**Press Release**

**April 2024 Israeli Voice Index
War in Gaza Survey 16**

**A majority of Israelis think Independence Day Celebrations Should be Toned Down this Year**

*Additional findings: a majority of Israelis: Israel's conduct is an accelerating factor in moves to recognize a Palestinian state*

The Israel Democracy Institute’s [April 2024 Israeli Voice Index](https://en.idi.org.il/articles/54052)—conducted by IDI’s Viterbi Family Center for Public Opinion and Policy Research—found that 56% of Israelis think the local authorities' Yom Haatzmaut (Independence Day) should be celebrated in a more restrained, less prominent manner; 31% think celebrations should not take place at all. Among Jewish Israelis, about 60% across the political spectrum think that Independence Day celebrations organized by the local authorities should be restrained this year.

Additionally, due to widespread public criticism of the government's conduct of the war, there have been calls for ministers not to attend ceremonies in military cemeteries on this year’s Memorial Day. The public is divided on this issue: 48% think that ministers should not attend, while 42% think that they should attend. There are significant differences in this regard by political orientation, with a majority on the Left (82%) and Center (60%) saying they should not attend, while a majority of those on the Right (59.5%) hold the opposite view.

**Additional Findings:**

**A higher rate of Israelis think a Trump presidency would be better for Israeli interests than a Biden presidency**

We asked: "in terms of Israel's interests, which of the two candidates for the US presidency would be better?" Among the general public, 37% say a Trump presidency would be better for Israeli interests; 29% say President Biden would be better. Among Jewish Israelis, 42.5% say a Trump presidency would be better for Israeli interests, compared to 32% who say a Biden presidency would be better and 15% who say they do not know. Among Arab Israelis, on the other hand, a large majority (68%) say there is no difference between the two, 13% say a Trump presidency would be better and 14% say a Biden presidency would be better. There are sharp divisions on this matter across the political Left (9% Trump / 78% Biden) Center (23% Trump / 48% Biden) and Right (61% Trump / 13% Biden).

**In terms of Israel’s interests, which of the two candidates for the US presidency would be better? (%)**

**A majority of Israelis: Israel's conduct is an accelerating factor in moves to recognize a Palestinian state**

Against the backdrop of several European countries that are expected to announce their recognition of a Palestinian state, we asked whether the government's recent military and international affairs-related conduct has accelerated this move. 55% of Jewish Israelis and 75% of Arab Israelis say the government's conduct has, indeed, been an accelerating factor. Responses vary by political orientation (Jewish sample), with 86.5% on the Left and 72% in the Center saying Israel's conduct has accelerated these moves, compared to only 38.5% on the Right.

**A Majority of Jewish Israelis See a Hostage Deal as a Higher National Priority Than Military Action in Rafah**

As outlined in a [press release last week](https://en.idi.org.il/press-releases/53959), we found that, when asked what should be a higher priority in terms of Israeli national interest, a majority of the Jewish public (56%) agree more with the claim that securing a deal for the release of the hostages is the highest priority, while 37% agree more with the opposite claim, according to which pursuing a military operation in Rafah is the highest priority. In the Arab public, an overwhelming majority prefer a deal for the release of the hostages (88.5%).

**Jewish Israelis do not think university protests abroad reflect the majority opinion in these countries**

Against the backdrop of growing pro-Palestinian protests at US and European universities, we asked whether these protests reflect or do not reflect the opinion of the majority of the public in these countries. While 62% of Arab Israelis think that the protests do indeed reflect majority public opinion in these countries, this view is held by only a small minority of Jewish Israelis (18.5%). There is broad consensus across political orientations (Jewish sample) that these protests do not reflect the majority opinion abroad.

**Do pro-Palestinian protests at universities in the United States and Europe reflect or not reflect the opinion of the majority of the public in these countries? (%)**

**Most Israelis: Israel has the strategic advantage over Iran**

We asked: “After the measured exchanges of fire between Israel and Iran, which of the two countries is now in a better strategic position in the region?” Among Jewish Israelis 46% said that Israel has the advantage, while 46% of Arab Israelis think that the strategic position of the two countries is identical.

**Optimism on the decline about the future of national security; democratic rule**

On both the matter of national security and democratic rule, the Israeli public’s optimism has declined relative to last month, and in fact is now even lower than it was during the low point of mid-2023. This decline is found mainly among Arab Israelis, where the levels of optimism are much lower than among Jews. In the Jewish sample, there has been no real change this month. Only 18% of Arabs are optimistic about the future of democratic rule and 16% are optimistic about the future of national security. By contrast, around 35% of Jews are optimistic both about the future of democratic rule in Israel and about the future of Israel’s national security.

**Israelis think international sanctions against far-right Israeli organizations are not justified; do not think they will be effective**

When asked whether the sanctions recently imposed by the US and EU against far-right Israeli organizations are justified, a clear majority of the Jewish public (58.5%) think that these sanctions are not justified, while less than a third think that they are justified. Among the Arab public, the majority (54%) believe there is justification for the imposition of these international sanctions, while a third take the opposite view. Despite divisions on whether they are justified across the Left (75%) Center (48%) and Right (10%), a large majority across all political orientations agree that such sanctions will not be effective.

*The April 2024 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 May 1–6, 2024, with 600 men and women interviewed in Hebrew and 150 in Arabic, constituting a nationally representative sample of the adult population in Israel aged 18 and over. The maximum sampling error was ±3.58% 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*](https://dataisrael.idi.org.il)*.*