

JMCC Public Opinion Poll No. 29 - Part I

On Palestinian Attitudes Towards the Peace Process and Oslo

August 1998

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Introduction

The poll indicates continued decline in support for the peace process and the Oslo accords. The decline began to emerge about a year ago.

The decline shown this year is a departure from the first four years of Oslo, when the Palestinian public showed consistent support for the Palestinian-Israeli peace process despite sudden and dramatic changes in the political and economic. Greater opposition to Oslo has been drawn not only from former supporters, but from people who previously had no opinion.

The negative trend can be measured through three main indicators: support for Arafat, his faction Fateh and the peace process itself.

In December 96, Arafat was considered the most trusted politician by 42% of those surveyed. Now the number has declined to 32.6%.

In October 96, Fateh's Support was measured at 42%. That number has fallen to 34.4%

In December 96, support for the peace process was 78.1%. Now 55.6% expressed strong or lukewarm support for the peace process.

Moreover, Palestinians opposing Oslo accords increased from 23.1% in November 1997 to reach 36% this August; the increase in opposition came at the expense of those who had know position regarding Oslo, which was 4.1% in November 1997 going down to 1.2% this August.

Results were obtained through a random sample poll of 1,192 people throughout the West Bank and Gaza conducted on August 27-28, 1998.

Methodology

A random sample of 1192 people over the age of 18 were interviewed face-to-face throughout the West Bank and Gaza Strip on 27,28 August 1998. 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**, 757 people were surveyed from the following areas: ***Jenin***: Jenin, Jenin Refugee Camp, Tubas , Aqaba, Arraba, Yaabad, Silat al-Harthiyaa. ***Nablus***: Nablus, Salfit,, Asira & Refugee Camp, Beit Furik, Huwwara.

Tulkarem: Tulkarem , Tulkarem Refugee Camp, Beit Lid, Allar. **Qalqiliya:** Qalqiliya. **Bethlehem:** Bethlehem, Beit Jala, Beit Sahour, Al -Khader & Refugee Camp, Husan, Battir. **Hebron:** 'Hebron, Hebron & Refugee Camp, Samu, Idna, Bani Naim, Halhul, al-Dhairiya. **Jerusalem:** Old City, A-Ram, Dahiyat Al-Bareed, Beit Hanina, Silwan, Ras al-Amoud, al -Issawia, Abu Dis, Biddu , Beit Sureek. **Ramallah:** Ramallah, al-Bireh, Kaubar, Jalzon, Beitunia, Mazraa al-Sharqiya.

In the **Gaza Strip**, 435 people were surveyed from: **Gaza:** al-Rimal, Nasir, Sheikh Radwan, Sabra, Zaytoun, Shuja'ia, Nazleh, al Daraj, al-tufah, Beach Refugee Camp, Jabaliya, Jabaliya Refugee Camp, Bet Lahiya, Beit Hanoun, Deir al Balah, Deir al-Balah Refugee Camp, Nuseirat Refugee Camp, Maghazi Refugee Camp, Khan Younis, Khan Younis Refugee Cmap, Abassan, Rafah, Rafah Refugee Camp, Tal al-Sultan

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

Sample Distribution

- 53.6% of the respondents were from the West Bank
- 36.5% from the Gaza Strip
- 9.9% from Jerusalem
- 41.0% said they live in villages
- 17.8% in refugee camps
- 41.2% in towns/cities
- 49.7% were male, 50.3% were female
- 57.8% were married, 28.7% single, 4.4% widowed, 1.4% divorced, 7.7% no answer.
- The average of age of the respondents was 34 years.

Occupation respondents

- Students 14.3%
 - Waged labourers 12.7%
 - Housewives 32.6%
 - Employees eg. secretaries/teachers/nurses/municipal employees 16.9%
 - Businessmen/private business 8.1%
 - Farmers/fishermen 3.0%
 - Craftsmen 2.3%
 - Professionals - eg. doctors/lawyers/pharmacists/engineers 2.0%
 - Unemployed 5.5%
 - Retired 1.9%
 - No answer 0.7%
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Results

Q.1 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 Strip
Very optimistic	6.0%	5.4%	6.9%
Optimistic	62.6%	62.6%	62.5%
Pessimistic	19.8%	19.8%	19.8%
Very pessimistic	9.9%	10.6%	8.7%
No answer	1.7%	1.6%	2.1%

Q.2 After 5 years of implementing Oslo agreements for the transitional period, to what extent do you support or oppose these agreements?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Strongly support	9.9%	10.3%	9.2%
Cautiously support	52.9%	53.2%	52.4%
Oppose	36.0%	35.3%	37.2%
No answer	1.2%	1.2%	1.2%

Q.3 In general, do you support or oppose the Palestinian-Israeli peace process between the Palestinians and Israel?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Strongly support	10.9%	11.0%	10.8%
Somewhat support	44.7%	45.0%	44.1%
Strongly oppose	20.6%	19.8%	21.8%
Somewhat oppose	16.4%	16.5%	16.3%
No opinion	2.9%	2.9%	3.0%
No answer	4.5%	4.8%	4.0%

Q. 4 Which Palestinian personality do you trust most?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yasser Arafat	32.6%	31.2%	34.9%
Ahmed Yassin	6.6%	6.9%	6.2%
Haydar Abdel Shafi	6.5%	6.3%	6.9%

Hanan Ashrawi	3.5%	3.6%	3.4%
Saeb Erekat	2.9%	2.5%	3.7%
Faisal Husseini	2.5%	2.8%	2.1%
George Habash	2.3%	2.6%	1.8%
Mahamoud Abbas	1.4%	1.2%	1.8%
Other personalities	8.0%	6.1%	10.2%
I do not trust anyone	25.4%	25.9%	24.6%
No answer	8.3%	10.9%	4.4%

Q.5 Which Palestinian political or religious faction do you trust most?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Fateh	34.4%	30.3%	41.6%
Hamas	13.4%	12.9%	14.3%
PFLP	3.7%	3.7%	3.7%
Islamic Jihad	1.8%	1.5%	2.3%
Other Islamic factions	1.3%	1.7%	0.5%
Other factions	3.3%	4.3%	1.5%
Do not trust anyone	28.9%	30.9%	25.5%
No answer	13.2%	14.7%	10.6%

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