

Palestinian Poll Shows Decline in Support for Hamas and Increase in Support for the Armed Conflict in the Gaza Strip

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Overview¹

- ▶ On October 14, 2026, the Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research (PCPSR), headed by Dr. Khalil Shikaki, published a survey examining Palestinian public attitudes in the Gaza Strip and Judea and Samaria regarding the war in the Gaza Strip, the future of the campaign against Israel and the elections for the Palestinian Legislative Council.²
- ▶ The findings indicated 19% support for Hamas, the lowest figure since the outbreak of the war on October 7, 2023. In the Gaza Strip, support stood at 27%, compared with 41% immediately after the ceasefire in October 2025, while in Judea and Samaria support reached only 13%. In contrast, support for Fatah reached 22%-23%.
- ▶ Nearly two thirds of all respondents said neither side had won the war, while 16% said Hamas was the winner and 17% said Israel was the winner. In the Gaza Strip, the gap was more pronounced, with only 17% saying Hamas had won compared with 28% saying Israel had won.
- ▶ Despite the decline in support for Hamas in the Gaza Strip, support for an armed campaign increased to 37%, compared with 21% in the previous survey in August 2026, while in Judea and Samaria 29% expressed the same view, a decline compared with previous surveys. However, in both areas support for a political process reached 41%-43%.
- ▶ The survey was conducted concurrently with the decision by Palestinian Authority chairman Mahmoud Abbas to postpone the elections for the Legislative Council from November 2026 to September 2027. According to the findings, 52% of respondents preferred the vote be held on the original date, while 55% of registered voters said they intended to participate. Among people aged 18-22, only 31% said they were registered to vote and only 46% said they were prepared to vote.

¹ Click <https://www.terrorism-info.org.il/en> to subscribe and receive the ITIC's daily updates as well as its other publications.

² The survey was conducted between October 7 and 11, 2026, among 1,397 Palestinian respondents (909 residents of Judea and Samaria and 488 residents of the Gaza Strip). Data were collected in face-to-face interviews using mobile phones or tablets.

► The survey also showed that the greatest support was divided between an independent slate headed by industrialist Bashar al-Masri and a slate supported by senior Fatah figure Marwan al-Barghouti, who is imprisoned in Israel, which also finished first among voters in Judea and Samaria and among young people. A joint Hamas-Muhammad Dahlan slate finished third overall, but finished first in the Gaza Strip.

► **In Amit Institute assessment, the decline in support for Hamas is the result of three years of war, during which the Palestinian population in the Gaza Strip and Judea and Samaria suffered severe blows. In contrast, there was no corresponding increase in support for Fatah, indicating a crisis of confidence in the traditional Palestinian leadership. However, the continued support for an armed campaign, which increased in the Gaza Strip despite the destruction and humanitarian situation, indicates a certain degree of despair over the ability to achieve Palestinian aspirations through political means. Overall, three years after the Hamas invasion of Israel territory and the atrocities of the subsequent massacre, the findings indicate disappointment among Palestinians, both in the Gaza Strip and in Judea and Samaria, with the consequences of the war and frustration with the war 's failure to advance them toward the goal of establishing an independent state.**

Detailed Findings

Decline in Support for Hamas

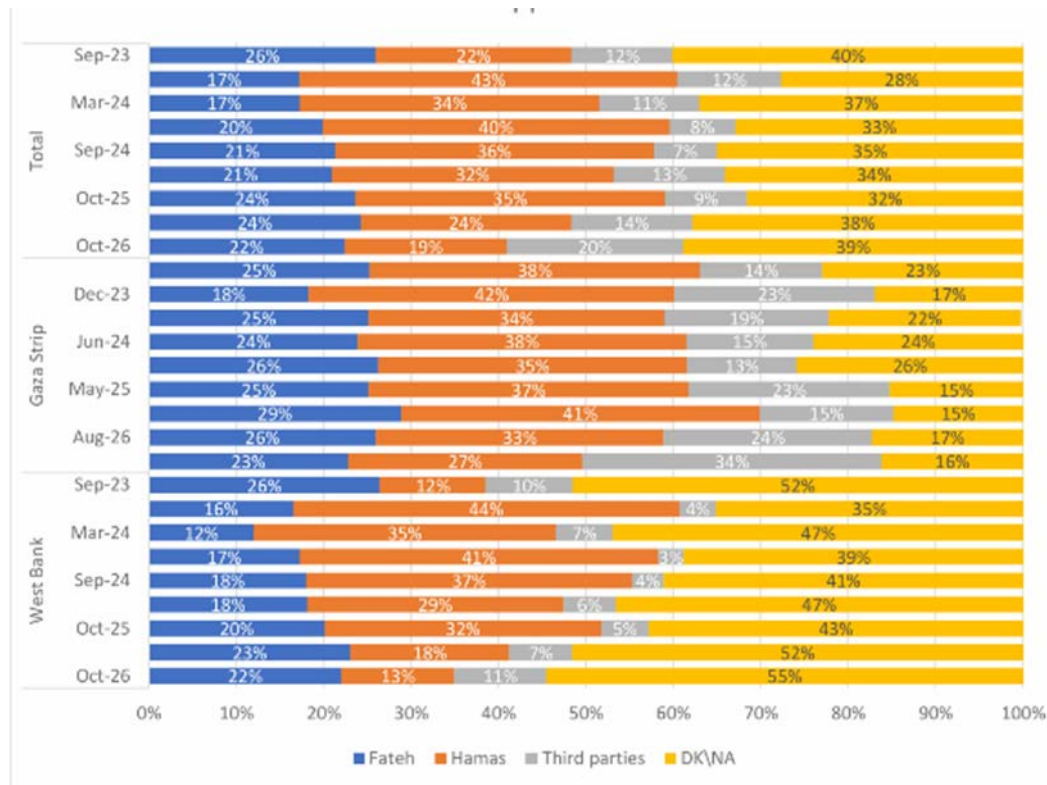
► According to the survey, overall support for Hamas in the Gaza Strip and Judea and Samaria stands at 19%, the lowest figure since the outbreak of the war on October 7, 2023 and a decline of five percentage points compared with the previous survey in August 2026. In the September 2023 survey, the last conducted before the war, support for Hamas reached 22% and rose to a peak of 43% in March 2024. Thus, the current figure represents a decline of 24 percentage points from the peak in March 2024, or a relative decline of approximately 56%.

► The decline in support for Hamas was also reflected in the regional breakdown. In the Gaza Strip, 27% of respondents expressed support for the movement, compared with 33% in the previous survey in August 2026 and 41% in the survey conducted immediately after the ceasefire in October 2025. In Judea and Samaria, support stood at 13%, compared with 18% in August 2026 and 32% in October 2025.

► However, support for Fatah remained stable at 22%, a slight decline from 24% in the August 2026 survey. By comparison, support for Fatah reached 26% in the September 2023 survey. In

the regional breakdown, Fatah received 23% support in the Gaza Strip and 22% in Judea and Samaria.

► Another finding was the move away from defined party identification in Judea and Samaria. Fifty-five percent of respondents said they did not know or had no answer (DK/NA), compared with 52% in the August 2026 survey and 43% in the October 2025 survey. In the Gaza Strip, however, only 16% expressed a similar position, almost unchanged since May 2025.



Which party do you support? Fatah (blue), Hamas (red), another party (gray), no opinion (yellow)³

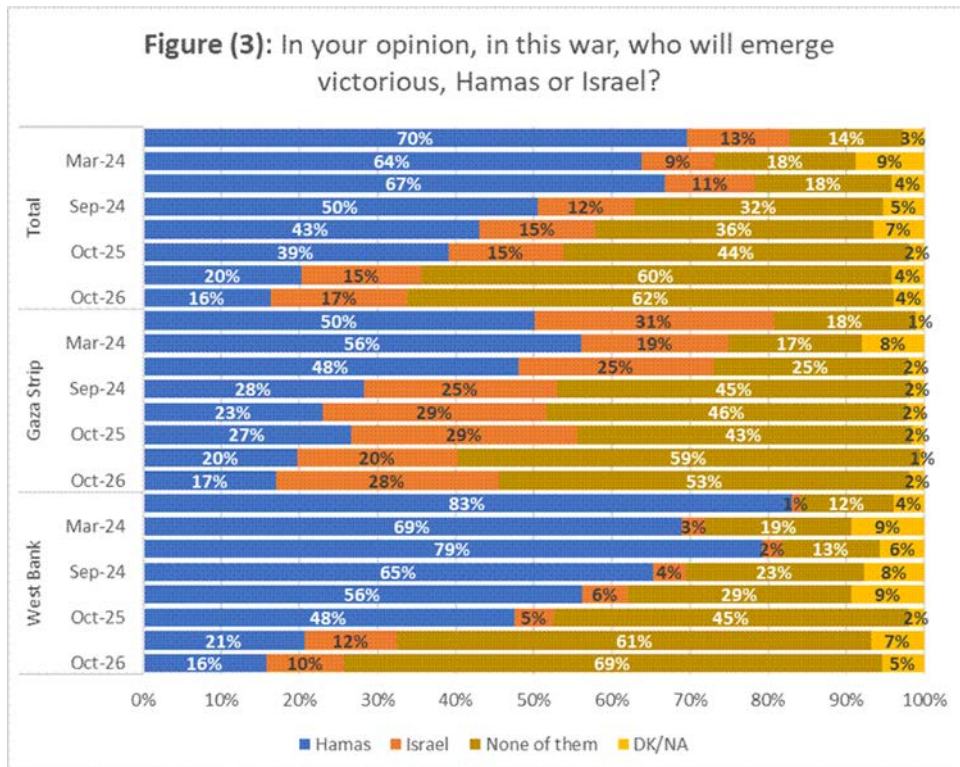
Perception of the War and Assessment of its Results

► The findings showed that 62% of all respondents said that neither side had won the war in the Gaza Strip, an increase of two percentage points compared with the August 2026 survey and a sharp increase from the 44% who expressed the same view in the survey conducted after the ceasefire in October 2025. Seventeen percent of respondents said Israel had won, almost unchanged from the recent surveys (15% in August 2026 and October 2025). Sixteen percent said Hamas had won, a decline from 20% in August 2026 and 39% in October 2025.

³ All graphs were taken from the survey on the Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research website, <https://pcpsr.org/en/node/1018>.

► The regional breakdown reveals significant differences between the Gaza Strip and Judea and Samaria. In the Gaza Strip, where the percentage of respondents who said Hamas would win reached a peak of 50% in March 2024, the figure in the October 2026 survey stood at only 17%. Twenty-eight percent said Israel had won, an increase from the 20% who expressed the same view in the previous survey in August 2026. The continued daily attacks, together with the destruction, hardship and displacement, may have contributed to attitudes in the Gaza Strip.

► In Judea and Samaria, however only 10% said Israel was the winner, compared with 12% in August 2026, while in previous surveys the figure had been in the single digits. At the same time, there was a decline in the view that Hamas was the winner, with 16% expressing that view, compared with 21% in August 2026, 48% in October 2025 and a peak of 83% in the survey conducted in early December 2023.



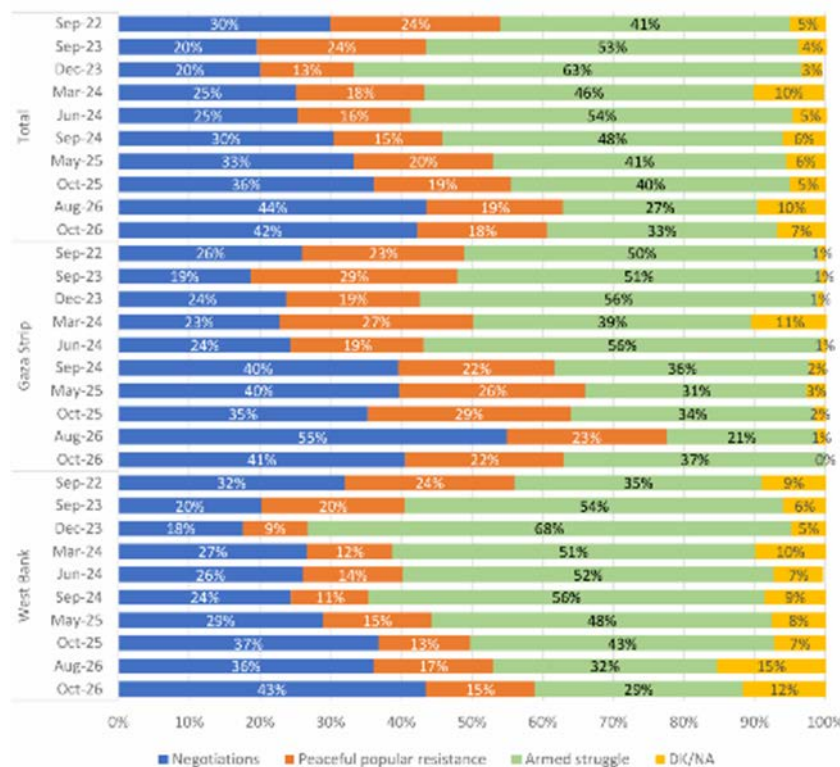
In your opinion, in this war, who will emerge victorious, Hamas or Israel? Hamas (blue), Israel (orange), neither of them (brown)

Armed Campaign and Political Alternatives

► One third of respondents said they supported continuing the armed campaign against Israel to end the "occupation" and bring about the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, a slight increase compared with the previous survey in August 2026 (27%), but a decline compared with 40% in October 2025 and a peak of 63% in the first survey conducted after the

beginning of the war. In contrast, 42% said they supported a political solution to the conflict, almost unchanged from the recent surveys. Eighteen percent expressed support for "nonviolent popular resistance" to achieve the objectives.

► In the Gaza Strip, there was a renewed sharp increase in support for an armed campaign, with 37% of respondents in support, compared with a low of 21% in the previous survey in August 2026, despite the severe consequences of the war for the Gaza Strip and in contrast to the figures showing a decline in support for Hamas. In Judea and Samaria, only 29% expressed the same view, continuing the downward trend recorded in surveys since the peak of 68% support for an armed campaign recorded in December 2023. At the same time, support for political negotiations continued to increase, reaching 43% of respondents, compared with 36-37% in the two previous surveys.



In your view, what is the best means of achieving Palestinian goals in ending the occupation and building an independent state? Negotiations (blue), nonviolent popular struggle (orange), popular struggle (green), no opinion (yellow)

► The survey showed that 53% said they supported a "two-state arrangement" based on the 1967 borders with east Jerusalem as the capital, while 44% opposed it. Forty-one percent identified the expansion of Israeli communities in Judea and Samaria as the main obstacle to the establishment of a Palestinian state and 23% pointed to the internal Palestinian schism. Sixty-one percent said insecurity would continue even after the ceasefire. Seventy-six percent

supported a plan that included reconstruction of the Gaza Strip, improvement of the economic situation, regular payment of salaries, combating corruption and international cooperation against the occupation.

The Issue of Elections for the Palestinian Legislative Council

► On the final day of the survey, Palestinian Authority chairman Mahmoud Abbas issued a presidential decree ordering the postponement of the elections for the Palestinian Legislative Council from November 2026 to September 2027. However, the survey showed that most respondents (53%) supported holding the elections as scheduled (53% in Judea and Samaria and 52% in the Gaza Strip), while 21% supported a short postponement of up to six months and another 20% opposed holding elections under any circumstances.

► Fifty-five percent of all registered voters expressed willingness to participate in the vote (58% in the Gaza Strip and 52% in Judea and Samaria), 16% said they were still undecided about voting and 17% said they would boycott the elections. In the Gaza Strip, 30% reported that their identity cards had been lost or destroyed during the war and therefore they would be unable to exercise their right to vote.

► Among people aged 18-22, only 46% said they wanted to participate in the elections, while only 31% said they were registered to vote. The research institute noted that the figure reflected "a concerning political alienation among young voters."

► According to the data, a majority of 56% of all respondents expressed willingness to vote for a new independent slate composed of technocratic figures and professionals from the economic and civilian sectors, evidence of growing frustration with the "traditional" slates. Among all voters who had formed an opinion, an independent national slate headed by industrialist Bashar al-Masri and one headed by Qadura Fares and Fadwa al-Barghouti, which was supported by senior Fatah figure Marwan al-Barghouti (who is imprisoned in Israel,) tied for first place among the nine slates, with 22% each. They were followed by a joint Hamas-Muhammad Dahlan slate with 20% support, while the Fatah slate came fourth with 13%.

► The slate supported by al-Barghouti came first in Judea and Samaria with 39% and among young people aged 18-22 with 33% support, but received only 7% in the Gaza Strip. The Hamas-Dahlan slate came first in the Gaza Strip with 30%, but received only 7% in Judea and Samaria. Al-Masri's slate had stable support in both areas (23% in the Gaza Strip and 21% in Judea and Samaria), as well as among young people (21%).