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Public Opinion Poll in the West Bank and Gaza 21 July 2016

The following are highlights from AWRAD's most recent national poll in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, conducted 10-12 July 2016, sample size 1,200. For the full results, please refer to www.awrad.org.

Stagnation: A simple majority (a higher rate in the West Bank) reports that security has diminished. Economically, a plurality in the West Bank states that their family's situation has remained the same as a year ago, while a majority in Gaza states that their situation has deteriorated. Correspondingly, a majority of Palestinians believes that Palestine is currently heading in the wrong direction. Overall, the data reflects stagnancy in popular sentiments. Compared with national surveys from the previous two years, a growing number of respondents, and in some instances a majority, believes that things are not changing; neither improving nor worsening. Nevertheless, a simple majority of respondents remains optimistic about the future.

Internal Violence & Crime: There has been a notable spike in internal violence and crime in recent months that has negatively impacted the lives of average Palestinians. West Bank respondents attribute events to moral and social decay within Palestinian society, followed by an inability of PA security forces to enforce the rule of law, combined with weak economic growth and declining social services. Gaza respondents, however, identify frustration with economic and social circumstances as the primary cause.

Weapon Possession & Enforcement: Palestinians, particularly in the West Bank, are split in their evaluation of the security agencies' response to recent events with an overwhelming majority in both the West Bank and Gaza of the belief that the PA and its security agencies should impose harsher measures to deal with private weapon possession.

Local Elections: Half of all respondents are aware that the PA has declared that local elections will be conducted in the West Bank on October 8, 2016. A simple majority plans to vote, with the remainder undecided or planning not to vote.

West Bank & Local Elections: If Hamas - which now says that it will participate - does not run in the local elections, a third of West Bank respondents state that they will not vote.



Gaza & Local Elections: A majority of Gaza respondents support the conduct of local elections in Gaza, simultaneous with those in the West Bank. If local elections are not conducted in Gaza on October 8, a simple majority of Gazans says they would hold Hamas responsible.

Political Parties & Local Elections: A simple majority of West Bank respondents say they are uncertain who they will vote for or that they will not vote in scheduled October local elections. In Gaza, the number of undecided is only half that of the West Bank. Among those who intend to vote, a Fatah list is currently the most popular, followed by a Hamas list.

Support for Presidential & Parliamentary Elections: A majority of Palestinians continue to support the immediate conduct of presidential and legislative elections.

Political Leadership: With President Abbas indicating his intent to retire, Marwan is the preferred presidential candidate in a presidential contest. Ismail Haniyeh is the second most popular choice, followed by Mohammad Dahlan, who derives his support almost exclusively from Gaza.

Fatah Leaders: Among Fatah leaders, Marwan Barghouti remains the first choice of respondents followed by Dahlan, Saeb Eraikat, Majed Faraj Jibril Rajoub and Naser al Qidwa.

Hamas Leaders: Ismael Haniyeh currently tops Khaled Mesha'al as the preferred choice amongst Hamas figures in a presidential contest.

Public Opinion Poll
The West Bank and Gaza Strip
Fieldwork: 10-12 July 2016
Publication Date: 21 July 2016

1. In general, would you say that things in Palestine are heading in the right direction or the wrong direction?

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Right direction	38.0%	16.7%	30.0%
Wrong direction	53.1%	77.6%	62.3%
Don't know	8.9%	5.8%	7.8%

2. In general, are you optimistic or pessimistic about the future?

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Optimistic	54.6%	45.8%	51.3%
Pessimistic	38.5%	50.9%	43.1%
Don't know	6.9%	3.3%	5.6%

3. Is your family's economic situation better or worse than it was a year ago?

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Better	13.9%	4.7%	10.4%
Stayed the same	48.9%	37.3%	44.5%
Worse	37.1%	56.9%	44.5%
Don't know	0.1%	1.1%	0.5%

4. Do you feel that internal security in your region has improved or diminished during the past year?

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Improved	12.4%	10.4%	11.7%
Diminished	57.0%	42.7%	51.6%
Same	29.6%	44.9%	35.4%
Don't know	0.9%	2.0%	1.3%

5. In general, do you approve or disapprove of the performance of:

		West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
President Mahmoud Abbas	Approve	40.3%	32.0%	37.2%
	Disapprove	48.4%	60.4%	52.9%
	Don't know	11.3%	7.6%	9.9%
Dr. Rami Hamdallah	Approve	32.9%	34.4%	33.5%
	Disapprove	46.4%	54.7%	49.5%
	Don't know	20.7%	10.9%	17.0%
Ismail Haniyeh	Approve	27.4%	27.8%	27.6%

Disapprove	45.4%	67.8%	53.8%
Don't know	27.2%	4.4%	18.6%

Recent Internal Violence

Given recent communal violence (e.g. in Ya'bad, Nablus, and Gaza), please respond to the following questions:

6. Which of the following do you believe is the main cause of these incidents?

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Inability of the PA's security agencies to enforce the rule of law	26.7%	12.9%	21.5%
Moral and social decay within the communities	37.3%	17.1%	29.8%
Competition between rival factions within Fatah and the PA	10.0%	21.1%	14.2%
Frustration of people caused by decline of economic growth and social services	23.5%	46.9%	32.3%
Don't know	2.5%	2.0%	2.3%

7. How do you evaluate the response of the PA security agencies to the violence?

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Satisfactory	25.9%	32.0%	28.2%
Somewhat satisfactory	35.2%	35.3%	35.3%
Unsatisfactory	35.6%	28.7%	33.0%
Don't know	3.3%	4.0%	3.6%

8. Do you believe that these violent events/crimes are an aberration or endemic in Palestinian society?

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Aberration and will pass soon	49.8%	46.9%	48.7%
Endemic and will continue to escalate	41.4%	44.2%	42.5%
Don't know	8.8%	8.9%	8.8%

9. Do you believe that the PA security agencies should impose harsher measures to deal with weapons in private hands?

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Yes	83.6%	72.4%	79.4%
No	11.9%	22.7%	15.9%
Don't know	4.5%	4.9%	4.7%

Local Elections

10. Are you aware that the PA has declared that local elections will be held in the West Bank on October 8, 2016?

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Yes	48.5%	33.6%	42.9%
No	51.5%	66.4%	57.1%

11. If these elections take place on the specified date, do you plan to vote?

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Yes	57.6%	73.0%	62.4%
No	26.1%	24.2%	25.5%
Don't know	16.3%	2.8%	12.1%

12. Gaza only: Do you support the conducting of local elections in the Gaza Strip at the same time as the West Bank?

Yes	72.0%
No	22.4%
Don't know	5.6%

13. Gaza only: If elections are not conducted in Gaza on October 8, whom would you hold responsible?

The PA	16.9%
Hamas	50.4%
Other (Both sides)	20.2%
Don't know	12.4%

14. West Bank only: If Hamas does not run in the West Bank, will you still vote?

Yes	46.6%
No	33.2%
Don't know	20.2%

15. If only the following lists ran in your community, which one are you most likely to vote for?

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
A list led by Fatah	27.9%	44.7%	34.2%
Al list led by Hamas	13.9%	16.9%	15.0%
A list led by leftist groups	2.8%	4.0%	3.3%
A list of Islamist independents	1.2%	2.4%	1.7%
A list of independents	3.0%	8.9%	5.2%
Not sure yet	22.1%	11.6%	18.1%
Will not vote	29.2%	11.6%	22.5%

16. Do you believe new presidential and legislative elections should be held as soon as possible?

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Yes	74.7%	80.9%	77.0%
No	12.3%	13.6%	12.8%
Don't know	13.0%	5.6%	10.2%

17. If Abbas does not run for president again, as he has previously indicated, whom, from the following list, would you vote for?

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Marwan Barghouthi	24.0%	23.3%	23.7%
Ismail Haniyeh	12.3%	12.7%	12.5%
Majid Faraj	2.0%	0.0%	1.3%
Saeb Erakat	2.0%	1.6%	1.8%
Khaled Meshal	3.2%	4.2%	3.6%
Nasser Qidwa	0.8%	0.0%	0.5%
Mustafa Barghouthi	3.1%	6.4%	4.3%
Mohammad Dahlan	1.7%	19.6%	8.4%
Jibril Rajoub	1.2%	0.2%	0.8%
Salam Fayyad	3.2%	5.1%	3.9%
None of the above	17.3%	13.1%	15.7%
I will not vote	29.1%	13.8%	23.3%
