



62% of the Palestinians oppose the decision by President Abbas not to run for elections and 64% support halting negotiations with Israel and the majority oppose the dissolution of the PNA

Immediately after the declaration of President Abbas not to run for elections, Near East Consulting started surveying the views and opinions of the Palestinian public regarding this declaration and about the future elections. The phone survey was conducted on the 6th and 7th of November on a sample of 780 Palestinians over the age of 18 who were randomly selected from all the districts of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

The results of the survey revealed that 62% of the respondents opposed Abu Mazen's decision not to rerun for elections as opposed to 38% that supported it. Approximately 80% of Hamas supporters welcomed this decision in contrast to 33% of the supporters of Fateh.

As for the reasons why Abu Mazen made this move, 45% believed that it is a result of the political crisis that President Abbas is confronted with, 16% believed that it is intended to pressure the US and Israel, 12% to pressure Hamas, 10% think that the reason is because of an undeclared strategy on the part of the President, while 17% attributed this decision to other reasons such as dissolving the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), preparing the PLO to take over, etc.

The results also showed that 76% of the respondents believe that the president will go back on his decision as compared to 24% who believe that his decision is irreversible.

In response to the question as to whom will they vote for in the next presidential elections, given the position taken by President Abbas not to run, the majority of 31% still insisted that they will vote for Abu Mazen, followed by 12% for Marwan Bargouthi, 8% for Muhammad Dahlan¹, 7% for Salam Fayyad, 4% for Ismael Hanieh, 3% for Mustapha Bargouthi, 6% gave their support to other figures, while 16% said that they will not participate in the elections and 13% refrained from answering the question. According to the results, support for Marwan Bargouthi and Muhammad Dahlan was from the young generations while support for Abu Mazen was distributed along all age groups.

As for the legislative elections, the decision of Abu Mazen not to run for elections has boosted Fateh, at least for the short term. When asked about the list they will vote for in case elections were to be held next week, 62% said that they will vote for the Fateh list, 7% for the Hamas list, 3% for the left parties, 8% for other parties including Islamic Jihad, while 20% said that they will not participate in the elections.

The results also revealed that 64% of the respondents said that they support the suspension of negotiations with Israel, while 36% opposed that.

¹ most who supported Dahlan were from the Gaza Strip



As for the dissolution of the PNA, 75% declared their opposition to such a decision. In the event that the PNA is dissolved, the majority of the respondents (61%) said that the PLO should take over while 27% believed that the situation should go back to the period prior to the Oslo Process, and 7% supported the idea of an international body to take control, and 5% believed that in case the PNA is dissolved, Jordan and Egypt should be in charge.

As for factional support, 54% stated that they trust Fateh most, as opposed to a mere 7% who declared their support to Hamas, and 7% to other factions, while 32% said that they do not trust any faction.

The margin of error for this survey is +/-3.5% and the confidence level is 95%.
