



Jerusalem Office
Tel.: +972-2-532 83 98
Fax: +972-2-581 96 65
Email: info@fespal.org
Web: www.fespal.org



POBox: 25047 Jerusalem
Tel: 02-2976555
Fax: 02-2976557
Email: poll@jmcc.org
Website: www.jmcc.org

Poll no. 72_October 2010

A public opinion poll conducted by the Jerusalem Media & Communications Centre

A majority of Palestinians rejects negotiations under settlement expansion

A majority says President Abbas is in control of the internal conditions

Popularity of the parties and figures remains stable; Diverging opinions over what constitutes the most important issue concerning Palestinians

Security performance improves; Rise in favoritism and personal connections in public services and government post appointments

Ramallah – (Jerusalem Media and Communications Centre JMCC) – The most recent public opinion poll conducted by the JMCC showed that a majority of Palestinians (62.2%) only support the PLO in resuming peace negotiations if Israel were to halt settlement expansion. Some 20.9% said the PLO had to resume negotiations in all cases while 9.4% of respondents said the PLO should not resume negotiations at all.

When asked about President Mahmoud Abbas' control over Palestinian internal conditions, a majority (52.8%) said that President Abbas was in total control or in control to some extent while 41.4% said President Abbas was not in control to some extent or had no control whatsoever over Palestinian internal conditions. The poll shows major differences in opinion on this matter as a ratio of 62% of respondents in the West Bank said President Abbas was in full control or was somewhat in control over internal conditions compared to 37.3% in Gaza. 58.4% of respondents in Gaza said the president did not have control at all or somewhat did not have control over internal conditions compared to 31.2% in the West Bank.

The poll, which was conducted in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip on a random sample of 1,200 persons with a margin of error of +/- 3%, showed that there is no change in confidence level of Palestinians in Palestinian public figures; President Abbas remains the most trusted figure gaining the support of 18.9% of respondents followed by Ismail Haniyeh who enjoys the trust of 9.7% of respondents. Marwan Barghouti came in third with a confidence ratio of 6.2%

followed by Salam Fayyad who enjoys the confidence of 5.6%. A ratio of 39.1% said they do not trust any one.

With regard to political factions, results indicate that Fatah movement enjoys the highest degree of public trust with 35.3%, followed in popularity by Hamas movement with 13.3%. The PFLP came in third with 3.3%, followed by Islamic Jihad with 1.5%. A ratio of 37.3% of the respondents said they did not trust any faction.

Asked to select the issue of highest importance for the Palestinian people, 22.4% of respondents said the economic situation was the most important issue, while 18% said the internal split between the factions was the issue that most concerned them. A ratio of 15.5% named the occupation as the most important issue, while 9.4% of respondents said the siege on Gaza was the most important issue, followed by the issue of settlements listed first by 6.6% and the question of Jerusalem rated most important by 4.9% of participants.

Respondents' opinions varied between the West Bank and Gaza Strip on the most important issue concerning the Palestinian people. Nearly 28 percent (27.6%) of respondents in the West Bank said the economic situation was the most important issue while 29.8% of Gazan respondents said the internal split was the most important issue. Conversely, a ratio of 10.9% of respondents in the West Bank said the internal split was the most important issue compared with 13.8% of respondents in Gaza who said the economic situation was the most important issue.

The PNA Performance

The poll also found respondents to be divided over their level of satisfaction with the Palestinian National Authority's performance. 49.7% of respondents said they are very satisfied or somewhat satisfied compared with 47.5% who said they were somewhat dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with the PNA's performance.

When comparing responses with respect to different issues of government performance between March 2007 and October 2010, poll results indicate notable improvement in evaluation of security services. The ratio of respondents who believed that the performance of the security services had improved rose from 17.4% in March 2007 to 23.3% in October 2010, while those who believed the performance to be bad declined from 47.9% to 22.3% during the same period.

Evaluation of the performance of the Interior Ministry showed the same trend: those who believe that its performance is good rose from 25.7% to 33.6% and the percentage of respondents who believe that its performance is bad went down from 27.2% to 12.4%.

The same trend can be observed with regard to the Ministry for Social Affairs. The number of responses affirming its performance to be good increased from 22% to 28%; the ratio of respondents who believed that the Department for Traffic and Registration improved its performance rose from 21% to 24.3% during the same period.

On the other hand, the general public regarded the performance of some government institutions to have regressed during the same period; the ratio of those who believe that the performance of the education apparatus was good decreased from 39.1% to 36.8%.

The percentage of those who believed that the performance of Palestine Official TV Station was bad went down from 29.9% to 17.3%. The percentage of respondents who believed that the performance of Voice of Palestine was bad also decreased from 27.6% to 16.9%.

Corruption and Favoritism

The poll showed that the percentage of respondents who believe that there is corruption in the PNA decreased from 87.3% in March 2007 to 75.3% in October 2010. On the other hand, the percentage of Palestinians who think that favoritism and personal connections influence employment in government services increased from 50.7% in March 2007 to 71.6% in October 2010. The ratio of Palestinians who believed that there was favoritism in government post appointments to a large or medium extent rose from 52.9% in March 2007 to 69.4% in October of this year.

The Economic Situation

The majority of respondents (71.9%) said the economic conditions in the Palestinian Territories were bad or very bad compared with 26.4% who said that the economic conditions were good or very good. Moreover, a majority (52.5%) said economic conditions were expected to deteriorate even more compared with a ratio of 35.8% who expected economic conditions to improve.

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 24th and 28th October 2010. 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:** Taffuh, Dura, Yatta, As Samu', Bani Na'im, Sa'ir, Surif, Hebron, Deir Samit, Tarumiya, Halhul, Khursa, Imreish, Al Fawwar Refugee Camp. **Jenin:** Jenin, Silat al Harithiya, Jaba', Al Mughayyir, Anza, Az Zababida, Jenin Refugee Camp. **Tubas:** Tubas, Tayaseer. **Ramallah & Al-Bireh:** Ramallah, Al Bireh, Beituniya, Beit 'Ur at tahta, Beit Sira, Deir Jarir, Beit Rima, Qibya, Al Amari Refugee Camp. **Jericho:** Jericho, An Nuwei'ma. **Jerusalem:** Al-Ram, Al- Dahyeh, Biddo, Beit Ikssa, Beit Hanina, Shu'fat, Old City, Silwan, Ras Al-Amoud, Shu'fat Refugee Camp. **Bethlehem:** Ad Doha, Za'tara, Bethlehem, Al Khader, Tkou', Dheisheh Refugee Camp. **Nablus:** Huwwara, Nablus, Qusra, As Sawiya, Awarta, Beit Wazan, Askar Refugee Camp. **Salfit:** Salfit, Qira **Tulkarem:** Tulkarem, Deir al Ghussun, Bal'a, Shufa, Far'un. **Qalqiliya:** Qalqiliya, Jayyous.

In the **Gaza Strip** 450 people were surveyed from: **Gaza:** Al-Rimal a-Shamali, a-Rimal a-Janoubi, a-Zeitoun, a-Shuja'ia, a-Tufah, a-Daraj, a-Naser, a-Sheikh Radwan, a-Sheikh Ejleen, Tal Al-Hawa, Al-Mughraga, Shati RC. **Khan Younis:** Khan Younis, Absan Al-Kabira, 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, Al-Brej, Al-Zawaydeh, Al-Nusseirat, Al-Maghazi Refugee Camp, Al-Brej Refugee Camp, Deir Al-Balah Refugee Camp.

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

Sample Distribution

52.1% of respondents were from the West Bank, 10.4% from Jerusalem, 37.5% from the Gaza Strip.

16.3% said they live in villages, 8.7% in refugee camps and 75.0% in towns/cities.

49.3% were male, 50.7% were female.

68.8% were married, 24.1%, single, 3.6% widowed, 1.0% divorced, 2.5% no answer.

The average age of the respondents was 36 years.

Occupation of Respondents

- Students 13.3%
- Laborers 10.5%
- Housewives 35.3%
- Farmers / fishermen 2.1%
- Craftsmen 0.6%
- Businessmen / private business 6.3%
- Public Sector Employees 12.0%
- Private Sector Employees 6.3%
- Professionals (e.g. doctors / lawyers / pharmacists / engineers) 0.8%
- Unemployed 10.0%
- Retired 1.9%
- No answer 0.9%

Results:

Q1. How proud are you to be Palestinian? Would you say you are?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza
	n= 1200	n= 750	n= 450
Very proud	68.7	68.4	69.1
Proud	27.5	27.6	27.3
Not proud	1.3	0.9	2.0
Not proud at all	2.0	2.3	1.6
I don't know \ No answer	0.5	0.8	0.0

Q2. In general, do you think things in the Occupied Palestinian Territory are going in the right direction these days, or that they are going in the wrong direction?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza
	n= 1200	n= 750	n= 450
Right direction	28.5	32.8	21.3
Wrong direction	62.7	55.7	74.2
I don't know \ No answer	8.8	11.5	4.5

Q3. How would you describe the state of the economy in the Occupied Palestinian Territory these days?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza
	n= 1200	n= 750	n= 450
Very good	3.9	5.1	2.0
Good	22.5	26.0	16.7
Bad	34.1	33.2	35.6
Very bad	37.8	33.3	45.3
I don't know \ No answer	1.7	2.4	0.4

Q4. Do you think the general economic condition of the country will improve, or get worse over the next 12 months?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza
	n= 1200	n= 750	n= 450
Will improve	35.8	38.5	31.3
Will get worse	52.5	49.2	58.0
I don't know \ No answer	11.7	12.3	10.7

Q5. Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way the Palestinian National Authority is running the Occupied Palestinian Territory?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza
	n= 1200	n= 750	n= 450
Very satisfied	11.8	12.0	11.3
Somewhat satisfied	37.9	39.9	34.7
Somewhat dissatisfied	28.8	26.5	32.7
Very dissatisfied	18.7	17.9	20.0
No answer	2.8	3.7	1.3

Q6. To what extent do you think the Palestinian National Authority provides enough information about its work and services to the Palestinian citizens?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza
	n= 1200	n= 750	n= 450
To a great deal	8.6	8.8	8.2
Fair amount	35.2	38.8	29.1
Not very much	51.2	46.8	58.4
I don't know \ No answer	5.0	5.6	4.3

Q7. Under the present government, to what extent do you perceive the presence of nepotism in providing public services?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza
	n= 1200	n= 750	n=450
To a great extent	41.4	39.2	45.1
To an average extent	30.2	33.5	24.7
To a low extent	16.8	16.3	17.6
No nepotism at all	6.0	5.2	7.3
I don't know \ No answer	5.6	5.8	5.3

Q8. Under the present government, to what extent do you perceive the presence of nepotism in governmental appointments?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza
	n= 1200	n= 750	n=450
To a great extent	44.1	42.3	47.1
To an average extent	25.3	28.0	20.9
To a low extent	18.8	18.8	18.7
No nepotism at all	5.9	4.8	7.8
I don't know \ No answer	5.9	6.1	5.5

Q9. To what extent do you think the present government is being transparent in handling financial issues?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza
	n= 1200	n= 750	n=450
To a very high degree	8.6	7.3	10.7
High degree	13.6	15.7	10.0
Average	25.3	27.9	21.1
Low degree	23.8	24.1	23.1
Very low degree	20.4	15.7	28.2
I don't know \ No answer	8.3	9.3	6.9

Q10. To what extent is the government fair and just in collecting taxes and other fees?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza
	n= 1200	n= 750	n=450
To a great extent	12.1	8.3	18.4
To an average extent	35.4	39.6	28.4
To a low extent	41.8	39.6	45.3
I don't know \ No answer	10.7	12.5	7.9

Q11. 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	West Bank	Gaza
	n= 1200	n= 750	n=450
Full control of the internal situation	13.3	17.5	6.2
Somewhat control of the internal situation	39.5	44.5	31.1
Somewhat does not have control of the internal situation	25.8	22.0	32.2
Does not have control at all of the internal situation	15.6	9.2	26.2
No answer	5.8	6.8	4.3

Q12. How do you evaluate the performance of the following Palestinian Authority intitutions?

1- Prime Minster (Dr. Salam Fayyad)	Total n= 1200	West Bank n= 750	Gaza n=450
Good	37.7	42.5	29.6
Average	37.8	36.4	40.0
Bad	19.7	14.5	28.2
No answer	4.8	6.6	2.2

2- Security agencies	Total n= 1200	West Bank n= 750	Gaza n=450
Good	23.3	28.7	14.2
Average	49.5	48.3	51.6
Bad	22.3	17.3	30.4
No answer	4.9	5.7	3.8

3- Legislative council	Total n= 1200	West Bank n= 750	Gaza n=450
Good	14.3	16.1	11.3
Average	44.4	44.7	44.0
Bad	33.0	29.7	38.4
No answer	8.3	9.5	6.3

4- Council of Ministers (Executive Authority)	Total n= 1200	West Bank n= 750	Gaza n=450
Good	19.9	23.2	14.4
Average	45.1	45.7	44.0
Bad	26.0	20.1	35.8
No answer	9.0	11.0	5.8

5- Palestinian education system	Total n= 1200	West Bank n= 750	Gaza n=450
Good	36.8	42.4	27.6
Average	48.8	47.1	51.6
Bad	12.9	8.7	20.0
No answer	1.5	1.8	0.8

6- Palestinian health system	Total n= 1200	West Bank n= 750	Gaza n=450
Good	30.5	34.0	24.7
Average	50.5	49.7	51.8
Bad	17.2	14.1	22.2
No answer	1.8	2.2	1.3

7- Palestinian television	Total n= 1200	West Bank n= 750	Gaza n=450
Good	30.7	38.4	17.8
Average	48.4	47.5	50.0
Bad	17.3	9.7	29.8
No answer	3.6	4.4	2.4

8- Palestinian radio	Total n= 1200	West Bank n= 750	Gaza n=450
Good	29.9	36.1	19.6
Average	46.2	45.7	46.9
Bad	16.9	10.0	28.4
No answer	7.0	8.2	5.1

9- Ministry of Interior (passports, ID cards, other documents)	Total n= 1200	West Bank n= 750	Gaza n=450
Good	33.6	40.7	21.8
Average	48.6	45.9	53.1
Bad	12.4	6.9	21.6
No answer	5.4	6.5	3.5

10- Ministry of Social Affairs	Total n= 1200	West Bank n= 750	Gaza n=450
Good	28.0	27.9	28.2
Average	51.0	51.3	50.4
Bad	15.7	13.7	18.9
No answer	5.3	7.1	2.5

11- Department of Traffic and Registration	Total n= 1200	West Bank n= 750	Gaza n=450
Good	24.3	29.7	15.1
Average	49.8	48.3	52.4
Bad	16.2	10.3	26.0
No answer	9.7	11.7	6.5

Q13. Some believe that a two-state formula is the favored solution for the Arab-Israeli conflict, while others believe that historical Palestine cannot be divided and thus the favored solution is a bi-national state covering all of historical Palestine, where Palestinians and Israelis enjoy equal representation and rights. Which of these solutions do you prefer?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza
	n= 1200	n= 750	n= 450
Two-state solution: an Israeli and a Palestinian State	51.8	56.1	44.7
Bi-national state covering all of historical Palestine	28.4	26.5	31.6
Palestinian State *	9.5	8.0	12.0
Islamic State *	1.7	0.9	2.9
Others	0.5	0.4	0.7
No solution	5.4	4.9	6.2
I don't know	1.7	2.1	0.9
No answer	1.0	1.1	1.0

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

Q14. To what extent do you support the Arab Peace Initiative? Do you strongly support it, somewhat support it, somewhat oppose it, or strongly oppose it?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza
	n= 1200	n= 750	n=450
Strongly support it	20.5	20.9	19.8
Somewhat support it	43.7	46.3	39.3
Somewhat oppose it	14.2	12.0	18.0
Strongly oppose it	14.8	12.8	18.0
I don't know	6.3	7.6	4.2
No answer	0.5	0.4	0.7

Q15. Under the current political conditions, do you believe that the PLO must resume negotiations with Israel only if Israel halts settlement expansion or should the PLO resume negotiations in all cases?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza
	n= 1200	n= 750	n=450
The PLO must resume negotiations with Israel only if Israel halts settlement expansion	62.2	62.9	60.9
The PLO has to resume negotiations with Israel in all cases	20.9	22.9	17.6
No negotiations *	9.4	5.7	15.6
Others	0.5	0.7	0.2
I don't know	6.0	6.9	4.4
No answer	1.0	0.9	1.3

* This answer was not included as part of the options read to the interviewee

Q16. Which political or religious faction do you trust the most?*

	Total	West Bank	Gaza
	n= 1200	n= 750	n= 450
Fatah	35.3	37.6	31.6
Hamas	13.3	10.4	18.0
PFLP	3.3	2.9	3.8
Islamic Jihad	1.5	0.7	2.9
Palestinian National Initiative	0.9	1.5	0.0
PPP	0.7	0.9	0.2
DFLP	0.5	0.4	0.7
Other Islamic factions	2.3	0.8	4.9
Others	0.6	0.9	0.0
I don't trust any faction	37.3	38.1	35.8
No answer	4.3	5.8	2.1

*** This is an open-ended question; no options were read to the interviewee**

Q17. Which Palestinian personality do you trust the most?*

	Total	West Bank	Gaza
	n= 1200	n= 750	n= 450
Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen)	18.9	19.7	17.6
Ismail Haniyeh	9.7	6.5	14.9
Marwan Barghouti	6.2	6.8	5.1
Salam Fayyad	5.6	6.8	3.6
Ahmad Sa'adat	2.3	2.0	2.7
Mustafa Barghouti	2.0	2.7	0.9
Yasser Arafat	1.8	0.9	3.3
Mohammad Dahlan	1.8	0.3	4.4
Khaled Mish'al	1.3	1.5	1.1
Mahmoud Al-Zahar	1.1	1.1	1.1
Others	5.2	4.8	5.8
Don't trust any one	39.1	40.4	36.9
No answer	5.0	6.5	2.6

*** This is an open-ended question; no options were read to the interviewee**