**Press Release**

**Arab Society in Israel Survey**

**Most Arab Israelis: October 7 Attack Does Not Reflect Islamic, Palestinian, or Arab Society Values**

*56% of all Arab Israelis say the attack by Hamas on October 7 does not reflect Arab society, the Palestinian people, and the Islamic nation. 33% say it does and 11% are unsure.*

The Arab Society in Israel Program of the Israel Democracy Institute's Center for Democratic Values and Institutions, in collaboration with IDI's Viterbi Center for Public Opinion and Policy Research, conducted an in-depth survey of Arab society within Israel (also referred to as "Arabs" or "Arab Israelis") in the midst of the war with Hamas.

More than half of Arab Israelis across all religions, including Muslims (53%), Christians (68%) and Druze (69.5%) said they agreed with a statement by MK Mansour Abbas, Chair of the Ra'am Party, that Hamas' actions on October 7 "do not reflect Arab society, the Palestinian people, and the Islamic nation."

**Additional findings:**

**The Majority of Arab Israelis: Hamas and Israel are Equally to Blame for Harm to Gaza Civilians**

We asked: “During the war, Palestinian civilians in the Gaza Strip who were not involved in the fighting against Israel have also been harmed. In your opinion, who is most responsible for this harm to civilians?” 58% said both Hamas and the State of Israel/IDF bear equal responsibility; 16% say only Hamas is responsible; and 14.5% say only Israel is responsible.

## Who is most responsible for harm to Palestinian civilians in the Gaza Strip who were not involved in fighting against Israel? (%)

**Vast Majority of Arab Israelis with Jewish Friends Say Their Relationships Have Not Changed Since the War**

We asked: “Since the outbreak of the war, what has happened to your relations with Jewish friends and acquaintances?” Some three-quarters of all respondents said they have relations with Jewish Israelis (74%), and of these, the overwhelming majority (78%) reported that there has not been any change in these relations. A small minority (15.5%) said that relations have worsened, and an even smaller minority (5.5%) that they have improved.

**Many Arab Israelis Feel Uncomfortable in Certain Social Situations**

The following are the rates of Arab Israelis who feel comfortable in four social situations we presented to our interviewees: entering Jewish or mixed localities for work or to run errands: 44%; expressing oneself freely on social media: 21%; speaking Arabic when around Jews, such as on public transport or next to unfamiliar people: 51%; and contacting relatives and friends in Gaza and in the West Bank: 23.5% (out of the 43% who reporting having friends and relatives in Gaza and the West Bank).

## Since the beginning of the war, do you feel comfortable in each of the following situations? (%)

**About Two-Thirds of Arab Israelis Feel a Sense of Belonging to the State of Israel**

We asked respondents about the extent to which they feel part of the State of Israel and its problems. Around two-thirds (65%) said that they do feel this way—a finding that reinforces the trend of a growing sense of belonging observed in a November 2023 survey (which stood at 70%). This stands in contrast to findings from previous years, when no more than half of the Arab public felt this way. This majority is largest among Druze respondents (80%), followed by Christians (73%) and then Muslims (62%). Along these lines, 86.5% say they support assisting with civilian volunteer efforts in Israel.

**Increased Concerns about Physical and Economic Security**

We repeated a question that was featured in previous IDI surveys about the extent to which Arab Israelis are worried about their and their family’s physical and economic security, which stand at 84% and 86%, respectively. Between mid-October and late-November, we found an increase in the level of concern relative to previous measurements, while, interestingly, there was a decline in concern about both issues among Jewish Israelis.

**Arab Israelis Give Low Grades to Five Key Institutions**

Low levels of Arab Israelis rated the performance of five institutions as good or excellent since the war began: the Hadash-Ta’al political party (17%), the Ra’am political party (21%), the Israel Police (22.5%), the municipality or local authority where they live (24%), and the Arabic-language Israeli media (25%).

*This survey of public opinion in Arab society in Israel on the war in Gaza was conducted by the Center for Democratic Values and Institutions (Arab Society in Israel Program) in collaboration with the Viterbi Family Center for Public Opinion and Policy Research at the Israel Democracy Institute. Data collection was carried out between November 27 and December 4, 2023, with 538 men and women interviewed by telephone in Arabic. The maximum sampling error was ±4.31% at a confidence level of 95%. Field work was carried out by Afkar Research Ltd. headed by Dr. Hisham Jubran.*