



POLL NO.101 OCTOBER 2023

WEST BANK

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West Bank sympathetic and supportive of surprise attack by Hamas Optimism for a positive outcome of the war; expectations that Hezbollah will join Increasing trust in Hamas and its leaders

A public opinion poll conducted by the Jerusalem Media and Communications Centre, (JMCC) , showed that the Overall mood in the West Bank is sympathetic with the Hamas attack and optimistic about its outcome.

In the first Palestinian public opinion poll in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem on the current war, the majority of respondents, 69.9% said they were surprised by the Hamas attack on October 7, as opposed to 16.8% who said they had expected it, but not of this magnitude, while 11.9% said they had expected it.

The poll shows that the majority of respondents, 72.6% believe the attack by the resistance represents the best method to confront Israel for achieving the goals of the Palestinian people, while 18.5% said they did not think it was the best method. Meanwhile, the majority of those polled, 67.1% said they believe the outcome of the current war between Israel and the resistance will be in favor of the resistance, while 16.8% said it would not be in favor of both sides and 7% said it would end in favor of Israel.

If Israel decides to carry out a ground invasion into the Gaza Strip, the majority of those polled, 69.1% said they expected that this invasion would not be in Israel's favor, while 6.3% said it would.

Regarding the impact of this war on the future and standing of both Israel and Hamas, the majority of respondents, 71.5% said it would result in Israel's standing worsening in the region as opposed to 17.5% who said they did not expect it to change. Conversely, the majority of respondents, 71.6% said they expected the outcome of the war would improve Hamas' standing in the region, while 11.9% said it would not.

Hezbollah expected to enter the war alongside Gaza but views divided over the whether the Iran-led 'axis of resistance' will join

The majority of respondents, 53%, said they expected Hezbollah would join the war alongside Gaza, while 37.5% said they did not expect this to happen. As for the Iran-led "axis of resistance", half of those polled, 50.5% said they did not expect its participation, while 27.8% said they did.

Satisfaction with solidarity in the West Bank and the Diaspora, dissatisfied with Arab solidarity and the position and performance of the PNA

The majority of respondents, 63%, said they were satisfied with the level of Palestinian solidarity in the West Bank with the Gaza Strip, as opposed to 35.1% who were dissatisfied. The same applied to Diaspora Palestinians, whereby the majority of those polled, 70.8% expressed their satisfaction with the level of Palestinian solidarity in the Diaspora with the Gaza Strip, while 27.7% said they were dissatisfied. Furthermore, the majority of respondents, 78.8% said they were dissatisfied with the stances and performance of the PNA on the current war. Similarly, 59% of those polled said they were dissatisfied at the level of Arab solidarity with the Gaza Strip as opposed to 39.6% who said they were satisfied.

US and European bias unsurprising and expected

The majority of respondents, 65.5%, said they expected the level of US support for Israel while 14% said this support was unexpected. Meanwhile, 18.7% said the US support for Israel had exceeded their expectations. Similarly, the majority of those polled, 69.2% said they were not surprised at the level of European bias towards Israel while 22.8% said they were very or moderately surprised at the European bias.

Abu Obeida the most trusted, followed by Mohammed Deif and Marwan Barghouti

Clearly, this war created a shift in the level of trust in public personalities among the people in the West Bank, including Jerusalem. In response to an open question about their most trusted Palestinian personality, 10.3% chose Abu Obeida. Mohammed Deif came in second place at 7.4% and Marwan Barghouti in third, at 2.7%. This was followed by 2.5% of respondents choosing Ismail Haniyeh, while 57.8% said they did not trust anyone.

Increasing trust in Hamas and declining trust in Fatah

In response to a question about which political faction they trust most, 18.7% said Hamas (compared to 5.7% in September 2023). This was followed by Fatah, at 7.1% (compared to 17.5% in September, 2023), followed by Islamic Jihad at 2.2% (which was 1.4% in September, 2023).

Methodology:

A random sample of 715 people over the age of 18 was interviewed face-to-face throughout the West Bank between 21st October 2023 and 23rd October 2023 the interviews were conducted in randomly selected homes, and the respondents inside each home were also selected randomly according to Kish tables. The interviews were conducted in 44 sampling points chosen randomly according to population.

In the West Bank 715 people were surveyed from the following areas:

Hebron: Hebron, Yatta, Dura, Beit Kahel, Kharas, Tarqumiya, Deir Samit. **Jenin:** Y'abed, Qabatiya, Sanur, Rummana. **Tubas:** Tammun. **Ramallah & al-Bireh:** Ramallah, Al-Bireh, Birzeit, Kobar Deir Ibzi', Ein Yabrod. **Jerusalem:** Birnabala, Biddo, Beit Surik, Qalandia refugee camp, Beit Hanina, Old city. **Bethlehem:** Bethlehem, Doha, Artas Battir, Duheisha refugee camp. **Nablus:** Nablus, Naqoura, Zawata, Askar refugee camp. **Salfit:** Al-Zawya, Farkha. **Tulkarem:** Tulkarem, Attil, Nazlet Issa. **Qalqilya:** Qalqilya, Habla.

The margin of error is ± 3 percent, with a confidence level of 90%.

Sample Distribution

25.9% said they live in villages, 4.2% refugee camps, and 69.9% in towns/cities.

49.9% were male, 50.1% female.

70.8% were married, 22.1% single, 5.5% widowed, 1.6% divorced.

The average age of the respondents was 40 years.

Occupation of Respondents

- 6.3% Students
- 17.9% Laborers
- 34% Housewives (not looking for a job)
- 3.4% Housewives (looking for a job)
- 1.1% Farmers/fishermen
- 1.1% Craftsmen
- 11.8% Businessmen/private business
- 7.1% Public Sector Employees
- 6.7% Private Sector Employees
- 0.8% Professionals (e.g., doctors/lawyers/pharmacists/engineers)
- 7.1% Unemployed
- 2.7% Retired

Results:

Q1- To what extent do you feel optimistic or pessimistic regarding the Palestinian future? Would you say that you are optimistic, cautiously optimistic, pessimistic or very pessimistic?

	West Bank
	n= 715
Very Optimistic	17.2
Optimistic	45.3
Pessimistic	20.7
Very pessimistic	15.5
No answer	1.3

Q2- Were you expecting an attack the magnitude of the one carried out by Hamas on Israel on October 7?

	West Bank
	n= 715
I expected it	11.9
I didn't expect it	69.9
I expected an attack, but not of this magnitude	16.8
No answer	1.4

Q3- Do you think the attack on Israel by the resistance and the subsequent war, is the best method to confront Israel in order to achieve the goals of the Palestinian people?

	West Bank
	n= 715
It is the best method to confront Israel	72.6
It is not the best method to confront Israel	18.5
Don't know/no answer	8.9

Q4- Do you think the outcome of the current war between Israel and the resistance in Gaza will be in favor of the Palestinians or Israelis?

	West Bank
	n= 715
In favor of the Palestinians	67.1
In favor of the Israelis	7.0
Not in favor of either side	16.8
In favor of both sides	2.0
No answer	7.1

Q5- How surprised are you at the biased European position towards Israel?

	West Bank
	n= 715
Very surprised	13.6
Moderately surprised	9.2
A little surprised	6.2
Not surprised at all	69.2
No answer	1.8

Q6- How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the level of solidarity from Palestinians in the West Bank with the Gaza Strip, in this war between the resistance in Gaza and Israel?

	West Bank
	n= 715
Very satisfied	18.9
Somewhat satisfied	44.1
Somewhat dissatisfied	14.4
Very dissatisfied	20.7
No answer	1.9

Q7- How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the level of solidarity from Diaspora Palestinians with the Gaza Strip in this war between the resistance in Gaza and Israel?

	West Bank
	n= 715
Very satisfied	23.8
Somewhat satisfied	47.0
Somewhat dissatisfied	12.9
Very dissatisfied	14.8
No answer	1.5

Q8- How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the stance and performance of the PNA on the current war between Israel and the Gaza Strip?

	West Bank
	n= 715
Very satisfied	4.4
Somewhat satisfied	12.6
Somewhat dissatisfied	12.2
Very dissatisfied	66.6
No answer	4.2

Q9- How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the level of Arab solidarity with Gaza in the current war between the resistance in Gaza and Israel?

	West Bank
	n= 715
Very satisfied	8.3
Somewhat satisfied	31.3
Somewhat dissatisfied	16.1
Very dissatisfied	42.9
No answer	1.4

Q10 – The United States is fully backing Israel in this war; was this expected or not?

	West Bank
	n= 715
Yes, I expected it	65.5
I did not expect it	14.0
I expected it, but not to this degree	18.7
Don't know/no answer	1.8

Q11- Do you expect Israel's standing to worsen or improve in the region after this war?

	West Bank
	n= 715
Israel's standing will improve	5.2
Israel's standing ill worsen	71.5
Israel's standing will not change	17.5
Don't know/no answer	5.8

Q12 – Do you expect Hamas' standing to worsen or improve after this war?

	West Bank
	n= 715
Hamas' standing will improve	71.6
Hamas' standing ill worsen	7.6
Hamas' standing will not change	11.9
Don't know/no answer	8.9

Q13 – Israel is threatening to wage a ground invasion into the Gaza Strip. Do you think such an invasion will end in favor of Israel or the resistance in Gaza?

	West Bank
	n= 715
It will end in Israel's favor	6.3
It will not end in Israel's favor	69.1
It will not be in either side's favor	17.2
Don't know/ no answer	7.4

Q14 – Do you expect Hezbollah to enter the war in support of the Palestinian resistance in the Gaza Strip?

	West Bank
	n= 715
Yes	53.0
No	37.5
Don't know/No answer	9.5

Q15 – Iran announced that the “axis of resistance” could become involved, in support of the Gaza Strip, in the case of an Israeli ground invasion. Do you expect such a development or not?

	West Bank
	n= 715
I expect its involvement	27.8
I don't expect its involvement	50.5
It might become involved	13.3
Don't know/ no answer	8.4

Q16– Which Palestinian personality do you trust the most?

	West Bank
	n= 715
Abu-Obaida	10.3
Mohammad Al-Deif	7.4
Marwan Al- Barghouthi	2.7
Ismail Haniyeh	2.5
Others	9.0
Don't trust anyone	57.8
No answer	10.3

* This is an-open ended questions- no options were given to the interviewee

Q17– Which political or religious faction do you trust the most?

	West Bank
	n= 715
Hamas	18.7
Fatah	7.1
Islamic Jihad	2.2
Others	1.1
Don't Trust anyone	59.4
No answer	11.5

* This is an-open ended questions- no options were given to the interviewee