

JMCC Public Opinion Poll No. 13
On Palestinian Elections, its fairness,
Women and the Palestinian National Charter
February 1996

In cooperation with Jerusalem Centre for Women

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Methodology

A random sample of 1,255 Palestinians, over the age of 18 years, were interviewed face-to-face throughout the West Bank and Gaza Strip on 1 and 2 February 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 64 sampling points chosen randomly according to population.

In the West Bank, 807 people were surveyed from the following areas: **Bethlehem:** Bethlehem, Beit Jala, Beit Sahour, Deiheishe Refugee Camp (RC), Al-'Ibeidieh, and Nahaleen; **Hebron:** Hebron, Yatta, Dura, Al-Fawwar RC, Al-Dahrieh, Beit Ummar, Al-Aroub (RC), Halhoul, Sa'ir, Shyoukh; **Jerusalem:** Jerusalem, al-'Izaria, al-Ram, Dahyat al Barid, Abu Dies, Shufat, Beit Hanina, Old City, Al-Tour, Jabal al-Mukaber. **Jenin,** Jenin, Jenin RC, Ya'bad, Yamoun, 'Aqba, al-Zababdeh, al-Shuhadah. **Nablus Area:** Nablus, Balta RC, Assira al-Shamalieh, Beita, Askar, Talouza, Beit Fureek, Ein Beit al-ma, Awarta, Kuful Haris, Sabastua, and Qabalan. **Ramallah area:** Ramallah, Al-Bireh, Jalzon (RC), Jifna, Deir Dibwan, Beit Liqia, Arourah, Deir Ammar. **Tulkarem and Qalqilia area:** Tulkarem, Qalqilia, Tuklareem (RC), Salfit, Irtah, Bala', Beit Lied. **Jericho area:** Jericho.

In the Gaza Strip, 448 people were surveyed from: Gaza city, Deir al-Balah, Deir al-Balah RC, Nusseirat RC, Rafah, Jabalya, Jabalya a-Nazala, Jabalya RC, Khan Younis, Khan Youns RC, Rafah, Shati RC, Burij RC, Maghazi RC, and 'Abasan.

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

Sample Distribution

- 56.2% of the respondents were from the West Bank
- 35.7% from the Gaza Strip
- 8.1% from Jerusalem
- 20.6% said they live in villages
- 37.4% in refugee camps
- 42.0% in towns/cities
- 47.8% were male
- 52.2% were female
- 64.4% were married
- 27.6% were single
- 3.1% were widowed
- 1.2% were divorced
- 3.7% No answer
- The average of age of the respondents was 34 years.

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	50.1%	46.8%	56.0%
Somewhat optimistic	34.1%	36.7%	29.5%
Pessimistic	13.6%	14.0%	12.9%
No opinion	2.2%	2.5%	1.6%

Q2. To what extent would you say the election process was free and fair?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Free and fair	42.4%	42.9%	41.5%
Somewhat free and fair	30.4%	29.0%	32.8%
Not free and fair	20.5%	20.6%	20.3%
No opinion	6.7%	7.5%	5.4%

Q3. Are you optimistic about the performance of the elected council in the future?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Optimistic	30.5%	27.5%	35.9%
Somewhat optimistic	42.6%	42.8%	42.4%
Pessimistic	21.5%	23.8%	17.4%
No opinion	5.4%	5.9%	4.3%

Q4. Did the election results meet your expectations?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Met my expectations	39.8%	40.9%	37.7%
Somewhat met my expectations	32.4%	29.2%	37.9%
Did not meet my expectations	21.0%	21.8%	19.6%
No opinion	6.8%	8.1%	4.8%

Q5. Do you think that the elected council members will comply with their election programs and platforms?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Will comply	16.8%	14.0%	21.9%
Will comply to a certain extent	43.3%	40.5%	48.4%
Will not comply	22.9%	25.2%	19.0%
No answer	17.0%	20.3%	10.7%

Q6. In general, were you exposed to harassment while voting or while waiting to vote?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes, a lot	3.9%	3.3%	4.9%
Only a little	11.1%	8.7%	15.4%
Not at all	70.6%	70.6%	70.5%
No opinion	14.4%	17.4%	9.2%

Q7. Do you know of any person who has received money or gifts from candidates, their representatives, or parties in favor of voting for them?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes I know of this	14.1%	13.5%	15.2%
I have only heard about it, I am not certain	29.6%	27.1%	33.9%
I did not hear anything like this	52.7%	54.6%	47.2%
No opinion	3.6%	4.8%	3.7%

Q8. Given the election results, to what extent would you say that the elected members represent your point of view?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Represent my point of view	23.6%	20.1%	29.9%
Represent my point of view to a certain extent	40.8%	39.2%	43.8%
Do not represent my point of view	23.9%	27.0%	18.3%
No opinion	11.7%	13.7%	8.0%

Q9. I obtained information about the elections from?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Spouse	5.3%	5.0%	5.8%
Parent	0.9%	1.0%	0.7%
Sibling	1.1%	1.5%	0.4%
Radio	7.9%	10.8%	2.7%
TV	8.4%	5.6%	13.6%
Party	3.6%	4.2%	2.5%
Religious People	1.9%	2.1%	1.6%
Friends	4.5%	5.5%	2.7%
Newspapers	8.8%	8.6%	9.4%
Campaign publications	6.5%	5.5%	8.3%
From family in general	10.4%	12.0%	7.6%
From the media in general	27.2%	27.1%	27.2%
Many sources	12.3%	9.8%	16.7%
No opinion	1.2%	1.3%	0.8%

Q10. Have you participated in any campaign rallies or meeting?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	29.0%	28.9%	29.2%
No	68.7%	67.8%	70.3%
No opinion	2.3%	3.3%	0.5%

Q10-1 Were those rallies and meetings:

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Very helpful	44.9%	42.9%	48.2%
Somewhat helpful	43.8%	45.9%	40.1%
Not helpful	11.3%	11.2%	11.7%

Q10-2 Why didn't you participate in such activities?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Couldn't participate in mixed meeting	15.5%	11.1%	23.0%

Not interested	45.7%	43.9%	48.6%
Didn't know about them	14.4%	16.0%	11.7%
Other	24.4%	29.0%	16.7%

Q11. What in your view is the position of the legislative council vis-à-vis the Palestinian people? Does it:

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Represents the entire people	23.7%	20.7%	29.2%
Represents only the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip	19.1%	21.7%	14.5%
The council represents only the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip while the PLO is the only representative for the Palestinian people everywhere	33.5%	34.2%	32.1%
Other	6.5%	8.6%	7.8%
No Opinion	17.2%	14.8%	16.4%

Q12. Did you vote for a female candidate?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	35.8%	28.5%	48.9%
No	56.9%	62.1%	47.5%
No answer	7.3%	9.4%	3.6%

Q12-1 Why didn't you vote for a female candidate?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
None were qualified	46.2%	36.0%	69.9%
No female candidate in my constituency	25.2%	34.8%	2.8%
I was pressured to vote for other candidates	5.0%	6.4%	1.7%
Other	23.6%	22.8%	25.6%

Q13. Do you believe in the importance of having women in the legislative council?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	68.4%	72.6%	60.7%
No	16.8%	15.9%	18.5%
No opinion	14.8%	11.5%	20.8%

Q13-1 Why don't you believe in having women in the legislative council?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Men can represent women's needs	37.1%	31.7%	45.2%
No difference between the needs of men and women	10.0%	9.5%	10.7%
Not qualified for this position	30.0%	26.2%	35.7%
Other	22.9%	32.6%	8.4%

Q14. Why do you think there is a need for women in the council?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Women need to demand their rights	49.4%	47.1%	54.5%
Better for democracy	37.2%	37.5%	36.6%
Other	13.4%	15.4%	8.9%

Q15. What is your opinion about the strike of female security prisoners? Do you support it, somewhat support it, or oppose it?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Support it	62.2%	61.7%	63.2%
Somewhat support it	18.3%	17.3%	20.1%
Oppose it	13.0%	14.9%	9.6%
No opinion	6.5%	6.1%	7.1%

Q16. Have you decided to vote for candidates without consulting anyone, or after taking the advice of others, or what?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Without consulting anyone	60.6%	61.6%	58.9%
After taking advice of others	23.7%	19.1%	31.9%
Others	7.0%	8.7%	4.0%
No opinion	8.7%	10.6%	5.2%

Q17. Did you support Samiha Khalil's decision to run against Yasser Arafat?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	33.5%	36.3%	28.6%
No	60.4%	56.4%	67.6%
No opinion	6.1%	7.3%	3.8%

Q17-1 Why do you support Samiha Khalil's decision?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I support democracy	53.3%	55.0%	49.2%
I share her apprehension about the peace process	15.5%	10.0%	28.2%
I valued her experience	6.3%	6.9%	4.8%
I support the idea of a woman president	12.6%	14.2%	8.9%
Others	12.3%	13.9%	8.9%

Q18. Do you think that there is a need to integrate personal status laws in the Palestinian Constitution?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	48.4%	52.7%	40.8%
No	42.1%	37.2%	50.9%
No opinion	9.5%	10.1%	8.3%

Q18-1 If no, why do you oppose this?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Because Sharia' law is sufficient	91.6%	94.4%	87.3%
These issues are not sufficiently important to be included in the constitution	6.9%	4.2%	10.8%
Others	1.5%	1.4%	1.9%

Q19. Do you think that women deserve a quota for representation in the council?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Support it	45.4%	48.0%	40.8%
Somewhat support it	17.4%	15.1%	21.4%
Oppose it	22.0%	26.3%	14.3%
No opinion	15.2%	10.6%	23.5%

There is discussion nowadays on amending the Palestinian National Charter:

Q20. Are you aware of the clauses to be repealed from the Palestinian National Charter?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I know the clauses to be repealed	42.4%	42.0%	43.1%
I do not know the clauses	49.5%	50.9%	46.9%
No opinion	8.1%	7.1%	10.0%

Q21. Do you support the repealing or amending of some clauses from the Palestinian National Charter?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I support amending the charter	15.1%	16.0%	13.6%
I support it, but only under certain conditions	31.6%	29.0%	36.2%
I oppose amending the charter	25.6%	26.4%	24.1%
No opinion	27.7%	28.6%	26.1%

Q22. In the transitional agreement signed between Israel and the PLO, Israel set conditions regarding the cancellation of clauses in the Palestinian National Charter that call for the destruction of Israel. Do you support or oppose the council's cancellation of these clauses or no, or do you think that these clauses should be repealed only if Israel approves the establishment of an independent Palestinian State?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I support repealing the charter by the council	6.3%	8.1%	3.1%
I don't support repealing the charter by the council	30.5%	27.9%	35.3%
I support repealing the charter by the council only in return for an independent Palestinian State	49.1%	49.1%	49.1%
No opinion	14.1%	14.9%	12.5%

Q23. Which political or religious party do you trust most?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Fateh	39.2%	36.7%	43.8%
Hamas	11.5%	10.8%	12.7%
PFLP	2.7%	2.5%	3.1%
Islamic Jihad	2.5%	2.0%	3.3%
NDC	0.2%	0.0%	0.9%
DFLP	0.6%	0.9%	0.2%
PPP	1.6%	2.4%	0.2%

Fida	0.7%	0.6%	0.9%
Other Islamic parties	3.3%	3.2%	3.6%
Others	0.4%	0.1%	0.4%
I do not trust anyone	20.0%	22.1%	16.3%
No opinion	17.3%	18.7%	14.6%

Q24. Which is the Palestinian personality that you trust most?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Arafat	36.3%	35.4%	37.7%
Ahmed Yassin	5.5%	5.1%	6.3%
George Habash	1.4%	1.4%	1.6%
Haidar Abdul Shafi	7.8%	6.2%	10.7%
Faisal Husseni	2.1%	2.7%	0.9%
Hanan Ashrawi	4.1%	4.8%	2.7%
Do not trust anyone	16.3%	17.3%	14.5%
Others	12.1%	12.4%	12.2%
No opinion	14.4%	14.7%	13.4%

Q25. Did you vote in the elections?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	82.5%	78.7%	89.5%
No	15.9%	19.1%	10.3%
No opinion	1.6%	2.2%	0.2%

Q25-1 Why didn't you participate?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I did not register	13.5%	13.2%	14.6%
Because I oppose the election	51.4%	50.0%	56.1%
Others	35.1%	36.8%	29.3%

Q26. If you oppose the elections, why?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Political prisoners	5.7%	5.5%	6.5%
Yahiya Ayash's assassination	6.3%	3.1%	15.2%
Lack of credibility of the election	14.4%	10.9%	23.9%
Parents/brothers would not allow it	4.6%	4.7%	4.3%
For religious reasons	14.9%	18.0%	6.5%
Fear of violence	2.3%	2.3%	2.2%
Political reasons	26.4%	27.3%	23.9%
Others	25.4%	28.2%	17.5%