

Victory, optimism, and anxiety about the future

**Gaza Strip Palestinian opinions on the Israeli
withdrawal and the future of governance in the
Gaza Strip**

The data: Representative survey of 900 respondents

- **Fieldwork from 31 August to 9 September 2005**
- **Probability sample of 1008 respondents**
- **876 answered**
- **Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics 2004 sample frame**
- **Allocated according to 2005 population estimates**
- **Three stage stratified sample**
 - 84 clusters with 12 interviews in each
 - On individual sampled randomly within each household
- **Weighted according to inclusion probabilities**

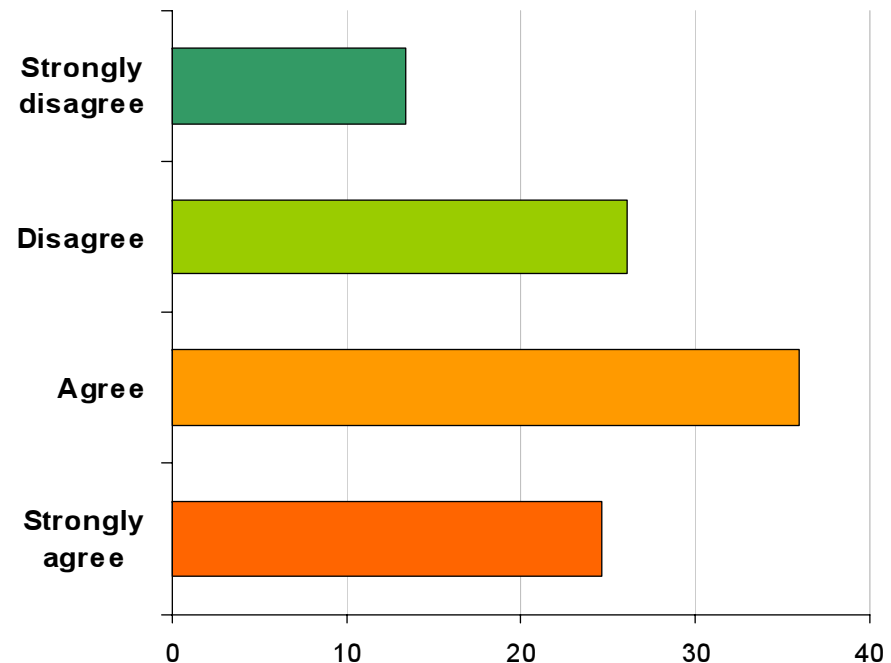
Palestinians on the Gaza Strip are happy and optimistic about the withdrawal..

- **96 percent support the withdrawal**
- **75 percent is happy with the PA performance on the pull-out**
- **While 88 percent think that it will improve the Palestinian economy in general**
- **And 79 percent think it will improve their personal economic situation**
- **And 87 percent think it will encourage Palestinians abroad to invest in the private sector in Gaza**

Gaza Strip residents believe that it was their own efforts that brought about the withdrawal

- 61 percent believe that the Palestinian struggle caused the withdrawal, 23 percent the costs for Israel, and only 12 percent that international pressure was the most important factor
- 48 percent think that the withdrawal is a substitute for the road map, 52 think not

Views on necessity of suicide bombings

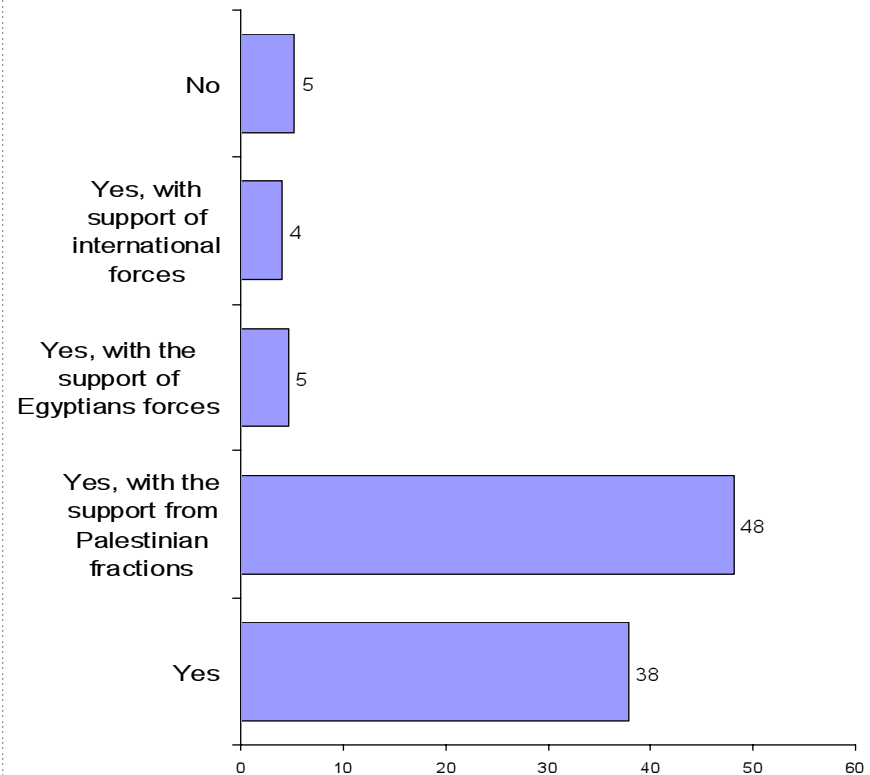


61 percent think that suicide bombings against Israeli civilians are a necessary means to get Israel to move on the political front

Many are concerned about the ability of security forces to keep the public order, and about possible clashes between PA and Hamas

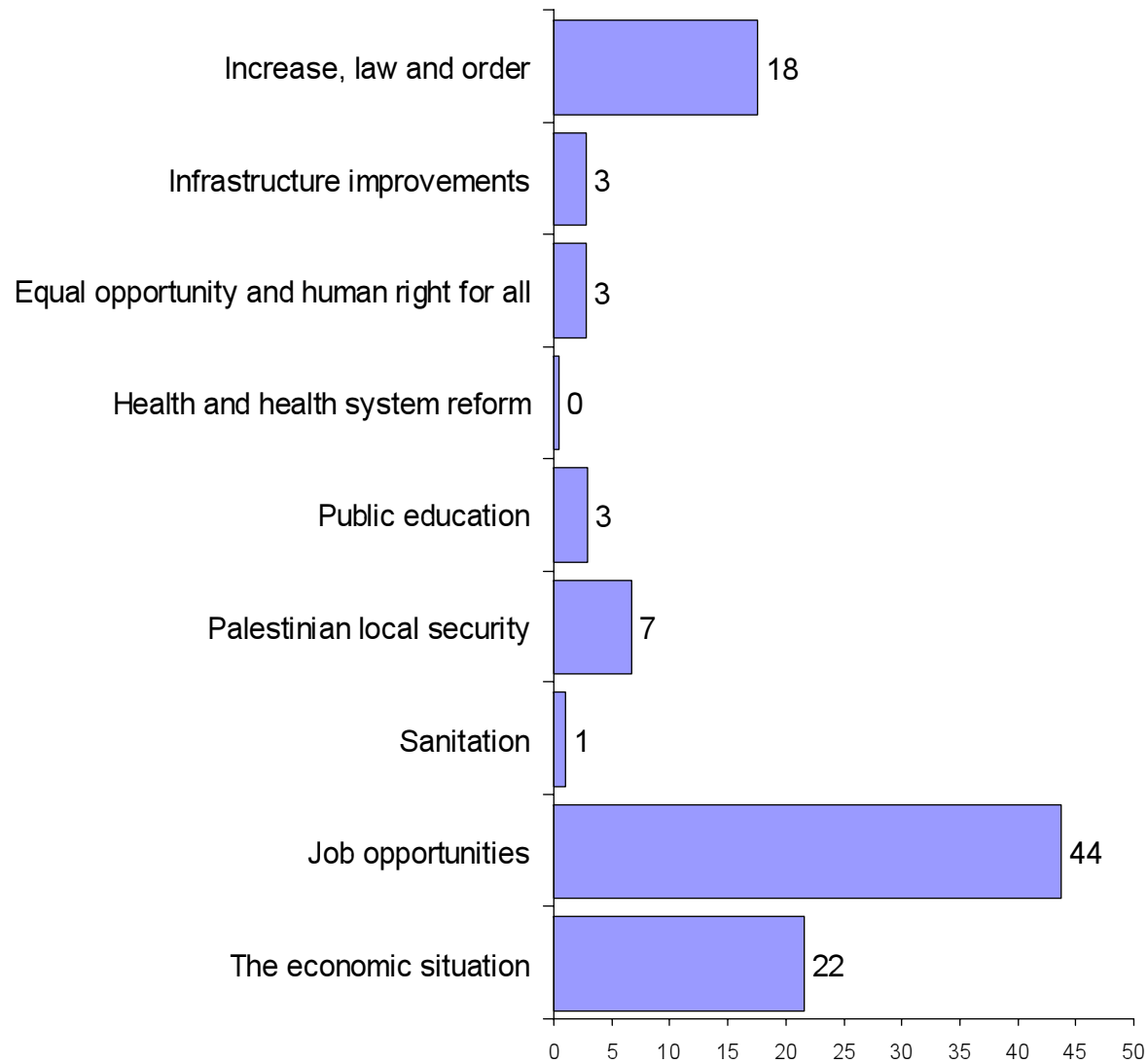
- 60 percent think Palestinian security forces are capable of establishing public order
- But 59 percent think that the pull-out will lead to at least partial escalation of Palestinian power struggles
- And 15 percent think that there will be armed conflict between Hamas and PA after the pull out (29 percent "may be" armed conflict)

Will PA be able to control the Gaza Strip?



Security and jobs most important issues that must be confronted after pull out

Most important issue to be confronted....



Is PA seriously committed to change?

- **72 percent consider that PA is serious in its plans to fight corruption**
- **79 percent consider that PA is serious about improving security**
- **About half think (53 percent) that the land commission will distribute land fairly**

Gaza Strip residents see a National Coalition Government as the road forward

- **Support from 95 percent of respondents**
- **88 percent support participation of Hamas in such a government**
- **74 percent believe that PA is serious in its call for a coalition government**
- **78 percent believe that a coalition government will end the Palestinian political crisis**

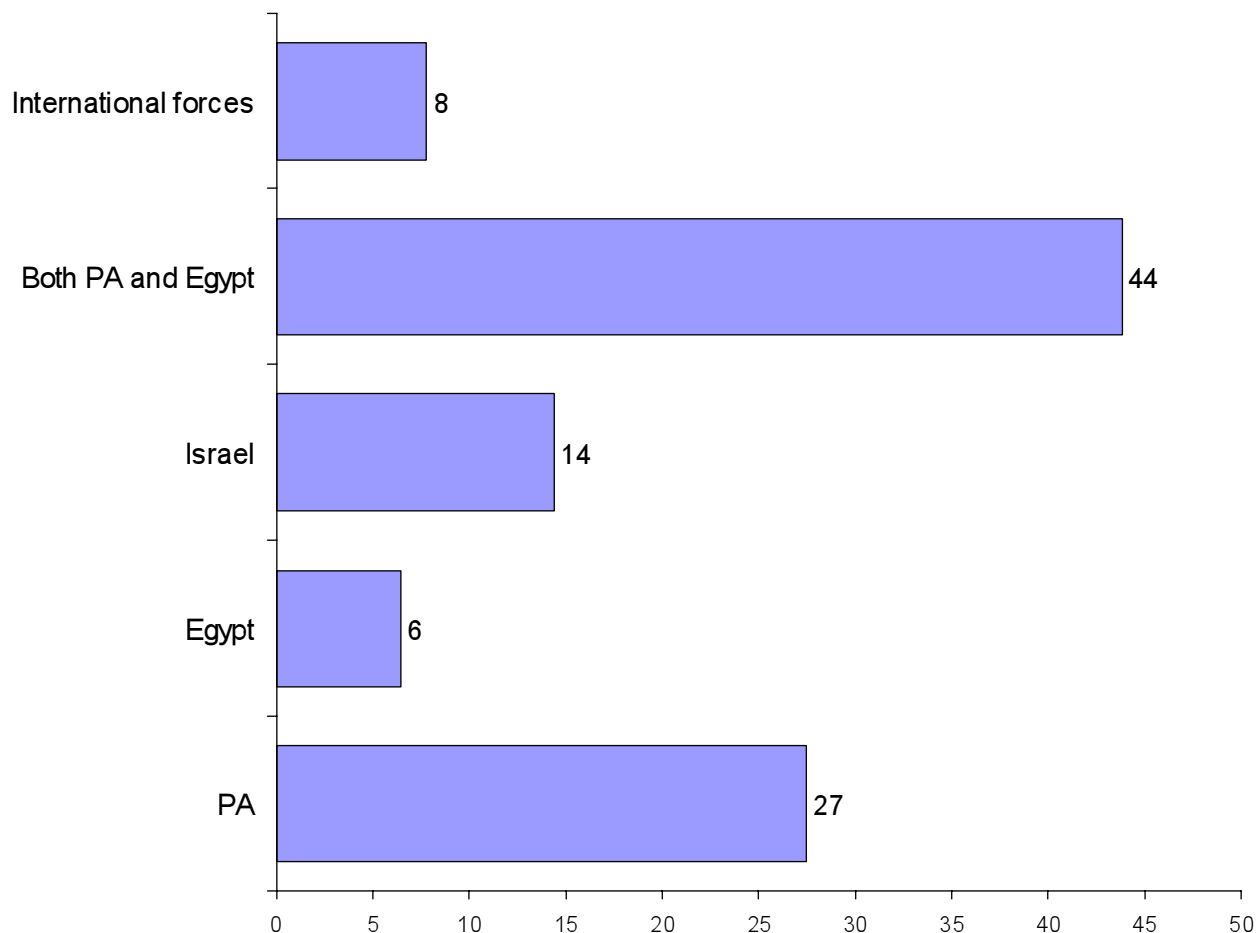
- **Background characteristics of respondents make little difference**

Mixed opinions on continued Gaza based struggle against Israel

- **38 percent hold that the Intifada should continue, but...**
 - **67 percent think that "military operations from the Gaza Strip against Israel" should cease,**
 - **.... while 33 percent disagree with that**
 - **Mohammed Deif's recent video, where he argues for continued struggle, has been seen by 26 percent, and is supported by about two third of those.**
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- **Thus, strong chance of continued attacks against Israel, even though majority do not support it.**

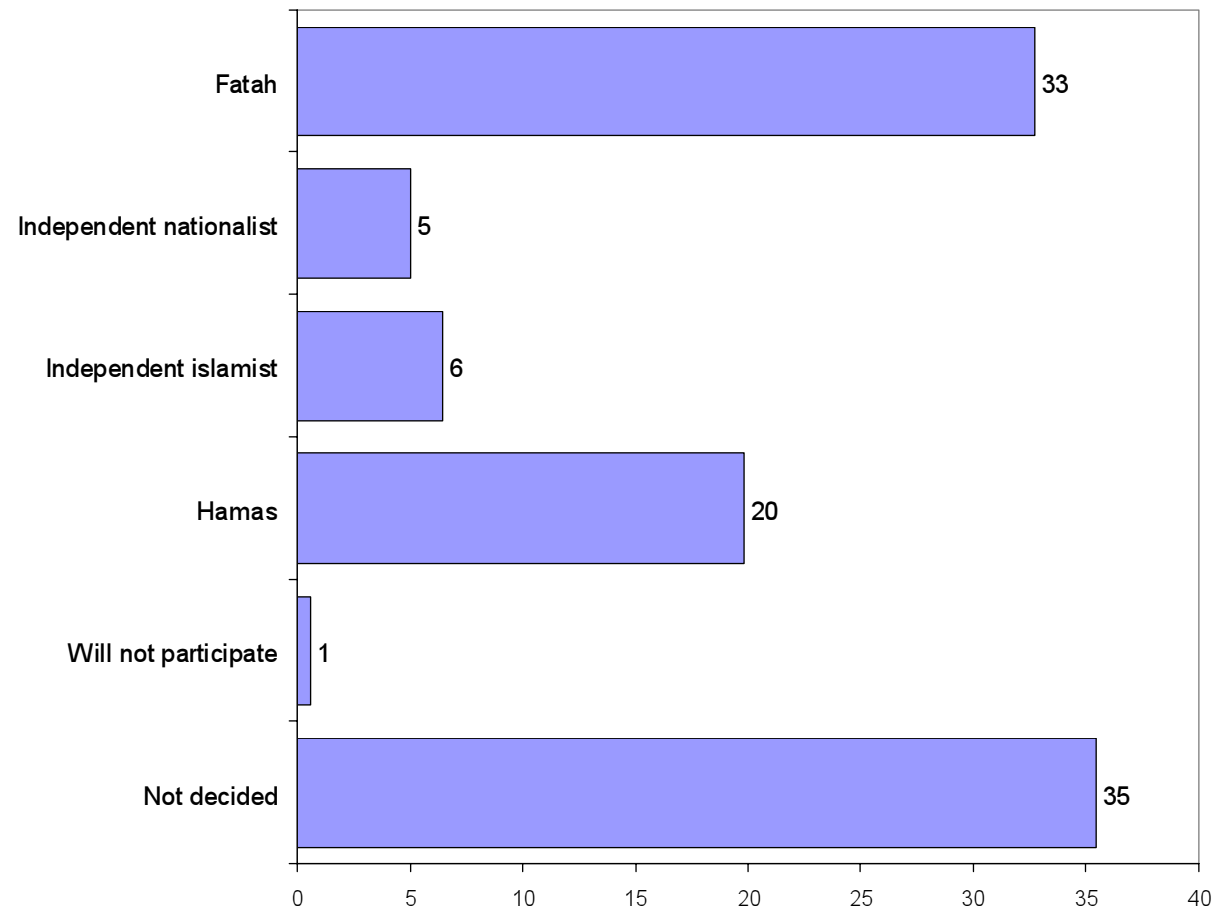
PA or PA and Egypt should control borders, Israel rather than international forces

Who should be in charge of border security....



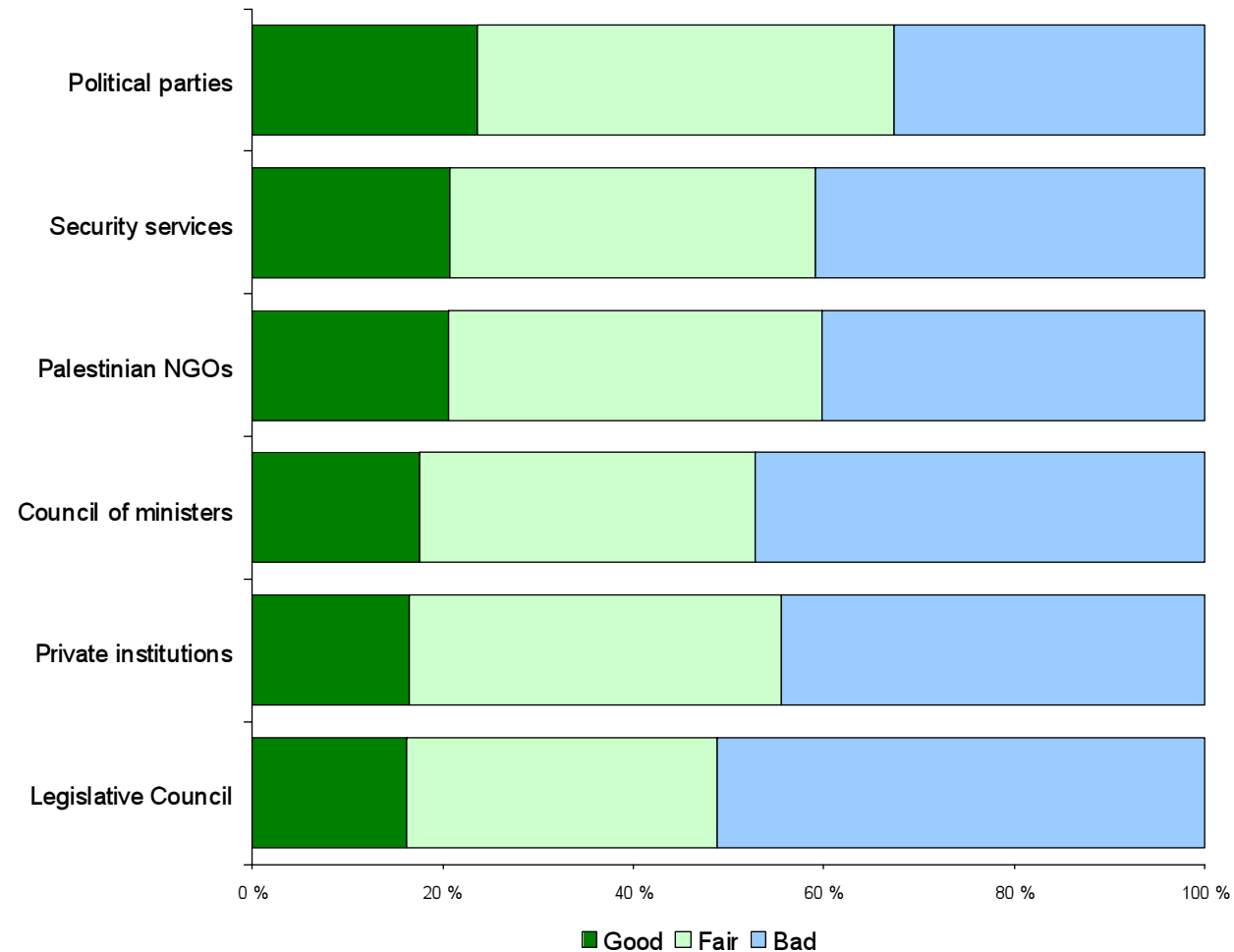
Voters undecided, support for secular and Islamist factions evenly divided

Who will you vote for in the coming legislative council elections?



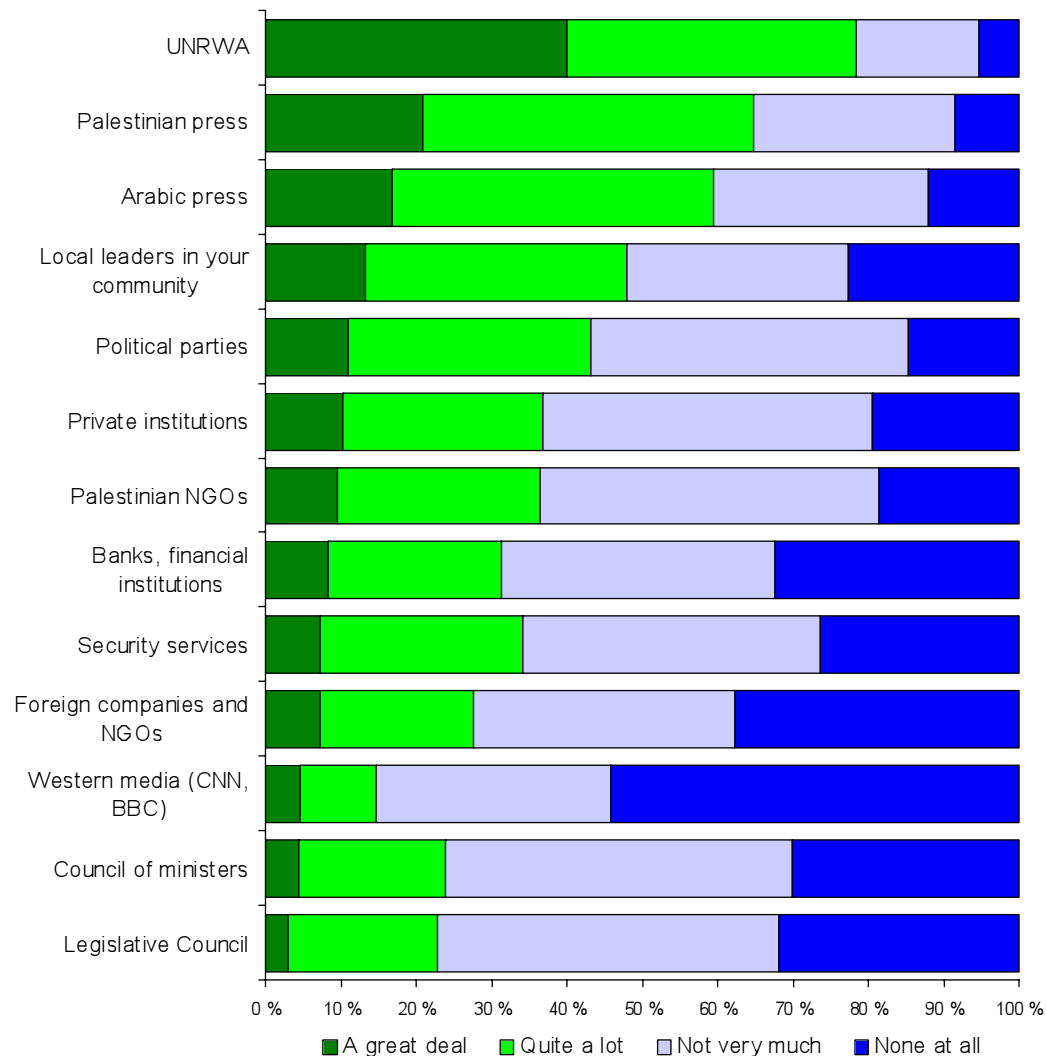
Many don't like the performance of key institutions

How do you assess the performance of the...



... And generally have low confidence in institutions

Do you have confidence in....



- Strong support for UNRWA, Palestinian press
- But overall small support for nearly all institutions
- Minority trusts Western media