**Press Release**

**War in Gaza Survey 15**

**Israelis say the time has come for those responsible for October 7 to step down**

The Israel Democracy Institute released its fifteenth War in Gaza survey, part of a special series of polls conducted by our Viterbi Family Center for Public Opinion and Policy Research.

After more than six months of war, we found that among both Jewish (58%) and Arab Israelis (81%) there is widespread agreement that now that the majority of Israeli forces have left the Gaza Strip, the time has come for those who were responsible for the failure of October 7 to resign from their positions. Among Jewish Israelis, while a decisive majority of those on the Left (84%) and in the Center (80%) think that those responsible for the failure should resign now, less than half of those on the Right (44%) hold the same view.

**Additional findings**

**Overwhelming Majority of Jewish Israelis: Eliminating Iranian Commander in Damascus was the Right Thing to Do**

When asked whether, in retrospect, and in light of the severe Iranian response, Israel was correct to reportedly have eliminated an Iranian commander in Damascus, 80% of Jewish Israelis think this was the right course of action, while among Arab Israelis, 67% think it was the wrong course of action. A large majority of the Right (90.5%) and Center (77%) of the political spectrum think it was the correct decision, while on the Left, a large minority (45%) support the decision.

**Think that the decision to kill the Iranian commander in Damascus was correct (Jewish sample, by political orientation; %)**

**Against backdrop of international cooperation repelling Iran, Israelis remain against establishment of Palestinian state**

Against the backdrop of the vast international cooperation in repelling the Iranian attack against Israel, we asked whether Israel should agree in principle to the establishment of a future Palestinian state in return for a regional defense agreement. A small minority of Jewish Israelis (26%) and a large majority of Arab Israelis (74%) say they support such an arrangement. Support among Jewish Israelis varies across the political Left (69%), Center (32%) and Right (14.5%).

**Most Israelis think elections should be called early**

Just as a majority think that the time has come for those responsible for the failure of October 7 to resign, it would seem that there is also a clear preference for early elections to be set. Following the call from Minister Benny Gantz for elections to be held this September, we asked the public for its view on this issue. Overall, half of Israelis (51%) agree that elections should be held before the end of 2024, a quarter think that they should be held as scheduled (in 2026), and 15% think that elections should be held during 2025.

**Highest rate of Israelis: international forces should run Gaza the day after**

When asked what should happen in Gaza the day after the war, almost half of Israelis think that Israel should hand over control of Gaza to an international force or to the Palestinian Authority, around a quarter that Israel should maintain a limited military presence in order to control Gaza militarily, and a small minority (19%) support establishing Jewish settlements in Gaza. As shown in the graph below, responses differ across the political spectrum and between Jewish and Arab Israelis. When it comes to rebuilding Gaza after the war, 13% of Jewish Israelis and 63% of Arab Israelis support Israel's participation in these efforts.

**In your opinion, now that most of the IDF forces have left Gaza, what should Israel do? (%)**

**Israelis divided on the effect of hostage families joining anti-government protests**

We asked: “In your opinion, does the fact that several families of hostages have joined the protest movement against the government increase or decrease public support for bringing the hostages home now, even if the price being demanded by Hamas is very high?” In the total sample, the largest share of respondents (35%) think that this development serves to decrease public support, 30% that it increases support, and 22% that it has no effect.

**Israelis divided on whether Israel or Hamas has the upper hand**

Half a year into the war, we wished to know which side the public thinks has ended up in a better situation—Israel or Hamas. The largest share of Jewish Israelis (43%) think that Israel has done better, though this still represents less than half the sample. Among Arab Israelis, on the other hand, more respondents think that Hamas, rather than Israel, has gained the upper hand (20% versus 14%, respectively).

**Israelis say they see videos of destruction in Gaza**

A majority of Arab Israelis (68%), and an even larger majority of Jewish Israelis (87%), reported having seen a few or many pictures or videos of the widespread destruction in Gaza. Similar viewing levels were found across the political spectrum among Jews.

**Low mood heading into Passover; less leisure activities planned due to security**

Among Jewish Israelis, a clear majority of respondents say that their mood ahead of this year’s festival is worse than in previous years. Only among Haredim is there almost parity between those who described their mood as similar to previous years and those who described it as worse. Across all religious groups, the largest share of respondents say that they will be undertaking trips, hikes, visits, and leisure activities to a lesser extent during this year’s Passover due to the security situation.

**Jewish men most likely to say they have a high sense of personal security**

Overall, 39% of Israelis rate their sense of personal security as fairly or very high, compared to 27% who rate their sense of personal security as fairly or very low. A higher rate of Jewish Israelis (43%) say they have a fairly or very high sense of personal security than Arab Israelis (16%). Among both Jewish and Arab Israelis, men (50% Jews; 23% Arabs) have a higher sense of personal security than do women (36% Jews; 10% Arabs).

*This fifteenth flash survey on the war in Gaza was conducted by the Viterbi Family Center for Public Opinion and Policy Research at the Israel Democracy Institute. Data collection was carried out between April 14–17, 2024, with 514 men and women interviewed via an internet panel and by telephone in Hebrew and 98 in Arabic. The maximum sampling error was ±4.04% at a confidence level of 95%. Field work was carried out by the Lazar Research Institute.*