

JMCC Public Opinion Poll No. 40

On Palestinian Attitudes Towards Politics including the Current Intifada - April 2001

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Introduction

- The majority of the Palestinian people, 80.2 percent, support the continuation of the Intifada, while only 13.3 percent oppose its continuation. This shows an increase in supporting the Intifada since 70.1 percent of Palestinians said in a December 2000 poll they support it.
 - The majority of the Palestinian people, 62.3 percent, support the continuation of both forms of the Intifada: popular and armed struggle. This is also an increase from the last poll conducted in December 2000 when only 54.5 percent supported popular and armed struggle.
 - Decrease in the support of the Oslo agreements continues wherein 40.4 percent support the agreements when last June 57.6 percent supported it.
 - As for popular support for the various Palestinian political and religious factions, Palestinian President Yasser Arafat's mainstream faction Fateh maintained its position at the top with 35.1 percent with a slight increase from December 2000 when it was 32.1 percent. Support for the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas decreased to 17.7 percent from 19.2 percent last December. Yet support for Hamas has increased since the beginning of the Intifada since support for Hamas was 12 percent in June 2000. The Islamic Jihad and other Islamic factions showed an increase of support.
 - The percentage decreased for those who do not trust any faction reaching 23.1 percent as opposed to 28.1 percent last December and 37.3 percent in June 2000.
 - There is a noticeable increase in the trust in Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, which reached 32.3 percent after it used to be 25.7 percent in December 2000 and 31.8 percent before the Intifada in June 2000.
 - A sweeping Palestinian majority (95.3 percent) considers the United States biased to Israel in terms of its role as the peace process sponsor while only 2.5 percent consider the United States neutral.
 - The Palestinian people seem to continue to have some kind of hope in the peace process since only 29.7 percent said the peace process is dead and could not resume while 43.8 percent said that the peace process is experiencing difficult circumstances with an unknown future. Of those surveyed, 19.1 percent said that the peace process is alive.
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Methodology

A random sample of 1200 people over the age of 18 were interviewed face-to-face throughout the West Bank (5,6,7 April 2001) and Gaza Strip on (10,11,12 April 2001). 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, 760 people were surveyed from the following areas: **Jenin**: Jenin, Kafr Rai, al-Zababdeh, Yabad, Aqaba, Silat al-harithiya, Jenin Refugee Camp, Fahma, Tinnak. **Nablus**: Nablus, 'Askar Refugee Camp, Haris, Biddya, Huwwara, Burqa, Deir al-Hatab, a-Naqura, Einabous. **Tulkarem & Qalqiliya**: Tulkarem, Bala', Qalqiliya, Nur Shams Refugee Camp, Zaita, Azzun. **Hebron**: Hebron, Dura, Idna, Sureef, Halhul, Yatta, Sairr and Arrub Refugee Camp. **Bethlehem**: Beit - Tamir, Beit Jala, Za'tra, al-khader, Beit Sahour and 'aida Refugee Camp. **Jericho**: Jericho and Ain al - Sultan. **Ramallah & al-Bireh**: al-Bireh, Ramallah, Birzeit, Nilin, al-Mazraa, al-'Amari, Kharbatha Bani Harith and Sinjil. **Jerusalem**: Ezzariya, Old City, Shu'fat, Beit Hanina, Wadi al-Joz, Beit Hanina a-Thata, Anata, Hizma, Ras al-Amoud, Bir Nabala, Abu Dis, Qalandiya RC.

In the Gaza Strip, 440 people were surveyed from: **Gaza North**: Jabaliya refugee camp, Jabaliya, Beit Lahiya and Beit Hanoun. Gaza: Sheikh Radwan, a-Darj, a-Tufah, Sabra, a-Zaytoun, a-Nasir, a-Shuja'ia, a-Rimal north and south and Beach refugee camp. **Deir al-Balah**: al-Nuseirat refugee camp, al-Maghazi refugee camp, Deir al-Balah and al-Bureij RC. **Khan Younis**: 'Abassan al-Kabira, Khan Younis refugee camp, Khan Younis, Bani Suheila and al-Khuza'. **Rafah**: Rafah, Rafah refugee camp and Tal al-Sultan RC. The margin of error is 3 percent, with a confidence level of 95.

Sample Distribution

- 53.4% of the respondents were from West Bank, 10.0 % from Jerusalem, 36.6% from the Gaza Strip.
- 31.7% said they live in villages, 17.5% in refugee camps, and 50.8% in towns/cities.
- 51.9% were male, 48.1% were female.
- 66.8% were married, 25.0%, single, 4.4% widowed, 1.9% divorced, 1.9% no answer.
- The average age of the respondents was 35 years.

Occupation respondents

- Students 12.3% laborers 10.1% Farmers/fishermen 2.5%
 - Craftsmen 2.9% Businessmen/private business 6.9%
 - Employees e.g. secretaries/municipal employees/teachers/nurses 20.4
 - Professionals - e.g. doctors/lawyers/ pharmacists/engineers 1.6
 - Housewives 33.0% , unemployed 7.5% and retired 1.5% , no answer 1.3%
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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
	N=1200	N=760	N=440
Very optimistic	3.8	3.8	3.6
Optimistic	41.8	45.5	35.7
Pessimistic	37.0	36.3	38.2
Very Pessimistic	16.3	13.7	20.9
No answer	1.1	0.7	1.6

Q2. Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way Yasser Arafat is handling his job as President of the Palestinian Authority? Do you feel that way strongly or only somewhat?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
	n= 1200	n=760	n=440
Very satisfied	20.9	22.9	17.5
Somewhat satisfied	36.8	36.4	37.3
Somewhat dissatisfied	20.3	14.7	22.7
Very dissatisfied	17.7	20.8	19.5
No answer	4.3	5.2	3.0

Q3. Who is the Palestinian figure you trust the most?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
	n= 1199	n=759	n=440
Yasser Arafat	32.3	32.1	32.5
Ahmed Yassin	8.0	6.1	11.4
Haydar Abdel-shafi	4.7	3.6	6.6
Saeb Erekat	3.0	3.7	1.8
Marwan Barghouthi	2.3	2.2	2.3
Others	12.8	11.9	14.1
No one	28.3	30.5	24.3
No answer	8.6	9.9	7.0

Q4. Which Palestinian political or religious faction do you trust the most?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
	n= 1200	n=760	n=440
Fateh	35.1	34.5	36.1

Hamas	17.7	14.5	23.2
Islamic Jihad	4.9	4.2	6.1
Other Islamic faction	3.2	3.4	2.7
PFLP	1.5	1.3	1.8
PPP	1.1	1.3	0.7
Others	1.9	2.8	0.4
No one	23.1	24.1	21.4
No answer	11.5	13.9	7.6

Q5. How do you feel about suicide bombing operations against Israeli civilians in Israel? Do you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly it?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
	n= 1200	n=760	n=440
Strongly support	54.4	49.6	62.7
Somewhat support	19.3	17.9	21.8
Somewhat oppose	10.1	10.0	10.2
Strongly oppose	5.8	7.8	2.3
I don't know	7.1	10.3	1.6
No answer	3.3	4.4	1.4

Q6. Do you support or oppose the continuation of the current Palestinian Intifada?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
	n= 1200	n=760	n=440
Support	80.2	76.3	86.8
Oppose	13.3	15.8	9.1
I don't know	5.0	5.8	3.6
No answer	1.5	2.1	0.5

Q7. The current Intifada includes popular characteristics such as the demonstrations and military characteristics. In your opinion, do you support the continuation of a popular or military Intifada or both of them together?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
	n= 1200	n=760	n=440
I support the continuation of a popular resistance Intifada	13.5	17.0	7.5
With the continuation of a military resistance Intifada	15.8	16.8	13.9
I am with both a popular and military resistance Intifada	62.3	55.0	74.8
I don't know	6.9	9.5	2.5
No answer	1.5	1.7	1.3

Q8. What's your opinion of the Oslo agreement? Would you say that you strongly support it, support it, oppose it, or strongly oppose it?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
	n= 1200	n=760	n=440
Strongly support it	3.8	5.0	1.6
Support it	36.6	39.7	31.1
Oppose it	33.0	29.5	39.1
Strongly oppose it	19.9	16.1	26.6
No answer	6.7	9.7	1.6

Q9. In general, how do you evaluate the Palestinian Authority's performance? Would you say its performance is very good, good, bad, or very bad?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
	n= 1200	n=760	n=440
Very good	5.5	6.1	4.5
Good	56.3	58.2	53.2
Bad	23.9	24.2	23.4
Very bad	11.3	8.6	15.9
No answer	3.0	2.9	3.0

Q10. The United States acts as the sponsor of the peace process and a mediator in the negotiations. Do you believe that it is conducting its mediation in a biased manner towards the Palestinians, in a neutral manner or in a biased manner towards the Israelis?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
	n= 1200	n=760	n=440
Biased manner towards the Palestinians	0.4	0.4	0.5
Neutral manner	2.5	2.4	2.7
Biased manner towards the Israelis	95.3	94.9	96.1
Don't know	1.2	1.8	0
No answer	0.6	0.5	0.7

Q11. How satisfied are you with Arab solidarity with the Intifada. Would you say you are very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, or totally dissatisfied?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
	n= 1200	n=760	n=440
Satisfied	39.8	37.5	43.6
Dissatisfied	58.4	60.0	55.7
I don't know	1.3	1.8	0.2
No answer	0.5	0.7	0.5

Q12. Under the current conditions, some believe that the peace process is dead and there is no chance of resuming the negotiations, while others see that the peace process is passing through difficult conditions with an unclear future and there is another group that believes that the peace process is still alive and there is a possibility of resuming negotiations.

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
	n= 1199	n=759	n=440
The peace process is dead and there is no chance of resuming negotiations	29.7	27.0	34.3
The peace process is passing through difficult conditions with an unclear future	43.8	43.6	44.1
The peace process is still alive and there is a possibility of resuming the negotiations	19.1	20.3	17.0
Other ... please specify	0.5	0.7	0.2
I don't know	6.3	7.8	3.6
No answer	0.6	0.6	0.8

Q13. Some believe that the two –state formula is the best solution for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict while others believe that the historical Palestine cannot be divided into two states and therefore the best solution would be a bi-national state in all of Palestine where Palestinians and Israelis enjoy equal rights, which of these two solutions would you prefer?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
	n= 1199	n=759	n=440
Two states Israeli & Palestinian	43.8	47.8	37.0
Bi-national state in all of Palestine	24.8	23.3	27.3
No solution	14.7	16.2	12.0
Palestinian state	8.2	5.1	13.4
Islamic state	2.8	1.4	5.2
Other	0.9	0.4	1.8
I don't know	3.6	4.9	1.4
No answer	1.2	0.9	1.9