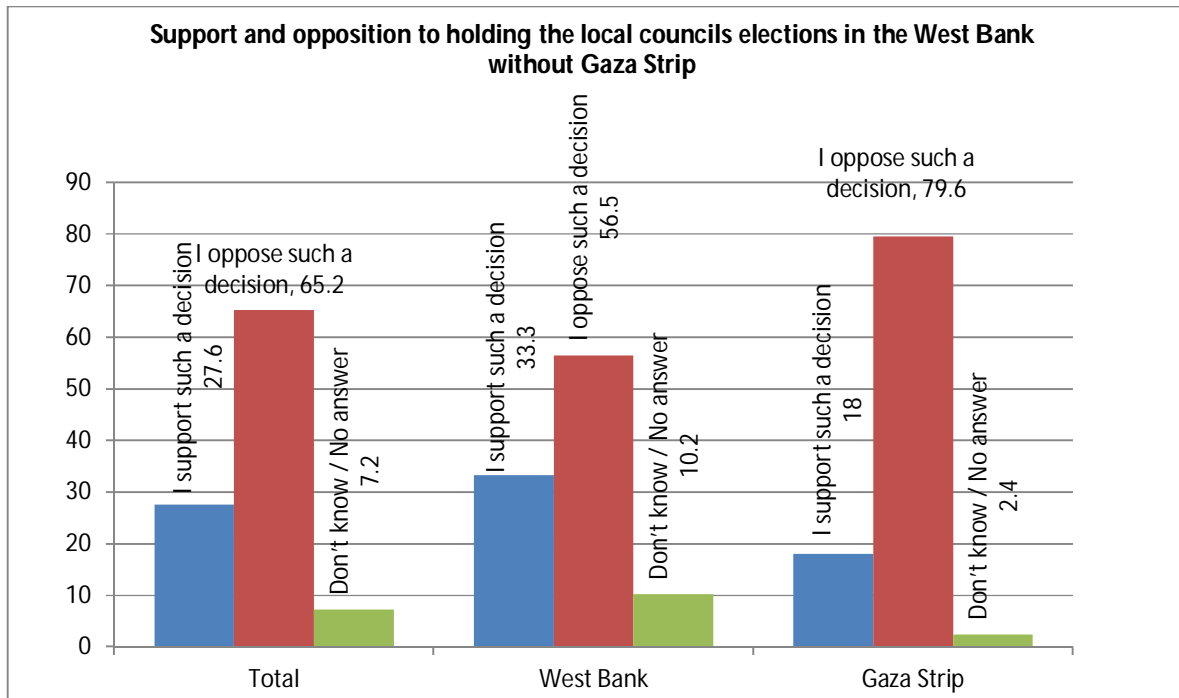
Q9. Recently, the Cabinet made a decision to hold local council elections (municipality and village council) in around three months. Do you expect these elections to be held on time or not?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza
	n= 1200	n= 750	n=450
I expect the elections to be held on time	35.8	43.2	23.3
I don't expect the elections to be held on time	55.9	47.1	70.7
Don't know \ no answer	8.3	9.7	6.0



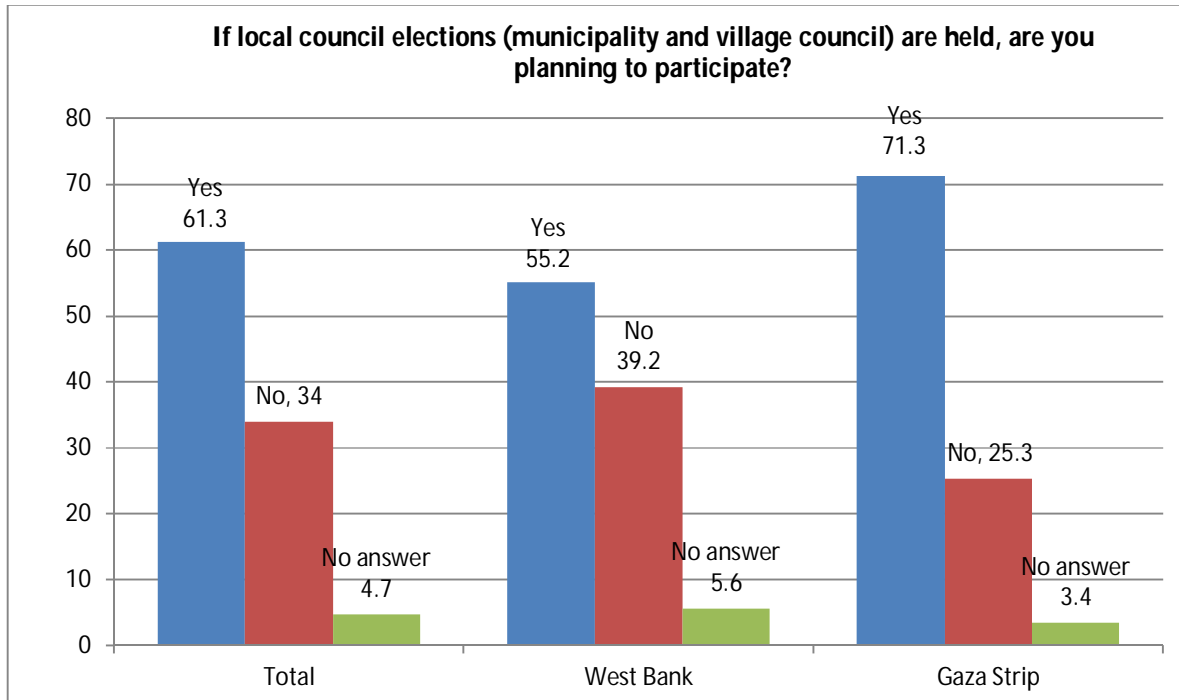
Q10. There is a possibility that local council elections (municipality and village council) will be held in the West Bank without the Gaza Strip. Do you support or oppose such a decision?

	Total n= 1200	West Bank n= 750	Gaza n=450
I support such a decision	27.6	33.3	18.0
I oppose such a decision	65.2	56.5	79.6
Don't know \ no answer	7.2	10.2	2.4



Q11. If local council elections (municipality and village council) are held, are you planning to participate?

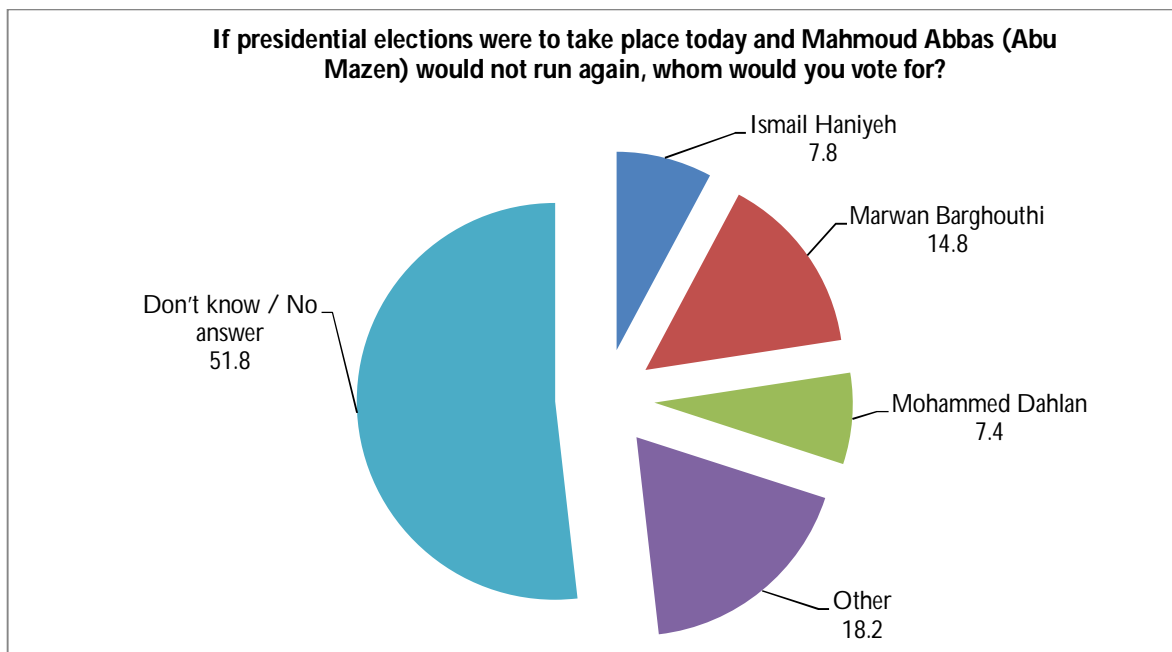
	Total n= 1200	West Bank n= 750	Gaza n=450
Yes	61.3	55.2	71.3
No	34.0	39.2	25.3
No answer	4.7	5.6	3.4



Q12. If presidential elections were to take place today and Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) would not run again, whom would you vote for?

	Total n= 1200	West Bank n= 750	Gaza n=450
Ismail Haniyeh	7.8	4.3	13.6
Marwan Barghouthi	14.8	14.7	14.9
Mohammed Dahlan	7.4	3.2	14.4
Others	18.2	17.5	19.3
Don't know\ no answer	51.8	60.3	37.8

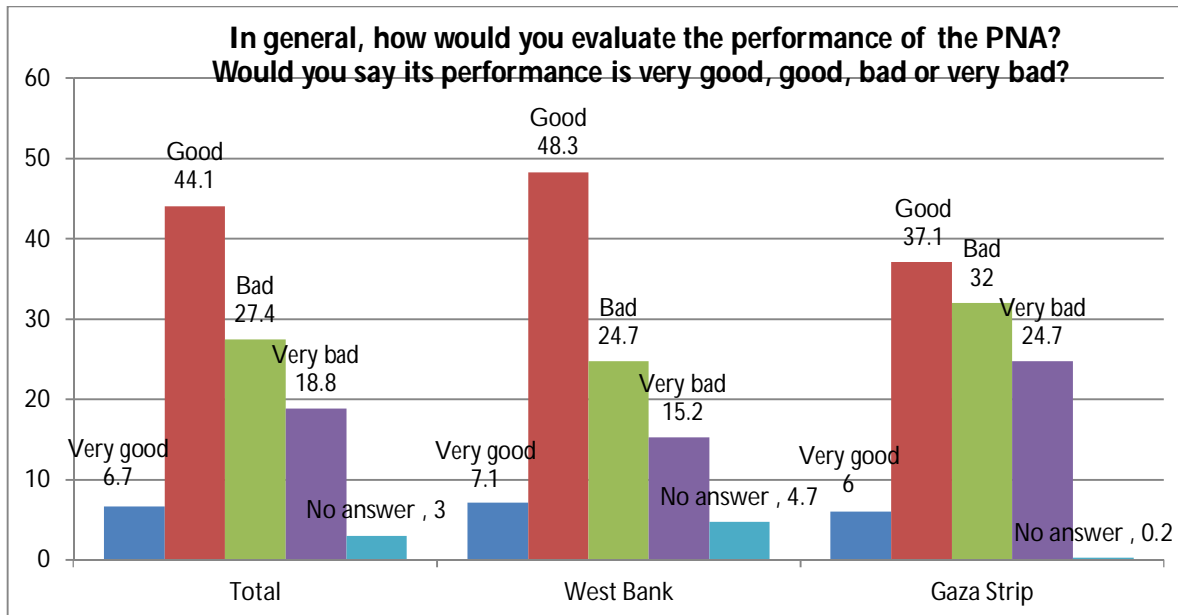
\* These answers were not included as part of the options read to the interviewee





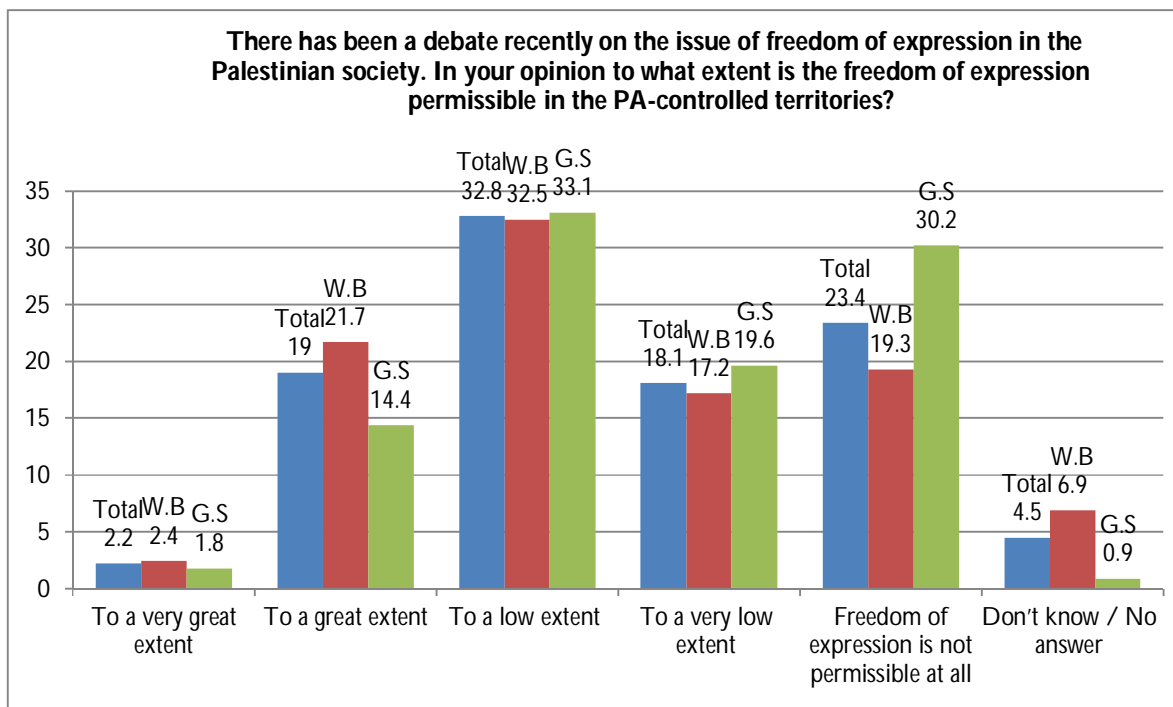
Q13. In general, how would you evaluate the performance of the PNA? Would you say its performance is very good, good, bad or very bad?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza
	n= 1200	n= 750	n=450
Very good	6.7	7.1	6.0
Good	44.1	48.3	37.1
Bad	27.4	24.7	32.0
Very bad	18.8	15.2	24.7
No answer	3.0	4.7	0.2



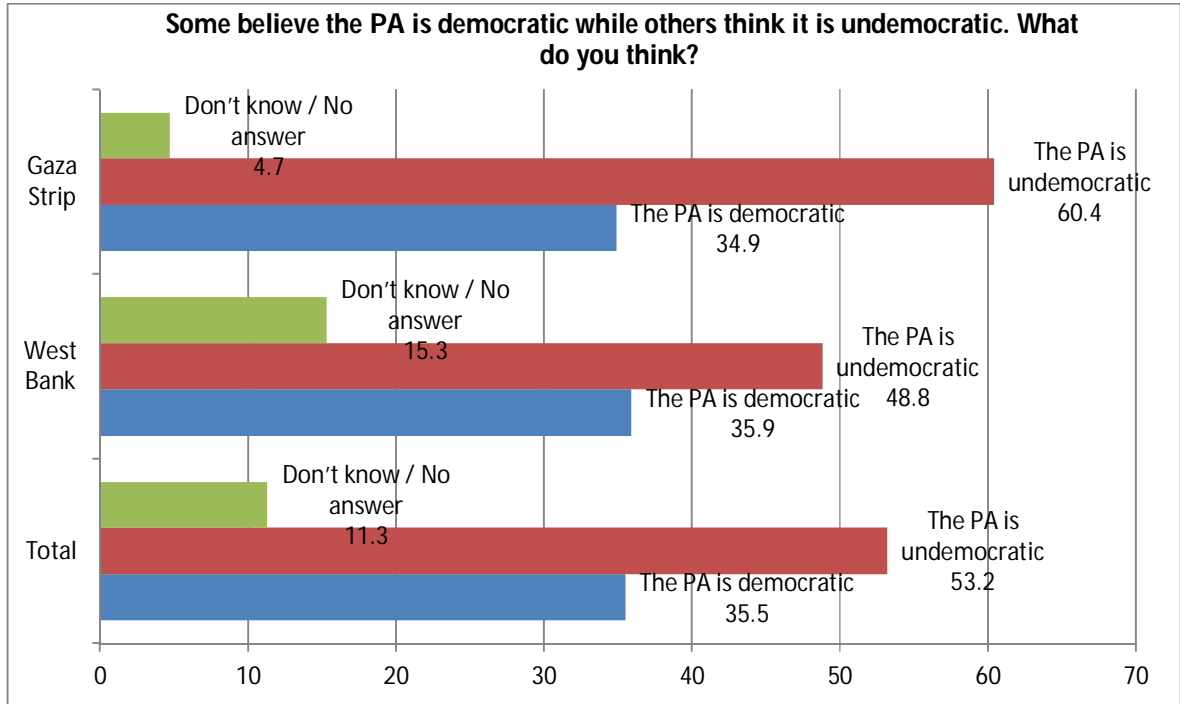
Q14. There has been a debate recently on the issue of freedom of expression in the Palestinian society. In your opinion to what extent is the freedom of expression permissible in the PA-controlled territories?

	Total n= 1200	West Bank n= 750	Gaza n=450
To a very great extent	2.2	2.4	1.8
To a great extent	19.0	21.7	14.4
To a low extent	32.8	32.5	33.1
To a very low extent	18.1	17.2	19.6
Freedom of expression is not permissible at all	23.4	19.3	30.2
Don't know \ no answer	4.5	6.9	0.9



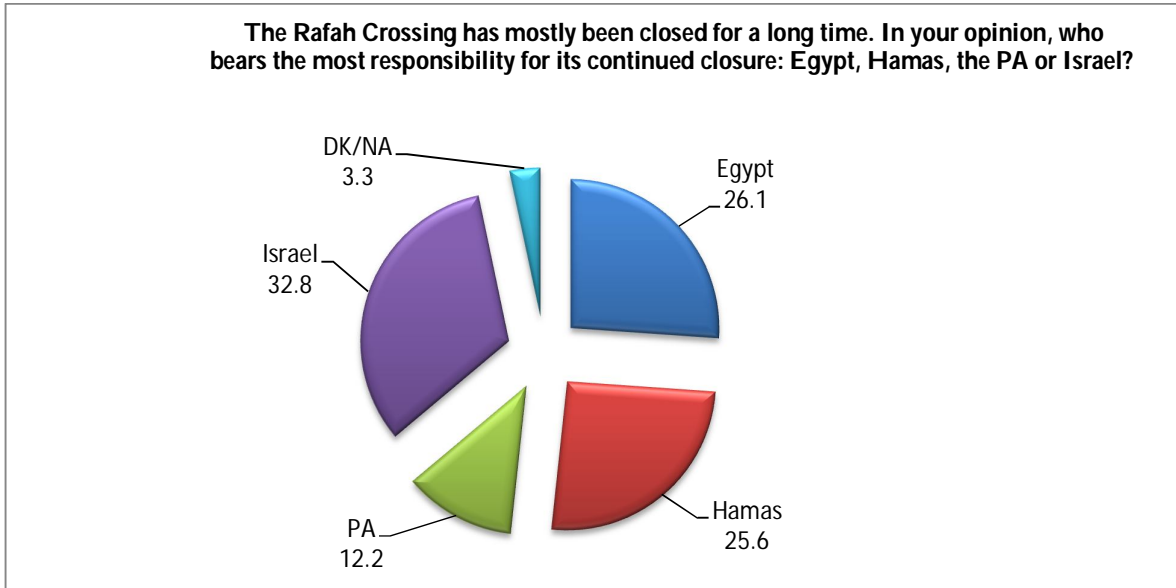
Q15. Some believe the PA is democratic while others think it is undemocratic. What do you think?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza
	n= 1200	n= 750	n=450
The PA is democratic	35.5	35.9	34.9
The PA is undemocratic	53.2	48.8	60.4
Don't know \ no answer	11.3	15.3	4.7



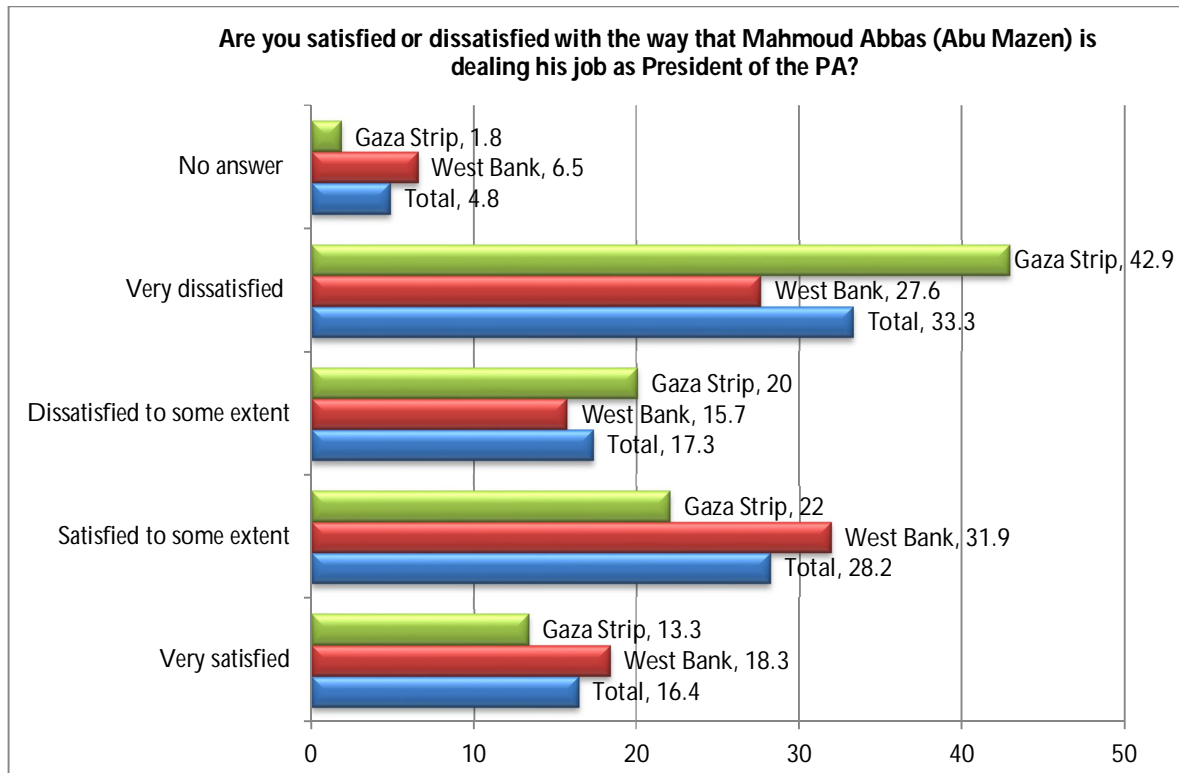
Q16. The Rafah Crossing has mostly been closed for a long time. In your opinion, who bears the most responsibility for its continued closure: Egypt, Hamas, the PA or Israel?

	Total n= 1200	West Bank n= 750	Gaza n=450
Egypt	26.1	25.9	26.4
Hamas	25.6	19.6	35.6
PA	12.2	10.8	14.4
Israel	32.8	40.1	20.7
Don't know \ no answer	3.3	3.6	2.9



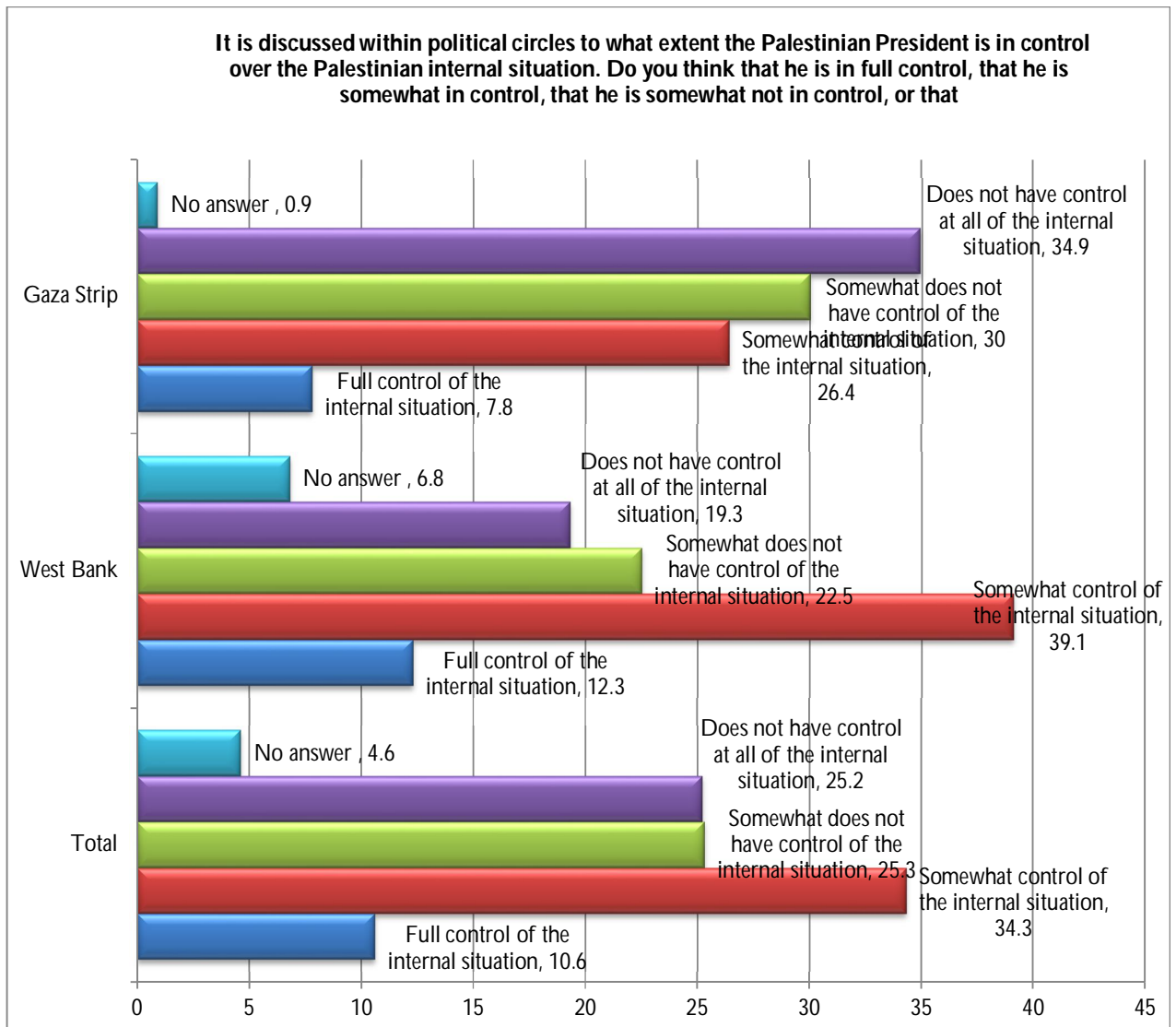
Q17. Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way that Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) is dealing his job as President of the PA?

	Total n= 1200	West Bank n= 750	Gaza n=450
Very satisfied	16.4	18.3	13.3
Satisfied to some extent	28.2	31.9	22.0
Dissatisfied to some extent	17.3	15.7	20.0
Very dissatisfied	33.3	27.6	42.9
No answer	4.8	6.5	1.8



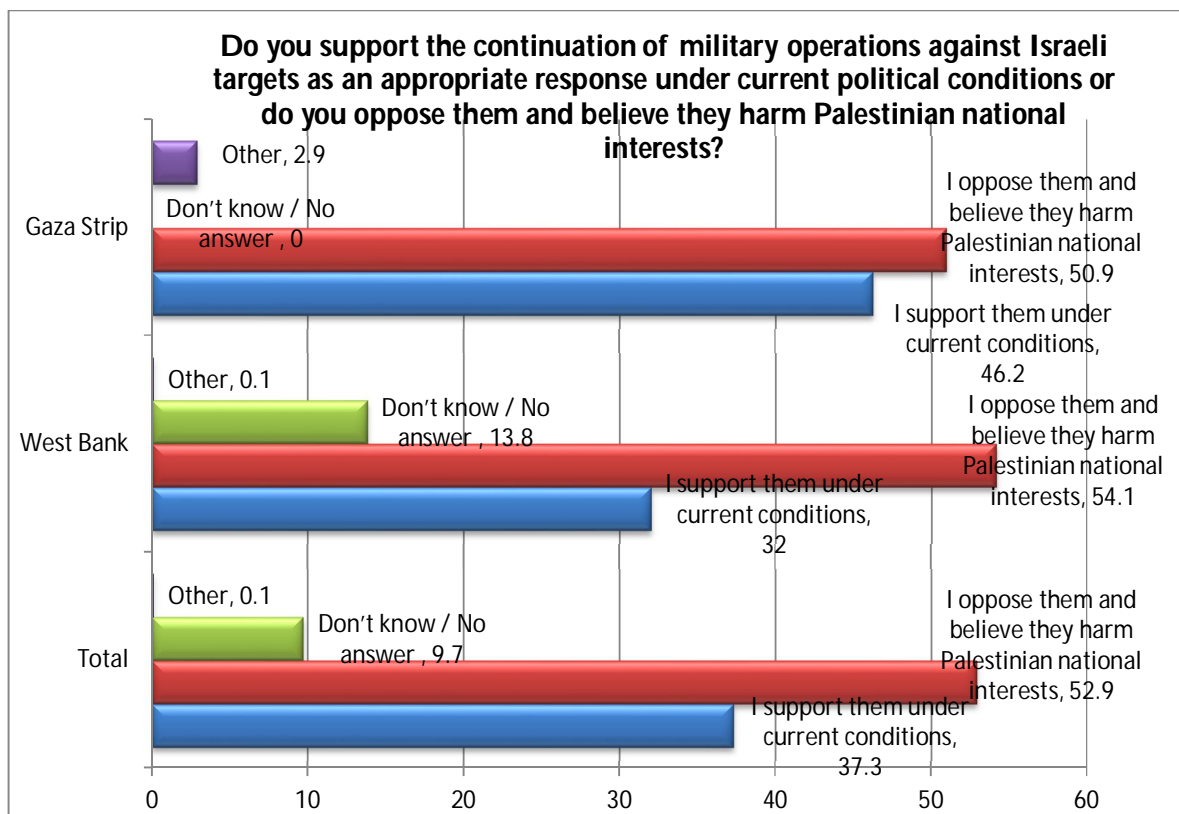
Q18. It is discussed within political circles to what extent the Palestinian President is in control over the Palestinian internal situation. Do you think that he is in full control, that he is somewhat in control, that he is somewhat not in control, or that he is not in control at all?

	Total n= 1200	West Bank n= 750	Gaza n=450
Full control of the internal situation	10.6	12.3	7.8
Somewhat control of the internal situation	34.3	39.1	26.4
Somewhat does not have control of the internal situation	25.3	22.5	30.0
Does not have control at all of the internal situation	25.2	19.3	34.9
No answer	4.6	6.8	0.9



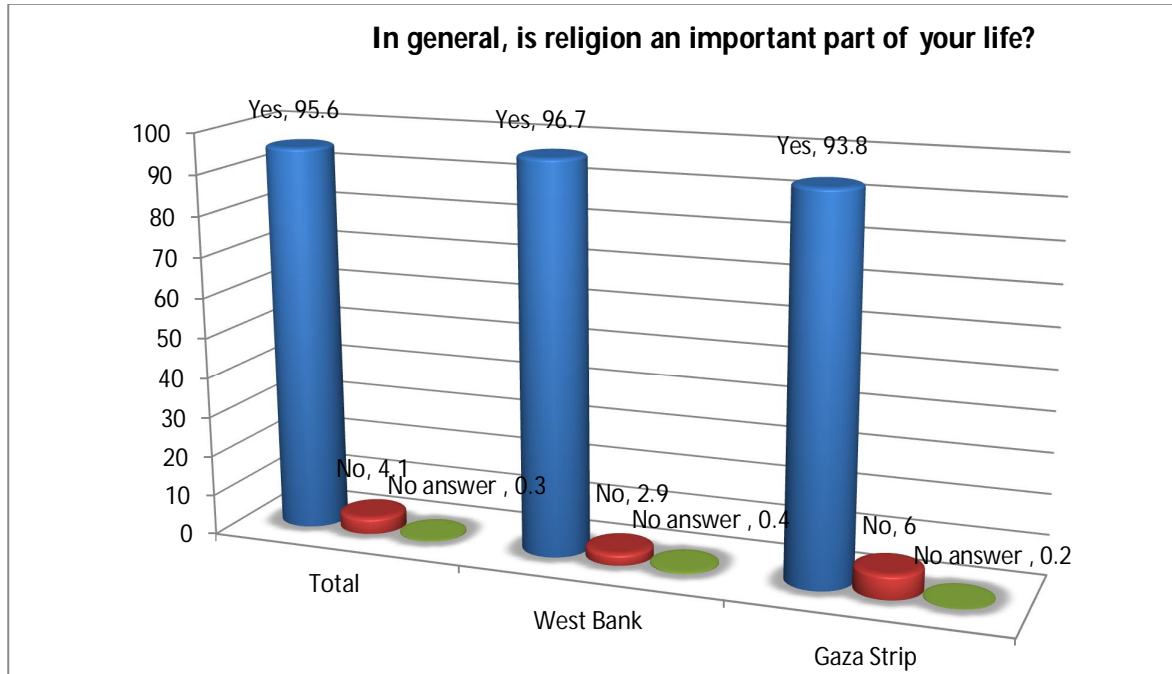
Q19. Do you support the continuation of military operations against Israeli targets as an appropriate response under current political conditions or do you oppose them and believe they harm Palestinian national interests?

	Total n= 1200	West Bank n= 750	Gaza n=450
I support them under current conditions	37.3	32.0	46.2
I oppose them and believe they harm Palestinian national interests	52.9	54.1	50.9
Other	0.1	0.1	0.0
Don't know \ no answer	9.7	13.8	2.9



Q20. In general, is religion an important part of your life?

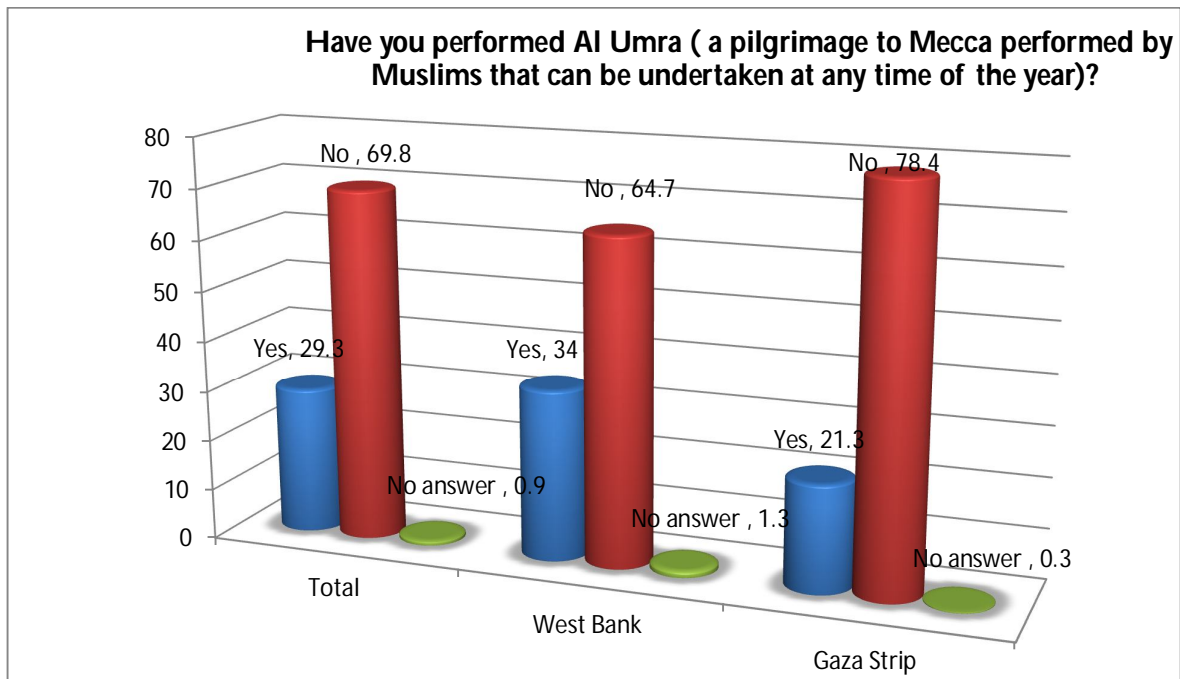
	Total	West Bank	Gaza
	<b>n= 1200</b>	<b>n= 750</b>	<b>n=450</b>
Yes	95.6	96.7	93.8
No	4.1	2.9	6.0
No answer	0.3	0.4	0.2





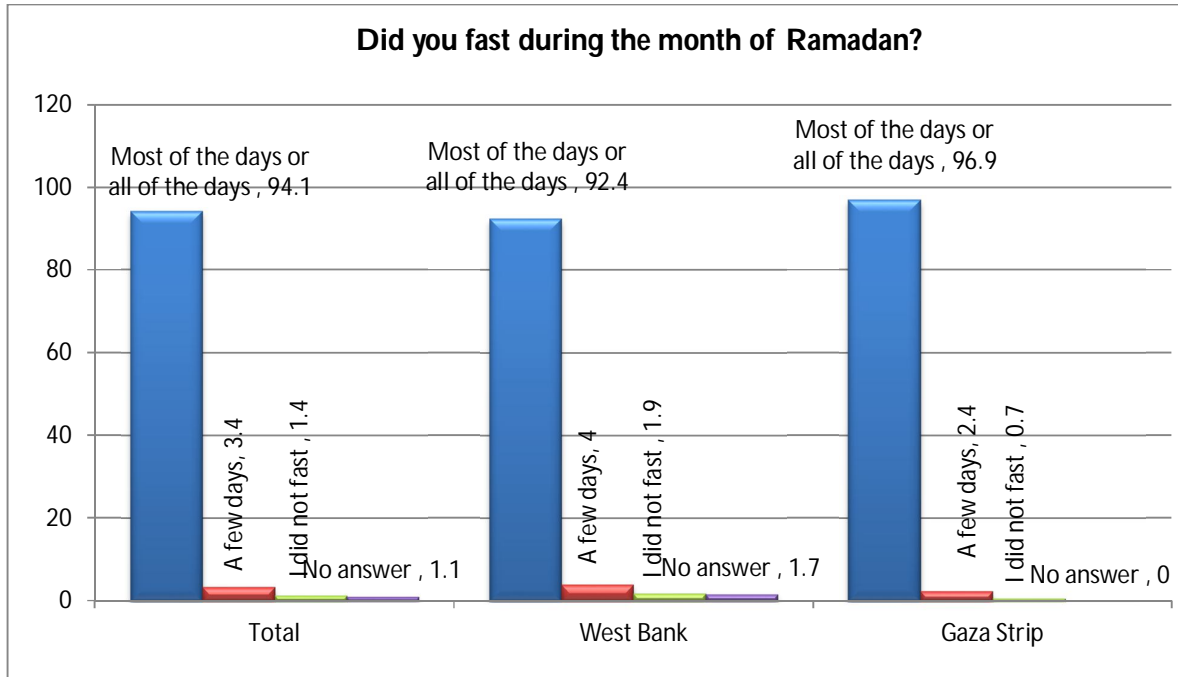
Q21. Have you performed Al Umra ( a pilgrimage to Mecca performed by Muslims that can be undertaken at any time of the year)?

	Total n= 1200	West Bank n= 750	Gaza n=450
Yes	29.3	34.0	21.3
No	69.8	64.7	78.4
No answer	0.9	1.3	0.3



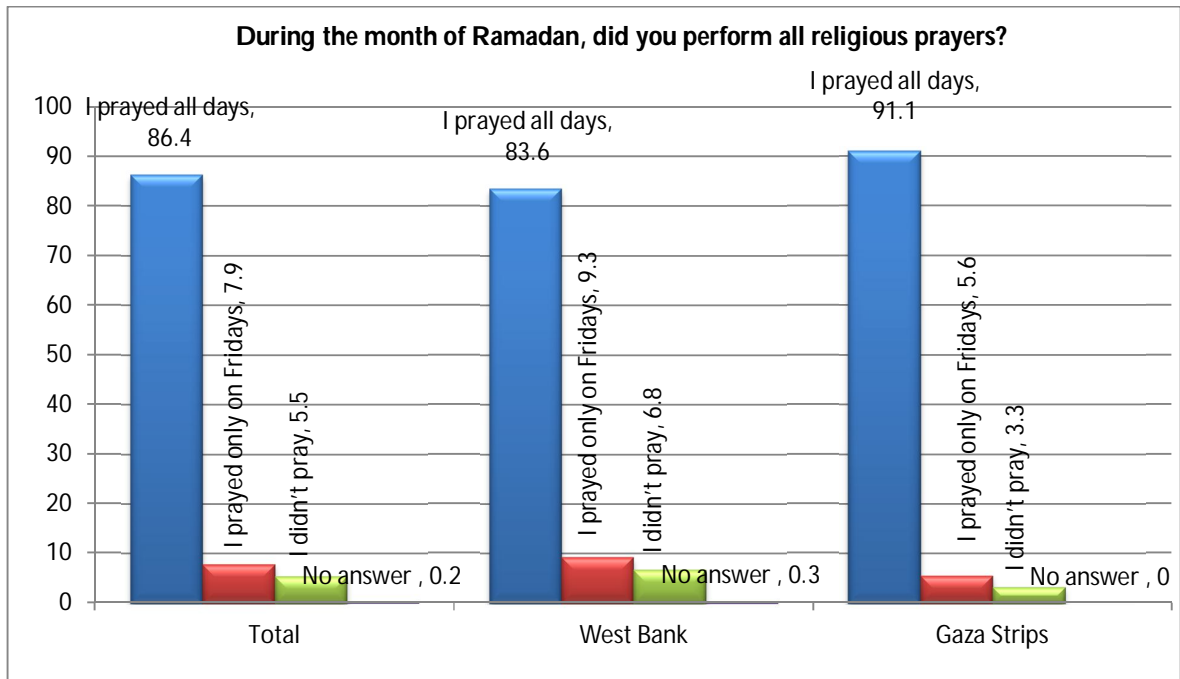
Q22. Did you fast during the month of Ramadan?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza
	n= 1200	n= 750	n=450
Most of the days or all of the days	94.1	92.4	96.9
A few days	3.4	4.0	2.4
I did not fast	1.4	1.9	0.7
No answer	1.1	1.7	0.0



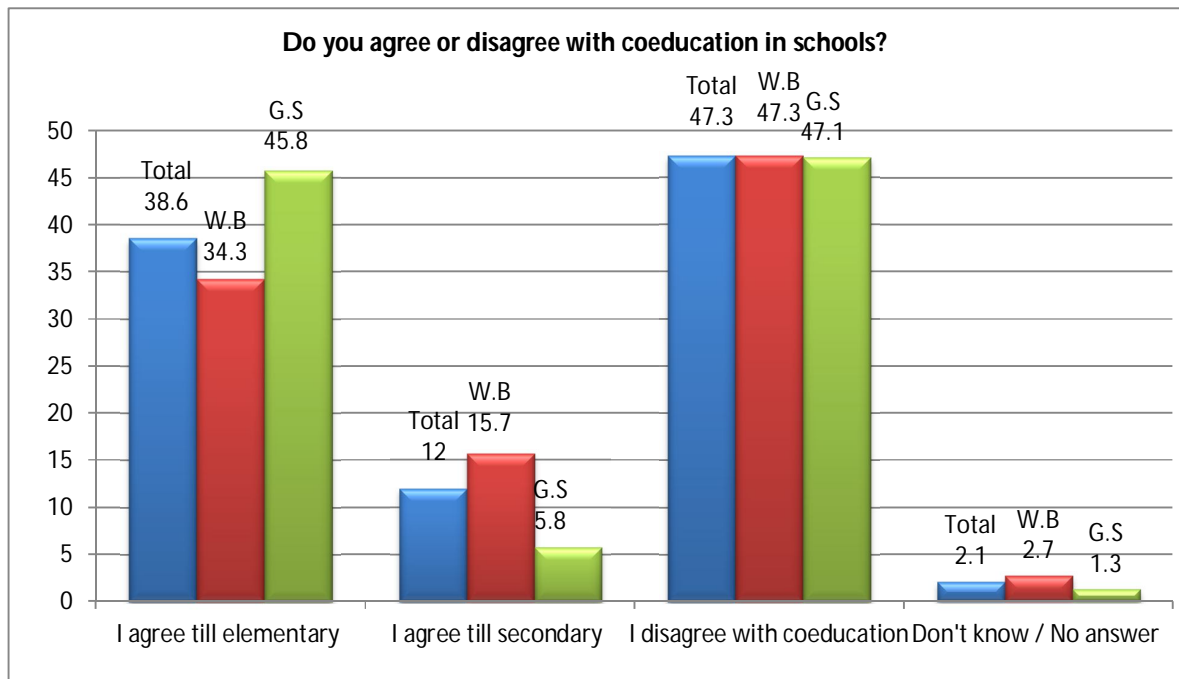
Q23. During the month of Ramadan, did you perform all religious prayers?

	Total n=1200	West Bank n= 750	Gaza n=450
I prayed all days	86.4	83.6	91.1
I prayed only on Fridays	7.9	9.3	5.6
I didn't pray	5.5	6.8	3.3
No answer	0.2	0.3	0.0



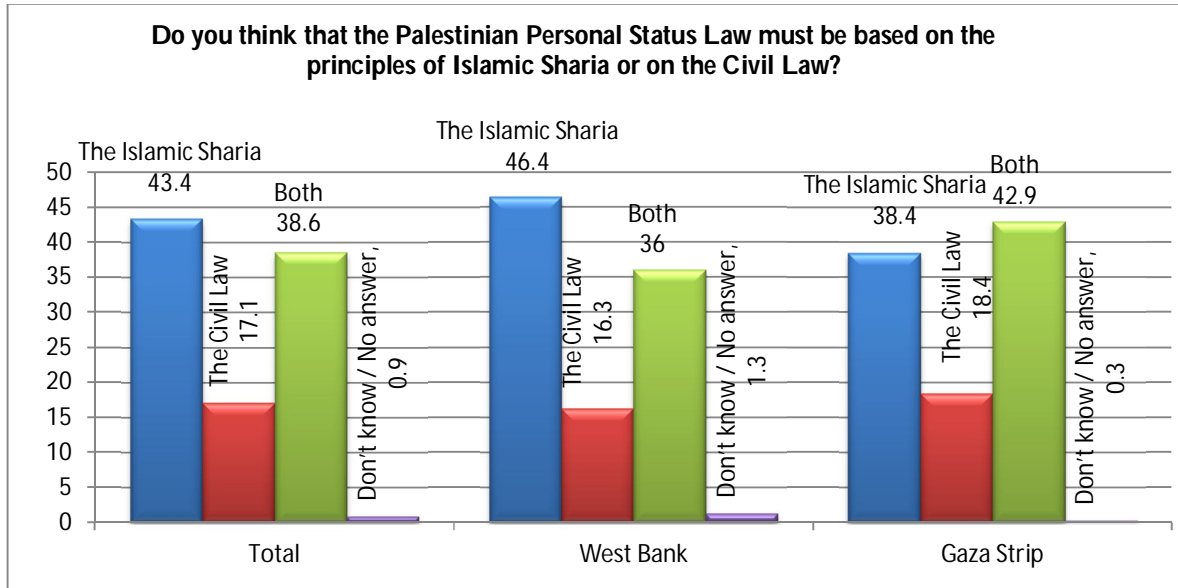
Q24. Do you agree or disagree with coeducation in schools?

	Total n= 1200	West Bank n= 750	Gaza n=450
I agree till elementary	38.6	34.3	45.8
I agree till secondary	12.0	15.7	5.8
I disagree with coeducation	47.3	47.3	47.1
Don't know \ no answer	2.1	2.7	1.3



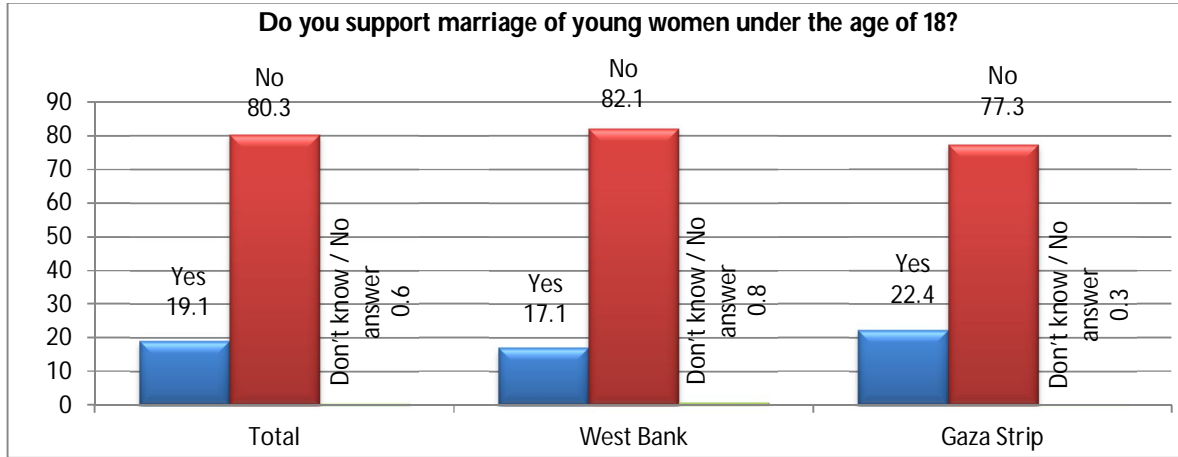
25. Do you think that the Palestinian Personal Status Law must be based on the principles of Islamic Sharia or on the Civil Law?

	Total n= 1200	West Bank n= 750	Gaza n=450
The Islamic Sharia	43.4	46.4	38.4
The Civil Law	17.1	16.3	18.4
Both	38.6	36.0	42.9
Don't know \ no answer	0.9	1.3	0.3



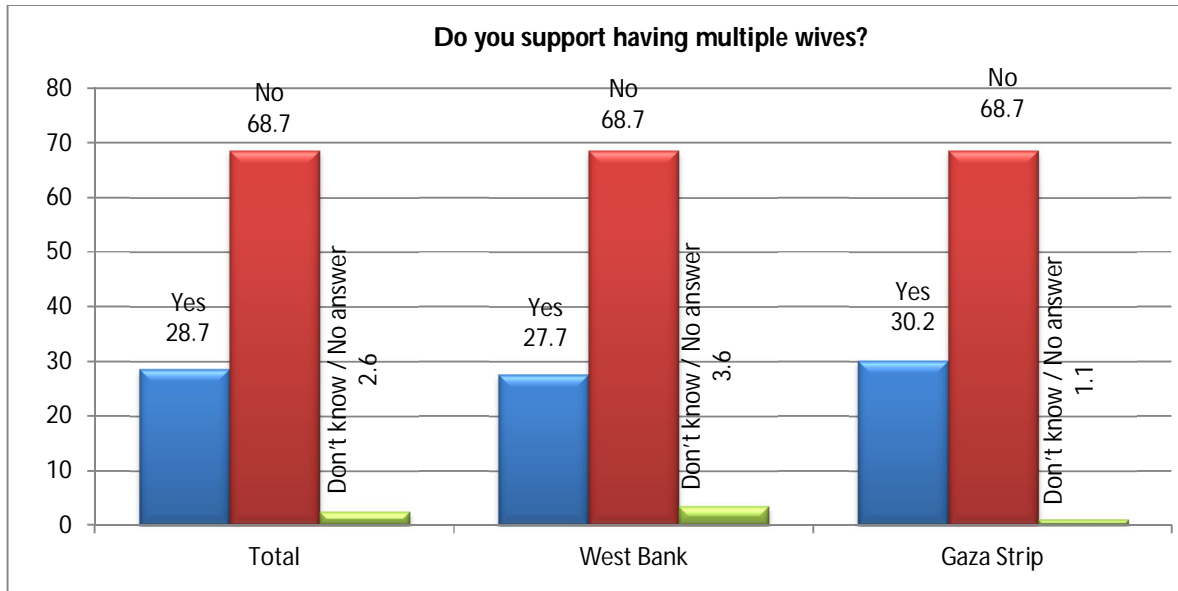
Q26. Do you support marriage of young women under the age of 18?

	Total n= 1200	West Bank n= 750	Gaza n=450
Yes	19.1	17.1	22.4
No	80.3	82.1	77.3
Don't know \ no answer	0.6	0.8	0.3



Q27. Do you support having multiple wives?

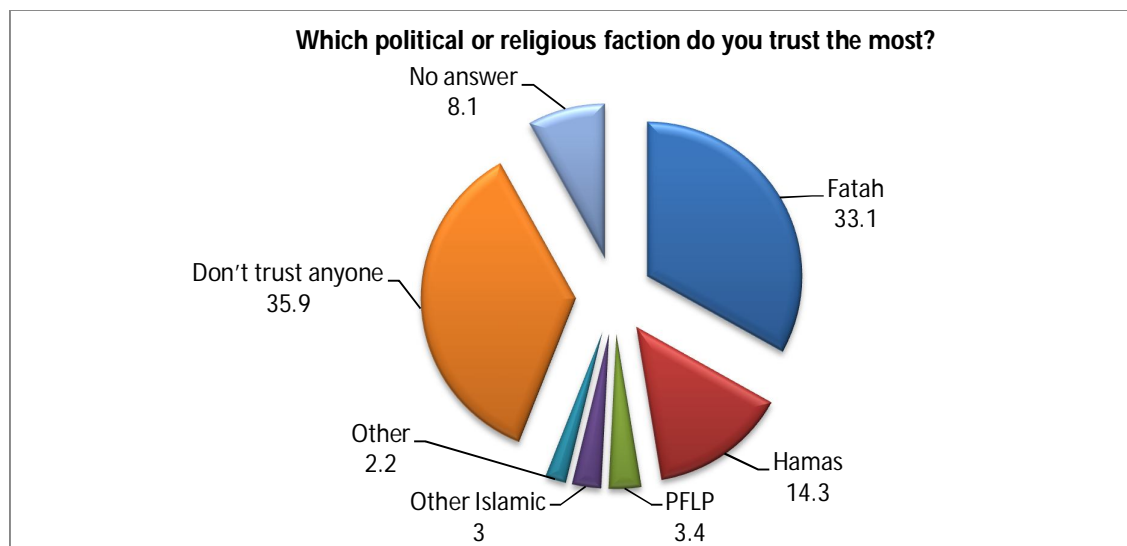
	Total n= 1200	West Bank n= 750	Gaza n=450
Yes	28.7	27.7	30.2
No	68.7	68.7	68.7
Don't know \ no answer	2.6	3.6	1.1



Q28. Which political or religious faction do you trust the most?

	Total n= 1200	West Bank n= 750	Gaza n=450
Fatah	33.1	32.4	34.2
Hamas	14.3	10.5	20.7
PFLP	3.4	3.5	3.3
Other Islamic factions	3.0	2.5	3.8
Others	2.2	2.7	1.3
Don't trust anyone	35.9	37.3	33.6
No answer	8.1	11.1	3.1

\*This was an open-ended question no options were read to the interviewee





Q29. Which Palestinian personality do you trust the most?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza
	n= 1200	n=750	n=450
Mahmoud Abbas ( Abu Mazen)	14.9	17.9	10.0
Marwan al-Barghouthi	9.3	7.7	11.8
Ismail Haniyeh	8.8	5.3	14.4
Mohammed Dahlan	4.7	1.3	10.2
Khaled Mish'al	3.8	3.5	4.2
Others	13.3	12.5	14.7
Don't trust anyone	35.9	39.1	30.7
No answer	9.3	12.7	4.0

\*This was an open-ended question no options were read to the interviewee

