



NEC's Press Release
September 2011 Survey on Palestinian politics and socio economic conditions

- **57% believes that the Palestinians will succeed in their quest for UN recognition for a state**
- **90% believe that Israel will intensify its measures against the Palestinians and the majority believe that the US will exercise its veto power**
- **41% live in poverty**
- **40% do not trust any political or religious faction**
- **89% oppose Bashar Al-Asad and 56% believe that the situation in Egypt is better following the revolution**

Ramallah-the West Bank: Near East Consulting's (NEC) September 2011 survey reveals that 57% of the respondents expect that the recognition a Palestinian state will succeed while 43% think that the Palestinian quest for recognition by the UN will fail.

The survey was conducted between the 13th and the 17th of September 2011 on a random sample of 865 Palestinians over the age of 18 in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, including East Jerusalem. The margin of error is +/-3.33% and the confidence level is 95%.

Regarding the level of support for applying for statehood, 84% of the respondents said that they support this move. About 67% also believe that the PA is capable of running its affairs in case recognition for a Palestinian state succeeded.

This level of optimism is there despite the fact that 87% believe that the US will exercise severe measures against the Palestinians (50% believe that the US exercise its veto power, 10% believe that the US will only impose sanctions against the PA, while 27% feel that the US will do both). As for Israel, 90% think that Israel will impose even harsher measures against the Palestinians in response to this quest.

Although the Palestinians are indeed positive about approaching the UN for recognition, 70% are concerned about the rights of refugees. In addition, 53% think that recognition will have a negative impact on the Palestinians, at least in the short run. Still, 78% feel that the recognition will reduce the tension between Fateh and Hamas and 58% are of the opinion that the Oslo process will become invalid once recognition of a state is achieved.

Although the majority prefer the PA to resort to the Security Council rather than to the General Assembly, 53% still believe that the General Assembly might be the best bet given the certainty of the US veto. More concretely, 47% prefer the Security Council, 33% prefer resorting to the General Assembly, 14% said that the PA should resort to both organizations while 7% said that they prefer not to approach the UN altogether.



On different issues, 89% of the Palestinians said that they oppose the regime of President Bashar Al-Asad and 44% feel that the situation in Egypt under Hosni Mubarak was better than nowadays.

The survey results show a slight increase in the level of support for a peace agreement with Israel in comparison with the survey conducted by NEC in July 2011 (62% in September 2011 compared to 60% in July 2011). In the same context, 57% of the Palestinians call on Hamas to change its position regarding the elimination of the state of Israel.

As for factional trust, the popularity of Fateh has reached 40% compared to 7% that trusts Hamas, 3% stated other organizations and 9% refused to give their opinion while the majority (40%) said that they do not trust any faction. Moreover, 53% said that they trust President Abbas most compared to 12% that favored Ismael Hanieh while 35% refused to give their opinion. As for the government that is perceived to be more legitimate, 53% stated that the Fayyad government is more legitimate, 12% said the Hanieh government is the legitimate one while 23% refrained from giving an opinion.

About how the respondents identify themselves, 62% identified themselves first as Muslims (compared to 60% in July), 16% as Palestinians (compared to 18% in July 2011), 18% as human beings first and 4% as Arabs first.

The increase in the level of identification with religion is also shadowed in the system of government the Palestinian people prefer most. About 44% of the respondents said that they believe that the Islamic system of government is the best for Palestine to be modelled after (compared to 46% in July, 20% chose a system like one of the Arab countries, while 10% preferred a European system of government).

As for the economic situation, the results show that 41% of the Palestinians live below the poverty line (49% in the Gaza Strip and 36% in the West Bank). In addition, 24% of the Palestinians are believed to be unemployed and 9% work as part time.

Finally, the survey revealed that 76% of the Palestinians are concerned about the current situation (31% are extremely concerned and 45% somewhat concerned). The economic situation is the main reason for their concern followed by the Israeli occupation (*an option that was not provided to the respondents*) and 14% attributed their concern to the internal strife between Fateh and Hamas. As for feeling of security, 48% of the respondents said that they feel insecure.

END