



مركز العالم العربي للبحوث والتنمية  
Arab World for Research & Development

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## Results of Public Opinion Poll among Palestinians in the Gaza Strip

Press Release

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**Data Collection dates: 8 August to 17 August 2024**

**Sample Size: 538 adult Palestinians (18 years and older) in all five governorates of the Gaza Strip**

**Ramallah-Gaza** – The [Arab World for Research and Development \(AWRAD\)](#) has released its latest findings from a public opinion poll conducted in the Gaza Strip between 8 August and 17 August 2024. Amidst the ongoing conflict and challenging living conditions, the poll reveals significant insights into the current sentiments and preferences of Palestinians in Gaza regarding socio-political dynamics, governance, and future prospects.

The poll, which surveyed 538 adult Palestinians across all five governorates of Gaza through computer-assisted telephone interviews (CATI), aimed to capture the evolving attitudes of Gaza's populace towards the peace process, governance, and reconciliation. This sample was designed as a tracking study to re-interview Gazans who were originally interviewed in [AWRAD's May 2024 poll of the West Bank and Gaza](#); this sample frame was then supplemented by sampling additional respondents from AWRAD's proprietary telephone panel of Gazan adults. This approach was used to allow for comparative analysis with the Gaza segment of AWRAD's May 2024 poll and highlights key shifts in public opinion over the past few months. Rigorous quality control, including re-contacting respondents and live monitoring, ensured data integrity. The margin of error is  $\pm 4.2\%$  at a 95% confidence level.

### Overall Sentiments

**General Sentiment and Future Outlook:** The survey reflects a negative perspective among Gazans on Palestine's direction, with **77%** of respondents feeling the country is heading in the wrong direction. However, there remains a significant degree of hope, as **41%** of respondents are optimistic about Palestine's future despite ongoing challenges.

### War and Peace

**Majority support for Biden's ceasefire proposals:** The August poll indicates a high level of support for various ceasefire proposals with **89%** of respondents expressing acceptance of a three-phased ceasefire agreement. Notably, **75%** find a six-week full ceasefire proposal acceptable, while **85%** support an initial hostage-prisoner exchange involving vulnerable groups. Additionally, **92%** of respondents find it acceptable for Israeli forces to withdraw from densely populated areas, allowing the return of displaced people to their regions. Over 90% accept an agreement that contains all the above referenced provisions as one package.

**International supervision of Rafah Crossing until a permanent arrangement is reached:** 74% of Gaza Palestinians find it acceptable to have an international/Arab arrangement to supervise the Rafah Border crossing until a permanent arrangement is agreed upon between the parties.

**Gazans predict war will end in 3 months:** When asked how long the war will continue, 60% predict that it will continue at its current intensity for three months or less; while 17% believe that it will continue for up to another 6 months.

**Negotiations towards a Two-State solution most likely outcome of the war:** According to 72% of the Gaza respondents, the war is likely to result in renewed peace negotiations with the aim of achieving a two-state solution. Two thirds predict the return of the PA, while 33% predict the return of Hamas to govern Gaza. Meanwhile, 34% find continued fighting as likely, with 21% predicting that Israel will continue its occupation of Gaza.

**Overall, the survey suggests a decline in confidence in the two-state solution:** Support for a two-state solution decreased from 77% in May to 62% in August. This decline suggests growing skepticism or frustration with the feasibility of a two-state solution as the conflict continues. Meanwhile, the preference for a one-state solution with equal rights for all citizens increased slightly, from 13% in May to 19% in August, indicating a possible search among respondents for alternative solutions to the status quo

**Repeated displacement is the primary concern of Gazans:** Half of Gazans state that their foremost concern is displacement, its recurrence, and the burdens it brings. Additionally, 21% say their priority is securing food and water, while 16% prioritize improving their housing situation. Meanwhile, 5% prioritize the respect for citizens' rights by internal political forces, and 4% chose healthcare services as their top priority. The survey also revealed that 97% of Gazans have been displaced one or more times. Despite this, 7% are still living in or have returned to undamaged homes, while 20% have returned to damaged homes or apartments. The remaining 73% are living in tents, schools, host families, or other temporary arrangements.

#### **The Day After: Assistance, Recovery and Governance**

**Trust in the United Nations (UN) to provide humanitarian assistance:** A majority at 79% place their trust in the United Nations (UN) to deliver humanitarian aid. In contrast,

trust in other entities is much lower, with only 5% trusting the Palestinian Authority (PA), 3% trusting Palestinian NGOs, 2% trusting community leaders, and 1% trusting Hamas.

**The UN is again seen as the most trusted entity to lead recovery efforts:** Among respondents, 63% express confidence in the UN's ability to lead recovery efforts. Arab states are the second most trusted, with 16% of respondents placing their trust in them. The PA is trusted by 7% and Palestinian NGOs by 3%. Hamas and community leaders each garner 1%.

**Governance by a Palestinian-led entity:** A majority of **71%** of respondents express trust in a Palestinian-led system for Gaza's future administration. Conversely, **17%** support an international-led arrangement, while **5%** favor an Arab-led one.

**Support for PA-led governance is on the rise:** Among those who support Palestinian-led governance in Gaza, support for a Palestinian Authority-led arrangement has increased from 27% in May to 40% now. Support for a national unity-led government is 35%, declining from 49% in May. Support for a Hamas-led government remains at 6%.

**Majority support post-war elections:** Public demand for democratic processes remains high, with **82%** of Palestinians in Gaza supporting the holding of a presidential election post-conflict, and **85%** supporting legislative elections across the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

### **Political Parties and Reconciliation**

**Political party support:** The survey reveals a decline in Fatah's popularity in Gaza, with **47%** of respondents in the August poll indicating they would likely vote for the party in the upcoming PLC elections, down from **57%** in May. Support for Hamas remains low, with only 6% of respondents expressing intent to vote for the party. Notably, around **32%** of respondents either do not favor any of the current political parties or plan to abstain from voting altogether.

**Attitudes towards reconciliation:** Views on reconciliation between Fatah and Hamas are mixed, with only **34%** believing Hamas is serious about national unity, compared to **48%** for Fatah.

For more detailed results and analysis, please visit our website at [www.awrad.org](http://www.awrad.org) or contact us at [awrad@awrad.org](mailto:awrad@awrad.org)