



مركز العالم العربي للبحوث والتنمية
Arab World for Research & Development

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**Public Opinion Poll in the West Bank and Gaza Strip
Local Election and Evaluation of Leaders
May 27, 2017**

Immediately after the historic visit of President D. Trump to the region, and with the conclusion of the local elections in the West Bank and during the hunger strike in Israeli prisons, Arab World for Research and Development (AWRAD) conducted a national public opinion poll May 21-23 among 5,00 Palestinians (18+) in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The poll focused on the following issues: the Palestinian hunger strike in Israeli prisons, the visit of President Abbas to Washington and the visit of US President D. Trump to the region, and the after math of the local elections. The margin of error for this poll is 4 percent. The poll can be found online at www.awrad.org or call us at 0599204527.

Optimism about the hunger strike and discontent with the positions of the institutions and the leadership: 88 percent believed that the Palestinian political prisoners will achieve some or all of their demands. Two thirds were dissatisfied with the performance of President Abbas as well as Hamas towards the strike. A majority believed that the strike revived the Palestinian cause at the international level, while others believed that it strengthened the profile and influence of Marwan Barghouthi.

Negotiations and Trump's Visit: A majority view President Abbas's visit to Washington and that of President Trump to the region as more symbolic than leading to real change. Two thirds of the respondents believed that Abbas's visit to Washington was unsuccessful. A majority believed that Trump's visit has no or little importance to the Palestinians. In addition, 57 percent believed that President Trump is not serious about reaching a deal between the Palestinians and Israelis. At the same time, Palestinians continue to be divided around the resumption of negotiations, and less than half expect that future negotiations will lead to a two-state solution.

Local Elections: Local elections were carried out in the West Bank on the 13th of May. The majority of voters expressed non-political motives for the participation. 45 percent viewed their participation as a civic personality while 15 percent viewed it as an opportunity to support their family candidate. Refraining from voting was mostly due to the absence of any list or the fact there was only list running in many communities. In addition, many registered voters believed that the competing lists did not offer real change or that the results of the elections were predetermined.

PA's cuts to public sector salaries and services in Gaza: The majority of respondents view these cuts as politically motivated either to pressure Hamas into negotiating a solution to the ongoing division or to force Hamas to take full responsibility for Gaza. Others believe that they are initiated to satisfy Western demands that the PA end Hamas' rule in Gaza. 51 percent oppose the continuation of these cuts.

Public Opinion Survey in the West Bank and Gaza Strip

Field work: May 21-23, 2017

Sample size: 500 interviews

(Detailed Results)

1. Did you follow news reports about President Abbas' visit to Washington, D.C.?

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Yes	28.2%	29.5%	28.7%
Yes, to some extent	29.9%	35.5%	32.1%
No	41.9%	35.0%	39.1%

2. If yes, what was your opinion of the visit?

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Successful	7.6%	6.9%	7.3%
Somewhat successful	23.8%	23.1%	23.5%
Somewhat unsuccessful	32.0%	39.2%	35.1%
Unsuccessful	30.2%	25.4%	28.1%
No opinion	6.4%	5.4%	6.0%

3. U.S. President Trump is scheduled to visit Bethlehem in the coming weeks, at the invitation of President Abbas. What is your opinion of this visit?

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
It has no importance at all to Palestinians	59.5%	44.5%	53.5%
It has little importance for Palestinians under current circumstances	26.2%	25.5%	25.9%
It has symbolic importance for the claims of Palestinians to their land	9.6%	25.5%	16.0%
Don't know	4.7%	4.5%	4.6%

4. Do you believe that Mr. Trump, the US President, is serious about making a "deal," as he has stated, between Palestinians and Israelis?

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Somewhat serious	9.0%	9.0%	9.0%
Not serious	27.9%	29.0%	28.3%
Don't know	57.8%	56.0%	57.1%

5. Do you believe that Mr. Trump, the US President, is capable of making a "deal," as he has stated, between Palestinians and Israelis?

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Capable	23.6%	17.5%	21.2%
Somewhat capable	30.6%	27.5%	29.3%
Incapable	40.9%	51.5%	45.1%
Don't know	5.0%	3.5%	4.4%

6. It has been reported that US President Trump intends to invite the Palestinian President and the Israeli Prime Minister to Washington for a summit. Do you support or oppose such a summit?

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Support	25.9%	42.5%	32.5%
Oppose	32.2%	33.5%	32.7%
Neutral	39.5%	20.5%	31.9%
Don't know	2.3%	3.5%	2.8%

7. Do you believe that President Trump will be balanced when it comes to mediating between the Palestinians and the Israelis?

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Balanced	5.0%	1.0%	3.4%
Somewhat balanced	12.6%	10.0%	11.6%
Somewhat unbalanced	28.2%	28.0%	28.1%
Unbalanced	52.5%	59.0%	55.1%
Don't Know	1.7%	2.0%	1.8%

8. Do you support a resumption of negotiations between Palestinians and Israelis at this time?

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Support	43.2%	56.5%	48.5%
Oppose	49.5%	39.0%	45.3%
Don't Know	7.3%	4.5%	6.2%

9. Regardless of your position on the resumption of negotiations at this time, which approach do you prefer to achieving Palestinian independence?

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
The approach of President Abbas and the PLO	40.5%	53.0%	45.5%
The approach of Hamas and Islamic Jihad	29.6%	20.5%	25.9%
Don't know	29.9%	26.5%	28.5%

10. Are you following news about the hunger strike in Israeli prisons?

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Yes	89.4%	68.5%	81.0%
Yes, to some extent	10.6%	27.5%	17.4%
No	0.0%	4.0%	1.6%

11. In your opinion, what will be the result of the hunger strike?

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Some of the demand will be met and the strike will end	37.5%	53.0%	43.7%
The prisoners' demands will all be met	47.2%	28.5%	39.7%
The strike will end with no results	12.3%	16.0%	13.8%
Don't know	3.0%	2.5%	2.8%

12. At the political level, which of the following will be the main result of the hunger strike?

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Reviving the Palestinian cause at the international level	43.2%	38.5%	41.3%
Strengthening the profile and influence of Marwan Barghouthi	22.3%	30.5%	25.5%
Improving opportunities for national unity	18.9%	18.0%	18.6%
Strengthening the position of Fatah	9.0%	3.5%	6.8%
Strengthening the position of Hamas	1.3%	3.0%	2.0%
Don't know	43.2%	38.5%	41.3%

13. In your opinion, are solidarity activities such as the commercial and transportation strikes effective in supporting the prisoners?

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Yes	40.5%	40.5%	40.5%
Somewhat	38.2%	49.0%	42.5%
No	19.6%	9.0%	15.4%
Don't know	1.7%	1.5%	1.6%

14. Do you support widespread protests at this time in support of the prisoners?

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Yes	79.1%	80.0%	79.4%
Somewhat	18.9%	16.5%	18.0%
No	2.0%	1.5%	1.8%
Don't know	0.0%	2.0%	0.8%

15. How do you evaluate the positions of the following in response to the prisoners' strike?
Satisfactory, somewhat satisfactory, somewhat unsatisfactory, unsatisfactory

		West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
PA institutions, in general	Satisfactory	15.6%	15.0%	15.4%
	Somewhat satisfactory	25.6%	23.5%	24.8%
	Somewhat unsatisfactory	13.3%	19.5%	15.8%
	Unsatisfactory	45.2%	40.0%	43.1%
	Don't Know	0.3%	2.0%	1.0%
President Abbas	Satisfactory	13.3%	6.5%	10.6%
	Somewhat satisfactory	19.9%	26.5%	22.6%
	Somewhat unsatisfactory	15.9%	22.5%	18.6%
	Unsatisfactory	49.8%	43.0%	47.1%
	Don't Know	1.0%	1.5%	1.2%
Hamas and its leadership	Satisfactory	8.3%	11.5%	9.6%
	Somewhat satisfactory	28.6%	12.0%	22.0%
	Somewhat unsatisfactory	20.6%	23.0%	21.6%
	Unsatisfactory	39.9%	52.5%	44.9%
	Don't Know	2.7%	1.0%	2.0%
Palestinian media	Satisfactory	27.9%	22.0%	25.5%
	Somewhat satisfactory	36.9%	27.0%	32.9%
	Somewhat unsatisfactory	12.6%	16.0%	14.0%
	Unsatisfactory	22.6%	34.0%	27.1%
	Don't Know	0.0%	1.0%	0.4%

The Political Parties and factions	Satisfactory	19.6%	5.5%	14.0%
	Somewhat satisfactory	41.5%	28.5%	36.3%
	Somewhat unsatisfactory	15.3%	25.5%	19.4%
	Unsatisfactory	22.9%	37.0%	28.5%
	Don't Know	0.7%	3.5%	1.8%
The community at large	Satisfactory	36.9%	21.0%	30.5%
	Somewhat satisfactory	41.2%	30.0%	36.7%
	Somewhat unsatisfactory	8.3%	16.0%	11.4%
	Unsatisfactory	13.6%	32.0%	21.0%
	Don't Know	0.0%	1.0%	0.4%

16. In your opinion, who is to blame for the postponement of local elections in Gaza?

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Hamas	24.4%	42.5%	31.7%
The PA	13.4%	11.0%	12.4%
Both equally	54.5%	45.5%	50.9%
Don't Know	7.7%	1.0%	5.0%

17. Do you support presidential and legislative elections at this time?

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Support	69.4%	80.5%	73.9%
Oppose	26.6%	16.5%	22.6%
Don't Know	4.0%	3.0%	3.6%

18. Recently, the PA announced both cuts to public sector salaries in Gaza and payments for Gaza's electricity supply from Israel. In your opinion, what is the aim of these measures?

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
To pressure Hamas into negotiating a solution to the ongoing division	28.9%	36.0%	31.7%
To force Hamas to take full responsibility for Gaza	23.3%	27.0%	24.8%
To satisfy Western demands that the PA end Hamas' rule in Gaza	24.3%	22.5%	23.6%
To deal with shortfalls in foreign assistance to the PA's budget	13.6%	10.0%	12.2%
Don't know	10.0%	4.5%	7.8%

19. Do you support these measures?

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Support	19.6%	15.5%	18.0%
Support to some extent	23.6%	24.5%	24.0%
Oppose	47.5%	56.0%	50.9%
Don't know	9.3%	4.0%	7.2%

20. West Bank only: Did you vote in the local elections on May 13?

	West Bank
Yes	44.2%
No	55.8%

21. If yes, why?

West Bank	
Voting is a civic responsibility and duty	45.1%
I wanted to support candidates from my family	15.0%
I wanted to support candidates from my party	14.3%
The election lists competing in my locality offered an opportunity to bring real change to my local council	12.8%
The local council is an important institution for the community	12.8%

22. If no, why?

West Bank	
There was only one list in my locality	26.8%
The lists competing in my locality did not offer real change	20.8%
There was no list in my locality	14.9%
I do not support elections at this time	14.9%
The elections results were predetermined	13.7%
My preferred party did not run a list in my locality	8.9%

Sample Distribution (Sample size: 500 Palestinian adults)

Region	%	Gender	%
West Bank	60.1	Male	49.3
Gaza	39.9	Female	50.7
Sub-Region	%	Age	%
North West Bank	28.0	18-30	47.1
Middle West Bank	16.0	31-50	41.3
South West Bank	17.0	50+	11.6
Gaza city and north	19.0	Residence	%
Middle Gaza	7.0	City	52.3
South Gaza	13.0	Village	21.6
Income (self-assessment)	%	Refugee Camp	26.1
Good or more	11.0	Marital status	%
Not good not bad	64.1	Single	32.0
Weak	25.0	Married	65.8
		other	2.2
		Work Sector	%
		Public	29.9
		Private	62.0
		NGOs	5.1
		Other	3.0