



ONLINE YOUTH SURVEY

FIELD WORK: 28 March-8 April 2017

SAMPLE: 315 youth in the West Bank & Gaza Strip

Highlight: Ambivalence towards Local Elections

The following press release presents the results of an online survey of Palestinian youth (18-35 years old) in the West Bank and Gaza, conducted in March 2017. The survey measures support for upcoming local elections in the West Bank, knowledge of recent clashes in Balata Refugee Camp, daily priorities, and sources of news and information. Among the findings:

- Overall, 60 percent of youth support local elections, planned to be held exclusively in the West Bank this May. However, support is geographically stratified, with only 46 percent of Gaza supporting the holding of elections, compared to 40 percent who oppose. Among West Bank respondents, only 53 percent say they intend to vote (a much lower rate than previous elections).
- 86 percent of respondents say they are aware of recent security incidents in Nablus' Balata Refugee Camp. Overall, respondents place equal blame on the Palestinian Authority (PA) and the camp militants. Regionally, however, Gaza respondents are more likely to fault the PA.
- Employment and the cost of living are the two greatest concerns of youth, constituting 75 percent of responses.
- 69 percent of youth identify social media as their primary source for news and 21 percent news websites. Only 5 percent cite television as their primary source, compared to 1 percent who select newspapers. However, the primary use of social media and the Internet among youth is communicating with friends (34 percent). This is followed by news (26 percent) and culture and education (19 percent).
- While official and semi-official sources of news and information are viewed by the majority as objective (63 percent) and reliable (66 percent) - or "somewhat" so - the majority of youth do *not* believe these sources are progressive (55 percent) or portray Palestinians in the best light (57 percent).

Main Findings of a survey of youth

- 1. The PA has announced elections will be held exclusively in the West Bank in May 2017. Do you support this decision?**

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Yes	64.6%	45.7%	59.7%
No	21.0%	39.5%	25.8%
Not sure/don't know	14.4%	14.8%	14.5%

- 2. West Bank only: Will you participate in the local elections scheduled for May 2017?**

	West Bank
Yes	52.5%
No	35.9%
Not sure/don't know	11.7%

- 3. Did you hear about the recent clashes between security forces and local militants in Balata Refugee Camp?**

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Yes	92.1%	67.9%	85.8%
No	7.9%	32.1%	14.2%

- 4. To which party do you attribute the greatest blame for these clashes?**

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
The PA and its leadership in the area	13.0%	38.2%	18.3%
The militants themselves	21.3%	9.1%	18.7%
M. Dahlan and his supporters	5.3%	5.5%	5.3%
All of them equally	41.1%	27.3%	38.2%
Others	2.9%	9.1%	4.2%
Not sure/don't know	16.4%	10.9%	15.3%

- 5. U.S. President Donald Trump recently said that he supports either a one-state or two-state solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, depending on what Palestinians and Israelis agree on. What do you believe...?**

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Both options should be pursued by Palestinian leadership	22.3%	23.5%	22.6%
Palestinian leadership should stay focused on two-states	27.5%	25.9%	27.1%
Palestinian leadership should pursue one-state only	22.7%	33.3%	25.5%
Not sure/don't know	27.5%	17.3%	24.8%

6. On a daily basis, what issue do you worry about or focus on the most?

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Employment	36.8%	65.4%	44.3%
Paying for daily expenses	35.5%	17.3%	30.7%
Health	8.8%	3.7%	7.4%
Social issues (e.g. marriage and family issues)	6.6%	3.7%	5.8%
Housing	3.1%	6.2%	3.9%
Education	3.5%	1.2%	2.9%
Not sure/don't know	5.7%	2.5%	4.9%

7. In terms of economic development, which of the following has the greatest impact on Palestinians?

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Limited access to business and investment financing	28.1%	37.0%	30.4%
Monopolies in some economic fields (e.g., communications)	28.9%	23.5%	27.5%
Obstacles on the movement of goods and people	15.4%	18.5%	16.2%
Lack of local investment in import substitution/production	9.2%	6.2%	8.4%
Weak/underdeveloped infrastructure that inhibits development (e.g., lack of 3G network and other basic infrastructure needs)	9.2%	6.2%	8.4%
Limits on permits to work in Israel	3.5%	4.9%	3.9%
Don't know	5.7%	3.7%	5.2%

8. What is your primary source for news and information?

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Social media	66.8%	75.3%	69.0%
Websites	22.7%	16.0%	21.0%
Satellite TV	5.7%	3.7%	5.2%
Newspapers	1.7%	0.0%	1.3%
Radio	0.9%	2.5%	1.3%
Family and friends	0.9%	1.2%	1.0%
Other	1.3%	1.2%	1.3%

9. What is your primary reason for using social media and the Internet?

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Communicating with friends	35.8%	27.2%	33.5%
News	25.8%	27.2%	26.1%
Culture & education	18.3%	19.8%	18.7%
Political activism	4.8%	7.4%	5.5%
Social activism	3.1%	8.6%	4.5%
Meeting new people	1.3%	1.2%	1.3%
Watching music videos	1.7%	2.6%	1.9%
Other	9.2%	6.2%	8.4%

10. How do you evaluate the content of official or semi-official Palestinian news outlets and online news and information sites when it comes to promoting the Palestinian cause in the region/the world? Is it...?

		West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Objective	Yes	16.2%	14.8%	15.8%
	Somewhat	46.3%	50.6%	47.4%
	No	31.9%	30.9%	31.6%
	Not sure	5.7%	3.7%	5.2%
Reliable	Yes	14.8%	11.1%	13.9%
	Somewhat	49.8%	59.3%	52.3%
	No	30.1%	24.7%	28.7%
	Not sure	5.2%	4.9%	5.2%
Progressive	Yes	11.8%	8.6%	11.0%
	Somewhat	27.9%	25.9%	27.4%
	No	53.7%	58.0%	54.8%
	Not sure	6.6%	7.4%	6.8%
Portraying Palestinians in a negative light (e.g. dated revolutionary or ideological language and reporting)	Yes	21.0%	16.0%	19.7%
	Somewhat	37.1%	38.3%	37.4%
	No	31.9%	39.5%	33.9%
	Not sure	10.0%	6.2%	9.0%
Effectively reporting Palestinian accomplishments (e.g. social, economic, athletic, cultural)	Yes	22.3%	27.2%	23.5%
	Somewhat	47.2%	51.9%	48.4%
	No	24.9%	16.0%	22.6%
	Not sure	5.7%	4.9%	5.5%

Sample Distribution

Region	%	Gender	%
West Bank	72.5	Male	63.2
Gaza	27.5	Female	36.8
Education level completed	%	Age	%
High school or less	7.4	18-25	33.5
2-Year College	7.4	26-30	35.1
University	85.2	31-35	31.3
Residence	%		
City	46.8		
Village	43.2		
Refugee Camp	10.0		