

# Palestinian and Israeli Public Opinion: Recent Developments



September 2010

International Peace Institute  
with Charney Research

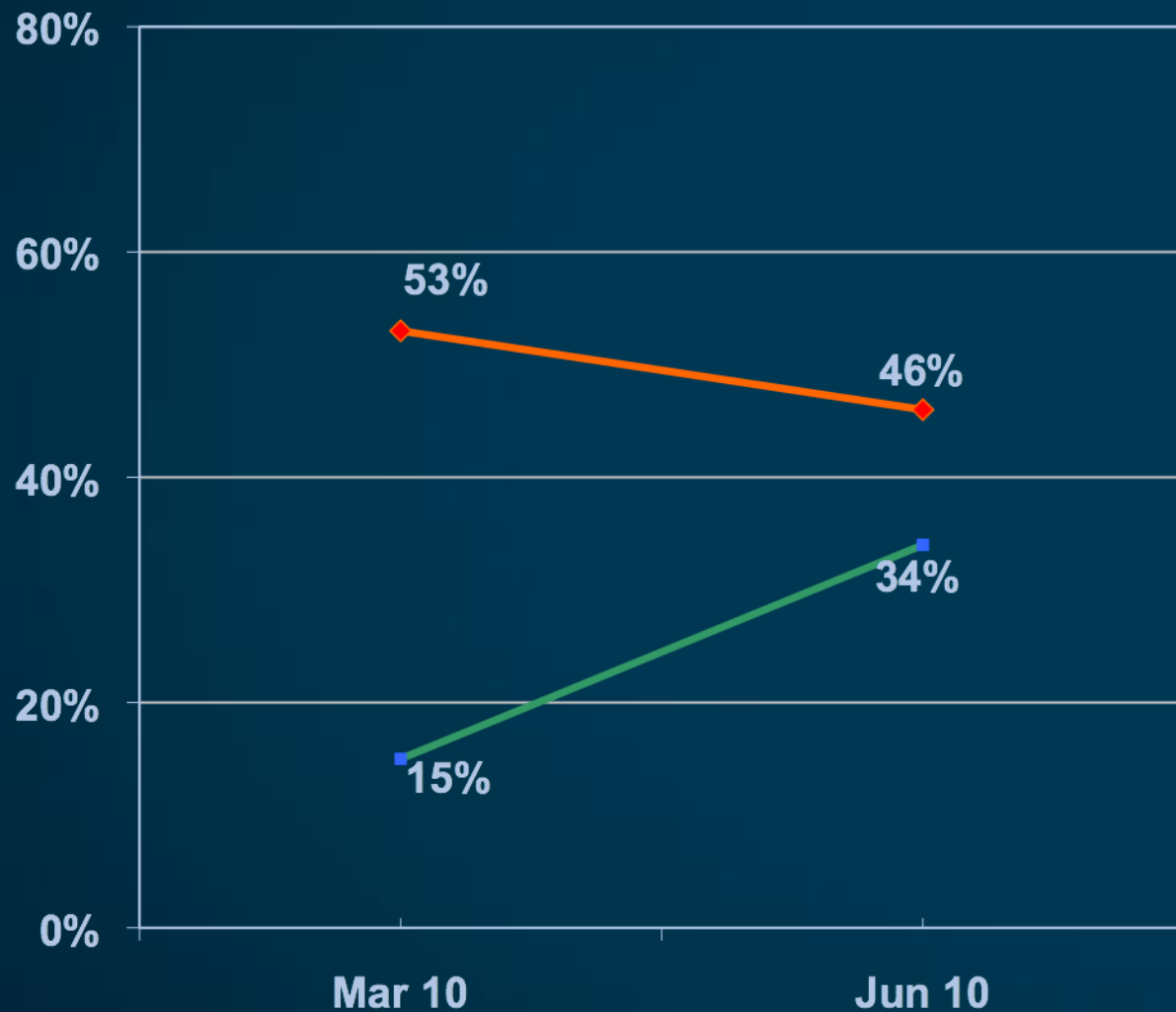
# Key Points

*Recent published polls of Palestinians and Israelis show that:*

- **The Gaza flotilla affair damaged Fatah while boosting Hamas and Netanyahu.**
- **The Fayyad government and its state building plan are popular with Palestinians, while the Israeli government has soft domestic support.**
- **Israelis feel anxious about international criticism and domestic dissent.**
- **Israelis favor a further building freeze only in areas Palestinians will receive.**
- **Palestinians favor negotiations and the Arab Peace Initiative while Israelis are skeptical about the Initiative.**
- **Both Israelis and Palestinians favor a two-state solution but don't think it's possible.**
- **Israelis and Palestinians fear each other's intentions, based on incorrect assumptions, and mutually fear violence from the other side.**

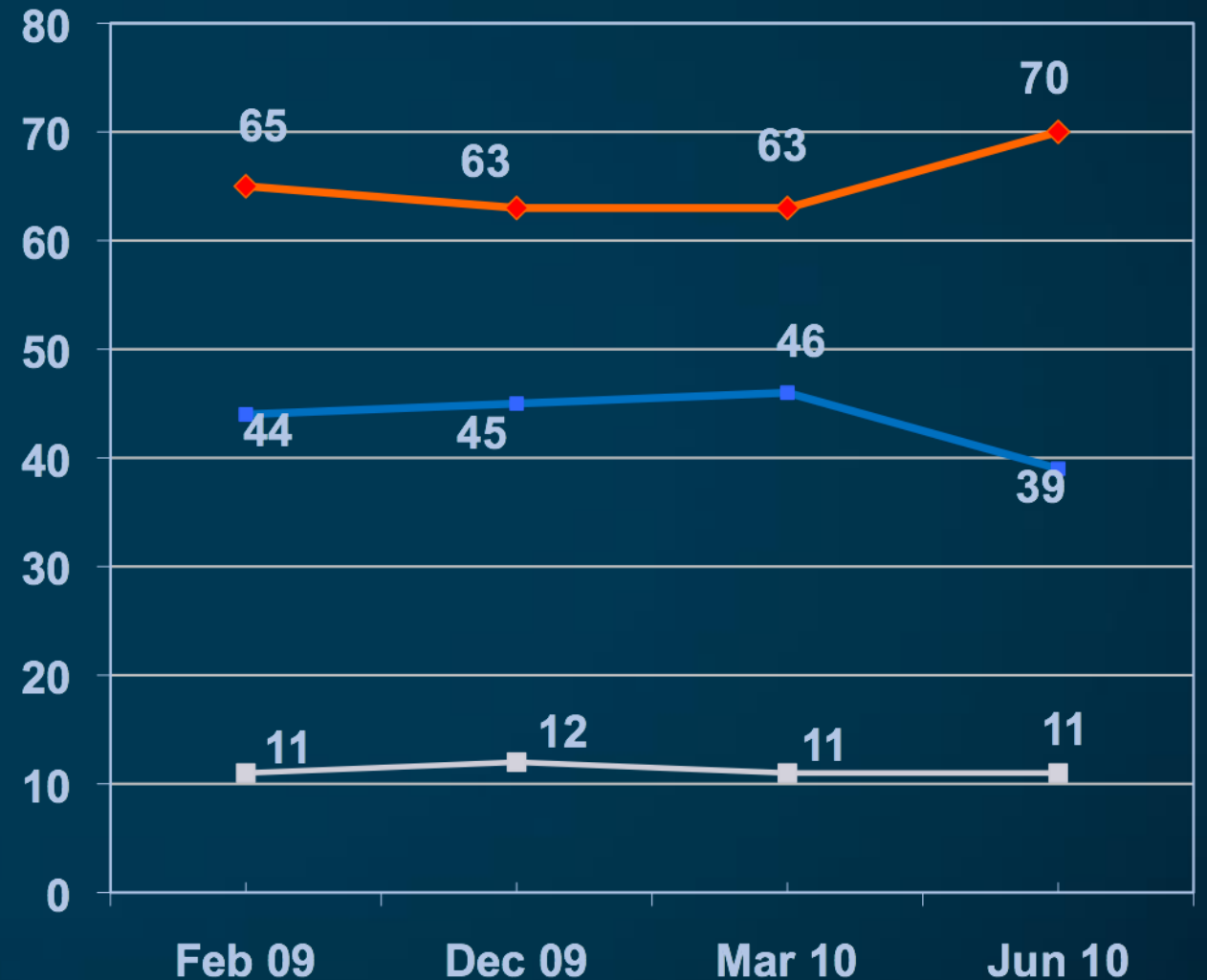
# The May flotilla incident hurt Fatah and helped Hamas and Israeli PM Netanyahu.

*Confidence in Palestinian leadership*



◆ Fatah      ■ Hamas

*Israeli voting intentions in Knesset seats*



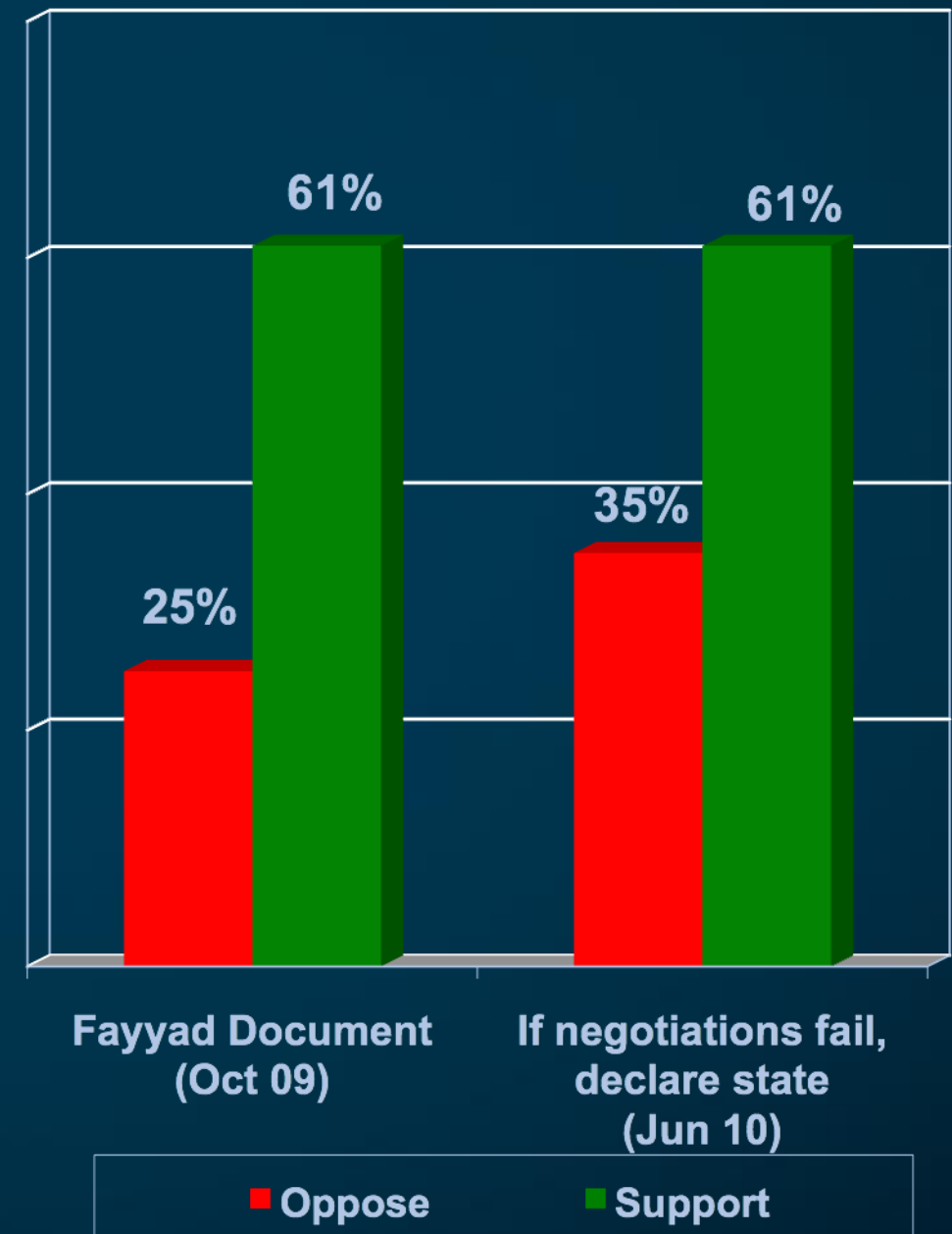
◆ Right Parties      ■ Left Parties      ■ Arab Parties

# The Palestinians view Fayyad's government positively and like his plan to build and establish a state.

## Fayyad government ratings, Aug 2010

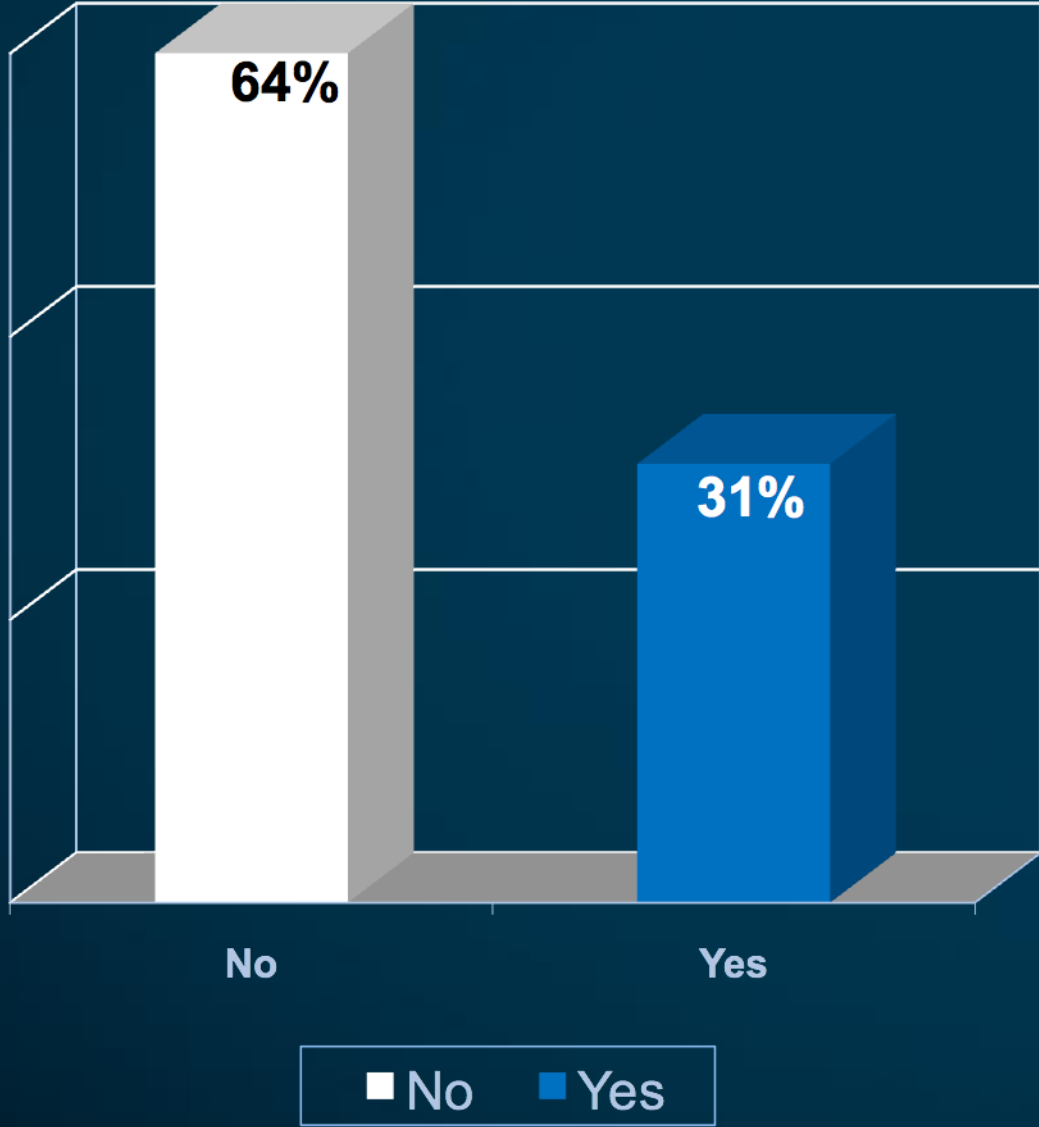
- Performance:
  - Better than Haniyeh: 54%
  - Worse than Haniyeh: 23%
- Corruption:
  - Declined: 52%
  - Increased 14%
- Safety and Security:
  - Improved: 44%
  - Worsened 16%
- Economy:
  - Improved: 42%
  - Worsened: 24%

## Fayyad's State-Building Plan

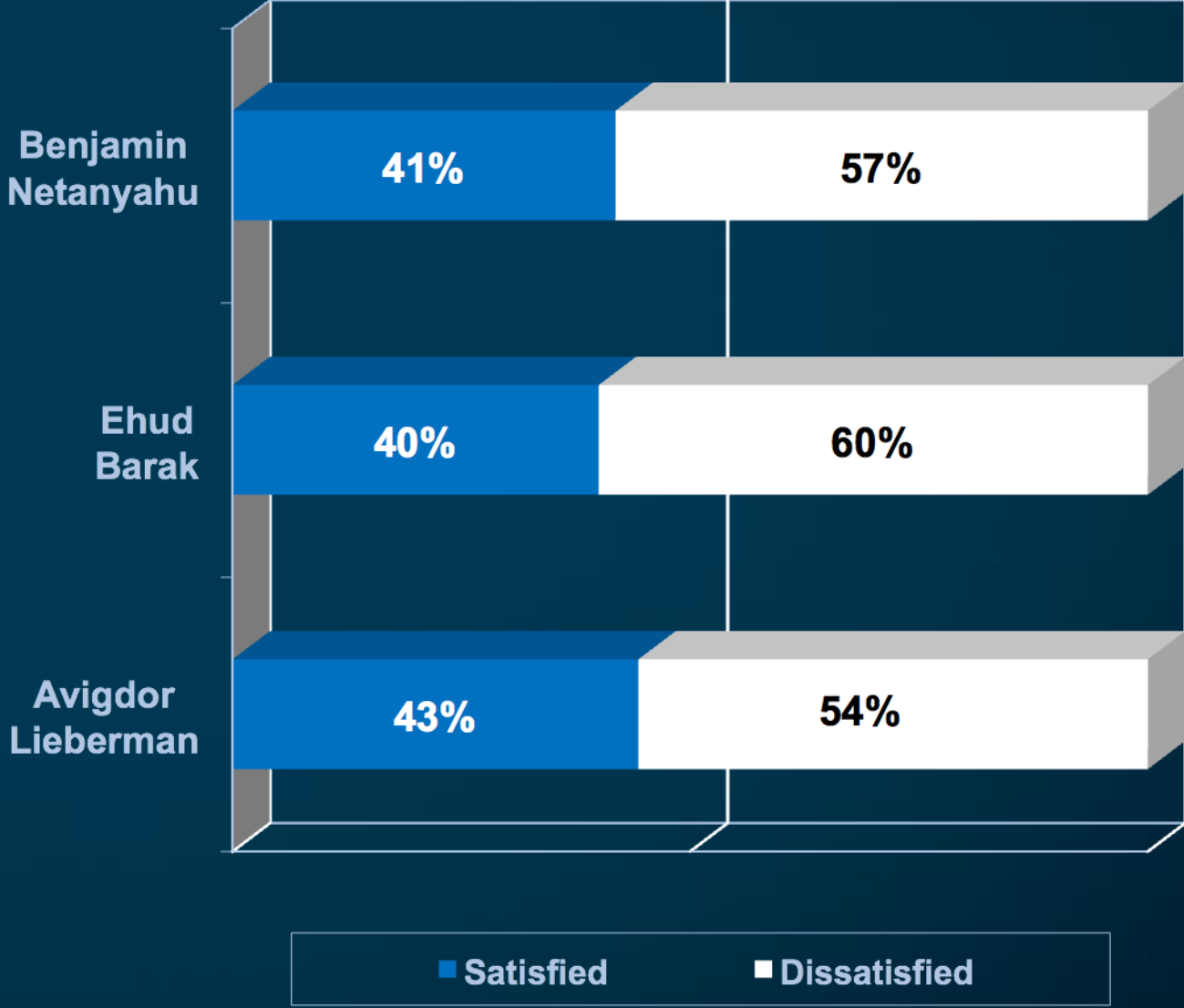


# Despite broad support, the Israeli government and its key leaders get fairly poor marks from the Israeli public.

Does the government in its decisions and behavior represent you? (Mar 10)



Job performance (Jun 10)



# Israel's current political climate is anxious towards the outside world and hostile to dissent.

## *Israeli Public Opinion*



**Though Israelis are willing to evacuate most settlements, few now expect this; most favor a continued freeze only in areas to be returned to Palestinian control.**

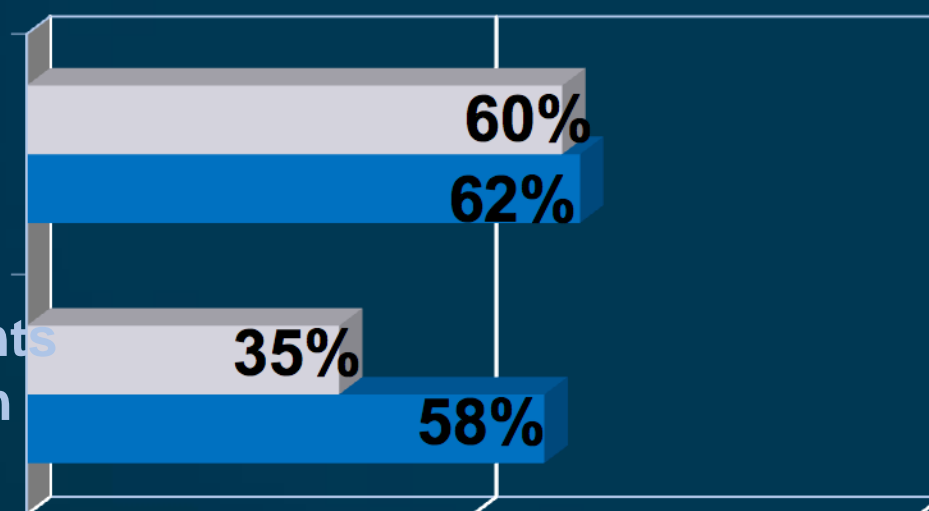
*Israeli Public Opinion*

*Views on evacuating settlements*

*Views on settlement freeze (Aug 10)*

Favor dismantling most settlements in a peace agreement?

Most/some settlements will be evacuated in next 5 yrs



■ Mar 10 ■ 2005

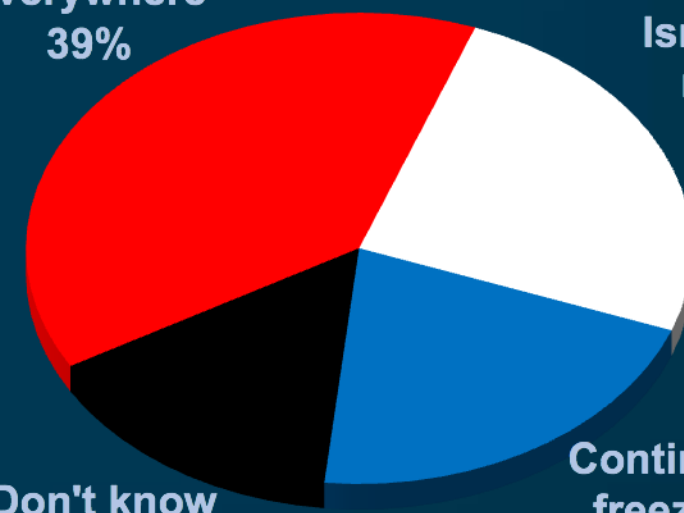
Renew building everywhere  
39%

Continue freeze only in blocs Israel will retain  
25%

Don't know  
23%

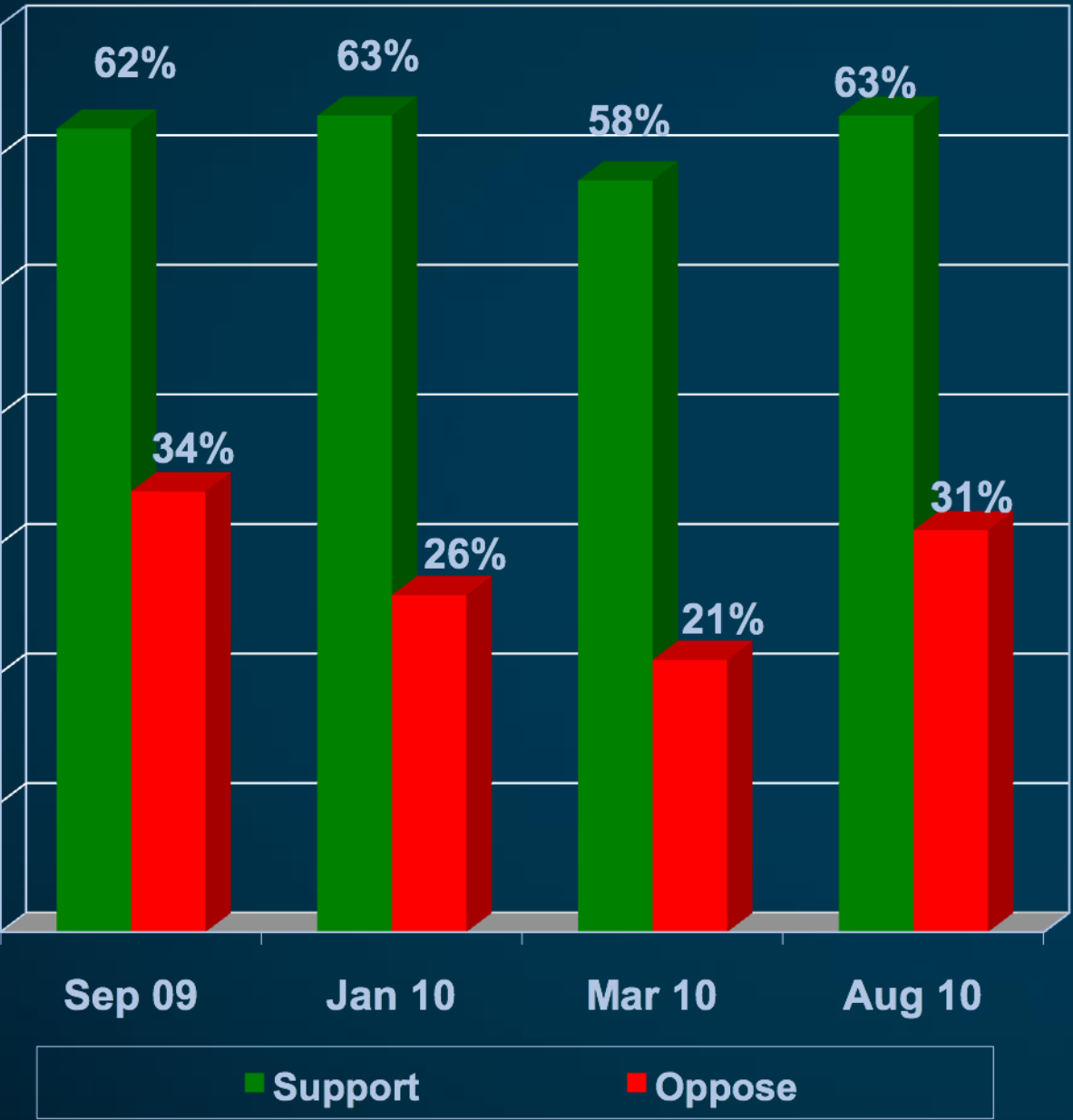
Continue freeze everywhere  
21%

Freeze: Total/Partial  
46%



# The majority of Palestinians has consistently favored peace negotiations and reject alternatives to the two-state solution.

Views on peace negotiations



Alternatives to two states, Aug 10

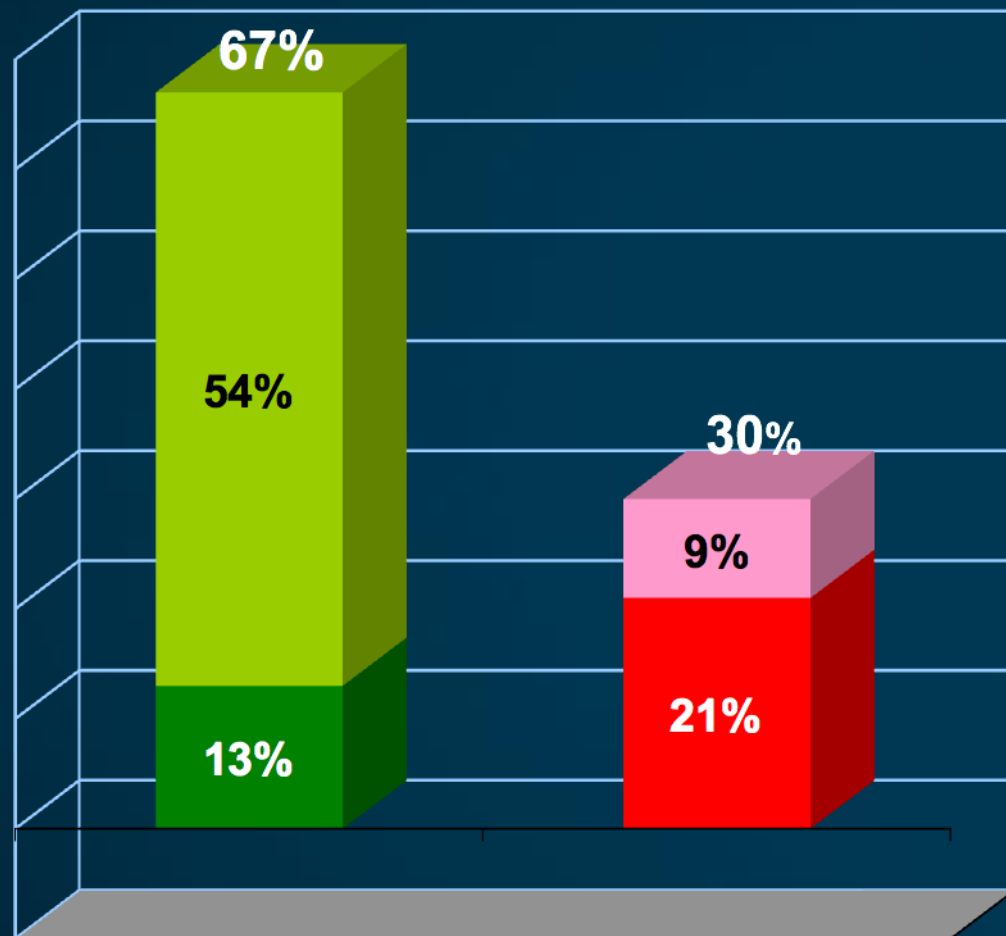
- Type of state
- Two-states for two peoples: 55%
- One binational state: 27%
  
- Arens Plan (Annex West Bank, grant citizenship to residents)
- Support : 11%
- Oppose: 87%
  
- Lieberman plan (Return Gaza to Egypt)
- Support : 7%
- Oppose : 91%



# Palestinians support the Arab Peace Initiative, while Israelis are doubtful about it.

*Views of the Arab Peace Initiative (Jun 10)*

*Palestinians*

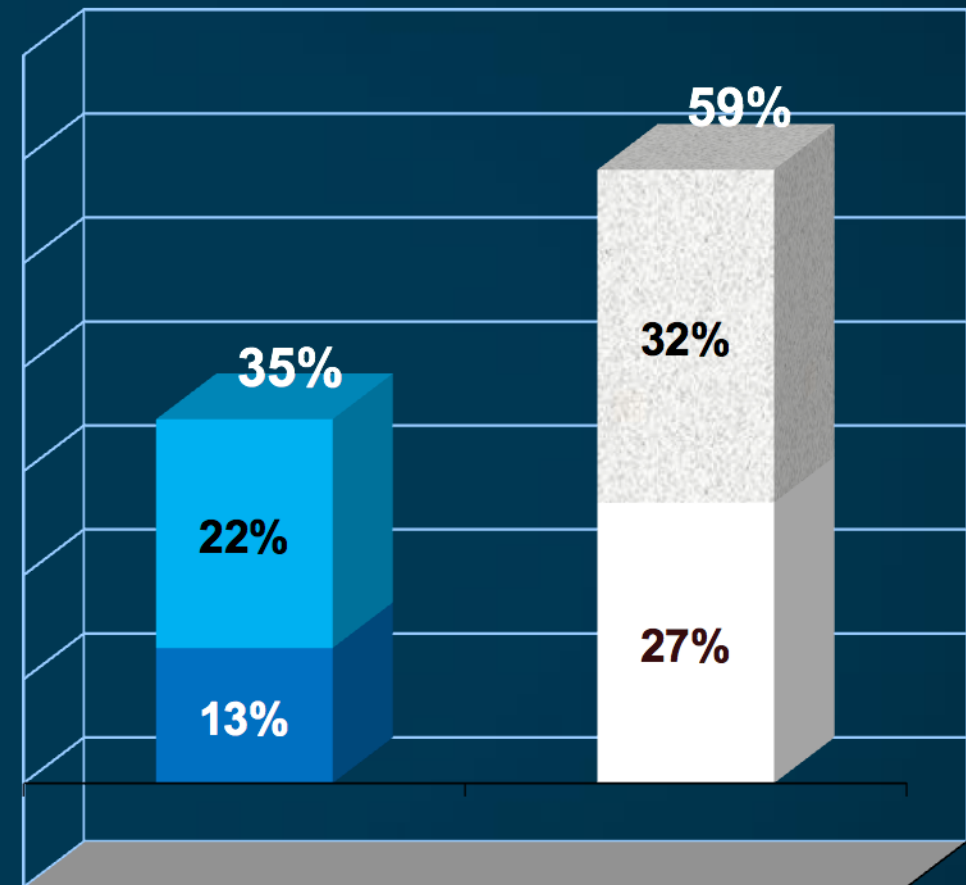


Agree

Disagree



*Israelis*



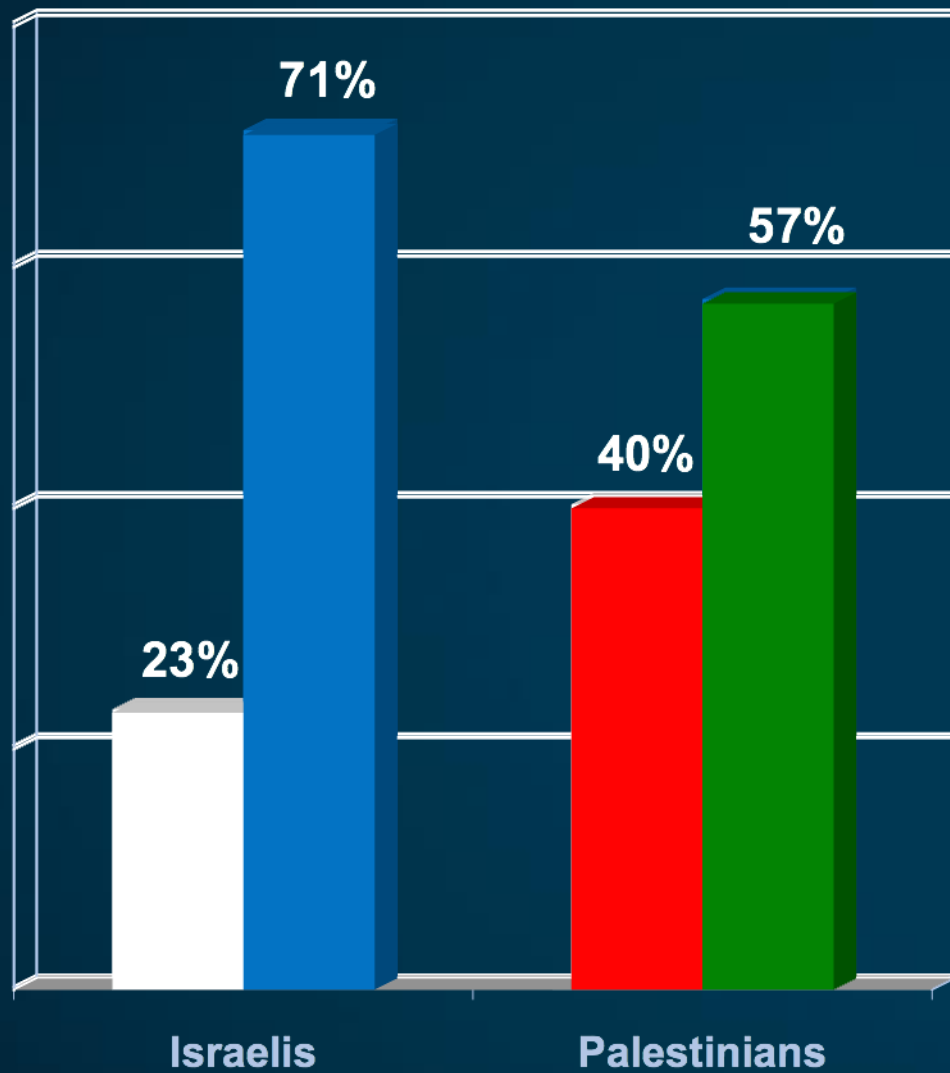
Agree

Disagree



# Majorities of both Israelis and Palestinians favor a two-state solution but doubt it can be achieved.

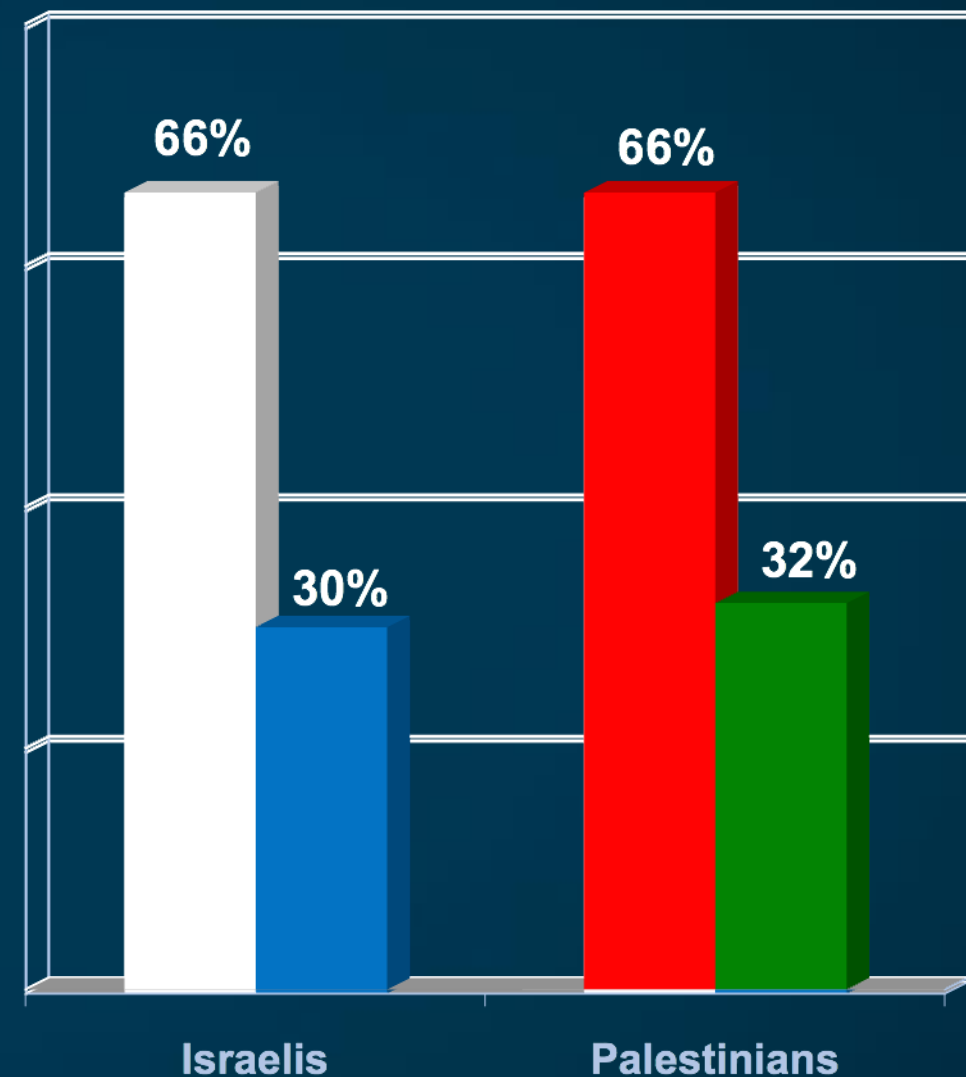
*Attitudes to two-state solution  
(Mar 10)*



■ Oppose ■ Support

■ Oppose ■ Support

*Chance of Palestinian state within 5 years  
(Jun 10)*



■ None/Little ■ Medium/High

■ None/Little ■ Medium/High

# Both Palestinians and Israelis are highly suspicious of the other side's intentions - and wrongly so.

## Israeli Aspirations

	Palestinian views %	Israeli views %
Guarantee their security, Withdraw from all WB/G	12	10
Guarantee their security, Withdraw from part of WB/G	11	60
Annex WB without giving Palestinians the vote	23	8
Annex WB and expel its Arab citizens	53	15

## Palestinian Aspirations

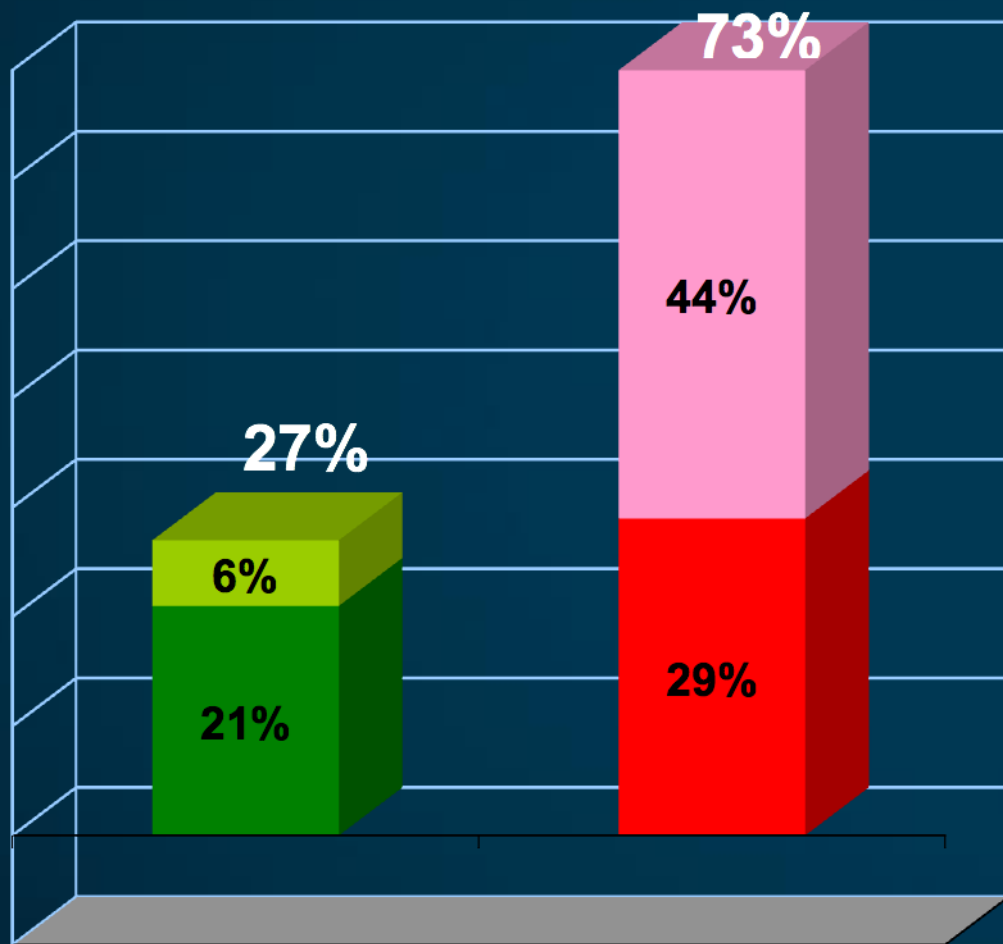
	Israeli views %	Palestinian views %
State in WB/G with E Jerusalem capital, refugee issue solved	28	49
Return all WB/G force without agreement	11	10
Conquer Israel	11	16
Conquer Israel, destroy its Jewish population	39	23

# Palestinians and Israelis feel unsafe and insecure: each group fears violence from the other side.

*To what extent are you worried that ...*

*... your land would be confiscated or your home demolished?*

**Palestinians**



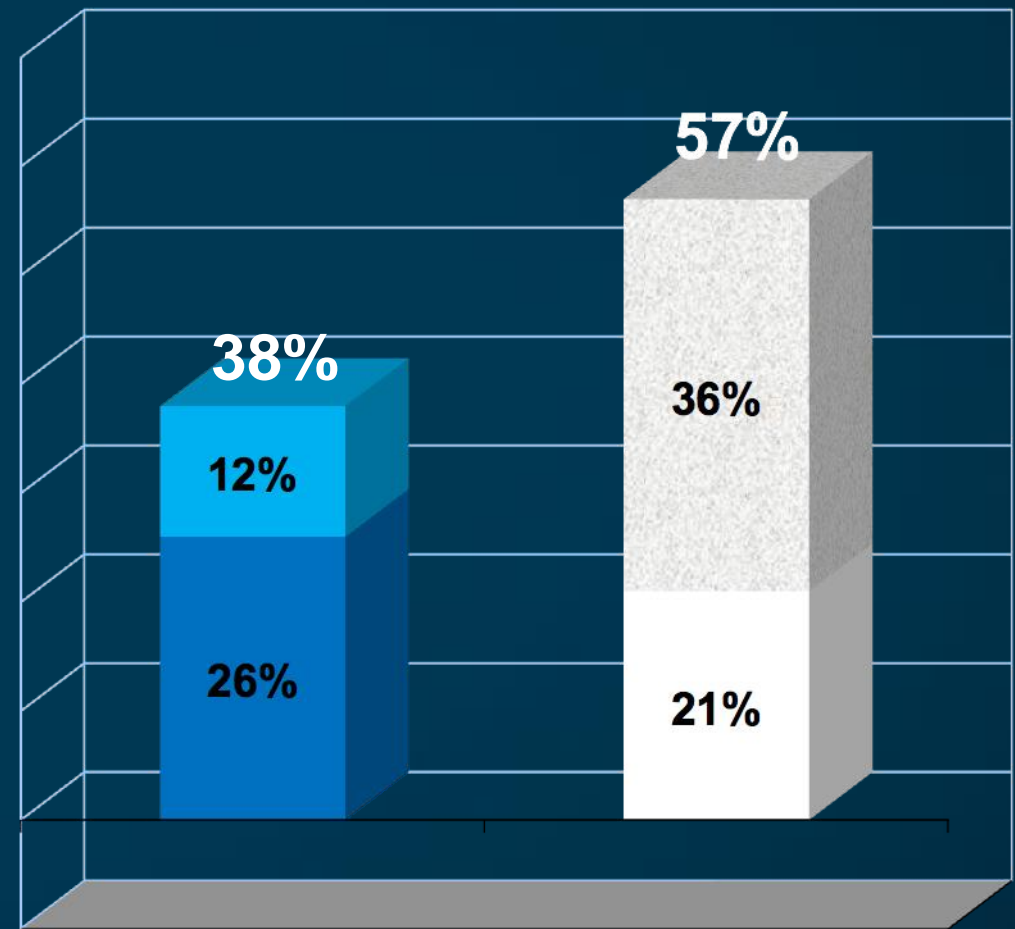
Not worried

Worried

- Not worried
- Very worried
- Not worried at all
- Worried

*... you or a member of your family could be hurt by Arabs?*

**Israelis**



Not worried

Worried

- Worried
- Not worried at all
- Very worried
- Not worried

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