



**85 percent of Gazans report deterioration in economic conditions  
and Palestinians are divided over negotiations**

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The Arab World for Research and Development (AWRAD) conducted a national public opinion poll April 7-10, 2018 among 1,200 Palestinians (18+) in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The poll focused on the following issues: Living conditions, the peace process, evaluation of leaders, elections, and political party support. The margin of error for this poll is less than 3 percent. The poll can be found online at [www.awrad.org](http://www.awrad.org) or call us at 0599204527.

**Living Conditions Worsening, but Optimism Remains:** Since the previous year, Palestinians believe that both personal and national circumstances have deteriorated. 56 percent believe their family's economic situation has worsened (85 percent in Gaza and 37 percent in the West Bank). Further, 58 percent believe that Palestine is headed in the wrong direction (71 percent in Gaza and 50 percent in the West Bank). Despite these adverse conditions, hope remains with 50 percent of Palestinians expressing optimism for the future (43 percent in Gaza and 56 percent in the West Bank).

**Opposition to Dissolution of PA:** Over two-thirds (68 percent) of respondents oppose the dissolution of the Palestinian Authority. Opposition to dissolution has increased by 8 points since a similar poll conducted in October 2016. West Bank (70 percent) respondents are more likely to object than those in Gaza (65 percent). Opposition increases to 80 percent if dissolution were to result in administration by the Israeli Occupation.

**Perception of Corruption is Widespread:** Across the country, a large majority of Palestinians (80 percent) believe corruption exists in their governing institutions.

**Hamas Considered in Control of Gaza:** The vast majority (90 percent) of respondents believe Hamas, defined as its political and military wings, is the actor in control of the internal situation in Gaza. Only 8 percent identify the PA and the Hamdallah government.

**Palestinians Divided on Negotiations, Supportive of Abbas Approach:** Palestinians are split on the resumption of peace talks, with 44 percent expressing support and 48 percent expressing opposition. However, the approach of Abbas, predicated on negotiations, is most popular; 42 percent express support for this approach, compared to 19 percent who prefer Hamas leader Haniyeh's.

**Majority Supports Return to Armed Conflict:** 57 percent of Palestinians support a renewal of armed conflict at the present time. Respondents in Gaza are most supportive, with three-quarters (76 percent) expressing affirmation. In contrast, those in the West Bank are divided, while 45 percent are supportive, 47 percent express opposition. Compared to October 2016, support for a



return to armed conflict has increased by 7 points overall and by 28 points in Gaza. Despite majority support, respondents are more skeptical of the efficacy of armed conflict. 43 percent believe a renewal would benefit Palestinians, while 30 percent believe it would benefit only to some extent.

**Palestinians are Divided about Leaders:** If elections for PA President were held today and 10 leaders nominated themselves, Abbas receives only one-fifth (21 percent) of the popular vote, followed by Marwan Barghouti (16 percent), Ismail Haniyeh (11 percent) and Mohammad Dahlan (7 percent). In the Gaza Strip, the four leaders are equally popular (receiving 15-17 percent each).

All other leaders (Salam Fayyad, Mustafa Barghouti, Khaled Mshaal, Ahmad Saadat, Rami Hamdallah, and Ramadan Shallah) received 1-3 percent general support.

In general, however, the greatest plurality (32 percent) of respondents indicates that they are undecided (10 percent) or would not vote (22 percent).

**46 percent do not support any political party:** Fatah continues to be the most popular political party (34 percent), followed by Hamas (14 percent). All other political parties received 1-2 percent.

### Tables of Results

**Sample Size: 1,200 Palestinians (West Bank & Gaza)**

**Margin of Error: ± 3 Percent**

#### Section (1): General Directions

**1. In general, would you say that things in Palestine are heading in the right direction or the wrong direction?**

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Right direction	41.7%	23.1%	34.4%
Wrong direction	50.1%	70.9%	58.3%
Don't know	8.2%	6.0%	7.3%

**2. In general, are you optimistic or pessimistic about the future?**

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Optimistic	55.5%	42.5%	50.4%
Pessimistic	41.8%	55.6%	47.2%
Don't know	2.7%	1.9%	2.4%

**3. Is your family's economic situation better or worse than it was a year ago?**

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Better	14.5%	1.3%	9.3%
Stayed the same	48.3%	12.8%	34.4%
Worse	37.2%	84.8%	55.8%
Don't know	0.0%	1.1%	0.4%

**4. Do you believe that there is corruption in the institutions of the Palestinian government in The West Bank?**

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Yes	81.7%	76.1%	79.5%
No	11.6%	11.5%	11.6%
Don't know	6.7%	12.4%	8.9%

**5. Do you believe that there is corruption in the institutions of the Palestinian government in The Gaza Strip?**

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Yes	72.3%	80.3%	75.4%
No	10.9%	14.1%	12.2%
Don't know	16.8%	5.6%	12.4%

**6. In your opinion, who is the real party in control of the internal situation in Gaza?**

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Hamas (its political and military wings)	89.8%	90.0%	89.8%
The PA and its government headed by Rami Hamdallah	8.2%	8.8%	8.4%
Don't know	2.0%	1.3%	1.8%

**7. How do you view the overall situation in Palestine territories during the past two years?**

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Improved	7.2%	0.6%	4.7%
Stayed the same	26.6%	8.3%	19.5%
Worsened	65.6%	91.0%	75.5%
Don't know	0.5%	0.0%	0.3%

**8. Do you support dissolving the PA?**

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Agree	25.9%	29.3%	27.2%
Disagree	69.5%	65.0%	67.7%
Don't know	4.7%	5.8%	5.1%

**9. Do you support dissolving the PA if that leads to a return of the occupation?**

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Agree	15.3%	16.2%	15.7%
Disagree	79.8%	79.1%	79.5%
Don't know	4.9%	4.7%	4.8%

**10. Do you support a renewal of armed conflict at this time?**

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Yes	44.9%	76.3%	57.2%
No	46.7%	20.5%	36.5%
Don't know	8.4%	3.2%	6.3%

**11. In your opinion, would a renewal of armed conflict benefit Palestinians interest?**

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Yes	31.7%	60.0%	42.8%
To some extent	31.2%	27.8%	29.9%
No	30.4%	9.4%	22.2%
Don't know	6.7%	2.8%	5.2%

**12. Do you support the resumption of peace talks between Palestinians and Israelis?**

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Agree	42.7%	46.4%	44.1%
Disagree	46.6%	49.4%	47.7%
Don't know	10.7%	4.3%	8.2%

**13. If one leads to the resolution of the national struggle, which approach do you support more?**

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
The approach of Mahmoud Abbas	43.0%	40.2%	41.9%
The approach of Hamas and Ismael Haniyeh	13.5%	26.5%	18.6%
Other	23.1%	21.8%	22.6%
Don't know	20.4%	11.5%	16.9%

**Section (2): Election**

**14. In an upcoming presidential election, which of the following leaders would you vote for**

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Mahmoud Abbas	23.5%	17.3%	21.1%
Marwan Bargouthi	17.1%	15.0%	16.3%
Ismael Haniyeh	7.5%	16.5%	11.0%
Mohamad Dahlan	1.5%	15.0%	6.8%
Khaled Mashaal	1.8%	4.9%	3.0%
Rami Hamdallh	2.9%	1.1%	2.2%
Salam Fayyad	2.7%	0.6%	1.9%
Mustafa Bargouthi	1.9%	1.5%	1.8%
Ahmad Saadat	1.4%	1.1%	1.3%
Ramadan Shallah	0.0%	0.9%	0.3%
Other	2.2%	2.6%	2.3%
None of the above	12.9%	6.4%	10.3%
I will not vote	24.6%	17.3%	21.8%

**15. If President Abbas decided not to run, in an upcoming presidential election, which of the following leaders would you vote for?**

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Marwan Bargouthi	29.4%	22.0%	26.5%
Ismael Haniyeh	8.6%	18.4%	12.4%
Mohamad Dahlan	2.7%	21.8%	10.2%
Rami Hamdallah	8.3%	1.5%	5.7%
Salam Fayyad	4.4%	1.5%	3.3%
Khaled Mashaal	1.6%	3.6%	2.4%
Mustafa Bargouthi	2.1%	2.4%	2.2%
Ahmad Saadat	1.2%	1.1%	1.2%
Ramadan Shallah	0.0%	0.6%	0.3%
Other	3.7%	2.1%	3.1%
None of the above	13.0%	6.4%	10.4%
I will not vote	24.9%	18.6%	22.4%

**16. If PLC elections were held today, for which of the following parties would you vote?**

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Fateh	32.2%	35.5%	33.5%
Hamas	9.7%	20.7%	14.0%
PPP	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%
PFLP	1.8%	1.5%	1.7%
DFLP	1.1%	0.9%	1.0%
Independent party, led by Fayyad	2.5%	0.6%	1.8%
Al Mubadara	1.2%	1.3%	1.3%
Feda	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%
Popular Struggle	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%
Islamic Jihad	0.8%	1.7%	1.2%
Hizb Tahreer	0.7%	0.0%	0.4%
Another list	2.0%	1.1%	1.7%
None of the above	22.4%	17.7%	20.6%
I will not vote	25.1%	18.8%	22.7%

**Sample Distribution**

Region	%	Gender	%
West Bank	61.0	Male	50.6
Gaza	39.0	Female	49.4
District	%	Age	%
Jenin	6.8	18-30	38.8
Tulkarm	3.3	31-40	23.3
Qalqilya	1.7	41+	38.0
Nablus	8.3	Marital Status	%
Salfit	1.7	Single	24.5
Tubas	1.7	Married	71.3
Ramallah & Al Bireh	6.8	Other	4.2

Jerusalem	8.7	Educational level	%
Jericho	1.7	Secondary (12 years or less)	64.7
Bethlehem	5.1	More than 12 years	35.3
Hebron	15.3		
Jabalya	6.6	Occupation	%
Gaza	14.7	Laborer	13.3
Deir Al Balah	4.9	Employee	14.4
KhanYunis	8.0	Farmer	1.6
Rafah	4.8	Merchant	5.6
Residence	%	Professional	1.2
City	72.3	Craftsman	4.3
Village	16.6	Student	10.0
Refugee Camp	11.2	Housewife	36.9
Work Sector	%	Does not work	11.3
Government	24.5	Retired	1.4
Private	65.6	Reported Relative Income	%
NGOs	2.5	Above average	5.3
Other	7.3	Average	67.0
Refugee status	%	Below average	27.8
Refugee	38.4		
Non-refugee	61.6		