



### **Youth Survey: Political Activism and Awareness**

**12 April 2016**

March 18-22, AWRAD conducted a survey of 1,200 Palestinian youth (18-25 years old) in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. This press release is the second in a series, highlighting the survey's findings on youth knowledge of Palestinian modern political history especially as it relates to the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO); levels of civic participation and willingness to participate in future political action; voter registration rates and future elections; and general assessments of the overall situation.

The results show a gloomy view of current trends and future prospects, especially in Gaza; moderate to limited knowledge of Palestinian history; but significant knowledge of global and pop culture. While most youth appear to be losing confidence in current political processes and express mixed enthusiasm with respect to volunteerism and social activism, they remain confident in themselves and their potential contributions. It is important to note that the majority of the youth surveyed had not been born when the Oslo Accords were signed in 1993.

The most significant results are:

- While two-thirds of youth believe that Palestine is going in the wrong direction with a significant majority viewing the future as “bleak”, many continue to be optimistic. Gaza youth are especially dismayed with current trends and worried about the future.
- Pessimism is due to a number of factors. In addition to occupation-related issues, the vast majority of youth believe that the level of opportunity for youth is insufficient; almost two-thirds consider the participation of Palestinian youth in national decision-making as unsatisfactory; and only one third describe their economic situation as “good” or “very good” – 42 percent in the West Bank compared to 21 percent in Gaza.
- Employment is the greatest concern of Palestinian youth. This is especially true among Gaza youth. The second priority for West Bank youth is “personal freedom” while in Gaza it is “covering expenses of education.” West Bank youth are more concerned for their

personal safety than Gaza youth, and both groups are equally concerned with corruption in public life.

- A majority of youth have confidence in the abilities of young people to lead the country in the future. Less than a majority, however, believe that they can personally have an impact on public life. Regardless, the majority of Palestinian young people describe themselves as talented, hard-working, entrepreneurial, ambitious and passionate about life.
- In terms of religiosity, 48 percent describe themselves as religious; 45 percent as moderately religious; and 7 percent as not religious at all.
- The data reveals that the majority of young people say that they are not registered to vote. Among those who are not registered, less than half say that they plan to register. Only a minority has heard about electronic voter registration and a much smaller percentage has actually used it.
- In terms of political orientation, over one third of the youth say that they prefer the Fatah approach to resolving the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. In comparison, about one quarter prefer the Hamas approach. In general, Fatah enjoys the largest support among youth followed by Hamas, with a smaller percentage of support for leftists groups. Less than 2 percent believe that ISIS represents true Islam.
- In terms of knowledge of Palestinian modern history, less than a majority of youth were able to correctly identify the following:
  - ✓ The year the PLO was established (1964)
  - ✓ The first PLO Chairman (Ahmad Shukairi)
  - ✓ The year of the declaration of Palestinian Independence (1988)
  - ✓ The first women to run in a presidential election (Samiha Khalil)
- In contrast, a majority were able to correctly identify the following:
  - ✓ The year of signing of the Oslo Accord (1993)
  - ✓ The first winner of Arab Super Star (Daina Karazoun)
  - ✓ The found of Facebook (Mark Zuckerberg).
- A minority of youth says that they are active in politics or are members of a political party.
- A majority would not participate in a demonstration if asked to by Fatah or Hamas. However, a majority would participate in demonstrations against the occupation with a greater percentage in Gaza than in the West Bank.

# Tables of Results: Political Activism and Awareness

## Section 1: Overall Direction

1. In general, would you say that things in Palestine are heading the right direction, or are they heading in the wrong direction?

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Right direction	34.9%	23.8%	30.8%
Wrong direction	61.9%	74.2%	66.5%
Don't know	3.2%	2.0%	2.8%

2. In general, are you optimistic or pessimistic about the future?

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Optimistic	50.4%	42.2%	47.3%
Pessimistic	48.5%	56.0%	51.3%
Don't know	1.1%	1.8%	1.3%

## Section 2: Elections

3. Are you registered to vote in the next election?

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Yes	41.1%	58.0%	47.4%
No	58.7%	40.9%	52.0%
Don't know	0.3%	1.1%	0.6%

4. If not, do you plan to register?

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Yes	35.7%	53.8%	41.2%
No	61.4%	46.2%	56.9%
Don't know	2.8%	0.0%	2.0%

5. Have you heard about electronic voter registration?

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Yes	37.9%	37.1%	37.6%
No	61.9%	62.2%	62.0%
Don't know	0.1%	0.7%	0.3%

6. If yes, have you used it to register for elections?

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Yes	7.2%	21.6%	12.6%
No	92.8%	78.4%	87.4%

7. Of the two approaches to resolving the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, that pursued by President Abbas (Fatah) or that pursued by Khalid Mashal (Hamas), which do you prefer?

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
President Abbas (Fatah)	31.4%	42.4%	35.5%
Khalid Mashal (Hamas)	25.2%	21.6%	23.9%
Neither one	27.4%	25.1%	26.5%
Another approach	9.7%	9.6%	9.7%
Don't know	6.3%	1.3%	4.4%

8. Which Political orientation is closer to your personal views?

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Fatah/other nationalist groups	39.4%	51.3%	43.9%
Hamas/other Islamic groups	23.2%	21.6%	22.6%
Leftist group	7.8%	5.6%	6.9%
Independents	29.7%	21.6%	26.6%

9. Do you believe that ISIS represents true Islam?

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Yes	1.8%	1.1%	1.5%
No	94.2%	94.4%	94.3%
Don't know	4.0%	4.4%	4.2%

### **Section 3: Palestinian modern history**

10. How knowledgeable are you with the following (through personal reading, research, education, etc)?

		West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
The provisions of the Oslo Accords	Not knowledgeable	13.1%	19.1%	15.3%
	Have limited knowledge	24.5%	13.6%	20.4%
	Have some knowledge	49.2%	40.9%	46.1%
	Very knowledgeable	12.9%	25.3%	17.6%
	Don't know\No answer	.3%	1.1%	.6%
The composition and function of the PNC	Not knowledgeable	32.0%	32.4%	32.2%
	Have limited knowledge	31.5%	35.1%	32.8%
	Have some knowledge	29.7%	26.0%	28.3%
	Very knowledgeable	5.9%	5.8%	5.8%
	Don't know\No answer	0.9%	0.7%	0.8%
The internal system of the PLO	Not knowledgeable	32.4%	32.0%	32.2%
	Have limited knowledge	28.1%	36.0%	31.1%
	Have some knowledge	31.3%	22.4%	28.0%
	Very knowledgeable	7.2%	8.7%	7.8%
	Don't know\No answer	1.1%	0.9%	1.0%

**11. Based on your knowledge, who was the first Chairman of the PLO?<sup>1</sup>**

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Yaser Arafat	36.5%	32.0%	34.8%
Amin Al Husaaini	4.5%	6.4%	5.3%
Ahmad Shukairi	49.9%	49.8%	49.8%
Raghib Al Nashashibi	0.7%	4.0%	1.9%
Haidar AbdelShafi	1.1%	2.9%	1.8%
Not sure	7.3%	4.9%	6.4%

**12. Based on your knowledge, who was the first Palestinian woman to run for the presidency of the PA?**

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Samiha Khalil	33.2%	35.3%	34.0%
Hanan Ashrawi	30.7%	30.9%	30.8%
Yusra al Barbari	2.7%	2.9%	2.8%
Intisar Al Wazir	3.5%	9.1%	5.6%
Najla' Yasin	2.9%	0.7%	2.1%
Not sure	27.0%	21.1%	24.8%

**13. Based on your knowledge, when was the PLO established?**

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
1948	5.7%	4.4%	5.3%
1964	42.2%	48.0%	44.4%
1965	21.3%	17.6%	19.9%
1967	13.5%	13.8%	13.6%
1971	4.4%	3.3%	4.0%
Don't know	12.8%	12.9%	12.9%

**14. Based on your knowledge, when was the signing of the declaration of Palestinian independence?**

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
1982	4.7%	7.6%	5.8%
1985	12.4%	11.8%	12.2%
1988	43.3%	48.7%	45.3%
1991	12.8%	6.2%	10.3%
1993	6.8%	10.9%	8.3%
Don't know	20.0%	14.9%	18.1%

**15. Based on your knowledge, when was the signing of the Oslo Declaration?**

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
1988	8.7%	7.6%	8.3%
1991	16.3%	14.4%	15.6%
1993	56.5%	67.1%	60.5%
2000	4.5%	2.0%	3.6%
2001	1.3%	.4%	1.0%
Don't know	12.7%	8.4%	11.1%

<sup>1</sup> Options marked in blue indicate the correct answer.

16. Based on your knowledge, who was the winner of the first season of Super Star in 2003?

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Diana Karazon	51.1%	60.7%	54.7%
Melhem Zein	9.7%	5.3%	8.1%
Howaida Atiyah	4.8%	6.0%	5.3%
Mohammed Assaf	1.9%	2.2%	2.0%
Karmen Sleiman	2.8%	.2%	1.8%
Don't know	29.6%	25.6%	28.1%

17. Based on your knowledge, who is the founder of FaceBook?

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Bill Gates	3.6%	2.0%	3.0%
Mark Zuckerberg	72.6%	73.6%	73.0%
Steve Jobs	2.5%	1.6%	2.2%
Jon Magazine	3.2%	0.7%	2.3%
Michael Dunlop	1.5%	3.1%	2.1%
Don't know	16.6%	19.1%	17.5%

## **Section 4: Youth activism**

18. Are you active in the following fields?

		West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Social/community work	Yes	45.1%	35.8%	41.6%
	No	54.4%	64.2%	58.1%
	Don't know	0.5%	0.0	0.3%
Politics	Yes	13.6%	16.9%	14.9%
	No	86.0%	83.1%	84.9%
	Don't know	0.4%	0.0%	0.3%
Voluntary work	Yes	47.2%	45.3%	46.5%
	No	52.4%	54.4%	53.2%
	Don't know	0.4%	0.2%	0.3%
A member of a party	Yes	9.5%	18.7%	12.9%
	No	90.1%	81.1%	86.7%
	Don't know	0.4%	0.2%	0.3%
A member of a youth group	Yes	22.9%	24.7%	23.5%
	No	76.6%	75.3%	76.1%
	Don't know	0.5%	0.0%	0.3%

19. When was the last time you volunteered for some form of public service?

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
I don't volunteer	48.9%	52.7%	50.3%
Last month	17.4%	16.2%	16.9%
During the past 6 months	9.1%	10.7%	9.7%
6-12 months ago	7.6%	7.8%	7.7%
Over a year ago	12.6%	11.6%	12.2%
Don't know	4.5%	1.1%	3.3%

20. Have you participated in an Internet social group to lobby for improvement of a public issue?

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Yes	24.4%	26.9%	25.4%
No	72.9%	71.8%	72.5%
Don't know	2.7%	1.3%	2.2%

**21. Have you participated in a public protest or similar activity (demonstration, sit-in, etc.) during the past 12 months?**

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Yes	30.7%	31.8%	31.1%
No	65.0%	67.3%	65.9%
Don't know	4.3%	0.9%	3.0%

**22. Would you participate in a public demonstration if asked to by Fatah?**

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Yes	21.0%	32.7%	25.4%
No	72.1%	64.0%	69.1%
Don't know	6.9%	3.3%	5.6%

**23. Would you participate in a public demonstration if asked to by Hamas?**

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Yes	17.0%	12.4%	15.3%
No	75.6%	84.4%	78.9%
Don't know	7.5%	3.1%	5.8%

**24. Would you participate in demonstrations against the occupation?**

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Yes	50.6%	70.2%	58.0%
No	42.7%	29.1%	37.6%
Don't know	6.7%	0.7%	4.4%

**25. If a new uprising (Intifada) erupted, do you think that you would be actively involved?**

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Yes	45.1%	59.1%	50.4%
No	44.5%	35.1%	41.0%
Don't know	10.4%	5.8%	8.7%

**26. Would you participate in demonstrations against the government in the West Bank?**

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Yes	21.4%	15.1%	19.0%
No	69.0%	78.7%	72.6%
Don't know	9.6%	6.2%	8.3%

**27. Would you participate in demonstrations against the authority in control of Gaza?**

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Yes	15.8%	36.0%	23.4%
No	74.6%	59.6%	69.0%
Don't know	9.6%	4.4%	7.7%

**28. Do you have confidence in the abilities of young people to lead the country in the coming future?**

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Yes	67.8%	77.6%	71.5%
No	27.4%	18.0%	23.9%
Don't know	4.8%	4.4%	4.7%

**29. Do you believe that you can personally have an impact on public life?**

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Yes	39.0%	51.8%	43.8%
No	55.1%	39.8%	49.4%
Don't know	5.9%	8.4%	6.8%

**30. How would you best describe the level of opportunity for youth in Palestine?**

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Sufficient opportunities	1.6%	0.7%	1.3%
Somewhat sufficient opportunities	20.0%	10.9%	16.6%
Somewhat insufficient opportunities	27.2%	15.6%	22.9%
Insufficient opportunities	49.5%	72.0%	58.0%
Don't know/No answer	1.6%	0.9%	1.3%

**31. How would you best describe the participation of Palestinian youth in national decision-making?**

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Satisfactory	8.2%	2.2%	5.9%
To some extent satisfactory	33.8%	17.1%	27.5%
To some extent unsatisfactory	17.8%	12.4%	15.8%
Unsatisfactory	37.8%	65.3%	48.2%
Don't know/No answer	2.4%	2.9%	2.6%

**32. How do you view the future for Palestinian youth?**

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
A hopeful future outlook	23.9%	16.2%	21.0%
A bleak future outlook	69.7%	79.3%	73.3%
Don't know/No answer	6.4%	4.4%	5.7%

**33. How would you describe your current economic situation?**

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Very good	6.4%	4.0%	5.5%
Good	37.5%	17.8%	30.1%
Fair	37.9%	34.4%	36.6%
Bad	13.9%	26.4%	18.6%
Very bad	4.0%	17.3%	9.0%
Don't know/No answer	0.3%	0.0%	0.2%

**34. On a personal level, what is your top priority at the present time?**

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
Finding a job	28.4%	41.8%	33.4%
Covering the expenses of my education	12.8%	16.9%	14.3%
Corruption in public life	11.3%	10.7%	11.1%
My personal freedoms	15.1%	6.7%	11.9%
The expenses of marriage including housing	8.5%	8.2%	8.4%
Unstable social/psychological situation	9.1%	5.8%	7.8%
Dealing with boredom as there is nothing fun to do	2.0%	4.2%	2.8%



My personal safety	11.1%	5.1%	8.8%
Don't know/No answer	1.6%	0.7%	1.3%

### 35. Would you describe yourself as...?

		West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
<b>Entrepreneurial</b>	Does not apply at all	0.4%	1.8%	0.9%
	Does not apply	1.7%	1.3%	1.6%
	Does not apply to some extent	7.7%	7.8%	7.8%
	Applies to some extent	27.8%	24.4%	26.5%
	Applies	30.0%	28.2%	29.4%
	Applies to a large extent	32.3%	36.4%	33.9%
<b>Talented</b>	Does not apply at all	5.1%	6.4%	5.6%
	Does not apply	5.5%	6.0%	5.7%
	Does not apply to some extent	15.9%	12.2%	14.5%
	Applies to some extent	32.7%	31.3%	32.2%
	Applies	27.6%	24.7%	26.5%
	Applies to a large extent	13.2%	19.3%	15.5%
<b>Hard working</b>	Does not apply at all	0.4%	1.6%	.8%
	Does not apply	1.3%	2.9%	1.9%
	Does not apply to some extent	8.9%	9.6%	9.2%
	Applies to some extent	24.0%	24.0%	24.0%
	Applies	29.6%	28.0%	29.0%
	Applies to a large extent	35.6%	34.0%	35.0%
<b>Ambitious</b>	Does not apply at all	0.5%	1.8%	1.0%
	Does not apply	2.0%	3.1%	2.4%
	Does not apply to some extent	6.9%	7.1%	7.0%
	Applies to some extent	20.2%	21.6%	20.7%
	Applies	25.8%	24.2%	25.2%
	Applies to a large extent	44.6%	42.2%	43.7%
<b>Passionate about life</b>	Does not apply at all	2.4%	4.9%	3.3%
	Does not apply	2.9%	3.6%	3.2%
	Does not apply to some extent	8.0%	9.8%	8.7%
	Applies to some extent	23.9%	24.0%	23.9%
	Applies	26.2%	24.4%	25.5%
	Applies to a large extent	36.6%	33.3%	35.4%
<b>Religious</b>	Does not apply at all	2.9%	1.3%	2.3%
	Does not apply	3.9%	4.7%	4.2%
	Does not apply to some extent	14.0%	15.1%	14.4%
	Applies to some extent	32.0%	28.9%	30.9%
	Applies	27.1%	25.3%	26.4%
	Applies to a large extent	20.0%	24.7%	21.8%

### Sample distribution

District	%	Gender	%
Jenin	7.1	Male	51.8
Tulkarm	4.4	Female	48.3
Qualqilya	1.6	<b>Marital status</b>	<b>%</b>
Nablus	8.8	Single	73.8
Salfeet	1.5	Married	23.1
Toubas	1.4	Others	3.1
Ramallah & al-Bireh	8.8	<b>Refugee status</b>	<b>%</b>
Jerusalem	9.9	Refugee	48.5
Jericho	1.5	Non-Refugee	51.5
Bethlehem	4.4	<b>Occupation</b>	
Hebron	13.1	Labor	13.2
Jabalial	7.2	Employee	8.6
Gaza	14.6	Farmer	.5
Der Al Balah	5.3	Merchant	4.4
Khan Younes	5.3	Professional	.9
Rafah	5.3	Crafts	3.4
<b>Education</b>	<b>%</b>	Student	44.5
Less than 9 years	7.4	Housewives	13.2
9-12 yeaes	38.5	Don't work	11.3
More than 12 years	54.1	<b>Sector</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Income</b> (Relative to community)	<b>%</b>	Government	10.1
Above average	9.2	Private	80.6
Average	72.8	NGO	4.9
Less than average	18.0	Others	4.4