



May 20, 2025

Poll No. 210

**Press Report: In the latest public opinion poll conducted by Dr. Nabil Kukali, he addressed the following:**

The decision to appoint Hussein Al-Sheikh as Vice President of the State of Palestine, along with an analysis of reactions to President Mahmoud Abbas' recent speech during the opening of the Palestinian Central Council session in Ramallah on April 23, 2025. The results showed the following:

- A limited percentage of participants expressed strong support for appointing Hussein Al-Sheikh, while others voiced their opposition to the decision. A notable portion of respondents chose to remain neutral, particularly among residents of the West Bank.
- President Abbas's recent speech sparked mixed reactions: some viewed it as a reflection of political realism, while others considered it inappropriate in both timing and content.

#### **Beit Sahour – Palestinian Center for Public Opinion (PCPO)**

In the latest public opinion poll conducted by **Dr. Nabil Kukali**, founder and president of the Palestinian Center for Public Opinion (PCPO), based on a representative random sample of 912 Palestinian citizens from the West Bank and Gaza Strip aged 18 and above, the results revealed significant differences in Palestinians' stances regarding several current political issues.



**Dr Nabil Kukali**

**Dr. Kukali** explained that the poll aimed to gauge Palestinian public opinion on key political developments, particularly the appointment of Mr. Hussein Al-Sheikh as Vice President of the State of Palestine, reactions to President Mahmoud Abbas's recent speech, and citizens' views on Hamas's statements regarding ceasefire initiatives and prisoner exchange deals.

The results reflect a clear diversity in citizens' views and impressions, highlighting the importance of polls as tools to monitor public sentiment and understand the various perspectives of different social groups on political developments.

### **Limited Support for Al-Sheikh's Appointment... Gaza Shows More Approval**

18.9% of respondents strongly supported the PLO Executive Committee's election of Hussein Al-Sheikh as Vice President of the State of Palestine, while 12.8% supported the decision to some extent. On the other hand, 13.3% strongly opposed it, and 7.2% somewhat opposed it, while 31.6% chose a neutral stance, and 16.2% either refused to answer or had no clear opinion.

Notably, residents of Gaza expressed significantly more support than those in the West Bank: 34% of Gazans strongly supported the decision compared to only 8.9% in the West Bank. Meanwhile, 16% of West Bank respondents strongly opposed the decision compared to just 9.1% in Gaza.

### **President Abbas's Recent Speech... Divided Opinions and Varying Levels of Trust**

Regarding President Mahmoud Abbas's speech in Ramallah, in which he sharply criticized Hamas, 32.3% of participants supported the statement, considering it a reflection of a reality that must be addressed openly. Meanwhile, 26.4% viewed it as an escalation harmful to national unity, and 26.6% believed the timing was inappropriate.

The regional difference was stark: 61.9% of participants in Gaza supported the speech, compared to just 12.9% in the West Bank. Regarding opposition to the speech, 34.7% of respondents in the West Bank rejected it, compared to 13.8% in Gaza.

When asked whether the speech increased their trust in the Palestinian leadership, 33.7% responded affirmatively, 51.0% responded negatively, and 15.4% expressed no opinion. Trust was much higher in Gaza (55.8%) than in the West Bank (19.1%).

### **Hamas's Comments on Al-Sheikh's Appointment Deeply Divide Opinion**

In response to a statement attributed to Hamas describing Hussein Al-Sheikh's appointment as a "perpetuation of unilateralism and disregard for national priorities," participants were split between supporters and opponents. 35.4% supported this description (16.2% strongly, 19.2% somewhat),

while 40.6% opposed it to varying degrees, and 24.0% either abstained from answering or said they didn't know.

Gaza recorded the highest rate of strong opposition to this statement, at 40.7%, compared to 15.5% in the West Bank.

### **Hamas's Ceasefire and Prisoner Exchange Initiative Gains Wide Popular Support**

The results showed broad public support for the initiative attributed to Hamas involving a one-time prisoner exchange and a five-year ceasefire in return for withdrawing its fighters and ending the war in Gaza. 45.5% of respondents strongly supported the initiative, and 20.3% supported it to a lesser degree, meaning about two-thirds of the sample expressed support.

This support was stronger in Gaza, where 69.1% strongly supported the initiative, compared to only 30.0% in the West Bank. General opposition to the initiative stood at only 11.1%.

### **Summary and Recommendations**

**Dr. Nabil Kukali** indicated that the results of this poll reflect a clear political and geographical polarization between West Bank and Gaza residents regarding sensitive political issues, particularly leadership decisions, political statements, and initiatives related to ceasefires and national unity. The results also point to a trust gap in the Palestinian leadership, especially among West Bank residents, while Gazans tend to show more support and initiative.

He added that this poll reflects the need to mend internal divisions and strengthen comprehensive national dialogue as a necessity for achieving genuine national unity based on balanced representation and responsiveness to the aspirations of the Palestinian public.

### **About the poll**

**Dr. Elias Kukali**, Head of the Research Department at the center, reported that this poll was based on a representative random sample of 912 Palestinian citizens from the West Bank and Gaza Strip aged 18 and above. The study was conducted between April 29 and May 14, 2025, utilizing two data collection methods: 699 face-to-face interviews using the TAPI system and 213 phone interviews using the CATI system. The margin of error is  $\pm 3.25\%$  at a 95.0% confidence level.

Women made up 47% of the participants, while men accounted for 53%. Geographically, the sample consisted of 60.3% from the West Bank and 39.7% from the Gaza Strip. The average age of participants was 32.6 years, ranging from 18 to 82 years.

It is worth noting that the Palestinian Center for Public Opinion (PCPO), established in Beit-Sahour in February 1994, is one of the leading research institutions in the Palestinian territories. Its activities extend beyond public opinion polls to include political, economic, social, educational, and health research, making it a reliable source of information and analysis on national issues.

In conclusion, this poll serves as an effective tool for understanding Palestinian public opinion on current political developments, highlighting the diversity of opinions and perspectives across various segments of society. The Palestinian Center for Public Opinion reaffirms its continued commitment to providing accurate and objective data to support decision-makers and enhance community dialogue based on scientific and professional principles.

### **Contact Information**

For any inquiries regarding the polls and research services, please get in touch with us through the following:

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