

JMCC Public Opinion Poll No. 12

On Palestinian Elections

January 1996

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Methodology

A random sample of 1,199 Palestinians, over the age of 18 years, were interviewed throughout the West Bank and Gaza Strip on 11 and 21 January 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 74 sampling points chosen randomly according to population.

In the West Bank, 776 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, Tuklarem (RC), Salfit, Irtah, Bala', Beit Lied. **Jericho:** Jericho.

In the Gaza Strip, 423 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, Nusseriat RC, Rafah, Shati RC, Burij RC, Maghazi RC, and 'Abasan.

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

Sample Distribution

- 64.7% of the respondents were from the West Bank (including East Jerusalem)
 - 35.3% from the Gaza Strip
 - 37.5% said they live in villages
 - 22.5% in refugee camps
 - 40.0% in towns/cities
 - 45.5% were male
 - 54.5% were female
 - 65.2% were married
 - 29.4% were single
 - 3.1% were widowed
 - 1.2% were divorced
 - 1.1% 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	37.5%	36.3%	39.7%
Somewhat optimistic	47.0%	47.4%	46.1%
Pessimistic	13.6%	13.7%	13.5%
No opinion	1.9%	2.6%	0.7%

Q2. In general, do you believe that the presence of a Palestinian Council would bring changes to the better, to the worse, or will it make no difference?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Changes to the better	68.8%	67.5%	71.2%
Changes to the worse	4.7%	6.1%	2.1%
Will not make any difference	17.3%	16.1%	19.6%
No opinion	9.2%	10.3%	7.1%

Q3. Which of the following radios do you listen to most?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Radio Jordan	15.1%	20.0%	6.1%
Radio Israel	26.7%	25.1%	29.6%
Radio Palestine	38.7%	36.9%	42.1%
Others	14.0%	13.0%	15.8%
No Opinion	5.5%	5.0%	6.4%

Q4. Which of the local newspapers do you trust most to provide you with information about the elections?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Al-Ayyam	2.4%	1.5%	4.0%
Al-Istiqlal	1.8%	0.6%	3.8%
Al-Hayat Al-Jadida	7.4%	3.9%	13.9%
Al-Watan	1.0%	0.4%	2.1%
Al-Quds	57.9%	64.6%	45.6%
Al-Manar	0.9%	0.6%	1.5%

Al-Nahar	5.4%	5.9%	4.5%
Al-Aqsa	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%
Al-Shaab	0.3%	0.4%	0.0%
Al-Karamah	0.3%	0.3%	0.2%
Al-Bilad	0.8%	0.6%	0.9%
Others	1.6%	1.9%	0.9%
No Opinion	20.1%	19.2%	22.6%

Q5. Are you satisfied about the coverage of the local newspapers to the elections?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Very satisfied	24.4%	19.1%	34.0%
Somewhat satisfied	39.8%	44.3%	31.7%
Not at all satisfied	15.3%	14.0%	17.5%
No answer	20.5%	22.6%	16.8%

Q6. What is your opinion about the role of the Palestinian radio and television towards the upcoming elections? Do you think they perform their duties in a neutral or biased manner?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
They do their work in a neutral manner	49.0%	44.2%	57.9%
They do their work in a biased manner	21.4%	18.3%	27.0%
No opinion	29.6%	37.5%	15.1%

Q7. In general are you satisfied about the fairness of the election process?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	51.5%	48.5%	57.0%
Somewhat satisfied	25.2%	27.3%	21.3%
No	11.3%	11.9%	10.2%
No opinion	12.0%	12.3%	11.5%

Q8. In general, to what extent would you say that you are comfortable with the PA's arrangements and organization of the peace process?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
The election arrangements are well organized	43.6%	41.5%	47.5%
The election arrangements are somewhat organized	36.3%	36.2%	36.4%
The election arrangements are badly managed	7.8%	8.0%	7.6%

No opinion	12.3%	14.3%	8.5%
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Q9. Have you decided on whom are you going to vote for in your constituency?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	64.1%	63.1%	66.0%
No	30.6%	30.3%	31.2%
No opinion	5.3%	6.6%	2.8%

Q10. Which Palestinian political or religious faction do you trust most?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Fateh	38.9%	36.6%	43.0%
Hamas	12.3%	10.6%	15.6%
PFLP	2.3%	1.4%	3.8%
Islamic Jihad	1.4%	0.5%	2.8%
PPP	1.8%	2.6%	0.5%
Fida	0.9%	1.2%	0.5%
DFLP	0.6%	0.8%	0.2%
Other Islamic parties	1.9%	1.3%	3.1%
I do not trust anyone	17.1%	20.2%	11.3%
Others	1.0%	1.8%	0.5%
No opinion	21.8%	23.0%	18.7%

Q11. Which is the Palestinian personality that you trust most?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Arafat	41.0%	38.8%	45.2%
Ahmed Yassin	3.2%	2.6%	4.3%
George Habash	0.9%	0.5%	1.7%
Haidar Abdul Shafi	7.2%	4.1%	12.8%
Faisal Husseni	1.3%	1.4%	0.9%
Hanan Ashrawi	3.0%	4.4%	0.5%
Nabil Sha'ath	1.0%	0.8%	1.4%
Mahmoud Zahar	1.0%	--	1.4%
Do not trust anyone	11.4%	13.5%	7.6%
Others	13.2%	14.6%	12.1%
No opinion	16.8%	19.3%	12.1%

Q12. Would you vote for someone who is from outside the party/faction you trust most?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	59.2%	53.1%	70.4%
No	22.9%	24.4%	20.1%
No opinion	17.9%	22.5%	9.5%

Q13. In General, to what extent would you say you trust Palestinian political or religious parties?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I trust them	53.4%	51.9%	56.0%
I do not trust them	22.8%	23.5%	21.5%
No opinion	23.8%	24.6%	22.5%

Q14. On What bases would you say you would choose the candidate? Would you say that you would choose them on personal bases or on their political affiliation?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
On the bases of their personal merits	49.8%	49.5%	50.4%
On the bases of their political affiliation	28.1%	27.6%	29.1%
Other reasons	14.0%	13.3%	15.4%
No opinion	8.1%	9.6%	5.1%

Q15. What is your opinion of the attitude of the opposition towards the election? Do you believe their position is right or wrong?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Their position is right	16.7%	16.5%	17.0%
Their position is wrong	63.2%	60.2%	68.8%
No opinion	20.1%	23.3%	14.2%

Q16. What, in your opinion, is the role of the international observers? Do you believe their role is impartial or biased?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Impartial	55.3%	53.5%	58.6%
Biased	14.7%	13.3%	17.3%
No opinion	30.0%	33.2%	24.1%

Q17. Are you going to vote in the election of the President of the Council?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	83.9%	80.8%	89.6%
No	8.4%	8.8%	7.8%
No opinion	7.7%	10.4%	2.6%

Q18. Whom are you going to vote for in the Presidential election: Arafat or Samiha Khalil?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yasser Arafat	80.7%	83.9%	78.8%
Samiha Khalil	7.2%	6.1%	7.8%
I will cast an empty ballot paper	4.0%	3.7%	4.1%
No opinion	8.1%	6.3%	9.3%