

# MARTTILA COMMUNICATIONS



## American Jewish Attitudes on Israel and the Middle East Conflict

### AN ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE SURVEY

1200 INTERVIEWS: MARCH 31 – APRIL 8, 2009

Two Demographically Representative Split Samples of 600 Respondents.



# Methodology

On behalf of the Anti-Defamation League, Marttila Communications conducted a national telephone survey of 1,200 Americans Jews between March 31 and April 8, 2009.

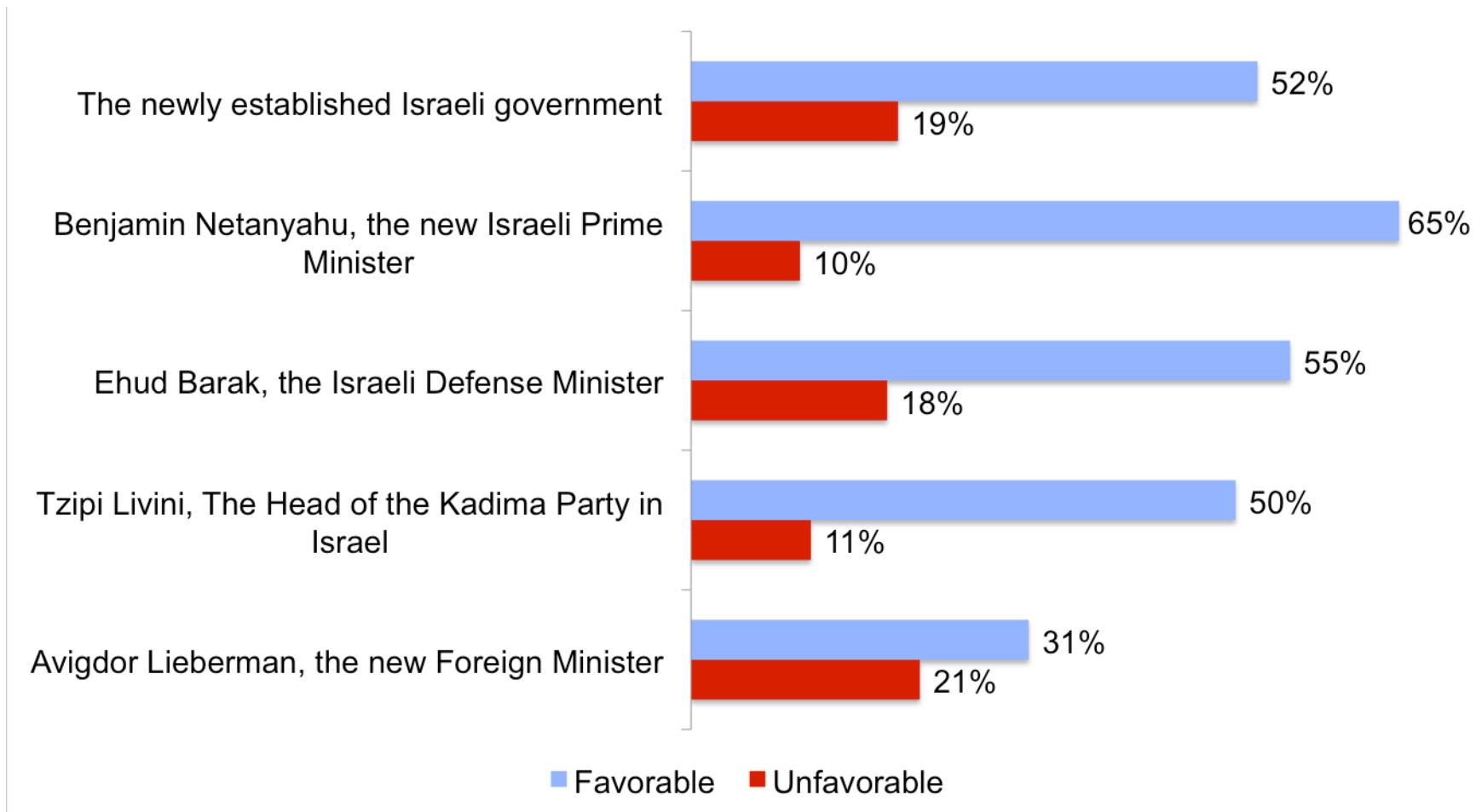
For those questions that were answered by all 1,200 respondents, the survey results have a margin of error of +/- 2.8 percent. For many questions, the survey used the technique of "split sampling," a process in which the 1,200 person sample was split into two demographically representative national samples of 600 respondents each. For those questions that were answered by 600 respondents, the survey has a margin of error of +/- 4 percent.

The purpose for split sampling in the survey was to maximize the number of questions that could be asked, to test different hypotheses about an issue, and to test the impact of different question wording.

Marttila Communications has been conducting public opinion research for the ADL for twenty years.



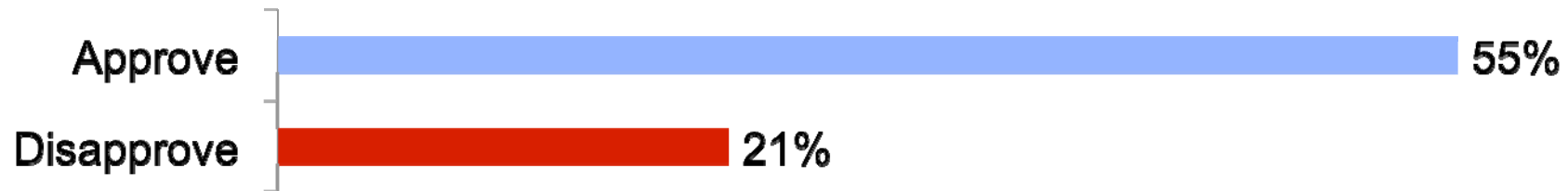
# Most Israeli leaders are very popular.





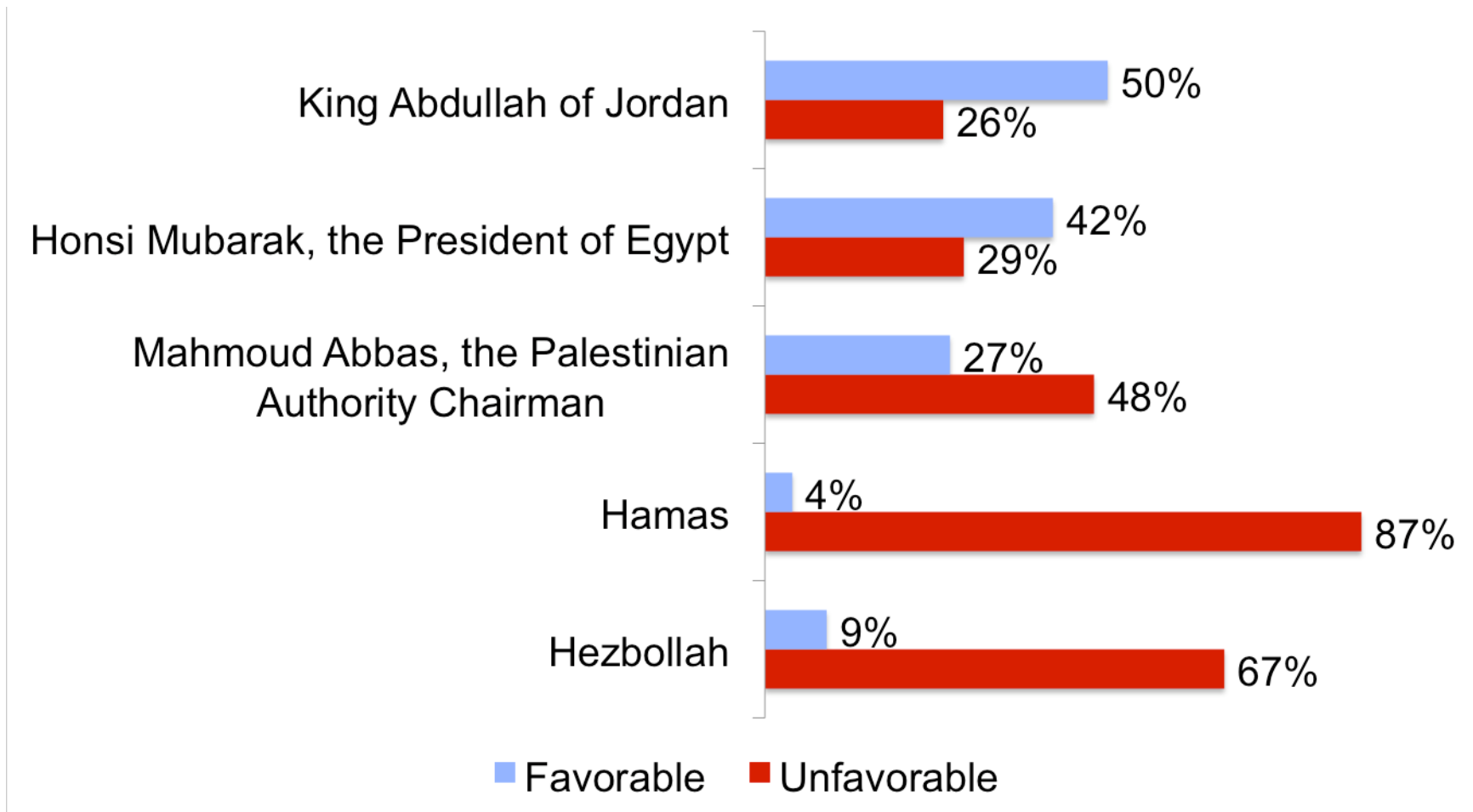
Slightly more than half of American Jews approve of Obama's handling of U.S. policy toward Israel and the Palestinian Territories.

**AND THINKING SPECIFICALLY ABOUT THE MIDDLE EAST, Do you approve or disapprove of the way President Obama is handling US POLICY TOWARD ISRAEL AND THE PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES.**





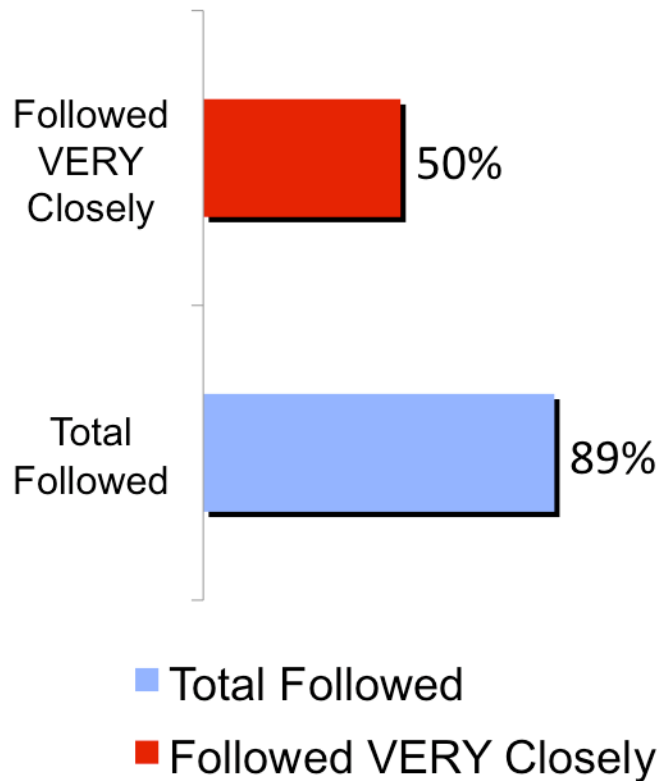
## Hamas and Hezbollah held in extremely low regard.



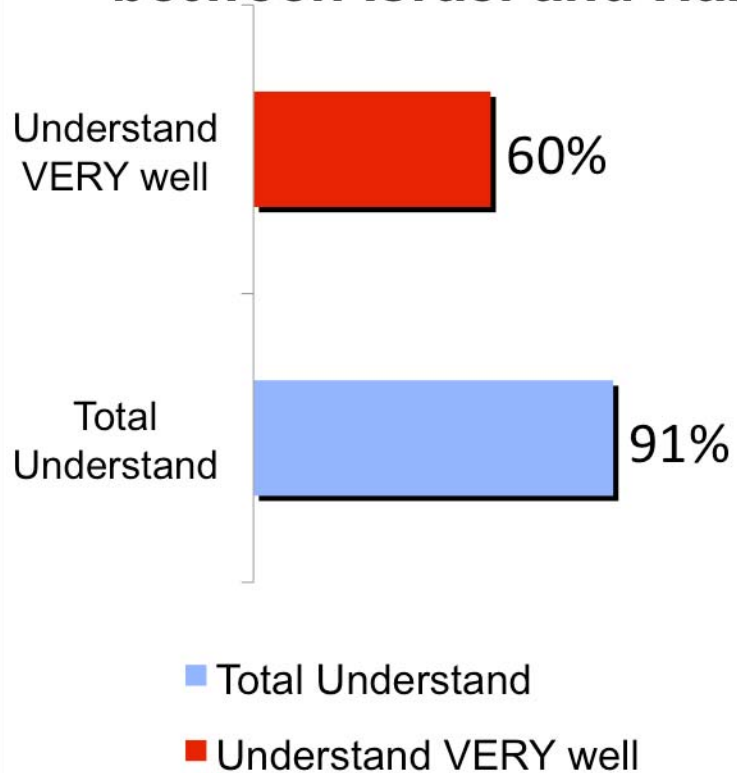


90% followed Gaza crisis closely -- and understand underlying differences.

### Followed the Crisis in Gaza



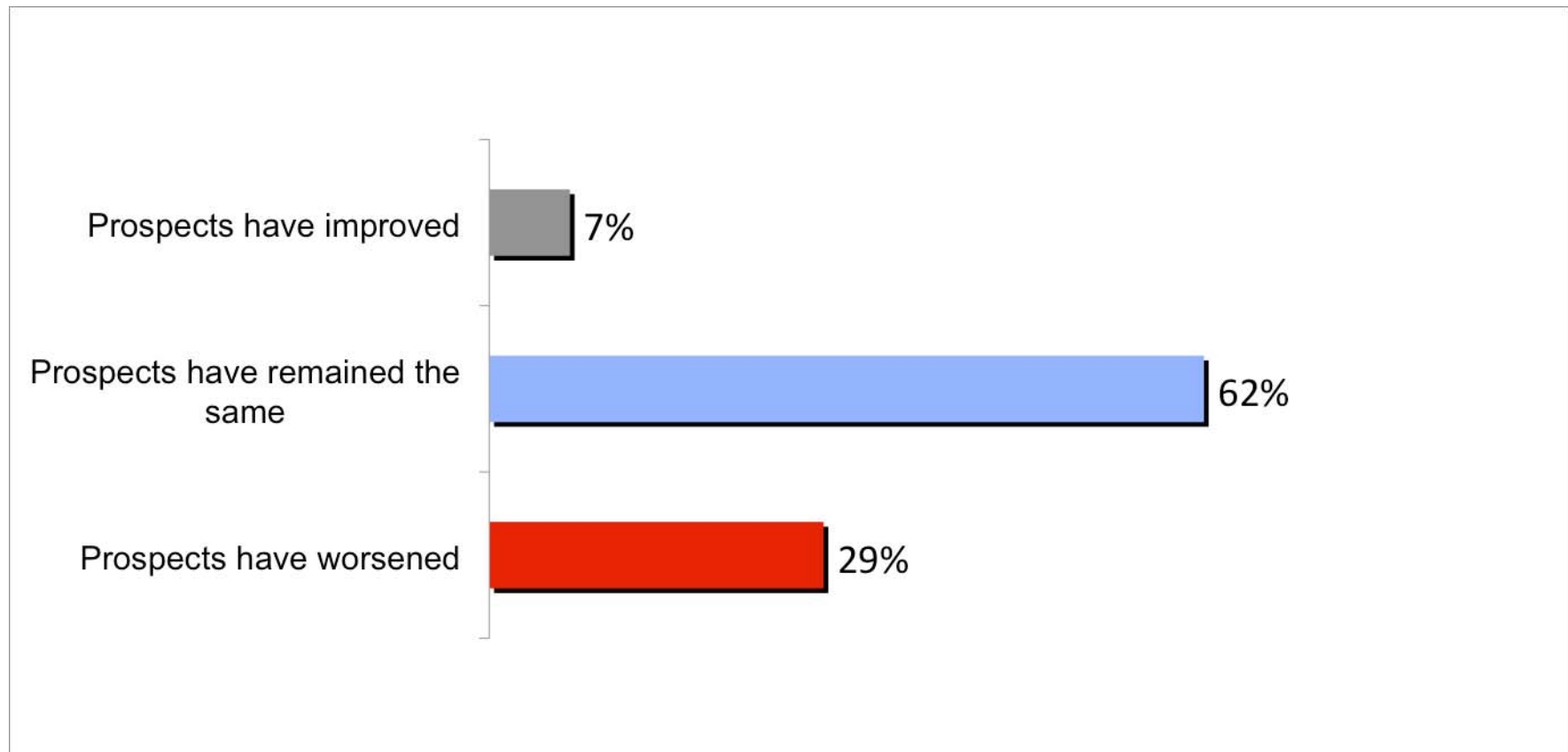
### Understand differences between Israel and Hamas





## Pessimism about the prospects for peace.

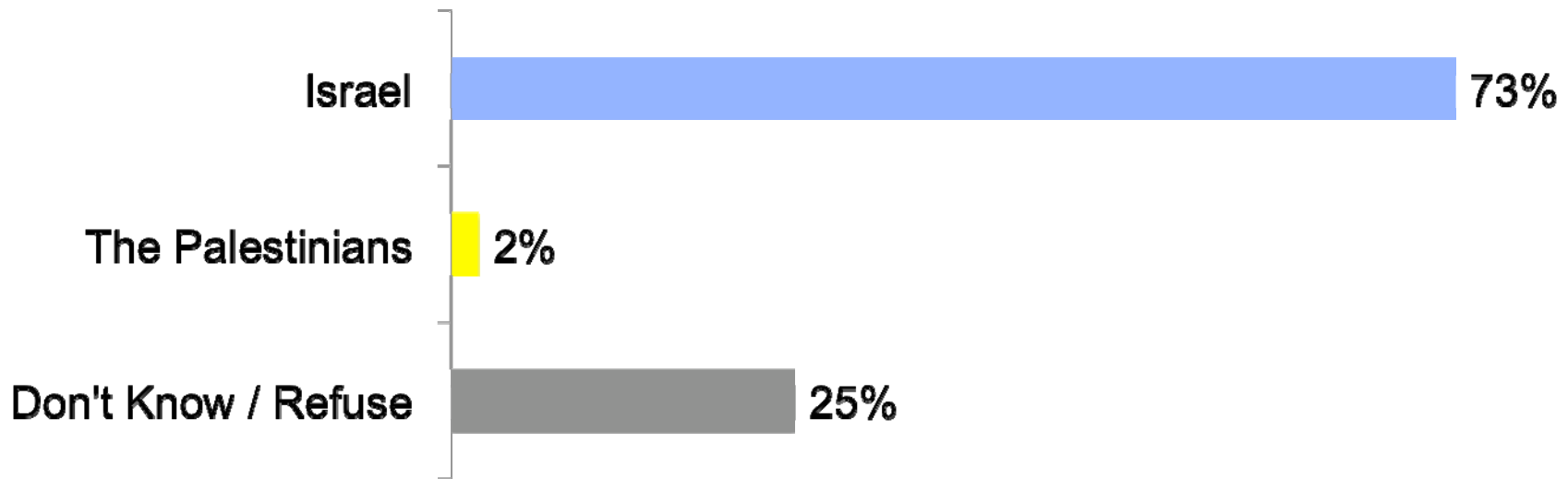
Over the past few months, do you think the prospects for peace between Israel and the Palestinians have improved, worsened or stayed about the same?





By overwhelming margins, American Jews believe that Israel is doing more to bring peace to the region.

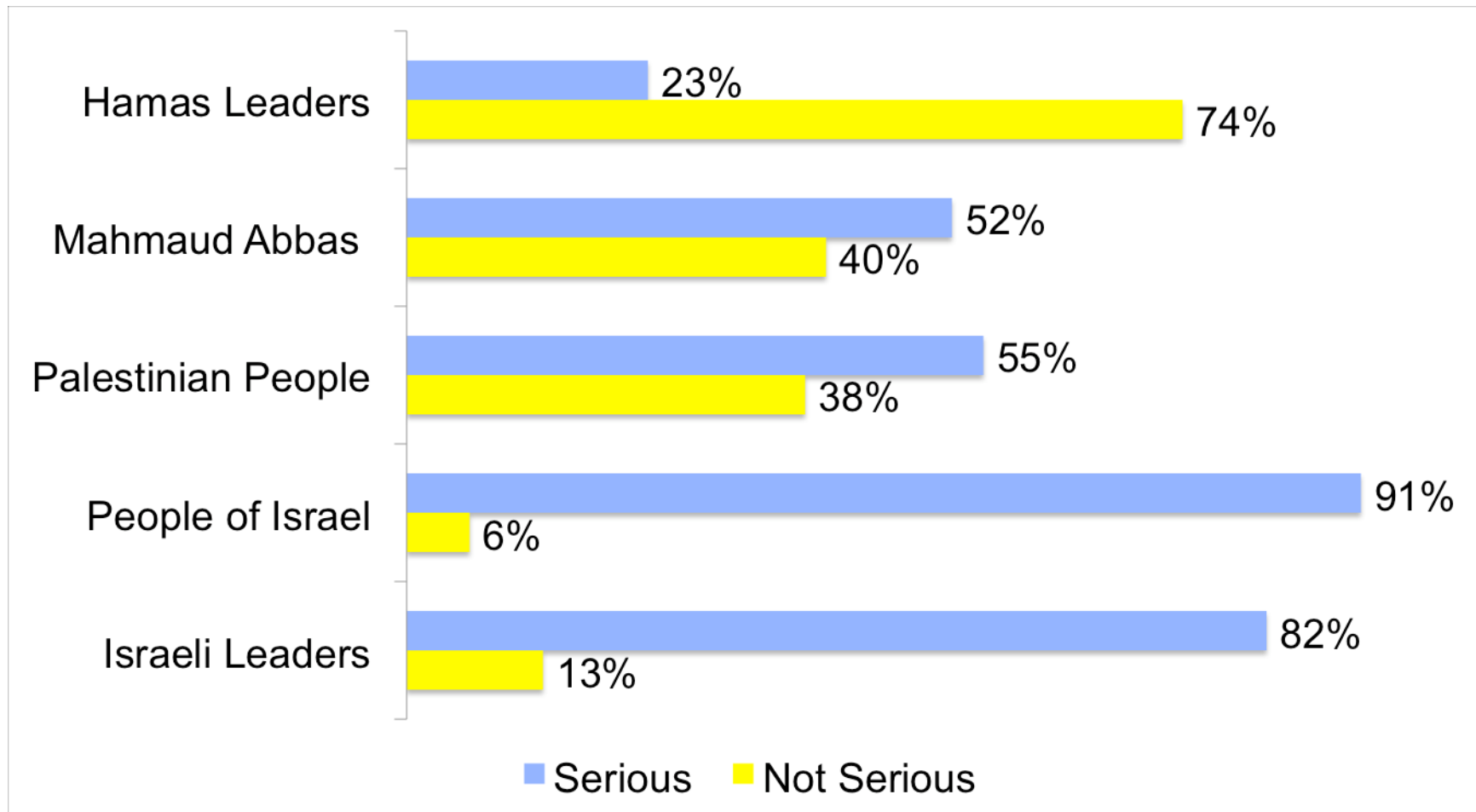
And who do you think is doing more to try and bring peace to the region - Israel or the Palestinians?





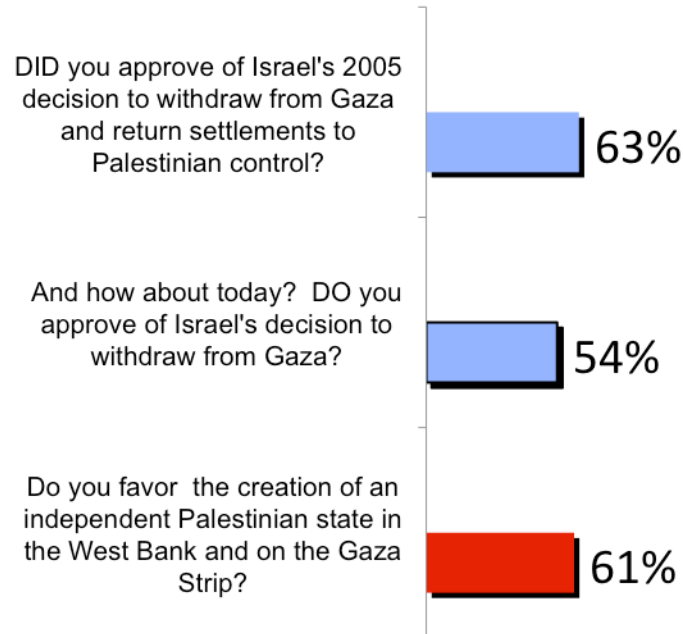


## How serious about wanting to reach a lasting peace agreement?





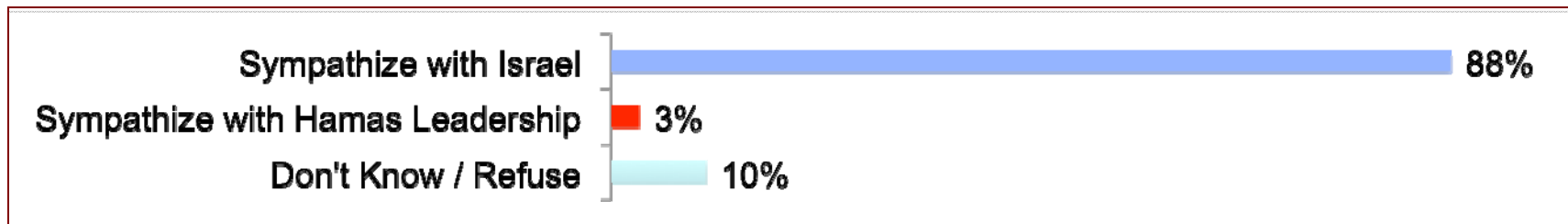
# Eroding support for Gaza withdrawal. But continued support for independent Palestinian State.



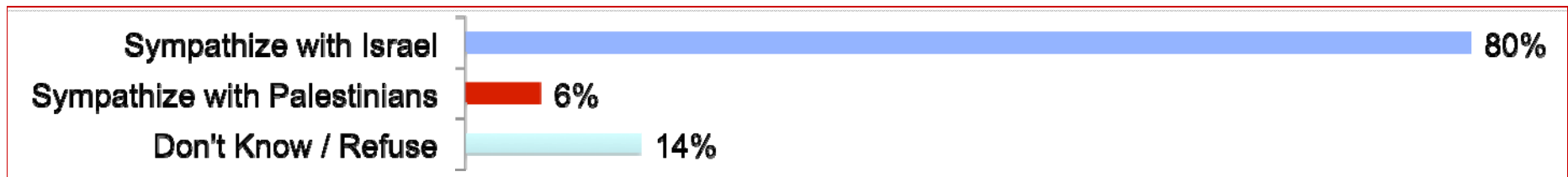


# American Jews are overwhelmingly supportive of Israel.

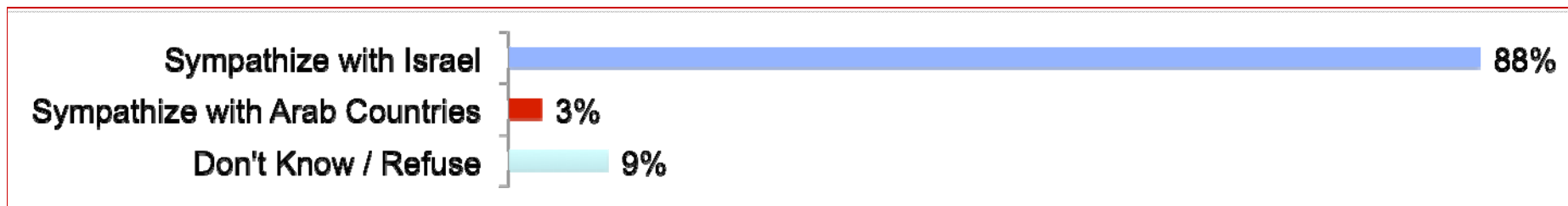
Thinking specifically about the current conflict between Israel and the Palestinian Hamas Leadership in Gaza - are your sympathies more with Israel or with Hamas Leadership?



Thinking about the ongoing conflict between Israel and the Palestinians generally - are your sympathies more with Israel or with the Palestinians?



Thinking about the ongoing conflict between Israel and the Arab countries - are your sympathies more with Israel or with the Arab countries?





82% believe Hamas responsible for escalation in Gaza violence.

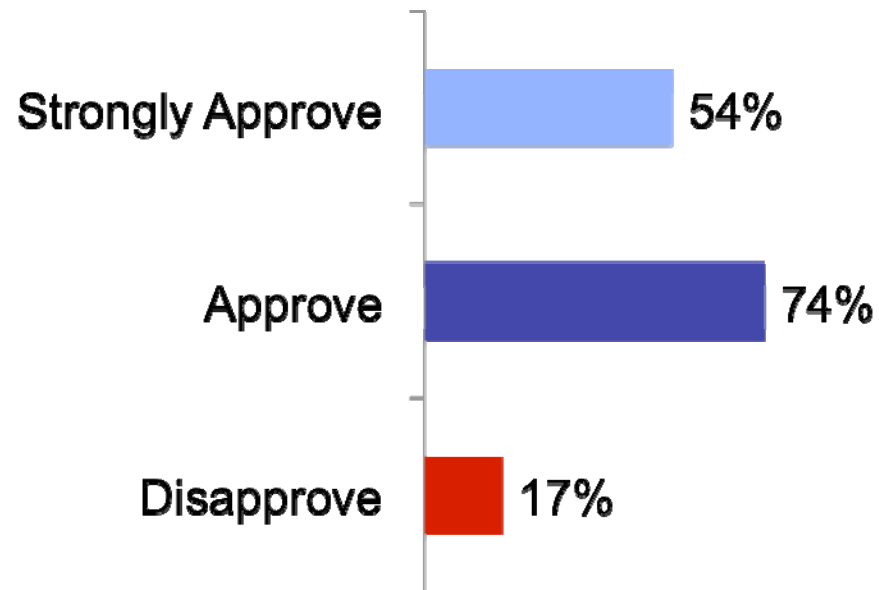
**Based on your understanding of the situation, who do you believe was responsible for the recent escalation of violence in the Gaza Strip?**





Very strong support for Israel's military action in the Gaza Strip.

**Do you approve or disapprove of the military action that Israel took in Gaza?  
If APPROVE, would that be strongly approve or somewhat approve? If  
DISAPPROVE, would that be strongly disapprove or somewhat disapprove?**



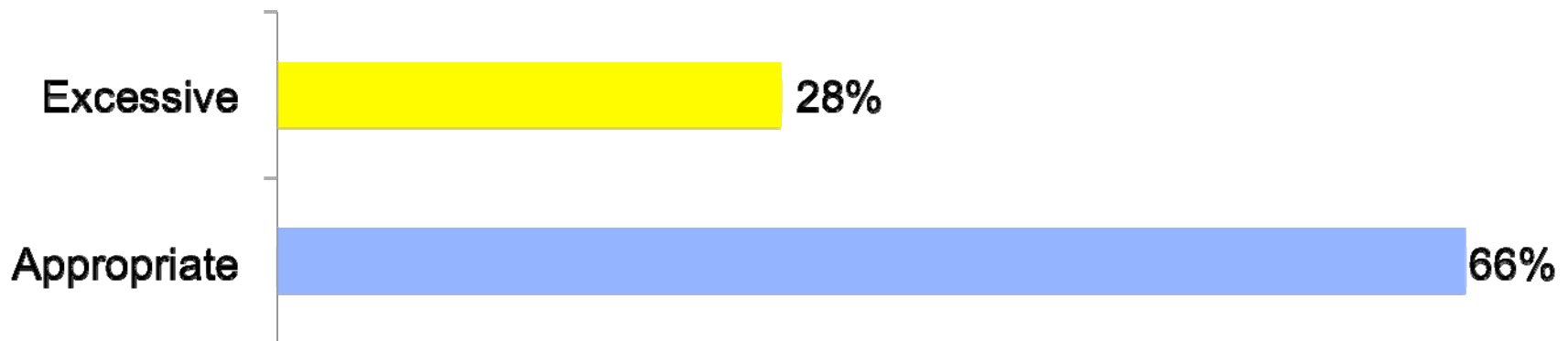


A strong belief that Israel's military response to the Gaza crisis was appropriate.

Israel's military response to the crisis in Gaza was **EXCESSIVE**: Israel has every right to protect its people from the rocket attacks of the Hamas radicals, but its use of air strikes, and sending troops into Gaza was a disproportionate response to the crisis. Hamas is not a serious threat to Israel's existence.

**OR**

Israel's military response to the crisis in Gaza was **APPROPRIATE**. Israel pursued every diplomatic channel possible to persuade Hamas to stop firing their rockets into Israel. Further, Israeli leaders issued repeated warnings that unless Hamas radicals stopped firing rockets into Israel, Israel's only alternative was the use of military force.



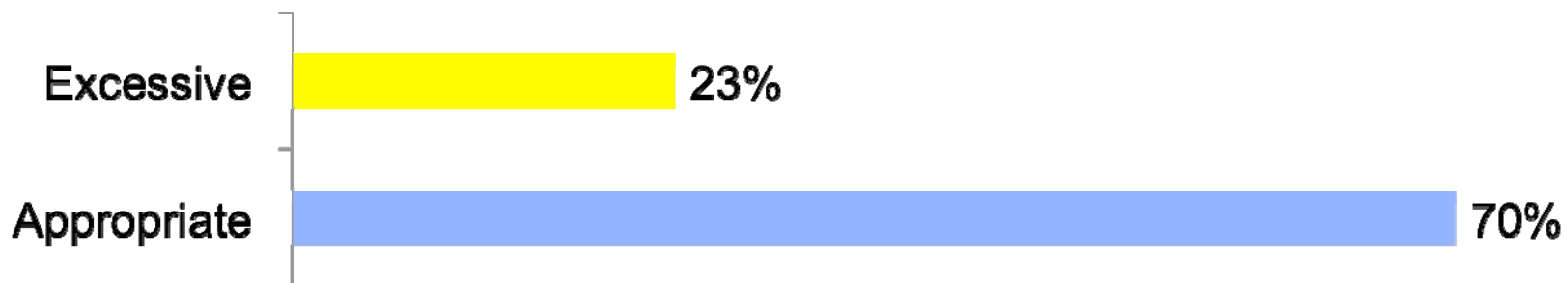


A strong belief that Israel's military response to the Gaza crisis was appropriate.

Israel's military response to the crisis in Gaza was **EXCESSIVE**: Israel has every right to protect its people from the rocket attacks of the Hamas radicals, but its use of air strikes, and sending troops into Gaza was a disproportionate response to the crisis. ***As a result, more than one thousand Palestinians were killed during the recent military action. Hamas is not – and has never been – a serious threat to Israel's existence.***

**OR**

Israel's military response to the crisis in Gaza was **APPROPRIATE**. ***The Hamas rocket attacks have made daily life impossible in Southern Israel.*** Israel pursued every diplomatic channel possible to persuade Hamas to stop firing their rockets into Israel. Further, Israeli leaders issued repeated warnings that unless Hamas radicals stopped firing rockets into Israel, Israel's only alternative was the use of military force.





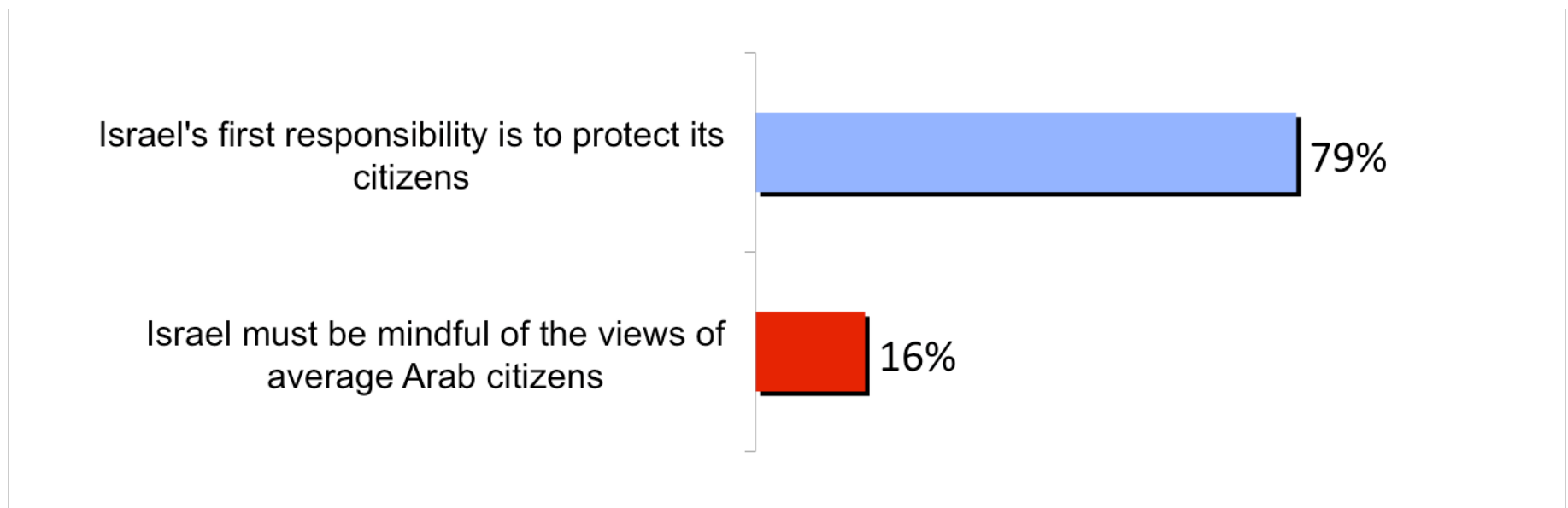
Israel's first responsibility is to protect its citizens. Arab leaders must persuade their citizens to live in peace with Israel.

Next, there have been widespread news reports that Israel's military action in Gaza has infuriated average citizens throughout the Arab world. With this as a backdrop, which is closer to your own views:

Israel must be mindful of the views of average Arab citizens and pursue policies that will win the "hearts and minds" of the Arab world. Israel's long-term ability to live in peace with its Arab neighbors will depend importantly on the acceptance of Israel's right to exist among the Arab population.

**OR**

Israel's first responsibility is to protect its citizens. For sixty years, Israel has done everything possible to reach peaceful accords with its Arab neighbors. It is the leadership of the Arab world that has blocked progress and it is their responsibility to persuade their citizens they should live in peace with Israel.







## Closing Gaza borders is better than more military activity.

There have also been widespread news reports that Israel's military action in Gaza has infuriated average citizens through the Arab world. With this as backdrop, which is closer to your own views:

A: Israel must be mindful of the views of average Arab citizens and pursue policies that will win the "hearts and minds" of the Arab world. ***Israel's decision to close the borders into Gaza resulted in a slowdown of humanitarian relief – and contributed to widespread suffering among the Palestinian civilian population. These actions have clearly lessened Israel's ability to persuade its Arab neighbors that it wants to live in peace and they have become an organizing tool for Muslim extremists. Therefore, even if it jeopardizes Israeli security, borders into Gaza must be kept open to prevent the innocent Palestinian civil population from being punished for the actions of Hamas radicals.***

OR

B: Israel's first responsibility is to protect its citizens. For sixty years, Israel has done everything possible to reach peaceful accords with the Palestinians and its Arab neighbors. It is the leadership of the Palestinians and the Arab world that has blocked progress and it is their responsibility to persuade their citizens they should live in peace with Israel. ***Israel closed the borders into Gaza to prevent Hamas from obtaining more weapons. Closing borders is a much better alternative than more military activity.***



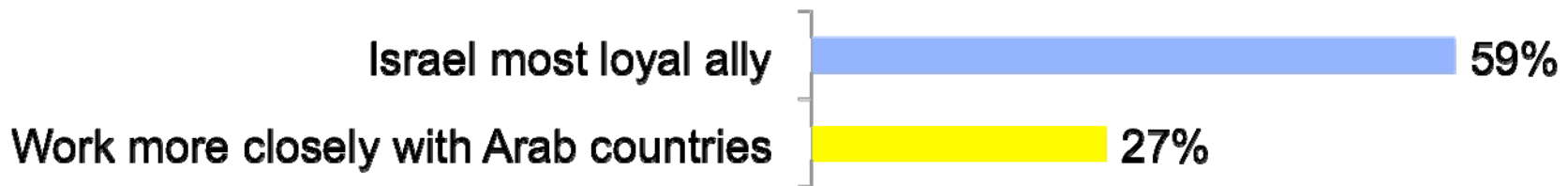


## Israel most loyal ally in the Middle East.

As a world leader trying to bring peace to in the Middle East, it is important for the U.S. to work more closely with Arab nations like Egypt and Jordan, even if it means weakening our strong relationship with Israel.

OR

Israel is America's most loyal ally in the Middle East. The U.S. has a moral and strategic obligation to keep our relationship with Israel strong, even if this means weakening our relationship with the Arab world.



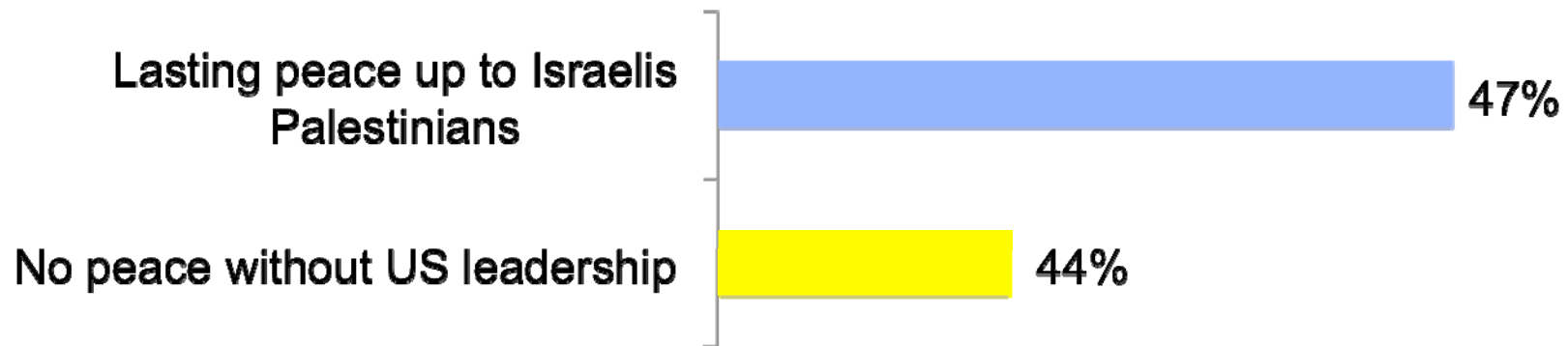


## Divided Opinion: Does Israeli Palestinian peace REQUIRE U.S. Involvement?

Peace between the Israelis and the Palestinians will never take place without the continuing leadership and involvement of the U.S. government.

OR

It is up to the Palestinians and the Israelis to solve their problems; any LASTING agreement between them must be reached with the U.S. only playing a role as a facilitator.



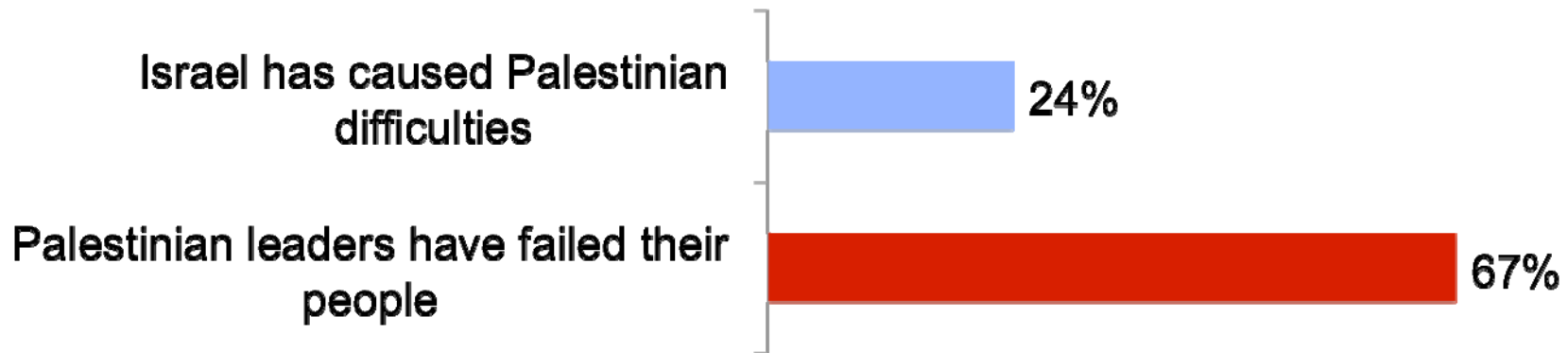


## Palestinians have missed real opportunities for peace with Israel.

The economic and political difficulties of the Palestinian people are primarily the fault of Israel and its leaders who have kept the Palestinian people under their military rule for more than thirty years.

OR

The economic and political difficulties of the Palestinian people are primarily the fault of a Palestinian leadership that has repeatedly failed to seize real opportunities for peace with Israel.



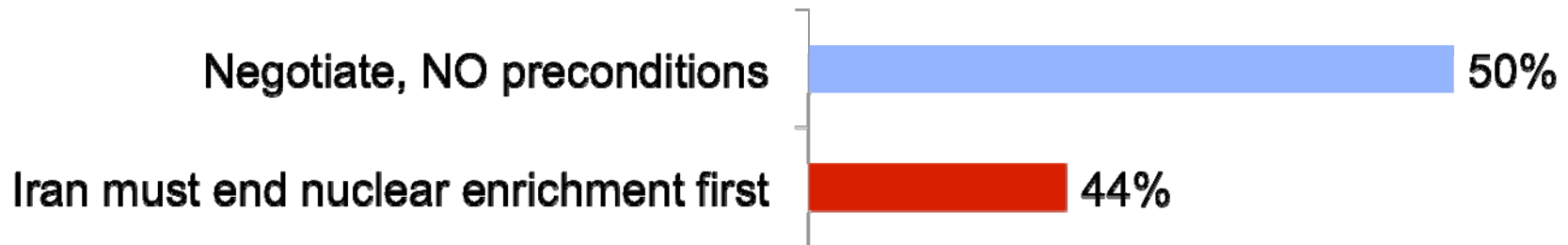


## By narrow margins, support for U.S. negotiations with Iran with NO preconditions.

The U.S. should enter into direct talks with Iran with NO preconditions. After all, the U.S. engaged in continuing diplomatic negotiations with the Soviet Union during the Cold War and the Soviets were a much greater threat to U.S. national security than Iran is today. U.S. national security inevitably benefits when we talk to our adversaries, especially the most dangerous ones.

OR

The U.S. should NOT enter into negotiations with Iran until Iran agrees to suspend its nuclear ENRICHMENT program. Iran is one of the most dangerous governments on the face of the earth – among other things its president calls for the destruction of Israel. There can be no talk until Iran takes concrete steps to assure the civilized world it is ready to cooperate with other nations on controlling the spread of nuclear weapons.



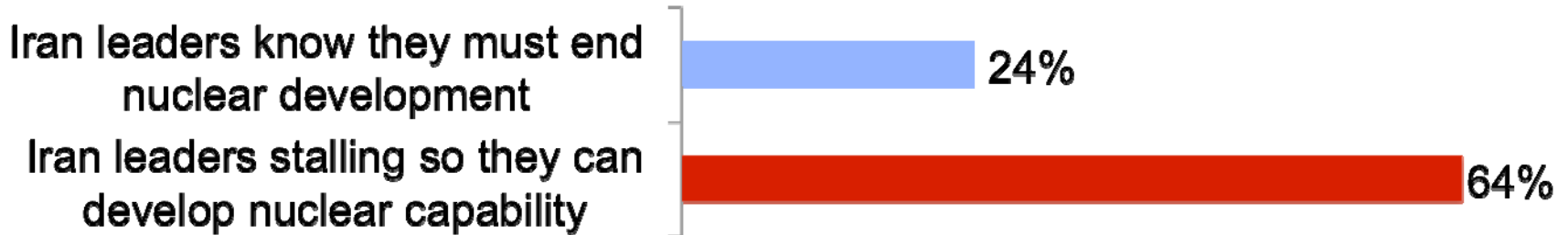


Strong belief Iranians are using delaying tactics to gain time to develop nuclear capabilities.

The leaders of Iran know that it is in their national interest to end their uranium enrichment program and reach agreement with the U.S. and the Western Powers. They are simply using delaying tactics to strike the best deal.

OR

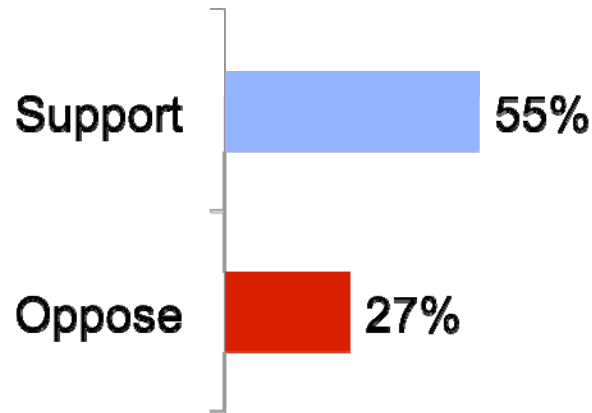
The leaders of Iran have NO interest in reaching an agreement with the U.S. and the Western Powers to end their uranium enrichment program. They are using delaying tactics to give them enough time to develop a nuclear capability.





## If negotiations with Iran fail, support for destroying Iranian nuclear facilities.

Suppose all economic and diplomatic efforts fail to get Iran to shut down its nuclear enrichment program. If that happens, would you support or oppose THE UNITED STATES destroying the Iranian nuclear facilities?



Suppose all economic and diplomatic efforts fail to get Iran to shut down its nuclear enrichment program. If that happens, would you support or oppose ISRAEL destroying the Iranian nuclear facilities?

