



**Publication Date:
11 November 2013**

**National Opinion Poll
Press Release (2): Internal Situation**

Highlights

- 63 percent of Gazans and 32 percent of West Bank respondents are aware of the Tammarud Gaza movement.
- 54 percent of Gazans and 38 percent of West Bank respondents believe that the government in Gaza is authoritarian.
- 34 percent of West Bank respondents and 30 percent of Gazans believe the PA government is authoritarian.
- 38 percent would choose a government headed by Hamdallah, while 17 percent would choose a government led by Haniyeh. Simultaneously, 36 percent would not choose either.
- 68 percent oppose the dissolution of the PA.
- 46 percent are pessimistic about ending the division between Fatah and Hamas.
- 40 percent believe that forming a national unity government will lead to ending the division, while 34 percent say conducting new national elections will lead to the same result.
- 87 percent support the conducting of a legislative and presidential election.
- 91 percent of Gazans support the immediate conducting of both elections.
- 42 percent of the public prefer Mahmoud Abbas, 17 percent would vote for Khaled Mashaal and a final 43 percent would not vote or are undecided.

Fieldwork Date: 20-22 October 2013

Sample size: 1,200 Palestinians in the West Bank & Gaza Strip

Margin of error: ± 3 %

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Introduction:

AWRAD recently completed a national opinion poll, in which 1,200 Palestinians of various demographics were surveyed in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. This current press release is one in a series highlighting findings on the following issues: the peace process and current negotiations, reconciliation, government performance, elections, and various other current events. The focus of this specific release is primarily reconciliation, government performance, elections, and the PA. Below are the most significant results:

I. Reconciliation

Prospects:

Palestinians are divided when evaluating the prospects for reconciliation between Fatah and Hamas.

- While 52 percent consider themselves optimistic, an additional 46 percent say they are pessimistic about such an outcome.
- Optimism is slightly higher in the West Bank (54 percent) than in Gaza (47 percent).
- Respondents are more likely to trust Fatah's (52 percent) resolve in ending the division than Hamas' (40 percent). In contrast, 42 percent of respondents believe that Fatah is not serious, as well as 54 percent who say the same of Hamas.

Solutions:

- Palestinians prefer a national unity government presiding over both territories (40 percent) as the best strategy to resolve the political division.
- A national unity government is distinctly more popular among respondents in the West Bank where 46 percent prefer such a solution, compared to only 31 percent in Gaza.
- The conducting of new legislative elections (34 percent) is the second most popular strategy, followed by the PA assuming control over Gaza (9 percent) and joint administration of the territory by the PA and Hamas (9 percent).
- Gaza respondents (48 percent) are more likely to select new legislative elections as the best solution for ending the division, than those in the West Bank (26 percent).

Tamarrud Gaza Movement¹

- A significant portion (44 percent) of Palestinians is familiar with the movement "Tamarrud Gaza."

¹ Tamarrud Gaza is a youth group of self-defined independents that was begun by a YouTube blog post. The group's stated agenda is the overthrow of the Gaza government through non-violent means, with the campaign scheduled to begin on 11 November 2013.

- 63 percent of Gazans are familiar with the movement “Tamarrud Gaza,” compared to 32 percent in the West Bank. This is a logical result as Tamarrud is a Gaza-based group, with an agenda for the coastal territory.

II. Evaluation of Leaders and Government

Mahmoud Abbas:

- Palestinians remain divided in their opinions of leaders. 40 percent of respondents consider Abbas’s performance “average,” while an additional 32 percent evaluate it positively and a final 24 percent negatively.
- Respondents in Gaza (28 percent) are more likely to evaluate Abbas’ performance negatively than their counterparts in the West Bank (22 percent).
- In contrast, Palestinians in the West Bank (42 percent) are more likely to consider his performance average than those in Gaza (36 percent).

Ismail Haniyeh:

- A plurality of Palestinians (39 percent) evaluates the performance of the Haniyeh government as average. An additional 18 percent assess the performance positively, and a final 33 percent assess it negatively.
- Gaza residents (40 percent) are noticeably more negative about Haniyeh’s government performance than those in the West Bank (29 percent).
- Many West Bank respondents (14 percent) are uncertain how to evaluate the government of Haniyeh.

Rami Hamdallah:

- A plurality of Palestinians (37 percent) consider the performance of the Hamdallah government to be average. 26 percent evaluate the performance positively, while 16 percent evaluate it negatively. Particularly significant, is the 22 percent of Palestinians who say they do not know how to evaluate it.
- West Bank respondents (42 percent) are more likely to consider the performance of the Hamdallah government average, than those in Gaza (29 percent).
- Gaza respondents (20 percent) are more negative in their evaluations of Hamdallah’s government than those in the West Bank (13 percent).
- 26 percent of Gazans say they are uncertain how to evaluate the performance of the Hamdallah government, compared to 19 percent in the West Bank.

Government Preference:

- When asked to choose between living under a government led by Hamdallah, or one led by Haniyeh, Palestinians prefer that of Hamdallah. 38 percent say

- they would prefer a government under his leadership, compared to 17 percent who state they would choose one led by Haniyeh. Importantly, 45 percent of Palestinians say they would not choose either or are undecided.
- A Hamdallah-led government is more popular in the West Bank (42 percent) than Gaza (30 percent). In contrast, a Haniyeh-led government is more popular in Gaza (21 percent) than the West Bank (15 percent).
 - Palestinians in Gaza (40 percent) are slightly more likely to reject both options, than those in the West Bank (34 percent).

Human Rights and Civil Liberties:

- When asked about human rights and civil liberties, respondents tend to view the government in the West Bank as more respectful than the government in Gaza. At least half of all respondents believe the PA respects human rights (55 percent), freedom of speech (51 percent), and the right to protest (51 percent).
- In contrast, respondents believe the Hamas government is less observant (31 percent for human rights, 26 percent for freedom of speech, 27 percent for the right to protest).
- A majority (51 percent) of Palestinians in both the West Bank and Gaza view the PA as democratic.
- A plurality (44 percent) of Palestinians evaluates the Hamas government in Gaza as authoritarian. In comparison, 32 percent consider the West Bank government as authoritarian.
- Respondents in Gaza (54 percent) are more likely to consider their government as authoritarian than those in the West Bank (38 percent).

Change Over A Decade: The West Bank

- 61 percent of respondents believe to varying degrees² that the political system of the West Bank has become more democratic in the past 10 years.
- 58 percent of the West Bank states that freedom of expression is more respected under the PA than it was a decade ago.
- When asked to evaluate the relationship between government and the public, 53 percent of the West Bank says that the PA has grown closer to the people.
- Respondents in Gaza (57 percent) are more likely than those in the West Bank (51 percent) to believe the PA has grown closer to the public.

Change Over A Decade: The Gaza Strip

- The majority of Palestinians (50 percent) do not believe that the system of government in Gaza has become more democratic in the past decade.

² This statistic is composed of respondents who “agree” or “agree to some extent.”

- Respondents in Gaza (56 percent) are more likely to believe government has become less democratic in course of 10 years than those in the West Bank (47 percent).
- 52 percent of Palestinians do not believe that freedom of expression is more respected in Gaza than 10 years previous.
- 58 percent of Gazans disagree with the assertion that freedom of expression is more respected now, compared to 48 percent in the West Bank.
- 50 percent of respondents state that the political leadership in Gaza has not grown closer to the public in the past decade.
- The majority of respondents in Gaza (54 percent) believe that political leadership is not any closer to the public than it was a decade ago, as well as 47 percent in the West Bank.

III. Elections

Timing:

- When asked about the conducting of immediate legislative elections, Palestinians are overwhelmingly supportive (87 percent).
- Presently, 91 percent of Palestinians in Gaza support the immediate conducting of legislative elections, compared to 84 percent of those in the West Bank.
- In addition, the vast majority of respondents (86 percent) support the immediate holding of presidential elections.
- 92 percent of respondents in Gaza would support immediate presidential elections, compared to 82 percent in the West Bank. Residents of the West Bank (14 percent) are slightly more opposed than those in Gaza (8 percent).

Candidates:

- When presented with a series of political parties for a hypothetical legislative election, Fatah is the most popular choice (39 percent), followed by Hamas (12 percent), while all other parties are only marginally supported.³
- Support for Fatah is slightly greater among Gaza respondents (42 percent) than in the West Bank (37 percent). In addition, Hamas is more popular among Palestinians in Gaza (16 percent) than the West Bank (10 percent).
- It must, however, be noted that 38 percent are undecided or will not vote (41 percent in the West Bank) and (31 percent in Gaza).
- In a hypothetical head-to-head election between Mahmoud Abbas and Khaled Meshaal, Abbas is the more popular choice (42 percent), though a significant portion of Palestinians say they would not vote or are undecided (43 percent).

³ 3 percent or less

- 46 percent of Gazans would vote for Abbas, compared to 39 percent in the West Bank, while 19 percent of Gazans would vote for Meshaal, compared to 13 percent in the West Bank.
- Significantly, 48 percent of Palestinians in the West Bank claim they would not vote or are undecided about either candidate in such an election, along with 36 percent in Gaza.

IV. The PA

The Future:

- The majority of Palestinians (68 percent) is opposed to the dissolution of the PA.
- 73 percent of respondents in the West Bank are against the dissolution of the PA, compared to 59 percent in Gaza.
- 74 percent would not support “any effort, including increased rates of taxation, to decrease reliance on foreign assistance.”
- 76 percent of Palestinians in the West Bank would not support all efforts, including greater taxes, to promote greater self-reliance, compared to 71 percent in Gaza.
- The majority of respondents (53 percent) believe that Palestinians have become less self-reliant since Oslo.
- 57 percent of respondents in the West Bank believe that since the beginning of the Oslo Accords, Palestinians have become less self-reliant, compared to 46 percent in Gaza.