

صوت SAWT

Monthly Newsletter of Public Opinion Research & Democracy Promotion
ISSUE 01 AUGUST 2011



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ABOUT AWRAD

Founded in 2005 by Dr. Nader Said, AWRAD is an independent Palestinian public research firm located in Ramallah. AWRAD conducts social, political and economic research through sound and rigorous survey methodology. AWRAD utilizes the highest standards in research that include the use of surveys, opinion polls, focus groups, in-depth interviews and case studies.

AWRAD provides reliable and robust data, analyses and recommendations on various political and development-related issues that range from the peace process to education to electricity. AWRAD has undertaken projects designed to promote political participation and representative government.

AWRAD's strength is derived from its staff of renowned experts from the region's most prestigious research centers whose diverse experience enables AWRAD to provide a unique perspective on the Middle East's rapidly evolving political landscapes.

About صوت SAWT

The Arab World for Research and Development (AWRAD) conducts public opinion polling and policy research to support democratic and developmental discourse among Palestinians. SAWT is an Arabic word (noun) that has two powerful and relevant meanings: "Voice" and "Vote." SAWT, the program, will be the voice of the Palestinian public in policy-making forums through the following mechanisms:

- Conduct scientific national and district public opinion polling
- Organize focus groups on issues of relevance to Palestinians
- Publish brief issue analysis papers and policy reports on pressing issues
- Organize routable meetings with decision makers
- Utilize the media to raise public awareness about the needs of Palestinians
- Publish a bi-monthly newsletter

For more information on AWRAD, its various programs and our previous polling, please refer to our website: www.awrad.org.

AWRAD's June 2011 Public Opinion Poll and Policy Briefing

A public opinion poll fielded after the announcement of national reconciliation gauged Palestinian perceptions of a new unity government.

AWRAD conducted a public opinion poll on 12-13 June 2011 that gauged the opinions of 1500 Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza. The poll focused on the signed Reconciliation Agreement between Fatah and Hamas (May 4, 2011) and the formation and priorities of the Palestinian interim unity government. It found that a large majority of respondents (71 percent) believe that the reconciliation agreement serves Palestinian interests. The poll also revealed that the largest group of respondents (47 percent) selected "economy and jobs" as their first priority, followed by "security" and the "recognition of Palestine in the U.N." Another major finding of the poll is the positive evaluation of key Palestinian leaders (Abbas, Haniyeh, and Fayyad) has improved, with Abbas gaining 14 points since January 2011. This is mostly due to the signing of the Reconciliation Agreement. The poll reveals widespread support for the conduct of legislative, presidential and local elections.

- **Improving the economy and security as well as obtaining recognition for Palestine at U.N were ranked as first three priorities for the government.**
- **Due to the signing of the Reconciliation Agreement, the public gives a more positive evaluation of key Palestinian leaders.**

AWRAD Policy Briefing

Based on AWRAD's most recent poll, Dr. Nader Said and Dr. Bader Araj prepared a brief analysis paper concluding that the upcoming Palestinian interim government, as stipulated in the Reconciliation Agreement, faces overarching and real challenges. The most significant challenge is one of legitimacy. If Fatah and Hamas succeed in

forming an interim government, it would lack sufficient popular and partisan bases. This is due to continuing decline in popular support for the two main parties. The level of support for non-Fatah/Hamas and to other independent tendencies has reached an all-time high level of 57 percent during June 2011. The level of support for the new government would also be compromised by the absence of eight Palestinian factions from the negotiations over the new government's competition. The appointment of the government by two political groups with expired legitimacy will create a parliamentary vacuum. The PLC's term ended in January 2010. Another challenge is to meet the vital demands, high public expectations were revealed in AWRAD's poll. For example, almost half of the respondents selected "economic development and employment generation" as their top priorities. Unemployment rates reached about 22 percent and poverty rates reached very high percentage in some Gaza regions. The second most cited priority is "improving security." This is not an easy task due to the fact that security and judicial system in Gaza and West Bank are divided. The best course of action under such circumstances, according to the paper, is to abide by the majority demand to hold elections as soon as possible. Elections would energize the political will among Palestinians, encourage participation, gauge the true support of the various parties, and reveal any new trends in the Palestinian political scene. Until then, the alternative course of action is to preserve the present government headed by Dr. Salam Fayyad, but with support from Fatah and Hamas to be able to function in both the West Bank and Gaza.



Media Coverage

For the full analysis and detailed results, please refer to <http://awrad.org/einside.php?id=5>

Wattan TV and Al Quds TV aired the following report on the poll. To watch, click on http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ECHIJ_3YDtI

For the full text of the brief analysis paper, please refer to <http://awrad.org/etemplate.php?id=249&x=4>

For more details on the roundtable, please refer to <http://awrad.org/etemplate.php?id=247&x=6>



Round-Table Meeting Organized by AWRAD to Discuss the Results of its Latest Poll

On 30 June 2011, Award organized a round-table meeting to discuss the results of its public opinion poll conducted on 12-13 June 2011. The poll focused on the signing of the Reconciliation Agreement and the formation of the Palestinian interim government. Twenty individuals attended the meeting including four senior representatives of Palestinian parties (Fatah, DFLP, Palestinian National Initiative Movement, Palestinian Liberation Front), and senior leaders of national and international NGOs (The General Union of Palestinian Women, The Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy-MIFTAH, al-Marsad for Democracy in the Arab World, Human Rights and Democracy Center (Shams), Catholic Relief Services and NDI). In addition, two representatives from the Palestinian President's Office were present, as well as the Director of the Wattan Satellite TV station.

The meeting started with a summary of results of the poll presented by Dr. Nader Said, AWRAD's General Director. In the context of his presentation, Dr. Said stressed public opinion polls are a "metallization of pluralism." He also pointed out that organizing such meetings with senior political and civil leaders after publishing the results of public opinion polls is "part of AWRAD's commitment to return

the dialogue to ordinary Palestinians who volunteer to voice their opinions through the polls, encouraging Palestinian leaders to listen to the voices of their citizens." Moreover, Dr. Said maintained that such meetings are useful as they give decision-makers an opportunity to exchange opinions and form future courses of action. The participants offered a number of recommendations including:

- The need to establish coalitions of NGOs and political parties to advocate certain issues. Civil society must focus on ending human rights violations in both West Bank and Gaza.
- The need to conduct more focused and detailed public opinion polls.
- Smaller parties and NGOs should work together to reduce the political power-monopoly held by the two main parties (Fatah and Hamas).
- The rise of support of independent groups and leaders such as Palestinian National Initiative Movement and Third Way (Dr. Barghouthi and Dr. Fayyad) must be studied further.

"Legitimacy must be derived from free and regular election."

Salah Khwaja, Al Mubadara

"Publishing the results of public opinion polls is "part of AWRAD's commitment to return the dialogue to ordinary Palestinians who volunteer to voice their opinions through the polls, encouraging Palestinian leaders to listen to the voices of their citizens."

Dr. Nader Said, President of AWRAD

"Eight Palestinian parties decided not to participate."

Dr. Abu Yusef, PLO Executive Committee

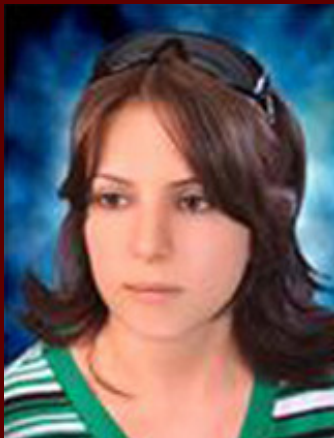
SAWT Honors Distinguished Researchers from the Field



Aula Joulani is a 26 year old native of Jerusalem's Old City. Aula joined AWRAD in 2008 as a field researcher and participates in all polls and survey research that AWRAD conducts in the center of West Bank and Jerusalem. In addition to her work with AWRAD, Aula maintains an active lifestyle and has a passion for learning. She has Bachelors degree in small business management.



Ismail Abd Al-Qadir Abu Mahadi Ismail has been working as a researcher for 10 years. He started with AWRAD in 2007. Ismail is an expert in conducting polling interviewing and has been an instrumental part of the AWRAD team in Gaza throughout the last four years. Ismail says that "working as a field researcher is the most interesting work I have been involved in; it is an interactive learning process that develops skills that helps one overcome any obstacle, particularly with the circumstances in Gaza." Ismail received his Bachelors degree in Social Service from Al-Quds Open University. He is married and lives with his family in Gaza.



Rana Samir Hamoda joined AWRAD in 2007 as a field researcher with two years of prior experience conducting polling interviews and focus groups in her hometown of Nablus. Rana says, "joining AWRAD developed my personality and the experience has developed my skills and information in communicating with people." Rana has a Bachelors degrees in Psychology and minor psychological counseling.



In'am Ma'li has been working with AWRAD since its establishment in 2007 as a researcher in the southern West Bank. She has extensive experience in her hometown of Bethlehem as well as in Hebron and is extremely familiar with local communities there. In'am has implemented hundreds of interviews and facilitated dozens of focus groups.