



NEC April press release

NEC carried out its monthly survey between 22 till 27 of April 2010, on a random sample of 950 Palestinians over the age of 18 from both sexes, in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, including Jerusalem. The margin of errors is +/-3.18% and the confidence level is 95%.

In response to the question on the voting preference of the respondents, the results show that 48% said that they would vote for Fateh in case the presidential election were held next week, compared with 5% would vote for Hamas, while 12% mentioned the candidates of other groups. Still 35% will not vote or refrain. As for the legislative elections, 48% express their preference to the Fateh candidates, as opposed to 6% who said that they vote for Hamas, 11% for others and 35% said that they will refrain.

According to NEC's previous surveys the level of support for Fateh may not necessarily translate into the ballot boxes as it appears. This is due to a number of reasons. First, as a pluralistic organization, Fateh is perceived as fragmental and single dogma or ideology, unlike Hamas. Second, the negative perception that people have about the Fateh leadership will alienate a large percentage of voters which will lead to a fragmentation of the Fateh vote. Third, Fateh will gain support from the non-partisans who comprise more than one third of the population only if concrete progress is made on the Palestinian-Israeli front. Lack of progress will shift the support to Hamas especially as the majority of the non-aligned respondents seem to be ideologically more in tune with Hamas than with Fateh.

When the West Bank respondents, excluding Jerusalem, were asked about whether the next local elections in the West Bank will face any obstacle, 47% thinks that the local elections will face serious trouble. 81% of the total population expects the obstacles to take a place in Gaza and 47% in the West Bank.

About factional trust, 45% trust Fateh, versus 7% trust Hamas, 2% trust other factions, while 47% trust no one. In a comparison with the last month results, the support for Fateh remains the same, while the support for Hamas decrease by 2%, and 3% for those who trust neither.

More than the half (52%) expressed their trust towards Abbas, and 11% for Hanieh, while 37% said neither. The greater part (61%) gives the legitimacy for Fayyad government, and 14% for Hanieh government, noting that 25% believes that neither is legitimate.

Again, while the majority said that they trust Fateh most, the analysis of NEC's monthly surveys direct to the conclusion that a distinctive part of those who trust no faction, are closer to Hamas ideologically. An issue which renders Hamas significantly stronger than it appears. Support for Fateh among this segment of the population is reflected in their belief that the Fateh strategy is better for maximizing the Palestinian national interest. In



response to the question as to which strategy respondents think is better for maximizing Palestinian national interest. 57% said the Fateh strategy while 10% favored Hamas'. About 32% gave no preference to neither to the Fateh nor Hamas strategies.

In addition, 38% think that Fayyad's strategy in fighting the occupation peacefully, is a necessary step but it will not succeed, 42% see that it is vital and will succeed, and 20% said it's not needed.

Regarding the peace settlements between the Palestinians and the Israelis, the results show that 63% reiterated their support for a peace settlement, versus 37% opposed it. The support for an agreement is higher in the West Bank (66%) than in the Gaza Strip (59%). 77% of Fateh supporters are with the idea, while 81% of Hamas supporters opposed it.

In general, 68% of the respondents oppose Hamas position towards the elimination of Israel.

When asked about the change in the American administration position towards the Palestinians, 70% negate that any positive change have occurred recently.

In a question about how the respondents identify themselves, the majority 58% identified as Muslims, (in Gaza Strip (65%) as opposed to (53%) in the West Bank). 19% identified as Palestinians first, 19% as human beings first and 4% as Arabs first.

When the respondents were asked about the most readable Newspaper, Al Quds newspaper occupies the first position in the oPt (35%), followed by Alayyam (11%), (4%) for both Al Haya and Al Resala newspaper, 3% for others, and 38% said that they don't read newspaper at all.

About the satellite TV channel, 48% watch Al Jazeera channel, 15% watch Al Arrabia and Palestine TV, 7% said that they watch other Arab channels, and 4% watch Al Mannar, 2% watch Al Aqsa and BBC, while 7% watch other channels.

As for their general outlook, the majority of the Palestinians (87%) feel concerned about the present conditions. The main individual source of concern remained to be the economic condition of the household (38%), followed by the internal dispute (20%), and the Israeli occupation with 15% - noting that this option isn't mentioned- 10% referred it back to the lack ness of secure life, and 4% because of the family problems.

As for the economic status, the results show that 35% lives below the poverty level, and 7% live in extreme poverty, improvement in the economic situation is also noticed in the employment condition of the labor force. In April 2010, the percentage of the Palestinians that were not employed was 18%, as opposed to 24% in December 2009.