

PPC Poll Sept 2022

These are the results of the poll conducted for Palestinian Peace Coalition by the Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research (PSR) in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip between 13 and 17 September 2022. The period before the conduct of the poll witnessed several developments including armed confrontation between Islamic Jihad in the Gaza Strip and the Israeli army without the participation of Hamas, the visit of the US president Joe Biden to Bethlehem and his meeting with president Abbas, the appointment of Yair Lapid as a prime minister replacing Bennet and the setting of a date for new Israeli elections, an announcement by the United Arab Emirates of \$25 support to al Makasid Hospital in East Jerusalem, talk about opening the Israeli Ramon airport to Palestinian travel, an Israeli decision to increase the number of Gazan laborers working in Israel, an attempted assassination against the former deputy prime minister in Hamas' government, Dr. Nasser al Sha'ir, near Nablus, a PA announcement that salaries of Palestinian laborers working in Israel would be paid via Palestinian banks, plans by the PA to reduce the number of employees working in the public sector, and Abbas talk during his visit to Germany of 50 Holocausts.

Total size of the sample is 1270 adults interviewed face to face in 127 randomly selected locations. Margin of error is +/-3%.

Main Findings

Support for the two-state solution and other solutions:

Palestinians were asked about the solution they support or most preferred in two manners. In one question they were asked if they supported the two-state solution and in another they were asked about their preference from among three alternative solutions: a two-state solution, a one-state solution with equal rights to Jews and Arabs, and a one state solution as the case today with Israeli Arabs. Findings show the following:

- Support for resolving the Palestinian-Israeli conflict on the basis of two states for two peoples, in accordance with the 1967 borders with minor and equal border adjustments stands at 38% and opposition at 57%.
- The most preferred solution from among the three alternatives show one third in favor of the two-state solution while 15% preferred the one-state solution with equal rights, and another 15% selected a one-state solution similar to the case of Israeli Arabs today inside Israel; 28% selected "other" alternatives while 10% were undecided or did not give an answer. Those who selected "others" can be split into two groups: 56% indicated they reject all solutions listed and prefer to have a Palestinian state in all of historic Palestine while 41% indicated support for the creation of a Palestinian state that would have real sovereignty.

Resumption of negotiations:

Palestinians were asked about support for negotiations in two ways: return to negotiations and negotiations with the current Israeli prime minister. On resumption of Palestinian negotiations with Israel under Arab and international sponsorship, 42% were in favor and 56% against. But when asked about PA negotiations with the current Israeli prime minister, Yair Lapid, only 35% said they opposed such negotiations. The majority in favor of negotiations with Lapid, which stands at 56%, fall in three groups: 30% support negotiations with him on a peace agreement as well as confidence building measures; 13% support negotiations if restricted to a peace agreement, and another 13% support negotiations with him if restricted to confidence building measures. In other words, a total of 43% are in favor of negotiations with Lapid about a peace

agreement and an identical percentage is in favor of negotiations with him about confidence building measures.

Means to end the Israeli occupation:

When asked about the most effective means of ending the Israeli occupation and building an independent state, the public split into three groups: 41% chose armed struggle (50% in the Gaza Strip and 35% in the West Bank), 30% negotiations, and 24% popular resistance. Three months ago, 50% chose armed struggle and 22% chose negotiations.

Expectations about the next Israeli elections:

The largest percentage (36%) expects Netanyahu to win the upcoming Israeli elections and form the next government while 21% expects Lapid to win the elections; 26% say neither will win.

Biden's visit to Bethlehem and meeting with president Abbas:

In light of the visit to Bethlehem by the US president Joe Biden, the public was asked four questions regarding its expectations in the aftermath of that visit:

- 53% say they are less optimistic about the prospects for improvement in economic conditions after the visit and the meeting with Abbas while only 16% express optimism and 26% say they are neither optimistic nor pessimistic.
- Similarly, 53% are less optimistic that internal conditions, such as reconciliation or the holding of elections, will improve now after the visit by Biden; 17% are more optimistic and 27% are neither optimistic nor pessimistic.
- Moreover, 58% are less optimistic that Israeli-Palestinian relations, such as agreement on more confidence building measures or reduction in settlement construction, will improve now after the Biden visit; only 13% are more optimistic and 27% are neither optimistic nor pessimistic.
- Despite this lack of optimism, 43% say they now, after the Biden visit, expect the US to increase its aid to the PA while 53% say they do not expect that.