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**PUBLIC OPINION POLL OF THE PALESTINIAN CENTER FOR POLICY AND SURVEY  
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**On the eve of the formation of the new Palestinian government, Hamas' popularity increases and Fateh's decreases, but a majority of the Palestinians wants the continuation of the peace process and the implementation of the road map**

These are the results of the latest poll conducted by the Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip during March 16-18, 2006. Total size of the sample is 1270 adults interviewed face to face in 127 randomly selected locations. Margin of error is 3%.

- If elections are held today, 47% would vote for Hamas and 39% for Fateh. In the Gaza Strip, Hamas receives 51% of the vote and Fateh 37%. (In this poll 46% said that on the day of the elections in January 25, they have voted for Hamas and 44% said they have voted for Fateh. The actual official figures of the Palestinian Central Elections commission gave only 44% for Hamas and 41% for Fateh.)
- In the view of 37% of the public, Hamas won the parliamentary elections because voters wanted first and foremost an Islamic Palestinian authority that rules according to religious Sharia. But 36% believe that Hamas won because voters wanted first and foremost a clean authority that fights corruption, 9% said voters wanted first and foremost a strong authority that ends anarchy, and 7% said voters wanted first and foremost a fighting authority that resists occupation.
- In the view of 52% Fateh lost the elections because voters wanted first and foremost to punish it for the spread of corruption while 19% think it lost first and foremost because it was divided and leaderless, and 17% because it failed to end anarchy, and 5% because of the peace process
- 70% expect Hamas to succeed, and 22% expect it to fail, in leading and managing the Palestinian Authority. 69% are not worried and 30% are worried about their personal freedoms now that Hamas has won the elections.

- 68% believe the PA can not manage without international financial support and 50% expect that support to be terminated. But 78% believe that Hamas will find alternative Arab and Islamic sources. Despite international pressure, 59% believe Hamas should not recognize Israel and 37% believe it should.
- 75% say that Hamas should engage Israel in peace negotiations. 64% identify themselves as supporters of the peace process and only 14% say they are opposed to the peace process. 53% want the newly elected authority to implement the Road Map and 49% want it to collect arms from the armed factions while 21% do not want it to interfere in the arms of the factions and 27% say the PA should enact laws that allow the factions to keep their arms. 82% support integrating armed groups in the Palestinian security services.
- 93% believe the US and Britain are implicated in the Israeli attack on the Jericho jail and the arrest of Ahmad Sa'adat. But a majority of 51% supports only peaceful Palestinian responses to that or no response at all. A total of 46% support various responses ranging from attacking and burning offices, kidnapping of American and British nationals, or even armed attacks against American and British nationals.
- In other domestic affairs:
  - 44% want to give the Palestinian Legislative Council more powers than the PA president while 19% want the opposite and 32% want to give the two equal powers.
  - 44% believe the most serious problem confronting the Palestinians today is unemployment and poverty, 25% believe it is the continuation of the occupation, and 24% believe it is corruption and lack of reforms.
  - 75% say they and their families do not feel secure and safe under the Palestinian Authority
  - 91% say there is corruption in the PA today, but for the first time since 1996, 65% among those think that corruption will decrease in the future.

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