

JMCC Public Opinion Poll No. 34

Palestinian - Israeli Attitudes Towards Palestinian Refugees - November 1999

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Methodology

A random sample of 1200 people over the age of 18 were interviewed face-to-face throughout the West Bank and Gaza Strip on 25, 26 November 1999. The interviews were conducted in randomly selected homes, and the subjects inside each home were also selected randomly according to Kish tables. The interviews were conducted in 60 sampling points chosen randomly according to population.

In the West Bank, 761 people were surveyed from the following areas: **Jenin:** Jenin, Tubas, Meithalun, Zababdeh, Silat al-Harithiya, Qabatiya, Jenin refugee camp. **Nablus:** Nablus, Salfit, Kafr al-Deik, Sabastiya, Beit Umrin, Salem, Balata refugee camp, Talluza, Badan. **Tulkarem:** Tulkarem, Beit-lid, Ramin, Nour Shams refugee camp. **Qalqiliya:** Qalqiliya and Habla. **Hebron:** Hebron, Beit 'Umar, Surif, Bani Naim, Dura, Samu, Halhul, al-Fawwar refugee camp. **Bethlehem:** Bethlehem, Za'tara, Artas, Husan, 'Aida refugee camp. **Jericho:** Jericho and Aqbat Jaber refugee camp **Ramallah & Jerusalem:** Ramallah, al-Bireh, Jalazon refugee camp, Shuqba, Qibya, Beitunia, Old City, Dahiya, al-Ram, Ezzariya, Abu-Dis, Beit-Hanina, Shu'fat, Bir Nabala, Qalandiya refugee camp, Jib, Biddu, Hizma.

In the Gaza Strip, 439 people were surveyed from: **Gaza North:** Jabaliya refugee camp, Jabaliya, Beit Lahiya and Beit Hanoun. **Gaza:** Sheikh Radwan, Darj, Tufah, Sabra, al-Mighraqa, Zaytun, a-Nasir, Shoujai'a, a-Rimal north and south and Beach refugee camp. **Deir al- Balah:** , Deir al- Balah, Nuseirat refugee camp, Deir al-Balah refugee camp. **Khan Younis:** Khan Younis, Khan Younis refugee camp, al-Qararah, Bani Suheila, Khuza'a. **Rafah:** Rafah, Rafah refugee camp and Tal al-Sultan refugee camp.

The margin of error is 3 percent, with a confidence level of 95.

Sample distribution

56.0% of the respondents were from West Bank, 7.4% from Jerusalem, 36.6% from the Gaza

33.9% said they live in villages, 15.4% in refugee camps, 50.7% in towns/cities.

49.5% were male, 50.2% were female, 0.3% no answer.

67.3% were married, 25.6%, single, 3.8% widowed, 1.4% divorced, 1.9% no answer.

The average age of the respondents was 34 years.

Occupation of respondents

Students 11.3% laborers 13.3% Farmers/fishermen 1.6%.

Employees e.g. secretaries/municipal employees/teachers/nurses 16.7%

Craftsmen 1.8% Businessmen/private business 9.4%

Professionals - e.g. doctors/lawyers/ pharmacists/engineers 1.8%.

Housewives, unemployed and retired 42.9% No answer 1.2%.

Results

Q1. To what extent do you feel optimistic or pessimistic regarding the future in general? Would you say that you are very optimistic, optimistic, pessimistic or very pessimistic?

	Total	West bank	Gaza
	n= 1200	n= 761	n= 439
Very optimistic	5.5	4.5	7.3
Optimistic	68.9	69.8	67.4
Pessimistic	18.3	18.8	17.5
Very pessimistic	6.6	6.0	7.5
No answer	0.7	0.9	0.3

Q2. In general, how do you evaluate the performance of the Palestinian Authority?

	Total	West bank	Gaza
	n= 1200	n= 761	n= 439
Very good	5.9	4.9	7.7
Good	60.2	61.9	57.2
Bad	23.7	24.2	22.8
Very bad	8.3	6.7	11.2
No answer	1.9	2.3	1.1

Q3. Who is the Palestinian figure you trust the most?

	Total	West bank	Gaza
	n= 1200	n= 761	n= 439
Yasser Arafat	34.1	34.2	33.9
Ahmed Yassin	7.3	5.7	10.3
Haydar abdel- Shafi	3.6	2.8	5.0
Faisal al-Husseini	1.2	1.7	0.2
Hanan Ashrawi	2.2	2.2	2.1
Saeb Erekat	3.3	3.5	3.0
Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen)	1.3	1.3	1.1
Yasser Abed Rabbo	1.1	1.1	1.1
Other figures	7.8	8.1	7.5
I don't trust anybody	30.6	31.3	29.4
No answer	7.5	8.1	6.4

Q4. Which political or religious faction do you trust the most?

	Total	West bank	Gaza
	n= 1200	n= 761	n= 439
Fateh	35.7	37.2	33.0
Hamas	13.0	10.9	16.6
PFLP	1.7	1.4	2.1
Islamic Jihad	1.8	1.7	1.8
Other Islamic factions	4.4	4.3	4.6
Other factions	1.9	2.2	1.8
I don't trust anybody	33.4	33.9	32.6
No answer	8.1	8.4	7.5

Q5. Since the beginning of the Peace Process, do you think that your feeling of self-security is better than it was before the Peace Process?

	Total	West bank	Gaza
	n= 1200	n= 761	n= 439
It is better	57.8	50.3	70.6
It didn't change	28.8	34.8	18.2
It is worse	12.4	13.3	11.2
No answer	1.0	1.6	0.0

Q6. To what extent do you think corruption is widespread in Palestinian Authority institutions? Is it widespread to a great extent, widespread to some extent, widespread to a small extent, or not widespread at all?

	Total	West bank	Gaza
	n= 1200	n= 761	n= 439
To a great extent	34.4	31.8	39.0
To some extent	35.8	36.5	34.6
To a small extent	18.7	18.2	19.6
not widespread at all	6.2	7.2	4.3
No answer	4.9	6.3	2.5

Q7. Sharm Sheikh Agreement stipulated that Israel and the Palestinian Authority will reach a final agreement on the issues of the final status, such as Jerusalem, refugees and settlements, in September 2000, which means after several months. What is your opinion?

	Total	West bank	Gaza
	n= 1200	n= 761	n= 439
I expect that they will reach a final agreement within several months	20.2	21.3	18.2
They will not be able to reach a final agreement within several months	44.4	43.4	46.2
It is difficult to answer this question	28.3	28.1	28.5
I have no opinion	6.1	6.3	5.7
No answer	1.0	0.9	1.4

Q8. The Palestinian-Israeli negotiation process is still going on while the Israeli settlement expansion policy continues; do you see any contradiction in this or can the two processes continue at the same time?

	Total	West bank	Gaza
	n= 1200	n= 761	n= 439
There is a contradiction between the Israeli settlement expansion policy and the negotiations process	79.3	79.6	78.8
There is no contradiction and the peace negotiations can proceed despite the continuation of settlements	13.3	12.2	15.3
I don't know	6.3	7.6	3.9
No answer	1.1	0.6	2.0

Q9. If you see a contradiction between the peace negotiations and the expansion of settlements, do you believe that the Palestinian side must stop the negotiations as long as the Israeli settlement expansion policy continues?

	Total	West bank	Gaza
	n= 1027	n= 664	n= 363
Negotiations must be stopped as long as the Israeli settlement expansion policy continues	49.7	47.4	53.7
Negotiations must continue even if settlement expansion continues	38.2	37.8	38.8
I don't know	8.0	9.5	5.2
No answer	4.1	5.3	2.3

Q10. Do you believe that establishing an independent Palestinian state within the 1967 borders (Gaza and the West Bank, including Jerusalem) is an acceptable final solution to the Palestinian cause?

	Total	West bank	Gaza
	n= 1200	n= 761	n= 439
Yes	38.8	42.0	33.3
No	53.3	50.9	57.4
Others	0.4	0.5	0.2
No answer	7.5	6.6	9.1

Q11. How do you see a final solution acceptable to you?

	Total	West bank	Gaza
	n= 639	n= 387	n= 252
Establishing a secular state in most of the regions of Palestine	11.9	14.2	8.4
Establishing an Islamic state in most of the regions of Palestine	81.5	80.1	83.7
No answer	6.6	5.7	7.9

Q12. In case a peaceful solution leading to a Palestinian state is reached, how do you like to see the relations with Israel?

	Total	West bank	Gaza
	n= 1200	n= 761	n= 439
Relations at all levels	17.6	17.0	18.7
Relations in some aspects	47.6	48.9	45.3
There should be no relations with Israel	28.2	28.8	27.3
No answer	6.6	5.3	8.7

Q13. In the light of the experience under the Palestinian Authority rule, what is the kind and form of rule do you prefer to see in the future Palestinian State?

	Total	West bank	Gaza
	n= 1200	n= 761	n= 439
A parliamentary system similar to the European style	17.2	19.3	13.4
A system depending on the Islamic Shari'a	65.1	62.2	70.2
A system similar to any of the Arab countries	13.6	13.8	13.2
Others	1.3	1.5	1.1
No answer	2.8	3.2	2.1

