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**Results of Palestinian Public Opinion Poll**  
**No. 42**  
**24-26 February 2011**

**Background**

The Arab states handed to the Security Council a draft resolution that condemns the Israeli settlement-building in the West Bank and East Jerusalem but the United States vetoed the resolution.

A series of youth revolutions occurred in some Arab countries calling for replacing the dominating regimes with new democracies, and for promoting social justice among all the citizens of their societies.

President Mahmoud Abbas entrusted Salam Fayyad with forming a new government after the resignation of his previous government.

The Palestinian Government revealed an intention to conduct presidential, legislative and city council elections without specifying a new date for conducting them.

The division between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip persists and each side adheres to its precepts without any signs for an imminent end of this division.

**The Results**

Following are the results of the Palestinian Public Opinion Poll no. 42 conducted by the Center for Opinion Polls and Survey Studies at An-Najah National University during the period from 24-26 February 2011. **The University sponsors all polls conducted by its Center.**

Palestinian Public Opinion Poll no. 42 undertakes Palestinian public opinion in the emerging political realities on the Palestinian scene, especially the intention to conduct presidential, legislative and city council elections, the formation of a new Palestinian Government led by Dr. Salam Fayyad, the consequences of the American veto against the Security Council draft resolution submitted by Arab states that condemns the Israeli settlement building in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, the performance of the Governments of Salam Fayyad and Ismail Haniyeh in addition to political affiliations

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 1.7% of the members of the sample refused to answer the questionnaire.

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*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:

- 77.6% of respondents rejected holding talks between the Palestinian Authority (PA) and the Israeli Government in case Israel continues building settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem; 19.6% supported.
- 8.8% of respondents considered the United States an impartial broker in the peace process between the PA and Israel.
- 15.7% of respondents believed that the USA is pursuing every possible way that is within its reach to salvage the peace process.
- 81% of respondents considered the USA's veto against the Security Council draft resolution condemning the Israeli settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem an American encouragement of the Israeli policies in the Palestinian Territories.
- 85.4% of respondents considered the USA's veto against the Security Council draft resolution condemning the Israeli settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem an American encouragement for Israel to build more settlements in the Palestinian Territories.
- 80.1% of respondents supported the revolutions that took place in some Arab countries such as Tunisia and Egypt.
- 89% of respondents believed that other youth revolutions similar to those that happened in Tunisia and Egypt will be replicated in some other Arab countries.
- 77.3% of respondents expected the success of youth revolutions if they happen in some other Arab countries.
- 56.5% of respondents believed that the youth revolutions that succeeded in some Arab countries will implement fair and democratic rules.
- The reasons behind the youth revolutions in some Arab Countries according to respondents were as follows:
  - 23.8% attributed them to the absence of democracy,
  - 18.3% attributed them to the misdistribution of wealth,
  - 33.5% attributed them to the absence of social justice, and
  - 21.7% attributed them to foreign meddling in the affairs of these countries.
- 52.7% of respondents believed that the youth revolutions that happened in some Arab countries will lead to an increase in the Arab support of the Palestinian cause.
- 40.6% of respondents believed that the youth revolutions that happened in some Arab countries will accelerate the settlement of the Palestinian cause.
- 22.8% of respondents believed that a youth revolution similar to those that happened in Tunisia and Egypt will happen in the West Bank.
- 28.8% of respondents believed that a youth revolution similar to those that happened in Tunisia and Egypt will happen in the Gaza Strip.
- 74.7% of respondents supported a peaceful revolution in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to end the state of Palestinian division.
- 76.2% of respondents supported a peaceful revolution in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to end the Israeli occupation.



- 18% of respondents believed that it is possible to reach a lasting settlement for the Palestinian-Israeli conflict under the current circumstances.
- 71.1% of respondents saw that the USA and the European countries have a duplicity of standards when they support the demands of the popular revolutions in the Arab countries and do not support similar Palestinian demands.
- 66.3% of respondents believed that the surrounding Arab and international circumstances necessitate concluding a national reconciliation agreement between Fateh and Hamas.
- 55.6% of respondents believed that it is possible to reach a national reconciliation agreement between Fateh and Hamas in the near future.
- 32.9% of respondents believed that signing a national reconciliation agreement will lead to speeding up the peace process; 18.7% believed that signing of a reconciliation agreement will entangle and stop the peace process.
- 48.2% of respondents supported conducting presidential elections despite the Palestinian division; 47.6% rejected
- 77.2% of respondents said that they will participate in the coming presidential elections. From among those who said they will participate, 37.4% said that they will give their votes to Fateh's candidate; 11.2% said they will give their votes to Hamas' candidate.
- 49.5% of respondents supported conducting legislative elections despite the Palestinian division; 46% rejected.
- 77.9% of respondents said that they will participate in the coming legislative elections. From among those who said they will participate, 39.1% said that they will give their votes to Fateh's candidates; 11.6% said they will give their votes to Hamas' candidates.
- If PLC elections are to be conducted, 43.2% of respondents expected the winning of Fateh movement; 13.4% expected the winning of Hamas.
- 53.1% of respondents supported conducting municipality and local council elections despite the Palestinian division; 40.9% rejected
- 85% of respondents said that they will participate in the coming municipality and local council elections. From among those who said they will participate, 30.4% said that they will give their votes to Fateh's candidate, 11.3% said they will give their votes to Hamas' candidate and 10.7% said they will give their votes to the representative of their family or clan.
- 25.6% of respondents supported Hamas' boycott of the Palestinian elections; 63.1% rejected
- 55.1% of respondents believed that if elections are conducted in the Palestinian Territories at the present time, they will be fair and unbiased.
- 69.4% of respondents supported the formation of a new Palestinian government after the resignation of the government of Salam Fayyad; 21.4% rejected
- Respondents arranged the priorities that the new Palestinian government must adopt as follows:
  - Ending the Palestinian division 89.4%
  - Creating job opportunities for the youth 90.1%
  - Exerting more effort to stop settlement activities 86.3%



- Reinforcing economic and social development 84.4%
- Exposing the Israeli practices in the Palestinian Territories 84.9%
- Fighting corruption 90.6%
- Fighting poverty 89.8%
- Increasing investment opportunities in the Palestinian Territories 82.8%
- Paying more attention to the health sector 88.3%
- Paying more attention to education 88.8%
- 56.5% of respondents saw that the government of Salam Fayyad is the most capable of managing the Palestinian internal affairs; 19.2% saw that the government of Ismail Haniyeh is the most capable.
- 55.8% of respondents assessed the performance of the government of Salam Fayyad as “good”.
- 32.6% of respondents assessed the performance of the government of Ismail Haniyeh as “good”.
- 52.1% of respondents expressed fear for their lives under the present circumstances.
- 54.1% of respondents said that they are pessimistic of the general Palestinian situation at this stage.
- 61.8% 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	0.3%
Democratic Front	0.4%
Islamic Jihad	2.1%
Fateh	36.1%
Hamas	12.4%
Fida	0.2%
Popular Front	3.0%
Palestinian National Initiative	0.7%
I am an independent nationalist	7.1%
I am an independent Islamist	2.8%
None of the above	34.1%
Others	0.9%



## The General Results of the Poll

**Do you support or reject holding talks between the PA and the Israeli government if Israel continues its settlement activities in the West Bank and East Jerusalem?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I support	19.6	17.7	23.0
I reject	77.6	80.0	73.6
No opinion/I do not know	2.7	2.3	3.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

**Do you think that the USA is an impartial broker in the peace process between the PA and Israel?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	8.8	6.3	13.0
No	87.6	90.5	82.6
No opinion/I do not know	3.7	3.3	4.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

**Do you think that the USA will pursue every possible way that is within its reach to salvage the peace process?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	15.7	12.9	20.4
No	79.3	83.6	71.8
No opinion/I do not know	5.1	3.5	7.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

**Do you think that the USA's veto against the Security Council draft resolution condemning the Israeli settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem is an American encouragement of the Israeli policies in the Palestinian Territories?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	81.0	85.9	72.4
No	12.5	9.0	18.6
No opinion/I do not know	6.5	5.1	9.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



**Do you consider the USA's veto against the Security Council draft resolution condemning the Israeli settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem an American encouragement for Israel to build more settlements in the Palestinian Territories?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	85.4	89.8	77.8
No	9.1	5.9	14.6
No opinion/I do not know	5.5	4.3	7.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

**Do you supported or reject the revolutions that took place in some Arab countries such as Tunisia and Egypt?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I support	80.1	85.5	70.8
I reject	16.0	12.2	22.6
No opinion/I do not know	3.9	2.3	6.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

**Do you believed that other youth revolutions similar to those that happened in Tunisia and Egypt will take place in some other Arab countries?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	89.0	93.7	80.8
No	6.8	3.1	13.0
No opinion/I do not know	4.3	3.1	6.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

**If youth revolutions similar to those that happened in Tunisia and Egypt happen in some other Arab countries, do you expect that they will succeed?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I expect success	77.3	79.9	72.8
I expect failure	11.6	9.0	16.2
No opinion/I do not know	11.1	11.2	11.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

**Do you think that the youth revolutions that succeeded in some Arab countries will implement democratic and fair rules?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	56.5	59.8	50.8
No	28.2	25.3	33.2
No opinion/I do not know	15.3	14.9	16.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



**In your opinion what was the reason for the rise of youth revolutions in some Arab Countries? (choose the most important)**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
The Absence of democracy in these countries	23.8	23.3	24.6
The misdistribution of wealth	18.3	20.6	14.4
The absence of social justice	33.5	37.1	27.2
Outside meddling	21.7	17.6	28.8
No opinion/I do not know	2.8	1.5	5.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

**Do you think that the youth revolutions that happened in some Arab countries will lead to an increase in the support of the Palestinian cause?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	52.7	59.3	41.4
No	36.7	33.5	42.2
No opinion/I do not know	10.6	7.2	16.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

**Do you think that the youth revolutions that happened in some Arab countries will speed the solution of the Palestinian question?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	40.6	45.0	33.0
No	48.4	46.7	51.2
No opinion/I do not know	11.0	8.3	15.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

**Do you expect a youth revolution in the West Bank Similar to those that happened in Tunisia and Egypt?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	22.8	20.8	26.2
No	32.6	30.7	36.0
The Palestinian conditions in the West Bank do not allow for a revolution	14.5	15.2	13.2
The Palestinian conditions are different from those in the Arab countries	27.2	31.3	20.2
No opinion/I do not know	2.9	2.0	4.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



**Do you expect a youth revolution in the Gaza Strip Similar to those that happened in Tunisia and Egypt?**

	<b>Total</b>	<b>West Bank</b>	<b>Gaza Strip</b>
Yes	28.8	27.6	30.8
No	31.3	29.2	35.0
The Palestinian conditions in the Gaza Strip do not allow for a revolution	14.4	13.7	15.6
The Palestinian conditions are different from those in the Arab countries	21.7	26.4	13.6
No opinion/I do not know	3.8	3.1	5.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Do you support or reject a peaceful revolution in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to end the Palestinian division?**

	<b>Total</b>	<b>West Bank</b>	<b>Gaza Strip</b>
I support	74.7	78.6	68.0
I reject	19.6	18.0	22.4
No opinion/I do not know	5.7	3.4	9.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Do you support or reject a peaceful revolution in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to end the Israeli occupation?**

	<b>Total</b>	<b>West Bank</b>	<b>Gaza Strip</b>
I support	76.2	76.9	75.0
I reject	19.3	20.6	17.2
No opinion/I do not know	4.5	2.6	7.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Do you think that it is possible to reach a lasting solution for the Palestinian Israeli conflict in view of the current circumstances,?**

	<b>Total</b>	<b>West Bank</b>	<b>Gaza Strip</b>
Yes	18.0	17.3	19.2
No	75.3	78.0	70.6
No opinion/I do not know	6.7	4.7	10.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>





**Do you think that the USA and the European countries have a duplicity of standards when they support the demands of the popular revolutions in the Arab countries and do not support similar Palestinian demands?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	71.1	76.3	62.2
No	19.0	16.6	23.2
No opinion/I do not know	9.9	7.1	14.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

**Do you think that the surrounding Arab and international circumstances necessitate concluding a national reconciliation agreement between Fateh and Hamas?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	66.3	75.2	51.0
No	27.7	20.9	39.4
No opinion/I do not know	6.0	3.8	9.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

**Do you think that it is possible to reach a national reconciliation agreement between Fateh and Hamas in the near future?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	55.6	63.6	41.8
No	35.3	30.6	43.4
No opinion/I do not know	9.1	5.8	14.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

**In case a national reconciliation agreement is signed, what do you think the consequences will be?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Speeding the Peace process	32.9	36.5	26.6
Entangling and stopping the peace process	18.7	17.7	20.4
It will not have any effect	39.0	38.3	40.2
No opinion/I do not know	9.5	7.6	12.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

**Do you supported conducting presidential elections despite the Palestinian division?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I support	48.2	51.2	43.0
I reject	47.6	47.2	48.4
No opinion/I do not know	4.2	1.6	8.6
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?**

	<b>Total</b>	<b>West Bank</b>	<b>Gaza Strip</b>
An independent candidate	6.5	6.6	6.2
A candidate from the left	2.2	1.0	4.2
A candidate from Hamas	8.7	4.7	15.6
A candidate from Fateh	29.1	24.7	36.8
A national independent candidate	6.0	6.7	4.6
An Islamic independent candidate	3.0	3.0	3.0
I will not participate in the elections	22.8	27.0	15.6
I have not decided yet	21.8	26.3	14.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Do you supported conducting legislative elections despite the Palestinian division?**

	<b>Total</b>	<b>West Bank</b>	<b>Gaza Strip</b>
I support	49.5	51.3	46.4
I reject	46.0	45.8	46.4
No opinion/I do not know	4.5	2.9	7.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

	<b>Total</b>	<b>West Bank</b>	<b>Gaza Strip</b>
An independent ticket	6.1	6.5	5.4
A ticket from the left	2.3	1.0	4.4
A ticket from Hamas	9.0	5.1	15.8
A ticket from Fateh	30.4	25.9	38.2
A national independent ticket	5.7	5.9	5.2
An Islamic independent ticket	3.3	2.8	4.2
I will not participate in the elections	22.1	26.7	14.0
I have not decided yet	21.1	25.9	12.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>



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

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Independent Islamists bloc	4.3	4.4	4.2
Independent Nationalist bloc	9.8	10.0	9.4
Fateh bloc	43.2	43.8	42.2
Hamas bloc	13.4	11.6	16.4
A bloc from leftist organizations	2.3	1.2	4.2
No opinion/I do not know	27.0	29.0	23.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

**Do you supported conducting municipality and local council elections despite the Palestinian division?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I support	53.1	62.3	37.2
I reject	40.9	34.8	51.4
No opinion/I do not know	6.0	2.9	11.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

**If municipality and local council elections are to be held, who do you vote for?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
A block that represents the family or clan	9.1	13.6	1.4
An independent ticket	6.5	6.7	6.0
A ticket from the left	2.1	1.4	3.4
A ticket from Hamas	9.6	5.1	14.2
A ticket from Fateh	25.8	18.7	38.0
A national independent ticket	6.9	7.7	5.6
An Islamic independent ticket	2.9	2.2	4.0
I will not participate in the elections	15.0	16.3	12.8
I have not decided yet	22.1	28.3	11.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

**Do you support or reject Hamas' boycott of the elections?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I support	25.6	26.2	24.6
I reject	63.1	64.5	60.6
No opinion/I do not know	11.3	9.3	14.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



**If elections are conducted in the Palestinian Territories at the present time, do you expect that they will be fair and unbiased?**

	<b>Total</b>	<b>West Bank</b>	<b>Gaza Strip</b>
Yes	55.1	60.0	46.8
No	33.4	30.1	39.0
No opinion/I do not know	11.5	9.9	14.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Are you in favor of forming a new Palestinian government after the resignation of Salam Fayyad's government?**

	<b>Total</b>	<b>West Bank</b>	<b>Gaza Strip</b>
Yes	69.4	76.0	58.0
No	21.4	17.4	28.2
No opinion/I do not know	9.2	6.5	13.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**What are the priorities, in your opinion, that the new Palestinian government must adopt?**

(on a 0-10 scale, please give the top priority a 10 and the lowest a 0)

	<b>Total</b>	<b>West Bank</b>	<b>Gaza Strip</b>
Ending the Palestinian division	8.9360	9.0523	8.7360
Creating job opportunities for the youth	9.0066	9.2593	8.5720
Exerting more effort to stop settlement activities	8.6250	8.8000	8.3240
Reinforcing economic and social development	8.4426	8.6453	8.0940
Exposing the Israeli practices in the Palestinian Territories	8.4919	8.5977	8.3100
Fighting corruption	9.0596	9.2965	8.6520
Fighting poverty	8.9750	9.1733	8.6340
Increasing investment opportunities in the Palestinian Territories	8.2831	8.5151	7.8840
Paying more attention to the health sector	8.8272	8.9860	8.5540
Paying more attention to education	8.8831	9.0349	8.6220



**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?**

	<b>Total</b>	<b>West Bank</b>	<b>Gaza Strip</b>
The government of Salam Fayyad	56.5	58.5	53.2
The Government of Ismail Haniyeh	19.2	16.9	23.2
No opinion/I do not know	24.3	24.7	23.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

	<b>Total</b>	<b>West Bank</b>	<b>Gaza Strip</b>
Good	55.8	59.3	49.8
Bad	30.4	27.2	36.0
No opinion/I do not know	13.8	13.5	14.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

	<b>Total</b>	<b>West Bank</b>	<b>Gaza Strip</b>
Good	32.6	35.2	28.2
Bad	42.7	34.3	57.2
No opinion/I do not know	24.6	30.5	14.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Are you worried about your life under the present circumstances?**

	<b>Total</b>	<b>West Bank</b>	<b>Gaza Strip</b>
Yes	52.1	47.1	60.8
No	45.6	52.2	43.2
No opinion/I do not know	2.3	0.7	5.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

	<b>Total</b>	<b>West Bank</b>	<b>Gaza Strip</b>
Optimistic	42.1	49.7	29.0
Pessimistic	54.1	48.7	63.4
No opinion/I do not know	3.8	1.6	7.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>



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

	<b>Total</b>	<b>West Bank</b>	<b>Gaza Strip</b>
Yes	24.2	28.6	16.6
May be	37.6	39.3	34.6
No	37.4	31.9	46.8
No opinion/I do not know	0.9	0.2	2.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Which of the following political affiliations do you support?**

<b>PARTY</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>West Bank</b>	<b>Gaza Strip</b>
People's Party	0.3	0.3	0.2
Democratic Front	0.4	0.3	0.6
Islamic Jihad	2.1	0.6	4.6
Fateh	36.1	33.8	40.0
Hamas	12.4	9.5	17.2
Fida	0.2	0.0	0.6
Popular Front	3.0	2.6	3.8
Palestinian National Initiative	0.7	0.9	0.2
I am an independent nationalist	7.1	6.9	7.4
I am an independent Islamist	2.8	2.6	3.2
None of the above	34.1	41.7	21.0
Others	0.9	0.7	1.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>