

JMCC Public Opinion Poll No. 27 On Palestinian Attitudes Towards Israeli Parties July 1998

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Methodology

A random sample of 1,196 Palestinians, over the age of 18 years, were interviewed throughout the West Bank and Gaza Strip on 16 and 17 July 1998. The interviews were conducted on 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*, 772 people were surveyed from the following areas: **Jenin:** Jenin & Jenin Refugee Camp, al-Yamoun, Fahma, Qabatiya & Zababdeh. **Nablus:** Nablus, 'Askar Refugee Camp, Salfit, Beitiba & Deir Sharaf. **Tulkarem & Qalailiya:** Tulkarem & Tulkarem Refugee Camp, 'Attil & Deir al-Ghusun, Beit Lid & Safareen & Qalqiliya. **Bethlehem:** Bethlehem, Dheisheh Refugee Camp, Beit Jala & Beit Sahour, Husan & al-Khader. **Hebron:** Hebron & 'Arrub Refugee Camp, Shyokh, Tarqoumiya, Dura & Bani Na'im. **Jerusalem:** Old City, al-'Issawiya & Sheikh Jarrah, Silwan & Ras al-Amoud, Hizma & 'Anata. **Jericho:** Jericho & 'Ain al-Sultan Refugee Camp. **Ramallah:** Ramallah, al-Bireh, Deir Dibwan & Burqa, Birzeit & Jalazone Refugee Camp, Beitunia & 'Ain Areek.

In the *Gaza Strip*, 424 people were surveyed from: Gaza, Rimal, Daraj, Sabra, Sheikh Radwan, Beach Refugee Camp, Nazleh, Khan Younis, Khan Younis Refugee Camp, Jabaliya, Jabaliya Refugee Camp, Deir al-Balah & Deir al-Balah Refugee Camp, al-Maghazi Refugee Camp, Rafah Refugee Camp, Bureij Refugee Camp, Beit Lahiya, Nuseirat Refugee Camp.

Sample Distribution

- 56.3% of the respondents were from the West Bank
- 35.5% from the Gaza Strip
- 8.2% from Jerusalem
- 38.1% said they live in villages
- 26.3% in refugee camps
- 35.6% in towns/cities
- 50.8% were male
- 49.2% were female
- 62.1% were married
- 30.0% were single
- 4.9% were widowed
- 1.8% were divorced
- 1.2% no answer
- The average of age of the respondents was 33 years.

Occupation respondents

- Students 13.5%
- Waged laborers 13.8%
- Housewives 35.2%
- Employees e.g. secretaries/teachers/nurses/municipal employees 15.8%
- Businessmen/private business 8.0%
- Farmers/fishermen 3.0%
- Craftsmen 2.0%
- Professionals - e.g. doctors/lawyers/pharmacists/engineers 1.8%
- Unemployed 4.4%
- Retired 1.7%
- No answer 0.8%

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 Strip
Very optimistic	6.2%	4.3%	9.7%
Optimistic	60.5%	60.9%	59.9%
Pessimistic	22.2%	24.0%	18.9%
Very pessimistic	10.0%	9.8%	10.4%
No answer	1.1%	1.0%	1.1%

Q2. In general, do you support or oppose the current peace process between the Palestinians and Israel? Do you strongly support or somewhat support or strongly oppose or somewhat oppose?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Strongly support	19.0%	15.5%	25.2%
Somewhat support	47.0%	48.6%	44.1%
Strongly oppose	13.3%	14.1%	11.8%
Somewhat oppose	15.4%	14.5%	17.0%
No answer	5.3%	7.3%	1.9%

Q3. What is your opinion about the Oslo agreement? Can you say strongly support, support, oppose, or strongly oppose?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Strongly support	11.0%	10.8%	11.6%
Support	47.9%	48.1%	47.6%
Oppose	21.9%	22.3%	21.2%

Strongly oppose	10.2%	10.8%	9.2%
No answer	9.0%	8.0%	10.4%

Q4. In the coming Israeli elections, who do you expect to win, the Labor Party or the Likud Party?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
The Labor Party	47.9%	48.7%	46.5%
The Likud Party	27.5%	25.1%	31.8%
Others	2.2%	2.5%	1.7%
Don't know	20.6%	21.4%	19.1%
No answer	1.8%	2.3%	0.9%

Q5. Who is the current head of the Labor Party?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Ehud Barak	55.2%	53.5%	58.3%
Peres	3.8%	3.5%	4.2%
Netanyahu	1.3%	1.8%	0.5%
Don't know	36.9%	38.0%	34.9%
No answer	2.8%	3.2%	2.1%

Q6. In your opinion, what would be better for the peace process; the success of the Labor Party or that of the Likud Party in the coming Israeli elections?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Success of the Labor Party is better for the peace process	62.2%	61.8%	63.0%
Success of the Likud Party is better for the peace process	6.1%	5.8%	6.6%
I do not know	1.4%	1.0%	2.1%
No one	17.2%	18.5%	14.9%
No difference	1.3%	0.4%	2.8%
Others	7.4%	7.0%	8.3%
No answer	4.4%	5.5%	2.3%

Q7. Some people believe that Ehud Barak coming to power in Israel will lead to progress in the peace process while other believe that his assuming power will result in a setback in the peace process and others believe that Barak's assuming power will not make any change, what do you think?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Ehud Barak assuming power in Israel will lead to progress in the peace process	43.1%	41.8%	45.3%

Ehud Barak assuming power in Israel will result in a setback in the peace process	5.4%	6.0%	4.5%
Ehud Barak assuming power in Israel will not make any changes	31.8%	29.1%	36.6%
I do not know	17.1%	19.8%	12.3%
No answer	2.6%	3.3%	1.3%

Q8. In your opinion, did the presence of the Likud Party headed by Netanyahu in power in Israel make any progress in the peace process or delay it or did not affect it?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
The presence of the Likud Party headed by Netanyahu in power in Israel made progress in the peace process	2.1%	1.2%	3.8%
The presence of the Likud Party headed by Netanyahu in power in Israel delayed the peace process	70.6%	68.7%	74.1%
The presence of the Likud Party headed by Netanyahu in power in Israel did not have any effect on the peace process	19.6%	21.1%	16.7%
I do not know	6.2%	7.1%	4.5%
No answer	1.5%	1.9%	0.9%

Q9. If the Israeli Labor Party wins the coming Israeli elections and Ehud Barak becomes the Israeli prime minister, will you be more optimistic towards the peace process or more pessimistic towards the peace process or do you think it will not affect your opinion?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
More optimistic towards the peace process	44.3%	41.2%	50.0%
More pessimistic towards the peace process	5.6%	6.5%	4.0%
Will not affect my opinion	37.5%	38.2%	36.3%
I do not know	10.5%	11.4%	8.7%
No answer	2.1%	2.7%	1.0%