



Development Studies Programme

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Latest Opinion Poll

For more details, please visit our web-site:

<http://home.birzeit.edu/dsp>

1. Decline of the Middle Class

1. 28 % of the respondents report that their families have totally lost their source of income as a result of Israeli measures; 56% report a partial loss of income.
2. 42 % declare that the monthly income for their families does not exceed 700 New Israeli Shekels (i.e., less than \$ 150). In total, over 78% state that the monthly income of their families does not surpass \$300.
3. 56% of those surveyed say they knew of families in their neighborhood who cannot supply basic subsistence food for their members.

2. Community Solidarity has Increased Amidst Weak Rule of Law

4. 75% believe there is an increase in cooperation between neighbors and 69% believe people in the same town are helping each other more.
5. In contrast, 75% believe problems between people are increasing; 72% declare that people are not following the laws.
6. The respondents perceive unemployment, poverty, and corruption to be the most important social problems facing Palestinian society.
7. 26% of respondents say they would immigrate if they had a chance to do so. These percentages were higher for young males.

3. PNA Institutional Reforming Remains a Priority

8. 81% believe that reforming PNA institutions is a pressing matter.
9. 74% believe properly implemented reforms would benefit the Palestinian cause.
10. 57% of those surveyed support the creation of a new Prime Ministerial position.

4. The Intifada is Controversial

11. Two years after its inception, 63% express dissatisfaction with the way the Intifada is proceeding. This is a 17% increase from last year.
12. 46% express optimism that the Intifada will achieve positive results for the Palestinian cause. In contrast, 32% are pessimistic, and 18% are unsure if it will have positive or negative results.

5. Split over Attacks on Israeli Civilians

13. 49% of those surveyed believe attacks against Israeli civilians had no impact or had a negative impact on the Palestinian cause. In contrast, 46% believe that these attacks had a positive impact.
14. In the West Bank, the percentage of those who feel the attacks had no impact or had a negative impact reached 54%, compared with 39% in Gaza.
15. Only 39% of West Bank respondents feel that such attacks had a positive impact, compared with 56% in Gaza.

6. The Majority Still Supports Elections

16. 58% of those surveyed are supportive of legislative elections even if the present conditions remain the same. 33% are not.
17. A majority of 72% are supportive of municipal and village councils even if the present conditions remain the same.
18. 65% intend to participate in the legislative elections if they are carried out. This is an 11% decline from last August.

7. PNA - Hamas Responsibility

19. 45% say that both the PNA and Hamas should be held responsible for the Gaza clashes that broke out on October 6.
20. 26% hold the PNA fully responsible. Only 7% consider Hamas fully responsible.
21. 75% of respondents believe the PNA has the right to take all necessary measures to maintain the rule-of-law in PNA-controlled territories.

8. Mixed Support for U.S. Initiative (Road Map)

22. 47% say they heard about the American "Road Map" plan. 53% have not received any information on the proposed plan.
23. 14% of respondents oppose the plan, 22% support it. The majority (63%) agrees with some points and disagrees with others.
24. 77% support the idea of advanced stage negotiations on final-status issues at an international conference (e.g., settlements, refugees, borders, and Jerusalem).

9. Pessimism regarding war in Iraq

25. 48% of the Palestinians surveyed believe the USA will launch an attack on Iraq. In contrast, 20% believe that it will not, and 24% are not sure.

26. If a war took place, 31% believe that the number of casualties will amount to thousands, 19% believe that the victims will be in the tens of thousands and 25% believe that numbers will reach the hundreds of thousands.