



Press Release
PSR-PPC Opinion Poll on the Palestinian-Israeli Peace Process
17 December 2019

Jointly with the Palestinian Peace Coalition (PPC), the Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research (PSR) conducted a poll on Palestinian public perception of the peace process. The poll was conducted in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip between December 11th -14th, 2019. Right before the poll was conducted, the situation on the ground witnessed several developments related to the peace process including developments on the Israeli side, the indictment of prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu of corruption charges and the Israeli political parties failure to form a government coalition leading to a decision to hold a third parliamentary election within the same year. Also, during this period, the US government declared a new position regarding Israeli settlements in which it disputed the illegality of these settlements from an international law standpoint. On the Palestinian side, preparations were underway to hold elections pending an Israeli consent to hold the elections in East Jerusalem.

Total size of the sample is 1200 adults interviewed face to face in 120 randomly selected locations. Margin of error is +/-3%.

The poll explored public support for the two-state solution and for a peace package that addresses various elements of the conflict, perception of the status quo and the probable future scenarios, and the role of leadership and the parties responsible for the continuation of conflict. It also examined public perception of the impact of election, if one is held soon, on the prospects for reunification of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Main Findings

Conflict Resolution:

We asked the public about its preference for a solution to the conflict with Israel. Three in particular were presented to the public: a two-state solution; a democratic one-state solution in which a single state between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea would be created and in which Jews and Arabs would enjoy equal rights; and a one-state solution in which the status of the Palestinians in the occupied territories would be equivalent to that of Israeli Arabs today. The largest percentage, or 42%, showed support for the two-state solution while 19% opted for a democratic one-state, and 12% for a one-state in which Palestinians would have the same status as Israeli Arabs, while 27% have no clue on their preference or even don't know. No important differences were found between West Bankers and Gazans.

Secondly, we presented the public with details of a peace package the contained the following elements: (1) An Israeli acknowledgement of its responsibility for the refugees' problem and apologizes for its role in it; (2) an Israel withdrawal to the 1967 lines; (3) few and minor changes made to the route of the 1967 border lines; (4) East Jerusalem is made the capital of the Palestinian state; and (5); the agreement would end the conflict and the claims of both sides. The public was split in its response to the package with slightly more



respondents, 48%, supporting it and 46% opposed. Here too, we found little or no differences between West Bankers and Gazans.

Those who *supported* the package were asked if adding the following item to the package would make them more or less willing to support it: “*Israel would recognize the state of Palestine and would apologize for the suffering of the Palestinian people during the years of occupation.*” About three quarters (74%) said it would increase their support while only 8% said it would decrease its support and 17% said it would make no difference, meaning they would continue to support it.

On the other hand, those who *opposed* the package responded differently: 20% said it would lessen their opposition; an overwhelming majority of 78% said it would not make them change their mind or that it would make their opposition harder (50% and 28% respectively).

Future Scenarios:

We asked the public to tell us what, in its view, might happen during the next 10 years between Palestinians and Israelis. Respondents had three choices and a fourth in which they can imagine their own scenario. The one that received the largest percentage is one in which nothing happens: “the status quo will continue” with 39% selecting it. The scenario selected next was the one in which “Israel will annex part of the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967 and a Palestinian state will be created on the rest of the territories,” as 35% selected it. Scenario number three was one leading to “the creation of a Palestinian state along the lines of 1967,” with only 17% selecting it. Only 2% envisaged other possibilities and 7% were not sure or did not provide an answer.

Respondents were then asked to speculate about the behavior of the Palestinian leadership when confronted with these scenarios. The largest percentage (43%) indicated that it believes that the leadership will “insist on the creation of a Palestinian state along the lines of 1967.” But 39% thought that it will accept the Israeli annexation of parts of the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967 with a Palestinian state created on the rest of the territories.” Only 3% of the respondents thought the PA will follow a different path and the rest were not sure or did not provide an answer.

The Status Quo:

Keeping in mind that 39% of the public thought that the status quo will continue in the foreseeable future, we asked the public how it views the impact of the status quo on the Palestinian efforts to create an independent Palestine state: an overwhelming majority of the public, standing at 81%, responded by saying that the continuation of the status quo is bad for these Palestinian efforts; only 16% viewed it as good.

Who is Responsible for the Stalemate in Peace Making?

We asked the public about the seriousness of the Palestinian leadership’s efforts to find a solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and then we asked it “which player is the primary impediment to peace making in the region.” For the second question, respondents were given four options to choose from: Palestine, Israel, the US, and the Arab countries. In an answer to the first question, a slim majority of 52% said “no,”



the Palestinian leadership's efforts are not serious while 43% said "yes" the efforts are serious. Yet, in answering the second question, only 3% said Palestine was the primary impediment to peace making and about half (49%) selected Israel. The US was seen as an impediment by 30% of the public and only 14% selected the option of "Arab countries".

On Palestinian Elections:

An overwhelming majority of the public, reaching 79%, encourages, and 18% discourage, the participation of independent youth electoral lists in the upcoming elections. But a slim majority is not optimistic about the ability of the Palestinian elections to increase the prospects for the reunification, as 51% think they will not do that. But the findings show significant differences between West Bankers and Gazans: Gazans are more optimistic, with 53% thinking that they will, but only 37% of West Bankers think election will indeed contribute to reunification.



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