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## PRESS RELEASE

### *The Israeli Voice Index – April 2022*

#### **50% Jewish Israelis support Jewish Prayer on the Temple Mount**

#### **Israel's 74<sup>th</sup> Independence Day - 46.5% of Israelis think that Israel's successes outweigh its failures – down from 63% in 2020**

**May 3, 2022 – The Israeli Voice Index for April 2022**, published today by the Israel Democracy Institute's Viterbi Family Center for Public Opinion and Policy Research, found that less than half of the public (46.5%) think that Israel has had more successes than failures, a noticeable decline relative to 2020, when 63% said that the country's successes outnumber its failures.

In regards to the latest tensions in Jerusalem, 50% of Jewish Israelis support allowing Jews to pray on the Temple Mount – 38% tie their support for Jewish worship to the message it sends regarding Israel's sovereignty over the holy site and 12% say that prayer should be allowed there because it is a religious commandment.

*The Israeli Voice Index is a monthly survey conducted by the Viterbi Family Center for Public Opinion and Policy Research.*

## **Main findings:**

### **Israel's 74th Independence Day**

**More successes or failures?** Less than half (46.5%) said that Israel has had more successes than failures, a noticeable decline relative to 2020, when 63% said that the country's successes outnumber its failures. Meanwhile, there has been a sharp rise in the share of those who believe that the state has had more failures than successes – 19% this year, compared with just 8% in 2020. Similarly, the share of those who believe that Israel's successes and failures are evenly balanced has risen from 22% in 2020 to 27% now.

**Prayer on the Temple Mount** –50% of Jewish Israelis support allowing Jews to pray on the Temple Mount. – 38% tie their support for Jewish worship to the message it send regarding Israel's sovereignty over the holy site and 12% say that prayer should be allowed there because it is a religious commandment. 40% Oppose Jewish worship on the Temple Mount – 23% because it might invoke a severe negative reaction from the Muslim world and 17% because they believe it is forbidden by *Halakha* (Jewish law).

A breakdown by self-identification in terms of religious observance found that most Haredim oppose Jewish prayer on the Temple Mount because they believe it is prohibited by *halakha* (86.5%). The largest shares among national religious, traditional religious, and traditional non-religious respondents say that they support prayer because it signifies Israel's sovereignty over the Temple Mount (51%, 54.5%, and 49%, respectively). The largest share of secular respondents oppose Jewish worship on the Temple Mounty because they are concerned that it might invoke a severe negative reaction from the Muslim world (39%).

### **Recent Security Events**

**Prime Minister Bennett's Policy** - Among Jewish Israelis, 33% gave the Prime Minister's policies regarding the security situation a positive rating (compared with 42% who graded it as "poor" and 21% who awarded it a mediocre score). Among the Arab sample, a particularly low share of respondents (16%) viewed this policy positively.

**Police** – Jewish and Arab Israelis are divided on their estimation of how the police handled the confrontations in Jerusalem and particularly on the Temple Mount. Over half the Jewish respondents awarded good grades to the police’s handling of these events, 20% gave it a moderate score, and 20% rated it poor. By contrast, 70% of Arab respondents graded the police’s conduct as poor. A breakdown of the Arab sample by religion shows that while 78% of Muslims gave the police a poor rating, only 38% of Christian and Druze respondents agreed with this assessment.

**Ra’am and the Joint List** – The majority of Jewish Israelis had a negative assessment of the conduct of these two parties (Ra’am, 62%; Joint List, 76%) in the context of the security events of the last month. 52% of Israeli Arabs also gave Ra’am’s conduct a poor grade. The Joint List fared slightly better, with 48% giving its conduct a poor rating.

### **Political System – Elections?**

**Will the government survive to the end of the year?** 60% of Israelis estimated that there is a small likelihood of the government surviving at least a year. Less than a third of Israelis (30%) think that there is a chance of the government lasting at least a year (down from 50% in February 2022).

**Preferred political option** – If the government loses its majority (less than 60 seats), 35% of Israelis would like new elections to be held, 32% would be in favor of a new coalition formed in the current Knesset (without elections) supported by at least 61 Knesset members, and a slightly lower proportion (29%) expressed a preference for continuing with the current government as a minority government, with external support on certain issues from Knesset members currently in the opposition.

In 2022, while more than half of the Jews (53%) said that the State of Israel has had more successes than failures, this view was held by only 17% of Arab respondents.

*The Israeli Voice Index for April 2022 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 24 to 26 April 2022, 601 men and women were interviewed in Hebrew and 150 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  $\pm 3.65\%$  at a confidence level of 95%. The fieldwork was done by the Midgam Institute. For the full data file see: <https://dataisrael.idi.org.il>*