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|   | [Opinion Polls](http://home.birzeit.edu/dsp/opinionpolls/)**Poll No. 6****Palestinian – Israeli Relations, Internal Reform, Living Conditions and Political Affiliation**  **[Analysis of Results] | [Detailed Results] |** [**Context of the Poll] [**](http://home.birzeit.edu/cds/opinionpolls/poll6/info.html)[**Sample Distribution**](http://home.birzeit.edu/cds/opinionpolls/poll6/sample.html)**] [**[**PDF Format**](http://home.birzeit.edu/dsp/DSPNEW/polls/poll_6/poll6e.pdf)**] | [باللغة العربية]**

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| **Context** * The current poll took place within the context of the on-going Israeli-imposed closure. Over 1000 Palestinians were killed by the Israeli forces since September 2000. Roadblocks have been erected, and are still in position, to obstruct the movement of Palestinians. Most main roads have been, and are still, out of reach to Palestinians. In contrast, Jewish settlers were, and are still, allowed to freely use these roads. At the same time, poverty rates were increasing and living conditions were worsening.
* The headquarters of President Arafat continued to be surrounded by Israeli tanks, confining his movement to the inner city. At the same time, thousands of Palestinians have attended various rallies in support of the President. Others traveled to his headquarters to show solidarity. Calls by the Israelis, and others, to topple President Arafat were met by further support among his constituency. This, in part, explains the increasing popularity of President Arafat in the present poll.
* The American position continued to be seen as anti-Palestinian and totaling pro- Israeli policies (led by Mr. Sharon); while Palestinian officials praised the European position as “more balanced”.
* Israeli attacks against Palestinians continued; PNA offices and political activists were main targets. Many civilians have been killed or injured. Tens of Palestinian homes were destroyed in Gaza and in Arab Jerusalem. Suicide attacks have continued. For the first time, Fateh brigades have joined Hamas and the Islamic Jihad in carrying out such attacks. The assassination by the Israeli army of Fateh leader in the north of the West Bank ended a 20-days of Palestinian observed cease-fire.
* Since 1994, three quarters of Palestinians have consistently supported negotiations with Israel. The election of Mr. Sharon, as a Prime Minister of Israel, immediately after. This support has now returned to its original level (of about 70%). This might be due to hopes raised brought by a number of factors: the “supportive” position of the European Union, the support of hundreds of European civil society volunteers who participated in various field actions in solidarity with the Palestinians, the recent wave of criticism against Mr. Sharon in the Israeli press, and the actions of the peace movement in Israel calling for an end to the occupation. Over 200 Israeli soldiers and officers have refused to serve in the West Bank and Gaza. In addition, it is possible that more and more Palestinians (and Israelis) are becoming aware of the futility of the present course of events.
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