

**The Public Opinion Poll Among The Jordanian People In Respect Of The Violence  
Phenomenon And Amman Explosions**

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# **The Public Opinion Poll Among the Jordanian People in Respect of The Violence Phenomenon and Amman Explosions**

## **Introduction:**

In the evening of 9 November, 2005 three hotels in Amman were exposed to concurrent explosions.

The event shocked the Jordanian who thought that they were far from such deeds.

Consequently, Knowledge World Center for Polls decided to conduct the poll after the Jordanian society passed the emotional condition.

The poll was made during the period 14 December 2005- 26 January 2006 to give the chance for reaching more accurate and objective results in respect of the violence phenomenon resulting from Amman explosions event.

## **Methodology:**

The poll was conducted by phoning a representative sample that had been taken through using the regular caste observation method which takes the proportional representation of people in the kingdom provinces into account. Also the center collaborated with the General Statistics Department (Statistical Methods Unit) in respect of all matters relating to the sample which included 1237 adults. 137 refused after knowing the subject of the poll. These constituted 11.1%. Accordingly, the complete forms were 1100 which were considered high in this kind of delicate polls. 529 (48.1%) were males and 571 (51.9%) were females. The co-efficient of variation (sample error) was 2.5%.

Most questions of the poll were open. As expected, that resulted in varied responses. Some of these responses were important, others were less important while the importance of the rest was weak.

In the light of that, the indicators can be considered three types:

Main indicators which percentage exceeded 4% of the total amount of the sample. Less important indicators which percentage exceeded 1% of the total amount of the sample. And the indicators which importance was weak. The percentage of these was less than 1%. They were classified under the item "miscellaneous". Interested parties may obtain the item "miscellaneous" indicators directly from the center.

## **1. Reasons of Amman Explosions:**

The respondents were asked the following question: What do you think is the most important reason for Amman explosions?

Because the question was open, varied answers were obtained. The data were classified in a way to maintain the exact expressions of the respondents as much as possible.

Table No. (1) Shows that there were five reasons behind Amman Explosions. These constituted 54.4% of the total amount of reasons. The most important reasons for the explosions were upsetting security and stability and sabotage, and terrorism. They were followed by malice and jealousy, extremism and wrong understanding of the religion, weakness of religious restraint and ignorance. There are six less important reasons which explained 14% of the total amount of reasons. What attracts the attention is that the political reasons came within this group. This means that the poll respondents did not widely believe that the culprits had political reasons. Also, these were miscellaneous (too diversified) reasons which percentage reached 7.4%. But these had minor importance.

Parties who are interested in details about these reasons may obtain them from the Center directly.

If we added the miscellaneous reasons item to the above mentioned reasons, we would find that about three fourths (75.8%) of the respondents mentioned the main reason for the explosions, where, about one fourth (24.2%) did not know the reason.

**Table No. (1)**  
**Reasons of Amman Explosions**

	<b>Reason</b>	<b>Result (%)</b>
1	Upsetting security and stability and sabotage	29.0
2	Malice and jealousy	9.5
3	Extremism and wrong understanding of the religion	6.2
4	Weakness of religious restraint	5.0
5	Ignorance	4.7
6	Political reasons	3.7
7	Vandalizing the Jordanian economy	2.7
8	Distortion of the Islam image	2.3
9	Ill spirits	2.2
10	Defamation of the image of Jordan	2.1
11	Lack of conscience	1.0
12	I do not know	24.2
13	Miscellaneous	7.4
	Total	100

!!!1!!! !!! !!      !!!1!!! !!!!!!

## 2. Positive Consequences of Amman Explosions

For studying the positive consequences of the hotels explosions, the respondents were asked the following question: What is the most important positive consequence of Amman explosions?

Approximately all respondents (96.2% as shown in table 2) agreed that the explosions had their positive results in Jordan. The consequences were deep in a sense that 56.5% of the respondents ascertained that the explosions increased loyalty, solidarity and national unity. 17.3% of the respondents (12.6% and 4.7%) believed that the positive result i.e. increasing security, concern and care could be achieved through increasing the other positive result, i.e. increasing awareness of terrorism.

There was a section of the study community representing 10.9% which believed that Amman Explosions increased sympathy and Arab and international support to Jordan. A few section of the study community (9.7%) said that the explosions bolstered the drive for finding a legislation concerning systems for combating terrorism. It was noted that these two consequences had no immediate impact on pure local affairs such as loyalty, solidarity, security and awareness. Due to that, their ratios were not high.

**Table No (2)**  
**Positive Consequences of Amman Explosions**

	<b>Consequence</b>	<b>Results (%)</b>
1	Increasing loyalty, solidarity and reinforcement of national unity	56.5%
2	Finding a drive for legislation concerning systems for combating terrorism	9.7%
3	Sympathy and Arab and international support	10.9%
4	Increasing security, concern and care	12.6%
5	Enhancing awareness of terrorism	4.7%
6	Not available	3.8%
7	Miscellaneous	1.8%
	Total	100

!!2!!! !!!

!!2!!! !!!

### **3. Negative consequences of Amman Explosions:**

Upon studying the negative consequences of Amman explosions which are clarified in table No. (3), we can infer the following:

- A- In a remarkable index, about one fourth of the participants in the poll (24.7%) said that the explosions had no negative consequences. This is an extremely strong psychological and nationalistic index and in harmony with the analogous result included in table No.(2) which indicated a decrease in the percentage of those who did not think that the explosions had positive consequences to 3.8%. The two results are consistent because it is not reasonable that both come low or both come high. The high percentage of those who did not see that the explosions had negative consequences meant that the respondents believed that

despite the enormity of the shock, the society tried to draw out some lessons from the event.

B- The economic consequences come on the top of the negative consequences of the explosions. The percentage of those who believed that there was a decline in tourism and foreign investment reached 23% in addition to 1.4% believed that there were various negative economic consequences.

C- In the political field, 16.9% of the study sample said that the explosions caused damage to legitimate resistance image.

The relatively high percentage indicated that the culprits suffered a heavy political loss in the eyes of the Jordanian society. This was consistent with what had been mentioned before in the reasons of the explosions that a low percentage (3.7%) of the participants believed that the culprits of the explosions had their political reasons.

D- 29.4% of the participants in the poll **stressed** the explosions immaterial consequences which had to do with the national local affairs such as fear (10.6%), decline in the level of security (8%), bitterness of losing human victims (6.3%) and some negative psychological consequences (4.5%).

**Table No.3**  
**Negative Consequences of Amman Explosions**

	Consequence	Percentage (%)
1	Decrease in tourism & foreign investment	23.0
2	Distortion of legitimate resistance image	16.9
3	fear	10.6
4	Decline in the security level	8.0
5	Human victims	6.3
6	Grievous psychological consequences	4.5
7	Negative economic consequences	1.4
8	Distortion of the image of Islam	1.0
9	Not available	24.7
10	miscellaneous	3.6
	Total	100

!3!!! !!!!! !!      !!3!!! !!!!!

**4. Are other explosions likely to occur?**

The respondents had an obvious opinion of the likelihood of other occurrences. As shown in table No. (4), 56.9% believed that other explosions were un likely to occur, 31.7% believed that possibility was weak. Only 10.2% expected the occurrence of other terrorist operations. In comparing the last percentage (i.e.10.2%) with what was mentioned in table No. (3), it can be said that a large section of those who considered fear (10.6%) and decrease in the level of security (8%) among the negative consequences of the explosions represented those who expected other occurrences of violent events.

In the light of these results, it can be said that the majority of the Jordanian people considered the explosions a transient phenomenon.

**Table No.(4)**  
**Likelihood of Other Explosion Occurrences**

	Likelihood	Percentage (%)
1	Not likely	56.9
2	Weak likelihood	31.7
3	Strong likelihood	10.2
4	I don't know	1.2
	Total	100

!4!!!! !!!!! !!      !!4!!!! !!!!!

### **5- Treatment of the violence phenomenon**

If we look at table No.(5), we can infer the following results about the most effective ways to contain violence phenomenon as viewed by the participants in the poll.

- a. Jordanians obviously preferred following awareness methods among the youth as the best treatment to contain violence phenomenon. 25.2% of the participants in the poll pointed out that they preferred bolstering general awareness, religious enlightenment and awareness of the violence phenomenon particularly among the youth. In the same context, a return to the true teachings of the Islamic religion is considered one kind of religious enlightenment that keeps the person away from violence. If that happened, the enlightenment method would constitute 28.3% of the respondents' opinions. This tendency may refer to the fact that the Jordanian society did not reach fear degree to prefer direct methods to contain this phenomenon.
- b. As a result of what has been stated in item (A), the security method i.e. the direct method came in a lower place in comparison with the awareness method, little more than one fifths of the respondents (21.2%) preferred this method.
- c. The participants in the poll defined some methods to contain violence phenomenon. They were extremely important indicators which the Jordanian society has always needed to reinforce. They stressed the necessity for maximizing the people's solidarity (14.4%) and the importance of cooperation with the security men 10.5%.
- d. The respondents stated another fundamental suggestion i.e. increasing precaution and care (13.4%). In fact, this matter constitutes direct and immediate method to avoid damage resulting from the event. But it does not constitute cure to uproot the whole idea of the event.
- e. The suggestion concerning the treatment of economic problems such as unemployment and poverty was the least important as it constituted only 1% of the respondents' opinions. This came contrary to what some analysts believed.
- f. 6.8% of the participants in the poll mentioned varied suggestions to contain the phenomenon of terrorism, but the importance of each suggestion was too low as

it reached 0.2% or 0.3%. These suggestions were included in table No.(5) under the item "miscellaneous". Interested parties in details about these suggestions may obtain them directly from the center.

**Table No. (5)**  
**Treatment of Violence Phenomenon**

	<b>Means</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
1	Reinforcement of general awareness, religious enlightenment, awareness of phenomenon of terrorism particularly among the youth	25.2
2	Enhancement of security	21.2
3	Increasing people's solidarity	14.4
4	Promotion of precaution and care	13.4
5	Cooperation with the security men	10.5
6	Return to the true teachings of the Islamic religion	3.1
7	Treatment of the economic problem	1.0
8	There is no treatment or treatment is difficult	1.4
9	I don't know	3.0
10	miscellaneous	6.8
	Total	100