

JMCC Public Opinion Poll No. 7

On Palestinian Attitudes to more than one year of Autonomy

June 1995

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Methodology

A random sample of 1,397 Palestinians, over the age of 18 years, were interviewed face-to-face throughout the West Bank and Gaza Strip on 15 & 16 June 1995. 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 52 sampling points chosen randomly according to population.

In the West Bank, 892 people were surveyed from the following areas: **Bethlehem:** Dheisheh Refugee Camp, Hindaza. **Jerusalem:** Jabal al-Mukaber, Sour Baher. **Hebron:** Halhul, Hebron, Tarqumiya, Yatta, Bani Na'im, **Jenin:** Jenin, Qabatiya, Ajja, Sanur, Tubas. **Qalqilya :** Qalqilya. **Nablus:** Nablus, Salem, Abwein, Kufr Ni'meh, Nur Shams Refugee Camp, and Qaffin. **Ramallah:** Ramallah, Sinjil. **Jericho:** Jericho.

In the Gaza Strip, 505 people were surveyed from: Gaza, Beach Refugee Camp, Nuseirat , Rafah, Jablaiya, Deir al-Balah, Rimal, Asqoula, Beit Lahiya.

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

Sample Distribution

- 63.8% of the respondents were from the West Bank (including East Jerusalem)
- 36.2% from the Gaza Strip
- 41.2% said they live in villages
- 15.0% in refugee camps
- 43.8% in towns/cities
- 45.7% were male
- 54.3% were female
- 65.7% were married
- 27.0% were single
- 4.0% were widowed
- 1.7% were divorced
- 1.6% No answer
- The average of age of the respondents was 34 years.

Occupation respondents

- Students 7.4%
- Waged laborers 12.2%

- Housewives 35.7%
- Employees e.g. secretaries/teachers/nurses/municipal employees 5.2%
- Businessmen/private business 4.9%
- Farmers/fishermen 1.3%
- Craftsmen 8.1%
- Professionals - e.g. doctors/lawyers/pharmacists/engineers 9.7%
- Unemployed 7.9%
- Retired 2.1%
- Other/No answer 5.5%

Results

**Q1. With the passage of one year of autonomy (Gaza-Jericho), how do you feel about the Palestinian future?
Are you:**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Optimistic	57.9%	52.1%	68.1%
Pessimistic	27.0%	29.6%	22.6%
Other	6.7%	8.6%	3.8%
No opinion	8.4%	9.7%	5.5%

Q2. With the passage of a year since the implementation of autonomy, do you feel?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
More secure	47.9%	35.8%	69.3%
Less secure	20.5%	24.9%	12.9%
No change	29.6%	36.7%	17.2%
No opinion	2.0%	2.6%	0.6%

Q3. With the passage of a year since the implementation of autonomy, how has your support for it changed?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I never supported it	20.7%	22.5%	17.4%
I used to, and support increased	27.5%	27.5%	27.7%
I used to, and my support didn't change	27.0%	23.5%	33.5%
I used to, and my support decrease	15.2%	14.3%	16.8%
I used to, but now I don't	3.6%	4.4%	2.2%
No opinion	6.0%	7.8%	2.4%

Q4. What is your evaluation of the Palestinian National Authority one year since it began work?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Good	40.5%	40.6%	40.4%
Average	32.3%	29.1%	38.0%
Bad	17.0%	16.8%	17.4%
Other	2.1%	2.7%	1.0%
No opinion	8.1%	10.8%	3.2%

Q4-a For those who answered "average" or "bad": You evaluate the authority's performance this way because:

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
The PA's practices	23.0%	20.2%	27.8%
The agreement with Israel	22.6%	23.7%	20.8%
Israeli measures	26.1%	24.5%	28.7%
Donor aid	8.8%	7.7%	10.7%
More than one of the above	5.1%	5.8%	4.3%
No opinion	14.4%	18.1%	7.7%

Q5. How do you evaluate the performance of the following National Authority apparatuses?

TOTAL

	Education	Health	PECDAR	Preventive Security	Tax Authority	Police
Good	64.9%	47.6%	28.9%	39.0%	22.7%	49.4%
Average	22.4%	27.3%	28.1%	21.7%	24.2%	26.0%
Poor	5.2%	14.2%	16.5%	21.4%	23.2%	8.8%
No answer	7.5%	10.9%	26.5%	17.9%	29.9%	15.8%

Q6. Negotiations are being held to implement the autonomy experiment in the West Bank. What is your opinion?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I support this	74.9%	71.3%	81.4%
I oppose this	15.7%	17.8%	12.1%
No opinion	9.4%	10.9%	6.5%

Q7. Do you believe President Arafat is carrying out his work as head of the National Authority?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Well	52.0%	46.7%	61.4%
Average	24.7%	26.1%	22.2%
Poorly	13.9%	15.8%	10.5%
No opinion	9.4%	11.4%	5.9%

Q8. After the passage of a year since the return of President Yasser Arafat and his assumption of the leadership of the Palestinian National Authority, has your support increased, decreased, not changed or did you never support him?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I never supported him	18.1%	19.8%	15.0%
I used to, and my support increased	30.7%	29.4%	33.1%
I used to, and my support didn't change	28.8%	26.6%	32.9%
I used to, and my support decreased	13.2%	13.3%	13.1%
I used to, but I don't any more	2.8%	3.7%	1.2%
No opinion	6.4%	7.2%	4.7%

Q9. After the passage of a year since the return of President Yasser Arafat and his assumption of leadership of autonomy, how do you evaluate him in the following areas?

TOTAL

	PNA Administration	Administration of negotiations with Israel	Administration of Palestinian Economy	Decision-making
Good	45.2%	30.7%	24.3%	36.5%
Average	30.2%	33.0%	31.7%	26.7%
Poor	12.0%	26.0%	30.0%	22.5%
No answer	12.6%	10.3%	14.0%	14.3%

Q10. If Palestinian political elections are held soon, do you think President Arafat should nominate himself?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	67.8%	65.1%	73.9%
No	20.6%	22.8%	16.6%
No opinion	11.6%	12.1%	9.5%

Q11. Do you believe President Arafat is a democratic or undemocratic person?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes, democratic	45.1%	41.4%	51.7%
No, undemocratic	24.6%	28.0%	18.6%
No, but he is justified in being undemocratic	11.7%	10.4%	14.1%
Other	2.0%	1.8%	2.4%
No opinion	16.6%	18.4%	13.2%

Q12. President Arafat has been considered a symbol of the struggle and aspirations of the Palestinian people and Palestinian cause. What do you think today?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
He was and still a symbol for the Palestinian people and cause	60.9%	55.9%	69.9%
He is no longer a symbol for the Palestinian people and cause	22.5%	25.8%	16.6%
Other	4.4%	4.3%	4.6%
No opinion	12.2%	14.0%	8.9%

Q13. Do you agree to give up the 1948 lands in return for a final solution stipulating a Palestinian state in West Bank and Gaza Strip, with Jerusalem as its capital (the 1967 borders)?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	31.8%	30.2%	34.9%
No	60.7%	60.2%	61.8%
No opinion	7.5%	9.6%	3.3%

Q14. Do you believe Jordan deals with the Palestinian issue?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
With good intentions	9.3%	10.0%	8.1%
With bad intentions	17.7%	18.5%	16.4%
According to Jordanian national interests	65.3%	63.6%	68.5%
No opinion	7.7%	7.9%	7.0%

Q15. Is Rabin sincere about implementing the agreements he signed with the Palestinian?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	9.9%	9.4%	10.9%
No	80.1%	81.3%	78.2%
No opinion	10.0%	9.3%	10.9%

Q16. If Labor falls and Likud takes over the Israeli government in the coming elections, do you think the general Palestinian political situation will?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Improve	6.8%	7.4%	5.7%
Worsen	47.8%	46.5%	50.1%
Remain the same	30.5%	31.1%	29.7%
No opinion	14.9%	15.0%	14.5%

Q17. How much do you trust the intentions of the following Israeli parties toward the Palestinians?

TOTAL

	Labor/Yitzhak Rabin	Likud/Binyamin Netanyahu	Meretz/Yossi Sarid	Hadash/Hashem Mahameed	Arab Democratic Party/Abdul Wahab Darawshe
Good	12.3%	2.0%	18.2%	56.9%	62.7%
Poor	7.5%	2.0%	4.4%	5.6%	5.4%
Average	60.2%	73.2%	44.9%	13.1%	12.0%
No opinion	20.0%	22.8%	32.5%	24.4%	19.9%

Q18. Do you think armed resistance against Israel is still legitimate under the current political situation?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	42.3%	46.7%	34.7%
No	43.3%	37.7%	53.5%
Other	2.1%	1.5%	3.2%
No opinion	12.3%	14.1%	8.6%

Q19. Do you support continued Hamas and Islamic Jihad suicide operations against Israeli targets under the current political situation?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	32.8%	34.8%	29.5%
No	52.3%	48.4%	59.2%
Other	2.2%	1.8%	3.0%
No opinion	12.7%	15.0%	8.3%

Q19-a If you answered yes, why?*

	Total
It's the best way to regain our rights, no other solution	24.4%
It's an alternative to the peace process, the peace process is not in our best interest	8.3%
Because occupation still exists, to liberate our country	18.3%
As pressure on Israel	13.7%
Israel understands only power, because of Israeli provocations, revenge	18.1%
For the sake of Islam, to liberate Islamic holy sites	9.4%
Other	5.4%
No opinion	2.4%

Q20. What are the two political or religious factions you trust the most?

	Total
Fateh	46.6%
Hamas	18.2%
PFLP	4.4%
DFLP	0.7%
Jihad	4.3%
People's Party	1.4%
FIDA	0.3%
Other Islamic Groups	1.1%
'Pro-peace' secularists	0.4%
'Anti-peace' secularists	0.1%
Don't trust anyone	6.4%
No opinion	16.1%

Q21. What two Palestinian figures do you trust the most?

	Total
Yasser Arafat	39.4%
Ahmed Yassin	10.9%
Haydar Abdel Shafi	7.1%
Faisal Hussein	3.4%
George Habash	2.9%
Hanan Ashrawi	2.9%
Yasser Abed Rabbo	1.9%
Farouq Kaddumi	1.7%
Nabil Shaath	1.6%
Mahmoud al- Zahar	1.0%
Other personalities	6.9%
No opinion	20.3%