



**An-Najah National University**  
**Center for Opinion Polls and Survey Studies**  
Tel: (972)(9)2381113/7, 2386584 Fax: (972)(9)2387982  
Nablus-Palestine: P.O.Box 7, 707  
Email: Polls @najah.edu hussein596@yahoo.com

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## **Results of Palestinian Public Opinion Polls**

### **No. 1**

### **17-19 July, 2003**

Following are the results of the first public opinion poll conducted by the Center for Opinion Polls and Survey Studies at An-Najah National University, Nablus between July 17-19, 2003. **The University took full sponsorship of the whole survey.**

This poll undertakes issues as diversified as the Road Map, the Ceasefire (Hodna) declaration, the performance of Palestinian institutions, the parliamentary elections (PLC) and the political affiliation of people.

The sample included 1360 persons whose age group is 18 and above and who have the right to vote. The sample forms one per thousand from among the total number of Palestinian people of this age group. The enclosed questionnaire was distributed among 860 persons from the West Bank, and 500 persons from Gaza Strip. The subjects of the sample were chosen randomly; the margin error of the sample is a bout  $\pm 3$  per cent. The questionnaire was distributed and collected by a team trained especially on data collections.

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



## **The Major Results of the Poll:**

### **The Road Map:**

- The poll shows that 5.8% of the respondents of the sample scanned the complete items of the Road Map. 54% heard about it, and 14.5% had absolutely no idea.
- While 1.8% believe that Israel will fulfill all its commitments as stated in the Road Map, 35.2% believe that Israel will only comply with the items which do not contradict its interests. 50.7%, however, believe that Israel will not fulfill its commitments.
- While 51.4% believe that the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) is capable of fulfilling all its commitments as stated in the Road Map, 14.3% believe that the PNA is incapable.
- While 31.2% believe that the US Administration is serious in the implementation of the Road Map, 58.6% believe that it is not.
- While 19.8% believe that the US Administration will impose the American conditions of the implementation of the Road Map on Palestinians only, 67.9% believe the US Administration will impose its conditions more on Palestinians than on Israelis. Likewise, 1.3% believe that the US Administration will impose its conditions on the Israelis only; 2.4% believe that the US Administration will impose its conditions on Israelis more than on Palestinians, and 6.3% believe that US Administration will evenly divide pressure on both sides.
- While 26.6% believe that the Road Map will lead to the establishment of a Palestinian State with Sovereign power in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, 62.6% believe that the Road Map will not lead to such state.



### **Ceasefire Agreement:**

- While 68.9% support the ceasefire agreement that PNA signed with the Israeli Government which led to the cessation of the use of weapons against Israel in return for a commitment from Israel to stop using weapons against Palestinians, 17.6% don't support it and 9.2% strongly reject it.
- While 11.5% believe that the ceasefire is destined to succeed, 54.9% believe the ceasefire is a temporary solution, and 28.7% believe that the ceasefire is destined to fail.
- While 52% believe that the Palestinian national factions will comply with the ceasefire, 36.2% believed that they will not.
- While 48.7% believe that the Islamic factions will comply with the ceasefire, 39.1% believed that they will not.
- While 51.2% believe that the Palestinian Prime Minister, Abu Mazen, will be able to extend the ceasefire period until he finishes the implementation of the Road Map, 27% believe that Abu Mazen is incapable of doing so, and 11.3% believe that he is certainly incapable.
- While 51% believe that the Palestinian national factions will agree on an extension of a ceasefire for three additional months, 37.3% believe that they will not.
- While 46.1% believe that the Islamic factions will agree on an extension of a ceasefire for three additional months, 42.1% believe that they will not.
- While 52.9% believe that the Israeli government will agree on extending the ceasefire for three additional months, 36% believe that it will not agree on an extension.



## **The Performance of Palestinian Institutions:**

- While 37.8% support that PNA should put forward procedures that would lead to the prevention of operations against targets inside Israel, 56.7% did not support such procedures.
- While 57.1% strongly support the formation of a coalition government for Palestinian people, 38.5% only support a coalition ( a total percentage of 95.6% supports a coalition government of Palestinian People), and only 3% reject that.
- While 36.5% believe that Abu Mazen's Government is capable of combating corruption, 54.2% believe that it is incapable.
- While 45.3% believe that Abu Mazen's Government is capable of maintaining a ceasefire from the Palestinian part, 47.1% believe that it is incapable.
- While 49.6% believe that Abu Mazen's Government will be capable to control the internal Palestinian situation, 43.6% believe that it is incapable.
- While 49.8% believe that Abu Mazen's government is capable of improving the economic situation, 41.2% believe that it is incapable.
- 76.6% expressed satisfaction with the performance of the Palestinian presidency.
- 61.2% expressed satisfaction with the performance of the Prime Minister, Abu Mazen.
- 63.3% expressed satisfaction with the performance of the New Palestinian Government.
- 60.9% expressed satisfaction with the performance of the Legislative Council (PLC).
- 55.3% expressed satisfaction with the performance of the Judicious system.



### **Elections:**

- While 2.5% said that if new parliamentary elections are to be held, they will reelect the same members they voted for in the first election, 8.5% said that they will reelect some of them, and 47.8% said they will decide on whom to vote for at the polls.

### **The Political Sympathies of People:**

- As for parties and political affiliation, the support is shown as follows:

|                      |       |
|----------------------|-------|
| Fateh                | 24.7% |
| Hamas                | 21.4% |
| Islamic Jihad        | 5.4%  |
| Public Front         | 2.5%  |
| Democratic Front     | 0.7%  |
| Fida                 | 0.3%  |
| People's Party       | 0.4%  |
| Independent National | 7.0%  |
| Independent Islamic  | 4.9%  |
| None of the above    | 31.0% |
| Others               | 1.9%  |



## The General Results of the Poll

After the approval of the Road Map by the Palestinian National Authority and the Government of Israel, and its circulation in mass media, I

|                         | Total | West Bank | Gaza Strip |
|-------------------------|-------|-----------|------------|
| scanned all its items   | 5.8   | 5.0       | 7.2        |
| read a good part of it  | 9.6   | 8.4       | 11.8       |
| read a small part of it | 16.1  | 16.5      | 15.4       |
| heard about it only     | 54.0  | 55.3      | 61.6       |
| never looked at it      | 14.5  | 14.8      | 14.0       |
| Total                   | 100.0 | 100.0     | 100.0      |

Some people say that Israel will not comply with its commitments as stated in the Road Map, others say it will. What is your opinion?

|  | Total | West Bank | Gaza Strip |
|--|-------|-----------|------------|
| Israel will comply with its commitments                                  | 1.8   | 2.1       | 1.4        |
| Israel will comply with those items that do not contradict its interests | 35.2  | 33.5      | 38.2       |
| Israel will comply with some items only                                  | 7.9   | 8.6       | 6.6        |
| Israel will not comply   | 50.7  | 51.5      | 49.4       |
| I don't know   | 4.3   | 4.3       | 4.4        |
| Total  | 100.0 | 100.0     | 100.0      |

Do you believe that the Palestinian National Authority is capable of fulfilling its commitments as stated in the Road Map?

|                               | Total | West Bank | Gaza Strip |
|-------------------------------|-------|-----------|------------|
| Capable to a large extent     | 9.0   | 7.7       | 11.4       |
| Capable                       | 42.4  | 46.2      | 35.8       |
| Not capable                   | 27.9  | 28.7      | 26.6       |
| Not capable to a large extent | 14.3  | 12.1      | 18.0       |
| I don't know                  | 6.4   | 5.3       | 8.2        |
| Total                         | 100.0 | 100.0     | 100.0      |

Do you think that the US Administration is serious in its endeavors to implement the Road Map?

|              | Total | West Bank | Gaza Strip |
|--------------|-------|-----------|------------|
| Yes          | 31.2  | 32.7      | 28.6       |
| No           | 58.6  | 60.0      | 56.2       |
| I don't know | 10.2  | 7.3       | 15.2       |
| Total        | 100.0 | 100.0     | 100.0      |



On which side do you believe the US Administration will impose its condition in implementing the Road Map?

|                       | Total | West Bank | Gaza Strip |
|-----------------------|-------|-----------|------------|
| On Palestinians only  | 19.8  | 19.5      | 20.2       |
| On Israelis only      | 1.3   | 2.0       | 0.2        |
| On both sides equally | 6.3   | 6.4       | 6.2        |
| More on Palestinians  | 67.9  | 67.3      | 69.0       |
| More on Israelis      | 2.4   | 2.7       | 2.0        |
| I don't know          | 2.2   | 2.1       | 2.4        |
| Total                 | 100.0 | 100.0     | 100.0      |

Do you believe that the Road Map will lead to the establishment of a Palestinian State with sovereignty in the West Bank and Gaza Strip?

|                 | Total | West Bank | Gaza Strip |
|-----------------|-------|-----------|------------|
| Yes, it will    | 26.6  | 30.7      | 19.6       |
| No, it will not | 62.6  | 62.4      | 63.0       |
| I don't know    | 10.7  | 6.9       | 17.4       |
| Total           | 100.0 | 100.0     | 100.0      |

The Palestinian National Authority along with the Palestinian factions reached an agreement on a ceasefire (Hodna) with Israel for a period of three months; during this period Palestinians will not use weapons against Israelis and, in return, Israel will stop using weapons against Palestinians.

|   | Total | West Bank | Gaza Strip |
|---|-------|-----------|------------|
| I strongly support the agreement on a ceasefire | 13.2  | 11.7      | 15.6       |
| I support it                                    | 55.7  | 55.0      | 56.8       |
| I reject it                                     | 17.6  | 20.7      | 12.2       |
| I strongly reject it                            | 9.2   | 8.8       | 9.8        |
| I don't know                                    | 4.4   | 3.7       | 5.6        |
| Total   | 100.0 | 100.0     | 100.0      |

What do you think the destiny of the ceasefire will be?

|                            | Total | West Bank | Gaza Strip |
|----------------------------|-------|-----------|------------|
| It will succeed            | 11.5  | 12.6      | 9.6        |
| It is a temporary solution | 54.9  | 54.2      | 56.2       |
| It is doomed to fail       | 28.7  | 29.8      | 26.8       |
| I don't know               | 4.9   | 3.5       | 7.4        |
| Total                      | 100.0 | 100.0     | 100.0      |



Do you think that the Palestinian national factions which are committed to the ceasefire agreement will continue to comply with it until the end of the period?

|                   | Total | West Bank | Gaza Strip |
|-------------------|-------|-----------|------------|
| Yes, they will    | 52.0  | 52.1      | 51.8       |
| No, they will not | 36.2  | 39.7      | 30.2       |
| I don't know      | 11.8  | 8.3       | 18.0       |
| Total             | 100.0 | 100.0     | 100.0      |

Do you think that the Islamic factions which are committed to the ceasefire agreement will continue to comply with it until the end of the period?

|                   | Total | West Bank | Gaza Strip |
|-------------------|-------|-----------|------------|
| Yes, they will    | 48.7  | 48.0      | 49.8       |
| No, they will not | 39.1  | 44.3      | 30.2       |
| I don't know      | 12.2  | 7.7       | 20.0       |
| Total             | 100.0 | 100.0     | 100.0      |

Do you think that the Palestinian Prime Minister will be able to extend the ceasefire until he is able to implement the Road Map?

|  | Total | West Bank | Gaza Strip |
|--|-------|-----------|------------|
| He will certainly be able to do that     | 8.0   | 7.6       | 8.8        |
| I believe he will be able to do that     | 43.2  | 43.7      | 42.4       |
| I believe he will not be able to do that | 27.0  | 28.6      | 24.2       |
| He certainly will not be able to do that | 11.3  | 11.6      | 10.8       |
| I don't know                             | 10.4  | 8.5       | 13.8       |
| Total                                    | 100.0 | 100.0     | 100.0      |

Do you think that the Palestinian national factions which agreed on the ceasefire will agree on extending it for more than three months?

|                    | Total | West Bank | Gaza Strip |
|--------------------|-------|-----------|------------|
| I believe so       | 51.0  | 49.7      | 53.2       |
| I don't believe so | 37.3  | 40.7      | 31.4       |
| I don't know       | 11.8  | 9.7       | 15.4       |
| Total              | 100.0 | 100.0     | 100.0      |



Do you think that the Islamic factions which agreed on the ceasefire will agree on extending it for more than three months?

|                             | Total | West Bank | Gaza Strip |
|-----------------------------|-------|-----------|------------|
| Yes, they certainly will    | 9.0   | 8.0       | 10.8       |
| Yes                         | 37.1  | 39.2      | 33.6       |
| No                          | 33.5  | 35.7      | 29.8       |
| No, they certainly will not | 8.6   | 8.1       | 9.4        |
| I don't know                | 11.7  | 9.0       | 16.4       |
| Total                       | 100.0 | 100.0     | 100.0      |

Do you think that the present Israeli Government which agreed on the ceasefire will agree on extending it for more than three months?

|                             | Total | West Bank | Gaza Strip |
|-----------------------------|-------|-----------|------------|
| Yes, they certainly will    | 13.8  | 11.7      | 17.2       |
| Yes                         | 39.1  | 41.6      | 34.8       |
| No                          | 26.1  | 31.3      | 17.2       |
| No, they certainly will not | 9.9   | 8.1       | 12.8       |
| I don't know                | 11.2  | 7.2       | 18.0       |
| Total                       | 100.0 | 100.0     | 100.0      |

Do you support procedures adopted by Palestinian National Authority to deter attacks against targets inside Israel?

|                           | Total | West Bank | Gaza Strip |
|---------------------------|-------|-----------|------------|
| Yes, they certainly do    | 7.7   | 6.7       | 9.4        |
| Yes                       | 30.1  | 34.0      | 23.4       |
| No                        | 37.1  | 37.6      | 36.2       |
| No, they certainly do not | 19.6  | 17.4      | 23.4       |
| I don't know              | 5.5   | 4.3       | 7.6        |
| Total                     | 100.0 | 100.0     | 100.0      |

Do you agree with the formation of a united leadership for Palestinian People?

|                        | Total | West Bank | Gaza Strip |
|------------------------|-------|-----------|------------|
| I strongly do          | 57.1  | 50.1      | 69.2       |
| I agree                | 38.5  | 45.8      | 25.8       |
| I don't agree          | 2.0   | 2.2       | 1.6        |
| I strongly don't agree | 1.0   | 0.5       | 1.8        |
| I don't know           | 1.5   | 1.4       | 1.6        |
| Total                  | 100.0 | 100.0     | 100.0      |



## Do you believe that Abu Mazen's Government is capable of:

### A: Combating corruption?

|                   | Total | West Bank | Gaza Strip |
|-------------------|-------|-----------|------------|
| Yes, certainly    | 6.4   | 5.7       | 7.6        |
| Yes               | 30.1  | 31.9      | 27.0       |
| No                | 36.5  | 39.1      | 32.2       |
| No, certainly not | 17.7  | 15.7      | 21.2       |
| I don't know      | 9.3   | 7.7       | 12.0       |
| Total             | 100.0 | 100.0     | 100.0      |

### B: Preserving ceasefire from the Palestinian side?

|                   | Total | West Bank | Gaza Strip |
|-------------------|-------|-----------|------------|
| Yes, certainly    | 6.4   | 5.2       | 8.4        |
| Yes               | 38.9  | 40.5      | 36.2       |
| No                | 36.5  | 38.1      | 33.6       |
| No, certainly not | 10.6  | 10.1      | 11.4       |
| I don't know      | 7.6   | 6.0       | 10.4       |
| Total             | 100.0 | 100.0     | 100.0      |

### C: Controlling the internal Palestinian situation?

|                   | Total | West Bank | Gaza Strip |
|-------------------|-------|-----------|------------|
| Yes, certainly    | 6.8   | 5.8       | 8.6        |
| Yes               | 42.8  | 43.1      | 42.2       |
| No                | 34.0  | 36.6      | 29.6       |
| No, certainly not | 9.6   | 8.0       | 12.2       |
| I don't know      | 6.8   | 6.4       | 7.4        |
| Total             | 100.0 | 100.0     | 100.0      |

### D: Improving the Palestinian economic situation?

|                   | Total | West Bank | Gaza Strip |
|-------------------|-------|-----------|------------|
| Yes, certainly    | 7.1   | 4.9       | 11.0       |
| Yes               | 42.7  | 43.0      | 42.2       |
| No                | 29.5  | 34.4      | 21.0       |
| No, certainly not | 11.7  | 10.0      | 14.6       |
| I don't know      | 9.0   | 7.7       | 11.2       |
| Total             | 100.0 | 100.0     | 100.0      |



## How do you assess the performance of each of the following Palestinian institutions in present time?

### A: The Presidency.

|              | Total | West Bank | Gaza Strip |
|--------------|-------|-----------|------------|
| Excellent    | 18.4  | 17.7      | 19.6       |
| Good         | 26.2  | 27.8      | 23.4       |
| Fair         | 32.1  | 33.5      | 29.6       |
| Poor         | 17.4  | 17.3      | 17.4       |
| I don't know | 6.0   | 3.7       | 10.0       |
| Total        | 100.0 | 100.0     | 100.0      |

### B: The Prime Minister, Abu Mazen.

|              | Total | West Bank | Gaza Strip |
|--------------|-------|-----------|------------|
| Excellent    | 7.0   | 7.6       | 6.0        |
| Good         | 25.6  | 25.1      | 26.4       |
| Fair         | 28.6  | 30.5      | 25.4       |
| Poor         | 24.7  | 23.5      | 26.8       |
| I don't know | 14.1  | 13.4      | 15.4       |
| Total        | 100.0 | 100.0     | 100.0      |

### C: The New Palestinian Government.

|              | Total | West Bank | Gaza Strip |
|--------------|-------|-----------|------------|
| Excellent    | 6.3   | 6.5       | 6.0        |
| Good         | 24.7  | 25.5      | 23.4       |
| Fair         | 32.3  | 30.5      | 35.4       |
| Poor         | 20.7  | 20.7      | 20.8       |
| I don't know | 16.0  | 16.9      | 14.4       |
| Total        | 100.0 | 100.0     | 100.0      |

### D: The Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC).

|              | Total | West Bank | Gaza Strip |
|--------------|-------|-----------|------------|
| Excellent    | 6.4   | 7.2       | 5.0        |
| Good         | 24.5  | 27.8      | 18.8       |
| Fair         | 30.0  | 33.0      | 24.8       |
| Poor         | 28.6  | 22.4      | 39.2       |
| I don't know | 10.5  | 9.5       | 12.2       |
| Total        | 100.0 | 100.0     | 100.0      |

### E: The Judicious System.

|              | Total | West Bank | Gaza Strip |
|--------------|-------|-----------|------------|
| Excellent    | 7.1   | 7.4       | 6.6        |
| Good         | 22.4  | 23.5      | 20.6       |
| Fair         | 25.8  | 26.5      | 24.6       |
| Poor         | 32.4  | 30.1      | 36.4       |
| I don't know | 12.2  | 12.4      | 11.8       |
| Total        | 100.0 | 100.0     | 100.0      |



If new Parliamentary elections (for the Legislative Council) are to be made, whom do you vote for?

|  | Total | West Bank | Gaza Strip |
|--|-------|-----------|------------|
| The same members I voted for in the past                               | 2.5   | 3.6       | 0.6        |
| Some of the members I voted for in the past                            | 8.5   | 8.7       | 8.2        |
| I will not vote for any from among the members I voted for in the past | 12.7  | 9.9       | 17.6       |
| I will decide on the time of elections                                 | 47.8  | 46.2      | 50.6       |
| I will not participate in the elections                                | 25.4  | 29.3      | 18.8       |
| I don't know   | 3.0   | 2.3       | 4.2        |
| Total  | 100.0 | 100.0     | 100.0      |

Which of the following parties and affiliations do you support?

|                                  | Total | West Bank | Gaza  |
|----------------------------------|-------|-----------|-------|
| Fateh                            | 24.7  | 25.6      | 23.2  |
| Hamas                            | 21.4  | 20.1      | 23.6  |
| Islamic Jihad                    | 5.2   | 5.1       | 5.4   |
| Public Front                     | 2.5   | 2.6       | 2.4   |
| Democratic Front                 | 0.7   | 0.7       | 0.6   |
| Fida                             | 0.3   | 0.3       | 0.2   |
| People's Party                   | 0.4   | 0.6       | 0.2   |
| I am an independent nationalist  | 7.0   | 6.4       | 8.0   |
| I am an independent Islamist     | 4.9   | 3.3       | 7.8   |
| I don't support any of the above | 31.0  | 33.3      | 27.0  |
| Others, specify                  | 1.9   | 2.1       | 1.6   |
| Total                            | 100.0 | 100.0     | 100.0 |