

**Under fire but unyielding: Survey reveals surprising wartime optimism and confidence - analysis**

Israelis, far from despairing, are holding onto hope for the Jewish state's future.

By Herb Keinon / August 18, 2024

Israel remains resolute more than 10 months into its longest war since the fight for independence 76 years ago.

Israelis, far from despairing, are holding onto hope for the Jewish state's future. They're confident of victory in Gaza, largely secure in their personal safety, and more willing than not to see their sons and daughters head to the front lines.

**This optimistic outlook is captured in a recent Institute for National Security Studies (INSS) survey released on Sunday** that, between August 7 and 11, asked 772 Jewish Israelis and 200 Arab Israelis various questions about the war and the country's overall situation.

In a time of media narratives both here and abroad that paint Israel as a nation on edge – threatened by Iran and Hezbollah, anguished over hostages, and divided over Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and the government – these results are as striking as they are counterintuitive. The survey reveals a country that, despite everything, still believes in itself.

Yet the poll also uncovers a stark divide between Israeli Jews and Arabs in how they see the situation.

For example, while 67% of Israeli Jews believe the country will bounce back and flourish after the war, only a quarter of Arab Israelis share this optimism. Nearly one-half of the Arab population is pessimistic about the future of the country, compared to just 30% of Israeli Jews.

These differences aren't limited to general outlooks – they extend to expectations about the war's outcome. Seventy percent of Jewish Israelis are certain the IDF will triumph in Gaza, but only 26% of Arab Israelis agree. The divide is just as stark when it comes to the prospect of war with Lebanon: 76% of Jews are confident in victory, while just 32.5% of Arabs feel the same.

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