



An-Najah National University
Center for Opinion Polls and Survey Studies
Tel: (972) (9) 2345113 Fax: (972)(9) 2345982
Nablus – Palestinian: P.O.Box 7, 707
Email: Polls@najah.edu hussain596@yahoo.com

Results of Palestinian Public Opinion Polls
No 19
March 9-11, 2006

Background:

After the remarkable winning of The Reform and Change block of more than half of the seats of the Legislative Council, President Mahmoud Abbas asked Hamas to form the new Palestinian government. Earlier, Israel and the United States avowed that they will not support a government formed by Hamas; Israel even declared that it will deal with the new government as an enemy.

The new prime minister made a first step on the path of forming a new government by engaging in negotiations with the parliamentary coalitions in an attempt to make them join the new government. The general attitude, however, of the second largest parliamentary coalition (Fateh) tends to refrain from participating in a government led by Hamas.

The international position concerning the winning of Hamas is reflected negatively on the international aid given to the Palestinian Authority. Such reality threatens of a difficult financial crisis, the signs of which became apparent through the delay in paying the salaries of the employees of the public sector.

The Results:

Following are the results of the 19th Palestinian Public Opinion Poll conducted by the Center for Opinion Polls and Survey Studies at An-Najah National University during the period from March 9 to 11, 2006. **The University sponsors all polls conducted by its Center.**

This poll undertakes the expectations and attitudes of the Palestinian people towards the new PLC, the formation of the new government and its agenda, in addition to political sympathies and other issues.

The sample included 1361 persons whose age group is 18 and above and who have the right to vote. The enclosed questionnaire was distributed on 860 persons from the West Bank and 501 persons from the Gaza Strip. The sample was drawn randomly and the margin of error is about $\pm 3\%$; still 8.8% of the members of the sample refused to answer the questionnaire.

* The Opinions represented in the results reflect those of the study; they do not represent by any means the opinion of An-Najah National University.



Major results:

- 58.5% from among respondents are content with the results of the legislative elections
- 48.2% from among respondents believe that the new Legislative Council is fully capable of performing its duties.
- 63.7% from among respondents believe that the members of the new Legislative Council are efficient.
- 69.4% from among respondents are content with the candidates who won in their electoral circles.
- 33.4% from among respondents know the names of all representatives of their electoral circle.
- 84.9% from among respondents have not received an invitation from the new LC members to discuss general concerns.
- 82.8% from among respondents say that the major achievement they like the New PLC to accomplish is freeing prisoners, and imposing law and order with a 81.4%.
- 33.9% from among respondents say that Hamas has the right to keep the major positions in the PLC for itself since it is the largest block; 8.7% say Hamas does not have that right.
- 73% from among respondents say that Hamas has the desire to form a government in which all political blocks in the PLC are represented; 20.1% say the opposite.
- 74.9% from among respondents reject the formation of a new government whose ministers are solely from Hamas.
- 87.7% from among respondents support the formation of a government which includes all the political affiliations represented in the PLC.
- 34.8% from among respondents are against a governmental agenda which reassures its commitment to all international agreements that the PLO committed itself to.
- 46.2% from among respondents believe that the agenda of the new government will respond positively to the international demands.
- 35.3% from among respondents say that the agenda of the new government will be in harmony with the presidential agenda.
- 76.1% from among respondents support the participation of Fateh in the new government.
- 70% from among respondents say that the participation of Fateh in the new government would serve its interests.
- 61.1% from among respondents say that the new government will be capable of drawing international aid to the Palestinian Authority.
- 71.1% from among respondents support a joining of Hamas to the PLO.
- 69.5% from among respondents say that the joining of Hamas to the PLO will serve Hamas' interest.



- 33.6% from among respondents say that if Hamas joins the PLO, it will be relieved from a direct recognition of Israel.
- 69.3% from among respondents say that the Palestinian Political system will be served if Hamas joins the PLO.
- 54.7% from among respondents support the recognition of Israel by Hamas if Israel agrees to withdraw from the 1967 occupied territories.
- 78.3% from among respondents believe that restoring dignity to the PLO is a necessary matter.
- 25% from among respondents say that the USA is not concerned with a successful Palestinian government led by Hamas, 37.2% say that the European Union is not concerned, 55.5% say Russia is not concerned and 55.7% say that the Arab countries are not concerned.
- 78% from among respondents believe that the new Palestinian government will be able to fight corruption in public institution, 69.8% say that it will be capable of eradicating all forms of security outlaw in the Palestinian streets. 65.5 % say that it will be capable of improving the economic situation, 65.1% say that it will be capable of alleviating poverty and unemployment, and 78% say that it will be capable of upgrading the level of health and educational services.
- From among respondents expect that the performance of the following institutions will be "good" with the following percentages:
 - The new government 52%
 - The Legislative Council 54.4%
 - The Judicious System 58.9%
 - The security apparatuses 48.5%.
- 46.9% from among respondents see that the state of democracy under the new government will be "good".
- 49.4% from among respondents say that the political system in Palestine is heading towards building a democratic system.



- 71.7% from among respondents say that the coming new government will respect human rights.
- 68% from among the respondents say that the coming government will respect the freedom of press in Palestine.
- 17.4% from among respondents say that under the coming new government, they will not be able to criticize the policies of the authority openly and without fear.
- 42.1% from among respondents believe that the Palestinian social system gives them the freedom to adopt any religion or thought they desire.
- 76.6% from among respondents do not feel safe neither for themselves nor for their families and properties.
- 64.8% from among respondents say that their place of habitation lacks a public health centre which works round the hour.
- 90.8% from among respondents say that they do not find the medications prescribed to them by governmental pharmacies.
- 49.3% from among respondents assess cleanliness in hospitals as inadequate; 59.4% say medical care is inadequate; 71.6% say the availability of medical equipment is inadequate.
- As for political affiliation respondents give the following results:

People's Party	1.1
Democratic Front	1.1
Islamic <i>Jihad</i>	3.2
<i>Fateh</i>	28.1
<i>Hamas</i>	34.3
<i>Fida</i>	0.1
Popular Front	3.5
Palestinian National Initiative	0.7
I am an independent nationalist	3.6
I am an independent Islamist	3.7
None of the above	18.9
Others	1.6



The General Results

Are you content with the results of the Palestinian legislative elections?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	58.5	64.1	48.9
To some extent	18.5	15.5	23.8
No	21.5	18.7	26.1
No opinion/I do not know	1.5	1.7	1.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you think that the elected PLC will be able to execute fully all tasks that it is entrusted with?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	48.2	52.7	40.5
To some extent	24.6	23.5	26.5
No	21.4	19.3	25.0
No opinion/I do not know	5.8	4.5	8.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Generally speaking, do you believe that the members of the new legislative council are qualified to take such positions?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	63.7	71.4	50.5
No	21.9	18.7	27.3
No, opinion/I do not know	14.4	9.9	2.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Are you content with the representatives who won in your electoral circle?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	69.4	72.7	63.7
No	24.5	22.0	28.7
No opinion/I do not know	6.2	5.3	7.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



Do you know the names of all the representatives (PLC members) who won in your electoral circle?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
All of them	33.4	28.7	41.3
Some of them	50.2	50.8	49.1
I do not know any one of them	15.7	20.1	8.0
I do not know/ No opinion	0.8	0.3	1.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Since the end of the elections, have you received an invitation from the PLC members to attend a meeting for the purpose of discussing general concerns?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	13.7	9.2	21.6
No	84.9	90.0	76.0
I do not know/ No opinion	1.4	0.8	2.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

On the general level, what is the main task that you hope the new Legislative Council will accomplish?

	on a 0-10 scale (mean)		
	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Upgrading the level of health and educational services	8.1550	8.1035	8.2435
Putting an end to poverty and unemployment	7.8868	7.7163	8.1769
Imposing the rule of law and order	8.1411	7.9651	8.4431
Effective supervision on the executive power	7.9699	7.8442	8.1856
Fighting corruption	8.7634	8.7686	8.7545
Freeing prisoners	8.2858	8.2035	8.4271

Some say that the main positions inside the PLC have been occupied by The Reform and Change block since it is the largest, some say that it has the right to do so, others say it does not, what is your opinion?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
It is its right since it is the largest block	33.9	34.5	32.7
It is not its right; it needs to involve other blocks	52.8	54.4	49.9
It is absolutely not its right	8.7	6.5	12.4
I do not know/ No opinion	4.7	4.5	5.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



Do you think that Hamas is really interested in forming a government that involves all political affiliations that are in the New PLC?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	73.0	77.8	64.7
No	20.1	17.2	25.0
No opinion/I do not know	7.0	5.0	10.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you support or reject forming a government whose ministers are exclusively from Hamas?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I support	21.8	22.9	20.0
I reject	74.9	74.2	76.0
No opinion/I do not know	3.3	2.9	4.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you support or reject the formation of a Palestinian government which involves all political parties represented in the PLC?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I support	87.7	88.7	86.0
I reject	10.6	10.6	10.6
No opinion/I do not know	1.7	0.7	3.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Are you with or against a government agenda which reassures commitment to all international agreements that the PLO and the PA concluded?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	58.6	57.7	60.3
No	34.8	36.3	32.3
No opinion/I do not know	6.5	6.0	7.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you think that the program of the new government will respond positively to the international demands?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	36.2	39.2	31.1
No	49.3	49.1	49.7
No opinion/I do not know	14.5	11.7	19.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



Do you think that the program that the new government will present will be in harmony with the program of President Abbas?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	35.3	37.9	30.7
No	49.1	49.1	49.1
No opinion/I do not know	15.7	13.0	20.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you support or reject the participation of members from Fateh in the new government that Hamas will form?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I support	76.1	81.2	67.5
I reject	20.9	17.1	27.3
No opinion/I do not know	3.0	1.7	5.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you think that it is in favor of Fateh if it enters in agreement formed by Hamas?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	70.0	75.0	61.5
No	23.4	20.8	27.9
No opinion/I do not know	6.5	4.2	10.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you think that the coming Palestinian government will be able to draw international aids for the Palestinian Authority?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	61.1	65.8	52.9
No	27.0	26.0	28.7
No opinion/I do not know	11.9	8.1	18.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



Do you support or reject Hamas' joining the PLO?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I support	71.1	74.9	64.5
I reject	21.7	19.5	25.3
No opinion/I do not know	7.3	6.5	10.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you think that Hamas' joining of the PLO serves the interest of Hamas?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	69.5	71.2	66.7
No	21.3	21.0	21.8
No opinion/I do not know	9.2	7.8	11.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you think that if Hamas joins the PLO it will be relieved from a direct recognition of Israel?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	33.6	30.1	39.5
No	53.9	59.2	44.9
No opinion/I do not know	12.5	10.7	15.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you think that if Hamas joins the PLO, it will serve the interests of the Palestinian political system?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	69.3	73.0	62.9
No	20.4	19.9	21.4
No opinion/I do not know	10.3	7.1	15.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

If Israel agrees to withdraw from the 1967 occupied territories, do you support or reject a recognition of Israel by Hamas?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I support	45.7	56.2	52.3
I reject	38.4	38.1	38.7
No opinion/I do not know	6.9	5.7	9.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



Do you think that restoring dignity to the PLO is an important matter at this specific time?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	78.3	81.0	73.7
No	14.0	14.1	14.0
No opinion/I do not know	7.6	4.9	12.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you think that the USA is really concerned with a successful Palestinian government led by Hamas?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	25.0	25.9	23.4
No	67.6	70.1	63.3
No opinion/I do not know	7.4	4.0	13.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you think that the European Union is really concerned with a successful Palestinian government led by Hamas?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	37.2	39.8	32.7
No	52.5	53.5	5.7
No opinion/I do not know	10.4	6.7	16.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you think that Russia is really concerned with a successful Palestinian government led by Hamas?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	55.5	56.6	53.5
No	32.5	35.5	27.3
No opinion/I do not know	12.0	7.9	19.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you think that the Arab countries are really concerned with a successful Palestinian government led by Hamas?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	55.7	54.3	58.1
No	35.3	39.7	27.7
No opinion/I do not know	9.0	6.0	14.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



Do you think that the coming government will be able to accomplish the following?

Total				
	Yes	No	No opinion / I do not know	Total
Fighting corruption in public institutions	58.0	15.7	6.3	
Eradicating all forms of security outlaw state in Palestinian streets.	69.8	22.6	7.6	100.0
Improving the economic situation.	65.5	25.2	9.3	100.0
Alleviating poverty and unemployment.	65.1	25.9	9.0	100.0
Upgrading health and educational services	78.0	14.7	7.3	100.0
West Bank				
	Yes	No	No opinion / I do not know	Total
Fighting corruption in public institutions	84.1	14.1	1.9	100.0
Eradicating all forms of security outlaw state in Palestinian streets.	74.2	22.2	3.6	100.0
Improving the economic situation.	69.8	25.6	7.4	100.0
Alleviating poverty and unemployment.	69.3	26.3	4.4	100.0
Upgrading health and educational services	84.2	12.8	3.0	100.0
Gaza Strip				
	Yes	No	No opinion / I do not know	Total
Fighting corruption in public institutions	67.5	18.6	14.0	100.0
Eradicating all forms of security outlaw state in Palestinian streets.	62.3	23.4	14.4	100.0
Improving the economic situation.	58.3	24.6	17.2	100.0
Alleviating poverty and unemployment.	57.9	25.1	17.0	100.0
Upgrading health and educational services	67.5	18.0	14.6	100.0



Under the new PLC, how do you expect the performance of each of the following institution to be?

Total					
	Good	Fair	Bad	No opinion / I do not know	Total
The Palestinian government	52.0	33.3	8.6	6.1	100.0
The PLC	54.4	28.2	11.1	6.3	100.0
The Judicious system	58.9	24.8	8.2	8.2	100.0
The security apparatuses	48.5	31.7	13.1	6.7	100.0
West Bank					
	Good	Fair	Bad	No opinion / I do not know	Total
The Palestinian government	54.2	36.4	6.5	2.6	100.0
The PLC	57.3	30.2	9.0	3.5	100.0
The Judicious system	63.7	24.1	6.9	5.3	100.0
The security apparatuses	51.7	32.6	11.9	3.8	100.0
Gaza Strip					
	Good	Fair	Bad	No opinion / I do not know	Total
The Palestinian government	48.3	27.9	12.2	11.6	100.0
The PLC	49.3	24.8	14.8	11.2	100.0
The Judicious system	50.5	26.1	10.4	13.0	100.0
The security apparatuses	42.9	30.3	15.2	11.6	100.0

As for the state of democracy in Palestine under the coming government, how will it fare?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Good	46.9	50.6	40.5
Fair	34.6	34.1	35.5
Bad	12.0	10.7	14.2
No opinion/I do not know	6.5	4.7	9.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

After the second legislative elections, do you believe that the political system in Palestine is heading towards building a democratic system?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	49.4	52.8	43.5
Partially	31.4	29.0	35.7
No	14.3	14.1	14.6
No opinion/I do not know	4.9	4.2	6.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



Do you think that the coming government will respect human rights in Palestine?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	71.7	78.3	60.5
Partially	17.0	13.4	23.4
No	7.4	6.0	9.8
No opinion/I do not know	3.8	2.3	6.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you think that the coming government will respect the freedom of press in Palestine?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	68.0	73.7	58.3
Partially	19.3	16.7	23.6
No	8.4	7.2	10.6
No opinion/I do not know	4.3	2.3	7.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Under the coming government, do you believe that you can criticize the policies of the Palestinian Authority openly and without fear?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	56.5	60.5	49.7
Partially	19.9	17.0	25.0
No	17.4	19.2	14.4
No opinion/I do not know	6.2	3.4	11.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you think that the Palestinian social system gives you the freedom of adopting the religion or thought that you desire?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	42.1	45.3	36.5
Partially	15.4	13.0	19.9
No	38.4	39.7	36.3
No opinion/I do not know	4.0	2.0	7.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



Under the current local security conditions that we go through, do you feel that you, your family and properties are secure?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	22.3	21.2	24.4
Partially	22.7	19.3	28.5
No	53.9	59.0	45.3
No opinion/I do not know	1.0	0.6	1.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

In your area of habitation, is there a public health centre that offers services 24 hours?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	32.5	24.7	45.9
No	64.8	73.4	50.1
No opinion/I do not know	2.7	2.0	4.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

When you visit a hospital or a public health centre in your area of habitation and the doctor writes you a prescription, do you find the prescribed medications in the public health centre or hospital?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Always	8.7	10.1	6.3
Sometimes	61.9	54.7	74.3
Always unavailable	28.2	34.5	19.2
No opinion/I do not know	0.5	0.7	0.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



How do you assess the performance of public hospitals in your area of habitation?

Total			
Total			
	Suitable	Unsuitable	Total
Cleanliness	50.7	49.3	100.0
Number of beds	38.2	61.8	100.0
Medical care	40.6	59.4	100.0
Time of visits	61.1	38.9	100.0
Availability of medications	22.8	77.2	100.0
Availability of medical apparatuses.	28.4	71.6	100.0
West Bank			
	Suitable	Unsuitable	Total
Cleanliness	47.1	52.9	100.0
Number of beds	32.3	67.7	100.0
Medical care	36.3	63.7	100.0
Time of visits	61.1	38.9	100.0
Availability of medications	22.3	77.7	100.0
Availability of medical apparatuses.	30.1	69.9	100.0
Gaza Strip			
	Suitable	Unsuitable	Total
Cleanliness	56.9	43.1	100.0
Number of beds	48.3	51.7	100.0
Medical care	47.9	52.1	100.0
Time of visits	61.1	38.9	100.0
Availability of medications	23.6	76.4	100.0
Availability of medical apparatuses.	25.7	74.3	100.0



Which of the following political affiliations do you support?

PARTY	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
People's Party	1.1	1.6	0.2
Democratic Front	1.1	1.0	1.2
Islamic <i>Jihad</i>	3.2	3.0	3.6
<i>Fateh</i>	28.1	26.6	30.7
<i>Hamas</i>	34.3	33.8	35.1
<i>Fida</i>	0.1	0.0	0.4
Popular Front	3.5	2.2	5.4
Palestinian National Initiative	0.7	0.5	1.2
I am an independent nationalist	3.6	3.0	4.6
I am an independent Islamist	3.7	3.5	4.0
None of the above	18.9	23.1	11.6
Others	1.6	1.5	1.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0