

Public Opinion Poll #26

March 1997

	Total %	West Bank%	Gaza Strip%
Unemployment	35.0	31.0	43.0

1. Do you support or oppose the current peace process between Palestinians and Israelis?

1) Support	73.3	68.6	81.4
2) Oppose	22.2	26.0	15.4
3) No Opinion	4.6	5.3	3.2

2. Do you trust the intentions of the current Israeli government towards the peace process with Palestinians?

1) Yes	4.8	5.1	4.3
2) No	90.5	89.3	92.7
3) No Opinion	4.6	5.6	3.0

3. Do you expect the current peace process to lead to the establishment of a Palestinian State in West bank and Gaza strip in the coming years?

1) Yes	50.0	46.3	56.5
2) No	35.3	38.9	28.8
3) Not Sure	14.7	14.7	14.7

4. Following the peace process and the implementation of autonomy, your economic situation and standard of living has become :

1) Better	12.6	13.3	11.3
2) Worse	51.9	49.3	56.5
3) Stayed the same	34.0	35.6	31.2
4) Don't Know	1.5	1.8	1.0

5. In your opinion, how has the peace process affected the Palestinian economy?

1) More positively	1.5	1.4	1.6
2) Positively	16.3	18.0	13.3
3) Not positively, not negatively	20.8	17.2	27.1
4) Negatively	34.8	36.0	32.8
5) More negatively	22.3	21.7	23.5

6) No opinion/Don't know	4.2	5.7	1.7
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	Total %	West Bank%	Gaza Strip%
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6. In your opinion, the first most important issue facing the Palestinians today is:

1) The peace process, a political settlement with Israel, and ending occupation.	46.1	47.0	44.7
2) Improving economic situation and living conditions, and solving the unemployment problem	30.0	26.4	36.3
3) Protecting democracy and human rights	21.4	23.3	17.9
4) Others.	2.5	3.3	1.1

7. In your opinion, the second most important issue facing the Palestinians today is :

1) The peace process, a political settlement with Israel, and ending occupation.	30.1	27.9	33.9
2) Improving economic situation and living conditions, and solving the unemployment problem	43.7	44.2	43.0
3) Protecting democracy and Human rights	24.1	25.1	22.5
4) Others.	2.0	2.8	0.7

8. With regard to the Hebron agreement signed in January 1997, I...

1) Support it	61.2	57.9	67.0
2) Do not support or oppose it	15.1	13.5	17.9
3) Oppose it	21.4	26.0	13.2
4) No opinion	2.4	2.6	1.9

9. Regarding the permanent status negotiations between the Palestinian and Israeli sides over Jerusalem, refugees, borders, and settlements, I believe

1) There is a possibility to reach a solution acceptable to the two parties.	40.8	35.7	49.7
2) There is no possibility to reach a solution acceptable to the two parties.	52.1	55.7	45.7
3) No Opinion	7.1	8.5	4.6

	Total	West	Gaza
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	%	Bank%	Strip%
10. Are you optimistic or pessimistic about the f?			
1) Optimistic	64.5	60.7	71.2
2) Pessimistic	29.7	32.8	24.2
3) Don't know (not sure)	5.8	6.5	4.6

11. With regard to armed attacks against Israeli targets, I...

1) Support	38.1	39.2	36.1
2) Oppose	54.3	52.9	56.8
3) No opinion	7.6	7.9	7.1

12. Israel decided to establish a new settlement in Abu-Ghnaim mountain, while the Palestinian side strongly oppose that, what, in your opinion, is the best means (select one only) to express opposition?

1) Negotiations with Israel	55.8	53.5	59.9
2) Armed attacks against Israeli targets	9.0	10.0	7.3
3) Demonstrations and unarmed confrontations	15.6	14.3	17.8
4) Back to Intifada	13.7	15.1	11.1
5) Others	5.9	7.1	3.9

13. when discussing the upcoming local elections, the issue of the refugee camps located within the municipal boundaries of Palestinian cities is raised. Some suggest that refugees in these camps should participate in the municipal elections of these cities; others oppose that and suggest that independent elections be held for these camps. What do you think?

1) I support participation of camps residents in municipal elections of cities	63.9	58.8	72.7
2) I support holding separate elections to select local councils for these camps	24.9	26.7	21.8
3) Do not support participation of refugee camps in local elections	6.1	8.1	2.5
4) Other opinion	0.5	0.4	0.6
5) No opinion/Don't know	4.7	6.0	2.4

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14. When discussing the new proposed local government law, the issue of refugee camps located outside the existing municipal boundaries of Palestinian cities is raised. Some suggest the inclusion of these camps into existing municipal boundaries; other oppose that and suggest the

formation of independent local councils for these camps. What do you think?

1) I support the inclusion of camps located outside the municipal boundaries into existing municipalities.	40.1	41.9	36.9
2) I Support the formation of independent local councils for these camps.	44.0	39.5	51.8
3) I do not support any change in the current status of camps.	8.8	9.8	6.9
4) Other opinion	1.0	0.9	1.0
5) No opinion/Don't know	6.2	7.8	3.4

15. Which political party do you support?

1) PPP	1.1	0.9	1.5
2) PFLP	2.3	2.3	2.3
3) Fateh	45.8	42.1	52.3
4) Hamas	8.6	9.4	7.2
5) DFLP	1.3	1.5	0.8
6) Islamic Jihad	1.3	1.3	1.4
7) Fida	0.3	0.4	0.0
8) Independent Isalmists	2.4	3.0	1.3
9) Independent Nationalist	4.0	4.8	2.5
10) Non of the above	29.3	29.7	28.7
11) Others	3.6	4.5	2.1

Total	West	Gaza
%	Bank%	Strip%

16) In recent months, newspapers published news stories regarding different plans for a permanent Palestinian-Israeli settlement. The following six items constituted one such plan:

- 1. the establishment of a sovereign but demilitarized Palestinian state in most of the West Bank and Gaza.**
- 2. the Palestinians agree to Israeli annexation of settlement blocs containing most settlers. In return, Israel gives the Palestinians an Israeli territory similar in size.**
- 3. those Israeli settlers remaining inside the Palestinian state would live in peace and security under Palestinian sovereignty and law.**
- 4. Palestinian refugees have the right to return to the Palestinian state, but would not be given the right to return to Israel proper. They would be compensated for property lost in 1948.**
- 5. security arrangements would be designed to allow the Israeli army**

to have patrols along the Jordan river and to have warning stations in West Bank mountain tops.

6. **Jerusalem would remain united and capital of Israel, and the capital of the Palestinian state would be located in villages outside the municipal boundaries of Jerusalem such as Abu Dis and al-Ayzariya and al-Haram al-Sharif (al-Aqsa Mosque) would come under Palestinian sovereignty.**

If this plan as a whole was offered as permanent settlement, would you support or oppose it?

1) Strongly support	1.1	1.0	1.2
2) Support	19.0	16.5	23.4
3) Oppose	45.4	49.2	39.0
4) Strongly Oppose	31.1	29.6	33.8
5) No opinion	3.3	3.8	2.5

17. How would you view these items of the plan?

17-1 Item No.(1) (*Palestinian state*)

1) Strongly support	2.5	2.6	2.1
2) Support	13.6	12.8	15.1
3) Oppose	42.5	43.3	41.2
4) Strongly oppose	40.1	39.6	41.0
5) No opinion	1.3	1.7	0.5

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17-2 Item No.(2) (*annexation of settlement blocs*)

1) Support strongly	1.9	2.1	1.6
2) Support	16.5	17.2	15.3
3) Oppose	46.1	47.9	42.9
4) Strongly oppose	32.7	29.4	38.4
5) No opinion	2.8	3.4	1.8

17-3 Item No.(3) (*remaining settlers*)

1) Strongly support	5.6	5.9	5.0
2) Support	42.4	45.7	36.6
3) Oppose	28.5	26.0	33.1
4) Strongly oppose	20.6	19.0	23.6
5) No opinion	2.9	3.5	1.8

17-4 Item No.(4) (*Refugees and right of return*)

1) Strongly Support	7.2	6.6	8.2
2) Support	36.9	35.6	39.1

3) Oppose	29.5	31.3	26.5
4) Strongly oppose	22.4	21.6	23.9
5) No opinion	4.0	4.9	2.3

17-5 Item No.(5) (*Security arrangements*)

1) Strongly Support	0.8	1.3	0.0
2) Support	7.3	7.8	6.3
3) Oppose	51.5	50.9	52.6
4) Strongly oppose	35.9	35.0	37.5
5) No opinion	4.4	4.9	3.6

17-6 Item No.(6) (*Jerusalem and alternative capital*)

1) Strongly Support	1.1	1.4	0.6
2) Support	7.4	6.2	9.6
3) Oppose	33.9	34.4	33.0
4) Strongly oppose	55.5	55.5	55.7
5) No opinion	2.0	2.6	1.1