



مركز العالم العربي للبحوث والتنمية  
Arab World for Research & Development

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**Online Survey of Palestinian Opinion Leaders**  
**May 2017**  
**Sample size: 300**

The following press release presents the results of AWRAD's most recent online survey of Palestinian opinion leaders. 300 participants were selected for the current poll, including leaders of Palestinian media, academia, the private sector, government, and civil society.

**Prisoners' Strike**

With commentary offering varying analyses of the Strike, 78 percent of respondents cite conditions in Israeli prisons as its primary cause, while 14 percent identify internal Palestinian politics. 94 percent believe the hunger strikers will realize their objectives fully or to some extent.

**Municipal Elections**

Palestinians are split on the conducting of elections exclusively in the West Bank, currently scheduled for May 13, with opposition in Gaza reaching 72 percent. Among West Bankers, 57 percent say that they will vote. A plurality believes that further division within Fatah will be the primary result of the contest.

**Hamas and Governance**

Recently, Hamas declared support for presidential and legislative elections. 77 percent of respondents in this survey believe this is merely a political tactic. Regardless of actual intent, 74 percent support the holding of such elections at the present time. In response to Hamas' statement that it was willing to cede control of government ministries in Gaza to the PA, 79 percent of respondents also view this as a ploy.

**Pay Cuts in Gaza**

64 percent of respondents believe the announced pay cut for civil servants in Gaza is an attempt by the PA to end Hamas' rule in the Strip. 51 percent of West Bank respondents believe the PA should continue to pay the civil servants; in Gaza, this number increases to 67 percent. A further 53 percent say that presidential and legislative elections are the best means to resolve the tensions.

**East Jerusalem**

Over half of the respondents view the relationship between the PA and East Jerusalem as completely or somewhat unproductive. A majority of respondents find the security, economic and recreational circumstances in East Jerusalem to be wholly unsatisfactory.

**Israeli Work Permits**

80 percent of those surveyed say that Israeli work permits are very or somewhat important to the Palestinian economy, with 70 percent supporting an increase in quantity.



## Main Findings

1. 1,300 Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails joined a hunger strike last Monday (April 17). In your opinion, what is the primary purpose of this strike?

|                               | West Bank | Gaza Strip | Total |
|-------------------------------|-----------|------------|-------|
| Conditions in Israeli prisons | 78.4%     | 77.6%      | 78.1% |
| The Occupation                | 10.0%     | 7.5%       | 9.1%  |
| Internal Palestinian politics | 10.0%     | 14.0%      | 11.4% |
| Don't know                    | 1.6%      | 0.9%       | 1.3%  |

2. Do you think the hunger strikers will achieve their demands?

|                | West Bank | Gaza Strip | Total |
|----------------|-----------|------------|-------|
| Yes            | 30.5%     | 43.0%      | 35.0% |
| To some extent | 63.7%     | 50.5%      | 58.9% |
| No             | 5.3%      | 5.6%       | 5.4%  |
| Don't know     | 0.5%      | 0.9%       | 0.7%  |

3. Do you think that the hunger strike will be accompanied by solidarity activities from Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip?

|                | West Bank | Gaza Strip | Total |
|----------------|-----------|------------|-------|
| Yes            | 47.4%     | 66.4%      | 54.2% |
| To some extent | 47.4%     | 30.8%      | 41.4% |
| No             | 4.2%      | 2.8%       | 3.7%  |
| Don't know     | 1.1%      | 0.0%       | 0.7%  |

4. Local elections are scheduled for May 13, to be held exclusively in the West Bank. Do you agree with the decision to hold them only in this territory alone?

|            | West Bank | Gaza Strip | Total |
|------------|-----------|------------|-------|
| Support    | 59.5%     | 21.5%      | 45.8% |
| Oppose     | 35.3%     | 72.0%      | 48.5% |
| Don't know | 5.3%      | 6.5%       | 5.7%  |

5. Do you plan on voting in these elections? (West Bank respondents only)

|                     | West Bank |
|---------------------|-----------|
| Yes                 | 57.0%     |
| No                  | 29.0%     |
| Not sure/Don't know | 14.0%     |

6. What will be the primary result of these elections?

|                                                      | West Bank | Gaza Strip | Total |
|------------------------------------------------------|-----------|------------|-------|
| Further division within Fatah                        | 22.6%     | 43.9%      | 30.3% |
| Improved service delivery at the local level         | 26.8%     | 13.1%      | 21.9% |
| Strengthening of democratic practices                | 19.5%     | 10.3%      | 16.2% |
| Exacerbation of the Fatah-Hamas, West Bank-Gaza rift | 14.7%     | 13.1%      | 14.1% |
| Consolidation of Fatah leadership in the West Bank   | 5.8%      | 4.7%       | 5.4%  |
| Weakening of the Left                                | 1.6%      | 2.8%       | 2.0%  |
| Don't know                                           | 8.9%      | 12.1%      | 10.1% |

7. Hamas leadership recently called for presidential and legislative elections in three months. Do you believe that this call is genuine or a political tactic?

|                  | West Bank | Gaza Strip | Total |
|------------------|-----------|------------|-------|
| Genuine          | 11.6%     | 9.3%       | 10.8% |
| Political tactic | 76.3%     | 79.4%      | 77.4% |
| Don't know       | 12.1%     | 11.2%      | 11.8% |

8. Do you support elections for the presidency and PLC at this time?

|            | West Bank | Gaza Strip | Total |
|------------|-----------|------------|-------|
| Support    | 74.2%     | 74.8%      | 74.4% |
| Oppose     | 18.9%     | 15.9%      | 17.8% |
| Don't know | 6.8%      | 9.3%       | 7.7%  |

9. Hamas announced that it is willing to cede the administration of Gaza ministries to the PA. Do you believe that this announcement is genuine or a political tactic?

|                  | West Bank | Gaza Strip | Total |
|------------------|-----------|------------|-------|
| Genuine          | 14.2%     | 8.4%       | 12.1% |
| Political tactic | 76.8%     | 83.2%      | 79.1% |
| Don't know       | 8.9%      | 8.4%       | 8.8%  |

10. In recent weeks, the Palestinian Authority announced a pay cut for civil servants in Gaza. In your opinion, what led to this decision?

|                                                | West Bank | Gaza Strip | Total |
|------------------------------------------------|-----------|------------|-------|
| An attempt by the PA to end Hamas' rule        | 62.1%     | 67.3%      | 64.0% |
| Ongoing feuding between Fatah and Hamas        | 21.1%     | 24.3%      | 22.2% |
| Serious financial pressures on the PA's budget | 14.2%     | 3.7%       | 10.4% |
| Don't know                                     | 2.6%      | 4.7%       | 3.4%  |

11. In your opinion, under the present conditions, should the Palestinian Authority continue to pay salaries of civil servants in Gaza, or should Hamas assume responsibility?

|                                                                                     | West Bank | Gaza Strip | Total |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|------------|-------|
| The Palestinian Authority should continue to pay salaries of civil servants in Gaza | 51.1%     | 67.3%      | 56.9% |
| Hamas should assume responsibility                                                  | 41.1%     | 25.2%      | 35.4% |
| Don't know                                                                          | 7.9%      | 7.5%       | 7.7%  |

12. In your opinion, what is the best means to end the ongoing tensions between political leadership in the West Bank and Gaza?

|                                        | West Bank | Gaza Strip | Total |
|----------------------------------------|-----------|------------|-------|
| Presidential and legislative elections | 51.6%     | 55.1%      | 52.9% |
| A national unity government            | 23.7%     | 27.1%      | 24.9% |
| Other                                  | 17.9%     | 15.0%      | 16.8% |
| Don't know                             | 6.8%      | 2.8%       | 5.4%  |

13. How do you view the relationship between East Jerusalem and the Palestinian Authority in Ramallah?

|                       | West Bank | Gaza Strip | Total |
|-----------------------|-----------|------------|-------|
| Productive            | 6.8%      | 2.8%       | 5.4%  |
| Somewhat productive   | 28.9%     | 38.3%      | 32.3% |
| Somewhat unproductive | 27.4%     | 26.2%      | 26.9% |
| Unproductive          | 31.6%     | 24.3%      | 29.0% |
| Don't know            | 5.3%      | 8.4%       | 6.4%  |

14. How would you describe conditions in East Jerusalem for its Palestinian citizens in terms of the following?

|                                       |                       | West Bank | Gaza Strip | Total |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------|------------|-------|
| Security                              | Satisfactory          | 5.3%      | 6.5%       | 5.7%  |
|                                       | Somewhat satisfactory | 17.9%     | 13.1%      | 16.2% |
|                                       | Not satisfactory      | 74.7%     | 74.8%      | 74.7% |
|                                       | Don't know            | 2.1%      | 5.6%       | 3.4%  |
| Economy                               | Satisfactory          | 6.3%      | 2.8%       | 5.1%  |
|                                       | Somewhat satisfactory | 23.2%     | 26.2%      | 24.2% |
|                                       | Not satisfactory      | 66.8%     | 64.5%      | 66.0% |
|                                       | Don't know            | 3.7%      | 6.5%       | 4.7%  |
| Culture, Entertainment and recreation | Satisfactory          | 3.2%      | 6.5%       | 4.4%  |
|                                       | Somewhat satisfactory | 23.2%     | 24.3%      | 23.6% |
|                                       | Not satisfactory      | 69.5%     | 60.7%      | 66.3% |
|                                       | Don't know            | 4.2%      | 8.4%       | 5.7%  |

15. In your opinion, what should the Palestinian Authority prioritize in order to improve conditions in East Jerusalem?

|                                                                                                                    | West Bank | Gaza Strip | Total |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|------------|-------|
| Build the capacity of Palestinian institutions in Jerusalem with budget allocations to better serve local citizens | 37.4%     | 29.9%      | 34.7% |
| Support economic development and Palestinian investment                                                            | 24.7%     | 23.4%      | 24.2% |
| Improve policing and security in Palestinian neighborhoods                                                         | 21.6%     | 23.4%      | 22.2% |
| Strengthen links between the government/institutions in Ramallah with East Jerusalem                               | 12.1%     | 14.0%      | 12.8% |
| Invest in entertainment, recreation and cultural outlets                                                           | 1.6%      | 2.8%       | 2.0%  |
| Don't know                                                                                                         | 2.6%      | 6.5%       | 4.0%  |

16. In your opinion, are Israeli work permits an important aspect of the Palestinian economy?

|                          | West Bank | Gaza Strip | Total |
|--------------------------|-----------|------------|-------|
| Yes, very important      | 48.9%     | 47.7%      | 48.5% |
| Yes, somewhat important  | 30.5%     | 32.7%      | 31.3% |
| No, not very important   | 10.5%     | 10.3%      | 10.4% |
| No, not important at all | 6.3%      | 9.3%       | 7.4%  |
| Don't know               | 3.7%      | 0.0%       | 2.4%  |

17. Would you like to see an increase in Israeli work permits for Palestinian workers?

|            | West Bank | Gaza Strip | Total |
|------------|-----------|------------|-------|
| Support    | 66.8%     | 75.7%      | 70.0% |
| Oppose     | 24.7%     | 14.0%      | 20.9% |
| Don't know | 8.4%      | 10.3%      | 9.1%  |

18. In your opinion, should economic cooperation between Israel and the Palestinian Authority be enhanced or reduced?

|            | West Bank | Gaza Strip | Total |
|------------|-----------|------------|-------|
| Enhanced   | 29.5%     | 42.1%      | 34.0% |
| Reduced    | 51.6%     | 44.9%      | 49.2% |
| Kept as is | 10.0%     | 5.6%       | 8.4%  |
| Don't know | 8.9%      | 7.5%       | 8.4%  |

### Sample Distribution

| Region                                                                         | %    | Gender | %    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|--------|------|
| West Bank                                                                      | 64.0 | Male   | 58.6 |
| Gaza                                                                           | 36.0 | Female | 41.4 |
| Occupation                                                                     |      | Age    | %    |
| Civil society leaders                                                          | 21.0 | 18-30  | 27.6 |
| Government employees                                                           | 21.0 | 31-50  | 52.5 |
| Academics                                                                      | 16.0 | 50+    | 19.9 |
| Journalists                                                                    | 13.0 |        |      |
| Private sector representatives                                                 | 9.0  |        |      |
| Consultants/experts                                                            | 8.0  |        |      |
| Political party leaders                                                        | 5.0  |        |      |
| Student leaders                                                                | 3.0  |        |      |
| Others including PLC members, mayors, employees of international organizations | 4.0  |        |      |