

The Peace Index – May 2011

(N=600)
17-18.5.2011

1. What is your position on holding peace negotiations between Israel and the Palestinian Authority?

| | General Public | Jews | Arabs |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|------|-------|
| 1. Strongly in favor | 32.2 | 27.5 | 59.0 |
| 2. Moderately in favor | 34.9 | 36.7 | 24.5 |
| 3. Moderately opposed | 16.7 | 17.6 | 12.1 |
| 4. Strongly opposed | 13.5 | 15.2 | 3.3 |
| 5. I don't know\ refuse to answer | 2.7 | 3.0 | 4.4 |

2. Do you believe or not believe that negotiations between Israel and the Palestinian Authority will lead to peace between Israel and the Palestinians in the coming years?

| | General Public | Jews | Arabs |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|------|-------|
| 1. Strongly believe | 6.9 | 4.6 | 20.0 |
| 2. Moderately believe | 23.5 | 21.9 | 32.3 |
| 3. Moderately don't believe | 27.7 | 29.4 | 17.8 |
| 4. Don't believe at all | 41.5 | 43.6 | 29.9 |
| 5. I don't know\ refuse to answer | 0.3 | 0.4 | |

3. The Palestinians are again saying that given the lack of progress in negotiations, in September 2011, they will declare an independent Palestinian state based on the 1967 borders even without an agreement with Israel, and will ask the UN General Assembly to recognize it. In your estimation, what are the chances that they will indeed do so?

| | General Public | Jews | Arabs |
|---------------------------------|----------------|------|-------|
| 1. Very high chances | 19.4 | 19.9 | 16.7 |
| 2. Moderately high chances | 40.9 | 44.0 | 23.2 |
| 3. Moderately low chances | 24.7 | 23.4 | 32.3 |
| 4. Very low chances | 11.6 | 9.6 | 23.4 |
| 5. Don't know/ Refuse to answer | 3.4 | 3.2 | 4.5 |

4. In your opinion, could Israel or could it not have prevented the Palestinian push for UN recognition of an independent state if it had shown greater flexibility in the political negotiations in recent years?

| | General Public | Jews | Arabs |
|---------------------------------|----------------|------|-------|
| 1. I'm sure it could have | 15.0 | 13.3 | 24.5 |
| 2. I think it could have | 27.2 | 26.3 | 32.3 |
| 3. I think it could not have | 26.0 | 26.4 | 23.2 |
| 4. I'm sure it could not have | 26.6 | 28.5 | 15.6 |
| 5. Don't know/ Refuse to answer | 5.2 | 5.4 | 4.4 |

5. In your opinion, will there or will there not be a large majority of states in the UN General Assembly that recognizes the Palestinian state, even if Israel opposes it?

| | General Public | Jews | Arabs |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|------|-------|
| 1. There will be a large majority | 74.3 | 75.4 | 67.7 |
| 2. There will not be a large majority | 21.4 | 20.1 | 28.9 |
| 3. I don't know\ refuse to answer | 4.3 | 4.5 | 3.3 |

6. In your opinion, will the United States recognize or not recognize an independent Palestinian state if there is a vote on this matter at the UN, even if at that time there is no agreement between Israel and the Palestinians and the Israeli government is opposed to this move?

| | General Public | Jews | Arabs |
|-------------------------------------------|----------------|------|-------|
| 1. I think the U.S. will recognize it | 32.9 | 32.6 | 34.5 |
| 2. I think the U.S. will not recognize it | 57.6 | 57.2 | 59.9 |
| 3. Don't know/ Refuse to answer | 9.4 | 10.1 | 5.5 |

7. To what extent will UN recognition of an independent Palestinian state damage, benefit, or neither damage nor benefit Israeli interests?

| | General Public | Jews | Arabs |
|---------------------------------|----------------|------|-------|
| 1. Damage | 58.1 | 64.0 | 24.5 |
| 2. Neither damage nor benefit | 29.2 | 27.1 | 41.2 |
| 3. Benefit | 9.7 | 5.8 | 32.1 |
| 4. Don't know/ Refuse to answer | 3.0 | 3.2 | 2.2 |

8. **And if there is a Palestinian declaration of independence without an agreement with Israel, and a UN majority recognizes the Palestinian state, in your opinion will Israel then be able or not be able to allow itself to refrain from recognizing the independent Palestinian state?**

| | General Public | Jews | Arabs |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|------|-------|
| 1. I'm sure it will be able to allow itself to refrain from recognizing | 20.7 | 20.1 | 24.5 |
| 2. I think it will be able to allow itself to refrain from recognizing | 28.1 | 28.0 | 28.8 |
| 3. I think it will not be able to allow itself to refrain from recognizing | 29.6 | 31.3 | 20.0 |
| 4. I'm sure it will not be able to allow itself to refrain from recognizing | 15.4 | 15.5 | 14.5 |
| 5. Don't know/ Refuse to answer | 6.2 | 5.1 | 12.2 |

9. **And from what you know about the current Israeli government, in your opinion, will it recognize or not recognize a Palestinian state in the event that such a declaration is made and receives the support of most of the states in the UN?**

| | General Public | Jews | Arabs |
|---------------------------------|----------------|------|-------|
| 1. It will recognize it | 23.6 | 22.5 | 30.1 |
| 2. It will not recognize it | 70.2 | 71.2 | 64.4 |
| 3. Don't know/ Refuse to answer | 6.2 | 6.3 | 5.6 |

10. **Assuming that it is not too late, in your opinion, should Israel or should it not significantly moderate its political positions in its dealings with the Palestinians over the coming months so as to prevent a Palestinian declaration of independence without an agreement between Israel and the Palestinians?**

| | General Public | Jews | Arabs |
|---------------------------------------------|----------------|------|-------|
| 1. Israel should moderate its positions | 40.0 | 36.5 | 59.9 |
| 2. Israel should not moderate its positions | 55.0 | 59.7 | 27.8 |
| 3. Don't know/ Refuse to answer | 5.0 | 3.8 | 12.3 |

11. And what, in your opinion, are the chances that if Israel indeed moderates its positions significantly in its dealings with the Palestinians, the latter will not declare an independent state in September nor seek UN recognition if an agreement with Israel has not yet been reached?

| | General Public | Jews | Arabs |
|---------------------------------|----------------|------|-------|
| 1. Very high chances | 7.3 | 5.4 | 18.0 |
| 2. Moderately high chances | 23.6 | 21.0 | 38.1 |
| 3. Moderately low chances | 30.7 | 31.7 | 24.8 |
| 4. Very low chances | 30.2 | 32.7 | 15.8 |
| 5. Don't know/ Refuse to answer | 8.3 | 9.1 | 3.4 |

12. It emerged from Prime Minister Netanyahu's speech to the Knesset that Israel will insist on retaining the large settlement blocs in the West Bank and on retaining military control of the Jordan Valley. In other words, Israel would be prepared to evacuate the rest of the settlements in the West Bank and the Jordan Valley. What is your view of Netanyahu's position on this matter?

| | General Public | Jews | Arabs |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|------|-------|
| 1. This position is not sufficient to advance the peace process | 23.6 | 17.0 | 61.0 |
| 2. The position is appropriate | 31.8 | 33.1 | 24.5 |
| 3. The position is too conciliatory and dangerous to Israel | 36.5 | 41.3 | 8.9 |
| 4. Don't know/ Refuse to answer | 8.0 | 8.5 | 5.6 |

13. If there is a Palestinian declaration of independence in September, and most of the states in the UN General Assembly recognize the new state but Israel announces that it does not accept the decision, in your opinion is there or is there not a chance that the international community will exert substantial pressure on Israel to withdraw from the West Bank, for example, by imposing painful economic sanctions or other to cause Israel to leave the territories?

| | General Public | Jews | Arabs |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|------|-------|
| 1. There is a high chance of substantial pressure on Israel | 33.0 | 33.2 | 32.3 |
| 2. There is somewhat of a chance of substantial pressure | 39.9 | 40.7 | 35.6 |
| 3. There is a low chance of substantial pressure | 14.5 | 13.4 | 21.0 |
| 4. There is no chance at all of substantial pressure | 10.2 | 10.5 | 8.9 |
| 5. Don't know/ Refuse to answer | 2.3 | 2.3 | 2.2 |

14. In your opinion, what are the chances that a popular intifada will break out in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip if an independent Palestinian state is declared and a majority of UN states recognize it, but Israel does not withdraw from the West Bank?

| | General Public | Jews | Arabs |
|---------------------------------|----------------|------|-------|
| 1. Very high chances | 26.1 | 26.4 | 24.3 |
| 2. Moderately high chances | 42.8 | 43.6 | 37.8 |
| 3. Moderately low chances | 22.1 | 21.6 | 24.5 |
| 4. Very low chances | 4.8 | 4.1 | 8.9 |
| 5. Don't know/ Refuse to answer | 4.2 | 4.2 | 4.4 |

15. In your opinion, do the events of Nakba day this past Sunday signal or not signal the beginning of a popular intifada that also includes Palestinians and Arabs living in the Arab countries bordering Israel?

| | General Public | Jews | Arabs |
|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------|------|-------|
| 1. I think they signal the beginning of an intifada | 49.0 | 49.8 | 44.5 |
| 2. I think they do not signal it | 45.0 | 45.5 | 42.1 |
| 3. Don't know/ Refuse to answer | 6.0 | 4.8 | 13.3 |

16. If there is a declaration of an independent Palestinian state, could Israel prevent such intifada-type events if Netanyahu presents a political program that could lead to negotiations with the Palestinians? Or at this stage, is it impossible to prevent such intifada-type events?

| | General Public | Jews | Arabs |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|------|-------|
| 1. Such events can be prevented if a political program is presented | 39.8 | 38.6 | 46.8 |
| 2. Such events cannot be prevented in any case | 53.2 | 54.2 | 47.7 |
| 3. Don't know/ Refuse to answer | 6.9 | 7.2 | 5.6 |

17. In your opinion, will the Palestinian leadership try to prevent or, alternatively, encourage the outbreak of a third intifada in the event that an independent Palestinian state is declared?

| | General Public | Jews | Arabs |
|------------------------------------------------------|----------------|------|-------|
| 1. The Palestinian leadership will try to prevent it | 36.1 | 33.7 | 49.9 |
| 2. The Palestinian leadership will encourage it | 56.1 | 58.2 | 44.5 |
| 3. Don't know/ Refuse to answer | 7.7 | 8.1 | 5.6 |

18. Did the army commander on the Golan Heights who gave an order to refrain from firing potentially lethal shots act properly, or should everything have been done to prevent the infiltration into Israel, including the firing of potentially lethal fire?

| | General Public | Jews | Arabs |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|------|-------|
| 1. He acted properly in giving the order | 57.1 | 62.2 | 27.8 |
| 2. Everything should have been done, including the firing of potentially lethal fire | 34.2 | 30.7 | 54.4 |
| 3. Moderately low chances | 8.7 | 7.2 | 17.8 |

19. Some claim that because of the inclusion of a terror organization such as Hamas in the Palestinian leadership, Israel cannot conduct negotiations with the Palestinian Authority. Others claim that conducting negotiations with a Palestinian leadership that does not include Hamas is worthless even if an agreement with the Palestinians is reached, since a large part of the Palestinian people would not be represented by that leadership. With which of the following opinions do you agree most?

| | General Public | Jews | Arabs |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|------|-------|
| 1. Israel should negotiate with the Palestinians even if Hamas participates | 44.1 | 38.2 | 77.7 |
| 2. Israel should negotiate with the Palestinians only if Hamas does not participate | 31.2 | 34.6 | 12.2 |
| 3. Israel should not negotiate with the Palestinians whether or not Hamas participates | 20.8 | 23.4 | 5.6 |
| 4. Don't know/ Refuse to answer | 3.8 | 3.7 | 4.5 |

20. Today, some three months after popular uprisings began causing regime changes in the Arab world, has Israel's situation in the region improved or worsened?

| | General Public | Jews | Arabs |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|------|-------|
| 5. Israel's situation has improved | 10.1 | 10.9 | 5.6 |
| 6. Israel's situation has worsened | 43.9 | 38.9 | 72.2 |
| 7. Israel's situation has not changed | 41.2 | 44.9 | 20.0 |
| 8. Don't know/ Refuse to answer | 4.8 | 5.3 | 2.2 |