

JMCC Public Opinion Poll No. 28

On Palestinian Attitudes Towards the Palestinian cabinet reshuffle - August 1998

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Introduction

The results of the Jerusalem Media and Communication Centre public opinion poll were negative for a majority of the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip with respect to the newly Cabinet, and were pessimistic about the performance of the Authority. Only 20.3% of those polled said that the Cabinet change made them more optimistic about the future performance of the Palestinian Authority (PA), in comparison to 33.6% who expressed pessimism about the future performance of the PA, and 40.2% said that there was no change in their optimism or pessimism as a result of this change.

A majority of those polled did not support a vote of confidence in the new Cabinet by the Legislative Council, only 31.4% said that the Legislative Council should give a vote of confidence in the new Cabinet, while 38.6% said that the Legislative Council must give the new Cabinet a non-confidence vote, 27% did not know, and 3% did not answer the question.

This change did not bring any change in the confidence of the public in President Arafat, with 23.8% of those polled said that the Cabinet change increased their confidence in President Arafat, 23.3% said that the Cabinet change decreased their confidence in President Arafat, while the majority 48.4% said that the Cabinet change did not affect their confidence in President Arafat.

With a majority of 77.5% believing that there is corruption in the PA, only 23.4% of respondents said that the latest Cabinet change will help deal with the problem of corruption in the PA, while 33.4% said that this Cabinet change will increase the problem of corruption in the PA, and 37.9% said that this will not have any change in corruption in the PA.

With respect to the resignations of two of the ministers as a result of the Cabinet change, 32.1% of those polled supported the resignations and 26.5% opposed the resignations, while 22.3% of respondents did not know there were any resignations, 14.7% had no opinions, and 4.4% did not respond to the question.

Methodology

A random sample of 1,204 Palestinians, over the age of 18 years, were interviewed throughout the West Bank and Gaza Strip on 8 August 1998. The interviews were conducted on face to face basis on busy street corners in the main towns

In the *West Bank*, 765 people were surveyed from the following areas: **Jenin, Nablus, Tulkarem, Qalailiya, Bethlehem, Hebron, Jerusalem, Ramallah, al-Bireh.**

In the *Gaza Strip*, 439 people were surveyed from: **Gaza City, Rafah, Maghazi, al-Bureij, Beit Hanoun, Nuseirat, Deir al-Balah, Khan Younis, Jabaliya, Beit Lahia.**

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

Sample Distribution

- 54.8% of the respondents were from the West Bank
- 36.1% from the Gaza Strip
- 9.1% from Jerusalem
- 28.3% said they live in villages
- 27.6% in refugee camps
- 42.2% in towns/cities
- 1.9% No answer
- 56.3% were male
- 43.7% were female
- (The interviewers reported that a large number of women declined to be interviewed, particularly in Gaza Strip)
- The average of age of the respondents was 33.6 years.

Occupation respondents

- Students 13.9%
 - Waged laborers 14.6%
 - Housewives 21.4%
 - Employees e.g. secretaries/teachers/nurses/municipal employees 19.9%
 - Businessmen/private business 11.8%
 - Farmers/fishermen 3.4%
 - Craftsmen 2.5%
 - Professionals - e.g. doctors/lawyers/pharmacists/engineers 3.7%
 - Unemployed 5.6%
 - Retired 2.4%
 - No answer 0.8%
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Results

Q1. How knowledgeable are you in the cabinet reshuffle?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Very knowledgeable	19.4%	16.5%	24.4%
Somewhat knowledgeable	59.5%	60.8%	57.2%
Not knowledge at all	19.6%	21.3%	16.6%
No answer	1.5%	1.4%	1.8%

Q2. What do you think about the new cabinet reshuffle; did it make you more optimistic or more pessimistic, about the performance of the PA?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
More optimistic	20.3%	19.7%	21.2%
More pessimistic	33.6%	33.9%	33.3%
Did not change my opinion	40.2%	40.4%	39.9%
No answer	5.9%	6.0%	5.6%

Q3. Do you think the Palestinian Legislative Council must grant or deny the new cabinet reshuffle a vote of confidence?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Must grant a vote of confidence	31.4%	28.1%	37.1%
Deny the vote of confidence	38.6%	37.8%	40.1%
I don't know	27.0%	31.1%	19.8%
No answer	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%

Q4. Did the new cabinet reshuffle increase or decrease your support to President Arafat, or did it make no change?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Increased my support	23.8%	22.2%	26.7%
decreased my support	23.3%	23.4%	23.0%
Did not make any change in my position	48.4%	49.8%	46.0%
No answer	4.5%	4.6%	4.3%

Q5. Do you believe there is corruption in the Palestinian Authority?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	77.5%	73.7%	84.1%
No	20.7%	24.7%	13.7%
No answer	1.8%	1.6%	2.2%

Q6. Do you believe that the recent cabinet reshuffle will lead to an increase in corruption or deal with the corruption problem or it won't make any change? *

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Will increase corruption	33.4%	38.1%	26.3%
Will deal with the corruption problem	23.4%	24.3%	22.0%
Will not make any change regarding the corruption problem	37.9%	33.0%	45.5%
No answer	5.3%	4.6%	6.2%

**This question was asked to those who answered yes in Q5*

Q7. Do you support or oppose the following expressions:

Total

	Support	Oppose	No answer
The cabinet reshuffle will result in reducing criticism of the Executive Authority by the PLC	41.4%	46.5%	12.1%
The cabinet reshuffle increased the number of ministers, so the PA performance will be better	34.6%	56.8%	8.6%
The cabinet reshuffle will make President Arafat head a more successful Cabinet	45.1%	44.6%	10.3%
Increasing the number of ministers from Fateh will strengthen the PA	47.8%	42.4%	9.8%
The Cabinet reshuffle will strengthen Palestinian national unity	44.9%	44.5%	10.6%

West Bank

	Support	Oppose	No answer
The cabinet reshuffle will result in reducing criticism of the Executive Authority by the PLC	41.0%	47.6%	11.4%
The cabinet reshuffle increased the number of ministers, so the PA performance will be better	32.2%	58.3%	9.5%
The cabinet reshuffle will make President Arafat head a more successful Cabinet	44.2%	45.0%	10.8%

Increasing the number of ministers from Fateh will strengthen the PA	47.5%	42.6%	9.9%
The Cabinet reshuffle will strengthen Palestinian national unity	49.0%	41.4%	9.6%

Gaza Strip

	Support	Oppose	No answer
The cabinet reshuffle will result in reducing criticism of the Executive Authority by the PLC	41.9%	44.6%	13.5%
The cabinet reshuffle increased the number of ministers, so the PA performance will be better	38.7%	54.2%	7.1%
The cabinet reshuffle will make President Arafat head a more successful Cabinet	46.7%	44.0%	9.3%
Increasing the number of ministers from Fateh will strengthen the PA	48.3%	42.1%	9.6%
The Cabinet reshuffle will strengthen Palestinian national unity	37.6%	49.9%	12.5%

Q8. Do you support or oppose the resignation submitted by two of the ministers in the recent cabinet reshuffle?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I support	32.1%	29.5%	36.7%
I oppose	26.5%	25.6%	28.0%
I do not know about the resignations	22.3%	22.4%	22.1%
I have no opinion	14.7%	17.1%	10.5%
No answer	4.4%	5.4%	2.7%