



Near East Consulting

POB 4, Ramallah, Palestine  
T. +970-2-296-1436  
info@neareastconsulting.com  
<http://www.neareastconsulting.com/>

## PRESS RELEASE

### Palestinian perceptions about the International Community

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

Jamil Rabah at NEC  
HSBC Building, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor  
RAMALLAH

Tel: 02-2961436

Fax: 02-2963114

<http://www.neareastconsulting.com>

With the kind contribution of the Swiss Agency for Development  
and Cooperation (SDC)





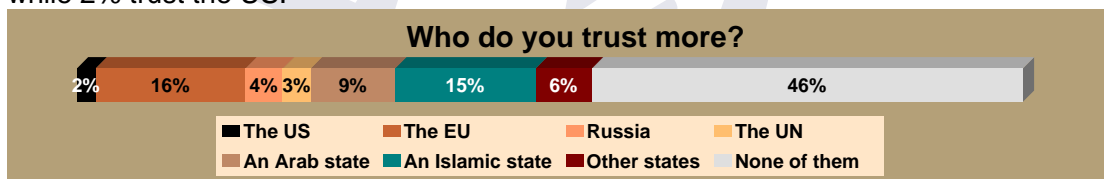
## Palestinian perceptions about the international community

The period in the two months since the January 2006 PLC elections has been marked by a debate within the international community of how to deal with the Palestinians on several issues, including assistance, given the emergence of the new reality with a Hamas majority in the PLC and a Hamas-led PA government. In an attempt to add a Palestinian voice to the debate, Near East Consulting (NEC) conducted a phone survey among over 1,200 randomly selected Palestinians in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and Jerusalem of which 860 were successfully completed. The survey covered several issues related to the Palestinian public's perceptions about the international community, including: their trust in various members of the international community, the perceived justness of US vs. EU policies towards the Palestinian people, the international community's commitment to continue work towards a two-state solution, the "preferred" source of assistance by the Palestinians, and the institutions Palestinians believe assistance should be channeled to.

Finally, it is worth noting that the margin of error for this survey is +/- 3.3% with a 95% confidence level.

### Results

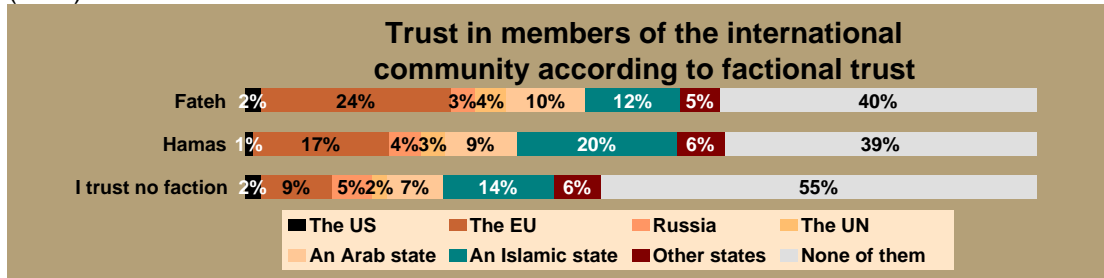
Regarding trust of Palestinians in the international community, 46% of Palestinians do not trust any member of the international community. Of the 54% who do trust a member of the international community 16% trust the EU, 15% trust an Islamic state, 9% trust one of the Arab states, 6% trust other states, 4% trust Russia more, 3% trust the UN, while 2% trust the US.



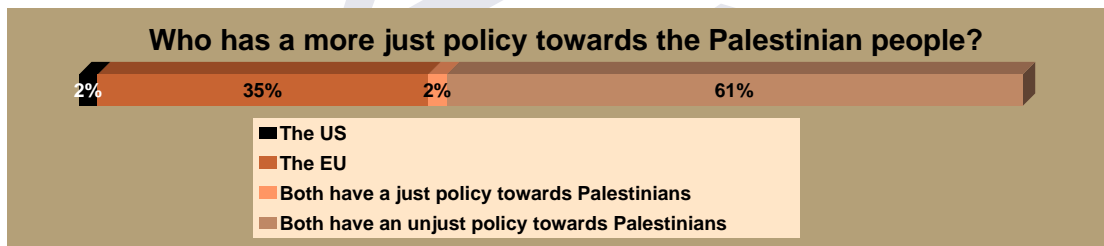
When examining the issue of trust in members of the international community according to factional trust, the lack of trust in any member of the international community is most pronounced among Palestinians who do not trust any faction on the Palestinian political scene either. As such, the skepticism of this growing subgroup of Palestinian society towards internal Palestinian politics seems to be affecting their perceptions on other issues as well. The results according to factional trust in the figure below, further indicate a common lack of trust in the US across all factional lines, while the trust in the EU is most widely spread among Fateh supporters (24%). The results also clearly point to a more marked trust in one of the Islamic states among Hamas supporters (20%) than



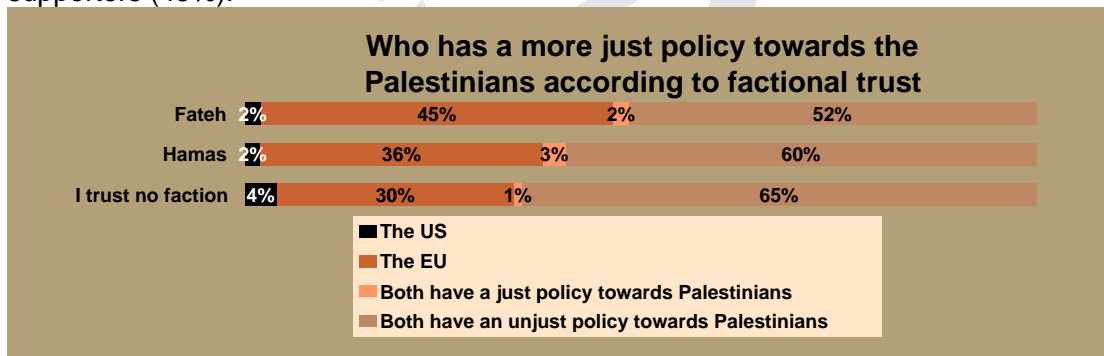
among Fateh supporters (12%) or Palestinians who do not trust any Palestinian faction (14%).



When respondents were asked about their opinion on whether the US or the EU has a more just policy towards the Palestinian people, 2% said it is the US, while 35% said it is the EU. An additional 2% of the interviewees said that both the US and the EU have a just policy towards the Palestinian people, but the majority of 61% specified that both the US and the EU have an unjust policy towards the Palestinian people.



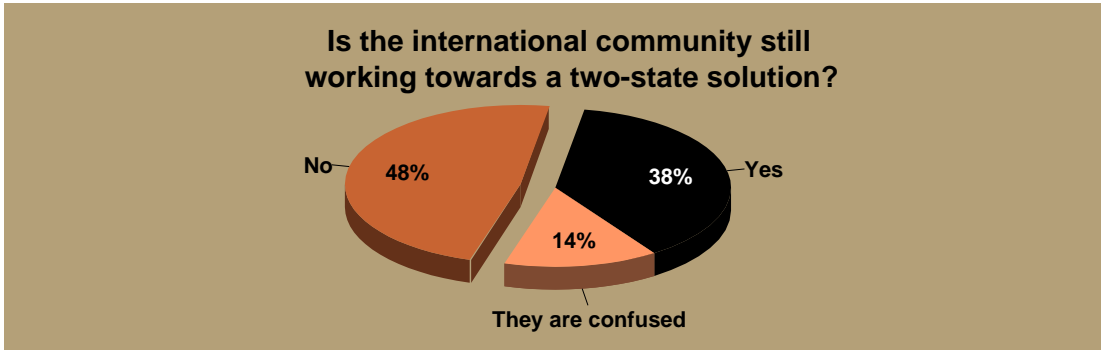
As illustrated in the figure below, the conviction that both the US and the EU have an unjust policy towards the Palestinian people lives stronger among Hamas supporters (60%) and those who do not trust any Palestinian faction (65%) than among Fateh supporters (52%). Meanwhile, the largest percentage of Palestinians who believe that the EU has a more just policy towards the Palestinians can be found among Fateh supporters (45%).



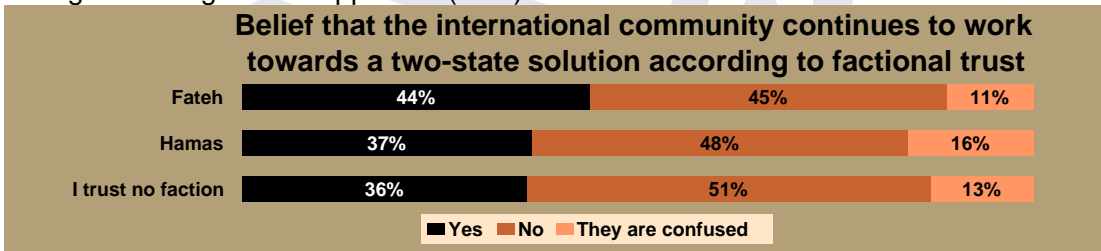
In general, 38% of Palestinians believe that the international community continues to work towards a two-state solution, 14% believe that the international community is



confused, while 48% believe that the international community is no more working towards a two-state solution.



Albeit not as clear-cut as on the previous issues under examination, the belief that the international community continues to work towards a two-state solution, again, varies across factional lines. As overviewed in the figure below, the belief that the international community is confused is strongest among Hamas supporters (16%), while the belief that the international community continues to work towards a two-state solution is strongest among Fateh supporters (44%).

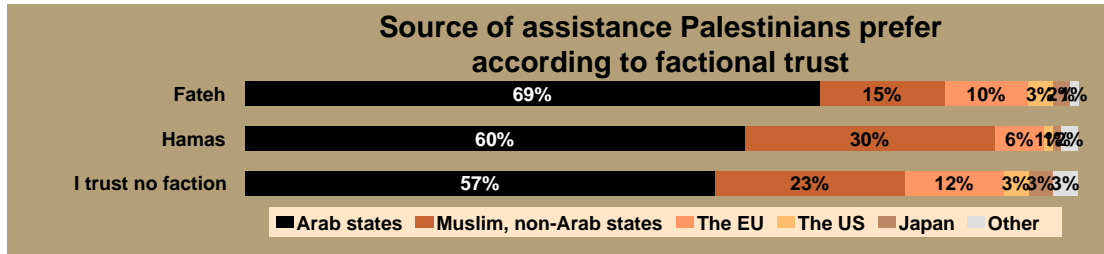


As for the source of assistance Palestinians prefer, the majority of 62% specified that they prefer assistance from Arab states, while 24% prefer assistance from Muslim, non-Arab states. Of the remainder, 9% prefer assistance from the EU, respectively 2% from the US and Japan, while the last 2% prefer assistance from other states than the listed ones, without specifying a particular one.



Again, there is a clear difference in opinions among Palestinians across factional lines when it regards their preferred source of assistance. These differences in opinions do not so much concentrate on the donors such as the US and Japan, but are definitely obvious when it concerns the other listed sources of assistance. As overviewed in the figure below, the percentage of Hamas supporters preferring assistance from Muslim, non-Arab states (30%) is twice as high as that of Fateh supporters sharing this opinion (15%). Fateh supporters are most in favor of assistance from Arab states (69%). Lastly,

concerning assistance from the EU, it is most preferred among Palestinians who do not trust any Palestinian faction.



As to the issue of to which institution international assistance should be channeled to, 33% referred to the PA, 22% to the UN, while respectively 16% referred to the PLO (16%) and other international organizations (16%). Of the remaining, 10% believe that international assistance should be channeled to local NGOs, and 3% believe that it should be channeled to the private sector.



Analysis of opinions on the perceived appropriate channel for international assistance according to the respondents' factional trust further exemplifies the distinctive divide that is emerging among Palestinians along factional lines. The highest percentage of Palestinians believing that international assistance should be channeled to the currently Hamas-led PA can be found among those who trust Hamas most (46%), while the highest percentage of Palestinians specifying that the international assistance should be channeled to the PLO are those who trust Fateh most (29%). It is worth noting that, overall, a rather larger percentage of Palestinians across factional lines believe that international assistance should either be channeled to the UN or other international organizations.

