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PRESS RELEASE

Operation Guardian of the Walls Survey - May 2021

78% of Israelis approve of the government's handling of the military's operation in Gaza, but only 31% of Israelis think it did a good job communicating the operation's goals to international audiences

45% of Israelis think that the operation in Gaza was related to the Prime Minister's political considerations

May 25, 2021 – The Israel Democracy Institute published a special survey measuring the public's sentiments regarding Operation Guardian of the Walls. The survey, conducted by IDI's the Viterbi Family Center for Public Opinion and Policy Research, found that the government received good grades from the public on the military execution of the operation (78%) and care for the home front (58%), but Israelis were divided on the question of whether a good job was done communicating the operation's goals to the public (50%). When it comes to communicating the operation goals to international audiences, only 31% of Israelis think that the government succeeded.

Main Findings

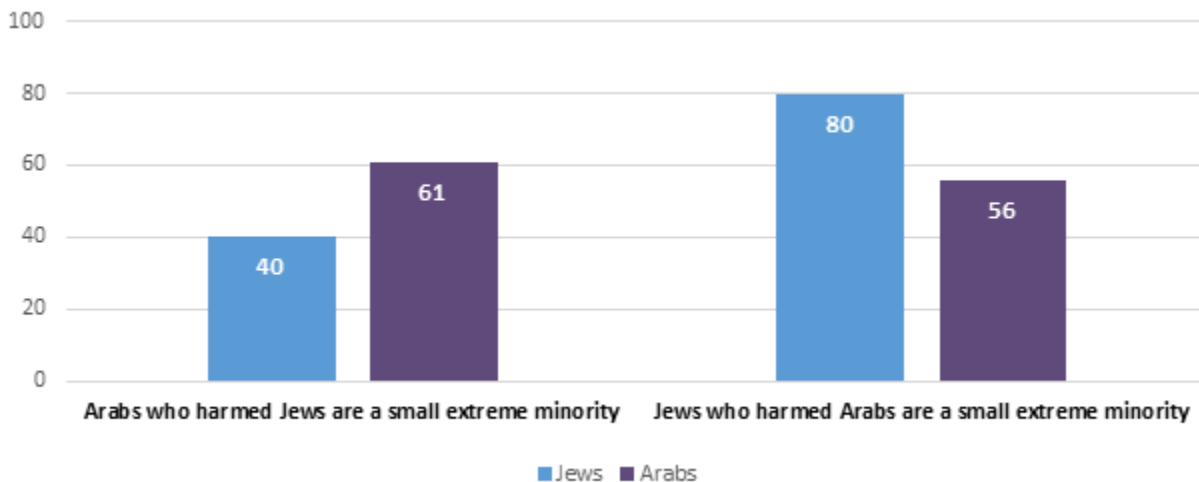
Gaza operation and political considerations – 41% of Jewish Israelis and 63% of Arab Israelis think that there is a connection between the operation in Gaza and the Prime Minister's political considerations as coalition negotiations continue and he seeks to remain in office.

Analysis of Jewish Israeli sample by political camp reveals that on the Left, a large majority (87%) believe there is a connection between the military operation and political considerations; in the center—a smaller majority (56%) think this is the case, while on the right—only a small minority (23%) see such a link.

Rating of government functioning in the course of the Operation - A large majority of the public (78%) rated the government's management of the military aspects of the Operation, as "pretty good" or "excellent" in Operation Guardian of the Walls. A smaller majority (58%) gives good grades on the government's care the home front during the Operation. About half gave the government good grades in conveying the Operation's goals to the Israeli public (50%), and less than a third (31%) —in conveying its goals to international audiences. The latter was perceived as the main weakness among all the population groups we examined.

Clashes between Jews and Arabs— When it comes to Arabs who harmed Jews, only a minority of Jewish Israelis (40%) and a majority of Arab Israelis (61%) believe that they are just a small minority of extremists who do not reflect the general sentiment among Arab Israelis. On the other hand, when it comes to Jews who have harmed Arabs, a very large majority among Jewish Israelis believe that this is just a small and unrepresentative minority of extremists (80%); and a majority, albeit a smaller one, among Arab Israelis (56%), concur with this assessment. In other words, Arab Israelis view Jews much more favorably than Jewish Israelis view Arab Israelis, with regard to whether the offenders represent a minority or a majority of the respective group.

Arabs who harmed Jews in the riots in the various cities are a small extreme minority that does not reflect the opinion of the majority of the Arab public; / Jews who harmed Arabs in the riots in the various cities are a small extreme minority (% , agree, Jews and Arabs)



The Operation Guardian of the Walls survey was prepared by the Viterbi Center for Public Opinion and Policy Research of the Israel Democracy Institute. In the survey, which was conducted on the internet and by telephone (supplements of groups that are not sufficiently represented on the network) from May 19-20, 2021, 531 men and women were interviewed in Hebrew and 109 in Arabic, constituting a representative national sample of the entire adult population of Israel aged 18 and older. The maximum sampling error for the entire sample was $.395 \pm\%$ at a confidence level of 95%. The fieldwork was done by the Rafi Smith Institute. For the full data file see: <https://dataisrael.idi.org.il>