



Peace Index- September 2020

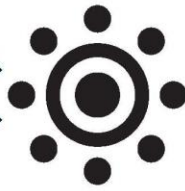
- **A great majority of the Israeli public considers the functioning of the Corona Cabinet, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Education as mediocre and worse. In addition, only about one quarter of the respondents think that most of the public behaves according to the corona instructions.**
- **More than half of the public feel that the demonstrations against Netanyahu will not change his status in the short run, while the public is divided in their opinions about the how the police behave towards the demonstrators. About a third of the Jewish respondents and half of the Arab respondents support the demonstrations.**
- **The public is divided in accord with their political identities about a solution to the continually recurring coalition crises.**
- **Only a third of the public think that the police force and the legal system function in a professional way, without political bias.**
- **Almost half of the public support concessions holding back annexation in return for a peace agreement with the United Arab Emirates. Most respondents think that the agreement will have no effect on a solution to the conflict with the Palestinians, and more than half feel that other Arab states will follow in the footsteps of the UAE.**
- **This is the first time that the solutions of two states and annexation have garnered almost identical support among Jewish respondents. Nevertheless, support for negotiations with the Palestinian Authority has remained stable, although there is still disbelief that negotiations will lead to peace between the sides in the coming years.**

Prof. Ephraim Yaar and Dr. Nimrod Rosler

This Peace Index has been devoted to questions about dealing with the coronavirus, the continuing demonstrations against Netanyahu, the political system and government, the peace agreement with the United Arab Emirates and the conflict with the Palestinians.

Dealing with the coronavirus (Questions 9-11)

The data indicate dissatisfaction among the public with the functioning of the central governing bodies dealing with the coronavirus and the social implications. From our investigation of public attitudes to four government bodies dealing with the crisis, differences are not substantial, with the least satisfaction expressed for the Corona Cabinet, and then, in descending order, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education. Answers to question 11 reflect the recognition by the public that most people do not behave according to official instructions. It may be assumed that the lack of satisfaction in areas where government organizations function in dealing with the corona lead to lack of cooperation with the instructions issued by these government organizations.



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It is interesting to note that the Arab public evaluates Ministry of Health functioning, including corona tests and epidemiological investigation, higher than the Jewish public, but lower than the Jewish public for the Ministry of Education and its organization of the start of the school semester.

Demonstrations against Netanyahu (Questions 14-16)

The Jewish public is divided in its opinion about the continuing demonstrations against Netanyahu according to their political identification: 92% and 73% among those on the rightwing and on the moderate right respectively are against the demonstrations while 75% and 95% among the center and leftwing respectively support them. It is important to note that 61% of the Jewish public define themselves as moderate rightwing or rightwing. It is also interesting to see that the two main partners in the present government represent opposing opinions about the demonstrations: While 94% of Likud voters oppose the demonstrations, 86% of Blue-White voters support them. However, among Jewish respondents who express opinions about the demonstrations, there is wide agreement that they will not change the status of Netanyahu in the near future. When examining the attitudes of the police towards the demonstrators, the public is divided in their opinions – again according to their political opinions. While 79% and 52% among the left and the center respectively feel that the police are too aggressive towards the demonstrators, 56% and 43% of the rightwing and moderate rightwing feel that the police are too lenient towards the demonstrators.

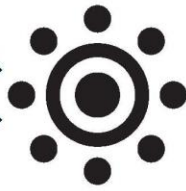
Among the Arab public, about half support the demonstrations, while about a third did not express an opinion about them. It appears that quite a large sector of the Arab public do not take a clear stand regarding these demonstrations as a third did not express an opinion about how the police relate to the demonstrators and a quarter did not express an opinion about the effect of the demonstrations on Netanyahu's status.

The governmental systems

It can be seen that Netanyahu has succeeded in casting doubt on the legal system among his voters, as, among those who expressed an opinion, only one quarter feel that it functions professionally and without political bias, while about two-thirds (65%) believe that it is biased against Netanyahu. In a mirror image, two-thirds of Blue-White voters feel that the legal system functions without political bias, while about a quarter (24%) think that it is biased in favor of Netanyahu. However, the police gain high trust among Likud voters (58%), while Blue-White voters are divided between those who feel that the police are biased in favor of Netanyahu (48%) and those who believe that they are unbiased politically (47%).

Among the Arab public, there is a clear reluctance to express trust in these two systems, as 38% do not state their opinions about the police and 41% do not express an opinion about the legal system.

With regard to a solution to the continuing coalition crises, the public does not have a clear attitude. Among those who do express an opinion, the most common answer among the rightwing and the moderate rightwing is that the government should continue in its present form



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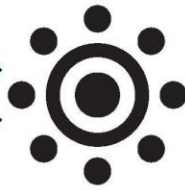
(42% and 34% respectively). The most common reply among the center and leftwing voters is that Netanyahu should resign and give his place up to Ganz within the present governmental framework (43% and 63% respectively). Among the Arab public, the most common answer among those who expressed an opinion was that the Knesset should be dissolved and new elections should take place.

The peace agreement with the United Arab Emirates

Among respondents in the Jewish public, more than half of the moderate rightwing (57%), the center (85%) and the left (93%) support the normalization agreement with the United Arab Emirates in return for giving up the plan to annex land from Judea and Samaria. In contrast, about two-thirds (65%) of rightwing supporters opposed this move. It is interesting to point out that about half of center voters (52%) consider that the agreement will advance the chances to solve the conflict with the Palestinians, while most of the rightwing (52%), the moderate rightwing (58%), and the leftwing (57%) feel that the agreement will not affect the chances for such an agreement, and this, despite the public opposition of the Palestinian Authority to the agreement. Among Arab respondents, almost a half (47%) think that the agreement will not affect the chances to reach a solution to the conflict with the Palestinians. Among the general Jewish public, without relating to political ideology, and among the Arab public, most respondents considered that other Arab states would follow in the footsteps of the Emirates, and this was before the agreement with Bahrain became public.

The Israel-Palestinian Conflict

For the first time since we began to investigate support for the various solutions to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict a year and a half ago, there is an identical level of support for the solution of the creation of an independent Palestinian state alongside the State of Israel (37.7%), and the apartheid-like solution of annexation of the territories and the creation of one state under Israeli rule with limited rights for the Palestinians (37.3). This represents a fall of 5% in comparison to the last index for the two-state solution along with a rise of 3.5% of support for annexation among Jews. The great decline in support for the two-state solution is considerable among center voters: from 78% in the May index to 62% in the present index. Among the Arab public, there is a small increase of 6% in support of the two-state solution in comparison to the previous index. However, there is no clear difference from the last index in answers to the question, “Which solution do you believe has the best chance of being achieved in the foreseeable future?”, as about half or more of Jewish respondents – left (48%), center (61%), moderate rightwing (55%), and rightwing (62%) – but only a third of Arab respondents, believe that the present situation will continue.



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Negotiation Index:

General sample: 46 (an increase of 0.9 points from the last index)

Jewish sample: 44 (an increase of 1 point from the last index)

The negotiation index is calculated by weighing two questions: Level of support for negotiation with the Palestinian Authority, and level of trust that negotiation with the Authority will lead to peace in the coming years.

The Peace Index is conducted by Dr. Nimrod Rosler and Prof. Eppie Yaar from the International Program in Conflict Resolution and Mediation of Tel Aviv University. The survey was conducted on the internet by iPanel on 6-8 September 2020, among 614 respondents, a representative sample of the entire adult population (ages 18 and over) in Israel. Maximum margin of error for the entire sample is +/-4.1% at a confidence level of 95%.

The Diagram of the Month: Do you support or oppose the demonstrations taking place at present against Netanyahu? (in percentages, according to vote)

