

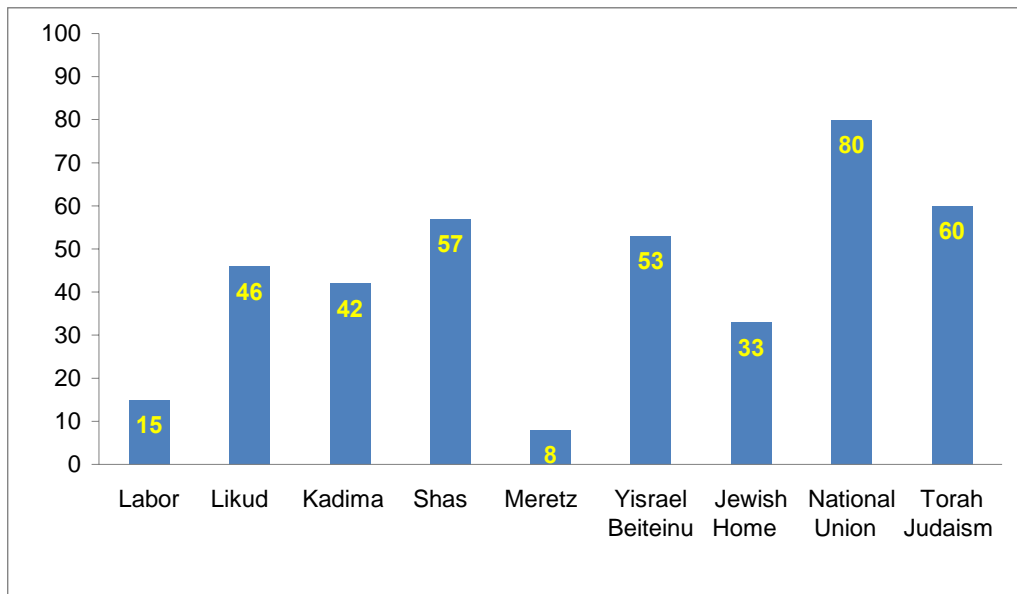
## War and Peace Index

February 2010

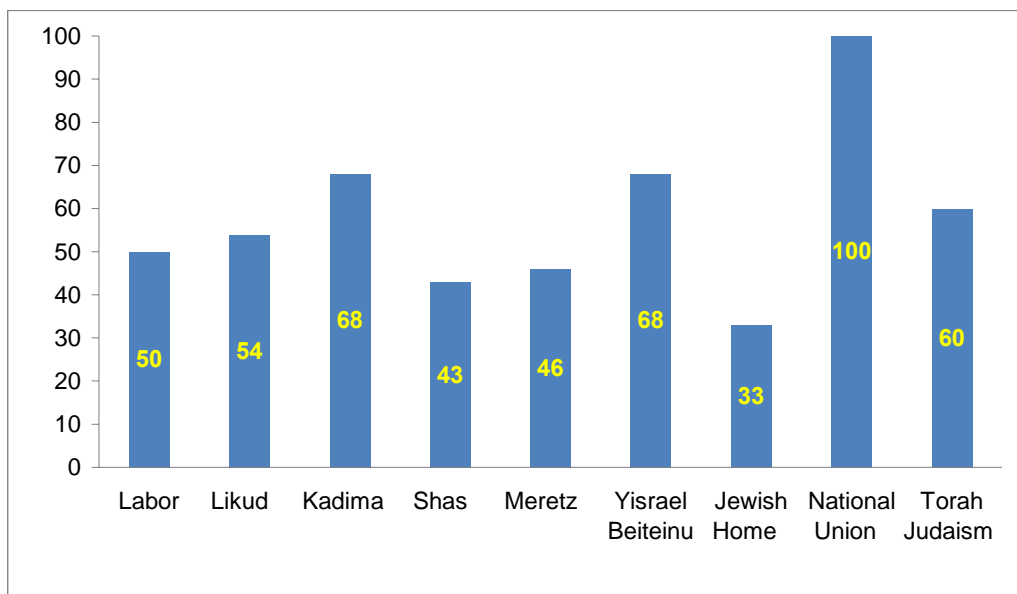
**Prof. Ephraim Yaar and Prof. Tamar Hermann**

A majority of the Jewish public (52%) opposes the view that someone who criticizes Israel's foreign and defense policy abroad or before international actors is a traitor. At the same time, more than half (57%) agree with the view that in a situation where there is an external conflict, human rights are less important than the national-security interest. These are the main findings of a survey we conducted on the background of the Im Tirtzu organization's campaign against the New Israel Fund, which centers on Im Tirtzu's claim that organizations financed by the fund supplied "incriminating" information to the Goldstone Commission on whose basis the commission reached grave conclusions regarding Israel's conduct in Operation Cast Lead; and on the background of the claim of the NGO Monitor organization that the human rights and peace organizations are funded by European governmental bodies.

As the following figure shows, a segmentation of the answers by voting in the latest elections shows that the gaps between voters for the different parties are very large. Whereas only a small minority of Meretz (8%) and Labor (15%) voters consider that someone who provides information to foreign actors is a traitor, a large majority of National Union and Torah Judaism voters think so.



As for the priority of the security interest over human rights in a situation of external conflict, here the gaps between voters for the different parties are less extreme and less systematic across the Right-Left spectrum:



In light of the common assumption that young people are more extreme in their positions than older adults and that highly educated people are more moderate than the uneducated, we divided the answers to these two questions by age and education.

The distribution revealed no significant gaps in the positions of the different age and education groups. This was true regarding both the question of the priority of the national-security interest over human rights in time of conflict and the question of labeling as a “traitor” someone who provides information to external parties such as the Goldstone Commission.

As for the source of the donations to the peace and human rights organizations, it turns out that, as in the previous check in November 2009, the public is almost evenly split in its opinion on whether or not it makes a difference if the contributions come from private sources or from governmental and international bodies, with a slight lead for those who see no difference (48% vs. 40%). However, a clear majority (55% vs. 34%) says it makes no difference whether the donations from abroad come from Jewish or non-Jewish sources.

A segmentation of these data by voting in the most recent Knesset elections shows no significant differences between voters for the different parties on the issue of whether the external source of the donations is private or official. As for whether they come from Jewish or non-Jewish organizations, it turns out that a majority of the voters for both the secular and religious parties do not see a difference, but—not surprisingly—among Shas and Torah Judaism voters a clear majority regards receiving

contributions from Jewish donors as different from receiving them from non-Jewish ones.

A segmentation of the questions on Jewish or non-Jewish, and official or private, sources of the donations by age of the interviewees revealed that in both cases, the medium ages tended to see a difference in the two pairs of cases more than the younger and older groups, which did not see a difference. A segmentation of the two questions by the interviewees' educational level showed that the least-educated group (grade school or lower) saw a difference in the two pairs of cases more than those with higher levels of education.

To further clarify the public's mood regarding foreign actors and Israel's stance toward them, we asked: "Recently the foreign minister, Avigdor Lieberman, attacked the policy of Syria and its president, Bashar Assad, in an openly threatening manner. Do you think that, as the foreign minister of the state of Israel, he acted wisely or unwisely?" A clear majority of 57% considered that this was an unwise step, compared to only 29% who favored this action by the foreign minister.

Negotiations index—for the total sample 54.1, for the Jewish sample 51.3

**The War and Peace Index is written by Prof. Tamar Hermann and Prof. Ephraim Yaar, and funded by the Evens Program for Conflict Resolution Research of Tel Aviv University and The Israel Democracy Institute. The telephone interviews were conducted by the B. I. Cohen Institute of Tel Aviv University on 8-9-10 February 2010, and included 508 interviewees who represent the adult population of Israel (including the territories and the kibbutzim). The sampling error for a sample of this size is 4.5%.**