**Press Release**

**August 2024 Israeli Voice Index**

**Israelis Pessimistic that a Deal to Release the Hostages will be Reached Soon | Split on Motivations for Holding the Philadelphi Corridor**

*Pessimism for a deal spans across the political Left (85%), Center (80%) and Right (78%)*

The Israel Democracy Institute's August 2024 Israeli Voice Index—conducted by IDI’s Viterbi Family Center for Public Opinion and Policy Research—found that Jewish Israelis are overwhelmingly pessimistic (78.5%) regarding the chance for a ceasefire deal that would lead to a release of hostages. Arab Israelis are divided fairly evenly between optimistic (48%) and pessimistic (49%) about a deal. Across the total sample, 73.5% are pessimistic and about 21% are optimistic.

In the context of the negotiations over a deal that will include the return of the hostages, Prime Minister Netanyahu is demanding that Israel retains control the Philadelphi Corridor along the border between Gaza and Egypt. We asked our respondents whether they think that this demand is largely based on military and strategic considerations (total sample: 51%) or is largely intended to prevent a deal from being reached, for Netanyahu’s own political reasons (total sample: 39%). A majority among Jewish Israelis believe that Netanyahu has largely military or strategic motivations (58.5%, vs. 33% who think it's to prevent a deal), compared with a large majority of Arab Israelis believe he largely intended to prevent a deal (66.5%).

**Additional Findings:**

**Israelis divided on whether this is the last opportunity to get hostages home**

When asked whether the characterization of US Secretary of State Blinken and others that this is the last opportunity to get the hostages home is accurate, Israelis were divided between those who think this is not the "last opportunity" and those who think it is (in both cases, 44.5% among the total sample). Jewish Israelis are evenly split between those who think it is the last opportunity (44%) and is not the last opportunity (45%), while among Arab Israelis, slightly more think it is the last opportunity (49%) than those who think it is not (41%).

**Jews and Arabs divided on how to handle the northern front**

When asked about the proper course of action on the northern front, there are significant disagreements between Jewish Israelis—the largest share of which supports intensifying fighting against Hezbollah (67%), either with a deep offensive including Lebanese infrastructure (46%) or a more aggressive response without targeting infrastructure (21%)—and Arab Israelis who overwhelmingly support (77%) a diplomatic agreement.

**What do you think Israel should do now on the northern front? (%)**

**Israelis think tensions reported between Prime Minister; Defense Minister are negatively impacting management of the war**

Against the backdrop of recent media reports of differences of opinion and tensions between Prime Minister Netanyahu and Minister of Defense Gallant, we asked if this is having a negative impact on the management of the war. A solid majority (66%) of respondents think that this tension is having a negative impact on the management of the war (Arabs, 73%; Jews, 64%). The majority stands across the political Left (81%), Center (76%) and Right (55%).

**Most Israelis disagree with the statement that "Israel has achieved all it can militarily in the Gaza strip"**

Sources in the US administration reportedly told the *New York Times* that “Israel has achieved all that it can militarily in the Gaza Strip.” We asked our respondents whether they think this statement is correct or incorrect. The majority of respondents (64% overall), in both the Jewish sample (66.5%) and the Arab sample (52%), think that this claim is not correct.

**Arab Israelis' mood; behavior more affected by looming Iranian attack than Jewish Israelis**

We asked: “To what extent is the ongoing anticipation of an attack by Iran and Hezbollah affecting or not affecting the following: your daily behavior; your mood.” Somewhat surprisingly, the majority of the total sample (67%) responded that this state of anticipation is affecting their daily behavior only a little or not at all. Regarding their mood, 55% of respondents said the same. Arab Israelis report more of an effect on their behavior (64%) and mood (68%) than Jewish Israelis (27% and 40%, respectively).

**To what extent is the ongoing anticipation of an attack by Iran and Hezbollah affecting or not affecting the following: your daily behavior; your mood? (%)**

*The August 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 August 26–28, 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)*.*