

## Annual Surveys

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The Annual Survey is a comprehensive survey consisting of interviews with a representative sample of the Palestinian community in Israel about their attitudes on social and political issues. The first Annual Survey conducted early in 2004 produced a wealth of data about the Palestinians in Israel and forms a baseline, with subsequent survey results showing any changes in public opinion. The resulting data and the accompanying analysis will provide a source for the study of trends in political and social change within the Palestinian community in Israel.

### Methodology

The representative sample used consisted of 840 Palestinian adult respondents who were drawn from fifty Palestinian localities within Israel. The sampling method used for this survey was the stratified sampling method and involved the population of study to be divided into 9 strata in terms of four variables: religion (Muslims, Christians, Druze); region (five regions corresponding to five geographical regions: Al-Naqab, North Triangle, South Triangle, district of Nazareth, the North); type of locality (mixed cities, Arab localities, unrecognized Arab villages). From each stratum a simple, random sample was drawn and the data was collected by face-to-face interviews with the average time to complete an interview being one hour.

### Categories of Questions used in the Survey

1. Issues relating to place of residence such as amenities and local services.
2. Acceptability of representation and participation of Palestinians living in Israel in Israeli state activities such as national sporting events, civil service and public holidays.
3. Equality between Palestinian and Jewish residents in Israel.
4. The Intifada and the Palestinian Authority.
5. Future expectations for Palestinians within Israel, West Bank and the Gaza Strip.
6. Relationships between Palestinian and Jewish citizens in Israel.
7. The Mass Protests of October 2000.
8. Arab Members of the Knesset
9. General Issues

## Summary

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An opinion poll conducted by Mada al-Carmel indicates that 63% of the Arabs in Israel expect an increase in racism, as well as a growing economic and social disparity between Jews and Arabs.

On Wednesday May 2/6/2004, the Haifa-based 'Mada al-Carmel – The Arab Center for Applied Social Research' released results of an opinion poll covering a representative sample of the Arabs in Israel, including the Druze community. The survey was

conducted over a period of three months – January to March of 2004. 845 respondents participated in the study including residents from 36 Arab villages, four mixed cities, and eight unrecognized villages in the North. The survey did not include the Palestinian residents of East Jerusalem or the Syrian residents of the Golan Heights. Professor Nadim Rouhana, Director of Mada, and Ameer Sa'abni, Coordinator of the Survey Research Unit oversaw the study.

Survey results clearly indicate a marked pessimism among Arabs in Israel in most aspects of daily life and in relations to the Israeli state. Approximately two-thirds (63%) of the respondents consider the status of the Arabs in Israel to be worse today than ten years ago. In addition, approximately two-thirds (67%) envision deteriorating status over the coming ten years. Respondents expected various scenarios: 63% expect amplified racism against Arabs in Israel, 63% expect widening social and economic disparities between Jews and Arabs, 62% expect one of the Arab parties to be banned (and judged "illegal"), 47% expect a continued status quo, 45% expect Israel's transformation into an apartheid state, and 32% expect increased Palestinian emigration from Israel.

Participants did not respond in great numbers to more optimistic future scenarios: Israel's transformation into a state for all of its citizens (28%), improvement of the social and political status of Arabs in Israel (24%), or full equal rights between Arabs and Jews (21%).

The causes for this pessimism are not hard to uncover. In terms of social equality, few respondents believe there to be equality between Arabs and Jews in various sectors: education (10%), employment opportunities in governmental institutions (7%), employment opportunities in the private sector (10%), representation in official positions (5%), legal treatment (25%), freedom of expression (30%), treatment in government offices (19%), influencing state decision making (5%), political representation (8%), citizenship and relationship to the state (8%), resource distribution (4%), state treatment of the Arab minority's religion and holy sites (20%), and political rights (11%). The two aspects that received the highest approval rating were health services and hospital treatment. Approximately 47% to 52% of the respondents considered that in these two realms there was complete or "close to complete" equality.