



Survey Research Experiments

To demonstrate how daily life experiences and exposure to violence could influence trust, three survey research experiments were held among selected groups of Israelis. The three survey research experiments were conducted among three sample groups respective with the subjects that were defined as case studies. The chosen groups contain individuals who suffer or have suffered from high levels of stress and hardship due to the conflict. Each sample group included about 90 interviewees. Two-thirds of the interviewees were selected because they suffered hardships inflicted by the conflict, while one third, in each survey, were under much less or no special hardships. About half of the sample were youth under the age of 30. The surveys were conducted through internet panels between 1-10 March 2021. (Note: All findings in appendix)

The three sample groups were:

(1) Families and Individuals affected by Terrorist attacks.

(90 Responders: 59 [66%] affected by terrorist attacks; 31 [34%]– not affected.

(2) Residents attacked by Rockets and Incendiary Balloons from Gaza

Strip. (85 Responders: 56 [66%] affected by Rockets and Incendiary Balloons attacks; 29 – not affected.

(3) Veterans who served in the Occupied Territories of the West Bank

(Judea and Samaria). (86 Responders: 56 [66%] affected by incidents of violence; 30 not affected.



Main Findings

Families and Individuals affected by Terrorist attacks

Personal exposure and experience of terror does not show a strong and distinct effect on trust or will to achieve peace between Israel and Palestine. For example, when asked for their own opinion of the conflict and if it could be resolved, Israelis that were personally harmed by terror experienced similar views to those that were not. However, respondents that were affected by terror show increased concern for future violence and many changed their views of terror, and almost two thirds accepted it as an inevitability of the conflict.

Residents attacked by Rockets and Incendiary Balloons from Gaza strip

- About half of the respondents (47%) or their families have been indirectly affected in the recent years by attacks on communities near Gaza's border - experiencing alarms but not physical harm.
- About half of the (all) respondents (47%) felt in recent years to a great or very large extent that their lives have been at risk by terror or rockets attacks from Gaza.
- About 33% of (all) respondents felt to a great or great extent that their own life or family's lives have been in danger over the past few years.
- An absolute majority of the respondents (82%) are very or very much concerned that the communities surrounding Gaza will suffer additional rockets attacks in the future.
- An absolute majority (75%) of the (all) respondents were very or very much concerned that Israel will suffer in the future from terror and rockets attacks;
- 42% of responders who are residents near Gaza's border felt in recent years to a great or very large extent that the life of a family member was in real danger of rockets attacks from Gaza.



- About 33% of responders are concerned to a great extent that in the next year, war could break out with the Palestinians or with a State in the region;
- When asked **indirectly** about other residents of the Gaza Perimeter, 47% of respondents believe that they think the conflict will never be settled. (21% of residents did not change their positions; 16% - an effort should be made to reach an agreement).

When asked **directly** the answers were: 35% - An effort should be made to reach an agreement, 21% - There will not be peace with the Palestinians in the near future, 28% - The conflict will never be settled.

- **In conclusion**, we can see **small differences** in attitudes between young and older respondents related to the possibility of reaching an agreement.
- Both those affected by the conflict and those who have not been harmed are almost equally divided about the possibility of reaching an agreement, or about the efforts that need to be made to reach an agreement.

Veterans who served in the Occupied Territories of the West Bank (Judea and Samaria)

- 47% of the soldiers exposed to violence, experienced incidents in which Palestinians were injured or killed, compared to 23% who experienced incidents in which soldiers were injured or killed.
- 25% of the soldiers have been exposed to violence without casualties from any side.
- Nearly half (45%) of those exposed to violence noted that the IDF's use of force in the incidents was routine. (39% noted that the use of force is not the routine).



- The majority (64%) who were exposed to violence reported severe negative feelings (high and medium level) after these violent events. (29% noted that because they realized it was part of the military service, they were largely unaffected).
- A majority (68%) of those exposed to violence have reported that other soldiers also have suffered severe negative feelings (high and medium level) after these violent incidents .
- A large majority of the respondents (71%) witnessed events in which (in their eyes) it was required of the military to use force.
- About 25% of the respondents witnessed events in which the military was required to use force and participated directly in the use of force .
- Nearly half (47%) of the witnesses to events in which the military was required to use force participated indirectly in the use of force.
- 54% of the responders noted that the events they experienced during the military service, in general, left a positive effect on them .(46% - negative effect);
- **An absolute** majority (81%) of the respondents believed that the exposure to violence in the West Bank during the military service affects the **political attitudes** of soldiers; become more right-wing – 29%; become more left-wing – 3%. Both, right-wing and left-wing – 49%.
- About 40% of the soldiers that **were exposed to violence** in the West Bank believe that an agreement with the Palestinians cannot be reached; 40% believe that an agreement with the Palestinians cannot be reached but, even so, an effort must be done.
- **When the responders were directly** asked about their **political attitudes** the answers were: 30% of the veterans believe that an agreement with the Palestinians **cannot be reached**; 41% - an effort must be done to reach an agreement with the Palestinians.



- 50% of the veterans believe that military service in the West Bank has the same chance in making soldiers more left or right wing orientated.
- **Similar findings about political influence** (right-wing or left-wing positions) were also found among soldiers who were exposed to violence (50%) or soldiers who were not exposed to violence (47%).
- Some of the veterans thought that military service in the West Bank has an impact on the adoption of right-wing political positions: among young veterans - 33% and among older veterans – 24%.
- **In conclusion**, we can see, as in the previous two surveys, that there are **no significant or notable differences**. This is true for the political positions of soldiers who served in the West Bank, whether they were exposed to violence or not, and for their support of the peace process.