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Results of Palestinian Public Opinion Poll
No. 39
22- 24 October 2009

Background

In view of deferring action on the report compiled by Richard Goldstone regarding war on the Gaza Strip, resubmitting it to the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva and endorsing it, the Palestinian scene witnessed different public and official reactions towards the PA's handling of the report. The UN Human Rights Council Report was the main factor in escalating the war of words between the poles of the Palestinian political system.

Time again and after raising the expectations of the Palestinian public to an imminent national reconciliation agreement following several rounds of talks, a national reconciliation agreement has not been signed by some Palestinian factions including Hamas; most Palestinian factions who are members of the PLO, signed it

On another scale, some Palestinian resources revealed President Mahmoud Abbas's intention to issue a presidential decree in which he will assign a date for Palestinian Presidential and Legislative elections as it is a constitutional demand whether a reconciliation is achieved or not.

The Results

Following are the results of the Palestinian Public Opinion Poll no. 39 conducted by the Center for Opinion Polls and Survey Studies at An-Najah National University during the period from 22-24 October 2009. **The University sponsors all polls conducted by its Center.**

Palestinian Public Opinion Poll no. 39 undertakes the national reconciliation, the Goldstone Report to the UN Human Rights Council, the performance of the governments of Salam Fayyad and Ismail Haniyeh in addition to political affiliations and other issues.

The sample included 1360 persons whose age group is 18 and above and who have the right to vote. The enclosed questionnaire was distributed on 860 persons from the West Bank and 500 persons from the Gaza Strip. The sample was drawn randomly and the margin of error is about $\pm 3\%$; still 3.7% of the members of the sample refused to answer the questionnaire.

The opinions represented in the results reflect those of the study; they do not, by any means, represent the opinion of An-Najah National University.



The General Results:

- 40.8% of respondents saw that the one responsible for deferring the signing of a reconciliation agreement is Hamas; 22.4% saw that it is Fateh.
- 65.4% of respondents believed that some Arab countries are endeavoring to drive away the possibility of reaching a Palestinian reconciliation agreement.
- 39.6% of respondents believed that Hamas is the Palestinian party that reaps an advantage of not signing a reconciliation agreement; 24.7% believed that it is Fateh who reaps the advantage.
- 21.7% of respondents believed that Fateh is not really concerned with signing the Palestinian reconciliation agreement; 46% said it is Hamas who is not concerned.
- 37.4% of respondents said that they are not optimistic of signing a reconciliation agreement in the near future.
- 46.8% of respondents believed that the sides of the Palestinian dialogue, particularly Fateh and Hamas, are not concerned with ending the Palestinian split.
- 49% of respondents expected that internal Palestinian confrontations may erupt in the West Bank in case a Palestinian reconciliation agreement is not reached.
- 59.1% of respondents expected that internal Palestinian confrontations may erupt in the Gaza Strip in case a Palestinian reconciliation agreement is not reached.
- 60.8% of respondents said that signing a reconciliation agreement will affect them positively; 10.8% said it will affect them negatively.
- 50.4% of respondents believed that the reason behind not reaching a Palestinian reconciliation agreement is that some people seek to achieve personal interests; 43.8% believed that the reason has to do with seeking factional interests.
- 25.3% of respondents believed that the delay in the signing of the Palestinian reconciliation agreement is because of pressures exerted by some Arab sides; 32.1% believed that it is because of some regional pressures, and 35.8% believed that it is because of the factional interests of Fateh and Hamas.
- 55.6% of respondents supported the implementation of the recommendations of the Goldstone Report despite the fact that it charges both Israel and Hamas with war crimes
- 31.3% of respondents said that the Palestinian Authority committed a mistake and corrected it by resubmitting the Goldstone Report to the UN Human Rights Council; 29.5% said that resubmitting the Report was a tactic to contain the anger of the Palestinian public, 21.2% said that the PA wanted to disarm Hamas of all possible pretexts that would justify the refusal of signing the reconciliation agreement



- 40.7% of respondents believed that the Palestinian people are the main beneficiaries of resubmitting the Goldstone Report to the UN Human Rights Council; 31.3% believed that the main beneficiary is the PA, and 14.1% believed that the main beneficiary is the Hamas Government in Gaza.
- 52.7% of respondents believed that the Goldstone Report was employed to serve factional interests; 28.3% believed the contrary.
- 66.2% of respondents supported the issuance of a presidential decree by President Mahmoud Abbas confirming the constitutional date of the elections on 26/1/2010
- 29.6% of respondents believed that issuing a decree confirming the constitutional date of the elections would deepen the state of Palestinian division; 27.6% believed that a decree would be an exit for all from the state of division, and 37.6% believed that confirming the elections date is a constitutional right regardless of its consequences.
- 75.7% of respondents said that they will participate in the coming presidential elections. From among those who said they will participate, 40% said that they will give their votes to Fateh's candidate; 16% said they will give their votes to Hamas' candidate.
- 75.8% of respondents said that they will participate in the coming legislative elections. From among those who said they will participate, 42.9% said that they will give their votes to Fateh's candidates; 16.8% said they will give their votes to Hamas' candidates.
- If PLC elections are to be conducted, 48.8% of respondents expected the winning of Fateh movement; 16.9% expected the winning of Hamas.
- 69.1% of respondents expected some confrontations between Palestinians and settlers in case Israel evacuates some of the random settlement sites in the West Bank.
- 60.1% of respondents saw that the government of Salam Fayyad is the most capable of managing the Palestinian internal affairs; 20.5% saw that the government of Ismail Haniyeh is the most capable.
- 61.2% of respondents assessed the performance of the government of Salam Fayyad as “good”
- 33.9% of respondents assessed the performance of the government of Ismail Haniyeh as “good”
- 53.5% of respondents expressed fear for their lives under the present circumstances.
- 66.6% of respondents said that they are pessimistic of the general Palestinian situation at this stage.
- 76.8% of respondents said that they neither feel safe for themselves nor for their families and properties under the current circumstances.



- As for political affiliation respondents gave the following results:

People's Party	0.7%
Democratic Front	1.0%
Islamic <i>Jihad</i>	1.6%
<i>Fateh</i>	37.6%
<i>Hamas</i>	14.6%
<i>Fida</i>	0.2%
Popular Front	2.7%
Palestinian National Initiative	1.0%
I am an independent nationalist	6.6%
I am an independent Islamist	2.3%
None of the above	30.6%
Others	1.0%



The General Results of the Poll

It has become clear that signing the Palestinian reconciliation agreement will not take place in the near future. In your opinion, who is responsible for delaying the signing of the reconciliation agreement?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Fateh	22.4	22.9	21.4
Hamas	40.8	33.6	53.2
Others	25.5	29.7	18.4
No opinion/I do not know	11.3	13.8	7.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you think that some Arab countries seek to hinder the signing of the Palestinian reconciliation agreement?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	65.4	68.3	60.6
No	27.1	25.9	29.2
No opinion/I do not know	7.4	5.8	10.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Which Palestinian party reaps the benefit of not signing a reconciliation agreement?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Fateh	24.7	25.9	22.6
Hamas	39.6	30.9	54.4
Others	26.3	31.6	17.0
No opinion/I do not know	9.5	11.5	6.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

There are those who say that Fateh is not concerned with signing a reconciliation agreement and there are others who say that it is Hamas who is not concerned. In your opinion, which party is not concerned?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Fateh	21.7	21.5	22.0
Hamas	46.0	40.0	56.4
Others	22.6	27.6	14.2
No opinion/I do not know	9.6	10.9	7.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



Are you optimistic or pessimistic towards signing the reconciliation agreement in the near future?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I am optimistic	37.4	43.6	26.6
I am pessimistic	58.3	53.3	67.0
No opinion/I do not know	4.3	3.1	6.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you think that the sides of the Palestinian dialogue, particularly Fateh and Hamas, are genuinely concerned with ending the state of Palestinian division?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	39.7	43.7	32.8
No	46.8	45.7	48.6
I am not concerned	8.2	7.2	9.8
No opinion/I do not know	5.4	3.4	8.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

In case a reconciliation agreement is not reached, do you expect that some internal Palestinian confrontations will occur in the West Bank within the coming months?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	49.0	50.2	46.8
No	45.3	46.3	43.6
No opinion/I do not know	5.7	3.5	9.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

In case a reconciliation agreement is not reached, do you expect that some internal Palestinian confrontations will occur in the Gaza Strip within the coming months?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	59.1	63.7	51.2
No	34.3	29.8	42.0
No opinion/I do not know	6.6	6.5	6.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

If the Palestinian reconciliation agreement is signed successfully. Generally, how would that success influence you personally?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Positively	60.8	59.2	63.6
Negatively	10.8	6.9	17.6
It will not have any effect	26.7	33.1	15.6
No opinion/I do not know	1.7	0.8	3.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



Do you think that failure to reach a national reconciliation is because some people seek to achieve-----?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Personal interests	50.4	53.1	45.8
Party and factional interests	43.8	41.9	47.0
No opinion/I do not know	0.3	0.1	0.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

What, in your opinion, delays the signing of the national reconciliation agreement?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Arab pressures on some sides	25.3	24.8	26.2
Regional pressures on some sides	32.1	31.3	33.4
Factional interests of Fateh and Hamas	35.8	37.8	32.4
No opinion/I do not know	6.8	6.2	8.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

The Goldstone Report charges both Israel and Hamas with committing war crimes during the war on Gaza. The Report arrives at recommendations that condemn both Israel and Hamas. Are you in favor of implementing the recommendations of the Goldstone Report?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	55.6	56.2	54.6
No	32.6	32.7	32.6
No opinion/I do not know	11.8	11.2	12.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

What does resubmitting the Goldstone Report to the UN Human Rights Council indicate?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
The PA made a mistake and corrected it	31.3	31.7	30.6
Resubmitting the Report is a tactic by which the PA wanted to contain the anger of the Palestinian public	29.5	27.4	33.0
The PA disarmed Hamas of a pretext that it would use to avoid signing the reconciliation agreement	21.2	21.2	21.2
No opinion/I do not know	18.0	19.7	15.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



Now that the uproar relating to the Goldstone Report cooled down, who in your opinion reaps the advantage of resubmitting the report to the UN Human Rights Council?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
The Palestinian Authority	31.3	29.7	34.2
The Government of Hamas in Gaza	14.1	11.2	19.2
The Palestinian people	40.7	44.1	35.0
No opinion/I do not know	13.8	15.1	11.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you think that the Goldstone Report has been employed to serve party and factional interests?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	52.7	54.3	50.0
No	28.3	27.4	29.8
No opinion/I do not know	19.0	18.3	20.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you support or reject issuing a decree by the President confirming the constitutional date of the elections on 26/10/2010 regardless of whether the reconciliation agreement is signed or not.

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I support	66.2	67.6	63.8
I reject	22.3	21.6	23.4
I am not concerned	10.1	9.8	10.6
No opinion/I do not know	1.5	1.0	2.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

What consequences will issuing a decree to confirm the constitutional date of the elections have?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
It will deepen the state of division	29.6	29.8	29.4
It will offer an exit for all out of the state of division	27.8	27.9	27.6
It is a constitutional right regardless of its results	37.6	36.9	38.8
No opinion/I do not know	5.0	5.5	4.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



If presidential elections are held in the present time, to whom from among the following do you give your vote?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
An independent candidate	7.6	7.4	7.8
A candidate from the left	3.3	2.6	4.6
A candidate from Hamas	12.1	8.7	18.0
A candidate from Fateh	30.3	26.2	37.4
A national independent candidate	4.7	5.2	3.8
An Islamic independent candidate	2.3	2.3	2.2
I will not participate in the elections	24.3	28.0	17.8
I have not decided yet	15.4	19.5	8.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

If new PLC elections are conducted, whom do you vote for?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
An independent ticket	5.9	6.5	4.8
A ticket from the left	3.3	3.0	3.8
A ticket from Hamas	12.7	9.5	18.2
A ticket from Fateh	32.5	27.6	41.0
A national independent ticket	4.9	5.3	4.0
An Islamic independent ticket	2.0	2.2	1.6
I will not participate in the elections	24.2	27.2	19.0
I have not decided yet	14.6	18.6	7.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

If new legislative elections were to be held today, which of the following would win?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Independent Islamists bloc	3.7	3.3	4.4
Independent Nationalist bloc	7.4	7.8	6.8
Fateh bloc	48.8	49.5	47.4
Hamas bloc	16.9	14.1	21.8
A bloc from leftist organizations	1.3	1.0	1.6
No opinion/I do not know	22.0	24.3	18.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

In case Israel evacuates some of the random settlement sites in the West Bank, do you expect confrontations between Palestinians and the settlers?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	69.1	68.3	70.6
No	24.7	27.0	20.8
No opinion/I do not know	6.2	4.8	8.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



As you know, there is a government in the West Bank led by Salam Fayyad and another government in the Gaza Strip led by Ismail Haniyeh. In your opinion which government is more capable of managing the internal Palestinian affairs?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
The government of Salam Fayyad	60.1	62.0	57.0
The Government of Ismail Haniyeh	20.5	18.8	23.4
No opinion/I do not know	19.3	19.2	19.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

How do you assess the performance of the government of Salam Fayyad?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Good	61.2	63.5	57.2
Bad	28.8	26.3	33.0
No opinion/I do not know	10.1	10.2	9.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

How do you assess the performance of the government of Ismail Haniyeh?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Good	33.9	35.6	31.0
Bad	47.8	42.3	57.2
No opinion/I do not know	18.3	22.1	11.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Are you worried about your life under the present circumstances?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	53.3	48.6	62.0
No	45.5	50.9	36.2
No opinion/I do not know	1.0	0.5	1.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Are you pessimistic or optimistic towards the general Palestinian situation at this stage?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Optimistic	31.5	34.7	26.2
Pessimistic	66.6	63.5	72.0
No opinion/I do not know	1.8	1.9	1.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



Under the present circumstances, do you feel that you, your family and your properties are safe?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	22.4	23.0	21.2
May be	38.4	38.7	37.8
No	38.4	37.8	39.4
No opinion/I do not know	0.9	0.5	1.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Which of the following political affiliations do you support?

PARTY	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
People's Party	0.7	0.6	1.0
Democratic Front	1.0	1.3	0.6
Islamic Jihad	1.6	0.9	2.8
Fateh	37.6	34.5	42.8
Hamas	14.6	12.1	18.8
Fida	0.2	0.1	0.4
Popular Front	2.7	2.9	2.4
Palestinian National Initiative	1.0	1.4	0.4
I am an independent nationalist	6.6	6.9	6.2
I am an independent Islamist	2.3	2.6	1.8
None of the above	30.6	35.8	21.6
Others	1.0	0.9	1.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0