



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
CONTACT:**

January 30, 2004
Jennifer Laszlo Mizrahi
202-857-6644
theisraelproject@aol.com

**As UN World Court Prepares to Judge
Israel's Right to Defend Itself
Through an Anti-Terrorism Security Fence,
Poll Shows 69% of Americans Agree That
"Israel, like any other country, should not be told by
an international court how to protect its own citizens"**

Washington - Poll findings released today by The Israel Project show that Americans overwhelmingly support Israel's right to defend itself through the construction of its anti-terrorism security fence, even over the possible interference by the International Court of Justice in The Hague.

The poll found that 74% of Americans agree (47% strongly agree) with the statement, "Until the Palestinians take steps to stop the terrorism against Israeli citizens, Israel has the right to build a security fence to defend itself against attacks." (complete results at www.theisraelproject.org)

"This week's tragic suicide bus bombing in Jerusalem once again highlights the need for Israel to take steps to defend itself against terrorism until the Palestinian leadership takes action," said Jennifer Laszlo Mizrahi, president of The Israel Project. "The poll shows that Americans clearly understand and strongly agree with Israel's need to defend the lives of its citizens," concluded Mizrahi.

Israel on Friday formally challenged the International Court of Justice's right to rule on the legality of the West Bank security fence. The court is set to convene on February 23 to begin deliberations on this issue. "It is ironic that less than an hour from the Anne Frank House, where a small child hid from those who would kill her for her religion, the world would again revisit the question of whether Jews have a right - like any other people - to protect themselves from killers who target innocent children," said Mizrahi.

The poll also showed that 69% of Americans agree (49% strongly agree) that "Israel, like any other country, should not be told by an international court how to protect its own citizens." Only 25% disagree with this statement.

"Since September 11, 2001, Americans have been forced to suffer the indignities of extra screening at airports. We take out our laptops and take off our shoes. We allow ourselves to be searched by security people. But we understand that this is needed to protect innocent lives from terrorists. Americans would not tolerate a UN World Court telling us how to protect ourselves. Why should Israel be judged when over 900 of its citizens - including children on a bus this week - have been brutally targeted by terrorists who walk into their country to kill? The fact is that the security fence is a non-violent way to stop terrorism," Mizrahi said. "Americans agree that an international court cannot trump the obligation of a government to stand up for its citizens in the face of terror. Americans would not stand for this here and they support Israel's right to do the same for its citizens," stated Mizrahi.

Overall support for Israel is the highest it has been in a year. In response to the question, "And, thinking more about the ongoing conflict between Israel and the Palestinians in the Middle East, please tell me whether, in general, you consider yourself to be; a strong supporter of Israel, a supporter of Israel, a supporter of the Palestinians or a strong supporter of the Palestinians?" the

poll found that 52% of Americans support Israel and 10% support the Palestinians.

The Israel Project is a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting Israel while promoting security, freedom and peace.

The poll was conducted by Neil Newhouse of Public Opinion Strategies in Alexandria. They surveyed 800 registered voters nationally January 21-22 with a margin of error of + 3.46%. Public Opinion Strategies won the 2002 "Pollster of the Year" award from the American Association of Political Consultants.

Poll Results:



The graphic is a blue-bordered box with a white background. At the top, it features the Public Opinion Strategies logo (two overlapping circles) and the text "PUBLIC OPINION STRATEGIES" in red. Below this, on the left, is the "The Israel Project" logo in white on a blue background, with the tagline "for security, freedom and peace" underneath. To the right of the logo, the text "JANUARY 2004" is displayed in large blue letters. Below the logo and date, the text "Key Findings from national survey of 800 likely voters Conducted January 21-22, 2004." is written in white. At the bottom left, the number "#04060" is shown above a small version of the Public Opinion Strategies logo. To the right of this, the text "NEIL NEWHOUSE" is written in large white letters, with "PARTNER" in red below it. The bottom right corner features another instance of the Public Opinion Strategies logo.

PUBLIC OPINION STRATEGIES

The Israel Project
for security, freedom and peace

**JANUARY
2004**

*Key Findings from national survey of 800 likely voters
Conducted January 21-22, 2004.*

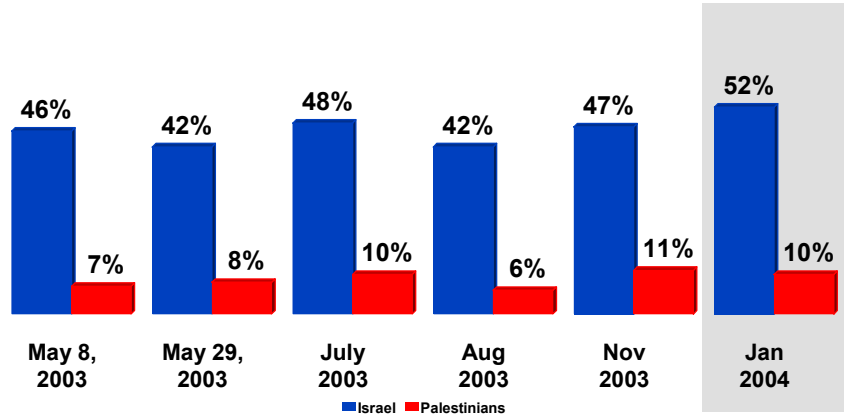
#04060

NEIL NEWHOUSE
PARTNER

PUBLIC OPINION STRATEGIES

A majority of Americans express their support for Israel over the Palestinians.

And, thinking more about the ongoing conflict between Israel and the Palestinians in the Middle East, please tell me whether, in general, you consider yourself to be; a strong supporter of Israel, a supporter of Israel, a supporter of the Palestinians or a strong supporter of the Palestinians?

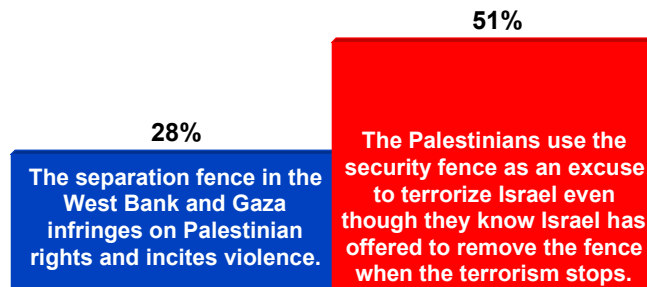


The Israel Project January 2004

2

A majority of Americans believe that the Palestinians use the security fence as an excuse to terrorize Israel.

*And, which one of the following statements best describes how you feel about this issue...
The separation fence in the West Bank and Gaza infringes on Palestinian rights and incites violence...or...The Palestinians use the security fence as an excuse to terrorize Israel even though they know Israel has offered to remove the fence when the terrorism stops.*

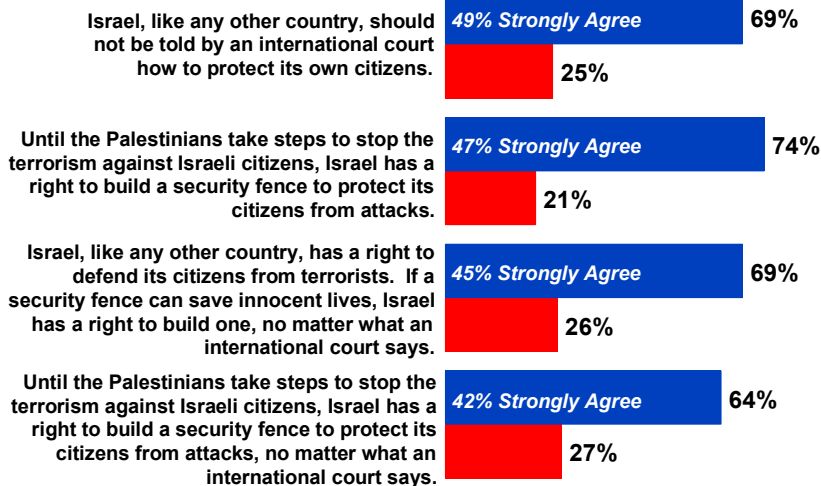


The Israel Project January 2004

3

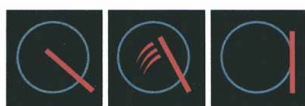
All four of the messages generate similar levels of agreement among US voters.

Ranked by % Strongly Agree



NEIL NEWHOUSE

PARTNER • newhouse@pos.org



**PUBLIC OPINION
STRATEGIES**

www.pos.org

277 S. Washington Street • Suite 320 • Alexandria, Virginia 22314
Phone (703) 836-7655 • Fax (703) 836-8117