

Public Opinion Poll #1

The Palestinian-Israeli Agreement: "Gaza-Jericho First"

September 10-11, 1993

The policy Analysis Unit at the Center for Palestine Research and Studies is preparing an analysis of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement "Gaza-Jericho First". The analysis consists of a review of the terms of the agreement with emphasis on Palestinian reactions to the agreement and on its security implications. The last section looks at the possible future scenario.

For this purpose the Center has conducted a poll of 1244 Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza on Sept. 10-11, 1993. The Analysis will review the results of poll as part of the section dealing with Palestinian reaction.

Introduction

The Center for Palestine Research and Studies has conducted a public opinion poll in the West Bank and Gaza. A random sample of 1244 Palestinians, over the age of 18, were interviewed on 10/9/1993 (in the West Bank) and 11/9/1993 (in Gaza). The sample was distributed according to population size. Effort was made to represent all residential areas (i.e., city, town, village, and refugee camp). age and sex were also considered.

The interviews were conducted on a face-to-face 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 society's groups and strata. These areas included, among others, bus/car stations that lead to villages and refugee camps, main markets, city centers, hospital entrances, ..etc.

823 questionnaires were received from the West Bank, and 415 were received from Gaza. The margin of error for this study is plus or minus 3% with a confidence level of 95%.

Sample Distribution

Geographical Distribution

(Expressed as a % of the total value)

55% -- West Bank

33.5% -- Gaza Strip

Area of Residence

49.9% City

19.5% Refugee Camps

10.9% -- Arab Jerusalem

Gender

72% were male

28% were females

16.5%--40-50

Occupation

13.9% Laborers

10.1% Craftsmen

08% Housewives

20.4% Low professional*

5.7% Unemployment

Education

3.4% No education

20.5% Up to 9 years

32.3% 10-13 years

30.6% Towns/Villages

Age groups

42.0% -- 18-28

30.7% -- 29-39

10.3% -- over 50 years

18.6% Merchants

10.1% Students

1.8% Farmers

9.1% High professional*

2.2% Retired

17.1% Two-years collage

24.5% Bachelors

02% Masters

* Low professional: school teacher, government employee, nurse, company employee, clerics, secretaries, ..etc.

* High professional: university professor, engineer, physician, lawyer, pharmacist, high management ..etc.

Limitations

To assess the validity of the findings of this poll, they must be placed in their proper context, especially in relation to time. The reader must be reminded that the poll was taken in the West Bank on the 10th of September 1993, the day after the government of Israel had officially recognized the PLO as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinians. In Gaza, the poll was taken on the 11th of the same month. Israel and the Government of the United States had been recognized the PLO. The poll was taken close to the date of signing the proposed agreement. These events, among others, have affected Palestinian views and feelings about the questions in this survey. Emotions, hopes, and fears were running high among Palestinians.

In scientific terms, this poll has a number of limitations that must be considered before delving into any in-depth analysis. 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 polling dates (Friday & Saturday), choice of interview stations, improper 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 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.

Remarks

The poll shows a number of interesting and indicative findings. For example, most Palestinians (81.2%) are in agreement that a referendum must be taken over the proposed Palestinian-Israeli agreement. They also share similar views of democratic dialogue. 80.3% have indicated their desire to see political groups solve problems through democratic dialogue, and not through violence. In this respect, the situation in Gaza is not as encouraging. A large minority agrees with the use of violence if necessary to express political opposition. It can be also noted that the majority of Palestinians (nearly 60%) are against postponing negotiations over Jerusalem, settlements, and refugees. Palestinians are almost evenly divided on issue of the Intifada with 42.6% of them saying no to stopping the Intifada to ensure the success of the proposed agreement. 34.2% of Palestinians disagree with amending the Palestinian National Charter to achieve mutual recognition between the PLO and Israel. Palestinians don't seem to be giving unconditional support to this proposed agreement.

Israeli-Palestinian Agreement "Gaza-Jericho First"

1. Do you agree with the with the proposed Palestinian-Israeli agreement "Gaza-Jericho First"?

	Total %	West bank & Arab Jerusalem	Gaza
yes	64.9	64.3	66.4
No	27.9	28.0	27.3
Not sure	6.6	7.6	4.6

2. In your opinion, will this proposed agreement lead to a Palestinian State and achieve Palestinian rights?

Yes	44.9	44.9	45.5
No	34.1	33.4	35.6
Not sure	20.6	21.7	18.9

3. Do you agree with amending the palestinian National Charter so as to achieve mutual recognition between the PLO and Israel?

Yes	56.5	58.8	54
No	34.2	32.0	39.5
Not sure	8.3	9.2	6.5

4. Should the Intifada be stooped to ensure the success of the proposed Palestinian-Israeli agreement?

Yes	46.5	48.9	43.7
No	42.6	40.4	48.5
Not sure	9.6	10.7	7.8

5. Is it necessary to poll the Palestinian people over the proposed agreement?

	Total %	West bank Arab Jerusalem %	Gaza %
Yes	81.2	81.6	81.4
No	14.0	13.4	15.2
Not sure	4.3	4.9	3.4

6. After hearing of the secret talks between the PLO and Israel, and the proposed Palestinian-Israeli agreement, your approval of the PLO as a legitimate and also representative of the Palestinians has:

Increased	44.7	44.7	44.4
Decreased	24.9	23.8	27.1
Not changed	30.4	31.5	28.5

7. Concerning the proposed agreement, the views of the opposition are more realistic and better than the views of the agreement's supporters?

Yes	35.5	31.8	43.2
No	51.2	52.8	47.3
Not sure	13.2	15.2	9.5

8. In expressing their views, the opposition must utilize:

Democratic dialogue	80.3	86.3	68.2
Violence if Necessary	13.5	6.1	27.9
Not sure	6.3	7.6	3.9

9. Do you agree with postponing the negotiations over Jerusalem, settlements, and refugees to the "final status" talks?

	Total %	West Bank & Arab Jerusalem %	Gaza %
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Yes	31.7	30.5	33.9
No	59.9	60.4	58.8
Not sure	8.4	9.1	7.0

10. Will the proposed Palestinian-Israeli agreement improve economic conditions in the West Bank and Gaza?

Yes	65.4	65.6	65.5
No	15.1	16.0	12.8
Not sure	19.4	18.2	21.7

Cross Tabulation

Type of locality by (Q1) approval of the proposed agreement:

	Yes %	No %	Not sure %
a) City	69	24.8	6.2
b) Village/Town	60	30.6	7.5
c) Refugee Camp	66.1	29.1	4.8

Place and residence by (Q1)

	Yes %	No %	Not sure %
Nablus	66.5	27.5	6.0
Tulkarm	63.9	27.8	8.2
Jenin	64.7	26.5	8.8
Jericho	67.8	20.3	11.9
Ramallah	62.8	31.9	5.3
Hebron	54.5	39.7	5.8
Bethlehem	68.5	20.5	11.0
Gaza-North	63.6	27.3	9.1
Gaza-Middle	74.6	20.3	5.1
Gaza-South	66.5	29.6	3.9
Jerusalem	69.3	22.8	7.9

Education by Q1

	Yes %	No %	Not sure
Illiterate	75.6	12.2	12.2
up to 9 years	72.6	19.9	7.5
10-13 years	65.2	26.4	8.4
Two-year collage	64.7	31.8	3.0
Bachelors	57.6	35.5	4.8

Masters & above	75.0	20.8	4.2
Age by Q1	Yes %	No %	Not sure %
18-28	62.2	30.6	7.1
29-39	60.6	31.1	7.2
40-50	75.4	20.7	2.5
Over 50	73.0	17.5	9.4