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Results of Palestinian Public Opinion Polls
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Background:

The Elections Court approved the reopening of the chance of candidacy for six hours. Through the granted period, *Fateh* was able to unite the two lists into one. The total number of lists running for the legislative elections is now eleven and the number of candidates running through their local circles is 414 distributed among a different spectrum of parties, political affiliations and social backgrounds. Added to the above number is another number of independent candidates. The campaigns for all candidates were launched at the end of the last week.

There is still a concern among Palestinian public that Israel may disallow Palestinian residents of East Jerusalem to participate in the legislative elections which may mean a total cancellation of elections.

Meanwhile, Israel continues its assassinations of “wanted” Palestinians and incursions in some Palestinian cities. Further, Israel is creating an isolation belt North of Gaza Strip

The Results:

Following are the results of the Seventeenth Palestinian Public Opinion Poll conducted by the Center for Opinion Polls and Survey Studies at An-Najah National University during the period from January 5 to 6, 2006. **The University sponsors all polls conducted by its Center.**

This poll undertakes several subjects centered on the coming Palestinian legislative elections, in addition to political sympathies.

The sample included 1360 persons whose age group is 18 and above and who have the right to vote. The enclosed questionnaire was distributed on 860 persons from the West Bank and 500 persons from the Gaza Strip. The sample was drawn randomly and the margin of error is about $\pm 3\%$; still 2.8% of the members of the sample refused to answer the questionnaire.

* The Opinions represented in the results reflect those of the study; they do not represent by any means the opinion of An-Najah National University.



Major results:

- 68.1% from among respondents believe that the second legislative elections will be conducted on its specified date.
- 60.8% from among respondents assert that the legislative elections will be democratic and fair; 30% say the opposite.
- 51.3% from among respondents see that the internal security conditions permit conducting legislative elections; 42.1% see the contrary.
- 81.2% from among respondents say that they trust the central Elections Committee.
- 76.6% from among respondents say that they trust the local observers on elections.
- 72.3% from among respondents say that they trust the international observers on elections.
- 68.4% believe that the existence of international observers on elections is necessary.
- 86.2% say that they will participate in the elections.
- 1.6% from among respondent will not participate in the legislative elections because of religious reasons, 4.8% for political reasons, and 87.8% will not participate because in their view the elections will not change anything.
- 31.4% from among respondents say that the basic principle which decides casting their votes in the coming legislative elections is the good reputation of the candidate, 20.4% say it is the patriotic history of the candidate and 13% say it is the candidate's elections program.
- As for elections on the basis of percentage electoral lists, 30.1% from among respondents say that the basic principle which makes them decide to whom they will give their vote in the coming legislative elections is the elections program of the list; 38.5% say it is the political orientations of the list.
- The order of the running tickets according to the opinion of respondents came according to the following order:

Fateh Movement led by Marwan Barghuthi	39.3%
Change and Reform led by Ismael Abu Hannieh	31.3%
Independent Palestine and the Independents led by Mustafa Al Barghouti	10.4%
Martyr Abu Ali Mustafa led by Ahmad Sa'adat.	6.8%
The Third Road led by Salam Fayyad	5.5%
Freedom and Social Justice led by Ahmad Majdalani	1.6%
Al Badeel (The Alternative) led by Qais Abu Laila	1.4%
Freedom and Independence led by Saleem Al Bardeeni	1.3%
The National Coalition for Justice and Democracy (Wa'id) led by Ghazi Jeyab	1.1%
Palestinian Justice led by Sameer Qadri	0.7%
Martyr Abu Al Abbas led by Omar Shlabi	0.5%

- 18% from among respondents say that their priority on the local scale is alleviating poverty and unemployment, 24.8% say it is controlling the local security situation, 18% say it is freeing prisoners, 19.6% say it is fighting corruptions in public institutions, 8.9% say it is providing personal security for citizens, 2.9% say improving educational and health services, and 4.8% say it is putting an end to mediations (*wasta*) in appointments in public positions.



- 81.7% from among the respondents say that they do not feel that their families, themselves or their properties are secure under the current local security conditions.
- 62.5% from among the respondents support a renewal of the ceasefire (*hudna*) between the Palestinian factions and Israel; 31.8% reject.
- As for political affiliation respondents give the following results:

People's Party	0.9%
Democratic Front	1.3%
Islamic <i>Jihad</i>	2.8%
<i>Fateh</i>	38.2%
<i>Hamas</i>	25.1%
<i>Fida</i>	0.1%
Popular Front	6.3%
Palestinian National Initiative	3.4%
I am an independent nationalist	6.4%
I am an independent Islamist	2.6%
None of the above	11.8%
Others	1.0%



The General Results

President Mahmoud Abbas ascertained that the legislative elections will be conducted on its appointed time in January of the next year (2006). Do you believe that the elections will be conducted on the appointed time?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	68.1	64.4	74.4
No	24.0	27.3	18.2
No opinion/I do not know	7.9	8.3	7.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you believe that the coming legislative elections will be democratic and fair?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	60.8	56.9	67.6
No	30.0	35.3	20.8
No opinion/I do not know	9.2	7.8	11.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

There are people who see that the local security conditions allow for conducting democratic and fair legislative elections and there are those who see the opposite. What is your opinion?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Local security conditions allow for conducting elections	51.3	52.1	50.0
Local security conditions do not allow for conducting elections	42.1	43.8	39.2
No, opinion/I do not know	6.5	4.1	10.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

How do you assess your trust in the Central Elections Committee?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Good	44.6	45.2	43.4
Fair	36.6	35.2	39.0
Little	13.3	13.5	13.0
No opinion/I do not know	5.5	6.0	4.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



There will be some supervision conducted by independent local observers on the legislative elections on the day they are held. How do you assess your trust in these observers?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Very good	26.2	24.9	28.4
Good	50.4	50.6	50.2
Weak	14.3	14.5	13.8
Bad	5.4	6.0	4.4
No opinion/I do not know	3.7	4.0	3.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

There will be some supervision conducted by international independent observers on the legislative council elections on the day it is held. How do you assess your trust in these observers?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Very good	25.6	21.3	33.0
Good	46.7	43.4	52.4
Weak	13.5	17.7	6.4
Bad	9.4	12.4	4.2
No opinion/I do not know	4.8	5.2	4.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you believe that there is a need for international observers to monitor the legislative elections?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	68.4	61.0	81.0
No	27.0	36.4	10.8
No opinion/I do not know	4.6	2.6	8.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Will you participate in the coming legislative elections?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	86.2	85.2	87.8
No	13.8	14.8	12.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



Why don't you want to participate in the elections?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
For religious reasons(a religious taboo)	1.6	2.4	0.0
For religious reasons(they come under the umbrella of Oslo)	4.8	6.3	1.6
Elections will not change any thing	87.8	85.8	91.8
I am not convinced with the running blocks	2.7	3.9	0.0
The political stream that I support will not participate	1.6	0.8	3.3
Others	1.6	0.8	3.3
No opinion/I do not know	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

What is the major thing that will make you decide to whom you will give your vote in your elections circle in the coming legislative elections?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Belongness to the party of the candidate	26.4	18.5	39.4
Family belongness to the candidate	2.7	2.8	2.6
Personal acquaintance with the candidate	6.1	5.9	6.4
The good reputation of the candidate	31.4	41.0	15.8
Candidates Patriotic History	20.4	20.9	19.4
The candidates elections program	13.0	10.8	16.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

As for elections on the basis of proportional lists(on the national level), what is the major thing that will make you decide to which block you will give your vote in the coming legislative elections?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
The political orientation of the list	38.5	34.4	45.1
The elections program of the list	30.1	30.7	29.1
The names of candidate in the list	24.1	29.2	15.8
Other	2.6	1.7	4.0
No opinion/I do not know	4.7	3.9	6.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



Eleven tickets compete to occupy the seats of the Legislative Council. To which of the following tickets will you give your vote?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
<i>Al Badeel</i> (The Alternative) led by Qais Abu Laila	1.4	0.8	2.4
Independent Palestine and The Independents led by Mustafa Al Barghuthi	10.4	10.9	9.8
Martyr Abu Ali Mustafa led by Ahmad Sa'adat.	6.8	5.9	8.2
Martyr Abu Al Abbas led by Omar Shlabi	0.5	0.0	1.4
Freedom and Social Justice led by Ahmad Majdalani	1.6	0.9	2.8
Change and Reform led by Ismael Abu Hannieh	31.3	32.6	29.2
The National Coalition for Justice and Democracy (<i>Wa'id</i>) led by Ghazi Jeyab	1.1	0.3	2.4
The Third Road led by Salam Fayyad	5.5	5.4	5.8
Freedom and Independence led by Saleem Al Bardeeni	1.3	0.3	3.0
Palestinian Justice led by Sameer Qadri	0.7	0.3	1.4
(<i>Fateh</i>) Movement led by Marwan Barghuthi.	39.3	42.9	33.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

What are your most important priorities on the local level at the current stage?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Reducing poverty and unemployment.	18.0	18.8	16.6
Controlling the local security	24.8	21.6	30.2
Releasing prisoners	18.0	22.4	10.4
Fighting corruption in public institutions	19.6	19.7	19.4
Security and personal security for citizens.	8.9	9.2	8.4
Improving educational and health conditions	2.9	2.9	2.8
Limiting mediation (<i>wasta</i>) in the appointments in public positions	4.8	4.0	6.2
Others	3.1	1.4	6.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Under the current local security circumstances that Palestinian people go through, do you feel that your family, yourself and your properties are secure?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	17.8	17.3	18.6
partially	38.5	29.7	53.6
No	43.2	53.0	26.4
I do not know/ No opinion	0.5	0.0	1.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



Are you in favor of renewing the ceasefire (*Hudna*) between the Palestinian factions and Israel.

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	62.5	61.9	63.6
No	31.8	33.0	29.8
I do not know/ No opinion	5.7	5.1	6.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Which of the following political affiliations do you support?

PARTY	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
People's Party	0.9	0.9	0.8
Democratic Front	1.3	0.6	2.6
Islamic <i>Jihad</i>	2.8	2.7	3.0
<i>Fateh</i>	38.2	38.3	38.0
<i>Hamas</i>	25.1	24.8	25.8
<i>Fida</i>	0.1	0.0	0.4
Popular Front	6.3	5.1	8.4
Palestinian National Initiative	3.4	3.6	3.0
I am an independent nationalist	6.4	4.5	9.6
I am an independent Islamist	2.6	2.9	2.0
None of the above	11.8	15.3	5.8
Others	1.0	1.3	0.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0