**Press Release**

**December 2023 Israeli Voice Index**

**War in Gaza Survey**

**Most Israelis Oppose Meeting US Demands to Shift to New Phase of War**

*About two-thirds (66%) of Israelis say they do not think Israel should agree to US demands to shift to a phase of the war with reduced heavy bombing in populous areas. 75% of Jewish Israelis oppose meeting the demands, compared to only 21% of Arab Israelis.*

The [December 2023 Israeli Voice Index](https://en.idi.org.il/articles/52085), conducted by our Viterbi Family Center for Public Opinion and Policy Research, asked the following: "According to reports, the United States is demanding that Israel shifts to a different phase of the war in Gaza, with an emphasis on reducing the heavy bombing of densely populated areas. Should Israel agree to this demand?"

Israelis are divided on this matter across political orientations—among Jewish Israelis, 57% on the Left think Israel **should** agree to these demands from the US, compared to 19% in the Center and only 7% on the right.

**Additional findings:**

**Benny Gantz most common pick for Prime Minister after the war**

We posed the open question (i.e., without a series of names to choose from) of whom the respondents would like to be prime minister after the war. The top five picks were: Benny Gantz: 23%; Benjamin Netanyahu: 15%; Naftali Bennett: 6.5%; Yair Lapid: 6.2%; and Itamar Ben-Gvir: 1.5%. A notable 30.5% either do not know, declined to respond, or said no one currently in the field is suitable to be prime minister. As shown in the graph below, there are significant differences across political orientation. Among those who voted previously for Netanyahu's Likud Party, there is not majority support for Netanyahu—only 36% indicated they would like to see him as the next Prime Minister.

**After the war, who would you like to be prime minister of Israel? (Jewish sample; %)**

**Only a quarter of Israelis think Netanyahu will keep coalition together after the war**

28% of Jewish Israelis and 12% of Arab Israelis think that Netanyahu will succeed in keeping his coalition together after the war. Breaking down the responses by religiosity among Jewish Israelis reveals that Haredim are the only group in which a majority (60%) think that Netanyahu will be successful in this regard. This view is held by 38% of national religious, 34% of traditional religious, 25.5% of traditional non-religious, and just 17% of secular respondents.

**Most Israelis think intensive fighting is the best way to bring hostages home**

A majority of Israelis (56%) think the best course of action to release the hostages is to continue the intensive fighting and try to have IDF forces free the hostages, while a minority (24%) think that it would be better to release all the Palestinian prisoners held by Israel, even if it involves agreeing to Hamas' demand to cease fighting. Responses vary across political orientation, with 28% on the Left think continued fighting is best in this regard, compared to 57% in the Center and 78% on the Right. A notably high rate of Israelis say they do not know what is best.

**Very few Israelis perceive a high level of success in achieving the war goals so far**

When asked the extent to which Israel is achieving its war goals, the most common response regarding the goal of toppling Hamas was that there has been moderate success so far (36%), while the most common response regarding the goal of releasing hostages was that Israel’s success to date has been small (42%). Only 14% think Israel has been highly successful in releasing hostages and 27% of Israelis think the same of defeating Hamas.

**Decline in optimism about the future of Israel's security**

The rate of optimism about the future of Israel's security stands at 40%, which is a significant drop of 6.5 percentage points since November. A more moderate decline—within the margin of error—was seen in the rate of optimism about the future of democratic rule. Presumably, the fall in optimism about security is due to increasing IDF casualties in Gaza, the attacks by Hezbollah in the north, and various traumatic events at this stage of the war.

**Increase in Arab Israeli support for striking Hezbollah, though still a minority**

Approximately half (51%) of Israelis support opening a second front and fighting against Hezbollah in the north, and around a third think that this should be avoided. Among Jews, a majority support striking at Hezbollah (57%), a view shared by only a minority of Arabs (20%). Arab Israelis—unlike their Jewish counterparts—have seen an increase in support for striking Hezbollah, up from 13% in November to 20% today.

*The December 2023 Israeli Voice Index was prepared by the Viterbi Family Center for Public Opinion and Policy Research at the Israel Democracy Institute. The survey was conducted via the internet and by telephone (to include groups that are under-represented on the internet) between December 25–28, 2023, with 605 men and women interviewed in Hebrew and 151 in Arabic, constituting a nationally representative sample of the adult population in Israel aged 18 and over. The maximum sampling error was ±3.55% at a confidence level of 95%. Field work was carried out by the Dialogue Research and Polling Institute. The full data file can be found at: https://dataisrael.idi.org.il.*