



In a recent poll conducted by Near East Consulting (NEC)

57% of respondents believe that the decisions and attitudes of both Fatah and Hamas negatively affect the Palestinian reconciliation.

Only 12% believe that the imposition of taxes is the ideal solution to the current financial problem facing the PA.

73% reject the continuation of negotiations without an Israeli settlement freeze and 40% do not believe that there is another alternative to negotiations.

Ramallah-the West Bank: Near East Consulting (NEC) January survey reveals that 57% of respondents think that the decisions and attitudes of both Fatah and Hamas affect the Palestinian reconciliation negatively, while 26% stated that the Hamas' positions have a greater damage on the reconciliation efforts, in comparison to 18% who believe that Fatah's decisions and attitudes are more harmful to reconciliation.

The survey was conducted between the 23 and 26 of January 2012 on a random sample of 840 Palestinians over the age of 18 in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, including East Jerusalem. The margin of error is +/-3.4% and the confidence level is 95%.

Palestinian internal issues:

In this survey, NEC raised questions about the future of the Palestinian reconciliation efforts. The results show that 58% are optimistic about the success of reconciliation, while 43% expected the opposite.

In a question about who should remain in control over the Gaza Strip after the reconciliation, 77% opposed the continuation of the control of Hamas over the Strip.

As for the Palestinian attitudes toward the presidential or parliamentary elections, 39% expressed their support for Fatah against 12% who said that they will vote for Hamas, 22% for the other movements, while 27% said that they are not interested to vote to any of the existing parties.

In a question about who should be the next President of the Palestinian Authority in the event of resignation of Mahmud Abbas, the results were as follows: 32% predicted the victory for Marwan Barghouti, 24% for Salam Fayyad, 10% for Mustafa Barghouti, 8% for Ismail Haniyeh, 7% for Naser Al Kidwa, 6% for Mohammed Dahlan, 6% for Khaled Mashaal, and 7% expected other leaders to win, such as: Saeb Erekat, Azzam Al-Ahmed, Ahmed Qurei, Abbas Zaki, and others.

As for the current financial crisis confronting the Palestinian Authority, Near East Consulting asked questions about the possible options to solve the deficit. The results show that 54% prefer foreign support as the best way to solve this deficit,



compared with 12% who proposed more taxes, and 34% chose other solutions, such as effective plans for sustainable development and other plans that aim to resolve the crisis without external interference.

The impact of regional and international situations on the Palestinians:

The Palestinians evaluated the Muslim Brotherhood in the Arab countries in the middle. On the Arab level and for the evaluation of the Muslim Brotherhood. On a scale of zero to ten, the Palestinians gave the Muslim Brotherhood an average of 5 out of ten. Still, 55% believe that the success of the Muslim Brotherhood will prove to be beneficial to Hamas in the next elections.

In terms of assessment of the United States and European policies towards the Palestinian cause, 96% evaluated the US policies as bad or very bad, compared to 5% said it is good or very good. As for the EU's policies, the situation is not much different, as 70% felt that the policy and the positions of European countries are bad or very bad, against 30% who believe that they are good or very good.

About the Palestinian attitudes towards Turkey's involvement in Arab affairs, 48% of the respondents described Turkey as a friendly country to the Arabs, 49% thought that it is working only for its own interests, and 2% considered Turkey as anti-Arab. In the same context, 68% believed that Turkey intervenes in the internal affairs of Arab countries, and 39% support this interference, while 61% refuse it.

The Palestinian-Israeli negotiations:

As for the current negotiations between the Palestinians and the Israelis, 73% of respondents refused the continuation of negotiations in the absence of suspension of settlement activities, versus 27% who supported it even with the continuation of settlement. In the same subject, 40% expressed a preference for continuing the negotiation as the lack of other alternative.

About their attitude towards negotiations, 64% have expressed their dissatisfaction with the current direction of these negotiations, compared with 36% between who were either satisfied or very satisfied with it.

In terms of the alternatives to negotiations, the results show that 51% believe that armed struggle is the best alternative to negotiations, 5% preferred the return of the West Bank to Israel, and 26% said that their are of other alternatives, while 18% think that there is no alternative to negotiations to resolve the continuing conflict.

On the same subject, 28% supported the idea of dissolving the Palestinian Authority and the return to the pre-Oslo period, while 72% rejected this proposal.



Regarding some of the final status issues, the survey showed that 45% of the Palestinians are not optimistic about realizing the right of return for refugees, 31% expect that return in five to ten years, 15% within twenty years, and 10% said that the right of return will materialize after twenty year.

As for to acceptance or rejection of making amendments on the border of the future state between the Palestinians and the Israelis, 70% has rejected the idea of land swap compared with 30% that supported it.

Factional trust:

Regarding the representative of the Palestinians, 65% said that the Palestine Liberation Organization is their representative, 14% said that Fateh represents them, 8% mentioned Hamas as the representative of the Palestinians, while 13% of the respondents said that there is no representative of the Palestinian people at all.

As for leadership trust, the majority of 46% trust Abu Mazen, versus 24% who said that they trust Ishmael Hanieh most. In addition, the greater part (49%) gives the legitimacy to the Fayyad Government, and 25% to the Hanieh government, noting that 27% believes that neither government is legitimate. Moreover, the popularity of Fateh has reached 41% compared to 15% that trusts Hamas, while the majority (38%) does not trust any faction.

In response to the question as to which strategy respondents think is better for maximizing Palestinian national interest, 50% preferred the Fateh strategy while 20% favored Hamas, about 30% gave no preference to either strategy.

The survey results also show the level of support for a peace agreement with Israel (63% in January 2012 in comparison with 61% in September 2011). In the same context, 50% of the Palestinians call on Hamas to change its position regarding the elimination of the state of Israel.

Palestinians identity:

About how the respondents identify themselves, 66% identified themselves first as Muslims, 16% as Palestinians, 15% as human beings first and 3% as Arabs first.

The increase in adherence to religious identity is also reflected in the system preferred by the Palestinian people. About 29% of the respondents said that they believe that the Islamic system of government is the best for Palestine to be modeled after, 23% chose a system like one of the Arab countries, and 16% chose a system like one of the European countries.
