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Results of Palestinian Public Opinion Poll
No. 33
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Background

After Israel banned sending fuel and victuals to the Gaza Strip except in limited amounts, it launched a military attack on the Strip. Several countries and organizations condemned the attack and the Palestinian Authority (PA) suspended peace talks with Israel. Since the cessation of the Israeli military attack on the Gaza Strip, conditions relating to the siege are still the same and one of the residents of East Jerusalem made an attack inside West Jerusalem.

The internal Palestinian crisis still persists; both of the Palestinian Authority and Hamas continue to adhere to their positions towards solutions to end the crises. Yemen has made an initiative to end the crises and representatives of both Fateh and Hamas headed to Yemen to negotiate on the principles of the Yamani initiative.

The Results

Following are the results of the Palestinian Public Opinion Poll No. 33 conducted by the Center for Opinion Polls and Survey Studies at An-Najah National University during the period from 20-22 January 2008. **The University sponsors all polls conducted by its Center.**

Palestinian public opinion poll no. 33 undertakes the current political realities especially the incidents that took place in Gaza, the siege imposed on the Gaza Strip by Israel, in addition to political affiliations. This poll includes a special section on seismic awareness among Palestinian people.

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 800 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 3.4% 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:

- 48.3% of respondents supported continuing negotiations between the Palestinian Authority and Israel, 49.4% rejected.
- 55.1% of respondents supported firing rockets from the Gaza Strip against Israel by Palestinian factions; 41.8% rejected.
- 59.7% of respondents supported a comprehensive and simultaneous ceasefire between Hamas and Israel.
- 11% of respondents believed that Israel, especially after the last military operations in the Gaza Strip, is really concerned with creating peace with the Palestinian Authority, 80.1% believed the opposite.
- 84.3% of respondents supported restoring dialogue between the Palestinian Presidency in Ramallah and the dissolved government in the Gaza Strip.
- 45.9% of respondents believed that Fateh is genuinely concerned with a serious dialogue with Hamas.
- 41.5% of respondents believed that Hamas is genuinely concerned with a serious dialogue with Fateh.
- 56.6% of respondents supported President Abu Mazen's conviction that going back to dialogue with Hamas must be preceded by a retreat from the "Coups".
- 46.8% of respondents supported Hamas' conviction that going back to dialogue with the Palestinian Presidency must be preceded by dissolving the emergency government and restoring the Government of Ismael Haniyeh for the period of its legal term.
- 45.7% of respondents supported Hamas' belief that there are persons related to the PA who favor the continuation of the siege imposed on the Gaza Strip.
- 36.5% of respondents supported the convictions of some PA officials that the reason for the siege imposed on the Gaza Strip is a result of the firing of rockets from the Strip against Israel.
- 14.6% of respondents believed that Israel will stop its aggression against the Gaza Strip if Palestinian factions unilaterally stop firing rockets against Israel; 78.8% believed the opposite.
- 24.9% of respondents believed that Israel is concerned with concluding a ceasefire (*Hudna*) with Hamas in the Gaza Strip.
- 41.6% of respondents believed that Hamas seeks a ceasefire (*Hudna*) declaration with Israel.
- 45.1% of respondents believed that it is possible in the present time to form a national unity government.
- 73.5% of respondents supported forming a Palestinian rescue national government
- 59.6% of respondents supported a cabinet reform in Salam Fayyad's Government.



- 36.5% of respondents believed that Hamas works towards forming a state in the Gaza Strip
- 29.9% of respondents believed that Hamas works towards forming a small state in the Gaza Strip connected to Egypt.
- 54.3% of respondents supported dissolving the PLC.
- 62.8% of respondents supported conducting early Palestinian Presidential elections.
- 79.6% of respondents said that they will participate in the coming presidential elections. From among those who said they will participate, 35.5% said that they will give their votes to Fateh's candidate; 16.9% said they will give their votes to Hamas' candidate.
- 79.6% of respondents said that they will participate in the coming legislative elections. From among those who said they will participate, 36.7% said that they will give their votes to Fateh's candidates; 18.6% said they will give their votes to Hamas' candidates.
- If PLC elections are to be conducted, 40.4% of respondents expected the winning of Fateh movement; 20.8% expected the winning of Hamas.
- Regardless of legitimacy or illegitimacy, 46.1% supported the general policy of the government of Salam Fayyad.
- Regardless of legitimacy or illegitimacy, 23.5% supported the general policy of the dissolved government of Ismael Haniyeh.
- 60.4% of respondents supported the notion that Palestinian arms must only be in the hands of the Palestinian security apparatuses.
- If they were employees, 30.6% of respondents accepted early retirement if it were to be offered to them.
- 61.2% of respondents expressed fear for their lives under the present circumstances.
- 66.2% of respondents said that they are pessimistic of the general Palestinian situation at this stage.
- 85% 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	1.1%
Democratic Front	2.1%
Islamic <i>Jihad</i>	3.2%
<i>Fateh</i>	34.5%
<i>Hamas</i>	15.7%
<i>Fida</i>	0.2%
Popular Front	3.5%
Palestinian National Initiative	0.7%
I am an independent nationalist	6.3%
I am an independent Islamist	3.5%
None of the above	28.2%
Others	1.2%

This section is related to houses and seismic awareness.

- 39.5% of respondents said that they live in one-storey buildings, 33.2% said they live in two-storey buildings, 16.8% said they live in three-storey buildings, and 10.5% said they live in buildings that consist of four storeys or more (risks of earthquake damages are usually higher in buildings that consist of four storeys or more).
- 26.8% of respondents said that the buildings they live in have one storey or more built by posts and the rest of the storeys are built by both posts and walls.
- 61.7% of respondents believed that our area is subject to earthquakes in the future.
- 83.5% of respondents believed that seismic design of buildings is essential.
- 24.3% of respondents believed that their houses will be safe in case an earthquake occurs.
- 84.7% of respondents preferred to have their houses built with a seismic resistant design even if the cost increases 3-5%.
- 17.5% of respondents believed that the existing buildings will resist relatively strong earthquakes if they occur.
- 52.9% of respondents believed that they have the knowledge on how to behave to protect themselves and their families in case an earthquake occurs.
- 79.3% of respondents believed that engineers and design firms should be obliged to design seismic resistant buildings.
- 88.2% of respondents believed that municipalities should monitor engineers and engineering firms' obligations to design seismic resistant buildings.
- 41.9% of respondents saw that municipalities are the responsible parties that should check engineers' commitment to the design of earthquake resistant structures or at least to achieve the minimal level of seismic design criteria; 46.3% believed that such responsibility should be given to the Engineering Association and 7.9% believed that it should be given to the Civil Defence Directorate.



- 41% of respondents saw that municipalities are the responsible parties that should check on site engineers to make sure that the implementation of earthquake resistant structures are carried out according to the approved designs; 49.9% saw that this matter is the responsibility of the Engineering Association and 5.4% saw that it is the responsibility of the Civil Defence Directorate.
- 36% of respondents said that they heard about Earth Sciences and Seismic Engineering Center at An-Najah National University.



The General Results of the Poll

In view of the last Israeli operations against the Gaza Strip, do you support or reject resuming political negotiations between the Palestinian authority and Israel?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I strongly support	15.9	9.2	27.4
I support	32.4	34.7	28.6
I reject	29.0	35.2	18.4
I strongly reject	20.4	19.8	21.4
No opinion/I do not know	2.3	1.2	4.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

In view of the last Israeli operations against the Gaza Strip, do you support or reject firing rockets against Israel by Palestinian factions from the Gaza Strip?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I strongly support	24.2	21.4	29.0
I support	31.0	32.8	26.0
I reject	30.8	34.4	24.6
I strongly reject	11.0	8.5	15.2
No opinion/I do not know	3.1	1.9	5.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

In view of the last Israeli operations against the Gaza Strip, do you support or reject a comprehensive and simultaneous truce (*Hudna*) between Hamas and Israel?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I strongly support	14.4	9.5	22.8
I support	45.3	52.3	33.2
I reject	23.2	26.9	16.8
I strongly reject	12.5	8.3	19.8
No opinion/I do not know	4.6	3.0	7.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

In view of the last Israeli operations against the Gaza Strip, do you think that Israel is really concerned with concluding peace with the PA?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	11.0	8.4	15.4
No	80.1	86.9	68.4
No opinion/I do not know	9.0	4.8	16.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



Do you support or reject restoring dialogue between the PA in Ramallah and the dissolved government in the Gaza Strip?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I strongly support	34.9	29.7	44.0
I support	49.4	59.0	33.0
I reject	9.3	7.8	12.0
I strongly reject	3.8	2.1	6.8
No opinion/I do not know	2.5	1.5	4.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you think that Fateh is genuinely interested in a serious dialogue with Hamas?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	45.9	43.1	50.6
No	40.7	46.3	31.2
No opinion/I do not know	13.4	10.6	18.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you think that Hamas is genuinely interested in a serious dialogue with Fateh?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	41.5	44.8	35.8
No	45.0	44.4	46.0
No opinion/I do not know	13.5	10.8	18.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

President Abu Mazen says that restoring dialogue with Hamas must be preceded by Hamas retreating from its "coup". Do you support or reject this condition to resume talks?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I strongly support	23.0	13.4	39.6
I support	33.6	40.1	22.4
I reject	24.9	30.6	15.2
I strongly reject	11.8	10.0	14.8
No opinion/I do not know	6.7	5.9	8.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



Hamas says that restoring dialogue with the Palestinian Presidency must be preceded by dissolving the emergency government and restoring Ismael Haniyeh's government with its legal duration. Do you support or reject this condition to resume talks?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I strongly support	14.2	11.5	18.8
I support	32.6	39.4	20.8
I reject	32.9	36.9	26.2
I strongly reject	13.7	6.6	25.8
No opinion/I do not know	6.6	5.6	8.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Hamas says that there are persons known to be affiliated with the PA who favor a continuation of the siege on the Strip. Do you support or reject this opinion?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I strongly support	14.6	12.2	18.6
I support	31.1	34.9	24.6
I reject	32.3	36.6	24.8
I strongly reject	11.6	7.1	19.4
No opinion/I do not know	10.4	9.2	12.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

There are PA officials who say that the reason for the siege imposed on the Gaza Strip is the firing of rockets against Israel. Do you support or reject this opinion?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I strongly support	8.8	4.3	16.6
I support	27.7	27.2	28.6
I reject	40.2	48.1	26.6
I strongly reject	17.7	16.9	19.2
No opinion/I do not know	5.5	3.5	9.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

If Palestinian factions stopped firing rockets unilaterally against Israel, do you think that Israel would stop its aggression against the Gaza Strip?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	14.6	10.6	21.4
No	78.8	87.4	63.8
No opinion/I do not know	6.7	2.0	14.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



Do you think that Israel is really concerned with a ceasefire (*Hudna*) with Hamas in the Gaza Strip?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	24.9	21.2	31.2
No	66.8	74.0	54.4
No opinion/I do not know	8.4	4.9	14.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you think that Hamas is seeking a ceasefire (*Hudna*) declaration with Israel?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	41.6	37.6	48.6
No	47.1	53.4	36.4
No opinion/I do not know	11.3	9.1	15.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you think that it is possible in the present time to form a unity government?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	45.1	45.2	44.8
No	46.9	50.5	40.8
No opinion/I do not know	8.0	4.3	14.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Are you in favor of forming a national rescue government?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	73.5	78.5	65.0
No	18.1	14.7	24.0
No opinion/I do not know	8.4	6.9	11.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Are you in favor of introducing a cabinet reform to the current Government of Salam Fayyad?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	59.6	64.8	50.8
No	28.2	24.5	34.4
No opinion/I do not know	12.2	11.7	14.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



Do you think that Hamas is heading towards forming an independent state in the Gaza Strip?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	36.5	36.2	37.0
No	52.5	56.4	45.8
No opinion/I do not know	11.0	7.4	17.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you think that Hamas is heading towards forming a small state in the Gaza Strip and connect it to Egypt?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	29.9	26.6	35.4
No	56.3	63.3	44.2
No opinion/I do not know	13.9	10.1	20.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you support or reject dissolving the PLC?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I support	54.3	55.8	51.8
I reject	34.6	35.8	32.6
No opinion/I do not know	11.0	8.4	15.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you support or reject conducting early Presidential elections?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I support	62.8	68.6	52.8
I reject	29.5	27.9	32.2
No opinion/I do not know	7.7	3.5	15.0
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	7.8	9.2	5.4
A candidate from the left	3.9	2.7	6.0
A candidate from Hamas	13.5	12.6	15.0
A candidate from Fateh	28.2	22.7	37.8
A national independent candidate	5.9	6.6	4.6
An Islamic independent candidate	4.5	4.0	5.4
I will not participate in the elections	20.4	22.9	16.2
I have not decided yet	15.8	19.4	9.6
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	6.7	8.1	4.2
A ticket from the left	4.0	2.8	6.2
A ticket from Hamas	14.8	14.8	14.8
A ticket from Fateh	29.2	23.6	38.8
A national independent ticket	5.4	6.0	4.2
An Islamic independent ticket	4.8	3.7	6.6
I will not participate in the elections	20.4	22.7	16.6
I have not decided yet	14.7	18.3	8.6
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	6.4	5.2	8.4
Independent Nationalist bloc	7.1	7.4	6.4
Fateh bloc	40.4	39.7	41.6
Hamas bloc	20.8	24.7	14.2
A bloc from leftist organizations	2.4	1.5	3.8
No opinion/I do not know	23.0	21.5	25.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Regardless of its legitimacy or illegitimacy, do you support or reject the general policy of the Palestinian government led by Salam Fayyad?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I support	46.1	47.2	44.2
I reject	43.4	43.6	43.0
No opinion/I do not know	10.5	9.2	12.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Regardless of its legitimacy or illegitimacy, do you support or reject the general policy of the dissolved government of Ismael Haniyeh?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I support	23.5	21.6	26.8
I reject	65.8	67.8	62.4
No opinion/I do not know	10.7	10.6	10.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



Do you support or reject the notion that Palestinian arms should be in the hands of Palestinian security apparatuses, and that any other arms in the hands of other Palestinian men will be considered arms for racketeering business?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I support	60.4	64.7	53.2
I reject	35.1	33.3	38.2
No opinion/I do not know	4.5	2.1	8.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

If you are an employee and you are offered an early retirement, will you accept or reject the offer?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I accept	30.6	32.1	28.0
I reject	61.3	62.9	58.4
No opinion/I do not know	8.2	5.0	13.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Are you worried about your life under the present circumstances?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	61.2	64.3	55.8
No	36.1	35.2	37.6
No opinion/I do not know	2.7	0.5	6.6
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	28.9	27.2	31.8
Pessimistic	66.2	71.7	56.6
No opinion/I do not know	4.9	1.0	11.6
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	13.2	12.9	13.8
May be	29.2	24.2	37.8
No	55.8	62.6	44.2
No opinion/I do not know	1.8	0.3	4.2
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	1.1	0.3	2.4
Democratic Front	2.1	1.4	3.2
Islamic Jihad	3.2	1.2	6.8
Fateh	34.5	30.1	42.0
Hamas	15.7	17.3	12.8
Fida	0.2	0.2	0.2
Popular Front	3.5	3.8	2.8
Palestinian National Initiative	0.7	0.7	0.6
I am an independent nationalist	6.3	6.9	5.2
I am an independent Islamist	3.5	3.5	3.4
None of the above	28.2	34.2	18.0
Others	1.2	0.3	2.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

This section is related to houses and seismic awareness

How many storeys does the building you live in have?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
One storey	39.5	34.2	48.6
Two storeys	33.2	38.1	24.8
Three storeys	16.8	17.3	15.8
Four storeys or more	10.5	10.3	10.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

34 Does the building you live in have one or more storeys erected with posts and the rest of the building erected with posts and walls?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	26.8	19.4	39.4
No	70.9	80.0	55.2
I do not know	2.4	0.6	5.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you think that our area is subject to earthquakes in the future?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	61.7	72.4	34.2
No	18.9	15.9	24.0
I do not know	19.4	11.6	32.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



Do you think that seismic design is necessary in the designing of buildings?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	83.5	91.3	70.0
No	10.1	6.6	6.2
I do not know	6.4	2.1	13.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

In case of an earthquake (God Forbids) do you think that your building will be safe?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	24.3	23.5	25.8
No	56.2	60.0	49.5
I do not know	19.5	16.5	24.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you prefer to have your house earthquake resistant even if the cost increases 3-5%?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	84.7	91.2	73.6
No	10.4	7.2	15.8
I do not know	4.6	1.6	10.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you think that the existing buildings will resist relatively strong earthquakes if they (God forbids) occur?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	17.5	16.4	19.4
No	67.6	74.4	56.0
I do not know	14.9	9.2	24.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

In case an earthquake (God forbids) occurs do you have knowledge of how to behave in order to protect your family and yourself?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	52.9	61.6	37.8
No	41.4	36.9	49.2
I do not know	5.7	1.5	13.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



Do you think that engineers and engineering firms must be obliged to design buildings that are earthquake resistant?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	79.3	89.1	62.6
No	14.8	9.0	24.8
I do not know	5.9	2.0	12.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you think that municipalities should monitor the issue of earthquake resistant buildings?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	88.2	95.8	75.2
No	6.1	2.7	12.0
I do not know	5.7	1.5	12.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Which institution in your opinion should be charged with checking that engineers are committed to designing earthquake resistant buildings or at least achieving the minimal requirements of seismic design criteria?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Engineering Association	46.3	47.7	44.0
The Municipality	41.9	43.5	39.2
Civil Defence Directorate	7.9	6.6	10.0
Others (specify)	3.9	2.2	6.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Which institution in your opinion should be charged with checking that engineers and contractors are committed to the implementation of designs according to the approved plans and designs as mentioned in the previous item?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Engineering Association	49.9	52.1	46.2
The Municipality	41.0	40.5	42.0
Civil Defence Directorate	5.4	4.9	6.2
Others (specify)	3.7	2.6	5.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Have you heard of the Earth Sciences and Seismic Engineering Center (Seismic Center) at An-Najah National University?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	36.0	37.0	34.2
No	64.0	63.0	65.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0