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**Results of Palestinian Public Opinion Poll**  
**No. 47**  
**1-3 November 2013**

**Background**

Peace negotiations between the Palestinians and the Israelis were resumed last July under American auspices after it was stopped for nearly three years. Both sides agreed that the negotiations be held inside Israel and the Palestinian Territories. Secretary of state, John Kerry asserted that the negotiations between the Palestinians and the Israelis will be secret and that any announced results must be only through him. Kerry also asserted the commitment of the US administration to follow up with negotiations until an agreement is reached within a period of six to nine months.

After the resignation of Dr. Salam Fayyad's government, Prof. Rami Hamdallah was entrusted twice with forming new Palestinian governments.

Division between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip still persists while each side adheres to their convictions and there are no signs that the division will end.

**The Results**

Following are the results of the Palestinian Public Opinion Poll no. 47 conducted by the Center for Opinion Polls and Survey Studies at An-Najah National University during the period from 1-3 November 2013. **The University sponsors all polls conducted by its Center.**

This poll undertakes the Palestinian public opinion on the new political realities on the Palestinian ground including the Palestinian Israeli negotiations, Prof. Rami Hamdallah's government, the possibility of conducting presidential, legislative and local council elections in addition to the political affiliations of Palestinian people.

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 1.76% 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, by any means, represent the opinion of An-Najah National University.*



### **The General Results:**

- 44.2% of respondents supported going back to negotiations between the Palestinians and the Israelis under American auspices; 53.8% rejected.
- 21.6% of respondents expected the Palestinian Israeli negotiations which are held under American auspices to succeed within the defined period of nine months; 70.3% expected them to fail.
- 48.9% of respondents supported continuing these negotiations by the Palestinians; 49.1% rejected.
- 58.6% of respondents expected the USA to intervene and to exert pressure on some sides to lead the negotiation to a successful end.
- From among respondents who supported an intervention by the USA to exert pressure on some sides to lead these negotiations to a successful end, 59% expected the pressure to be exerted on the Palestinian side; 14.4% expected it to be exerted on the Israeli side while 25.1% expected it to be on both sides.
- 26% of respondents saw that the USA is serious this time in leading the negotiations between the Palestinians and the Israelis to a successful end.
- 10.7% of respondents considered the US an honest arbitrator between the two sides of conflict.
- 90.1% of respondents looked at the US policy towards the Palestinian issue as generally biased towards the Israeli side; 3% said that it is biased towards the Palestinian side while 5.4% said that it is neutral.
- 81.5% of respondents supported conducting a referendum among Palestinians before signing any peace agreement with Israel; 15.7% rejected.
- 40.7% of respondents supported reaching a provisional agreement similar to that of the Oslo Accord as a result of these negotiations; 53.6% rejected.
- Now that 20 years have elapsed since the signing of the Oslo Accord, 66.2% of respondents believed that it hurt the Palestinian cause; 27.1% said it benefited it.
- 51.8% of respondents supported the two-state solution provided that there will be a Palestinian state living side by side with Israel; 46.2% rejected.
- 28.8% of respondents said that they are optimistic towards the success of the peace process between the PA and Israel; 66.7% said that they are pessimistic
- 57.8% of respondents expected the outbreak of a third intifada (uprising) in the West Bank in case the current peace negotiations fail.
- 38.5% of respondents supported the rise of an armed uprising (intifada) in the West Bank; 55.7% rejected.
- 58.7% of respondents supported the rise of a nonviolent, unarmed popular uprising (intifada); 37% rejected.
- 35.8% of respondents supported dissolving the Palestinian Authority in case the current peace negotiations fail; 57.7% rejected.
- 51.8% of respondents said that they are optimistic towards implementing the Palestinian reconciliation agreement in the near future; 44.1% said they are pessimistic.



- 62.3% of respondents believed that the surrounding Arab and international circumstances necessitate conducting a national reconciliation between Fateh and Hamas.
- 28.8% of respondents said that implementing the Palestinian reconciliation agreement will strengthen and speed up the peace process while 47.5% said that it will hinder and delay it.
- 13.69% of respondents believed that the current incidents that are happening in Egypt will lead to speeding a national Palestinian reconciliation; 52.1% believed they will delay it and 21.5% believed that they will abort possibilities for a reconciliation.
- 10.7% of respondents believed that the change in the political regime in Egypt will lead to strengthening Hamas; 57.3% believed that it will lead to weakening Hamas.
- 72.6% of respondents supported appointing Prof. Rami Hamdallah Prime Minister; 16.1% rejected.
- 66.4% of respondents believed that Prof. Hamdallah's government is capable of managing the situation in the West Bank; 19.3% believed it is not.
- 64.2% of respondents believed that the effect of Prof. Hamdallah's government on the Palestinian people in the West Bank will be positive while 17.2% believed it will be negative
- 59.2% of respondents expected the fall of the PA in case enough funds become unavailable.
- 68.2% of respondents saw that Prof. Hamdallah's government is more capable of managing the internal Palestinian affairs while 24% saw that Ismail Haniyeh's government is more capable.
- 70.2% of respondents assessed the performance of Prof. Hamdallah's governments as "good".
- 37.9% of respondents assessed the performance of Ismail Haniyeh's governments as "good".
- 75.7% of respondents supported conducting the coming presidential elections after ending the division; 18.2% supported conducting them despite division.
- 76.1% of respondents supported conducting the coming legislative elections after ending the division; 17.3% supported conducting them despite division.
- 46.5% of respondents expected that if elections are conducted in the present time in the Palestinian Territories, they will be fair.
- 81% of respondents said that they will participate in the coming presidential elections. From among those who said they will participate, 35.9% said that they will give their votes to Fateh's candidate; 12.5% said they will give their votes to Hamas' candidate.
- 81.6% of respondents said that they will participate in the coming legislative elections. From among those who said they will participate, 36.9% said that they will give their votes to Fateh's candidates; 12.3% said they will give their votes to Hamas' candidates.



- If PLC elections are to be conducted, 45.9% of respondents expected the winning of Fateh movement; 13.8% expected the winning of Hamas.
- 83.7% of respondents said that they will participate in the coming municipality and local council elections. From among those who said they will participate, 30.2% said that they will give their votes to Fateh's candidates, 10.9% said they will give their votes to Hamas' candidates and 12% said they will give their votes to the representative of their family or clan.
- In case PLC elections will be conducted, 31.3% of respondents preferred conducting elections on the basis of electoral lists; 35.3% preferred conducting them on the basis of persons.
- 30.4% of respondents preferred conducting local council and municipality elections on the basis of electoral lists; 38.2% preferred conducting them on the basis of persons.
- 34.1% of respondents said that the current political, security and economic circumstances compel them to desire emigrating.
- 45% of respondents expressed fear for their lives under the present circumstances.
- 60.1% of respondents said that they are pessimistic of the general Palestinian situation at this stage.
- 73.7% of respondents said that they neither feel safe for themselves nor for their families and properties under the current circumstances.
- As for political affiliation, respondents gave the following results:

People's Party	1.3%
Democratic Front	1.1%
Islamic Jihad	2.4%
Fateh	35.2%
Hamas	11.3%
Fida	0.3%
Popular Front	3.6%
Palestinian National Initiative	0.7%
I am an independent nationalist	6.3%
I am an independent Islamist	3.7%
None of the above	33.4%
Others	0.8%



## The General Results of the Poll

**Now that the peace negotiations between the Palestinians and Israelis are resumed, do you support or reject these negotiations?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I strongly support	9.1	7.9	11.2
I support	35.1	38.8	28.8
I reject	39.2	43.7	31.4
I strongly reject	16.6	7.7	26.6
No opinion/I do not know	1.9	1.9	2.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

**Do you expect the negotiations to fail or to succeed within the defined period of nine months?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I expect them to succeed	21.6	22.2	20.6
I expect them to fail	70.3	73.6	64.6
No opinion/I do not know	8.1	4.2	14.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

**Do you support or reject Palestinian participation in these negotiations?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I strongly support	9.0	7.0	12.4
I support	39.9	43.3	34.2
I reject	37.9	41.4	32.0
I strongly reject	11.2	6.9	18.6
No opinion/I do not know	2.0	1.5	2.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

**Do you expect the USA to exert pressure on some sides in order to lead the negotiations to a successful end?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	58.6	60.0	56.2
No	34.6	37.0	30.6
No opinion/I do not know	6.8	3.0	13.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



**If the answer to the above question is “yes” on which side do you expect the USA to exert pressure?**

	<b>Total</b>	<b>West Bank</b>	<b>Gaza Strip</b>
The Palestinian side	59.0	64.0	50.0
The Israeli side	14.4	12.0	18.9
Both sides	25.1	23.8	27.5
No opinion/I do not know	1.4	0.2	3.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Do you think that the USA is serious this time in its endeavors to bring the peace negotiations between the Palestinians and the Israelis to successful end?**

	<b>Total</b>	<b>West Bank</b>	<b>Gaza Strip</b>
Yes	26.0	26.9	24.4
No	65.0	67.9	60.0
No opinion/I do not know	9.0	5.2	15.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Do you consider the USA a fair arbitrator in the current negotiations between the two sides of conflict?**

	<b>Total</b>	<b>West Bank</b>	<b>Gaza Strip</b>
Yes	10.7	10.5	11.0
No	84.2	87.7	78.2
No opinion/I do not know	5.1	1.9	10.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**In general how do you see the policy of the US towards the Palestinian cause?**

	<b>Total</b>	<b>West Bank</b>	<b>Gaza Strip</b>
Biased towards Israel	90.1	92.7	85.6
Biased towards the Palestinians	3.0	1.7	5.2
Neutral	5.4	4.8	6.6
No opinion/I do not know	1.5	0.8	2.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>



**Do you support or reject a referendum to be conducted by the Palestinians before signing any peace agreement with Israel?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I strongly support	33.4	30.6	38.2
I support	48.1	52.1	41.2
I reject	13.0	14.3	10.8
I strongly reject	2.7	0.9	5.8
No opinion/I do not know	2.8	2.1	4.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

**Do you support or reject reaching a provisional solution similar to the Oslo Accord as a result of these negotiations?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I strongly support	6.1	4.3	9.2
I support	34.6	36.6	31.0
I reject	39.7	45.5	29.8
I strongly reject	13.9	9.7	21.2
No opinion/I do not know	5.7	4.0	8.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

**Now that 20 years have elapsed since signing the Oslo Accord, do you think that the Oslo Accord benefited or hurt the Palestinian cause?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
It benefited to a great extent	4.0	1.9	7.6
It benefited	23.1	25.5	19.0
It hurt	42.9	46.5	36.6
It hurt to a great extent	23.3	20.8	27.6
No opinion/I do not know	6.8	5.3	9.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

**Do you support or reject the two state solution provided that a Palestinian state is created to live side by side with Israel?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I strongly support	8.7	7.8	10.2
I support	43.1	50.8	29.8
I reject	27.7	31.6	21.0
I strongly reject	18.5	8.4	35.8
No opinion/I do not know	2.1	1.4	3.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



**Do you consider yourself optimistic or pessimistic towards the success of the peace process between the Palestinian Authority and Israel?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Optimistic	28.8	32.1	23.2
Pessimistic	66.7	66.0	67.8
No opinion/I do not know	4.5	1.9	9.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

**In case the current peace negotiations fail, do you expect the outbreak of a third intifada (uprising)?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	57.8	57.7	58.0
No	35.3	38.6	29.6
No opinion/I do not know	6.9	3.7	12.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

**Do you support or reject the rise of an armed intifada in the West Bank?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I support	38.5	31.6	50.2
I reject	55.7	65.6	38.8
No opinion/I do not know	5.8	2.8	11.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

**Do you support or reject the rise of popular, unarmed and nonviolent resistance?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I support	58.7	63.4	50.6
I reject	37.0	34.8	40.8
No opinion/I do not know	4.3	1.9	8.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

**In case the current peace negotiations fail, do you support or reject dissolving the Palestinian Authority?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I support	35.8	34.5	38.0
I reject	57.7	62.6	49.4
No opinion/I do not know	6.5	2.9	12.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0





**Are you optimistic or pessimistic towards holding and implementing a reconciliation agreement between Fateh and Hamas in the near future?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Optimistic	51.8	55.6	45.2
Pessimistic	44.1	41.9	48.0
No opinion/I do not know	4.1	2.6	6.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

**Do you think that the surrounding Arab and international circumstances necessitate conducting national reconciliation between Fateh and Hamas?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	62.3	66.3	55.4
No	33.5	31.3	37.2
No opinion/I do not know	4.3	2.4	7.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

**Do you think that the implementation of the reconciliation agreement will hinder or support the peace process?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
It will hinder the peace process	28.8	29.5	27.6
It will support the peace process	47.5	49.8	43.6
It will not have any effect	20.1	18.5	23.0
No opinion/I do not know	3.5	2.2	5.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

**What do you think the events that are happening in Egypt will lead to?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
They will speed national reconciliation	13.9	12.9	15.6
They will delay the national reconciliation	52.1	55.6	46.2
They will not allow the national reconciliation to happen	21.5	20.2	23.8
No opinion/I do not know	12.4	11.3	14.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



**What do you think the change in the political regime in Egypt will lead to?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
It will strengthen Hamas	10.7	12.3	8.0
It will weaken Hamas	57.3	53.0	64.6
It has no effect	24.6	26.3	21.6
No opinion/I do not know	7.4	8.4	5.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

**Do you support or reject appointing Prof. Rami Hamdallah prime minister?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
I strongly support	20.1	22.0	16.8
I support	52.6	60.0	39.8
I reject	11.3	9.3	14.8
I strongly reject	4.8	1.3	10.8
No opinion/I do not know	11.3	7.4	17.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

**Do you think that Prof. Hamdallah's government is capable of managing the situation in the West Bank?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	66.4	77.6	47.2
No	19.3	14.3	28.0
No opinion/I do not know	14.3	8.1	24.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

**How do you think the effect of Prof. Hamadallah's government will be on Palestinians in the West Bank?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Positive	64.2	74.8	46.0
Negative	17.2	11.5	27.0
No opinion/I do not know	18.6	13.7	27.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

**Do you think that the PA will collapse if enough funds become unavailable to it?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	59.2	63.1	52.4
No	35.5	33.8	38.4
No opinion/I do not know	5.3	3.0	9.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



**As you know there is a government in the West Bank presided by Prof. Rami Hamdallah and another government in the Gaza Strip presided by Ismail Haniyeh's. In your opinion which one is more capable of running the internal Palestinian affairs?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Prof. Hamdallah's government	68.2	69.7	65.8
Ismail Haniyeh's government	24.0	23.4	25.2
No opinion/I do not know	7.7	7.0	9.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

**How do you assess the performance of Prof. Hamdallah's government?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Good	70.2	75.9	60.4
Bad	12.3	7.3	20.8
No opinion/I do not know	17.5	16.7	18.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

**How do you assess the performance of Ismail Haniyeh's government?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Good	37.9	41.0	32.4
Bad	44.5	39.3	53.4
No opinion/I do not know	17.6	19.7	14.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

**Do you support conducting the coming Presidential elections despite the division or after ending it?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
After ending the division	75.7	78.7	70.6
Despite the division	18.2	16.3	21.6
No opinion/I do not know	6.0	5.0	7.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

**Do you support conducting the coming legislative elections despite the division or after ending it?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
After ending division	76.1	78.7	71.6
Despite division	17.3	16.3	19.0
No opinion/I do not know	6.6	5.0	9.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



**If elections are to be conducted in the Palestinian Territories at the present time do you think that they will be fair?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	46.5	49.3	41.6
No	44.7	44.8	44.6
No opinion/I do not know	8.8	5.9	13.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

**If presidential elections are held in the present time, to whom from among the following do you give your vote?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
An independent candidate	9.3	8.5	10.8
A candidate from the left	3.5	2.7	4.8
A candidate from Hamas	10.1	8.8	12.4
A candidate from Fateh	29.1	27.9	31.2
A national independent candidate	4.7	4.3	5.4
An Islamic independent candidate	4.7	3.6	6.6
I will not participate in the elections	19.0	21.3	15.0
I have not decided yet	19.6	22.9	13.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

**If new PLC elections are conducted, whom will you vote for?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
An independent ticket	8.3	7.4	9.8
A ticket from the left	3.5	2.8	4.8
A ticket from Hamas	10.1	8.7	12.4
A ticket from Fateh	30.1	28.7	32.4
A national independent ticket	4.9	4.8	5.2
An Islamic independent ticket	6.0	3.7	7.2
I will not participate in the elections	18.4	20.6	14.6
I have not decided yet	19.7	23.3	13.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

**If new legislative elections are to be held today, which of the following will win?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
An independent Islamists bloc	4.3	4.0	4.8
An independent Nationalist bloc	10.8	7.8	16.0
A Fateh bloc	45.9	49.8	39.2
A Hamas bloc	13.8	14.4	12.8
A bloc from leftist organizations	2.4	1.9	3.2
No opinion/I do not know	22.9	22.2	24.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



**If municipality and local council elections are to be held, who do you vote for?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
A block that represents the family or clan	10.2	13.3	5.0
An independent ticket	7.6	6.9	8.8
A ticket from the left	2.6	1.9	3.8
A ticket from Hamas	9.3	7.9	11.6
A ticket from Fateh	25.8	23.0	30.4
A national independent ticket	5.6	4.3	7.8
An Islamic independent ticket	3.9	3.0	5.4
I will not participate in the elections	14.8	17.5	10.2
I have not decided yet	20.2	22.2	17.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

**In case PLC elections are conducted, do you prefer conducting them on the basis of electoral lists or on the basis of persons?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Electoral lists	31.3	30.9	32.0
Persons	35.3	37.1	32.2
Mixed	26.0	27.3	23.6
No opinion/I do not know	7.4	4.7	12.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

**Do you prefer conducting local council elections on the basis of electoral lists or on the basis of individual candidates?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Electoral lists	30.4	30.5	30.4
Individual candidates	38.2	39.8	35.4
Mixed	25.1	25.3	24.8
No opinion/I do not know	6.3	4.4	9.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

**Do the current political, security and economic circumstances compel you to desire emigrating abroad?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	34.1	27.0	46.4
No	64.3	72.6	50.0
No opinion/I do not know	1.6	0.5	3.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



**Are you worried about your life under the present circumstances?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	45.0	39.2	55.0
No	53.3	60.6	40.8
No opinion/I do not know	1.7	0.2	4.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

**Are you pessimistic or optimistic towards the general Palestinian situation at this stage?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Optimistic	35.6	43.5	22.0
Pessimistic	60.1	55.3	68.2
No opinion/I do not know	4.3	1.2	9.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

**Under the present circumstances, do you feel that you, your family and your properties are safe?**

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	25.7	30.9	16.8
May be	39.6	35.9	45.8
No	34.1	33.0	36.0
No opinion/I do not know	0.6	0.1	1.4
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	1.3	1.3	1.4
Democratic Front	1.1	0.7	1.8
Islamic Jihad	2.4	0.9	4.8
Fateh	35.2	34.3	36.8
Hamas	11.3	11.3	11.2
Fida	0.3	0.0	0.8
Popular Front	3.6	2.9	4.8
Palestinian National Initiative	0.7	0.3	1.4
I am an independent nationalist	6.3	5.6	7.4
I am an independent Islamist	3.7	2.4	5.8
None of the above	33.4	39.9	22.2
Others	0.8	0.3	1.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0