



## **NEC's monthly monitor of Palestinian perceptions towards politics and economics**

**Special focus: The Palestinian Media**

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#### About Near East Consulting (NEC)

**NEC is a survey and research firm based in Ramallah, Palestine. Drawing on extensive, inter-disciplinary experience in the Near East region and beyond, we work in a range of fields, including but not limited to such areas as democracy and democratization, food security, health and education, women and children, poverty and the labor market, peace and conflict resolution, arms control and disarmament, electoral processes, Palestinian refugees, demography, legal and judicial systems, and the impact of aid and assistance.**



<b>LIST OF FIGURES .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>LIST OF TABLES .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>II. METHODOLOGY .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>III. THE SITUATION IN GENERAL .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>A. Level of concern about the current situation .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>B. Main issue for concern .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>C. Feeling of security .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>IV. POLITICAL ATTITUDES .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>A. Towards leadership .....</b>	<b>12</b>
1. Trust in Abu Mazen and Ismael Hanieh .....	12
2. Level of trust in Salam Fayyad .....	13
<b>B. Support for Fayyad’s government .....</b>	<b>14</b>
1. Perception of legitimacy of Fayyad’s government .....	15
2. Perceptions about the question which is the legitimate government .....	16
3. Priorities of the new government .....	16
<b>C. Level of support for the boycott of Fateh in the new government .....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>D. Attitudes about the best strategy for Palestine .....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>E. Expectations about reconciliation .....</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>F. Factional support .....</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>G. Towards Israel and the peace process .....</b>	<b>21</b>
1. Support for a peace agreement .....	21
2. Perceptions about Hamas's position towards the elimination of Israel .....	21
3. Final status issue to be resolved first .....	22
<b>H. Level of support for a two state solution .....</b>	<b>23</b>
1. Level of support for a one state solution .....	24
<b>I. Perceptions about when a Palestinian state will be established .....</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>V. ATTITUDES ABOUT THE PALESTINIAN MEDIA .....</b>	<b>26</b>



<b>A. Source of information .....</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>B. The traditional media.....</b>	<b>27</b>
1. The most trusted newspaper.....	27
2. The most trusted TV channel.....	27
a. Trust in Aljazeera vs. Al Quds newspaper .....	28
<b>C. The internet.....</b>	<b>29</b>
1. Internet usage.....	29
2. Volume of information from the internet.....	30
3. Type of information received from the internet .....	30
<b>D. SMS usage.....</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>E. Level of usage of the internet to communicate with friends and relatives outside .....</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>F. Presence of hearsay in the Palestinian society .....</b>	<b>33</b>
a. Attitude about whether hearsay is a good source of information.....	33
<b>G. Attitude about whether the media are good tools for people to express their opinions and prospects .....</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>H. Attitude about whether the media help in promoting human rights.....</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>I. Evaluation of the media in Palestine.....</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>J. The media that is most available to children .....</b>	<b>36</b>



## List of figures

Figure 1: Demographic distribution of the sample.....	8
Figure 2: Level of concern about the current situation, Feb 08 till May 09.....	9
Figure 3: Main issue that makes you feel concerned, comparison between Jan 08 till May 09.....	10
Figure 4: Feeling of security with respect to your family and property, May 07-May 09.....	11
Figure 5: Trust in Abu Mazen vs. trust in Ismael Hanieh.....	12
Figure 6: Level of trust in Salam Fayyad.....	13
Figure 7: Support or opposition to the new Fayyad government.....	14
Figure 8: Attitude towards the legitimacy of the new Fayyad government.....	15
Figure 9: Which is the legitimate government?.....	16
Figure 10: The priorities of the new government.....	17
Figure 11: Level of support for the boycott of Fateh in the new government.....	17
Figure 12: The best strategy that works for the Palestinian national interest.....	18
Figure 13: Expectations about the success of dialogue between Fateh and Hamas.....	19
Figure 14: Factional support: Jan 2006 till May 2009.....	20
Figure 15: Support or opposition to a peace settlement with Israel.....	21
Figure 16: Perceptions about Hamas's position towards the elimination of Israel.....	22
Figure 17: The final status issue that should be resolved first.....	23
Figure 18: Level of support for a two state solution.....	24
Figure 19: Level of support for a one state solution.....	24
Figure 20: Perceptions about when a Palestinian state will be established.....	25
Figure 21: Source of information.....	26
Figure 22: Most trusted newspaper.....	27
Figure 23: TV most trusted.....	28
Figure 24: Most trusted: Al-Quds newspaper or Aljazeera TV.....	29
Figure 25: Internet usage.....	29
Figure 26: Volume of information from the internet.....	30
Figure 27: Type of information received from the internet.....	31
Figure 28: SMS usage.....	31
Figure 29: Level of usage of the internet to communicate with friends and relatives outside.....	32
Figure 30: Presence of hearsay in society.....	33
Figure 31: Attitude about whether hearsay is a good source of information.....	33
Figure 32: Attitude about whether the media are good tools for people to express their opinions and prospects.....	34
Figure 33: Attitude about whether the media help in promoting human rights.....	35
Figure 34: Evaluation of the media in Palestine.....	35
Figure 35: The media that is most available to children between the ages of 10 and 16.....	36



**List of tables**

Table 1: Level of concern about the current situation ..... 9

Table 2: Main issue that makes you feel concerned..... 11

Table 3: Feeling of security with respect to yourself family and property..... 12

Table 4: Trust in Abu Mazen vs. trust in Ismael Hanieh according to region of residence, faction, and age . 13

Table 5: Level of trust in Salam Fayyad ..... 14

Table 6: Support or opposition to the new Fayyad government according to region of residence, faction, and age..... 14

Table 7: Attitude towards the legitimacy of the new Fayyad government according to region of residence, faction, and age..... 15

Table 8: Which is the legitimate government? according to region of residence, faction, and age ..... 16

Table 9: The priorities of the new government according to region of residence, faction, and age..... 17

Table 10: Level of support for the boycott of Fateh in the new government..... 18

Table 11: The best strategy that works for the Palestinian national interest..... 19

Table 12: Expectations about the success of dialogue between Fateh and Hamas according to region of residence, faction, and age..... 19

Table 13: Factional trust according to region of residence and age ..... 20

Table 14: Support or opposition to a peace settlement with Israel..... 21

Table 15: Perceptions about Hamas's position towards the elimination of Israel..... 22

Table 16: The final status issue that should be resolved first ..... 23

Table 17: Level of support for a two state solution..... 24

Table 18: Level of support for a one state solution..... 25

Table 19: Perceptions about when a Palestinian state will be established..... 25

Table 20: Main source of information ..... 26

Table 21: Most trusted newspaper ..... 27

Table 22: TV most trusted according to region of residence, factional trust, and age ..... 28

Table 23: Most trusted: Al-Quds newspaper or Aljazeera TV according to region of residence, factional trust, and age..... 29

Table 24: Internet usage according to region of residence, factional trust, and age ..... 29

Table 25: Volume of information from the internet according to region of residence, factional trust, and age ..... 30

Table 26: Type of information received from the internet according to region of residence, factional trust, and age..... 31

Table 27: Level of usage of the internet to communicate with friends and relatives outside according to region of residence, factional trust, and age..... 32

Table 28: Presence of hearsay in society according to region of residence, factional trust, and age..... 33

Table 29: Attitude about whether hearsay is a good source of information according to region of residence, factional trust, and age ..... 34

Table 30: Attitude about whether the media are good tools for people to express their opinions and prospects according to region of residence, factional trust, and age..... 34

Table 31: Attitude about whether the media help in promoting human rights according to region of residence, factional trust, and age ..... 35

Table 32: Evaluation of the media in Palestine according to region of residence, factional trust, and age ... 36

Table 33: The media that is most available to children between the ages of 10 and 16 according to region of residence, factional trust, and age ..... 36



## I. Executive summary

- Concern about the general situation is still high, with the main issue for concern being the economic hardship.
- Expectations about reconciliation between Fateh and Hamas are only moderate.
- Despite the ongoing internal struggle, support for both Abu Mazen and Salam Fayyad, is still high with the priorities for the new government being to end the chaos in Palestine and stimulate economic development.
- With regard to the peace process, a majority supports a peace agreement with Israel whereby a two state solution yields more support than a one state solution.
- The final status issues that are to be resolved first are Jerusalem and the refugees issues according to the respondents' views.
- However, the majority do not believe that a Palestinian state will be established in the near future.
- With respect to the media in Palestine, the majority of Palestinians believe that overall, the media is good.
- The main type of media used to obtain information is television.
- Still, a considerable percentage of Palestinians also use the internet in order to yield information among which politics and education are the main areas of interest.
- For most respondents, the most trusted TV channel is Al-Jazeera, the most trusted newspaper is Al Quds newspaper.
- The view that the media helps in promoting Humans Rights is widespread.



## II. Methodology

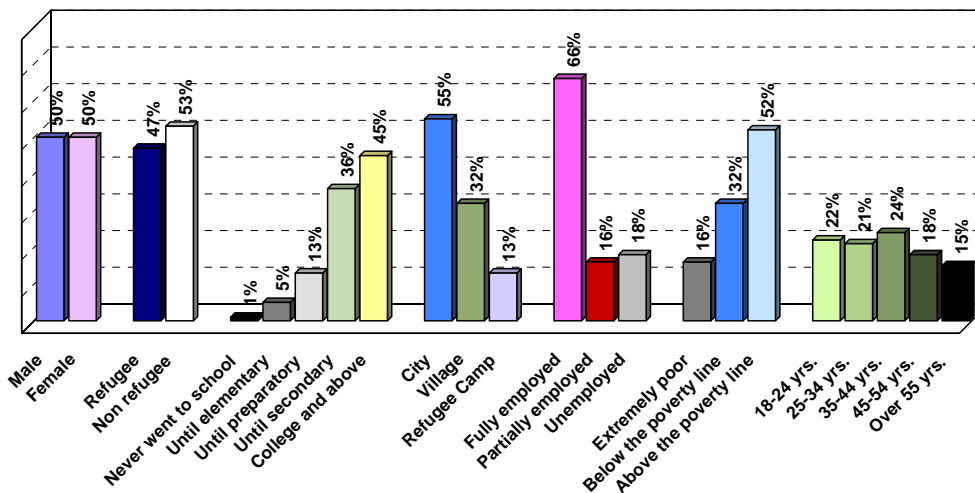
During the last week of May 2009 Near East Consulting (NEC) conducted a phone survey of over 1200 randomly selected Palestinians over the age of 18 in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and Jerusalem of which 900 were successfully completed. The method used in the randomization process is random digit dialing.

In addition to the general results, these reports are analyzed according to three independent variables: region of residence, factional trust, and age. The margin of error for the survey sample was +/-3.4% with a confidence level of 95%.

This survey is part of a series of surveys and reports “the General Perception Surveys” that are conducted monthly by the NEC since January 2006. The idea behind these surveys and reports is to regularly monitor, document and analyze Palestinian perceptions of their political, economic, social, and security-related issues. In this report, special focus is directed at the Palestinian Media and information sources

Following are the demographic characteristics of the May-June sample. As noted in figure 1, below, the demographics also include the poverty variable. This variable is constructed by NEC on the basis of the household income and the structure of the household.

Figure 1: Demographic distribution of the sample



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### III. The situation in general

#### A. Level of concern about the current situation

As outlined in Figure 1, the vast majority of the respondents (86%) state that they are, at least to some extent, concerned about the current situation. Only 14% report that they are not very concerned or not concerned at all. Compared with findings from previous months, the overall level of concern has not changed greatly.

A deeper look into perceived levels of concern depending on to residency, factional trust and, age is portrayed in table 1. Among Gaza residents, more Palestinians state to be extremely concerned than among West Bank residents (58% vs. 32%). Moreover, noticeably less Hamas supporters (37%) and respondents who are not affiliated to any party (39%) than supporters of other parties seem to worry about the overall situation in Palestine. Over age, the percentage of the extremely concerned increases from an initial 35% among the youngest age group up to 53% among the eldest age group.

Figure 2: Level of concern about the current situation, Feb 08 till May 09

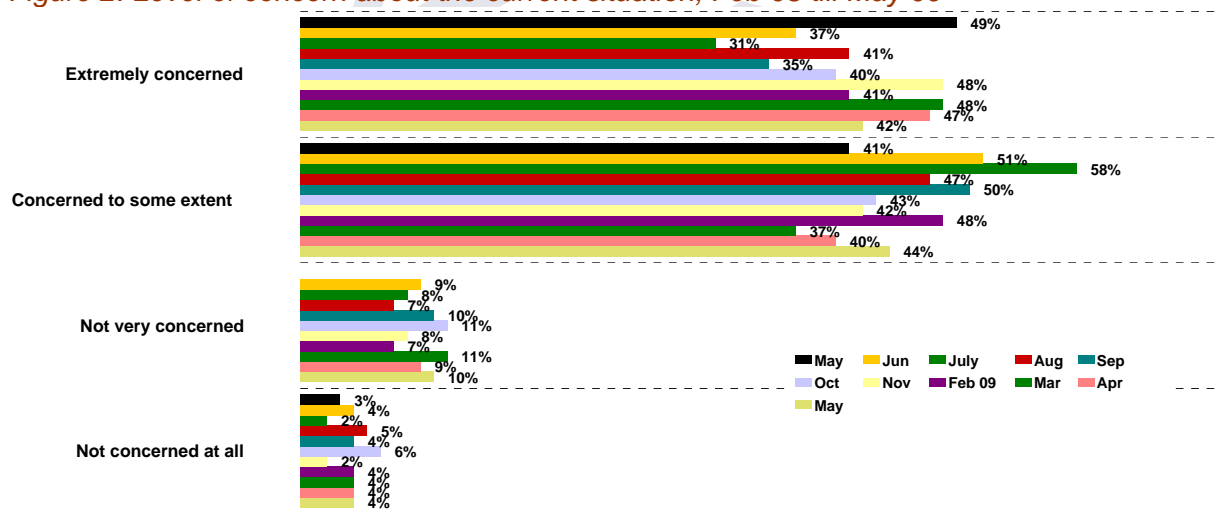


Table 1: Level of concern about the current situation

	Region of residence		Factional trust				Age category				
	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Fateh	Hamas	Others	None	18-24 yrs.	25-34 yrs.	35-44 yrs.	45-54 yrs.	Over 55.
Extremely concerned	32%	58%	48%	37%	58%	39%	35%	43%	41%	44%	53%
Concerned to some extent	51%	32%	40%	36%	25%	47%	41%	45%	48%	47%	38%
Not very concerned	12%	7%	10%	22%	6%	9%	15%	10%	9%	6%	7%
Not concerned at all	5%	3%	3%	6%	10%	4%	9%	2%	2%	4%	2%



**B. Main issue for concern**

The by far most urging issues are still the economic hardship and the internal power struggle which hold for 32% and 24% of the respondents' agreement respectively (see Figure 3 below). Absence of security and the occupation by Israel are further reasons for concern that, taken together, are reported by almost a third of the surveyed Palestinians.

A further investigation of how issues for concern disperse across residence, faction and age is outlined in Table 2. It shows that, within the Gaza Strip, the main issue for concern is the internal power struggle which is reported by 37% of all interviewees, whereas with 36%, the main issue for concern for surveyed West Bank residents remains the economic hardship. With respect to factional trust, table 2 depicts that, with two exceptions, a higher percentage of Fateh supporters state that the issues assessed present an issue for concern than Hamas supporters. More Hamas supporters than Fateh supporters state to be concerned only about the occupation by Israel and family problems,. The economic hardship is also the top main issue for concern among all age group with the elder ones depicting the highest percentage of agreement (38%). The percentage of respondents with no concerns decreases over age.

Figure 3: Main issue that makes you feel concerned, comparison between Jan 08 till May 09

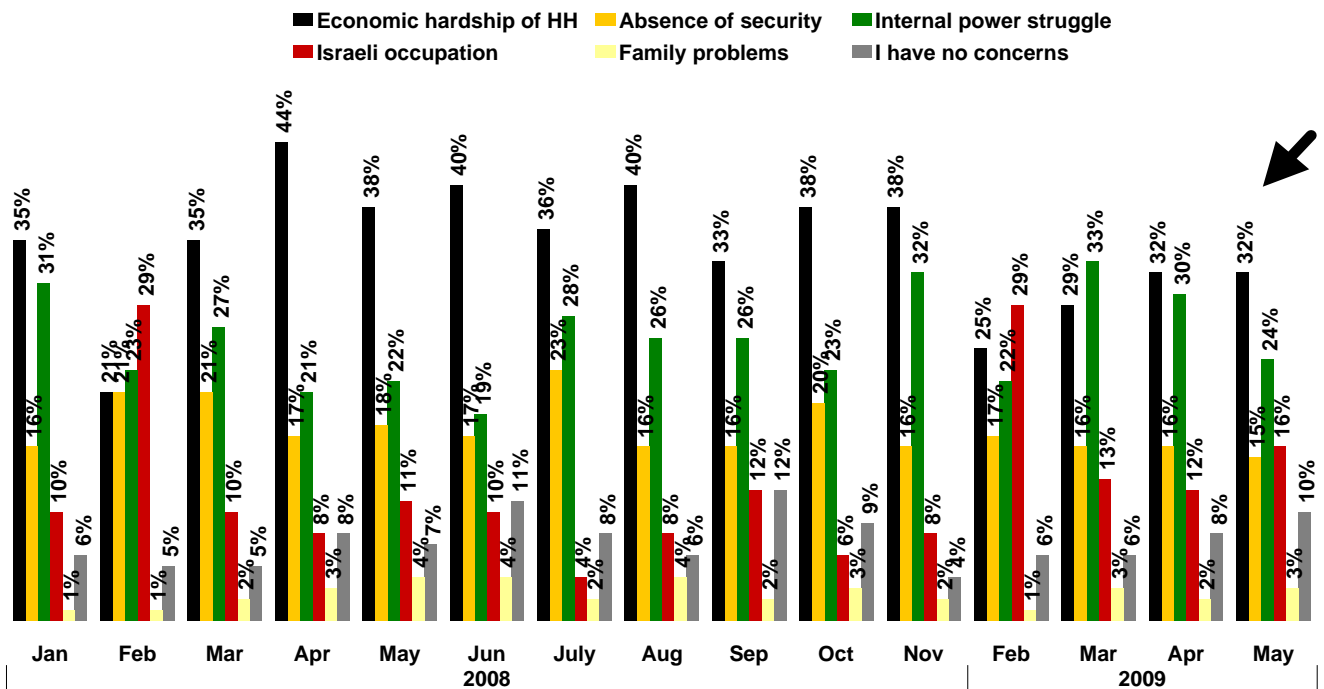




Table 2: Main issue that makes you feel concerned

	Region of residence		Factional trust				Age category				
	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Fateh	Hamas	Others	None	18-24 yrs.	25-34 yrs.	35-44 yrs.	45-54 yrs.	Over 55.
The economic hardship of my HH	36%	23%	32%	27%	25%	32%	24%	32%	37%	32%	38%
The absence of security	13%	16%	16%	9%	23%	13%	14%	15%	15%	17%	11%
Internal power struggle	17%	37%	27%	23%	29%	22%	24%	25%	22%	23%	28%
Israeli occupation	16%	16%	14%	15%	0%	19%	18%	17%	14%	17%	11%
Family problems	4%	2%	2%	5%	6%	4%	3%	3%	3%	4%	6%
I have no concerns	13%	5%	9%	22%	17%	10%	17%	8%	9%	7%	6%

C. Feeling of security

When asked whether they feel secure, figure 4 illustrates that 59% of the total state that they do not feel secure. Since February, the percentage of respondents that by then had not felt secure has declined from 71% after the war in Gaza to 53% in April, this suggesting the first rise in insecurity feelings since February. With respect to the respondents' residence, the data show that living in Gaza goes with a higher percentage of Palestinians who do not feel secure (62%) than in the West Bank (57%). A considerable majority of Fateh supporters report feeling insecure (68%) over feeling secure (32%) whereas among Hamas supporters we find more Hamas supporters who feel secure (60%) than insecure (40%). For the different age groups, both security feelings and insecurity feelings vary with no clear pattern around 42% and 59% respectively.

Figure 4: Feeling of security with respect to your family and property, May 07-May 09

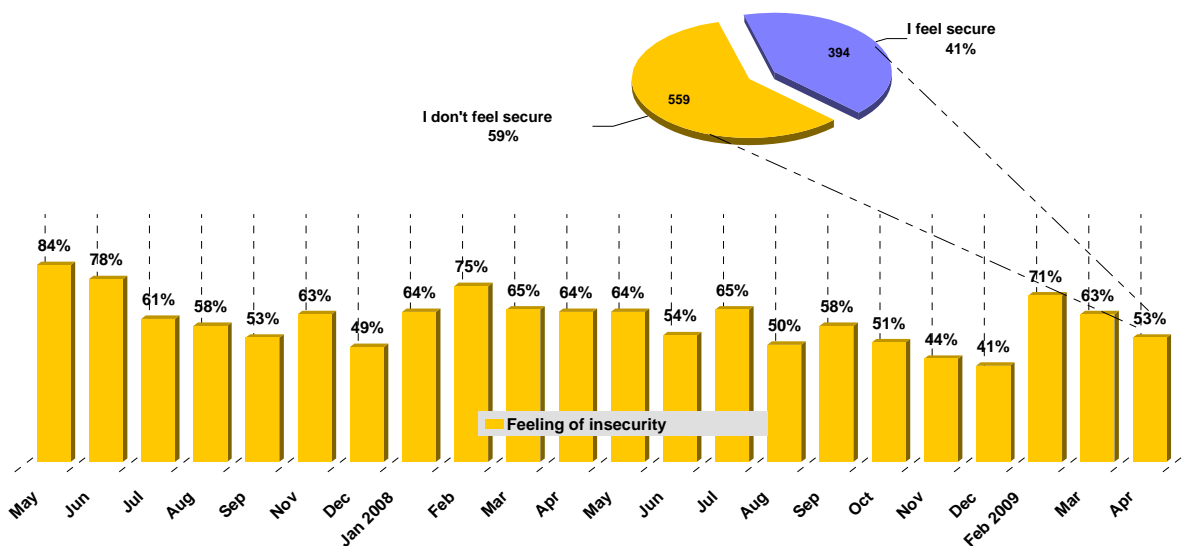




Table 3: Feeling of security with respect to yourself family and property

	Region of residence		Factional trust				Age category				
	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Fateh	Hamas	Others	None	18-24 yrs.	25-34 yrs.	35-44 yrs.	45-54 yrs.	Over 55.
I feel secure	43%	38%	32%	60%	35%	42%	43%	38%	41%	40%	45%
I do not feel secure	57%	62%	68%	40%	65%	58%	57%	62%	59%	60%	55%

#### IV. Political attitudes

##### A. Towards leadership

##### 1. Trust in Abu Mazen and Ismael Hanieh

As outlined in Figure 5, trust in Abu Mazen and Ismael Hanieh did almost not change vis-à-vis April. Three quarters of the Palestinians **who gave a preference** still trust in Abu Mazen whereas the remaining quarter trusts in Ismael Hanieh. Interestingly, this pattern is also valid when looking at the answers depending on residency, as shown in Table 4 below: Both in the West Bank and in Gaza, almost three quarters of the Palestinians trust in Abu Mazen. Consistent with their party affiliation, almost all surveyed Hamas supporters trust in Ismael Hanieh and almost all surveyed Fateh supporters trust in Abu Mazen. Abu Mazen is also trusted by the majorities of respondents with affiliation to another (77%) or no party (72%) and by elder respondents (80%). Again, about half the Palestinians do not have faith in either leader despite the fact that President Abbas enjoys more support.

Figure 5: Trust in Abu Mazen vs. trust in Ismael Hanieh

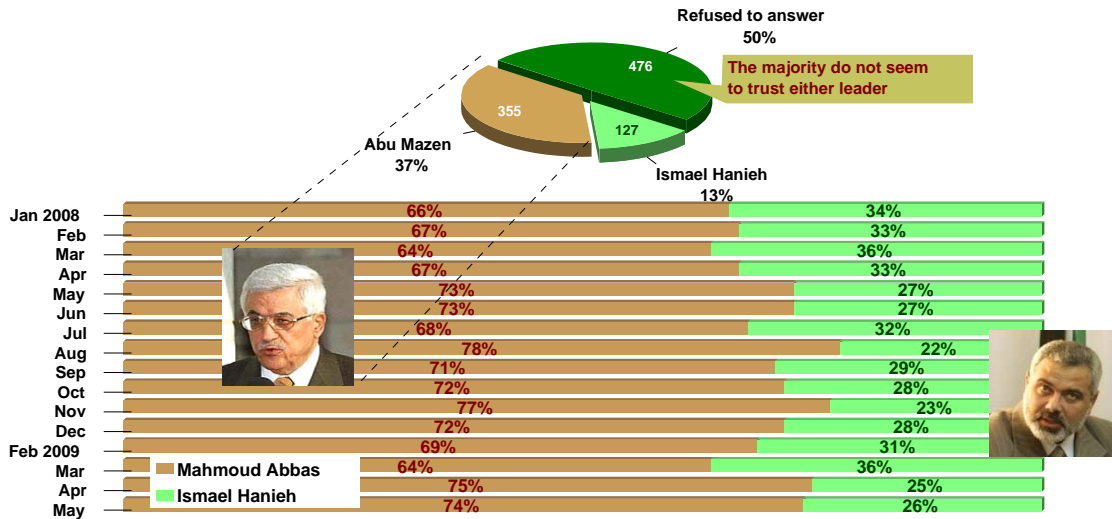


Table 4: Trust in Abu Mazen vs. trust in Ismael Hanieh according to region of residence, faction, and age

	Region of residence		Factional trust				Age category				
	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Fateh	Hamas	Others	None	18-24 yrs.	25-34 yrs.	35-44 yrs.	45-54 yrs.	Over 55.
Abu Mazen	74%	73%	98%	5%	77%	72%	66%	76%	73%	80%	80%
Ismael Hanieh	26%	27%	2%	95%	23%	28%	34%	24%	27%	20%	20%
Neither	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

## 2. Level of trust in Salam Fayyad

Despite the ongoing political chaos and challenges for the Palestinian Authority, surveyed Palestinians still trust in Salam Fayyad. As figure 6 illustrates, three quarters express an average or high level of trust in him and only one quarter expresses low trust. Apart from a variation depending on factional trust in that Fayyad is more trusted by Fateh than Hamas supporters, this result remains stable if dividing the answers into subgroups according to residency and different age groups (see Table 5 below).

Figure 6: Level of trust in Salam Fayyad

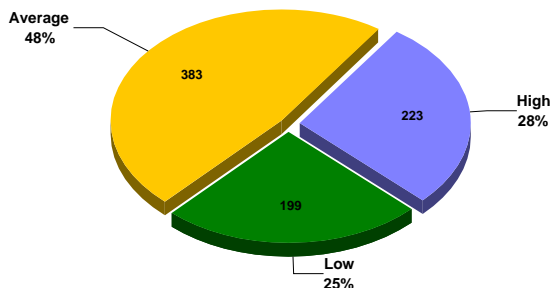


Table 5: Level of trust in Salam Fayyad

	Region of residence		Factional trust				Age category				
	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Fateh	Hamas	Others	None	18-24 yrs.	25-34 yrs.	35-44 yrs.	45-54 yrs.	Over 55.
<b>High</b>	23%	35%	50%	1%	12%	20%	19%	30%	28%	35%	32%
<b>Average</b>	53%	39%	42%	20%	69%	55%	45%	53%	47%	46%	47%
<b>Low</b>	24%	26%	8%	79%	19%	25%	35%	18%	25%	19%	21%

**B. Support for Fayyad's government**

Asking whether Palestinians support or oppose the Fayyad government, Figure 7 illustrates that 65% of the respondents still support the Fayyad government. Looking closer into the answers depending on residency in Table 6, it turns out that both, in Gaza and in the West Bank more than half of the interviewees support the Fayyad government. Support increases among Fateh supporters up to 79% whereas with 91%, the vast majority of Hamas supporters oppose it. Palestinians with no party affiliation are half in favor, half in opposition to it.

Figure 7: Support or opposition to the new Fayyad government

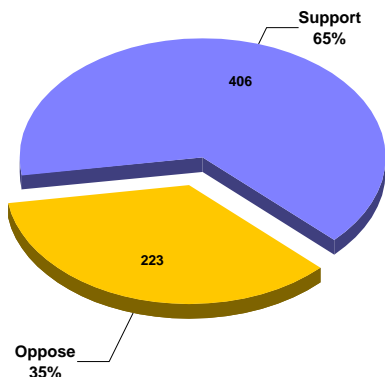


Table 6: Support or opposition to the new Fayyad government according to region of residence, faction, and age

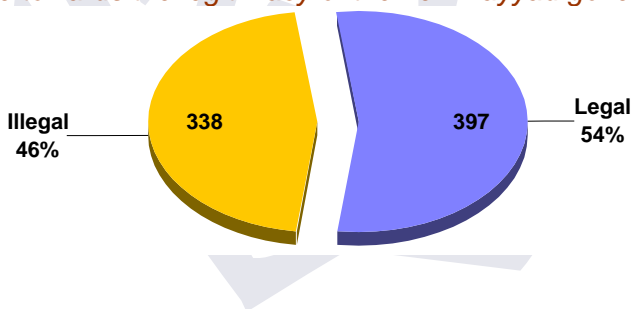


	Region of residence		Factional trust				Age category				
	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Fateh	Hamas	Others	None	18-24 yrs.	25-34 yrs.	35-44 yrs.	45-54 yrs.	Over 55.
<b>Support</b>	57%	55%	79%	9%	71%	49%	44%	61%	58%	64%	53%
<b>Oppose</b>	43%	45%	21%	91%	29%	51%	56%	39%	42%	36%	47%

**1. Perception of legitimacy of Fayyad’s government**

On the background of the contradictions between the Basic Law and the electoral law regarding the length of Palestinian election periods, respondents were asked whether they perceive the Fayyad government as legal or not. As illustrated in Figure 8, attitudes towards legitimacy or illegitimacy are distributed almost evenly among the respondents with 54% adjudging legitimacy to the government and 46% expressing their belief that the government may be illegal. Interestingly, although a similar pattern occurred when splitting the sample into West Bank residents and Gaza residents, with 58%, considerably more Gaza residents adjudged legitimacy to the government than West Bank residents among which only 52% adjudged legitimacy to the government. With regard to party affiliation, 81% of Fateh supporters assess the government to be legal whereas 89% of Hamas supporters state that it may be illegal. Looking at respondents’ attitudes depending on their age, no clear trend can be stated.

*Figure 8: Attitude towards the legitimacy of the new Fayyad government*



*Table 7: Attitude towards the legitimacy of the new Fayyad government according to region of residence, faction, and age*

	Region of residence		Factional trust				Age category				
	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Fateh	Hamas	Others	None	18-24 yrs.	25-34 yrs.	35-44 yrs.	45-54 yrs.	Over 55.
<b>Legitimate</b>	52%	58%	81%	11%	48%	43%	49%	59%	53%	61%	44%
<b>Illegitimate</b>	48%	42%	19%	89%	52%	57%	51%	41%	47%	39%	56%



**2. Perceptions about the question which is the legitimate government**

Twisting the question a little into what the respondents believe is the legitimate government unveils additional information about current views in Palestine. They are illustrated in Figure 9. Whereas the Fyyad government receives support by almost half of the surveyed Palestinians, the Hanieh government is supported by 22% of the respondents. Interestingly however, almost a third of the respondents state that none of the two governments is legitimate. Table 8 shows the answers of Palestinians according to their residency, factional trust and age group. Support for the Fyyad government in Gaza is a little higher (51%) than in the West Bank (46%). Support for the two governments varies strongly with party affiliation in that Hamas supporters mainly support the Hanieh government (90%) and Fateh supporters mainly support Fyyad (80%). The belief that no government is the legitimate one is strongest among those without or another party affiliation (49% and 42% respectively).

Figure 9: Which is the legitimate government?

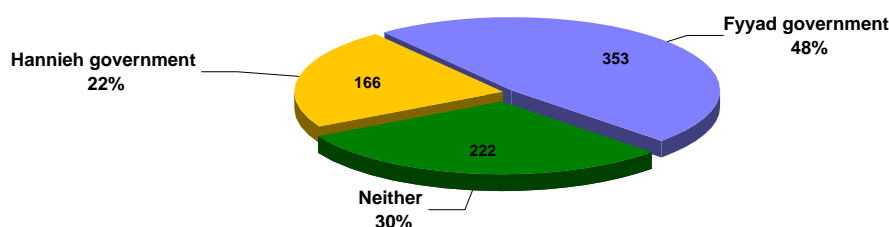


Table 8: Which is the legitimate government? according to region of residence, faction, and age

	Region of residence		Factional trust				Age category				
	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Fateh	Hannas	Others	None	18-24 yrs.	25-34 yrs.	35-44 yrs.	45-54 yrs.	Over 55.
<b>Fyyad government</b>	46%	51%	80%	3%	31%	33%	44%	50%	47%	55%	38%
<b>Hannieh government</b>	22%	22%	7%	90%	27%	19%	31%	20%	21%	16%	23%
<b>Neither</b>	32%	27%	13%	7%	42%	49%	25%	30%	32%	30%	38%

**3. Priorities of the new government**

Clearly, the two most important issues for the new government according the respondents' views is to end the current chaos in Palestine, reflected by 40% of all interviewed Palestinians, and economic development which reflects the opinion of 24% the respondents. As table 9 indicates, the general frequencies indicated in Figure 10 disperse little when taking residency, factional trust and age additionally in consideration.





Figure 10: The priorities of the new government

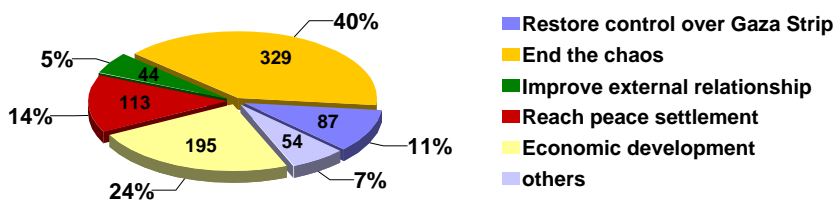


Table 9: The priorities of the new government according to region of residence, faction, and age

	Region of residence		Factional trust				Age category				
	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Fateh	Hamas	Others	None	18-24 yrs.	25-34 yrs.	35-44 yrs.	45-54 yrs.	Over 55.
Restore control over Gaza Strip	7%	15%	14%	18%	4%	8%	10%	10%	13%	8%	9%
End chaos and lack of security	44%	34%	38%	42%	40%	38%	44%	39%	38%	42%	41%
Improve external relations	4%	7%	4%	8%	10%	4%	4%	8%	4%	4%	4%
Reach a peace settlement with Israel	15%	11%	18%	8%	0%	14%	16%	12%	9%	16%	18%
Economic improvement	25%	22%	23%	7%	25%	29%	19%	24%	29%	26%	19%
others	4%	11%	3%	17%	21%	7%	7%	7%	6%	4%	9%

C. Level of support for the boycott of Fateh in the new government

Palestinians strongly oppose the idea of Fateh to boycott the new government (75%) although there is also a considerable amount of 25% which supports it (see figure 11 below). If taking residency, factional trust and age into consideration, the strongest variation appears in Hamas supporters among which only 53% oppose the idea of Fateh to boycott and in the eldest age group among which a considerable 83% oppose the idea.

Figure 11: Level of support for the boycott of Fateh in the new government

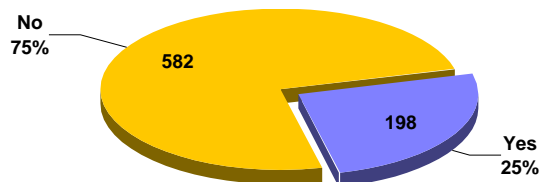




Table 10: Level of support for the boycott of Fateh in the new government

	Region of residence		Factional trust				Age category				
	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Fateh	Hamas	Others	None	18-24 yrs.	25-34 yrs.	35-44 yrs.	45-54 yrs.	Over 55.
<b>Support</b>	26%	25%	21%	47%	25%	26%	29%	23%	26%	26%	17%
<b>Oppose</b>	74%	75%	79%	53%	75%	74%	71%	77%	74%	74%	83%

D. Attitudes about the best strategy for Palestine

Attitudes about the strategy that works for the Palestinian national interests remained fairly stable over the last couple of months. As in April, three quarters of the Palestinians who answered the question believe that the Fateh strategy will work best in order to realize Palestinian national aspirations whereas the remaining quarter think that the Hamas strategy will work best. Factional trust emphasizes this finding consistently in that almost all Hamas supporters favor the Hamas strategy whereas almost all Fateh supporters favor the Fateh strategy. Residency and age do not change this pattern. All frequencies are depicted in Figure 12 and Table 11 below.

Still 43% said that neither strategy is good or that they refrained from answering the question

Figure 12: The best strategy that works for the Palestinian national interest

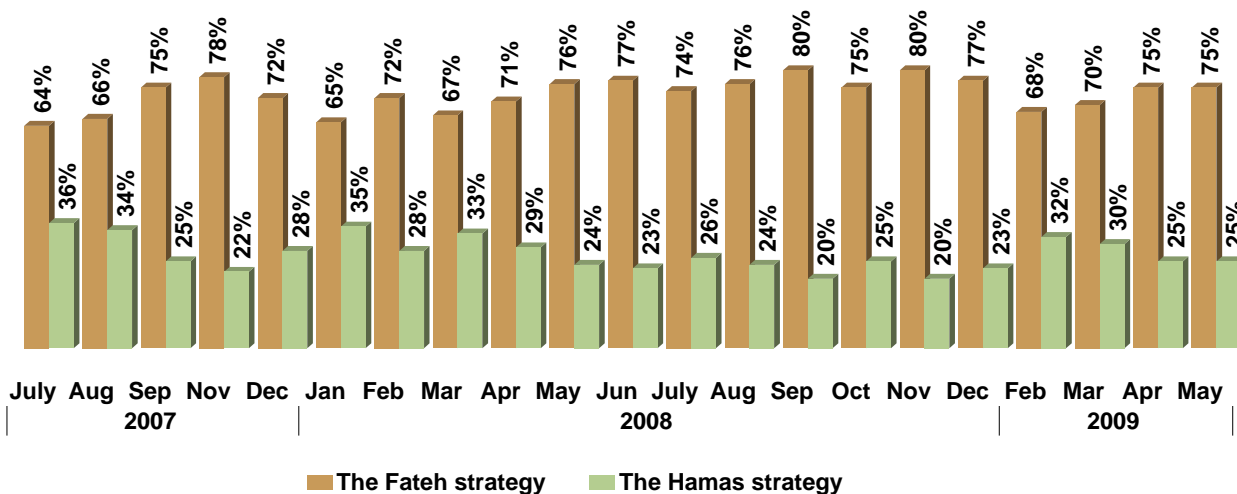




Table 11: The best strategy that works for the Palestinian national interest

	Region of residence		Factional trust				Age category				
	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Fateh	Hamas	Others	None	18-24 yrs.	25-34 yrs.	35-44 yrs.	45-54 yrs.	Over 55.
The strategy of Fateh	75%	75%	97%	7%	86%	69%	70%	77%	71%	85%	73%
The strategy of Hamas	25%	25%	3%	93%	14%	31%	30%	23%	29%	15%	27%

E. Expectations about reconciliation

Expectations about the dominating theme in Palestinian politics, the national reconciliation between Fateh and Hamas, are only moderately encouraging. Frequencies of the answers are pictured in figure 13 and table 12. 53% of the respondents agree that the ongoing dialogue about reconciliation between Fateh and Hamas is not successful whereas the remaining 47% believes that they will reconcile. This finding is independent from residency and is more emphasized with party affiliation; expectations that the dialogue will fail is expressed by 57% of Fateh supporters and even 62% Hamas supporters. Looking at different age categories, it seems that with growing age, optimism about a future reconciliation increases. Frequencies for positive expectations rise from 40% to 57% among the youngest and eldest age group respectively and, frequencies for negative expectations decline from an initial 60% to 43%.

Figure 13: Expectations about the success of dialogue between Fateh and Hamas

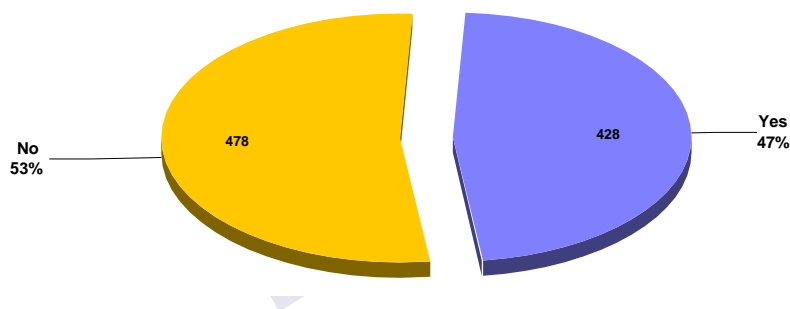


Table 12: Expectations about the success of dialogue between Fateh and Hamas according to region of residence, faction, and age

	Region of residence		Factional trust				Age category				
	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Fateh	Hamas	Others	None	18-24 yrs.	25-34 yrs.	35-44 yrs.	45-54 yrs.	Over 55.
Yes	48%	46%	43%	38%	35%	49%	40%	45%	46%	55%	57%
No	52%	54%	57%	62%	65%	51%	60%	55%	54%	45%	43%

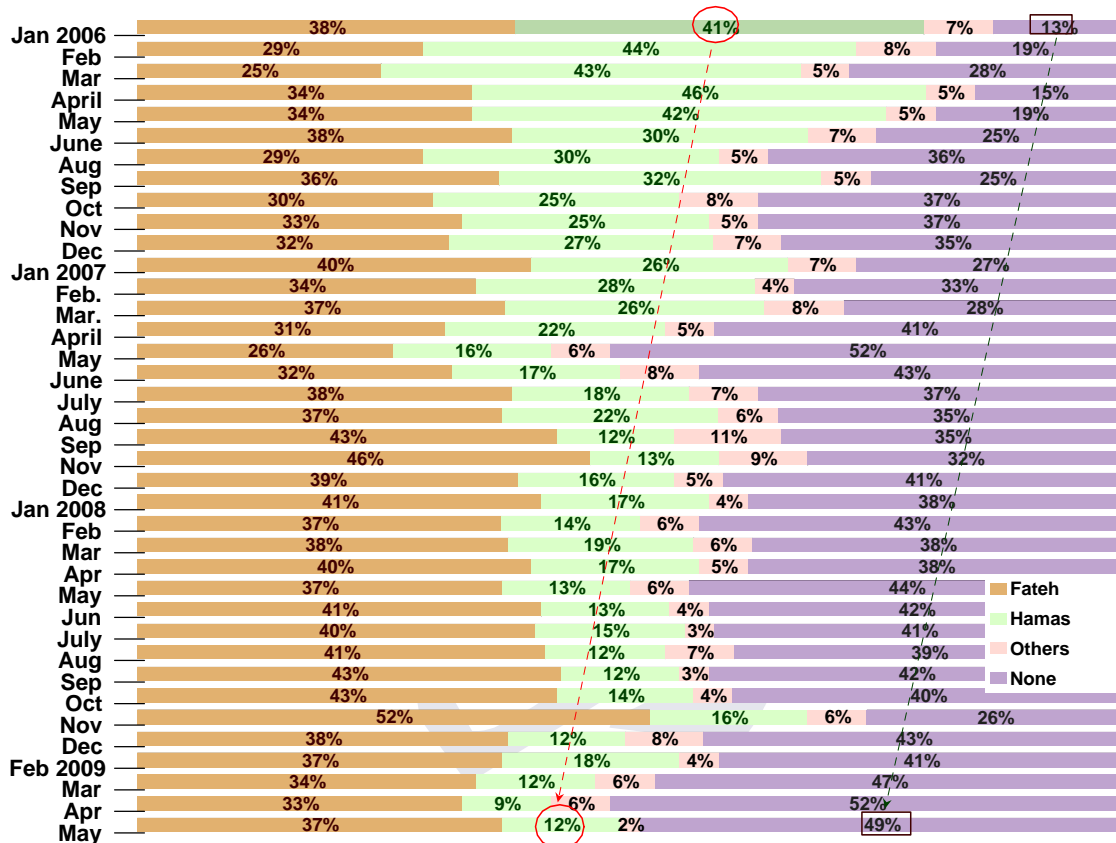


**F. Factional support**

Support for both Fateh and Hamas increased by the end of May respectively by 4% and 3%. Still the majority of Palestinians do not trust any of the existing Palestinian parties and factions, as noted in figure 14, below. Distrust in any of the factions is higher in the West Bank and among the respondents that are older. These results are detailed in table 13, below.

**While support for Fateh remained rather steady since the elections of 2006, Hamas has been losing ground ever since.**

*Figure 14: Factional support: Jan 2006 till May 2009*



**Table 13: Factional trust according to region of residence and age**

	Region of residence		Age category				
	West Bank	Gaza Strip	18-24 yrs. old	25-34 yrs. old	35-44 yrs. old	45-54 yrs. old	Over 55 yrs.
Fateh	35%	40%	40%	37%	36%	39%	30%
Hamas	11%	13%	18%	9%	15%	7%	5%
Others	2%	3%	3%	3%	1%	2%	2%
None	52%	44%	40%	52%	48%	51%	62%

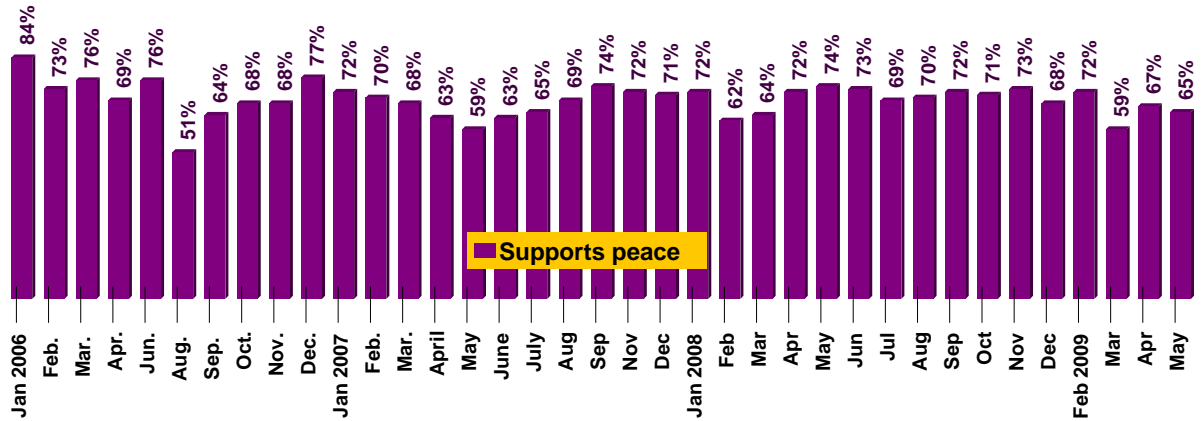


**G. Towards Israel and the peace process**

**1. Support for a peace agreement**

As portrayed in Figure 15, support for a peace agreement with Israel did not change much over the last months. A majority of 66% supports a peace agreement. Table 14 shows that support varies with factional trust and age. Whereas a strong majority of Fateh supporters endorses a peace agreement, not surprisingly, 71% of Hamas supporters oppose it. Age seems to soften attitudes with respect to peace with Israel; with an amount of 49% among the youngest age group expressing support for an agreement, support rises up to 71% among the eldest group.

*Figure 15: Support or opposition to a peace settlement with Israel*



*Table 14: Support or opposition to a peace settlement with Israel*

	Region of residence		Factional trust				Age category				
	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Fateh	Hamas	Others	None	18-24 yrs.	25-34 yrs.	35-44 yrs.	45-54 yrs.	Over 55.
<b>Support</b>	63%	67%	82%	29%	31%	60%	49%	63%	73%	71%	75%
<b>Oppose</b>	37%	33%	18%	71%	69%	40%	51%	37%	27%	29%	25%

**2. Perceptions about Hamas's position towards the elimination of Israel**

Apart from attitudes about the peace agreement, Palestinians were also asked about Hamas's position towards the elimination of Israel. The respective results are presented in figure 16 and table 15 below. With a few exceptions, Palestinian attitudes regarding this issue did not change considerably over time. Still, two thirds of all respondents think that Hamas should change its position regarding



Israel. The remaining third believes that Hamas should maintain its position. A similar trend as for former question applies when looking how attitudes disperse in the two residencies, party affiliation and different age groups. Whereas Hamas supporters predominantly want to maintain Hamas's position, Fateh supporters think Hamas should change its position. Over age, a growing majority believes that Hamas should change its position.

Figure 16: Perceptions about Hamas's position towards the elimination of Israel

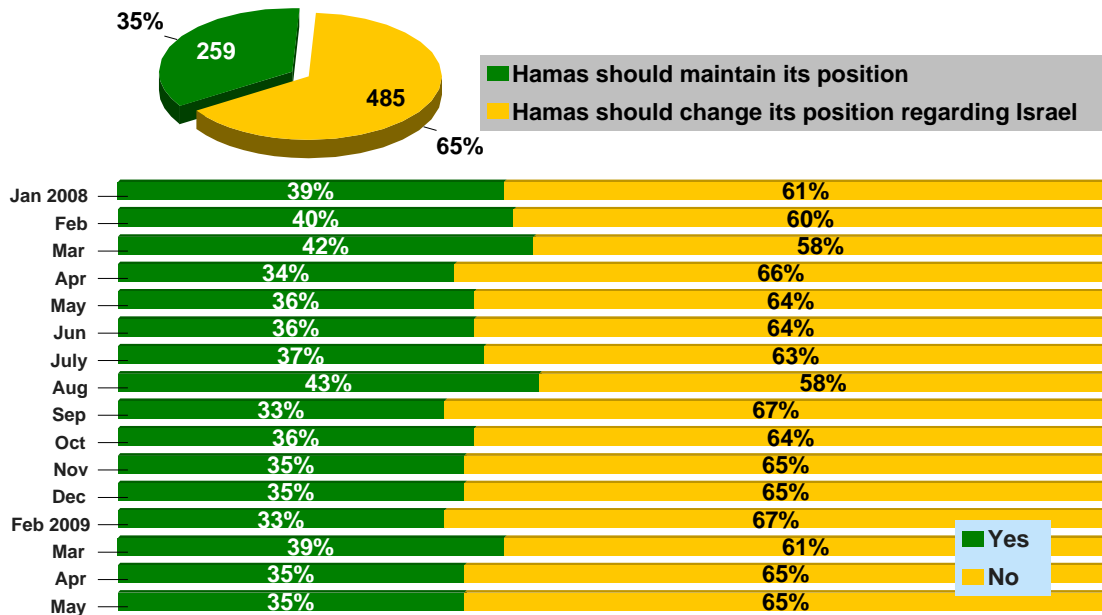


Table 15: Perceptions about Hamas's position towards the elimination of Israel

	Region of residence		Factional trust				Age category				
	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Fateh	Hamas	Others	None	18-24 yrs.	25-34 yrs.	35-44 yrs.	45-54 yrs.	Over 55.
Hamas should maintain its position	36%	34%	20%	79%	48%	38%	49%	34%	29%	29%	27%
Hamas should change its position	64%	66%	80%	21%	52%	62%	51%	66%	71%	71%	73%

### 3. Final status issue to be resolved first

An overwhelming majority of interviewees (39%) believe that the Jerusalem issue should be solved before all other final status issues. Figure 15 also depicts that the most often mentioned issues after Jerusalem are refugees (29%) and settlements (19%). As can be seen in Table 15, frequencies vary only slightly for respondents in the West Bank and those living in Gaza, and for those of different party affiliation and age.



Figure 17: The final status issue that should be resolved first

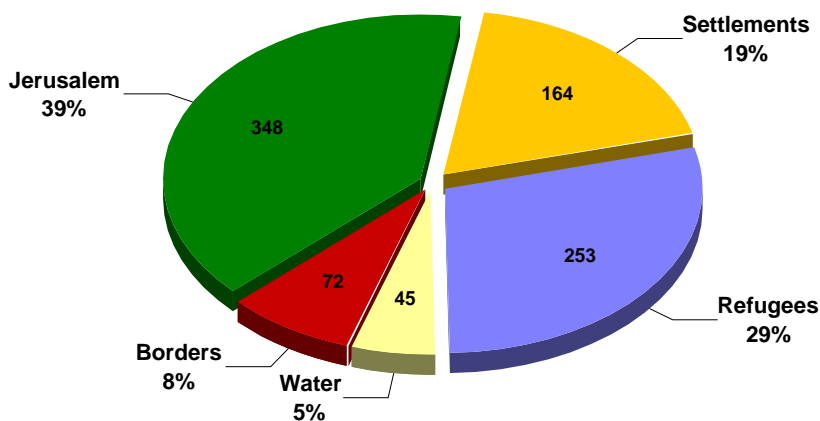


Table 16: The final status issue that should be resolved first

	Region of residence		Factional trust				Age category				
	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Fateh	Hamas	Others	None	18-24 yrs.	25-34 yrs.	35-44 yrs.	45-54 yrs.	Over 55.
Refugees	27%	32%	30%	38%	22%	28%	33%	24%	26%	33%	30%
Settlements	21%	15%	18%	19%	17%	19%	14%	21%	19%	18%	24%
Jerusalem	38%	41%	40%	38%	44%	36%	40%	37%	43%	37%	36%
Borders	8%	9%	7%	4%	13%	11%	8%	12%	8%	5%	6%
Water	6%	3%	5%	1%	4%	6%	5%	6%	5%	6%	4%

H. Level of support for a two state solution

Similar to Palestinian attitudes towards a peace agreement with Israel, Figure 18 unveils that a two third majority is in favor for a two state solution with the remaining third opposing it. Answer patterns according to residency, party affiliation and age show the already observed trend: Residency in the West Bank or in Gaza does not affect the answers strongly although more Gaza residents favor a two state solution than West Bank residents (68% vs. 63%). Whereas Fateh supporters predominantly support a two state solution (81%), only 37% among the Hamas supporters endorse a two state solution. Support for a two state solution among different age groups rises from an initial 44% among the youngest age group up to 81% among the eldest group.



Figure 18: Level of support for a two state solution

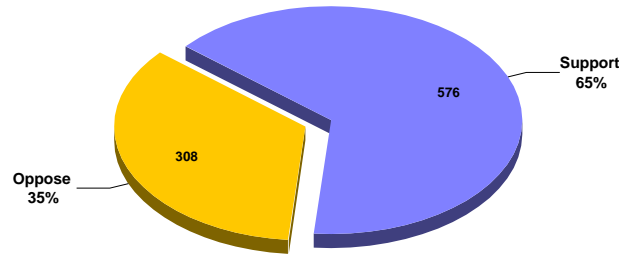


Table 17: Level of support for a two state solution

	Region of residence		Factional trust				Age category				
	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Fateh	Hamas	Others	None	18-24 yrs.	25-34 yrs.	35-44 yrs.	45-54 yrs.	Over 55.
<b>Support</b>	63%	68%	81%	37%	54%	62%	44%	61%	74%	80%	81%
<b>Oppose</b>	37%	32%	19%	63%	46%	38%	56%	39%	26%	20%	19%

1. **Level of support for a one state solution**

Interviewees also stated their views about a one state solution which are portrayed in Figure 19. With a little less support than for a two state solution, still 55% of the respondents support a one state solution. Level of support does not change considerably among respondents with different party affiliations as is shown in Table 18. With respect to residency, a higher percentage of West Bank residents are in favor of a one state solution than among Gaza residents (58% vs. 50%). With growing age, an increasing number of respondents want a one state solution, rising from 47% among the youngest group up to 65% among the eldest group, this suggesting that elder people just want an end to the conflict, no matter what conditions it would endorse.

Figure 19: Level of support for a one state solution

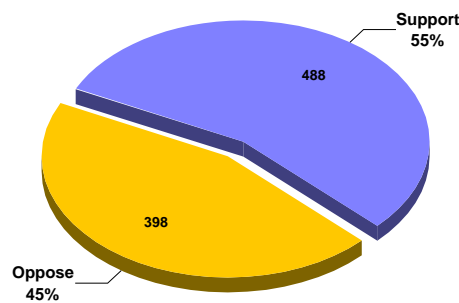






Table 18: Level of support for a one state solution

	Region of residence		Factional trust				Age category				
	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Fateh	Hamas	Others	None	18-24 yrs.	25-34 yrs.	35-44 yrs.	45-54 yrs.	Over 55.
<b>Support</b>	58%	50%	55%	52%	52%	54%	47%	50%	54%	68%	65%
<b>Oppose</b>	42%	50%	45%	48%	48%	46%	53%	50%	46%	32%	35%

*I. Perceptions about when a Palestinian state will be established*

Despite the strong support for a solution, be it one state or two state, to the conflict, almost half of the respondents believe that the conflict will go on. Only 14% think that a Palestinian state will be established within the next one to five years (see Figure 20 below). Noteworthy about the geographic, factional and age wise dispersion, as depicted in Table 19, is that less Hamas supporters and supporters of other parties believe in the establishment of a state within the next years. Moreover, it seems that with growing age the conviction increases that the conflict will go on despite the growing wish for a solution.

Figure 20: Perceptions about when a Palestinian state will be established

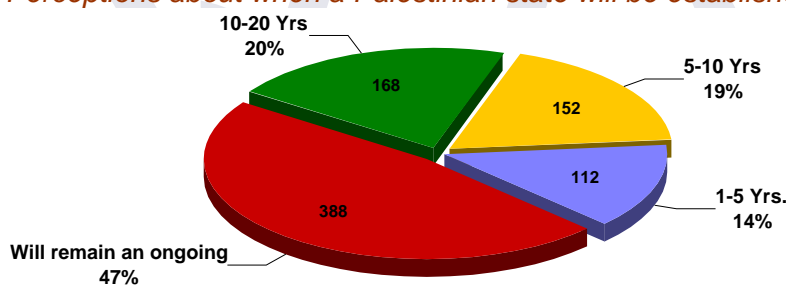


Table 19: Perceptions about when a Palestinian state will be established

	Region of residence		Factional trust				Age category				
	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Fateh	Hamas	Others	None	18-24 yrs.	25-34 yrs.	35-44 yrs.	45-54 yrs.	Over 55.
<b>Within 1 to 5 years</b>	12%	16%	17%	9%	8%	14%	12%	16%	11%	19%	13%
<b>Within 5 to 10 years</b>	17%	22%	21%	20%	35%	15%	19%	16%	24%	15%	16%
<b>Within 10 to 20 years</b>	20%	21%	21%	24%	31%	16%	25%	25%	16%	18%	12%
<b>A Palestinian state will not be established</b>	51%	42%	42%	47%	25%	55%	44%	43%	49%	49%	60%



## V. Attitudes about the Palestinian media

### A. Source of information

When asked about the main source of information, an overwhelming majority of 67% indicates television, international and local channels. Another 18% say that internet is their source of information. Only very few respondents use other source of information such as newspapers, radio or friends. Table 19 demonstrates the answers according to residency, factional trust and age. Interestingly, among respondents that are affiliated to Hamas are a higher percentage that watches TV and a lower percentage that uses the internet compared with Fateh supporters (69% vs. 61% and 13% vs. 27%). More Gaza residents than West Bank residents use the internet (23% vs. 15%). Not surprisingly, elder respondents increasingly watch TV to obtain information and use the internet to a lesser extent.

Figure 21: Source of information

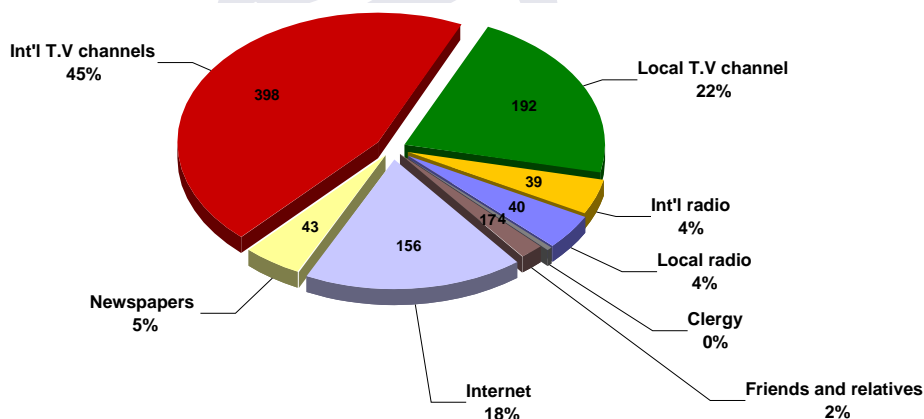


Table 20: Main source of information

	Region of residence			Factional trust				Age category				
	West Bank	Gaza Strip		Fateh	Hamas	Others	None	18-24 yrs.	25-34 yrs.	35-44 yrs.	45-54 yrs.	Over 55.
Local radio	5%	4%		4%	3%	0%	6%	5%	5%	6%	3%	3%
Non local radio	4%	4%		2%	3%	13%	6%	4%	3%	5%	4%	6%
Local TV	19%	27%		24%	22%	15%	21%	21%	22%	20%	27%	18%
Non local TV	49%	36%		37%	47%	38%	48%	35%	42%	49%	45%	63%
Newspapers	6%	2%		4%	8%	8%	5%	5%	4%	6%	6%	2%
Internet	15%	23%		27%	13%	23%	12%	28%	23%	12%	11%	6%
Friends and relatives	1%	3%		2%	2%	4%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%
Religious leaders	0%	1%		0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%	0%



**B. The traditional media**

**1. The most trusted newspaper**

Among those respondents who read newspapers, Al Quds newspaper is the most trusted one (41%). However, a large majority of 44% state that they do not read newspaper at all. As illustrated in table 21, overall this result is also valid for different residencies with one exception in that Hamas supporters trust more in Al-Resala and to a lesser extent in Al Quds newspaper.

Figure 22: Most trusted newspaper

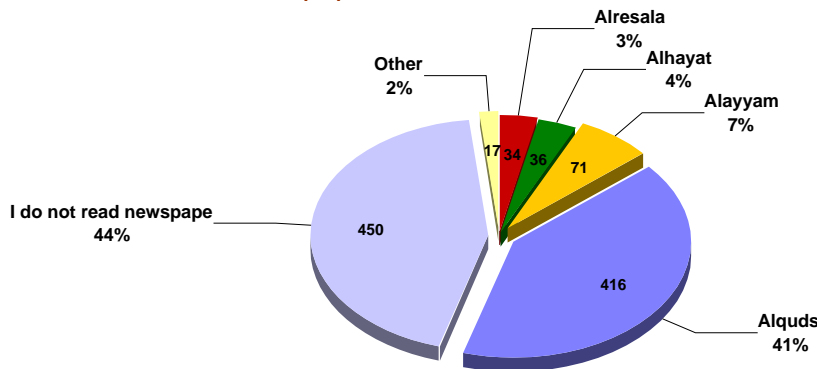


Table 21: Most trusted newspaper

	Region of residence		Factional trust				Age category				
	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Fateh	Hamas	Others	None	18-24 yrs.	25-34 yrs.	35-44 yrs.	45-54 yrs.	Over 55.
Al-Quds	80%	56%	73%	53%	76%	78%	67%	75%	73%	75%	76%
Al-Ayyam	11%	16%	18%	6%	15%	8%	16%	14%	8%	11%	11%
Al-Hayyat	5%	9%	6%	4%	9%	8%	8%	7%	7%	4%	0%
Alresala	2%	16%	1%	35%	0%	3%	9%	2%	7%	7%	3%
Other	2%	5%	2%	2%	0%	3%	0%	2%	4%	3%	10%

**2. The most trusted TV channel**

When asked about the TV channel that they most trust in, the vast majority name Aljazeera (40%), followed by Al-Arabia (22%). Moreover, Aljazeera yields most trust by West Bank residents and Hamas supporters while Al-Arabia is most trusted in by Gaza residents. Figure 25 and table 25 demonstrate the results.

Although Al-Jazeera is the most trusted, in comparison with previous NEC polls, trust in Al-Arabia has significantly increased at the expense of Al-



Figure 23: TV most trusted

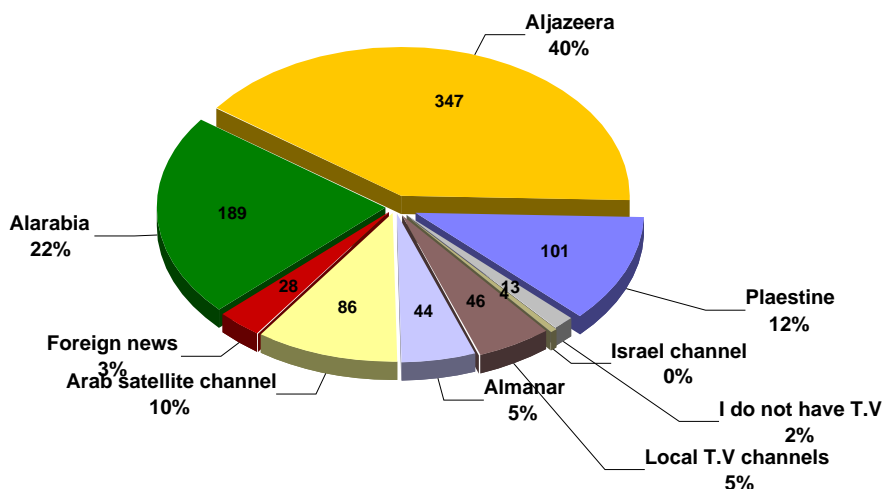


Table 22: TV most trusted according to region of residence, factional trust, and age

	Region of residence		Factional trust				Age category				
	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Fateh	Hamas	Others	None	18-24 yrs.	25-34 yrs.	35-44 yrs.	45-54 yrs.	Over 55.
Palestine TV	11%	14%	19%	6%	4%	8%	11%	7%	16%	14%	9%
Al-Jazeera	47%	28%	30%	51%	22%	41%	41%	40%	41%	39%	41%
Al-Arabia	16%	34%	29%	12%	19%	21%	18%	24%	21%	26%	21%
Foreign TV stations	2%	6%	4%	1%	7%	3%	4%	2%	3%	3%	4%
Arab TV stations	11%	8%	8%	5%	19%	14%	11%	13%	7%	7%	14%
Al-Manar	5%	4%	3%	11%	13%	5%	4%	6%	6%	6%	2%
Local TV stations	6%	5%	6%	13%	15%	4%	10%	6%	3%	3%	5%
Israel TV	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	1%	0%	3%
We do not have a TV	2%	1%	1%	1%	0%	2%	0%	2%	2%	2%	1%

a. Trust in Aljazeera vs. Al Quds newspaper

Comparing trust in Al Quds newspaper with trust in Aljazeera, Aljazeera yields more trust than Al Quds newspaper (60% vs. 40%). This result is even more pronounced among Hamas supporters out of which 82% have trust in the TV channel from Qatar with the remaining 18% trusting in Al Quds newspaper. Fatah supporters instead trust predominantly in Al Quds newspaper and to a lesser extent in Aljazeera (59% vs. 41%). Interestingly, over age trust in Aljazeera increases whereas trust in Al-Quds newspaper decreases. Results are visualized in figure 24 and table 23.



Figure 24: Most trusted: Al-Quds newspaper or Aljazeera TV

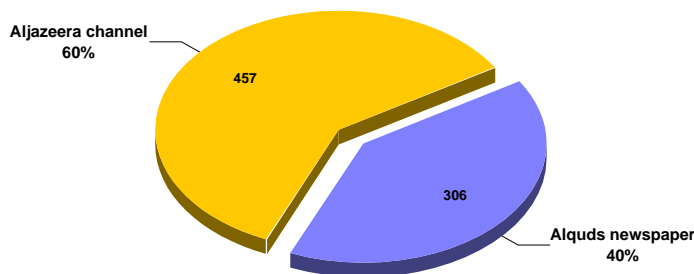


Table 23: Most trusted: Al-Quds newspaper or Aljazeera TV according to region of residence, factional trust, and age

	Region of residence		Factional trust				Age category				
	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Fateh	Hamas	Others	None	18-24 yrs.	25-34 yrs.	35-44 yrs.	45-54 yrs.	Over 55.
Al-Quds	39%	42%	59%	18%	45%	34%	42%	40%	38%	46%	33%
Aljazeera	61%	58%	41%	82%	55%	66%	58%	60%	62%	54%	67%

C. The internet

1. Internet usage

55% of the interviewees use the internet which is demonstrated in Figure 25. Internet usage is more emphasized in Gaza, among respondents with a party affiliation other than Fateh or Hamas and among younger Palestinians (see Table 24 below).

Figure 25: Internet usage

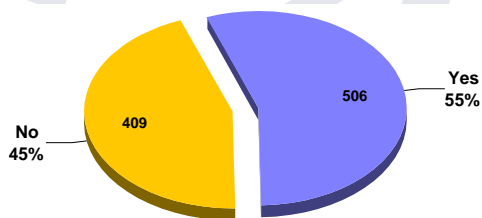


Table 24: Internet usage according to region of residence, factional trust, and age

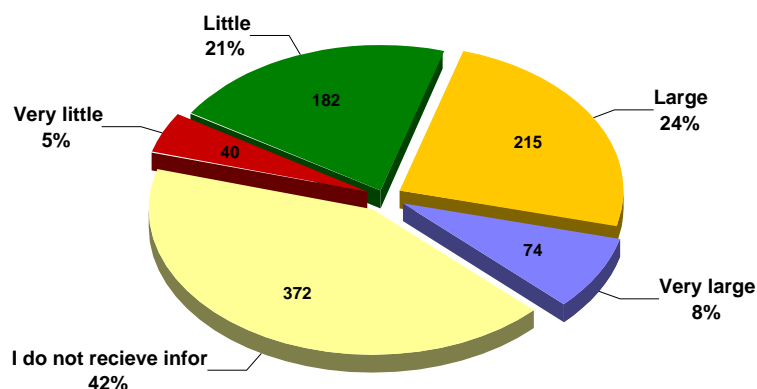
	Region of residence		Factional trust				Age category				
	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Fateh	Hamas	Others	None	18-24 yrs.	25-34 yrs.	35-44 yrs.	45-54 yrs.	Over 55.
Yes	51%	63%	64%	56%	73%	51%	78%	64%	49%	41%	25%
No	49%	37%	36%	44%	27%	49%	22%	36%	51%	59%	75%



**2. Volume of information from the internet**

Taking a closer look into how the internet is used by the respondents, it turns out that about a third uses it to receive large or very large amounts of information from the internet while two third of the respondents state that they obtain little or no information from the internet . These findings are overviewed in Figure 26 and table 25, below.

*Figure 26: Volume of information from the internet*



*Table 25: Volume of information from the internet according to region of residence, factional trust, and age*

	Region of residence		Factional trust				Age category				
	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Fateh	Hamas	Others	None	18-24 yrs.	25-34 yrs.	35-44 yrs.	45-54 yrs.	Over 55.
<b>Very extensive</b>	6%	11%	12%	8%	8%	7%	12%	11%	7%	3%	3%
<b>Extensive</b>	21%	25%	28%	29%	37%	19%	32%	30%	19%	18%	9%
<b>Limited</b>	19%	19%	20%	16%	21%	21%	28%	19%	20%	15%	9%
<b>Very limited</b>	5%	3%	4%	2%	13%	5%	7%	4%	3%	4%	2%
<b>Do not receive any</b>	45%	28%	31%	43%	21%	45%	18%	34%	45%	53%	70%
<b>Don't know</b>	5%	13%	5%	3%	0%	4%	4%	2%	6%	7%	7%

**3. Type of information received from the internet**

When asked about the type of information received from the internet, politics is the most frequently mentioned type (28%) followed by education (12%) and entertainment (11%). Figure 27 and table 26 show the results. However, 37% of the respondents state that they do not use the internet at all. Among those who use the internet, it is especially Gaza residents and respondents affiliated to a party who use it to obtain information about politics.



Figure 27: Type of information received from the internet

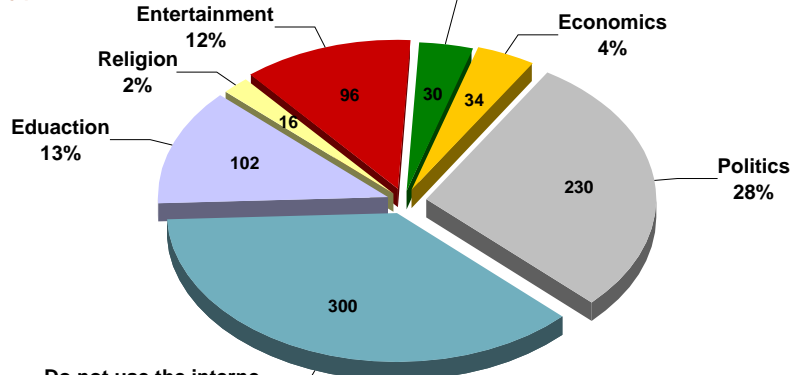


Table 26: Type of information received from the internet according to region of residence, factional trust, and age

	Region of residence		Factional trust				Age category				
	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Fateh	Hamas	Others	None	18-24 yrs.	25-34 yrs.	35-44 yrs.	45-54 yrs.	Over 55.
Political	38%	56%	53%	50%	50%	40%	32%	44%	64%	51%	57%
Economic	8%	4%	6%	2%	0%	8%	6%	4%	8%	12%	3%
Local/Social	6%	6%	5%	2%	18%	7%	7%	7%	3%	4%	17%
Entertainment	23%	13%	18%	16%	10%	21%	29%	21%	9%	8%	9%
Religious	4%	2%	2%	9%	0%	4%	4%	1%	5%	2%	5%
Educational	21%	18%	17%	21%	21%	20%	22%	23%	11%	23%	9%

D. SMS usage

The majority of the surveyed Palestinians do not to use text messages (87%). The lowest usage of text messages can be found among respondents who do not belong to any political party (90%) and elder ones (98%) whereas the highest usage of text messages is among Hamas supporters (25%). Results are demonstrated in figure 28 and table 29.

Figure 28: SMS usage

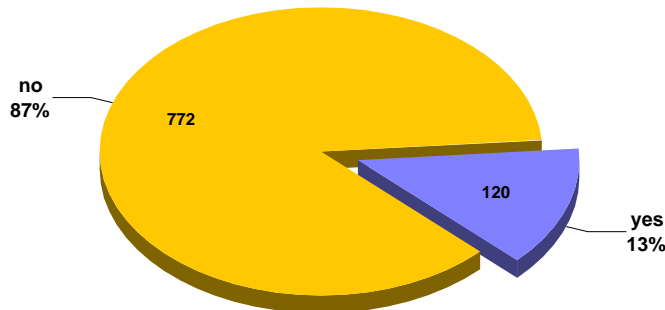




Table 28: SMS usage according to region of residence, factional trust, and age

	Region of residence		Factional trust				Age category				
	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Fateh	Hamas	Others	None	18-24 yrs.	25-34 yrs.	35-44 yrs.	45-54 yrs.	Over 55.
Yes	12%	16%	16%	25%	16%	10%	17%	13%	16%	13%	2%
No	88%	84%	84%	75%	84%	90%	83%	87%	84%	87%	98%

E. Level of usage of the internet to communicate with friends and relatives outside

Less than half of the respondents use the internet in order to communicate with friends and relatives outside the Palestinian territories. Figure 29 shows the level of usage. Not surprisingly, in Gaza, more interviewees use the internet for communication (56%) than in the West Bank (41%). Furthermore, both Hamas and Fateh supporters, use the internet to the same extent. Among Palestinians who support other parties however, we find more respondents who use it (66%) especially when comparing them to Palestinians who are unaffiliated to any party (39%). Moreover, internet usage varies with age in that more young people use it (69%) than elder ones (14%). The findings are depicted in table 27.

Figure 29: Level of usage of the internet to communicate with friends and relatives outside

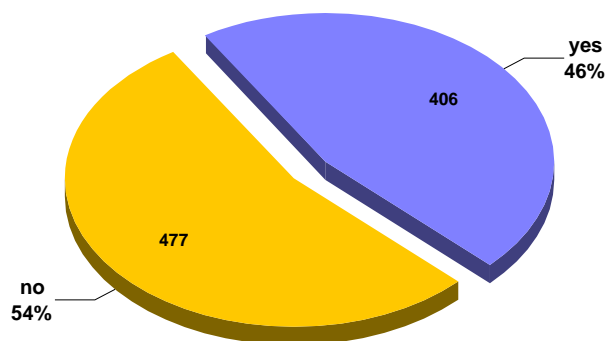


Table 27: Level of usage of the internet to communicate with friends and relatives outside according to region of residence, factional trust, and age

	Region of residence		Factional trust				Age category				
	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Fateh	Hamas	Others	None	18-24 yrs.	25-34 yrs.	35-44 yrs.	45-54 yrs.	Over 55.
Yes	41%	56%	54%	52%	66%	39%	69%	56%	39%	30%	14%
No	59%	44%	46%	48%	34%	61%	31%	44%	61%	70%	86%





**F. Presence of hearsay in the Palestinian society**

An overwhelming majority of 93% think that there is a lot of hearsay in the Palestinian society. This finding is stable across residency and age. Only among Hamas supporters and respondents affiliated to political parties other than Hamas, fewer respondents believe so (88% and 85% respectively).

Figure 30: Presence of hearsay in society

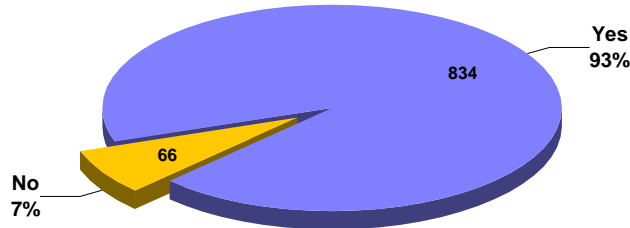


Table 28: Presence of hearsay in society according to region of residence, factional trust, and age

	Region of residence		Factional trust				Age category				
	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Fateh	Hamas	Others	None	18-24 yrs.	25-34 yrs.	35-44 yrs.	45-54 yrs.	Over 55.
Yes	92%	94%	94%	88%	85%	93%	93%	91%	95%	92%	92%
No	8%	6%	6%	12%	15%	7%	7%	9%	5%	8%	8%

**a. Attitude about whether hearsay is a good source of information**

When asked whether hearsay is a good source of information, 88% of the respondents disagreed, as illustrated in figure 31, below. Again, this finding is relatively stable across residency and age and more pronounced among Hamas supporters an even greater percentage of which believes that gossip is a bad source of information (93%). Interestingly, among those who are affiliated to a party other than Hamas or Fateh are less Palestinians who think so (73%) than in the other factional groups or among those who are not affiliated to any party.

Figure 31: Attitude about whether hearsay is a good source of information

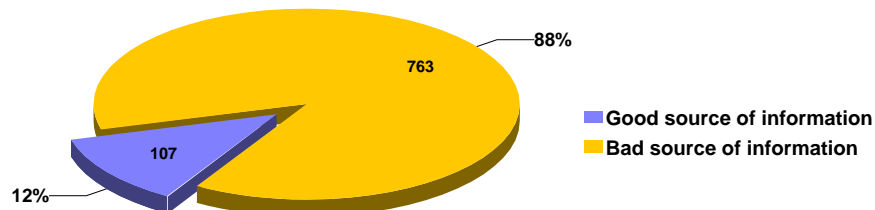




Table 29: Attitude about whether hearsay is a good source of information according to region of residence, factional trust, and age

	Region of residence		Factional trust				Age category				
	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Fateh	Hamas	Others	None	18-24 yrs.	25-34 yrs.	35-44 yrs.	45-54 yrs.	Over 55.
Good source of information	13%	11%	12%	7%	27%	13%	16%	12%	10%	11%	15%
Bad source of information	87%	89%	88%	93%	73%	87%	84%	88%	90%	89%	85%

G. Attitude about whether the media are good tools for people to express their opinions and prospects

Interviewees also answered the question whether they think that the media are good tools for people to express their opinions and prospects. The predominant answer is yes, reflected by three quarters of the respondents. As table 30 presented below indicates, it is again the group of respondents who support a political party other than Fateh or Hamas who stick out in that they seem to be more suspicious about the media: With 61% still a majority, we clearly find less people in this group than in others. Doubt about whether the internet is a good tool to express one’s opinions also seems to increase over age since agreement by 78% of the youngest group drops to only 14% among the eldest group.

Figure 32: Attitude about whether the media are good tools for people to express their opinions and prospects

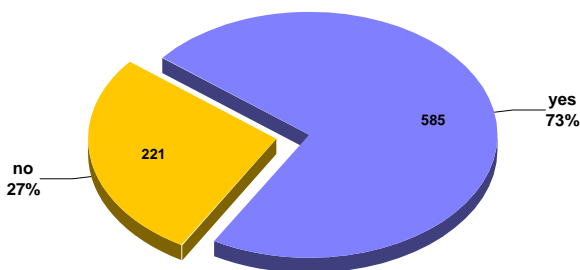


Table 30: Attitude about whether the media are good tools for people to express their opinions and prospects according to region of residence, factional trust, and age

	Region of residence		Factional trust				Age category				
	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Fateh	Hamas	Others	None	18-24 yrs.	25-34 yrs.	35-44 yrs.	45-54 yrs.	Over 55.
Yes	74%	69%	74%	70%	61%	70%	78%	69%	78%	67%	63%
No	26%	31%	26%	30%	39%	30%	22%	31%	22%	33%	37%



**H. Attitude about whether the media help in promoting human rights**

As indicated in figure 33 below, more than two third of all surveyed Palestinians believe that the media help in promoting human rights. Only Hamas supporters seem to be more skeptical about this function of the media. Here, only 60% who believe that the media helps in promoting human rights. Over age, we see a clear decreasing trend: While 78% among the youngest group think that the media helps realizing human rights, only 63% of the youngest group thinks so.

Figure 33: Attitude about whether the media help in promoting human rights

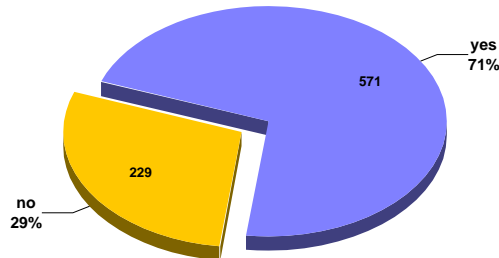


Table 31: Attitude about whether the media help in promoting human rights according to region of residence, factional trust, and age

	Region of residence		Factional trust				Age category				
	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Fateh	Hamas	Others	None	18-24 yrs.	25-34 yrs.	35-44 yrs.	45-54 yrs.	Over 55.
<b>Yes</b>	72%	69%	75%	60%	69%	69%	77%	65%	75%	69%	67%
<b>No</b>	28%	31%	25%	40%	31%	31%	23%	35%	25%	31%	33%

**I. Evaluation of the media in Palestine**

Respondents also undertook a general assessment of the media in Palestine the results of which are portrayed in figure 34 below. Taken together, more than half of the respondents state that the media is either very good (19%) or good (37%), this suggesting an overall positive judgment over local media. Table 32 illustrates the results according to residency, factional trust and age.

Figure 34: Evaluation of the media in Palestine

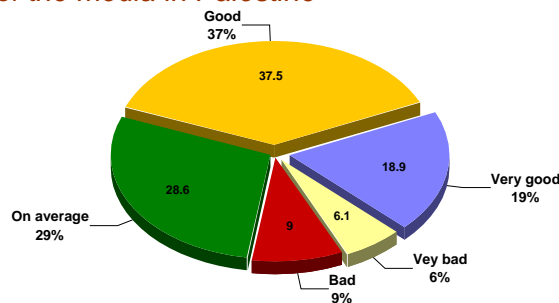




Table 32: Evaluation of the media in Palestine according to region of residence, factional trust, and age

	Region		Factional trust				Age category				
	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Fateh	Hamas	Others	None	18-24 yrs.	25-34 yrs.	35-44 yrs.	45-54 yrs.	Over 55.
Very good	20%	15%	24%	13%	19%	17%	21%	17%	18%	27%	7%
Good	39%	33%	34%	43%	24%	38%	36%	43%	37%	30%	42%
On average	28%	30%	30%	24%	27%	29%	28%	25%	29%	26%	38%
Bad	8%	12%	9%	16%	17%	9%	7%	9%	10%	13%	4%
Very bad	5%	9%	4%	4%	14%	8%	8%	7%	5%	4%	8%

J. The media that is most available to children

A majority of 62% agrees that television is the type of media that is most available to children between the age of 10 and 16, followed by the internet (32%, see figure 35 below). As depicted in table 33, among Gaza residents we find even more respondents who believe that television is the most available type of media (75%) and less respondents that say so about the internet (19%) than in other subgroups.

Figure 35: The media that is most available to children between the ages of 10 and 16

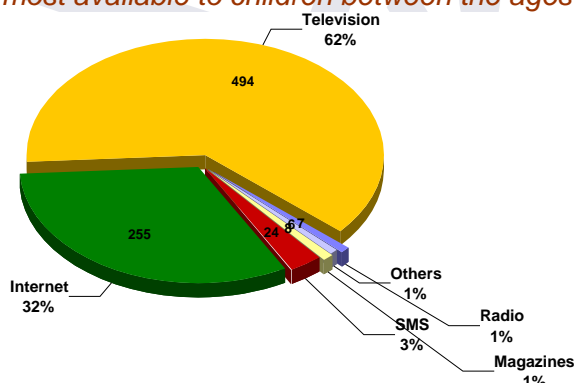


Table 33: The media that is most available to children between the ages of 10 and 16 according to region of residence, factional trust, and age

	Region of residence		Factional trust				Age category				
	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Fateh	Hamas	Others	None	18-24 yrs.	25-34 yrs.	35-44 yrs.	45-54 yrs.	Over 55.
Radio	1%	2%	2%	0%	0%	1%	1%	2%	0%	2%	0%
Television	57%	75%	61%	64%	74%	60%	64%	65%	64%	53%	65%
Internet	37%	19%	31%	32%	26%	34%	30%	29%	31%	40%	31%
SMS	3%	2%	3%	3%	0%	3%	2%	3%	3%	5%	3%
Magazines	1%	1%	2%	0%	0%	0%	4%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Newspaper	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Others	0%	2%	1%	1%	0%	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%