



NEC's press release for July 2010-07-29

Decline in the level of support for the peace process and 28% are thinking of emigration

30% support the resumption of direct negotiations without pre-conditions

71% oppose the enactment of a law prohibiting polygamy

58% thinks that wearing the Hijab is a personal choice

Ramallah- West Bank: Near East Consulting (NEC) July survey reveals that only 30% of Palestinians support direct negotiations with Israel without any conditions as opposed to 37% that supports direct negotiations only if Israel halts settlement activity, while 33% oppose these negotiations in principle.

The survey was carried out between 26- 28 July on a random sample of 960 Palestinians from both sexes in the West Bank and Gaza strip, including Jerusalem. The margin of error is +/-3.16% and the confidence level is 95%.

The survey revealed that there has been a decline in support for a peace settlement with Israel. While 59% of the respondents gave their support to a peace agreement with Israel in July 2010, the percentage that supported peace six weeks ago was 63%.

The results also showed that 63% of the Palestinians call on Hamas to change its position towards the elimination of Israel as opposed to 37% that want Hamas to maintain that position.

Fateh vs. Hamas:

The results revealed that 45% would vote for a Fateh list in the next election, compared to 6% for Hamas, and 11% for other lists, while 38% would not participate or refrain.

The pluralistic nature of Fateh will most likely lead to a fragmentation of the vote to the detriment of Fateh

In the same context, a question was asked about the respondents' expectations, irrespective of their own preference, regarding the winner in the next elections. About 65% of the Palestinians expected Fateh to win compared to 10% that said Hamas, while 25% expected other parties to win.

More than a half (55%) thinks that the Fateh strategy is more appropriate for maximizing national interests, 10% said the Hamas strategy is more effective while 35% said neither strategy is appropriate.

The popularity of Fateh reached 44% compared with 7% for Hamas and 4% for others. 45% reported that they do not support or trust any of the current political or religious factions.



When asked about whom they trust most: Mahmoud Abbas or Ismael Hanieh, 48% expressed their confidence in Abbas, versus 9% trusts Hanieh, and 43% said that they do not trust either leader.

On the most legitimate government in the Palestinian territories, 56% consider Dr. Salam Fayyad's government as the legitimate one, in contrast to 14% who gave the legitimacy to the Hanieh government in Gaza. Again, 30% believes that both governments are illegitimate.

Palestinian woman:

In another context, the majority (71%) of the respondents expressed their opposition to enacting a new law that prohibits polygamy, (82% of the males oppose it vs. 59% are females), compared with 29% that supported such a law. (41% of those who support enacting the law are females vs. 18% are males).

While the greater part, 84%, agreed to send their sons to study abroad if they receive a scholarship, 56% opposed it if their daughters received it.

Regarding the effectiveness of women organizations, only 19% believe that the effectiveness of women organizations in improving the situation of women in Palestine is very strong, 41% believe that they do have some impact, 20% said that they have only a limited impact while 20% of those institutions do not work effectively at all in improving women conditions.

Regarding wearing the Hijab, 58% of the Palestinians think that wearing Al Hijab should be a personal decision, 66% of them are males, compared to 42% who believe that it should be obligatory, 50% of them are females.

The majority (90%) opposed beating a husband for his wife when he feels nervous, compared with 10% support it. As 87% opposed to beat the wife in case she left the house without telling them, versus 13% support that.

The survey results highlight that there is considerable opposition for the process of beatings for the wives by their husbands. 85% oppose the idea of beating a wife if she argued with him, and the same proportion also opposes it if a wife neglected the children.

On a question about who is in charge of their household's finances and spending, 46% said mainly the husband, 5% said the wife, and 46% said both the husband and wife, while 2% mentioned other family members.

Palestinian Identity:

The results showed that 48% of the Palestinians identified themselves as Muslims in the first place, 33% as Palestinians first, 15% as human being, and 4% as Arabs.

General outlook



As for their general outlook, the large majority of the Palestinians (80%) feel concerned about the present conditions. The main source of concern remained to be the economic condition of the household (34%), followed by the internal dispute (21%), and the Israeli occupation with 13% - noting that this option was not provided to the respondents- 14% mentioned the absence of a secure life, and 4% due to family problems. As for the general feeling of security, more than the half (55%) feel secure toward themselves, their properties and their families, versus 45% feel otherwise.

