

BOX: SELECTED POLLS / SURVEYS

JMCC, Opinion Poll #34, Part 2, December 1999

- 82.9% of Gazans, 77.7% of West Bankers and 82.2% of Arab Israelis believe that any refugee wishing to return should be allowed to do so.
- 54% of WBGS Palestinians and 58.2% of Arab Israelis believe that refugees should mainly be permanently settled in their original homes inside Israel, followed by the option 'within the Palestinian state'.
- As for compensation, 69% of Arab Israelis, 25.3% of West Bankers and 13.5% of Gazans think Israel should be solely responsible. The preferred option among WBGS Palestinians is a combination of Israel, international bodies and Arab governments.
- As for responsibility in creating the refugee problem, 73.6% of Arab Israelis blame only or mostly Israel, as do 51.4% of West Bankers and 47.5% of Gazans.

PCBS, May 2003

- 72.4% of WBGS refugees prefer to solve the refugee question by allowing the refugees to return to their original villages and towns, but only 20.2% expect this to be the solution. The majority of refugees (41.3%) expect a continuation of the status quo while 19.2% expect an improvement to the housing conditions inside the camps.
- With regard to the refugees outside the WBGS, 71.2% of the WBGS refugees prefer them to return to their original villages and towns, with 23.5% expect this to be happening, and 14% prefer relocation outside the camps. Some 31.6%, however, expect the status quo to continue.

Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research (PCPSR), Poll on Refugees, Jan.-June 2003

- 10% of the refugees questioned (WBGS: 12%, Jordan: 5%, Lebanon: 23%) named the option to return to Israel in accordance with an annual quota and become an Israeli citizen as their first choice; 31% preferred to stay in the Palestinian state that will be established in the WBGS and receive fair compensation for the property taken over by Israel and for other losses and suffering (WBGS: 38%, Jordan: 27%, Lebanon: 19%); 23% opted for receiving Palestinian citizenship, returning to designated areas inside Israel that would be swapped later on with Palestinian areas as part of a territorial exchange and receive compensation (WBGS: 37%, Jordan: 10%, Lebanon: 21%), whereby that figure increased in a scenario where the refugees' original homes and villages were found to be demolished (WBGS: 47%, Jordan: 52%, Lebanon: 45%); 17% preferred to receive fair compensation for their property, losses, and suffering and to stay in the host country receiving its or Palestinian citizenship (Jordan: 33%, Lebanon: 11%); and 2% preferred to receive fair compensation for the property, losses, and suffering and emigrate to a European country or the US, Australia, or Canada and obtain citizenship of that country or Palestinian citizenship (WBGS: 1%, Jordan: 2%, Lebanon: 9%).
- A majority of Lebanon's refugees believe that the WBGS is unable to absorb refugees from other countries, while only 27% in the WBGS and 26% in Jordan believe so.
- While a two-third majority of refugees in WBGS supported the reference in the 'road map' to "an agreed, fair, and realistic" solution to the refugee problem, it was only 46% among refugees in Jordan and 45% in Lebanon.
- The option to leave the refugee question unresolved and postponed while all other issues would be permanently settled was supported by a majority of refugees in the WBGS, but rejected by most refugees in Lebanon and Jordan. Support increased when refugees were told they would be provided housing projects meanwhile. Two-thirds of refugees in Lebanon and Jordan preferred to stay where they are over moving to the Palestinian state under such settlement, while 25% of Jordan's and 31% of Lebanon's refugees were willing to move temporarily to the Palestinian state and wait there for a solution.
- Refugees were asked about the side they would choose over the refugee problem. The majority of refugees in Lebanon (86%) and the WBGS (73%) choose the PLO to represent them in negotiations but only 40% in Jordan, where 28% choose the government of Jordan.

Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research (PCPSR), Opinion Poll #10, Dec. 2003

- Of those who had heard about the "Geneva Accord", 61% opposed (65% refugees and 57% non-refugees) and 25% (23% refugees and 28% non-refugees) supported the document.
- The Accord's components of a refugee solution were opposed by 72% and supported by 25%, with no difference between refugees and non-refugees

