

# **JMCC Public Opinion Poll No. 18**

## **On Palestinian Attitudes Towards Current Issues**

### **December 1996**

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## **Introduction**

- Support for the peace agreements is now lower than the period following the September incidents. This also applies to the people's perception of the PNA's performance.
  - There is lack of confidence in the Palestinian Council and in its effectiveness.
  - The Palestinian public has more confidence in Al-Quds Newspaper, Radio Palestine, and the Palestinian TV.
  - Differences still persist in the opinions of West Bank and Gaza Strip Palestinians.
1. As for Palestinian public opinion regarding the peace process and the PNA, it is clear that these indicators have gone down to the level of the pre-September incidents. The popularity of Fateh declined from 42% in October to 35.2% in December. The supporters of the Oslo Agreement also declined from 23.5% in October to 19.7% in December. As for those who are very optimistic about the future, the percentage fell from 19% in October to 12.4% in December. Trust in President Arafat has also declined from 44.5% to 41.2%.
  2. Major changes were observed in this poll regarding the public confidence in the media. Confidence in Palestinian TV increased from 26.5% in August to 41.3% in December (it is worth mentioning that the majority of West Bankers 30.8% trust Jordan TV, as compared to 4.1% in the Gaza Strip). As for radio, confidence in Radio Palestine increased from 33.4% to 44.5%. The second is Israel Radio, and the third is Radio Monte Carlo.
  3. As for final status issues, 84.1% of the public opposed any final solution proposing annexing Israeli settlements to Israel in return for giving the Palestinian land near the Egyptian borders. Moreover, the Palestinian opposed the idea of keeping present Jerusalem unified under Israeli sovereignty while having Abu Deis as a Palestinian Capital.
  4. Only 24% of the Palestinians surveyed say that the Palestinian Council fulfills their aspirations adequately. 48.3% said that the Council represents them but with no effect.

This survey continued to show previous differences that were observed between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Those who said they are very optimistic in the West Bank are 10% compared to 17% in the Gaza Strip. This is also true for the strong supporters of the interim agreement. Whereas only 15.6% in the West Bank said that they strongly support the agreement, the percentage in the Gaza Strip is 27.6% in the West Bank. The same applies to support for President Arafat who enjoys more support in the Gaza Strip (51.9%) than in the West Bank (35.7%).

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## **Methodology**

A random sample of 1,152 Palestinians, over the age of 18 years, were interviewed face-to-face throughout the West Bank and Gaza Strip on 13 and 14 December 1996. 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 83 sampling points chosen randomly according to population.

In the **West Bank**, 757 people were surveyed from the following areas: Bethlehem area, Bethlehem, Beit-Sahour, Beit-Jala, Hussan, Ertass and Nahaleen; Hebron area, Hebron, Al-Fawwar RC, Al-Dahrieh, Beit Ummar, Beni Naiem, Noba, Beit Ello; Jerusalem, al-Ram, Dahyet al-Bareed, Shufat, Beit Hanina, Old City, Hizma, Anata, Shu'fat RC, Wad El-Joz; Jenin, Jenin RC, Tobass, Masilya, Anza, Fakou', Beit Qad; Nablus Area: Nablus, Askar RC, Far'a RC, Salfit, Kufr Al-Deik, Deir Sharaf, Beit Eiba, Huwara, Ein Yabous, Deir Al-Hatab, Azzmout; Ramallah area: Ramallah, Jaba', Mukhmas, Beirzeit, Kobar, Deir Abu Misha'al, Shoukba, Beit E'mmar, Liban al-Sharkiya; Tulkarem and Qalqilia area: Tulkarem, Qalqilia, Azzoun, Kufr al-Thulth, Safareen Beit Lied; Jericho area: Jericho, Jeftlik, Aqabet Jaber RC.

In the **Gaza Strip**, 395 people were surveyed from: Gaza City, Deir al-Balah, Deir al-Balah RC, Nusseirat RC, Rafah, Jabalya, Jabaly a-Nazala, Jabalya RC, Khan Younis, Khan Younis RC, Shati RC, Maghazi RC, and 'Abasan, Nur Shames RC, Beni Shila, Ertah, Sheikh Radwan, Sheikh Agaleen, Shaboura, Rimal, Al-Faloujeh.

The major of error is 3% with a confidence level of 95%.

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## Sample Distribution

- 59.0% of the respondents were from the West Bank
- 34.4% from the Gaza Strip
- 6.6% from Jerusalem
- 49.5% were male
- 50.5% were female
- 62.7% were married
- 29.6% were single
- 4.5% were widowed
- 1.2% were divorced
- 2.0% No answer
- The average of age of the respondents was 33 years.

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## Results

**Q1. In general, what is the extent of your optimism towards the Palestinian future? Would you say you are very optimistic, somewhat optimistic, or pessimistic?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Optimistic	12.4%	10.0%	17.0%
Somewhat optimistic	62.2%	62.2%	62.3%
Pessimistic	18.4%	20.2%	14.9%
Very Pessimistic	5.9%	6.2%	5.1%
No opinion	1.1%	1.4%	0.7%

**Q2. After the elapse of sufficient time on the implementation of the Oslo Agreement, to what extent would you say you support or oppose this agreement?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Strongly support	19.7%	15.6%	27.6%
Somewhat support	55.2%	55.9%	53.9%
Do not support	19.1%	21.7%	14.2%
No opinion	6.0%	6.8%	4.3%

**Q3. What is your evaluation of the performance of the PNA after one year of its assumption of authorities? Would you say it s good, average, or poor?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Good	37.8%	36.6%	40.0%
Average	44.8%	44.5%	45.3%
Poor	14.2%	14.5%	13.7%
No opinion	3.2%	4.4%	1.0%

**Q4. In general would you say you support or oppose the peace process?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Support the peace process	78.1%	75.8%	82.5%
Oppose the peace process	14.1%	14.7%	13.2%
No opinion	7.8%	9.5%	4.3%

**Q5. Which political or religious party do you trust most?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Fateh	35.2%	31.4%	42.3%
Hamas	10.3%	8.3%	14.2%
PFLP	3.2%	4.0%	1.8%
DFLP	0.4%	0.5%	0.3%
Islamic Jihad	1.3%	1.3%	1.3%
PPP	0.5%	0.7%	0.3%
FIDA	0.9%	1.2%	0.3%
Democratic Coalition	0.1%	0.1%	--
Other Islamic Movements	3.8%	4.5%	2.3%
Secularists supporting peace	0.3%	0.4%	0.3%
Secularists opposing peace	0.1%	--	0.3%

PLO	1.0%	1.5%	--
Do not trust anyone	27.0%	27.2%	26.6%
No opinion	15.9%	18.9%	10.0%

**Q6. Which Palestinian personality you trust most?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yasser Arafat	41.2%	35.7%	51.9%
Ahmed Yassin	4.8%	3.4%	7.3%
George Habash	1.8%	2.5%	0.5%
Haidar Abdul Shafi	4.2%	3.7%	5.1%
Faisal Husseni	1.6%	2.2%	0.3%
Hanan Ashrawi	2.2%	2.1%	2.3%
Others	12.3%	12.2%	12.6%
Do not trust anyone	19.5%	21.8%	15.2%
No opinion	12.4%	16.4%	4.8%

**Q7. To what extent would you say that the Palestinian (legislative) Council represents the aspirations of the Palestinian people?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Represents the Palestinian people well	24.0%	22.5%	26.8%
Represents the Palestinian people but to no effect	48.3%	48.6%	47.6%
Represents the people in a bad way	14.8%	14.5%	15.2%
No opinion	12.9%	14.4%	10.4%

**Q8. Which radio station do you trust most?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Voice of Palestine	44.5%	46.2%	41.3%
Israel Radio	10.2%	10.3%	10.1%
Jordan Radio	8.0%	11.8%	0.8%
BBC Radio	5.0%	4.6%	5.8%
Monte Carlo Radio	10.2%	8.7%	12.9%
Egypt Radio	2.5%	1.2%	5.1%
Others	9.6%	9.2%	10.6%
Do not trust anyone	2.4%	2.8%	1.8%
No opinion	7.6%	5.2%	11.6%

**Q9. Which television station do you trust most?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Palestine TV	41.3%	28.0%	66.8%
Israel TV	7.4%	7.4%	7.3%
Jordan TV	21.6%	30.8%	4.1%
Egypt TV	4.0%	0.8%	10.1%
Others	13.2%	17.5%	4.8%
Do not trust anyone	4.9%	6.0%	2.8%
No opinion	7.6%	9.5%	4.1%

**Q10. Which Newspaper you trust most?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Al-Quds Newspaper	52.6%	53.9%	50.1%
Al-Ayyam Newspaper	8.6%	9.5%	6.8%
Al-Nahar Newspaper	3.2%	3.2%	3.3%
Al-Hayat Newspaper	7.6%	4.1%	14.4%
Al-Bilad Newspaper	0.7%	0.3%	1.5%
Al-Haq and Al-Hurieh Newspaper	3.6%	4.6%	1.8%
Others	0.5%	0.4%	0.5%
Do not trust anyone	3.2%	3.9%	1.8%
No Opinion	20.0%	20.1%	19.8%

**Q11. In the framework of the final status negotiations, would you support the idea that says that Israel could annex settlement blocs that comprise a Jewish majority in return for land to be given to the Palestinians near the Egyptian borders?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Agree	6.7%	8.1%	4.1%
Disagree	84.1%	80.8%	90.4%
No opinion	9.2%	11.1%	5.5%

**Q12. In the framework of the final status negotiations, do you agree with the idea that says that settlers could remain under Palestinian sovereignty?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I agree	24.4%	30.5%	12.7%
I disagree	70.0%	61.8%	85.6%

No opinion	5.6%	7.7%	1.7%
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**Q13. In the framework of the final status negotiations, do you agree that the solution to the refugee issue would be to grant them with the right of return only to the Palestinian state only, or would you say that the solution should guarantee their right to return back to their homes that they were forced to leave in 1948?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I don't agree that their return should be limited to the Palestinian state only	19.4%	23.6%	11.1%
The solution should guarantee their right to return back to their homes that they were forced to leave in 1948	73.2%	68.3%	82.6%
No opinion	7.4%	8.1%	6.3%

**Q14. In the framework of the final status negotiations, do you support the idea that says that Jerusalem remains unified and a capital of Israel, and to have Jerusalem (Abu Deis), which lies outside the boundaries of present Jerusalem, as the Palestinian Capital, and provided that the Aqasa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock be outside Israel's sovereignty and administered by the Palestinian?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Agree	9.0%	9.5%	8.1%
Disagree	85.0%	83.4%	88.1%
No opinion	6.0%	7.1%	3.8%

**Q15. Looking at the political and economic changes after the establishment of the PA, would you say that your economic condition and living standards became better, worse, or remained the same?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Better than before	9.0%	8.7%	9.6%
Worse than before	47.9%	42.1%	59.0%
The same	40.3%	46.2%	28.9%
No opinion	2.8%	3.0%	2.5%

**Q16. Who in your opinion is the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
PNA	18.1%	17.2%	20.0%
PLO	25.3%	27.9%	20.3%
PLO & PNA	38.2%	36.1%	42.3%
I do not know	9.9%	9.0%	11.6%
No opinion	8.5%	9.8%	5.8%

**Q17. Whom, in your opinion, should be the reference (who should be responsible for the other), the PLO or the PNA?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
The PLO is responsible for the PNA	37.7%	38.4%	36.2%
The PNA is responsible for the PLO	19.2%	18.0%	21.5%
There is no difference between both	32.0%	31.0%	33.9%
No opinion	11.1%	12.6%	8.4%