

JMCC Public Opinion Poll No. 16

On Palestinian Attitudes Towards

Current Issues

August 1996

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Methodology

A random sample of 1,178 people over the age of 18 were interviewed face-to face throughout the West Bank and Gaza Strip on 19 and 20 August 1996. 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, 737 people were surveyed from the following areas: Bethlehem, Beit Jala, Beit Sahour, Hebron; Jerusalem: Jerusalem, Shufat, Jenin, Jenin Refugee Camp, Nablus, Ramallah, al-Bireh, Tulkarem, Qalqiliya, Salfit, and Jericho.

In the Gaza Strip, 441 people were surveyed from: Gaza City, Deir al-Balah, Deir al-Balah Refugee Camp, Nuseirat Refugee Camp, Rafah, Jabaliya, Jabaliya a-Nazala, Jabaliya Refugee Camp, Khan Younis, Khan Younis Refugee Camp, Rafah, Beach Refugee Camp, Bureij Refugee Camp, Maghazi Refugee Camp and Abasan.

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

Sample Distribution

- 44.1% were male
- 55.9% were female
- 65.1% were married
- 29.2% were single
- 3.7% were widowed
- 1.2% were divorced
- 0.8% No answer

Local of Respondents - West Bank (including East Jerusalem) 62.5%, Gaza Strip 37.5%

The average of age of the respondents was 34 years.

Occupation respondents

- Students 10.3%
- Waged laborers 10.6%

- Housewives 39.7%
- Businessmen 2.1%
- Professionals - e.g. doctors/lawyers/pharmacists/engineers 3.1%
- Technicians 4.6%
- Clerks 14.2%
- Farmers 1.7%
- Self employed 3.4%
- Unemployed 7.8%
- Retired 0.6%
- No answer 1.9%

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	21.1%	19.7%	23.4%
Somewhat optimistic	51.7%	49.0%	56.2%
Pessimistic	19.1%	22.9%	12.7%
Very pessimistic	5.6%	5.2%	6.3%
No opinion	2.5%	3.2%	1.4%

Q2. In general, how do you evaluate your feeling of security after the PA assumed its responsibilities in most of the areas in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip? Would you say your feeling of security is better than before redeployment, worse than before redeployment, or did it not change?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Better	68.1%	50.3%	76.9%
Worse	9.9%	8.7%	9.1%
Did not change	18.7%	20.5%	11.1%
No opinion	3.3%	20.5%	2.9%

Q2-1 A considerable period has elapsed since the PA took over a number of responsibilities in many areas in the West Bank and Gaza. To what extent would you say that you support similar changes in your area? Would you say you strongly support that, cautiously support them, or strongly oppose them? *Question was asked in Hebron and Jerusalem only.*

	Jerusalem	Hebron
Strongly support	9.6%	33.3%
Somewhat support	45.8%	24.6%

Absolutely do not support	15.7%	25.4%
No opinion	28.9%	16.7%

Q3. Given the time elapsed since the signing of Oslo II (The Taba Agreement), to what extent can you say you are for or against the agreement between the Palestinian Authority and Israel?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Strongly support	25.0%	20.9%	31.7%
Somewhat support	41.9%	42.7%	40.6%
Did not support	20.8%	22.9%	17.2%
No opinion	12.3%	13.5%	10.5%

Q4. How do you evaluate the performance of the Palestinian Authority? Would you say its performance is good, average, or poor?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Good	31.1%	28.4%	35.6%
Average	45.8%	44.1%	48.8%
Poor	16.5%	19.7%	11.1%
No opinion	6.6%	7.8%	4.5%

Q5. How do you evaluate the performance of the following bodies? (TOTAL)

	Good	Average	Poor	No opinion
The Security apparatuses	34.6%	33.8%	19.3%	12.3%
The Legislative Council	21.6%	31.1%	17.1%	30.2%
The Executive Authority (the Cabinet)	19.4%	31.7%	14.5%	34.4%
Palestinian educational institutions	57.2%	30.1%	6.7%	6.0%
Palestinian health institutions	44.8%	32.8%	15.9%	6.5%
Palestinian Television	42.1%	18.7%	9.8%	29.4%
Palestinian Radio	54.2%	21.6%	4.2%	20.0%

Q5. How do you evaluate the performance of the following bodies? (WEST BANK)

	Good	Average	Poor	No opinion
The Security apparatuses	33.1%	32.7%	21.3%	12.9%
The Legislative Council	19.5%	31.9%	17.8%	30.8%
The Executive Authority (the Cabinet)	17.8%	33.5%	17.0%	31.7%
Palestinian educational institutions	50.5%	33.4%	8.5%	7.6%

Palestinian health institutions	38.4%	35.5%	17.9%	8.2%
Palestinian Television	26.9%	18.0%	12.5%	42.6%
Palestinian Radio	57.4%	23.5%	4.7%	14.4%

Q5. How do you evaluate the performance of the following bodies? (GAZA STRIP)

	Good	Average	Poor	No opinion
The Security apparatuses	37.2%	35.6%	15.9%	11.3%
The Legislative Council	25.2%	29.7%	15.9%	29.2%
The Executive Authority (the Cabinet)	22.2%	28.6%	10.4%	38.8%
Palestinian educational institutions	68.5%	24.7%	3.6%	3.2%
Palestinian health institutions	55.6%	28.1%	12.5%	3.8%
Palestinian Television	67.6%	19.7%	5.2%	7.5%
Palestinian Radio	48.8%	18.6%	3.4%	29.2%

Q6. Do you think that President Yasser Arafat is conducting his functions as the head of the Palestinian Authority in a good way, bad way, or average way?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Good	56.5%	47.1%	72.3%
Average	23.9%	28.4%	16.6%
Poor	9.3%	12.8%	3.6%
No opinion	10.3%	11.7%	7.5%

Q7. To what extent would you say that the Palestinian Legislative Council represents the aspirations of the Palestinian people? Would you say that it represents the people in a good way, represents the people but with neutral effect, or would you say that the Council represents the people badly?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Represent the people well	23.8%	22.1%	26.5%
Represent the people but with no effect	46.7%	45.3%	49.0%
Represents the people badly	10.8%	13.8%	5.7%
No opinion	18.7%	18.8%	18.8%

Q8. Would you say that you are well informed about the work of the Legislative Council, only reasonably informed, or not informed at all?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Well informed	8.2%	7.1%	10.2%
Informed but not enough	44.8%	44.8%	44.9%

Not informed at all	39.6%	39.9%	39.0%
No Opinion	7.4%	8.2%	5.9%

Q9. How do you follow the work of the Council? Do you follow it via local newspapers, radio, TV or via friends and acquaintances, or via other means?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Newspapers	17.6%	20.9%	12.0%
Radio	14.1%	18.9%	6.1%
TV	24.4%	14.5%	40.8%
Friends and acquaintances	7.6%	7.6%	7.7%
More than one of the above	9.9%	11.1%	8.0%
No answer	26.4%	27.0%	25.4%

Q10. If you wanted to get in touch with a Council member for assistance on some matter, would you say that accessibility to them is difficult or easy?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I find difficulty	14.5%	14.0%	15.4%
I do not find any difficulty	13.7%	14.1%	12.9%
I did not try to contact any CM	63.7%	60.7%	68.7%
No answer	8.1%	11.2%	3.0%

Q11. Which radio station do you trust most?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Palestine Radio	33.4%	33.9%	32.7%
Israel Radio	17.1%	19.5%	12.9%
Radio Jordan	5.9%	8.1%	2.0%
Egyptian Radio	2.4%	0.7%	5.2%
Radio Monte Carlo	11.2%	9.0%	15.0%
BBC	5.3%	4.7%	6.3%
Others	0.6%	1.0%	0.0%
No answer	24.1%	23.1%	25.9%

Q12. Which television station do you trust most?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Palestine TV	26.5%	11.1%	52.2%
Israel TV	12.2%	13.6%	10.0%
Jordanian TV	24.9%	33.9%	9.8%
Egyptian TV	5.1%	2.0%	10.2%
Middle East Broadcasting Cp.	4.5%	6.9%	0.5%
Others	4.3%	5.7%	1.8%
No answer	22.5%	26.8%	15.5%

Q13. In general, would you say that you support or oppose the peace process?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Support the peace process	74.3%	69.7%	81.9%
Oppose the peace process	14.0%	15.7%	11.1%
No opinion	11.7%	14.6%	7.0%

Q14. Which Palestinian political or religious faction do you trust most?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Fateh	34.0%	29.3%	41.7%
PFLP	2.8%	3.3%	2.0%
DFLP	0.2%	0.3%	0.0%
Hamas	6.5%	6.5%	6.6%
Islamic Jihad	1.4%	1.1%	1.8%
FIDA	0.6%	0.9%	0.0%
PPP	1.1%	1.6%	0.2%
I do not trust anyone	29.4%	29.9%	28.6%
Others	2.0%	2.6%	0.7%
No answer	22.0%	24.5%	18.4%

Q15. Which Palestinian personality that you trust most?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yasser Arafat	38.5%	31.9%	49.4%
Ahmed Yassin	3.0%	3.4%	2.3%
George Habash	1.4%	1.8%	0.7%

Nayef Hawatmeh	0.2%	0.3%	0.0%
Yasser Abed Rabbo	0.8%	1.1%	0.2%
Haydar Abdel Shafi	6.4%	5.0%	8.6%
Hanan Ashrawi	2.6%	3.3%	1.6%
Farouq Kaddumi	1.0%	1.1%	0.9%
Abu Mazen (Mahmoud Abbas)	0.9%	0.8%	1.1%
Mahmoud al- Zahhar	0.3%	0.1%	0.5%
Faisal Husseini	1.5%	1.6%	1.4%
Nabil Shaath	0.4%	0.3%	0.7%
Ahmad Qurei	0.8%	1.1%	0.2%
Do not trust anyone	20.5%	24.6%	13.6%
Others	7.1%	6.9%	7.6%
No Opinion	14.6%	16.7%	11.2%

Q16. To what extent would you say that the present Israeli Government influenced the peace process? Would you say it influenced it for the better, for the worse, or it did not influence it?

	Total
For the better	7.3%
For the worse	62.6%
Did not influence it	21.3%
No opinion	8.8%