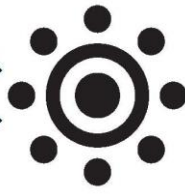


**Peace Index- December 2020**

- **Two-thirds of the Jewish public in Israel support the advancement of a proposed bill that would prevent a person accused of a criminal act from serving a prime minister and a bill that would limit a prime minister from serving more than two terms of office. A similar majority exists for the first proposed bill of the two among the Arab public.**
- **Almost half of the Jewish public prefer that someone other than Netanyahu serve as prime minister after the coming election, and about a quarter do not know who they would prefer as prime minister. In addition, a bit more than half of this public would be interested in a unity government.**
- **More than half of the Arab public do not know who they would prefer to head the government and what kind of government they would wish to see after the coming elections.**
- **A similar proportion of the Jewish public (about 40%) feel that the recent peace agreements signed with Arab governments will not affect or advance the chances to solve the conflict with the Palestinians. The Jewish public is divided in its opinion, in accord with their political identification, considering the question of how the regime change in the United States will affect the chances for renewing negotiations with the Palestinians.**
- **It seems clear that recent events have posed many question marks for the Arab public about a solution to the conflict with the Palestinians. Many feel that they do not know what effect the recent peace agreements will have, while half do not know what effect the regime change in the United States will have with regard to the conflict. A higher percentage than usual also do not know how to answer the question about their preferred settlement to the conflict and which of the solutions has the best chance at being realized.**
- **Most of the general Israeli opinion holders believe that vaccination against corona should be encouraged using incentives and only a small minority support imposition of sanctions on those who do not wish to be vaccinated.**
- **Most of the Jewish public support transmitting vaccines to the Palestinian Authority with limiting conditions, while half of the Arab public support immediate transmission of vaccines to the Palestinian Authority with no limiting conditions.**

**Dr. Nimrod Rosler and Prof. Eppie Yaar**

The final Peace Index for 2020 deals with questions regarding the coming elections, the effects of the recent peace agreements, and the regime change in the United States on a solution to the conflict with the Palestinians, and the corona vaccine. The results of the index regarding the first two subjects indicate instability in the opinions of the Arab public in Israel.



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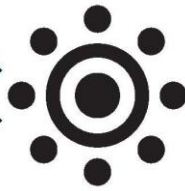
### The Coming Elections (Questions 10-12)

The data shows that a majority of the entire political spectrum of Israeli Jews support the advancement of a proposed bill, even before the elections, preventing a person accused of a criminal act to serve as prime minister – 57% of right-wingers, 69% of moderate right-wing supporters, 90% of the Israeli center and 96% of leftwing supporters, and these results reflect the views of index respondents who expressed an opinion. It is interesting to note that even 57% of opinion holders among Likud voters support this bill. There are similar results among opinion holders in the Jewish public who support a proposed bill to limit the prime minister to serving only two terms – 52% of the right, 69% of the moderate right, 91% of the center and 96% of the left. The data of the Peace Index of December 2020 indicate a certain rise in support for both proposed bills in contrast to the last time we asked these questions, in March 2020: 67% in contrast to 62% of support for the first proposed bill and 68% in contrast to 63% for the second bill.

Regarding the desired government after the elections, while rightwing opinion holders are divided between preferring a rightwing – ultra-Orthodox government (55%) and supporting formation of a unity government (45%); moderate right-wingers opt for a unity government by a wide margin (75%) while a large number prefer such a government without the participation of the ultra-orthodox (45%). A large majority of centrists also would rather have a unity government (81%), with greater support for one without the ultra-orthodox parties (65%). In contrast, left-wingers prefer a center-left government (54%), but quite a large number support a unity government without the participation of the ultra-orthodox parties (39%).

When we asked about the preferred candidate for the next prime minister, the only ideological group in which a majority of opinion holders want Netanyahu is the rightwing (65%). The other groups are divided in their preferences, while Netanyahu does not receive a majority in any of them: Among the moderate rightists, the two leading candidates are Netanyahu (46%) and Sa'ar (31%). Among centrists, the leading candidates are Sa'ar (35%) and Lapid (32%) and on the left – Lapid (53%) and Gantz (24%).

Among the Arab public, surprising trends can be identified. While most of them (56%) support the advancement of a law that would prevent a person accused of a criminal act from serving as prime minister, and almost half are in favor of limiting a prime minister to two terms (46%), about a third of them do not know whether they are in favor of these laws or oppose them (30% and 34% respectively). An even greater surprise can be seen in response to the question of preference for the type of government to be formed after the coming elections. While in March 2020, most Arab respondents (54%) expressed support for the establishment of a center-left government, support for this type of government greatly decreased in the present survey to 29% and most respondents did not know which future government they would prefer (52%). An even greater majority of respondents (58%) stated that they did not know who should be chosen prime minister after the elections. It appears that the Arab public were disappointed when the possibility arose that a government led by Gantz with the support of the Joint List would be installed, but then, ultimately, that did not happen.



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### **The Israeli – Palestinian Conflict (Questions 1-7)**

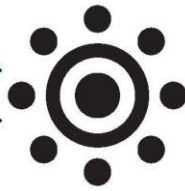
The Jewish public is divided in their opinions about the possible effects of the recent peace agreements with Arab states on the chances for solving the conflict with the Palestinians. Among opinion holders, most of the political rightwing and the moderate rightwing feel that these agreements will not have any effect (56% and 53% respectively), while most respondents from the center and the left feel that they will advance the chances of possible negotiations (52% in both groups). Regarding the possible effect of the change in the US government on the chances for renewing negotiations with the Palestinians, the largest group among opinion holders on the right think it will lower the chances (41%) while most on the left believe that it will increase the chances to renew negotiations (64%). Further, 39% and 40% respectively of the moderate right and the center feel that the change will not affect these chances. It may thus be assumed that, while left-wingers pin their hopes on the new government, the right-wingers view the regime change in a less positive light from the Israeli standpoint, and in its effect on the future of the conflict with the Palestinians.

In comparison to the last index, there has been a rise among Jewish respondents supporting the two-state solution (44%), reaching a level similar to those in the past. In contrast, support for annexation has fallen from a peak of 37% in the last index, to 26% in the present one. While there has been almost no change in the percentage of those who believe that the two-state solution is the one most likely to be realized, there has been a certain decrease in those who feel that there are chances to achieve annexation. – 16% in the last index and 9.5% in the present.

The tendency to undermine existing attitudes among the Arab population can also be seen in their approach to the Palestinian issue. There has been a rise in the percentage of those saying that they don't know how the recent peace agreements with the Arab states will affect chances for finding a solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in comparison with the previous index (38% in comparison to 29% in the last index). Half of the Arab respondents don't know how the change in regimes in the US will affect the chances of a renewal of negotiations with the Palestinians. Support for the two-state solution to the conflict with the Palestinians fell by 12% as opposed to the previous index, while the percentage of respondents who do not know whether they support or oppose a two-state solution, a bi-national state or a continuation of the existing situation has risen by 12% compared to the previous index. Thus, it is clear that regional and international developments, including the change of regime in the US and the increasing peace agreements with a growing number of Arab states, have led a considerable number of Arab citizens to reexamine their positions relating to the best way to seek a solution to the conflict with the Palestinians.

### **Vaccines Against Corona (Questions 8-9)**

Most of the opinion holders in the general Israeli public find that continuing to vaccinate against the coronal virus should be encouraged with incentives (51%), and only a small minority support



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the imposition of sanctions on those who do not want to be vaccinated (8.5%). Finally, while half of the Arab public support transmission of corona vaccines to the Palestinian Authority immediately and with no conditions, a large group among moderate right wing, center and leftwing Israelis support transmission only after the general Israeli public has received vaccinations (49%, 46% and 43%), and a third of the right-wingers oppose transmitting vaccines under any conditions.

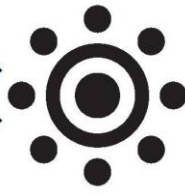
### **Negotiation Index:**

**General sample: 47.5** (an increase of 1.5 points from the last index)

**Jewish sample: 45.3** (an increase of 1.3 points from the last index)

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

*The Peace Index is conducted by Dr. Nimrod Rosler and Prof. Eppie Yaar of the International Program in Conflict Resolution and Mediation of Tel Aviv University. The survey was conducted on the internet by the iPanel company from 29 December 2020 to 3 January 2021, among 608 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%.*



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**The Diagram of the Month: The level of support before the elections for a law preventing a person accused of criminal acts from serving as prime minister (among opinion holders)**

