**Press Release**

**May 2024 Israeli Voice Index**

**Netanyahu Government Gets Low Grades Across Various Wartime Issues**

*Across the issues of US-relations, the war in Gaza, evacuees from the south and the north, fighting Hezbollah, and public diplomacy efforts abroad—both Jewish and Arab Israelis give low grades.*

The Israel Democracy Institute published its May 2024 Israeli Voice Index—conducted by IDI’s Viterbi Family Center for Public Opinion and Policy Research. On a scale of 1-5, Israelis were asked to rate the government's performance across following issues, all of which fell below the middle rating of 3 in the total sample: the war in Gaza (2.38); the fighting against Hezbollah (2.02); treatment of the evacuees from the south (2.24); treatment of the evacuees from the north (1.99); public diplomacy efforts abroad (1.97); and relations with the US administration (2.49).

The average grades given by Jewish and Arab Israelis, across the various issues, is shown in the graph:

**Average grades for the government for the six issues examined (1 = very poor, 5 = excellent)**

**Additional Findings:**

**Largest share of Jewish Israelis: international recognition of Palestinian State driven by hatred of Israel**

Several countries have formally declared their recognition of a Palestinian state in recent days (or are about to do so shortly), despite fierce opposition from the State of Israel. We asked: “In your opinion, what is the main reason for these declarations at this particular time?” Almost half of Arab Israelis responded that the main reason is the way in which Israel and the IDF have conducted the war in Gaza. By contrast, most Jews believe that the main reason is either hatred of Israel (37%) or conceding to Palestinian and international pressures (27%). **Among both Arab and Jewish Israelis, only a minority of respondents cite ideological support for the Palestinians’ right to their own state (17% and 13%, respectively).** The largest share of Jewish Israelis (40%) think the appropriate response to this is to increase public diplomacy efforts; the largest share of Arab Israelis (27%) do not think Israel should respond.

**Several countries are set to formally declare their recognition of a Palestinian state, despite Israel’s fierce opposition to this step. In your opinion, what is the main reason for these declarations at this particular time? (%)**

**ICC arrest warrants driven by anti-Israel bias (Jews); by Israel's conduct in the war (Arabs)**

The chief prosecutor at the International Criminal Court (ICC) recently announced plans to request arrest warrants to be issued against Prime Minister Netanyahu and Defense Minister Gallant for alleged actions taken as part of the fighting in Gaza. We found large differences between Jews and Arabs in the reasons attributed to this: While 50% of the Arab respondents identified the main reason as being the way in which Israel and the IDF have conducted the war in Gaza, the majority of Jewish respondents (60%) cited long-standing anti-Israel bias at the ICC.

**Across all political orientations, Israelis do not think the government has a plan for after the war**

Overall, 80% of Israelis say they think the government does not have a clear plan of action for the day after the war—this view is held by the overwhelming majority of the Jewish Left (98%) and Center (94%), and a two-thirds majority on the Right (66%). The same holds true when analyzing the results by vote in the 2022 elections: Only among Shas voters is the share of those who think that the government has no plan of action less than half (46%). This belief is held by 55% of Untied Torah Judaism voters, 56% of Likud voters, and 67% of voters for Religious Zionism. This view is also held by 96% of voters for the National Unity party, which at the time of writing, is still a part of the coalition.

**Record-low levels of optimism about the future of democracy; national security**

On both the issues of the future of democratic rule and the future of national security, optimism among the Israeli public has continued to decline, and, in fact, reached the lowest levels recorded (democratic rule: 29%; national security 27.5%) since we began asking this question in April 2019. As in previous surveys, we found large differences this month between political orientations in the Jewish sample, but nonetheless, optimists are a minority across the board (democratic rule: Left, 14%; Center, 20%; Right, 45% / national security: Left, 14%; Center, 19%; Right, 43%).

**Across all political orientations, Israelis are against the government advancing judicial reforms**

We asked: “Several laws that were part of the government’s judicial reform, and that were supposedly taken off the table, will now seemingly be advanced by the reform’s architects during the Knesset’s summer session. In your opinion, against the backdrop of the continuing war and the need for unity among Israelis, is it correct or not correct to advance parts of the reform at the current time?" Overall, 65% of the total sample are against such actions. Only a minority of Israelis support taking such steps across the Left (8%), Center (9%) and Right (36%). Most Israelis likewise think such steps would strengthen the anti-government protests.

*The May 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 26 and May 28, 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)*.*