

## Poll No. 96

June 2020

In the light of COVID-19 and Israeli annexation plans:

- an overwhelming majority of Palestinians demand elections
- a majority of Palestinians support a Social Security Law
- Palestinians believe Israeli annexation would undermine the two-state solution

## Israeli annexation would undermine the two-state solution

A public opinion poll conducted by the Jerusalem Media and Communication Centre (JMCC) in cooperation with Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, showed that if Israel goes through with its threats to annex parts of the West Bank, this would have a negative impact on the two-state solution. 45.3% of respondents said annexation would not leave any chance for the two-state solution, while 20.4% said there was a small chance for it and 22.6% who have the opinion that a two state solution will still be possible if the annexation plan goes through.

In regards to the Palestinian leadership's response to annexation by withdrawing from signed agreements with Israel, 53.9% of respondents said the leadership would renege on this position, while 26.6% said they would adhere to it.

## One year after the government's formation, the public is satisfied with its performance

Almost one year after the formation of Dr. Mohammed Shtayyeh's government, the majority of those polled, 71.6%, said they were satisfied with its performance, while 28.4% said they were dissatisfied. In general, 44.3% said the performance of this government has improved, and 10.7% said its performance has become worse, while 45% said it has not changed. As terms of security, 37.3% said they felt security and internal security has improved while 40.8% said it has not changed after the new government and 21.9% of respondents said their sense of security has deteriorated.

## The people want elections and Shtayyeh has the best chance at winning

Elections continue to be a major popular demand. The poll showed that the majority of respondents, 79%, believe it is important to hold legislative elections, while 15.8% said it was not important. Furthermore, the majority, 83% said it was important to hold presidential elections, while 13% said this was not important.

If elections were held today and President Mahmoud Abbas was not running, the person who would have the best chance at winning would be Mohammed Shtayyeh, according to 11.5% of those polled, followed by Marwan Barghouthi, at 6.8% and then Ismail Haniyeh at 3.6% while the percentage of those who didn't know was 63.4%.

As for the chances of success for parties and factions if legislative elections are held, the percentage of those who said they would vote for Fatah dropped to 29.9% in this poll from 35.6% in August, 2019. Likewise, the percentage of those who said they would vote for Hamas dropped to 5.5% from 12.3% in August of last year. This drop in the percentage of votes for the two major parties could be attributed to the noticeable rise in the percentage of those who said they would not vote for anyone, which was 39.7% in this poll, up from 34.5% in August, 2019. Furthermore, the percentage of those who said they do not know who they would vote for rose to 15.2% in this poll from 5.7% in August, 2019. It should be noted that the majority of those polled, 93.3% called for a youth quota in upcoming elections and 85.5% called for a women's quota.

### Social security is a popular demand

The majority of respondents, 94.6% said having a social security that includes medical insurance, retirement and unemployment benefits was important, while 5.4% said it was not important. The coronavirus pandemic seems to have made people more aware of the need for social security, with the majority of those polled, 84.2% saying that in light of the pandemic, they support a social security law while 15.8% said they opposed it.

### Low confidence in Political leaders

President Mahmoud Abbas maintained the largest percentage of people's trust at 13.3%, followed by Prime Minister Mohammed Shtayyeh at 8.1%, Marwan Barghouthi at 4% and Ismail Haniyeh, who saw a decrease in the level of public trust from 8.3% in August of last year to 3.1% in this poll.

### Pessimism regarding reconciliation

The majority of the public are still pessimistic regarding the possibility of reaching reconciliation between Fatah and Hamas. The poll showed that the majority of respondents, 61.8% do not expect reconciliation to be reached before the end of the year, while 27.1% said they expected it to be reached within this time. Regarding Hamas' relationship with the PLO, 53.2% of those polled said they believe Hamas should be part of the PLO while 29.8% said it should not.

### The public is convinced there is corruption and nepotism in PNA institutions

The percentage of respondents who believe there is corruption in PNA institutions rose in this poll to 76.3% after it was 71.8% in August of last year.

Moreover, 48.3% of respondents said there was considerable nepotism in the provision of public services, with 33.3% saying there was nepotism to

some extent, 13% who said there was nepotism to a low extent and only 5.4% who said there was no nepotism at all in the provision of public services.

## **The public's satisfaction with the performance of the PNA**

It is apparent that the way in which the coronavirus pandemic was handled and the clear stance against Israeli annexation were two reasons behind the people's satisfaction with the PNA. The poll showed an improvement in the level of the people's satisfaction with the performance of the PNA and its president, whereby the percentage of those who were very and somewhat satisfied with the performance of the PNA President was 64.8% in this poll compared to 38.3% in March, 2019 and 52.4% in August, 2015.

Similarly, the percentage of those who consider the PNA's performance as good rose to 68.2% in comparison to 57.5% in July, 2018 and 57.4% in August, 2015.

### **Methodology:**

A random sample of 1200 people over the age of 18 was interviewed throughout the West Bank and Gaza Strip between the 3rd and 9th of June 2020. The interviews were conducted randomly through phone, and the respondents inside each home were also selected randomly according to Kish tables in all governorates of the West Bank as follows:

<b>Governorate</b>	<b>No. of questionnaires</b>
Jenin	75
Tubas	15
Tulkarem	45
Qalqilya	30
Nablus	95
Salfit	20
Ramallah & al-Bireh	80
Jerusalem	110
Jericho	15
Bethlehem	55
Hebron	175
Gaza North	95
Gaza	165
Der al-Balah	70
Khan Younis	95
Rafah	60

**1200**

The margin of error is  $\pm 3$  percent, with a confidence level of 95%.

Sample Distribution	Occupation of Respondents
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 50.4% of the respondents were from the West Bank , 9.2% from Jerusalem, 40.4% from the Gaza Strip.</li> <li>• 10.7% said they live in villages 5.8% in refugee camps, and 83.5% in towns/cities.</li> <li>• 46% were male, 54%, female.</li> <li>• 70.8 % were married, 21.0%, single,</li> <li>• 6.5% widowed, 1.5% divorced, 0.2% no answer.</li> <li>• The average age of the respondents was 41 years.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students 7.4 %</li> <li>• Laborers 11.3%</li> <li>• Housewives 37.6%</li> <li>• Farmers/fishermen 1.1 %</li> <li>• Craftsmen 0.3%</li> <li>• Businessmen/private business 6.2%</li> <li>• Public Sector Employees 10.9%</li> <li>• Private Sector Employees 9.2%</li> <li>• Professionals (e.g. doctors/lawyers/ pharmacists/engineers) 1.0%</li> <li>• Unemployed 9.8%</li> <li>• Retired 5.0 %,</li> <li>• No answer 0.2%.</li> </ul>

### Results:

Q1- To what extent do you feel optimistic or pessimistic regarding the future in general? Would you say that you are very optimistic, optimistic, pessimistic or very pessimistic?

	Total n= 1200	West Bank n= 715	Gaza n= 485
Very Optimistic	10.1	10.2	9.9
Optimistic	57.6	62.8	49.9
Pessimistic	20.8	19.6	22.7
Very pessimistic	10.9	7.1	16.5
No answer	0.6	0.3	1.0

**Q2- How important do you think it is for the government to provide social security (e.g. health insurance, pension, and unemployment insurance)?**

	Total n= 1200	West Bank n= 715	Gaza n= 485
Very important	75.0	71.5	80.2
Somewhat important	19.6	22.2	15.7
Somewhat not important	3.2	3.8	2.3
Not important at all	2.2	2.5	1.8

**Q3- In light of the current crisis due to the coronavirus pandemic, to what extent do you support or oppose having a social security law?**

	Total n= 1200	West Bank n= 715	Gaza n= 485
Strongly support	55.3	53.1	58.6
Somewhat support	28.9	30.3	26.8
Somewhat oppose	7.5	7.3	7.8
Strongly oppose	8.3	9.3	6.8

**Q4- If legislative council elections were held today, which party would you vote for?**

	Total n= 1200	West Bank n= 715	Gaza n= 485
Fatah	29.9	31.7	27.2
Hamas	5.6	3.8	8.2
PFLP	1.4	1.8	0.8
DFLP	0.8	1.3	0.2
PPP	0.7	1.1	0.0
PNI	0.6	0.8	0.2
FIDA	0.1	0.1	0.0
Independents	5.4	4.5	6.8
Others	0.6	0.8	0.2
Wont' vote	39.7	39.2	40.4
Don't know\ no answer	15.2	14.9	16.0

**Q5- Do you think it is important to have legislative council elections in Palestine?**

	Total n= 1200	West Bank n= 715	Gaza n= 485
Yes, important	79.0	78.6	79.6
No, it is not important	15.8	17.2	13.8
Don't know/no answer	5.2	4.2	6.6

**Q6- If presidential elections were to take place today and Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) would not run again, Whom would you vote for?\***

	Total n= 1200	West Bank n= 715	Gaza n= 485
Dr. Mohammed Shtayyeh	11.5	16.6	3.9
Marwan Barghouthi	6.8	8.3	4.7
Ismail Haniyeh	3.6	1.4	6.8
Others	11.4	13.1	8.9
I won't vote – no one	3.3	2.8	3.9
Don't know/no answer	63.4	57.8	71.8

\*This is an-open ended questions- no options were given to the interviewee

**Q7- Do you think it is important to have presidential elections in Palestine?**

	Total n= 1200	West Bank n= 715	Gaza n= 485
Yes	83.0	82.9	83.1
No	13.0	13.7	12.0
Don't know/ no answer	4.0	3.4	4.9

**Q8- If legislative elections are held, do you think there should be a youth quota?**

	Total n= 1200	West Bank n= 715	Gaza n=485
Yes	93.3	94.4	91.8
No	3.8	3.8	3.9
Don't know/ no answer	2.9	1.8	4.3

**Q9- If legislative elections are held, do you think there should be a women's quota?**

	Total n= 1200	West Bank n= 715	Gaza n= 485
Yes	85.5	86.9	83.5
No	11.0	10.2	12.2
Don't know/ no answer	3.5	2.9	4.3

**Q10- Did you fast during the month of Ramadan?**

	Total n= 1200	West Bank n= 715	Gaza n= 485
Most of the days or all of the days	96.2	95.1	97.7
A few days	1.7	2.1	1.0
I didn't fast	2.1	2.8	1.3

**Q11- During the month of Ramadan, did you perform all religious prayers?**

	Total n= 1200	West Bank n= 715	Gaza n= 485
I prayed all days	93.5	92.4	95.1
Prayed only on Fridays	2.8	2.8	2.7
I didn't pray	3.7	4.8	2.2

**Q12- Do you agree or disagree with co-education in schools?**

	Total n= 1200	West Bank n= 715	Gaza n= 485
I agree till elementary	36.5	36.2	36.9
I agree till secondary	14.3	15.5	12.4
I disagree with co-education in schools	49.2	48.3	50.7



**Q13- Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way that Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) is doing his job as President of the PNA?**

	Total n= 1200	West Bank n= 715	Gaza n= 485
Very satisfied	18.5	21.0	14.8
Somewhat satisfied	46.3	45.3	47.8
Somewhat dissatisfied	17.7	17.2	18.4
Very dissatisfied	17.5	16.5	19.0

**Q14- In general, how would you evaluate the performance of the PNA? Would you say its performance is very good, bad or very bad?**

	Total n= 1200	West Bank n= 715	Gaza n= 485
Very good	14.5	15.4	13.2
Good	53.7	54.7	52.2
Bad	21.1	20.4	22.1
Very bad	10.7	9.5	12.5

**Q15- After around one year on the formation of the new government, are you satisfied of its performance? Do you say that you are?**

	Total n= 1200	West Bank n= 715	Gaza n= 485
Very satisfied	18.6	21.1	14.8
Somewhat satisfied	53.0	54.8	50.3
Somewhat dissatisfied	16.8	15.0	19.6
Very dissatisfied	11.6	9.1	15.3

**Q16- In general, do you think the performance of the current government is better when compared to previous governments? Didn't change, or become worse?**

	Total n= 1200	West Bank n= 715	Gaza n= 485
Its performance has become better	44.3	51.3	34.0
Didn't change	45.0	40.6	51.5
It's performance has become worse	10.7	8.1	14.5

**Q17- In general, under the current government, do you think the security and internal security conditions have Improved, deteriorated or have not changed?**

	Total n= 1200	West Bank n= 715	Gaza n= 485
Security and internal security conditions have improved	37.3	40.1	33.0
Security and internal security conditions have deteriorated	21.9	22.2	21.4
Security and internal security conditions did not change	40.8	37.7	45.6

**Q18- How do you evaluate the performance of the following Palestinian Authority agencies?**

	Total n= 1200	West Bank n= 715	Gaza n= 485
18-1. Prime Minister			
Good	49.6	54.7	42.1
Average	35.5	33.8	37.9
Bad	14.9	11.5	20.0

	Total n= 1200	West Bank n= 715	Gaza n= 485
18-2. Palestinian Education System			
Good	51.8	53.8	48.7
Average	33.2	31.7	35.3
Bad	15.0	14.5	16.0

	Total n= 1200	West Bank n= 715	Gaza n= 485
18-4. Palestinian TV			
Good	41.3	44.8	36.3
Average	37.8	38.3	37.1
Bad	20.9	16.9	26.6

	Total n= 1200	West Bank n= 715	Gaza n= 485
18-5. Ministry of Social affairs			
Good	28.7	30.2	26.4
Average	40.8	39.9	42.3
Bad	30.5	29.9	31.3

**Q19- To what extent do you have confidence in the police?**

	Total n= 1200	West Bank n= 715	Gaza n= 485
To a great extent	29.7	31.9	26.4
To some extent	47.7	47.1	48.5
To a small extent	12.3	12.0	12.6
I don't have confidence in the police	10.3	9.0	12.5

**Q20- Do you think there is corruption in the PNA?**

	Total n= 1200	West Bank n= 715	Gaza n= 485
Yes	76.3	74.3	79.2
No	23.7	25.7	20.8

**Q20-1. To what extent do you think there is corruption in the PNA?\***

	Total n= 915	West Bank n= 531	Gaza n= 384
To a great extent	47.0	47.3	46.6
To an average extent	42.3	41.2	43.8
To a low extent	10.7	11.5	9.6

\*This question was asked to those who said that there is corruption in the PNA

**Q21- In the Light of the present government, to what extent do you feel the presence of nepotism in providing public services?**

	Total n= 1200	West Bank n= 715	Gaza n= 485
To a great extent	48.3	43.4	55.7
To an average extent	33.3	36.5	28.7
To a low extent	13.0	15.5	9.3
No nepotism at all	5.4	4.6	6.3

Q22- Some believe that the two state formula is the most preferred solution for the Palestinian-Israeli conflict; Others believe that Historical Palestine cannot be divided into two states, so the best solution would be to have a bi-national state in all of Palestine where Palestinians and Israelis enjoy equal rights. Which solution do you prefer? I prefer the two state solution: a Palestinian and an Israeli state?

	Total n= 1200	West Bank n= 715	Gaza n= 485
I prefer the two state solution : a Palestinian and an Israeli	30.6	38.7	18.6
I prefer the bi-national state in all of Palestine	22.0	18.7	26.8
I prefer another solution	0.3	0.1	0.6
No solution	18.0	16.5	20.2
Palestinian State *	19.1	15.8	23.9
Don't know/no answer	10.0	10.2	9.9

\* This answer was not included as part of the options read to the interviewee

Q23- If Israel goes through with its threat to annex parts of the West Bank, what chance is there for the two-state Solution?

	Total n= 1200	West Bank n= 715	Gaza n= 485
Big chance	5.8	6.4	4.9
Moderate chance	16.8	19.6	12.8
Small chance	20.4	22.8	16.9
No chance at all	45.3	39.9	53.2
I don't know/no answer	11.7	11.3	12.2

Q24-The Palestinian leadership recently announced its withdrawal from signed agreements with Israel, Do you expect it to adhere to this position or will it renege on it?

	Total n= 1200	West Bank n= 715	Gaza n= 485
It will adhere to it	26.6	27.7	24.9
It will renege on it	53.9	53.3	54.8
I don't know /no answer	19.5	19.0	20.3

**Q25- Do you expect “Fatah” and “ Hamas” movements to reach reconciliation by the end of the year?**

	Total n= 1200	West Bank n= 715	Gaza n= 485
Yes	27.1	28.1	25.6
No	61.8	59.7	64.7
I don't know/no answer	11.1	12.2	9.7

**Q26- Do you think that Hamas should be part of the PLO?**

	Total n= 1200	West Bank n= 715	Gaza n= 485
Yes	53.2	53.4	52.8
No	29.8	28.5	31.5
I don't know /no answer	17.0	18.1	15.7

**Q27- How would you define yourself – only in one word – in terms of particular affiliation? \***

	Total n= 1200	West Bank n= 715	Gaza n= 485
Palestinian	57.3	55.9	59.2
Muslim	11.6	10.9	12.6
Patriotic	5.8	5.5	6.2
Belongs to Fatah	4.2	3.9	4.5
An-Arab	3.0	3.2	2.7
Others	8.3	7.1	9.9
I don't know /no answer	9.8	13.5	4.9

\*This is an-open ended questions- no options were given to the interviewee

**Q28 - Which political or religious faction do you trust the most?\***

	Total n= 1200	West Bank n= 715	Gaza n= 485
Fatah	28.3	31.5	23.5
Hamas	5.6	3.8	8.2
Other Islamic factions	5.3	5.2	5.6
Others	2.5	2.8	2.1
Don't trust anyone	43.1	40.8	46.4
I don't know \ no answer	15.2	15.9	14.2

\*This is an-open ended questions- no options were given to the interviewee

**Q29 - Which Palestinian personality do you trust the most?\***

	Total n= 1200	West Bank n= 715	Gaza n= 485
Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen)	13.3	14.7	11.1
Dr. Mohammed Shtayyeh	8.1	10.9	3.9
Marwan Barghouthi	4.0	4.5	3.3
Ismail Haniyeh	3.1	1.0	6.2
Others	11.8	14.3	8.0
Don't trust anyone	43.2	37.9	50.9
I don't know \ no answer	16.5	16.7	16.6

\*This is an-open ended questions- no options were given to the interviewee