

Public Opinion Poll #2 Palestinian Elections, October 5-10, 1993

The policy analysis unit at the Center for Palestine Research and Studies will release, in two days, an analysis of the Palestinian elections examining the views of the main regional actors as well as the PLO and the Palestinian opposition towards the proposed elections. The analysis will also examine different options regarding a Palestinian electoral system.

As you know, the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles states that general political elections will take place in the West Bank and Gasa Strip not later than July 13, 1993, in order to elect the members of the "Palestinian Council" of the Interim Self-Governing Authority.

For this purpose, the Survey Research Unit at the center has conducted a poll of Palestinian attitudes towards the above mentioned elections. Please find in the following, a summary of the main results as well as the methodology used.

Introduction

The Center for Palestine Research and Studies has conducted a public opining poll in the West Bank and Gaza. A random sample of 1259 Palestinians, over the age of 18, were interviewed. The sample was distributed according to population size. Effort was made to represent all residential areas (i.e., city, town, village and refugee camps). Age and sex were also considered.

The interviews were conducted on a face-to basis in West bank major towns (Jerusalem, Hebron, Bethlehem, Ramallah, Nablus, Jericho, Tulkarm, and Jenin). In Gaza interviews were conducted in the following areas: Gaza city (East/West), Alshati, Abasan, Banishaila, jabalia refugee camp, Khan Yunis (city and refugee camp), Rafah (city and refugee camp), Alnsairat refugee camp, Albreig refugee camp, and beit Lahia.

Forty well-trained field workers were instructed to visit areas that attract all of the society's group and strata. These areas included, among others, bus/car stations that lead to villages and refugee camps, main markets, city centers, hospital entrances,.. etc.

809 questionnaire were received from the West Bank, and 450 were received from Gaza. The margin of error for this study is plus or minus 3% with a confidence level of 95%.

Methodology

To assess the validity of this poll, the findings must be placed in their proper context, especially in relation to time. The reader should be reminded that there is, at present a great deal of ambiguity among Palestinians about the elections. To familiarize the respondents with the issue, field workers were instructed to read a script that is related to the elections from the Declaration

of Principles. At this stage, it is suggested that the results of this poll should be treated in broad terms so as to foster understanding of Palestinian general views regarding elections and other important issues.

A poll, such as this one, may have a number of limitations. errors may have resulted as a consequence of surveying only a random sample of, and not the complete, population. Errors may also have occurred from non-response, choice of interview station, improper wording of questions, misquotations by data collectors, and fake answers by the respondents resulting from fear, mistrust, or frustration.

In their attempt to minimize errors, the researchers at CPRS utilized forty well-trained data collectors who participated in an intensive workshop where the goals of the poll were explained. They were also lectured on survey research, data collection, interviews, objectivity and scientific research. data collectors worked in groups supervised by qualified researchers. Researchers at CPRS made random visits to interview stations. Data were processed through the use of SPSS, a computer package that is able to detect illogical answers and other inconsistencies.

Sample Distribution

(Expressed as a % of the total sample)

Geographical Distribution

63% West bank "including Jerusalem"
37% Gasa Strip

Area of Residence

44% city
23% Refugee Camp
33% Towns/Villages

Gender

60% Were male
40% Were female

Age

49.6% 18-28
29.1% 29-39
14.2% 40-50
07.1% Over than 50

Occupation

12.4% Laborers
10.6% Craftsmen
13.0% Housewives
24.1% Employees
06.9% Unemployed

11.5% Merchants
12.3% Students
01.6% Farmers
06.5% Specialists
01.1% Retired

Education

02.9% No education	18.9% Tow-years college
18.5% Up-to 9 years	22.7% Bachelors
34.3% 10-13 years	02.7% Masters & PHDs

Marital Status

34.0% Single
64.9% Married
01.1% Divorced & Widowed

Remarks

The poll shows that the majority of Palestinians (73.9%) believe that general political elections must be used when choosing the members of a Palestinian Interim Council. 68.2% declared that they will participate in the elections. However, there seems to be either "somewhat fair" or "unfair".

Furthermore, fear of political turmoil is widespread among Palestinians. 47% said that they are concerned about internal violence or possible government oppression of the opposition groups. Internal violence is the number one concern of Hamas sympathizers, as well as, Feda's, Hizb al-Sha'b, Islamic Jihad, independents, and "others". For the PFLP(George Habash) and DELP (Nayef Hawatmeh) sympathizers, the number one concern is possible government oppression of the opposition. Fateh sympathizers are mostly concerned with economic conditions and internal violence. Meanwhile 35.5% of respondents have indicated their concern with job availability and standards of living.

The poll indicates a number of variations between Gaza and the West Bank. 72.8% of West Bank respondents and only 60.2% of Gazans have indicated that they will participate in the elections. This difference may be, partly, due to widespread doubts among Gazans about the fairness of the elections. 28.6% of them think that the elections will be fair, while 32.2% said that it will be unfair, and 39% said that it will be somewhat fair.

Additionally, it is interesting to find that a majority of the supporters of all political groups (except Islamic Jihad) have indicated that they will participate in the elections (see Appendixes).

It is also expected that the election issue will be the focus of Palestinian politicians and the public for months to come. And as a result of the scientific and historical value of studying this issue, the Survey and Polls Unit at CPRS will continue to monitor public opinion on a monthly basis, and will make sure that the result of all polls are made available to all interested individuals and parties.

Results

1. In your opinion, what is the best way to choose members of the "Palestinian Council" of the Palestinian Interim Self-Government Authority?

(To be read vertically; column total= 100%)

	total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
a) Appointment by PLO leadership	15.7%	18.1%	17.6%
b) Appoint by polgroups (quota)	04.9%	05.1%	4.6%
c) Political elections	74.0%	71.5%	78.2%
d) Others	05.4%	05.3%	05.5%

2. Will you participate in the elections for the " Palestinian Council" of the Palestinian Interim Self-Government Authority?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza
a) Yes	68.2%	18.1%	11.7%
b) No	16.8%	14.9%	22.8%
c) Not sure	14.0%	12.3%	17.1%

3. If elections were to be held today, you will vote for candidates affiliated with:

	Total	West Bank	Gaza
a) Hamas	13.3%	13.1%	60.1%
b) PFLP	06.5%	04.6%	10.3%
c) Fateh	44.7%	45.9%	42.6%
d) Feday (Abd Robo)	02.2%	02.1%	02.2%
e) DELP (Hawatmeh)	00.9%	01.3%	00.2%
f) Hizb Al Sha'b	20.0%	01.5%	02.9%
g) Islamic Jihad	03.7%	02.0%	07.0%
h) Independents	11.8%	12.6%	10.1%
i) Others	14.9%	16.9%	11.0%

4. Will the elections for the Palestinian Interim Council be:

	Total	West Bank	Gaza
a) fair?	38.7%	44.3	28.6%
b) somewhat fair?	35.9%	34.1	39.1%
c) unfair	25.4%	21.6%	32.3%

5. My most important concern at this time of transition to Palestinian self- government is:

	Total	West Bank	Gaza
a) Job availability and higher standards of living.	35.5%	35.7%	35.4%
b) Possible repression of the opposition groups by Palestinian government & police.	13.6%	12.2%	15.7%
c) Internal Palestinian violence	33.5%	34.5%	31.7%
d) Moral corruption and abandonment of religion.	10.3%	09.5%	11.8%
e) Others	07.1%	08.1%	05.4%

Appendixes

A- Place of Residence

1. In your opinion, what is the best way to choose the numbers of the Palestinian Council of the Palestinian Interim Self- Government Authority?

	City	Village	Refugee Camp
a) Appointment by PLO Leadership	15.3%	16.1%	16.4%
b) Appointment by political groups	04.7%	06.0%	03.3%
c) Political elections	75.7%	70.9%	74.8%
d) Others	04.3%	07.0%	05.5%
Total	100%	100%	100%

2. Will you participate in the elections for the "Palestinian Council" of the Palestinian Interim Self-Government Authority?

	City	Village	Refugee Camp
a) Yes	74.5%	65.8%	60.0%
b) No	13.2%	18.8%	24.6%
c) Not sure	12.3%	15.4%	15.4%
Total	100%	100%	100%

3. If elections were to be held today, you will vote for candidates with:

	City	Village	Refugee Camp
a) Hamas	12.2%	13.7%	13.6%
b) PFIP	04.4%	07.5%	12.1%
c) Fateh	44.1%	43.0%	47.2%
d) Feda (Abed Robo)	02.7%	02.0%	01.4%
e) DFLP (Hawatmeh)	00.5%	01.5%	01.4%
f) Hizb Al-Sha'b	02.6%	01.2%	02.1%
g) Islamic Jihad	03.0%	06.7%	02.1%
h) Independents	12.8%	12.2%	08.0%
I) Others	17.7%	12.2%	12.1%
Total	100%	100%	100%

4. Will the elections for the Palestinian Interim Council be:

	City	Village	Refugee Camp
a) fair?	39.6%	39.9%	35.4%
b) somewhat fair?	38.9%	33.8%	33.2%
c) unfair	21.5%	26.3%	31.4%

Total	100%	100%	100%
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5. My most important concern at this time of transition to Palestinian self- government is:

	City	Village	Refugee Camp
a) Job availability and higher standards of living.	38.1%	29.0%	40.4%
b) Possible repression of the opposition groups by Palestinian government & police.	11.2%	16.4%	13.8%
c) Internal Palestinian violence	34.8%	35.7%	27.7%
d) Moral corruption and abandonment of religion .	09.2%	11.2%	11.0%
e) Others	06.7%	07.7%	07.1%
Total	100%	100%	100%

B- Political Affiliation

1. In your opinion, what is the best way to choose the members of the "Palestinian Council" of the Palestinian Interim Self-Government Authority?

(To be read horizontally, row total=100%)

	Appointment by PLO	Appointment by political groups	General Elections	Others
a) Hames	03.7%	13.0%	67.3%	05.0%
b) PFLP	04.5%	09.1%	77.3%	09.1%
c) Fateh	29.4%	02.2%	67.3%	01.1%
d) Feda (Abed Rabo)	19.2%	-----	80.8%	-----
e) DFLP (Hawatmeh)	15.4%	07.7%	76.9%	-----
f) Hizb Al-Sha'b	03.8%	-----	96.2%	-----
g) Islamic Jihad	06.3%	04.2%	81.2%	80.3%
h) Independents	05.7%	07.0%	81.0%	06.3%
i) Others	02.3%	04.0%	76.6%	17.1%

2. Will you participate in the elections for the " Palestinian Council"of the Palestinian Interim Self- Government Authority?

	Yes	No	Not Sure
a) Hamas	49.1%	30.0%	20.9%
b) PFLO	50.5%	31.5%	18.0%
c) Fateh	84.8%	04.9%	10.3%
d) Feda (Abed Rabo)	85.2%	07.4%	07.4%
e) DFLP	61.5%	23.1%	15.4%
f) Hizb Al-Sha'b	76.9%	23.1%	-----

g) Islamic Jihad	32.7%	53.0%	14.3%
h) Independents	63.6%	15.4%	21.0%
I) Others	55.0%	30.2%	14.8%

3. Will the elections for the Palestinian Interim Council be --?

	Fair	Somewhat fair	Unfair
a) Hamas	21.0%	31.5%	47.5%
b) PFLP	06.9%	31.0%	62.1%
c) Fatah	60.1%	33.8%	06.1%
d) Feda (Abed Rabo)	51.9%	40.7%	07.4%
e) DFLP (Hawatmeh)	07.7%	38.5%	53.8%
f) Hizb Al-Sha'b	23.1%	53.8%	23.1%
g) Islamic Jihad	08.2%	38.8%	53.0%
h) Independents	26.6%	47.6%	25.8%
I) Others	25.6%	36.1%	38.3%

4. My most important concern at this time of transition to Palestinian self- government is:

	Job availability	Gov.repression, internal violence	Moral	Corruption	Others
a) Hamas	24.7%	24.7%	26.5%	19.8%	04.3%
b) PFLP	13.3%	35.6%	34.4%	11.1%	05.6%
c) Fateh	48.5%	06.4%	33.2%	06.2%	05.7%
d) Feda	34.6%	19.2%	38.5%	-----	07.7%
e) DFLP	16.7%	41.7%	33.3%	-----	08.3%
f) Hizb Al-Sha'b	34.6%	11.5%	46.2%	07.7%	-----
g) Islamic Jihad	18.4%	20.4%	32.7%	22.4%	06.1%
h)Independent	29.4%	09.0%	04.6%	14.7%	06.3%
i) Others	28.2%	13.8%	30.9%	10.5%	16.6%



C- Educational Attainment

1. In your opinion, what is the best way to choose the members of the " Palestinian Council" of the Palestinian Interim Self- Government Authority?

(To be read vertically, column total=100%)

	Illit.	Elem/Prep	Tawjihi	College	Univ	MS/PHD
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a) Appointment by PLO Leadership	14.2%	21.7%	19.6%	13.5%	06.6%	06.2%
b) Appointment by political groups	02.9%	05.0%	05.1%	05.7%	05.1%	-----
c) Public political elections	68.6%	70.1%	69.0%	74.7%	83.5%	87.5%
d) Others	14.3%	3.2%	6.3%	6.1%	4.8%	6.3%

2. Will you participate in the election for the "Palestinian Council" of the Palestinian Interim Self-Government Authority?

a) yes	62.9%	74.4%	65.9%	67.7%	68.3%	69.7%
b) No	22.9%	10.6%	20.1%	17.5%	18.7%	21.2%
c) Not sure	14.2%	15.0%	14.1%	14.8%	13.0%	09.1%

3. If elections were to be held today, you will vote for candidates affiliated with:

a) Hamas	11.4%	13.3%	11.6%	13.9%	15.8%	16.3%
b) PFLP	-----	02.7%	07.2%	10.4%	08.1%	03.1%
c) Fathr	45.7%	52.9%	48.0%	43.3%	34.6%	28.1%
d) Feda(Abed Rabo)	05.7%	01.8%	02.9%	01.7%	01.8%	-----
e) DFLP(Hawatmeh)	-----	01.3%	01.4%	01.3%	00.4%	-----
f) Hizb Al-Sha'b	-----	01.3%	02.2%	02.2%	02.9%	03.1%
g) Islamic Jihad	-----	04.0%	05.3%	02.6%	03.7%	03.1%
h) Independent	17.2%	08.9%	09.6%	10.4%	14.7%	31.3%
I) Others	20.0%	13.8%	11.8%	14.2%	18.0%	25.0%

4. Will the elections for the Palestinian Interim Council be...?

a) fair	45.7%	52.7%	36.9%	32.1%	32.1%	37.5%
b) somewhat	37.2%	29.0%	36.5%	42.5%	37.2%	37.5%
c) unfair	17.1%	18.3%	26.6%	25.4%	30.7%	25.0%

5. My most important concern at this time of transition to Palestinian self government is:

a) Job opportunity and higher standards of living	42.9%	44.3%	38.2%	33.5%	27.8%	15.2%
b) Possible repression of the opposition groups by Palestinian Govt. & police	02.9%	08.1%	14.7%	13.9%	17.0%	18.2%
c) Internal Palestinian violence	37.1%	33.9%	29.6%	31.7%	36.1%	60.6%
d) Moral corruption and abandonment of religion.	05.7%	07.7%	12.0%	12.6%	09.4%	-----
I) Others	11.4%	06.0%	05.5%	08.3%	09.7%	06.0%

D- Age

1. In your opinion, what is the best way to choose the members of the "Palestinian Council" of the Palestinian Interim Self-Government Authority?

	18-28	29-39	40-50	50+
a) Appointment by PLO Leadership	20.2%	09.2%	14.4%	14.1%
b) Appointment by political groups	07.4%	03.4%	01.1%	02.4%
c) Political election	69.4%	78.4%	77.6%	78.8%
d) Others	03.0%	09.0%	06.9%	04.7%

2. Will you participate in the elections for the "Palestinian Council" of the Palestinian Interim Self-Government Authority?

a) yes	65.7%	66.2%	71.3%	85.2%
b) No	18.3%	21.6%	12.6%	09.1%
c) Not sure	16.0%	12.2%	16.1%	05.7%

3. If elections were to be held today, you will vote for candidates affiliated with:

a) Hamas	14.7%	13.4%	09.8%	08.2%
b) PFLP	06.4%	08.9%	06.9%	02.4%
c) Fateh	48.4%	36.9%	42.8%	48.2%
d) Feda (Abed Rabo)	02.8%	01.0%	02.9%	01.2%
e) DFLP(Hawatmeh)	01.6%	00.6%	-----	-----
f) Hiba Al-Sha'b	01.8%	03.1%	02.3%	-----
g) Islamic Jihad	04.2%	03.9%	03.5%	02.4%
h) Independents	09.6%	12.6%	15.6%	14.1%
I) Others	10.5%	19.5%	16.2%	23.5%

4. Will the elections for the Palestinian Interim Council be--?

a) fair	38.4%	33.4%	43.7%	50.6%
b) somewhat fair	36.3%	35.7%	34.5%	36.8%
c) unfair	25.3%	30.9%	21.8%	12.6%

5. My most important concern at this time of transition to Palestinian self government is:

a) Job availability and higher standards of living	35.6%	32.8%	40.9%	34.5%
b) Possible repression for the opposition groups by Palestinian Govt. & Police	16.3%	11.7%	09.4%	09.2%
c) Internal Palestinian violence	31.7%	37.5%	29.8%	36.8%
d) Moral corruption and abandonment of	11.8%	08.3%	11.1%	08.0%

religion.				
e) Others	04.6%	09.7%	08.8%	11.5%

E- Sex

1. In your opinion, what is the best way to choose the members of the Palestinian Council of the Palestinian Interim Self-Government Authority?

(Column total=100%)

	Male	Female
a) Appointment by PLO Leadership	15.0%	16.7%
b) Appointment by Political groups	03.5%	07.2%
c) Political election	74.3%	73.4%
d) Others	07.2%	02.7%

2. Will you participate in the elections for the Palestinian Interim Self-Government of the Palestinian Interim Self- Government Authority?

	Male	Female
a) yes	71.0%	64.9%
b) No	16.3%	19.5%
c) Not sure	12.7%	15.6%

3. If elections were to be held today, you will vote for candidates affiliated with:

	Male	Female
a) Hamas	12.0%	14.2%
b) PFLP	06.2%	08.7%
c) Feteah	44.4%	44.1%
d) Feda(Abed Rabo)	02.3%	02.1%
e) DFLP(Hawatmeh)	01.3%	02.1%
f) Hib Al-Sha'b	01.0%	04.0%
g) Islamic Jihad	03.5%	04.3%
h) Independents	11.9%	11/3%
I) Others	17.4%	10.7%

4. Will the elections for the Palestinian Council be---?

	Male	Female
a) fair	43.1%	31.6%
b) somewhat fair	30.9%	44.2%

c) unfair	26.0%	24.2%
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5. My most important concern at this time of transition to Palestinian Self Government is:

	Male	Female
a) Job availability and higher standards of living	36.1%	35.4%
b) Possible repression for the opposition groups by Palestinian Govt. & Police	13.2%	13.4%
c) Internal Palestinian violence	32.1%	35.4%
d) Moral corruption and Abandonment of religion.	08.6%	13.2%
e) Others	10.0%	02.6%