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## Results of Palestinian Public Opinion Poll No. 32 26-28 January 2008

#### Background

After President Bush's visit to Ramallah which set in motion the permanent status negotiations between the Palestinians and the Israelis, Israel escalated military operations against the Gaza Strip and closed all crossings banning the entrance of fuel and food except in very limited amounts raising danger in the Strip to the level of a human catastrophe that the United Nations agencies warned against.

In the same context the Palestinian Authority warned that the Israeli escalation will jeopardize the negotiations and eventually will stop them. Hamas and Islamic Jihad have called upon President Abu Mazen to stop negotiations dismissing them as useless and absurd.

On the other side of the scene, the Palestinian internal crisis is still going on without any imminent breakthrough; the PA insists on its demand of Hamas to back up from their coup as a precondition for a dialogue while Hamas expresses willingness to conduct a debate without conditions.

#### The Results

Following are the results of the Palestinian Public Opinion Poll No. 32 conducted by the Center for Opinion Polls and Survey Studies at An-Najah National University during the period from 26-28 January 2008. **The University sponsors all polls conducted by its Center.** 

Palestinian public opinion poll no. 32 undertakes the current political realities especially the incidents that took place in Gaza, the siege imposed on the Gaza Strip by Israel, the visit of the US President to the West Bank 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 2.7% 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:

- 73.9% of respondents supported handing in the responsibilities of the Gaza Strip crossings to the Palestinian Presidency.
- 54.8% of respondents rejected firing rockets against Israel from the Gaza Strip while 43.7% supported that.
- 43.4% of respondents thought that firing rockets from the Gaza Strip hurts the Palestinian cause while 33.9% thought that they serve the Palestinian cause in a positive way.
- 69.9% of respondents are in favor of giving up firing rockets from the Gaza Strip in return for lifting up the siege.
- 50.7% of respondents believed that if *Hamas* backs up from its domination over the Gaza Strip, the siege will end.
- 42.7% of respondents rejected attempts of some of *Hamas* members to storm Rafah Crossing; 52.8% supported.
- 70.7% supported the tendency of the people of Gaza to shop in Rafah and Al-Arish.
- Respondents assessed the reactions of the following bodies to the siege of Gaza as "Good" :
  - --The Palestinian Authority 46.5%
  - --The Arab League 27.1%
  - --Egypt 57.5%
  - --The Quartet 17%
- From the point of view of respondents the side that contributed to the decision of supplying fuel to Gaza was:
  - President Mahmoud Abbas 55.5%
  - Egypt 54.8%
  - President Abbas and Egypt 60%
  - Pure Israeli decision 36.1%
- 24.1% of respondents welcomed US President's visit to the West Bank while 71.3% rejected it.
- 11.4% of respondents saw that the US President was sincere in his promise to help in the creation of a Palestinian state by the end of this year; 80.3% saw the opposite.
- 65.1% of respondents believed that the visit of the US President deepened the internal Palestinian conflict.
- 43.9% of respondents believed that it is possible in the present time to form a national unity government.
- 52.4% of respondents supported dissolving the PLC.
- 65.1% of respondents supported conducting early Palestinian Presidential elections.
- 50.4% of respondents were content with the performance of President Abu Mazen since his election.
- 80.9% of respondents said that they will participate in the coming presidential elections. From among those who said they will participate,





39.5% said that they will give their votes to *Fateh's* candidate; 16.9% said they will give their votes to *Hamas*' candidate.

- 81.1% of respondents said that they will participate in the coming legislative elections. From among those who said they will participate, 41.7% said that they will give their votes to *Fateh's* candidates; 17.7% said they will give their votes to *Hamas*' candidates.
- If PLC elections are to be conducted, 47% of respondents expected the winning of *Fateh* movement; 18% expected the winning of *Hamas*.
- Regardless of legitimacy or illegitimacy, 46.5% supported the general policy of the government of Salam Fayyad.
- Regardless of legitimacy or illegitimacy, 29.3% supported the general policy of the dissolved government of Ismael Haniyeh.
- 20.7% of respondents believed that the security conditions in the Gaza Strip after the domination of *Hamas* are improving; 61.9% said they are deteriorating.
- 55.7% of respondents considered what *Hamas* did as a coup against Palestinian legitimacy.
- 58.4% of respondents believed that *Hamas* is endeavoring to create an entity of its own in the Gaza Strip in isolation from the West Bank; 34.5% believed the contrary.
- 28.3% of respondents believed that *Hamas* is capable of managing the life affairs of the citizens of the Gaza Strip.
- The personal priorities of respondents at the present time were as follows:
  - Restoring control over the Gaza Strip 67.1%
  - Restraining security chaos in the West Bank 81.6%
  - Restoring dialogue between Fateh and Hamas 77.8%
  - Improving the economic conditions 86.6%
  - Securing funds for the salaries of employees 85.8%
- 71.5% of respondents supported the notion that Palestinian arms must only be in the hands of the Palestinian security apparatuses.
- 56.9% of respondents expressed fear for their lives under the present circumstances.
- 61.3% of respondents said that they are pessimistic of the general Palestinian situation at this stage.
- 78.1% 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	1.0%
Democratic Front	2.1%
Islamic Jihad	2.8%
Fateh	37.9%
Hamas	15.7%
Fida	0.4%
Popular Front	3.5%
Palestinian National Initiative	0.7%
I am an independent nationalist	6.5%
I am an independent Islamist	3.1%
None of the above	24.4%
Others	1.9%

• Now that six months elapsed the formation of Salam Fayyad's Government, respondents assessed the performance of the following institutions as "good" and "more than good" with the indicated percentages:

Palestinian Presidency	62.0%
Palestinian Government	60.3%
Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC)	42.6%
Judicial system	48.2%
Financial and Administrative Control Bureau	37.2%
Security apparatuses	57.6%
Palestinian factions	47.9%
Civil society organizations	61.3%
Palestinian universities	76.9%
Municipalities and village councils	60.3%
Ministry of Health	66.2%
Ministry of Social Affairs	62.1%
Ministry of Education and Higher Education	72.0%
Ministry of Finance	50.5%
Ministry of Prisoner's Affairs	56.8%
Ministry of Interior Affairs	55.4%
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	42.6%
Employees Bureau	41.8%
Institutions of the private sector	52.9%
Palestinian Investment Fund	34.6%





#### The General Results of the Poll

There is a suggestion to hand in the responsibilities of the crossings in the Gaza Strip to the Palestinian Presidency. Do you support or reject this suggestion?

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	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I support	73.9	75.6	71.0
I reject	19.1	17.9	21.2
No opinion/I do not know	7.0	6.5	7.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you support or reject firing rockets from the Gaza Strip against Israel by Palestinian factions?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I strongly support	20.8	18.1	25.4
I support	22.9	26.3	17.0
I reject	38.5	40.3	35.2
I strongly reject	14.2	11.0	19.6
No opinion/I do not know	3.7	4.2	2.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you think that firing rockets from the Gaza Strip against Israel will serve or hurt the Palestinian cause?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
It will serve			
It will hurt			
It is useless			
No opinion/I do not know			
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Are you in favor of stopping rockets in return for lifting up the siege imposed on the Gaza Strip?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	69.9	73.6	63.4
No	25.4	22.6	30.2
No opinion/I do not know	4.8	3.8	6.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you believe that the siege will end if *Hamas* backs up from its domination over the Strip?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	50.7	47.0	57.2
No	40.3	45.6	31.2
No opinion/I do not know	9.0	7.4	11.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0





Do you support or reject the attempt by some members of Hamas to open Rafah Crossing by force?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I support	52.8	55.2	48.6
I reject	42.7	41.3	45.2
No opinion/I do not know	4.5	3.5	6.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you support or reject the tendency of the people of Gaza to shop in Rafah and Al-Arish?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I support	70.7	79.3	55.8
I reject	24.0	16.9	36.4
No opinion/I do not know	5.3	3.8	7.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

8 How do you assess the reactions of the following to the blockade imposed on the Gaza Strip?

		Total			
	Good	Bad	No opinion	Total	
			/ I do not know		
The Palestinian Authority	46.5	46.5	7.1	100.0	
The Arab League	27.1	59.5	13.5	100.0	
Egypt	57.5	36.0	6.5	100.0	
The Quartet	17.0	61.6	21.4	100.0	
			West Bank		
	Good	Bad	No opinion	Total	
			/ I do not know		
The Palestinian Authority	40.1	51.7	8.1	100.0	
The Arab League	18.6	68.1	13.3	100.0	
Egypt	54.7	38.5	6.9	100.0	
The Quartet	12.2	67.8	20.0	100.0	
			Gaza Strip		
	Good	Bad	No opinion	Total	
			/ I do not know		
The Palestinian Authority	57.4	37.4	5.2	100.0	
The Arab League	41.6	44.6	13.8	100.0	
Egypt	62.4	31.8	5.8	100.0	
The Quartet	25.2	51.0	23.8	100.0	





In your opinion, away from what the media undertake with reference to providing Gaza with fuel, who do you think contributed to taking the decision? (Please, give a score on a 0-10 scale)

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
President Mahmoud Abbas	5.5544	5.0105	6.4900
Egypt	5.4794	5.0872	6.1540
President Abbas and Egypt	5.9846	5.4698	6.8700
It was solely an Israeli decision	3.6059	3.5640	3.6780

There are those who welcomed the visit of the US President to the West Bank and there are those who rejected it. Do you support or reject the visit?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I support	24.1	15.5	39.0
I reject	71.3	82.3	52.4
No opinion/I do not know	4.6	2.2	8.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you think that the US President is faithful in his promise to help in the creation of a Palestinian state by the end of this year?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	11.4	5.7	21.2
No	80.3	90.5	62.8
No opinion/I do not know	8.3	3.8	16.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

# Do you think that the visit of the US President intensified the internal Palestinian conflict?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	65.1	74.1	49.8
No	26.3	20.7	35.8
No opinion/I do not know	8.6	5.2	14.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

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

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	43.9	45.1	41.8
No	48.3	50.3	44.8
No opinion/I do not know	7.8	4.5	13.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0





#### Do you support or reject dissolving the PLC?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I support	52.4	52.8	51.6
I reject	35.7	37.6	32.4
No opinion/I do not know	12.0	9.7	16.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

#### Do you support or reject conducting early Presidential elections?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I support	65.1	67.4	61.2
I reject	27.3	26.6	28.4
No opinion/I do not know	7.6	5.9	10.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

# Are you content with the performance of President Mahmoud Abbas since his election as President of the PA?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I am content	50.4	51.2	49.2
I am not content	44.6	44.8	44.4
No opinion/I do not know	4.9	4.1	6.4
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	10.0	10.6	9.0
A candidate from the left	3.8	2.4	6.2
A candidate from Hamas	13.7	11.4	17.6
A candidate from <i>Fateh</i>	31.9	28.8	37.2
A national independent candidate	5.6	6.2	4.6
An Islamic independent candidate	3.6	4.2	2.6
I will not participate in the elections	19.1	22.8	12.8
I have not decided yet	12.3	13.6	10.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0





	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
An independent ticket	8.3	9.0	7.2
A ticket from the left	3.6	2.7	5.2
A ticket from <i>Hamas</i>	14.3	12.3	17.8
A ticket from <i>Fateh</i>	33.8	30.1	40.2
A national independent ticket	5.3	5.8	4.4
An Islamic independent ticket	3.8	4.3	3.0
I will not participate in the elections	18.9	22.2	13.2
I have not decided yet	11.9	13.6	9.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

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

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

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Independent Islamists bloc	3.0	2.7	3.6
Independent Nationalist bloc	7.8	7.3	8.6
Fateh bloc	47.0	46.7	47.4
Hamas bloc	18.0	17.7	18.6
A bloc from leftist organizations	2.1	2.1	2.2
No opinion/I do not know	22.1	23.5	19.6
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	46.5	43.5	51.6
I reject	42.9	45.8	38.0
No opinion/I do not know	10.6	10.7	10.4
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	29.3	31.9	24.8
I reject	60.2	58.1	63.8
No opinion/I do not know	10.5	10.0	11.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0





Do you think that the security conditions in the Gaza Strip after the dominance	Ĵ
of Hamas are?	

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
improving	20.7	18.8	24.0
deteriorating	61.9	62.2	61.4
the same	13.8	15.7	10.6
No opinion/I do not know	3.5	3.3	4.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Dov	ou think	what	Hamas	did	was	a coup	against	the	Palestinian	legitimacy?
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	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	55.7	51.9	62.4
No	33.9	37.1	28.4
No opinion/I do not know	10.4	11.0	9.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

There are those who say that *Hamas* is endeavoring to create an entity for itself in the Gaza Strip in isolation from the West Bank. What do you think?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
True	35.7	31.4	43.2
May be	22.6	20.6	26.2
Not true	34.5	41.0	23.2
No opinion/I do not know	7.1	7.0	7.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you think that *Hamas* is capable off managing the affairs of people in the Gaza Strip?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	28.3	31.4	23.0
No	63.5	61.5	66.8
No opinion/I do not know	8.2	7.1	10.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

## What are your priorities at the present time? (State your opinion on a 0-10 scale)

	Total	West	Gaza
		Bank	Strip
Extending its control over the Strip	6.7081	6.4163	7.2100
Restraining the chaotic security situation in the West	8.1559	8.3058	7.8980
Bank			
Restoring dialogue between Fateh and Hamas	7.7801	8.0826	7.2600
Improving the economic conditions	8.6566	8.6291	8.7040
Securing funds for salaries	8.5772	8.4721	8.7580





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	71.5	76.2	63.4
I reject	25.5	21.7	32.0
No opinion/I do not know	3.0	2.1	4.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Are you worried about your life under the present circumstances?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	56.9	52.7	64.2
No	40.7	46.4	31.0
No opinion/I do not know	2.4	0.9	4.8
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	34.0	33.8	34.2
Pessimistic	61.3	63.4	57.8
No opinion/I do not know	4.7	2.8	8.0
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	20.5	19.4	22.4
May be	32.7	33.8	30.8
No	45.4	46.6	43.4
No opinion/I do not know	1.3	0.1	3.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

32





PARTY	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
People's Party	1.0	0.3	2.0
Democratic Front	2.1	1.0	4.0
Islamic Jihad	2.8	1.5	5.0
Fateh	37.9	37.0	36.6
Hamas	15.7	15.3	16.4
Fida	0.4	0.1	0.8
Popular Front	3.5	3.3	4.0
Palestinian National Initiative	0.7	0.7	0.6
I am an independent nationalist	6.5	6.6	6.2
I am an independent Islamist	3.1	3.4	2.6
None of the above	24.4	29.7	15.4
Others	1.9	1.0	3.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

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

In general and six months after the formation of Salam Fayyad's Government, how do you assess the performance of the following Palestinian institutions?

Total							
	Very Good	Good	Bad	Very Bad	No opinion	Total	
					/I do not know		
Palestinian Presidency	22.9	39.0	21.4	12.4	4.2	100.0	
Palestinian Government	18.3	42.0	22.4	13.4	4.0	100.0	
Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC)	11.3	31.4	33.5	14.3	9.5	100.0	
Judicial system	11.4	36.8	25.7	11.7	14.4	100.0	
Financial and Administrative	9.1	28.1	28.0	12.1	22.6	100.0	
Control Bureau							
Security apparatuses	18.1	39.5	24.2	13.5	4.8	100.0	
Palestinian factions	11.9	36.0	33.8	11.2	7.1	100.0	
Civil society organizations	14.6	46.7	20.4	5.6	12.7	100.0	
Palestinian universities	27.2	49.7	10.8	5.4	6.9	100.0	
Municipalities and village councils	16.2	44.1	22.7	10.6	6.4	100.0	
Ministry of Health	18.2	47.9	19.6	9.5	4.7	100.0	
Ministry of Social Affairs	18.1	44.0	19.7	7.5	10.7	100.0	
Ministry of Education and	22.4	49.6	15.0	7.9	5.1	100.0	
Higher Education							
Ministry Finance	14.3	36.3	26.2	9.7	13.6	100.0	
Ministry of Prisoners' Affairs	16.5	40.3	20.4	8.3	14.5	100.0	
Ministry of Interior Affairs	14.0	41.4	22.0	9.1	13.5	100.0	





Ministry Foreign Affairs	10.1	32.6	23.7	10.2	23.5	100.0	
Employees Bureau	9.1	32.7	21.5	12.1	24.6	100.0	
Institutions of the Private Sector	13.3	39.6	19.8	7.4	19.9	100.0	
Palestinian Investment Fund	8.8	25.7	20.2	8.8	36.4	100.0	
West Bank							
	Very	Good	Bad	Very	No	Total	
	Good			Bad	opinion		
					/I do not		
					know		
Palestinian Presidency	14.0	46.5	24.9	10.2	4.4	100.0	
Palestinian Government	12.1	49.5	25.1	9.2	4.1	100.0	
Palestinian Legislative Council	5.8	35.5	37.4	10.0	11.3	100.0	
(PLC)		44.0	05.5	<b>7</b> 0	1 5 1	100.0	
Judicial system	7.6	44.0	25.5	7.9	15.1	100.0	
Financial and Administrative	5.0	28.6	30.0	8.0	28.4	100.0	
Control Bureau	15.0	1.5.4	25.2	07	1.2	100.0	
Security apparatuses	15.2	46.4	25.3	8.7	4.3	100.0	
Palestinian factions	7.1	38.7	38.5	7.4	8.3	100.0	
Civil society organizations Palestinian universities	11.9	52.0	19.9	2.4	13.8	100.0	
	27.8	53.4	9.8	2.2	6.9	100.0	
Municipalities and village councils	16.7	50.7	21.3	6.2	5.1	100.0	
Ministry of Health	16.6	55.6	19.0	4.2	4.7	100.0	
Ministry of Social Affairs	12.8	50.5	19.0	4.1	13.8	100.0	
Ministry of Education and	12.8	55.1	14.2	5.9	5.2	100.0	
Higher Education	17.5	55.1	17.2	5.7	5.2	100.0	
Ministry Finance	9.0	40.2	25.7	7.2	17.9	100.0	
Ministry of Prisoners' Affairs	13.0	43.3	19.3	5.3	19.1	100.0	
Ministry of Interior Affairs	10.7	48.5	20.0	4.2	16.6	100.0	
Ministry Foreign Affairs	5.1	34.5	22.7	6.2	31.5	100.0	
Employees Bureau	4.5	36.7	20.5	6.0	31.4	100.0	
Institutions of the Private Sector	10.3	45.7	18.0	3.5	22.4	100.0	
Palestinian Investment Fund	4.0	27.6	19.5	4.5	44.4	100.0	
	Gaza	Strip					
	Very	Good	Bad	Very	No	Total	
	Good			Bad	opinion		
					/I do not		
					know		
Palestinian Presidency	38.4	26.2	15.4	16.2	3.8	100.0	
Palestinian Government	29.0	29.0	17.6	20.6	3.8	100.0	
Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC)	20.6	24.4	26.8	21.8	6.4	100.0	
Judicial system	18.0	24.6	26.0	18.2	13.2	100.0	
Financial and Administrative	16.2	27.2	24.6	19.2	13.2	100.0	
Control Bureau	10.2	21.2	27.0	17.2	12.0	100.0	
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Security apparatuses	23.0	27.6	22.2	21.6	5.6	100.0
Palestinian factions	20.2	21.4	25.6	17.6	5.2	100.0
Civil society organizations	19.2	37.6	21.4	11.0	10.8	100.0
Palestinian universities	26.2	43.4	12.6	10.8	7.0	100.0
Municipalities and village councils	15.2	32.8	25.2	18.2	8.6	100.0
Ministry of Health	21.0	34.8	20.8	18.6	4.8	100.0
Ministry of Social Affairs	27.2	32.8	21.2	13.4	5.4	100.0
Ministry of Education and	27.4	40.0	16.4	11.2	5.0	100.0
Higher Education						
Ministry Finance	23.4	29.4	27.0	14.0	6.2	100.0
Ministry of Prisoners' Affairs	22.6	35.2	22.2	13.4	6.6	100.0
Ministry of Interior Affairs	19.8	29.2	25.4	17.6	8.0	100.0
Ministry Foreign Affairs	18.6	29.2	25.4	17.2	9.6	100.0
Employees Bureau	17.0	24.4	23.2	22.6	12.8	100.0
Institutions of the Private Sector	18.4	29.2	22.8	14.2	15.4	100.0
Palestinian Investment Fund	17.2	22.6	21.4	16.2	22.6	100.0