
Poll no. 59, July 2006
Poll Result On Palestinian Attitudes Towards
The Abduction of the Israeli Soldier & Firing of Rockets

Significant Opinion results

Executive Summary

A majority of the respondents 77.2% expressed its support for the military operation that included the abduction of the Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit while only 21.7% said they opposed it.

Also, a majority of the respondents 66.8% supported the continuation of such operations that aim at the abduction of Israeli soldiers as a suitable response within the current political conditions compared with 30.7% who reject them and find them harmful to the Palestinian national interests

Significantly, this high support for the abduction comes out in spite of the fact that the majority of the respondents 46.7% expect the crisis of the Israeli soldier to end with losses incurred by the Palestinian side compared with 36.9% who expect it to end with gains achieved by the Palestinian side.

Moreover, a majority of the respondents 60.4% supported the continuation of firing rockets against Israeli targets as a suitable response within the current political conditions whereas only 36% said they reject them and find them harmful to the Palestinian national interests

Finally, If elections were to be held today, the percentage of Palestinians who will vote for the Change and Reform List (Hamas) slightly rises from 30.8% in June 2006 to 33.1% in this poll compared with a percentage of Palestinians who would vote for Fateh Movement 32.2% remained almost stable corresponding to 33.2% prior to recent incidents which indicate that the recent incidents in Gaza have slightly altered the balance in Hamas favor.

Methodology :

A random sample of 1197 people over the age of 18 was interviewed face-to-face throughout the West Bank and Gaza Strip between 6th and 7th of July 2006. 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** 757 people were surveyed from the following areas: **Jenin:** Jenin, Jenin RC, Tubas, Kafr Ra'ii, Misliya, Silat al Harthieh. **Nablus:** Nablus, Kufr Qalil, Beit -Iba, Asmout, Askar RC, Farkha. **Tulkarem and Qalqilya:** Tulkarem, Nur-Shams RC, A'teel, Anabta, Qalqilya, Jayyous. **Hebron:** Hebron, al-Thahirieh, Dura, Halhul, Bani N'eim, Beit Khahel, Taffuh. **Bethlehem:** Bethlehem, el-'Beidieh, Za'tara, al-Khader, al-Duheisheh RC. **Ramallah & al-Bireh:** Ramallah, al- Bireh, Beit Liqya, al-Jalazon RC, Kufr al-Diek, Kufr Ne'meh.. **Jerusalem:** Bir Nabala, Qalandia RC, al-Dahieh, al-Ram, Old City, Beit Hanina, Beit Hanina Tahta, al-Isawieh, Silwan, Wadi al-Joz **Jericho:** Jericho, Ein al Sultan RC.

In the **Gaza Strip:** 440 people were surveyed from: **Gaza:** Shati RC, al-nasser, al-Zaytoun, Sabra, al-Durj, al-Tufah, a-Shuja'a, al-Rimal north, Sheikh Radwan **Khan Younis:** al-Khuza', Khan Younis, Bani Suheila, Khan Younis RC, al-Qararah **Rafah:** Rafah, Tal al Sultan RC, Rafah RC. **Gaza North:** Jabalia, Jabalia RC, Beit Hanoun. **Deir al-Balah:** Deir Al Balah, al-Maghazi RC, al- Nusseirat RC, al- Bureij RC.

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

Sample Distribution

54.1 % of the respondents were from West Bank, 9.1 % from Jerusalem, 36.8 % from the Gaza Strip.
28.7% said they live in villages 15.5 % in refugee camps, and 55.8 % in towns/cities.
48.4% were male, 51.6% were female. 67.4 % were married, 24.6%, single, 3.3% widowed, 2.3% divorced, 2.4% no answer.
The average age of the respondents was 34 years.

Occupation of Respondents

Students 11.1%	Professionals - e.g. doctors/lawyers/ pharmacists/engineers 0.8%
laborers 8.6%	Housewives 37.2%
Farmers/fishermen 3.8 %	Unemployed 8.2%
Craftsmen 1.7%	Retired 0.8 %,
Businessmen/private business 8.3%	No answer 0.4%.
Public Sector Employees 12.0%	
Private Sector Employees 7.1%	

Results:

Q1. What do you think about the military operation that included the abduction of The Israeli soldier? Would you say that you support, oppose, or no answer?

	Total N=1197	West Bank N=757	Gaza N=440
support	77.2	74.6	81.6
Oppose	21.7	23.8	18.0
I don' t know/ No answer	1.1	1.6	0.4

Q2. Do you support the resumption of the military operations that aim to abduct Israeli Soldiers as a suitable response within the current political conditions, or do you reject them and find them harmful to the Palestinian national interests?

	Total N= 1197	West Bank N=757	Gaza N=440
Suitable response within the current political conditions	66.8	65.0	70.0
I reject them and find them harmful to Palestinian national interests	30.7	32.5	27.5
I don' t know/ No answer	2.5	2.5	2.5

Q3. In light of the current crisis resulting from the abduction of the Israeli soldier, in your opinion what is the most suitable option for dealing with the crisis?

	Total N= 1197	West Bank N= 757	Gaza N= 440
To release the abducted soldier to avoid an incursion in Gaza	17.6	16.4	19.8
No release of the abducted soldier until the release of Palestinian prisoners	68.8	67.6	70.7
To try the Israeli soldier and put him in a Palestinian prison	10.9	12.7	8.0
I don' t know/ No answer	2.7	3.3	1.5

Q4. Do you expect the crisis of the Israeli soldier to end with gains achieved by the Palestinian side or losses incurred by the Palestinian side or do you think the end of this crisis will not affect the Palestinian situation?

	Total N=1197	West Bank N=757	Gaza N=440
The Palestinian side will achieve gains	36.9	32.9	43.9
The Palestinian side will incur losses	46.7	49.5	41.8
It will not affect the Palestinian situation	13.9	14.8	12.3
I don' t know/ No answer	2.5	2.8	2.0

Q5. Do you support that the Palestinian side continues firing rockets against targets as a suitable response within the current political conditions, or do you reject them and find them harmful to the Palestinian national interests?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza
	N=1197	N=757	N=440
Suitable response within the current political conditions	60.4	59.0	62.7
I reject them and find them harmful to Palestinian National Interests	36.0	36.6	35.0
I don't know/ No answer	3.6	4.4	2.3

Q6. If the elections happened another time today, which list would you vote for?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza
	N=1197	N=757	N=440
Alternative list (DFLP, PPP, Fida, and independents coalition)	3.5	4.5	1.8
Independent Palestine list (Mustafa Barghouthi and the independents)	3.2	3.3	3.0
Martyr Abu Ali Mustafa List	4.4	4.1	5.0
Martyr Abu Abbas List	1.0	1.3	0.5
Freedom and Social Justice list	0.8	1.1	0.2
Change and reform list	33.1	29.6	39.1
The National Coalition for Democratic Justice	0.6	0.8	0.2
The Third Road List	2.8	3.2	2.3
Freedom and Independence List	1.1	1.6	0.2
Palestine Justice List	0.5	0.4	0.7
Fateh List	32.2	30.3	35.7
Won't vote	13.8	15.5	10.9
No answer	3.0	4.3	0.4