



Joint PSR-PPC Public Opinion Poll Building an Infrastructure for Peace & Reconciliation September 2023

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 6 and 9 September 2023. The period leading up to the poll witnessed a number of important developments, including the 30th anniversary of the signing of the Oslo Accords, the occupation of the Jenin refugee camp by the Israeli army and the killing of 12 Palestinian residents of the camp, and the visit of President Abbas to the camp after the withdrawal of the Israeli army. During this period, Palestinian factional leaders met in City of El Alamein in Egypt in the presence of President Abbas but failed to agree on a joint statement. During this period, settler terrorist acts in Palestinian areas of the West Bank increased, as did armed attacks by Palestinians against settlers and Israelis. Finally, there have been press reports that there are US-Saudi negotiations to reach an agreement to normalize Saudi-Israeli relations and that Palestinian-Saudi and Palestinian-American meetings have been held to set Palestinian conditions for this normalization agreement.

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

Main Findings

The poll addressed three topics (see the annex below):

1. The preferred solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and attitudes toward a PA participation in meetings with the Israeli side in search for a path forward.
2. Public concerns about another Nakba and the overall future of the Palestinian people, and,
3. Public perception of the role of PLO in achieving Palestinian goals



Resolving the Conflict

Three questions probed attitudes on conflict resolution. Respondents were first asked about their opinion on what is the *most achievable* political solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Respondents were provided with three such solutions: two-state, one-state with equal rights for both sides, and a Palestinian-Israeli confederation. If they did not think any of these were achievable, respondents were able to select an option of a non-solution, one that entails “the continuation of the conflict until the liberation of the entire historic Palestine.” A majority of 57% opted for the non-solution. This was particularly true in the West Bank, where 69% selected it while only 40% of Gazans chose it. From among the three solutions, the public was divided:

- The largest percentage (24%) selected the two-state solution, “an independent Palestinian state alongside the state of Israel based on the 1967 borders.” Gazans were more likely than West Bankers to see this option as the most achievable, 30% and 20% respectively.
- Those who saw the one state solution, “in which Palestinians and Jews enjoy the same rights, “as the most achievable stood at 16%. Here too, Gazans were more likely than West Bankers to select this option, 25% and 10% respectively.
- Only 3% selected the confederation solution as the most achievable.

When asked about their own personal preferences regarding the same exact solutions, the non-solution, came first with 61% (72% in the West Bank and 46% in the Gaza Strip) selecting the option of continued conflict. Similar division regarding the solutions, as the case was regarding feasibility, was noticed here too:

- One fifth (21%) preferred the two-state solution. Gazans were more likely to prefer this solution than West Bankers, 28% and 17% respectively.
- The one state solution with equal rights came second with 14% support. Gazans picked it by 21% while only 9% of West Bankers chose this solution.
- Only 3%, 5% in the Gaza Strip and 3% in the West Bank, preferred the confederation.

We also asked if respondents supported Palestinian-Israeli negotiations under the sponsorship of the US and the participation of Egypt and Jordan. A vast majority of 69%, 76% in the West Bank and 58% in the Gaza Strip, did not support such negotiations and only 28% supported it. Support for negotiations was twice as much in the Gaza Strip compared to the West Bank, 41% and 20% respectively.



The Future of the Palestinian People

We first asked about fear of a “new Nakba of mass displacement.” The public was evenly divided between those who said “yes” and those who said “no.” 50% and 49% respectively. It is worth noting that West Bankers expressed greater fear of a second Nakba compared to Gazans, 57% and 40% respectively.

We also asked about concerns about the future of the children of Palestine. In particular, we asked respondents if they prefer to have their own children stay in the country or to have them emigrate in search of a better future. The public was divided into two groups, those who were concerned and those who were not:

- Two groups with a total of 79% said they have concerns. Nonetheless, two thirds, indicated that while they do indeed have concerns, they nonetheless prefer to see their children stay at home. West Bankers are more likely than Gazans to say that, 76% and 54% respectively. Another group of 12%, indicated that it has concerns and wanted their children to emigrate. This group is larger in the Gaza Strip than in the West Bank, 16% and 9% respectively.
- Two other groups with a total of 21% said they have no concerns. The largest of these two groups, 16% of all Palestinians, said that it wants its children to stay at home in Palestine. More Gazans selected this option than West Bankers, 22% and 12% respectively. But another group of just 5% said it had no concerns but nonetheless preferred to have its children emigrate. Gazans are more likely to be in this second group compared to West Bankers, 7% and 3% respectively.

Satisfaction with the PLO

We asked about public satisfaction with the role played by the PLO in achieving the Palestinian people's goals of independence and freedom. Findings show that the vast majority is dissatisfied with that role as 71% indicated that with West Bankers indicating greater dissatisfaction than Gazans, 79% and 59% respectively. A little over a quarter (27%) expressed satisfaction. Gazans are more likely to express satisfaction than West Bankers, 40% and 18% respectively.



Annex: table of findings

		vo3 Area		
		West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
PPC1. What do you think is the most achievable political solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict?	1. An independent Palestinian state alongside the state of Israel based on the 1967 borders	20%	30%	24%
	2. One state in which Palestinians and Jews enjoy the same rights	10%	25%	16%
	3. A Palestinian-Israeli confederation	1%	6%	3%
	4. Continued struggle until the liberation of the entire historic Palestine	69%	40%	57%
	5. DK/NA	0%	0%	0%
PPC2. If the choice is left to you, which of the following solutions do you prefer?	1. An independent Palestinian state alongside the state of Israel based on the 1967 borders	17%	28%	21%
	2. One state in which Palestinians and Jews enjoy the same rights	9%	21%	14%
	3. A Palestinian-Israeli confederation	3%	5%	3%
	4. Continued struggle until the liberation of the entire historic Palestine	72%	46%	61%
	5. DK/NA	0%	0%	0%
PPC3. Do you fear that the Palestinian people will face a new Nakba of mass displacement?	yes	57%	40%	50%
	no	42%	60%	49%
	DK-NA	2%	0%	1%
PPC4. Are you satisfied with the role played by the PLO to achieve the Palestinian people's goals of independence and freedom?	yes	18%	40%	27%
	no	79%	59%	71%
	DK-NA	3%	1%	2%
PPC5. Do you support the participation of the Palestinian Authority in meetings with the Israeli side under the auspices of the US and the	yes	20%	41%	28%
	no	76%	58%	69%
	DK-NA	4%	2%	3%



participation of Jordan and Egypt in order to try to create a political path forward?				
PPC6. Do you have concerns about the future of your children and the children of Palestine? For example, do you prefer they would stay in the country or do you prefer to see them emigrate in search of a better future?	1. I have no concerns and I prefer if they stay at home in Palestine	12%	22%	16%
	2. I have concerns but I prefer they stay at home	76%	54%	67%
	3. I have no concern but I prefer if they emigrate	3%	7%	5%
	4. I have concerns and I prefer if they emigrate	9%	16%	12%
	5. DK/NA	0%	0%	0%