

### Peace Index- May 2021

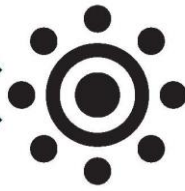
- **Regarding future relations between Jews and Arabs in Israel, most respondents among both publics support strengthening equality and cooperation between the groups and oppose an increase in separation between them. Nevertheless, a large majority of the Jewish public supports strengthening Jewish control.**
- **The Jewish public expresses high levels of mistrust towards Palestinians in the occupied territories, alongside high levels of mistrust of Arab citizens of Israel. In contrast, the Arab public expresses much more moderate levels of mistrust towards the Jewish public.**
- **Regarding the recent widespread violence within Israel, half of the Israeli public feel that Netanyahu did not deal with it successfully and that the violence was not justified. While half of the Jewish public think that Netanyahu did not want to arouse the present internal violence, a great majority of the Arab public do think that he wanted to instigate it.**
- **Half of the Jewish public believe that Israel achieved more significant gains than Hamas in the recent fighting, and more than half now support the use of military means to bring about the collapse of Hamas rule in Gaza. A great majority of this public feel that the nations of the world are hostile to Israel.**
- **Relating to the future of the conflict with the Palestinians, there has been a rise in the level of opposition to maintaining the present situation in comparison to the previous survey. Although none of the proposed solutions to the conflict gained majority support, the two-state solution, is still the one that is most preferred.**
- **Just before the inauguration of the Bennett-Lapid government, two-thirds of the respondents support a law which would prevent a person accused of a criminal act from serving as prime minister.**

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

The Peace Index was taken after the recent outbreak of violence, and before the Bennett-Lapid government was finalized. It focuses primarily on the results of these events and their effect on the future of the conflict and on relations between Jews and Arabs in Israel.

#### **The Recent Outbreak of Violence (Questions 6-14)**

A mirror image of the different sides of the political map can be seen among opinion holders in reply to the question of whether Netanyahu wanted to arouse the recent outbreak of violence: While a great majority of supporters of the rightwing (81%) and the moderate right wing (74%) believe that Netanyahu did not want to arouse the recent outbreak of violence, a large majority of leftwing supporters (82%) and centrists (69%) think the opposite. Similarly, but with smaller gaps, most rightists (65%) and moderate rightists (62%) agree with the statement that Netanyahu dealt successfully with this outbreak, and in contrast, the great majority of people on the left (88%) and in the center (76%) do not agree. While the claim that that the countries of the world



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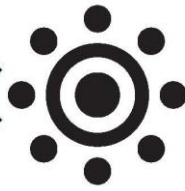
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are hostile to Israel received support from all sides of the ideological spectrum among Jewish respondents, the assertion that the outbreak of violence was justified met with opposition from most of this public, and only among the moderate right did it gain majority support (55%).

Among the Arab public, a great majority believe that Netanyahu tried to incite the recent violence (71%) and that he did not deal with it successfully (69%). Similar to the Jewish public, about half of the Arab respondents feel that this round of violence was unjustified. While a great majority of Jewish respondents believe that the countries of the world are hostile to Israel (73%), the Arab public is more evenly divided between those who support this claim (37%) and those who are opposed (38%), and about a quarter do not know. In addition, half of the Jewish public considers that Israel gained more significant achievements than Hamas in the latest round of violence; in the Arab public, opinions are divided, as the most common answer was that neither of the sides gained significant advantages (34%). Among Jewish opinion holders, a great majority of right-wingers (85%) and moderate right-wingers (71%) believe that Israel should now act militarily to overthrow Hamas rule in Gaza, while a great majority of left-wingers would like to act now in order to achieve a long-term solution (83%) and centrists are split between the first possibility (48%) and the second (43%). Most of the Arab public support a long-term solution (57%), but a third did not express their opinion.

After the end of the violence, we tried to investigate the measure of (dis)trust of various groups on the other side politically. Unsurprisingly, the Jewish public expressed very high levels of distrust towards the Palestinians in Gaza (85%) and on the West Bank (84%). But still, these are a bit lower than the level of total distrust of Hamas (97%). Among respondents in the Jewish public, there is also distrust of Arabs who are citizens of Israel, except among left-wingers, as three-quarters of them expressed trust in Arab citizens of Israel. In contrast, the Arab public expressed more ambivalence regarding their level of trust for all three of the groups mentioned, but among those who expressed opinions, a majority (61%) expressed distrust of Jewish citizens of Israel.

When we asked about the level of support for various goals regarding relations between Jews and Arabs in Israel, we found that among Jewish respondents, a great majority support strengthening cooperation between the groups, except among respondents on the right, among whom opinions were split between opposition (52%) and support (48%). Most of the left and center (95% and 83% respectively) support increased equality for the two groups, while half of the moderate rightwing support such moves. Among the rightwing, only 28% expressed support. Similar data appear for the four ideological Jewish groups, regarding the level of opposition to an increase in separation between Arabs and Jews (85%, 65%, 55%, and 27% respectively). Strengthening Jewish control as a goal gained almost full support from the rightwing (98%) and the moderate rightwing (89%), but less support from people in the center (69%) and low support from the left (28%). Among the Arab public, there is clear support for increasing equality (75%) and for cooperation between the two groups (71%), and opposition to separation between them (51%). Opinions are divided in this group about strengthening Israeli control, with 39% opposed and 31% in favor, and with an identical percentage of those who did not express an opinion.



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### **The Future of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict (Questions 1-6)**

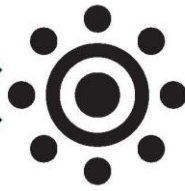
We asked whether the recent fighting had caused respondents to reconsider their position on continuing the conflict with the Palestinians. Among the respondents, most on the left (55%) and on the right (53%) responded that it had not led to reconsideration, while among the moderate right and the center, most answered positively. People on the right who responded that they were reconsidering their opinions were divided between those who said that they were weighing whether to support a military solution (33%) and those who stated that they were thinking about supporting an agreed upon political solution (16%). Centrists responded positively and tended more to support an agreed upon political solution (37%). Among the Arab public, about a third (32%) did not respond or stated that they were not reconsidering their opinion on the subject, while, about a quarter (24%) said that they were considering supporting an agreed upon political solution.

While investigating whether there has been a change in the level of support for the various solutions that we ask about on a permanent basis, results indicate stability, when compared to the previous index in December 2020, in support for a two state solution (47% in comparison to 46%), in support for annexation (27% compared to 24%) and for a binational state (18% compared to 22%). However, there is an increase of 10% in opposition for continuing the present situation (63% compared to 53%) in the total Jewish public, while, for the first time, there has also been a rise in opposition among rightists (52% compared to 48%) and among moderate rightists (66% as opposed to 34%). Despite the growing dissatisfaction with the existing situation, there is no sign of change, when compared to the previous index, in answers to the question of which solution has the highest probability of being achieved, as in the last index, continuing the present situation is the most frequent reply in the sample (46%).

### **The Political Situation (Questions 15-16)**

The data received indicates stability, when contrasted to the previous index, in support of a law to prevent those accused of criminal activity from serving as prime minister (66% in contrast to 65%), including broad support among right-wing voters (69%). Netanyahu's proposal for direct elections for prime minister also gains wide support among the right-wing (87%) and from the moderate right (71%), compared to opposition from the centrists (63%) and from the left-wing (82%).

Even before the public became acquainted with renewed contacts to establish a Bennett-Lapid government, we asked what should be done at present from a political standpoint. Among Jewish voters who support parties which are not members of the new government (Likud, Yahadut Ha-Torah, Shas, and the Religious Zionists), there was a clear majority for establishing a government headed by Netanyahu, while among parties which are members of the coalition, there was a majority supporting a government under Lapid and Bennett, including among half of Yamina voters (49%). Among Arab opinion holders, there was a majority (53%) supporting the establishment of a government under Lapid, with or without Bennett.



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### Negotiation Index:

**General sample: 45** (a decrease of 2 points from the last index)

**Jewish sample: 42.3** (a decrease of 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 26 May 2021 to 30 May 2021, among 611 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: Level of opposition to continuing the present situation in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict (among opinion holders)

