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**Results of Palestinian Public Opinion Poll**  
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**Background**

The financial crisis of the Palestinian Authority (PA) escalated following the suspension of funds made by the European Union and the USA, the refusal of Israel to transfer tax returns to the PA's treasury and the Palestinian Government's (PG) failure to transfer funds raised from some countries to the Palestinian treasury. One of the major consequences of this crisis was the PG's inability to pay the salaries of its employees for two consecutive months now.

In addition to the financial crisis, the PG goes through a crisis of disputed responsibilities with the Presidential Institution. Further, the Palestinian streets go through an unprecedented state of chaos, insecurity, and outlaw. Some fear that the present congestion of the Palestinian streets may lead to a civil war under the current state of militarization, and the provocative statements that officials let go here and there.

**The Results**

Following are the results of the 20<sup>th</sup> Palestinian Public Opinion Poll conducted by the Center for Opinion Polls and Survey Studies at An-Najah National University during the period from May 10 to 12, 2006. **The University sponsors all polls conducted by its Center.**

This poll undertakes the relationship between the new PG and the Presidential Institution, the current economic circumstances, the political sympathies, in addition to some other issues.

The sample included 1360 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 500 persons from the Gaza Strip. The sample was drawn randomly and the margin of error is about  $\pm 3\%$ ; still 3.7% of the members of the sample refused to answer the questionnaire.

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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.



## The Major Results

- 51.4% from among respondents are content with the performance of President Abbas since the formation of the new PG.
- 52.1% from among respondents believe that the relationship between the Presidential Institution and the PG is disputation over responsibilities.
- 47.5% from among respondents believe that Hamas will succeed in managing the government's affairs.
- 54% from among respondents support enlarging the responsibilities of the Presidential Institution to include the administration of the coming funds from the donor countries; 40.1% reject.
- 53% from among respondents support expanding the responsibilities of the President to include direct supervision on the work of the security apparatuses; 41.3% reject.
- 37.5% from among respondents see that the exit from the local political crisis will be through dissolving the present government and forming a national coalition government. 20% see that the exit lies in changing the political program of the present government.
- 26.4% from among respondents say that breaking the international isolation imposed on the Palestinian Authority lies in a declaration made by the present government announcing its acceptance of the signed agreements made between the PLO and Israel. 41.8% say that the isolation can be broken by the government's adherence to its principles since they are just and they can be understood by the international community.
- 60.5% from among respondents say that even if the present government recognized the signed agreements between the PLO and Israel, Israel will not be ready to negotiate with a government led by Hamas.
- 55.8% from among respondents support a new government program which reassures commitment to all international agreements that the PLO and the PA concluded under the auspices of the international community.
- 44.6% from among respondents support the President's use of his power to dissolve the government if the latter does not solve the problem of pay rolls.
- After the formation of a new government, 30.5% from among respondents support the recognition of the state of Israel by Hamas so that the donor countries will continue to fulfill their financial commitment to the PA.
- 17.3% from among respondents believe that the present PG can do without the financial aid that the donor countries give to the PA.
- 35.5% from among respondents believe that the funds that the present government raised from some countries form a sufficient solution for the financial crisis that the PA is going through.
- 41.8% from among respondents believe that the present PG is capable in the future of continuing its fund-raising mission for the PA.
- In case the financial crisis persists, 12.3% from among respondents expect a voluntary resignation of the government, 32.1% expect a collapse of the PA, and 20.1% expect the president to dissolve the government.
- 38.8% from among respondents say that Hamas should recognize Israel if the latter withdraws to the 1967 borders; 36.9% say that Hamas should not recognize Israel under all circumstances.



- 65.5% from among respondents support a decision made by Hamas to join the PLO.
- 38.3% from among respondents say that Hamas's joining of the PLO will relieve her of a direct and open recognition of Israel.
- 70.1% from among respondents believe that restoring dignity to the PLO is an important matter.
- If a shadow Palestinian government is formed, 15.2% from among respondents believe that it will hinder the work of the present government, 16.9% believe that it will complement the work of the present government, and 25.1% believe that the formation of a shadow government will lead to an internal strife.
- 60.9% from among respondents support the initiative of the Palestinian private sector made to break the current political and financial crisis that the PA is going through.
- 47.9% from among respondents believe that the civil society organizations will help the present government to surpass the current economic and political situation.
- 62.4% from among respondents believe that the civil society organizations should accept aids from donor countries while the latter refuse to offer help to the PG which came as a result to free elections.
- 33.2% from among respondents assess the performance of the PG as "good", 31% assess the performance of the PLC as "good", 20.7% assess the performance of the judicial system as "good", and 19.9% assess the performance of the security apparatuses as "good".
- 21.3% from among respondents say that they are employees in one of the PA's departments, 62.1% say that they can bear a duration of no more than two months without salaries, 26.7% say that they are able to manage by using family savings, 22.9% say they are able to manage by selling some of their possessions, and 46.1% say they rely on borrowing (loans).
- In case the government continues to be unable to pay salaries, the solution in the opinion of 38.6% of respondents lies in dissolving the current government and reforming a new government that is capable of paying salaries.
- 42.3% from among respondents believe that the inability to pay salaries for a long time will lead to an overwhelming chaos that will cause the Government and the Authority to collapse altogether, 12.6% believe that it will reinforce the program of the current government, and 22.3% believe that it will lead to a new uprising against Israel.
- 84.3% from among respondents do not feel secure neither for themselves nor for their families and properties.
- 88.3% from among respondents believe that the exchange of offensive talks in the media by some officials of Palestinian organizations will contribute to the split within the Palestinian solidarity.



- If a new PLC elections were held and the same lists ran for the seats of the PLC, respondents choices would be as follows:

Change & Reform	37.2%
<i>Fateh</i>	35.9
Martyr Abu Ali Mustafa	4.3%
Independent Palestine	2.7%
The Third Road	1.8%
<i>Al Badeel</i>	1.5%
Other	16.6%

- As for political affiliation respondents give the following results:

People's Party	0.6%
Democratic Front	1.1%
Islamic <i>Jihad</i>	2.6%
<i>Fateh</i>	37.4%
<i>Hamas</i>	31.2%
<i>Fida</i>	0.3%
Popular Front	4.2%
Palestinian National Initiative	1.0%
I am an independent nationalist	4.0%
I am an independent Islamist	2.9%
None of the above	14.0%
Others	0.9%



## The General Results of the Poll

**Are you content with the performance of President Abu Mazen since the formation of the new government?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes, very much	12.6	7.6	21.2
Yes	38.8	43.1	31.4
No	28.8	31.0	25.0
Absolutely not	16.3	15.3	17.8
No opinion/I do not know	3.5	2.9	4.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

**Do you think that the current relationship between the Presidential Institution and the Palestinian Government is one of:**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Collaboration	10.2	8.3	13.6
Conflict	32.4	32.0	33.0
Disputation over responsibilities	52.1	55.7	46.0
No opinion/I do not know	5.2	4.1	7.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

**Do you believe that Hamas will succeed in managing the affairs of the Palestinian Government?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes, it will	47.5	51.4	40.8
No, it will not	42.3	40.6	45.2
No opinion/I do not know	10.2	8.0	14.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

**Do you support or reject expanding the responsibilities of the Presidential Institution so that it will include the management of funds coming from donor countries?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I support	54.0	53.5	55.5
I reject	40.1	41.0	38.6
No opinion/I do not know	5.8	5.5	6.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

**Do you support or reject expanding the responsibilities of the President so that they include direct supervision on the work of Palestinian security apparatuses?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I support	53.0	54.3	50.8
I reject	41.3	40.9	42.0
No opinion/I do not know	5.7	4.8	7.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



**In your opinion, which of the following will help in overcoming the current political impasse?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Dissolving the present government and reforming a national coalition government	37.5	34.9	42.0
Changing the political program of the current government	20.0	19.5	20.8
Supporting the current government until the international community changes its attitude towards it.	37.9	40.9	33.4
No opinion/I do not know	4.6	5.1	3.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

**In your opinion, how could the PA break the isolation imposed on it?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
By making a declaration in which the government announces its acceptance of the agreements that the PLO signed with Israel	26.4	21.5	34.8
By calling for an international conference for peace under the supervision of the UN	24.3	24.8	23.4
By adhering to the government's principles which will eventually be understood by the international community	41.8	46.4	33.8
Others	1.9	2.2	1.4
No opinion/I do not know	5.7	5.1	6.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

**If the current government recognizes the agreements signed between the PLO and Israel, do you think that Israel will be ready to negotiate with a government led by Hamas?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Certainly	10.6	4.8	20.6
Yes	22.9	20.5	27.0
No	38.4	47.9	22.4
Certainly not	22.1	22.6	21.4
No opinion/I do not know	6.0	4.5	8.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

**Do you support or reject a new government program that confirms commitment to all international agreements signed by the PLO and the PA under the auspices of the international community?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I support	55.8	54.8	57.6
I reject	38.5	39.9	46.0
No opinion/I do not know	5.7	5.3	6.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



**Do you support or reject a decision by Abu Mazen in which he uses his powers to dissolve the government if the latter fails to solve the problem of pay rolls?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I support	44.6	39.9	52.6
I reject	49.2	54.8	39.6
No opinion/I do not know	6.3	5.3	7.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

**In order for the donor countries to continue their financial aids to the PA which is estimated at one billion dollars a year, they require that Hamas recognize Israel. Do you believe that Hamas, and after it has formed the government, should recognize Israel?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	30.5	28.7	33.6
No	63.2	67.1	56.6
No opinion/I do not know	6.3	4.2	9.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

**Do you believe that the current government can do without the financial aids that the donor countries offer to the PA?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	17.3	15.7	20.0
No	79.3	81.7	75.0
No opinion/I do not know	3.5	2.6	5.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

**Do you think that the funds that the current Government raised from some countries will be a sufficient solution for the financial problem that the PA is going through?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	35.5	32.2	41.2
No	59.2	63.4	52.0
No opinion/I do not know	5.3	4.4	6.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

**Do you believe that the Palestinian Government will be capable in the future of raising funds for the PA?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	41.8	45.5	35.4
No	48.1	45.7	52.2
No opinion/I do not know	10.1	8.8	12.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



**What do you expect if the financial crisis persists?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
A voluntary resignation of the current government	12.3	14.7	8.2
The President will dissolve the government	20.1	20.2	19.8
The PA will collapse completely	32.1	26.7	41.2
A state of emergency will be declared and the PLC will be dissolved	22.9	25.5	18.6
No opinion/I do not know	12.6	12.9	12.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

**Do you believe that Hamas should recognize the state of Israel in return for-----**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Israel's withdrawal to the 1967 borders?	38.8	38.0	40.0
Israel's recognition of the PG and engagement in negotiations with it?	12.7	11.9	14.2
Breaking the International isolation imposed on the PG?	6.9	7.0	6.8
No recognition under all circumstances	36.9	38.8	33.6
No opinion/I do not know	4.7	4.3	5.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

**Do you support or reject a decision made by Hamas to join the PLO?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I support	65.5	70.9	56.2
I reject	28.4	24.7	34.8
No opinion/I do not know	6.1	4.4	9.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

**Do you think that joining the PLO will relieve Hamas from a direct recognition of Israel?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	38.3	34.7	44.6
No	51.5	56.9	42.4
No opinion/I do not know	10.1	8.5	13.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

**Do you believe that retrieving dignity to the PLO is an important matter at this time?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	70.1	73.1	64.8
No	21.8	20.8	23.4
No opinion/I do not know	8.2	6.0	11.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0





**There is a talk about a tendency to form a Palestinian shadow government that will be parallel to the current PG. This shadow government will be:**

	<b>Total</b>	<b>West Bank</b>	<b>Gaza Strip</b>
hindering the work of the current government	15.2	13.4	18.4
complement the work of the current government	16.9	15.1	20.0
lead to an internal Palestinian strife	25.1	23.4	28.2
I am against forming such a government	34.2	40.1	24.0
No opinion/I do not know	8.5	8.0	9.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**The Palestinian private sector submitted an initiative to President Abbas and the Palestinian Government calling for forming a national coalition government and drawing a new Palestinian peace plan based on the international resolutions and the Arab Peace Initiative. Are you---**

	<b>Total</b>	<b>West Bank</b>	<b>Gaza Strip</b>
in favor of this initiative?	60.9	61.7	59.4
against this initiative?	27.0	28.7	24.0
No opinion/I do not know	12.1	9.5	16.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Do you believe that the Palestinian civil societies will help the current government over come the current economic and political problems?**

	<b>Total</b>	<b>West Bank</b>	<b>Gaza Strip</b>
Yes	47.9	48.0	47.6
No	43.7	46.3	39.2
No opinion/I do not know	8.5	5.7	13.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Do you think that the Palestinian civil societies should accept aids from the donor countries when these countries refuse to give aid to the Palestinian Government which came as a result to democratic elections?**

	<b>Total</b>	<b>West Bank</b>	<b>Gaza Strip</b>
Yes	62.4	62.1	62.8
No	29.0	32.6	22.8
No opinion/I do not know	8.7	5.3	14.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>



**Now that two months elapsed since the formation of the new Government, how would you evaluate the performance of the following institutions?**

<b>Total</b>					
	Good	Fair	Bad	No opinion / I do not know	Total
The Palestinian government	33.2	30.1	30.7	6.0	100.0
The PLC	31.0	28.7	32.5	7.8	100.0
The Judicial system	20.7	32.4	32.8	14.1	100.0
The security apparatuses	19.9	31.3	42.1	6.7	100.0
<b>West Bank</b>					
	Good	Fair	Bad	No opinion / I do not know	Total
The Palestinian government	34.4	29.8	29.8	6.0	100.0
The PLC	32.2	29.9	29.1	8.8	100.0
The Judicial system	20.9	28.5	33.4	17.2	100.0
The security apparatuses	19.5	26.6	46.2	7.7	100.0
<b>Gaza Strip</b>					
	Good	Fair	Bad	No opinion / I do not know	Total
The Palestinian government	31.0	30.8	32.2	6.0	100.0
The PLC	29.0	26.6	38.4	6.0	100.0
The Judicial system	20.4	39.0	31.8	8.8	100.0
The security apparatuses	20.4	39.4	35.2	5.0	100.0

**Are you an employee in one of the PA's departments or apparatuses?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	21.3	11.3	38.4
No	78.8	88.7	61.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

**How long can you bear living without receiving your salary?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Less than one month	11.1	15.5	8.9
One to two months	31.6	29.9	32.5
More than two months	19.4	24.7	12.8
I cannot bear at all	19.4	12.4	23.0
I can bear no matter how long the delay will be	17.7	17.5	17.8
No opinion/I do not know	0.7	0.0	1.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



**During the last period, how did you manage to suite your economic conditions?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
By using family savings	26.7	35.1	22.7
By selling some of your possessions	22.9	8.2	30.4
By buying on credit from stores	25.3	14.4	30.9
By taking loans from relatives	20.8	30.9	15.7
No opinion/I do not know	4.2	11.3	0.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

**In case the government continues delaying the pay rolls, what is the solution in your opinion?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Patience and waiting a breakthrough no matter how long the period will be	52.9	57.6	45.0
Dissolving the government and forming a government which will be capable of securing salaries	38.6	34.7	45.4
Other	2.6	3.3	1.6
No opinion/I do not know	5.8	4.5	8.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

**Failure to pay salaries for a long time may lead the public to---**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Revoking the present government	17.8	12.8	26.4
Reinforcing the current government's program	12.6	12.4	13.0
An overwhelming chaos that would bring down the government and the PA altogether	42.3	46.6	34.8
A new uprising against Israel	22.3	23.5	20.2
Other	0.9	0.7	1.2
No opinion/I do not know	4.1	4.0	4.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

**Under the current security conditions do you feel that you, your family and properties are secure?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	15.2	12.8	19.4
Partially	27.8	20.8	39.8
No	56.5	65.8	40.6
No opinion/I do not know	0.4	0.6	0.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



**Do you believe that exchanging provocative talks by officials of Palestinian organizations in the media will lead to more solidarity or to a split within the Palestinian solidarity?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
They will lead to a split	88.3	91.3	83.2
They will reinforce solidarity	7.6	4.4	13.2
No opinion/I do not know	4.0	4.3	3.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

**If new legislative elections are held today, which of the following lists will you vote for?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
<i>Al badeel</i>	1.5	1.5	1.6
Martyr <i>Abu Ali Mustafa</i>	4.3	4.4	4.0
Change and Reform	37.2	39.0	34.2
Independent Palestine	2.7	2.2	3.6
The Third Road	1.8	1.5	2.2
<i>Fateh</i>	35.9	33.0	40.8
Other	16.6	18.4	13.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

**Which of the following political affiliations do you support?**

PARTY	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
People's Party	0.6	0.6	0.6
Democratic Front	1.1	1.2	1.0
Islamic <i>Jihad</i>	2.6	2.1	3.4
<i>Fateh</i>	37.4	34.7	42.0
<i>Hamas</i>	31.2	31.6	30.4
<i>Fida</i>	0.3	0.2	0.4
Popular Front	4.2	4.2	4.2
Palestinian National Initiative	1.0	0.7	1.6
I am an independent nationalist	4.0	3.5	4.8
I am an independent Islamist	2.9	2.2	4.0
None of the above	14.0	18.1	6.8
Others	0.9	0.9	0.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0