



The Coalition for Accountability and Integrity

Opinion poll on Corruption in the Palestinian society WASTA* (Favoritism and Nepotism) 30 and 31 December 2004

82% of citizens believe that corruption is most prevalent in the Governmental sector

52% of citizens believe that favoritism and Nepotism are the most blatant forms of corruption

22% of citizens believe that bribery is the most common form of corruption

As part of preparations by **the Coalition for Accountability and Integrity (AMAN)** for the Conference on Favoritism and Nepotism in Palestinian Society, to be held early next month, the Coalition assigned the Palestinian Center for Political Studies and Surveys to conduct an Opinion Poll in the Palestinian Territories of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip regarding of the phenomenon of Nepotism and favoritism, the causes, forms, spheres, and scope. The survey was conducted on 30 and 31 December 2004, among a random sample of 1,319 adults in 120 residential areas. The statistical marginal error was 3%.

The survey revealed the impressions of the general public regarding favoritism , Bribery and Nepotism: Fifty tow percent of those surveyed stated that **favoritism and Nepotism** are the most common form of corruption in Palestinian society. The youth in particular (especially those are singles), those who are educated (especially those with B.A. degrees), the poor, the marginalized, and people with low income, shared the same opinion.

There is a general impression that bribery is more prominently spread in Gaza Strip that, particularly in Khan Unis and Rafah.

As to bribery, 22% of those surveyed believe that it is the most common form of corruption. (Previous surveys of **AMAN** had revealed that bribery is concentrated in the higher levels of the Palestinian National Authority).

Most of the people surveyed (82%) believe that corruption is most prevalent in the public sector, such as the ministries and the security establishment. At the same time, 6% of the people surveyed believe that corruption is most prevalent in the private sector, and only 5% believe that corruption is most prevalent in the civic society sector.

The impression is greater among the young holders of B.A. degrees, students, and those of high income, that corruption is prevalent in governmental institutions.

***WASTA:** Intervention for the interest of certain individuals without commitment to the work principles and the required qualifications, such as appointing some one in a certain position for reasons of relative concerns or party affiliation, disregarding qualifications and needs

As pertaining to favoritism in Palestinian society, 23% of the people surveyed indicated that they were asked, or one of their family members or friends were asked, to intervene with a public official in the Palestinian Authority to acquire a public service. 76% of the people surveyed indicated that nobody asked them or their relatives or their friends to intervene in such matters.

In the Gaza Strip, the percentage of the people who were asked to intervene from among those surveyed goes up to 46%. From among those surveyed and who are working in the public sector, 66% indicated that they were asked to intervene, in comparison with 46% in the private sector and 46% of Fatah supporters, compared to 35% of Hamas supporters.

Seeking employment in the centers of influence, and hiding behind the security forces, are two large areas of favoritism: 32% of those surveyed indicated that they were asked to intervene, or one of their family members or their friends was asked to intervene, so that somebody can acquire a job. Also, 27% of those surveyed indicated the field of intervention was with the police or a security establishment.

The rate of intervention in employment requests is higher in certain governorates such as Deir Al-Balah, Nablus, and the refugee camps. The rate declines in certain governorates such as Tulkarem and Jerusalem.

The rate of intervention in the Gaza Strip goes up to 37%, compared to 28% in the West Bank. Also, the rate of intervention with the police or one of the security establishments in Gaza goes up to 37%, compared to 19% in the West Bank.

39% of the people surveyed believe that there was no change in the number of persons who sought an intervention during the last three years. However, 48% of those surveyed believe that a big change took place in the number of people seeking an intervention.

42% of the people surveyed believe that the phenomena of intervention in the Palestinian Territories will decrease in the coming three years, while 41% believe that it will increase.

Priorities in Combating Intervention and Favoritism:

When asking: **"If you have magic wand and you can remove intervention in one of the public institutions/sectors, what will be your first choice?"** 20% of those surveyed stated that in the first place they will end favoritism in job acquisition. At the same time 18% stated that they will end favoritism in the security forces and its responsible officials. Also, 15% indicated that the priority is for ending favoritism in the education sector (admissions and scholarships in the universities in particular). 9.8% of those surveyed indicated that the priority is to end intervention in the judicial courts. 6.6% of those surveyed believe that the priority is for ending favoritism in the field of licensing needed for certain professions. 6.2% indicated the priority is for ending intervention in the distribution of social services.

Opinion poll on Corruption in the Palestinian society
WASTA (Nepotism and Favoritism)
30 and 31 December 2004

1. Following are the most blatant forms of corruption in Palestinian society. Please tell us, in your opinion, which do you think is the most common form?			
	Total %	West Bank %	Gaza Strip %
1. Bribery	21.9	19.4	26.1
2. Intervention/ WASTA †	52.3	50.2	55.8
3. Nepotism	14.1	17.4	8.7
4. Favoritism	1.1	1.2	1.0
5. Personal use of public resources (such as government cars, government telephones, etc...)	7.7	8.1	6.9
6. No opinion/ do not know.	2.9	3.6	1.6
2. In which of the following sectors, in your opinion, is corruption most prevalent? Is it in the government sector such as the ministries and security forces, or in the private sector such as the companies and banks and others? Or is it in the civic society sector such as the non-governmental organizations and institutions?			
	Total %	West Bank %	Gaza Strip %
1. In the public sector	81.5	80.2	83.8
2. In the private sector	6.3	6.2	6.5
3. In the civic society sector	5.1	5.7	4.0
4. No opinion / do not know.	7.1	7.9	5.7
3. Were you, or one of your family members or friends, asked to intervene with a public official or a person responsible in the Palestinian Authority so that a public service is delivered?			
	Total %	West Bank %	Gaza Strip %
1. yes	23.2	20.0	28.3
2. No	76.0	78.8	71.5
3. No opinion / do not know.	0.8	1.2	0.2
4. If your answer was "yes" to question number 3, please indicate who was asked to intervene (choose the most suitable answer).			
	Total %	West Bank %	Gaza Strip %
1. You personally	40.0	36.1	45.7
2. One of your family members	37.8	39.6	35.5
3. A friend of yours was asked to intervene	20.8	22.5	18.8
4. No opinion / do not know.	1.0	1.8	0.0

† WASTA: Intervention for the interest of certain individuals without commitment to the work principles and the required qualifications, such as appointing some one in a certain position for reasons of relative concerns or party affiliation, disregarding qualifications and needs

5. In what organization/sector or field were you asked to intervene? (Choose the most suitable answer).			
	Total %	West Bank %	Gaza Strip %
1. Business Licensing, work places and regulations professions	3.7	5.5	1.6
2. Judicial courts	2.0	1.8	2.3
3. Customs	1.0	1.2	0.8
4. Education (government and private schools, universities, colleges)	12.6	18.2	5.4
5. Services and Utilities (telephone, electricity, water, etc..)	1.0	0.6	1.6
6. Medical services	4.8	3.6	6.2
7. Passports, I.Ds and Immigrations	5.8	7.3	3.9
8. Police or one of the security forces	26.9	18.8	37.2
9. Political party, elected position	1.0	1.8	0.0
10. Private sector	1.0	1.2	0.8
11. Social services	6.1	9.1	2.3
12. Tax revenue	0.3	0.6	0.0
13. Employment seeking	32.0	27.9	37.2
14. No opinion / do not know.	1.7	2.4	0.8
6. In general, do you believe that a change took place during the last three years in the number of people seeking an intervention (WASTA)?			
	Total %	West Bank %	Gaza Strip %
1. yes	48.2	49.0	46.9
2. No	38.8	35.0	45.1
3. No opinion / do not know.	13.0	16.0	8.1
7. Do you anticipate any change in the level of intervention (WASTA) and favoritism in the next three years?			
	Total %	West Bank %	Gaza Strip %
1. yes	60.7	58.9	63.7
2. No	28.8	30.0	26.8
3. No opinion / do not know.	10.5	11.1	9.5
8. If your answer was "yes" to the above mentioned question, what is the extent of that change			
	Total %	West Bank %	Gaza Strip %
1. Will decline significantly	11.0	8.3	15.2
2. Will decline a little bit	43.4	41.7	45.9
3. Will increase a little bit	29.0	34.1	21.2
4. Will increase significantly	12.4	12.6	12.0
5. No opinion / do not know.	4.3	3.3	5.7

9. If you have a magic wand and you can remove intervention (WASTA) from one of the following institutions/sectors, which institution/sectors will you choose first?			
	Total %	West Bank %	Gaza Strip %
1. Business Licensing, work places and regulations professions	6.6	7.3	5.5
2. Judicial courts	9.8	11.1	7.7
3. Customs	2.4	2.9	1.6
4. Education (government and private schools, universities, colleges)	14.6	17.3	10.1
5. Services/Utilities (telephone, electricity, water, etc..)	2.5	2.1	3.2
6. Medical services	4.3	4.8	3.4
7. Passports, IDs and Immigrations	2.6	2.9	2.0
8. Police or one of the security forces	18.3	16.2	21.9
9. Political parties, elected position	3.0	3.2	2.6
10. Private sector	1.4	1.8	0.8
11. Social services	6.2	5.6	7.1
12. Tax revenue	1.0	0.7	1.4
13. Job seeking	19.5	17.1	23.7
14. There is no corruption in the mentioned institutions/sectors	1.1	0.6	2.0
15. No opinion / do not know.	6.6	6.5	6.9