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|   | [Opinion Polls](http://home.birzeit.edu/dsp/opinionpolls/)**Poll No. 7** **Living conditions, evaluation of Institutions, re-building Palestinian society, evaluation of emergency funding****attitudes toward U.S. assistance negotiations****[**[**Work Team**](http://home.birzeit.edu/cds/opinionpolls/poll7/work_team.html)**] [**[**Analysis of Results**](http://home.birzeit.edu/cds/opinionpolls/poll7/analysis.html)**] [**[**Political Context**](http://home.birzeit.edu/cds/opinionpolls/poll7/context.html)**] [**[**Results of Survey #7**](http://home.birzeit.edu/cds/opinionpolls/poll7/results.html)**] [**[**Sample Distribution**](http://home.birzeit.edu/cds/opinionpolls/poll7/sample_distribution.html)**]****[** [**باللغة العربية**](http://home.birzeit.edu/dsp/arabic/opinionpolls/poll7/background.html)**]**

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|  ·        The Israeli imposed closure of the West Bank and Gaza created conditions whereby all main and side roads were closed, constricting the movement of Palestinians. Palestinians from all age groups and walks of life were prevented from reaching their work, schools, universities, and hospitals.·        A full-fledged incursion by the Israeli army of Palestinian cities took place during the past two months. The Israeli army imposed a curfew in most cities, hundreds were killed, and thousands were arrested. Almost all Palestinian National Authority (PNA) security buildings were demolished and hundreds of governmental and non-governmental institutions were also destroyed. Destruction of computer software and record files was widespread.·        The headquarters of the PNA in Ramallah had been surrounded by Israeli tanks since December 2001. Running water, electricity, and communication with the outside world was curtailed. The seige of PNA headquarters lasted between March 29 – May 2, 2002 and ended only after 6 Palestinians (5 of them accused of the killing of the Israeli Minister of Tourism) were imprisoned in Jericho under British and American supervision.·        The Church of Nativity constituted another “hot spot” right before the time of polling where approximately 200 Palestinians were surrounded for 38 days.  A stalemate between Palestinans inside the Church and Israeli soldiers outside ended only after Israel expelled 13 Palestinians from the country and expelled an additional 26 to the Gaza Strip. ·        Palestinians witnessed the devastating impact of Israeli incursions to their cities just prior to the time of polling.  Uncertainty about the future of the Palestinian society was widespread among Palestinians. At the same time, calls for reforming Palestinian institutions were heard from within Palestinian society and also from the American Administration.  **Field Work Conditions** Field research for the following poll took place under extreme danger to the welfare of DSP reserachers. After a long process of consultation with members of the team from all regions, the team decided to nonetheless carry out the poll one and half months late due to incursions into Ramallah and other Palestinian cities. As expected, the field researchers were exposed to the same conditions endured by other Palestinians trying to move from one community to another. Normally, a full workday during the conduct of field research lasts approximately 8 hours.  For this poll, however, researchers worked an average 16 hours per day.  Researchers were prevented from crossing roadblocks, often forcing them to use dirt roads and in many cases to walk for hours under the danger of being confronted by soldiers and/or settlers.  On four occasions, field researchers were the target of sporadic gunfire though luckily, no physical harm was inflected.  Three researchers were also assaulted at different checkpoints in the North of the West Bank. The DSP coordination staff and field supervisors worked around the clock to ensure the safety of the researchers to the best of their ability and ensure the successful completion of work with no compromise to the integrity of the research. |
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