



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

52% of the respondents believe that the failure to implement the reconciliation agreement is the responsibility of both Fatah and Hamas.

43% believe that, neither Fatah nor Hamas is working to serve Palestinian interests. 42% live below poverty

73% of those Palestinians are depressed or very depressed.

Ramallah-the West Bank: Near East Consulting (NEC) April survey reveals that 52% of the respondents believe that both Fateh and Hamas are responsible for the delay of Al Doha agreement, while 22% think that Hamas is responsible for the delay, 7% blamed Fateh, and 18% mentioned other parties. 32% think that Fateh is the main party benefiting from the failure of the reconciliation agreement, 22% said Hamas, and 38% believe that both Fateh and Hamas are benefiting, while 32% considered other parties.

In addition, 36% believe that the implementation of this agreement will benefit the peace process, compared with 35% who believe that an agreement between Fateh and Hamas will obstruct the peace process, while 29% think it will have no impact on the peace process.

The survey was conducted between the 26 and 24 of April 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 +/-3.5% and the confidence level is 95%.

As for the main issue of concern facing the Palestinians, the results show that 84% of respondents are concerned or concerned to a large extent, compared to 16% who are not concerned and not concerned at all about the current situation.

Regarding the main reason of concern, the economic hardship occupied the first position (44%) followed by the Israeli occupation* (16%), 14% for the internal dispute, 9% for the absence of security, and 2% attribute the concern to family problems compared with 14% do not feel concerned at all. In addition, 50% of Palestinians do not secure towards their families and their properties in the current time. What is striking that 73% of Palestinians are depressed or depressed to a large extent. The depression index was built upon asking five different questions on the topic.

In a question about the future of the PA, the results show that 25% of the respondents call for the disbanding of the PA and to return to the pre-Oslo period, 22% support maintaining the current status until the international political circumstances could be changed, and 15% prefer a one-state solution, compared to 39% who proposed other options. Moreover, 67% said that the disbanding of the PA is not in the interest of the Palestinian people.

The reason provided against the disbandment of the PA, 32% believe that the loss of source of income for many Palestinians was the first reason, followed by the lack of security and stability in the Palestinian territories (30%), 5% said that the immigration of qualified people abroad makes the disbanding of the PA an impossible suggestion, and 11% think that the people will lose the most important achievements of the Oslo agreement, such as the identity and passport, versus 22% believe that disbanding of the PA is not necessarily negative.

About the establishment of a one state for the Palestinians and Israelis with the possibility of return of Palestinian refugees to their homes, the results showed that 76% of the



respondents rejected the idea of a one state solution. As for the return of refugees, 81% predicted that it is impossible for refugees to return to their home land one day.

Regarding the perceptions of the party that works better for the interests of Palestinians, 34% believe that Fateh works for the Palestinian interest versus 7% said Hamas, and 16% said that both Fatah and Hamas are working for Palestinian interests equally, while 43% believe neither Fateh nor Hamas are working in the national interest of the Palestinian people. When asked about the alternatives to the current state of affairs, 54% preferred to have new political parties, 26% preferred other parties, and 20% preferred to start a third Intifada as an alternative.

In a question about Abu Mazen's maneuvering abilities in light of the current political conditions, 43% called Abu Mazen to put responsibility on the international community about the failure of negotiations, 33% suggested that Abu Mazen should step down, 14% preferred that Abu Mazen threaten to dissolve the authority, and 10% suggested to call the Israeli society to make changes in the current Israeli government policies.

As for leadership trust, the majority of 42% trust Abu Mazen, versus 11% who said that they trust Ismael Hanieh most and 46% trusts neither. In addition, the greater part (50%) gives the legitimacy to the Fayyad government, and 15% to the Hanieh government, noting that 35% believes that neither government is legitimate.

In response to the question as to which strategy respondents think is better for maximizing Palestinian national interest, 44% preferred the Fateh strategy while 11% favored Hamas, and 46% gave no preference to either strategy. Moreover, the popularity of Fateh has reached 33% compared to 7% that trusts Hamas, 3% trust other faction, while the majority (57%) does not trust any faction.

The survey results also show the level of support for a peace agreement with Israel (63% in January 2012 in comparison with 59% in April 2012). In the same context, 59% of the Palestinians call on Hamas to change its position regarding the elimination of the state of Israel.

As for the poverty situation, the results reveal that 42% of the Palestinians live below the poverty line: 49% in the Gaza Strip and 38% in the West Bank. The poverty variable was based on the respondents' reported income.

About how the respondents identify themselves, 63% identified themselves first as Muslims, 19% as Palestinians, 14% 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 25% of the respondents said that they believe that the Islamic system of government is the best for Palestine to be modeled after, 20% chose a system like one of the Arab countries, and 15% chose a system like one of the European countries.
