



Public Opinion Survey Some Current National Issues

Polling Unit

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The Center for Strategic Studies was Founded in 1984; to be an academic unit at the University of Jordan focus mainly on studies and research in Political, economic and social aspects which concern Jordanian and the Arab world, that are related to the security of the region, and the impact on its future. The center conducts public opinion polls to measure democracy In order to provide researchers and decision-makers with the requested information and data. The center occupies an advanced rank among the research and studies centers. Also the center is a Founder member of the Euro-Mediterranean network, which includes a set Institutes and centers in 27 countries. Also, CSS is member of the network of economic research centers in the Middle East and North Africa, and a member of the Network security research centers in the Middle East. The center implement its activities through the Department of Studies and Policies, and Conduct research and studies and seminars in the areas of Economic, political, social and security issues on the National and regional level. One of the vital and strategic projects being developed by the Center now is "Jordan scenarios project in 2030", which involved Fifty researcher and expert and is implemented in collaboration with the ESCWA. The center carries it polls and surveys through the Public opinion polls and surveys Department, which work on measuring public opinion trends and evaluate the performance of Jordanian governments. The department conducts scientific studies and surveys on various local, regional and international issues on a very high level of accuracy, objectivity and impartiality. The data and the results are placed in the hands of researchers and decision-makers. Currently, the Center is implementing the National Youth Survey in Jordan in cooperation with UNICEF.

The Center for Strategic Studies at Jordan University conducted a poll during the period 15-18/ 2/2015, to measure the attitudes and trends of Jordanian citizens about some of the current national issues.

A stratified clustered sample method was used for the implementation of the survey (three stages). The sample size in the small provinces was increased to ensure a higher representation and more accurate results. The poll included a sample of 2,016 Jordanians, ages 18 and older; out of which 2,001 completed the questionnaire, giving us a response rate of 99.3%. The sample polled consisted of an equal number of males and females, with a 2.5% margin of error. CSS collected the data from respondents via face-to-face interviews.

This poll comes after the implementation of two earlier surveys about Islamic organizations and movements conducted by CSS. The first was conducted in the month of August 2014 and the second in December 2014. The report shows the comparison results in the three polls that have been conducted.

The survey aimed to measure the attitudes and trends of Jordanians about the following issues:

1. The overall assessment of the course of things in Jordan and assess the government's performance in the last period.
2. The most important problems facing Jordan from the perspective of the respondents.
3. Jordanian attitudes toward extremist movements.
4. Jordanian attitudes towards the international coalition against "ISIS" and Jordan's participation in this coalition.
5. Jordanian opinions about the death of Captain Pilot Moath Kasasbeh.
6. Jordanian attitudes towards Jordan options against the war on "ISIS".
7. Assess the extent of the Jordanian security services success in managing the crisis with "ISIS" in the last stage.

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Main Findings

- Almost three-quarters of Jordanians (74%) believe that Jordan is generally going in the right direction, and this shows an increase of 23 points from the December 2014 poll, in which 51% compared to 22% believed that Jordan was going in the wrong direction.
- 74% of respondents believe that the government was able to carry out its responsibilities in the last period, a rising proportion of those are from the provinces of Jerash and Ajloun, and a decrease in the governorates of Maan and Karak. Also, younger people in general have a higher opinion of the governments' effectiveness in carrying out its responsibilities in the last period.
- Priorities of Jordanians have not changed from previous surveys. Economic development remains the top priority and the problem of unemployment is considered the most important problem facing Jordanians today with 23%, followed by the problem of rising prices and cost of living 18%, in the third place came the problem of poverty 15%, and the problem of corruption, financial and administrative (nepotism) in fourth place with 11%.
- 70% believe that "Al Qaeda" is a terrorist organization, up 24 points from 46% in a December 2014 poll. Also the proportion of those who believe that the "Hezbollah" is a terrorist organization increased to 55% compared to 45% in a December 2014 poll.
- The vast majority of Jordanians (95%) think that the "ISIS" is a terrorist movement, and this score increased by 33 points from the August 2014 poll and by 23 points from December 2014 poll.
- 83% of the respondents believed that the policies and actions of the organization "ISIS" pose a threat to the security and stability in the region, compared to 77% who thought so in a December 2014 poll.
- A large majority of Jordanians (92%) think that "ISIS" is the organization that poses the most threat to the stability and security of Jordan, an rise of 8 points since the December 2014 poll.
- A large majority of Jordanians (95%) reported that: "ISIS" and "Al Qaeda" and "Jabhat Al Nosra" do not represent their point of view, while 1% said that they thought "ISIS" represents their point of view.
- The results showed that a large majority of respondents (89%) support (in large, medium, small) degrees the international and Arab coalition that has been formed from more than 60 countries to fight "ISIS", while 8% reported that they do not support it at all. Also, 88% said that they support (to large, medium, small) degrees Jordan's participation in military air operations carried out by Arab or international coalition against "ISIS".
- The majority of respondents (87%) agreed that Jordan's participation in the war against "ISIS" is a proactive step to protect the interests and security of Jordan, and 86% of them agreed that this war is our war and we should fight in it.
- The results showed that 69% of respondents follow developments related to "ISIS" in the media. 89% of the observers said that television is the main sources they depend on to follow the news about this organization, and 9% say they rely on the "Internet" to follow news on "ISIS".

- More than three-quarters of the respondents (77%) reported seeing the video which shows the martyrdom of the late pilot Moath Kasasbeh.
- 37% of respondents participated in prayer on the spirit of the martyr pilot Moath Kasasbeh, while over 15% express their feelings of solidarity through social media, and 10% participated in consolation, while 5% participated in solidarity marches that swept the country.
- A large majority of respondents (90%) said that the security forces have been successful in managing the crisis with “ISIS”, (the launch of the pilot release negotiations, Jordan’s response to “ISIS” after the death of the pilot).
- The vast majority (95%) supported the execution of government prisoners: Sajidah Rishawi and Ziad Karbouli as an initial reaction to the death of the pilot. Also 92% of respondents support the execution of the rest of the prisoners who are convicted in terrorist acts.
- As for the Jordanian state’s choices in dealing with the threat posed by “ISIS” on Jordan, 60% of respondents supported the continuation of air strikes against the organization as it is now, while 15% reported they were in favor of launching a ground war fought by Jordan in cooperation with the Arab allies and the international coalition. Also 6% supported the option of a ground war fought by Jordan alone and a ground war waged with Jordan and other Arab countries.
- 93% of the respondents assess the security situation for their families as good, while 91% assess the security situation in their provinces as good, and 89% value the overall security situation in Jordan as good.
- A large majority of Jordanians (92%) said that none of the political parties and political movements represent them, increasing by 18 points from the December 2014 poll. The poll showed that the support for Islamic Action Front Party fell from 6.1% to 1.5%, and the Islamic Centrist Party fell from 4.4 % to 1.3%, and the parties representing the national trends fell from 4.4% to 1.2%, and the national parties fell from 2.3% to 0.8% since a December 2014 poll.

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• **The situation in Jordan:**

Figure 1: Generally Speaking, do you think that the situation in Jordan is going in the right or the wrong direction?

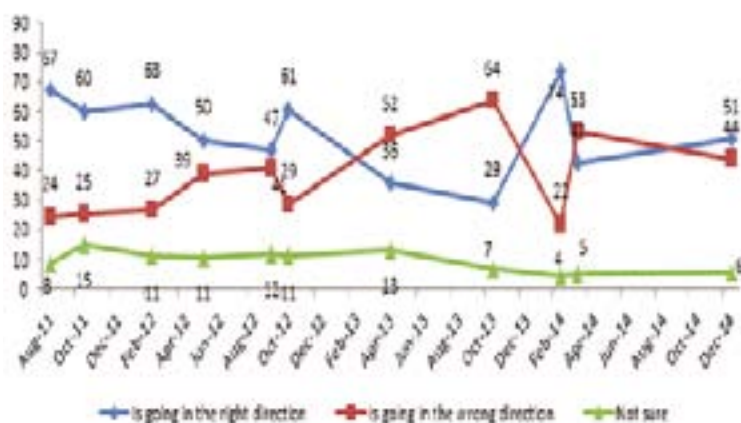


Figure 2: Generally Speaking, do you think that the situation in Jordan is going in the right or the wrong direction? By provinces

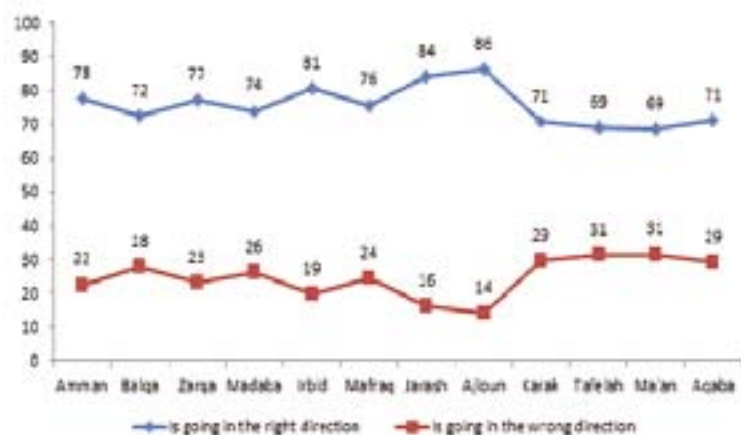


Figure 3: Generally Speaking, do you think that the situation in Jordan is going in the right or the wrong direction? By age

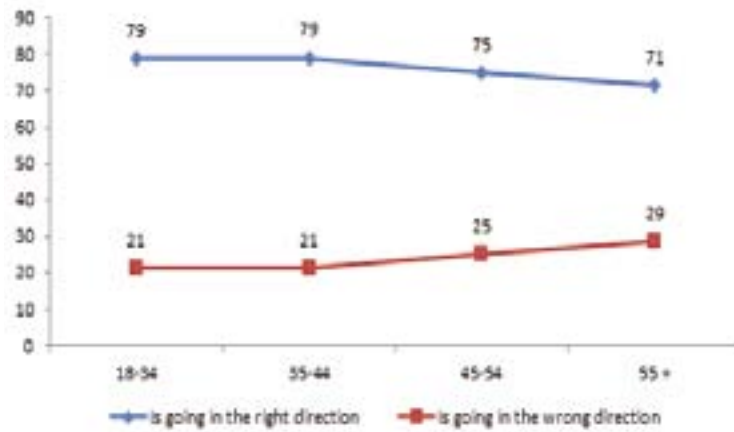
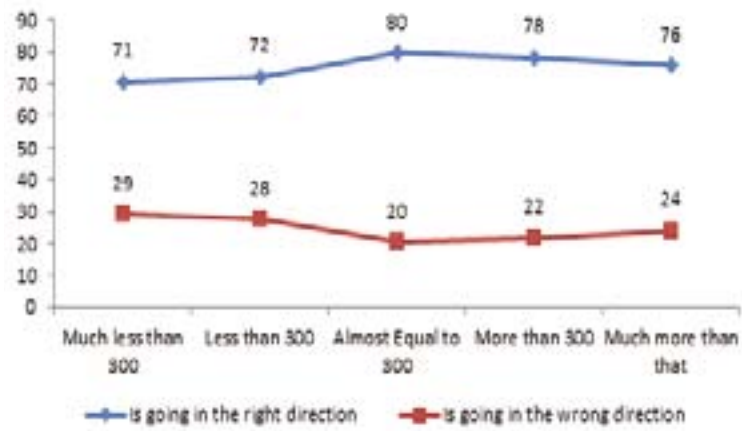


Figure 4: Generally Speaking, do you think that the situation in Jordan is going in the right or the wrong direction, by income



•The Jordanian Government ability to handle and carry the responsibilities of the near past period

Figure 5: Taking everything in consideration, Do you think the Jordanian Government was able to handle and carry the responsibilities of the near past period?

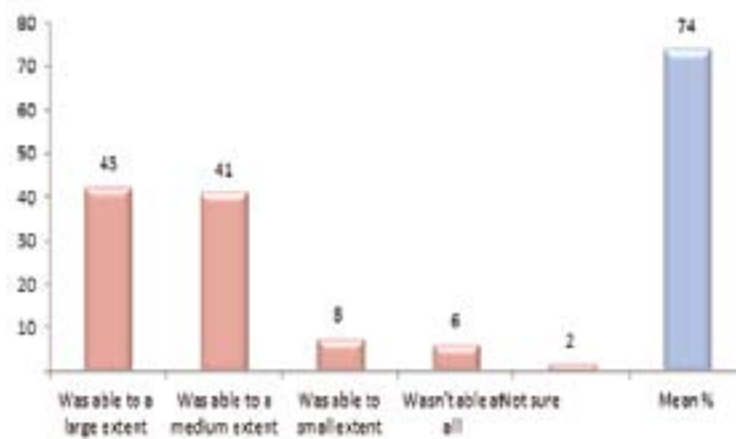


Figure 6: Taking everything in consideration, Do you think the Jordanian Government was able to handle and carry the responsibilities of the near past period? By provinces

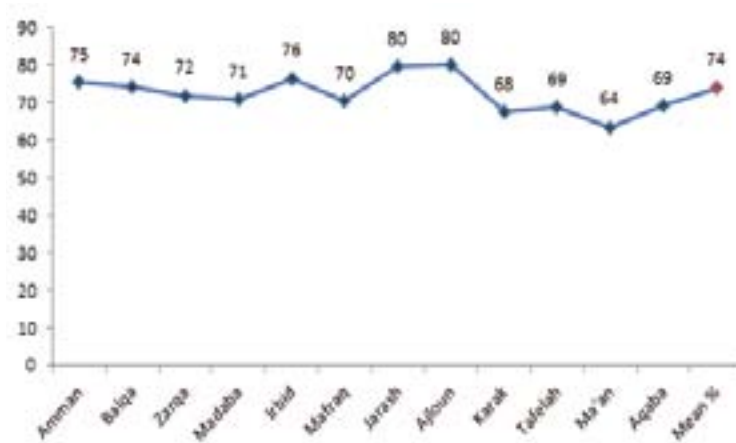


Figure 7: Taking everything in consideration, Do you think the Jordanian Government was able to handle and carry the responsibilities of the near past period? By age

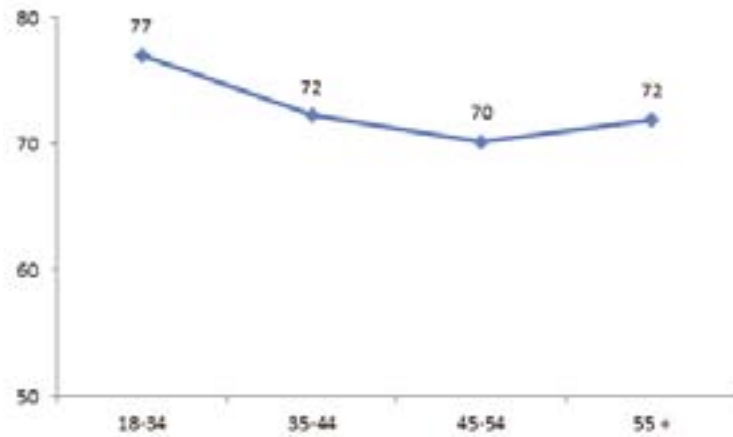
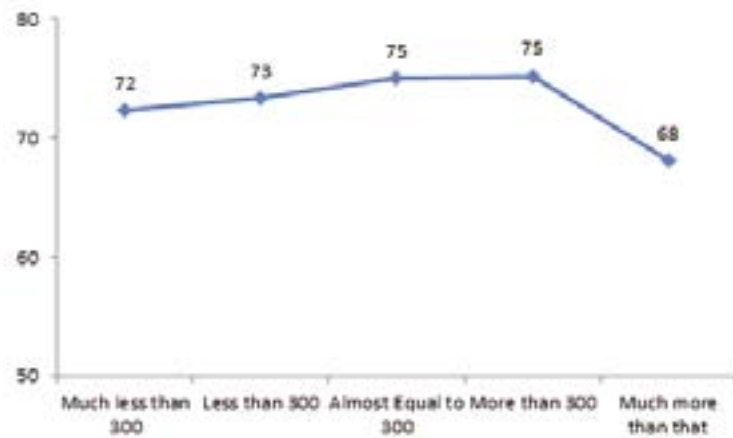


Figure 8: Taking everything in consideration, Do you think the Jordanian Government was able to handle and carry the responsibilities of the near past period? By income



• The two main problems/ obstacles that Jordan is facing nowadays and the government has to solve urgently

Table 1: From your point of view, what are the two main problems/ obstacles that Jordan is facing nowadays and the government has to solve urgently

	%
Unemployment	23
high prices and high cost of living	18
poverty	15
Financial corruption (favoritism "Wasta"-nepotism)	11
The economic situation in general	8
Political and economic reforms & democracy	7
Social violence and security	4
Education and medical services	4
Homes and rentals	4
Problems of youth and their issues	3
Water and environment and not taking advantage of the natural recourses	1
Infrastructural development	1
The Palestinian issue and the substitute home	1
Total	100

• Terrorism and Extremism

Figure 9: Some people describe the following political Islam movements as non-terrorist groups, while others consider them as terrorist groups. Do you think "Al-Qaeda" is a terrorist or a non-terrorist group

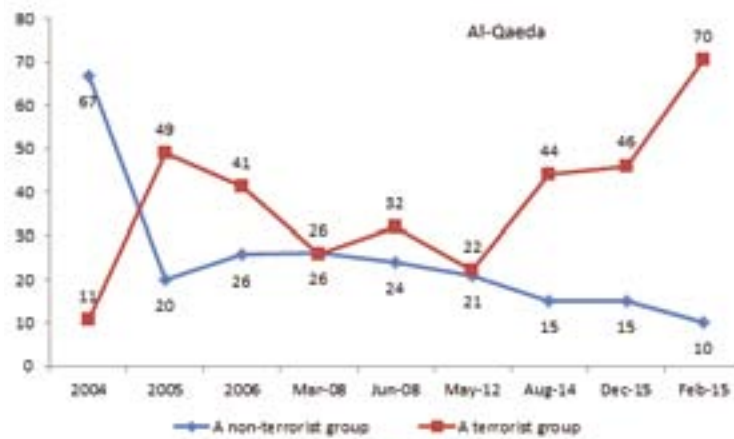


Figure 10: Some people describe the following political Islam movements as legitimate resistance groups, while others consider them as terrorist groups. Do you think "Hezbollah" is a terrorist or a legitimate resistance groups?

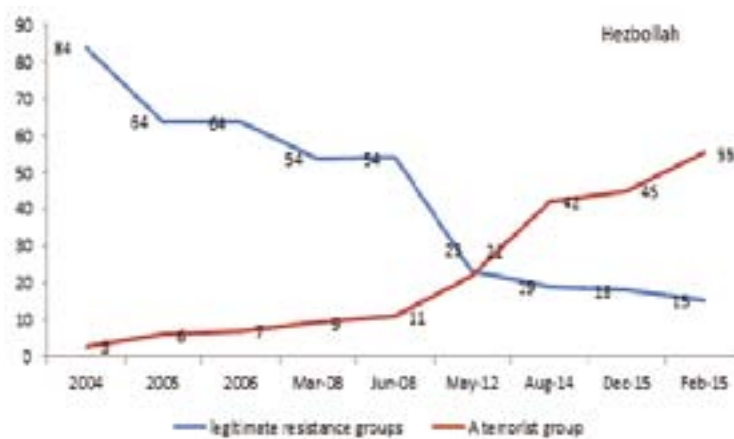


Figure 11: Some people describe the following political Islam movements as non-terrorist groups, while others consider them as terrorist groups. Do you think “.....” is a terrorist or a non-terrorist group?

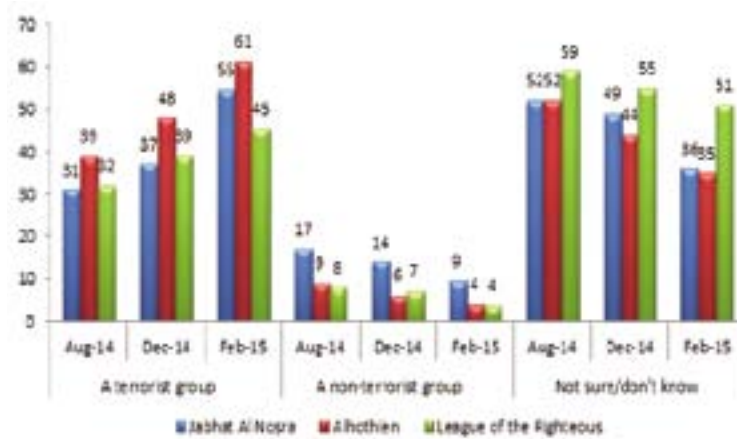


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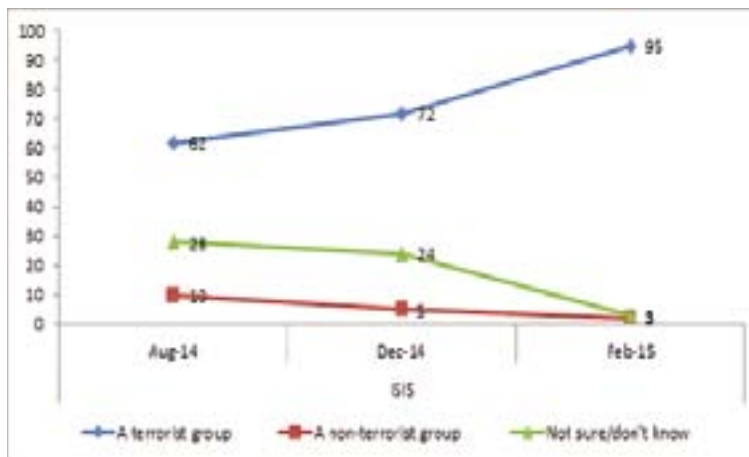


Figure 13: To what extent do you think that the current policies and actions of "ISIS" pose a threat to the region security and stability, or that they do not pose any threat at all

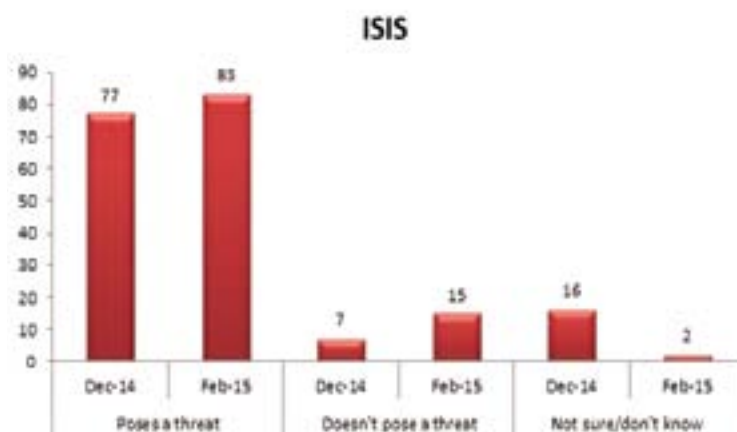


Table 2: To what extent do you think that the current policies and actions of "....." pose a threat to the region security and stability, or that they do not pose any threat at all

	Poses a threat		Doesn't pose a threat		Not sure/don't know	
	Dec-14	Feb-15	Dec-14	Feb-15	Dec-14	Feb-15
Jabhat Al Nosra	37	33	28	44	35	24
Al-Qaeda	33	47	35	40	32	13
Alhothien	29	27	33	46	38	26
Hezbollah	29	32	41	50	30	18
League of the Righteous	28	23	28	41	44	37

Table 3: In your opinion, which of the last mentioned groups/movements/organizations poses a threat more than the others on Jordan's stability?

	Aug-14	Dec-14	Feb-15
ISIS	65	84	92
Al-Qaeda	3	2	2
Jabhat Al Nosra	5	2	0
Hezbollah	3	3	1
League of the Righteous	1	1	0
Alhothien	1	1	0
None of them	21	2	5
Don't know	0	7	--
Total	100	100	100

Figure 14: which one of these organizations /groups are the closest to your point of view?

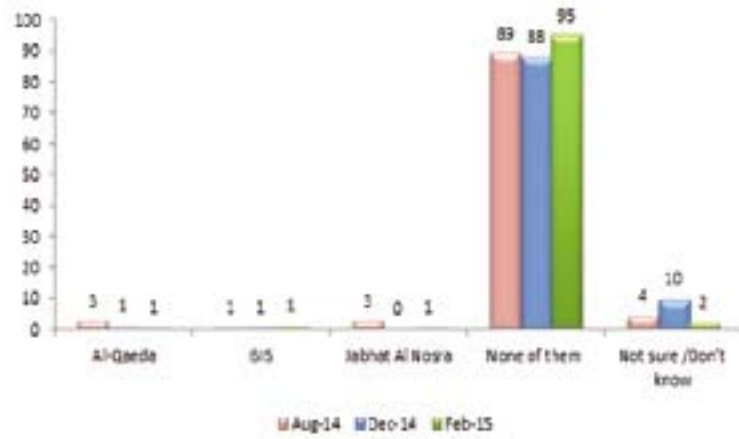


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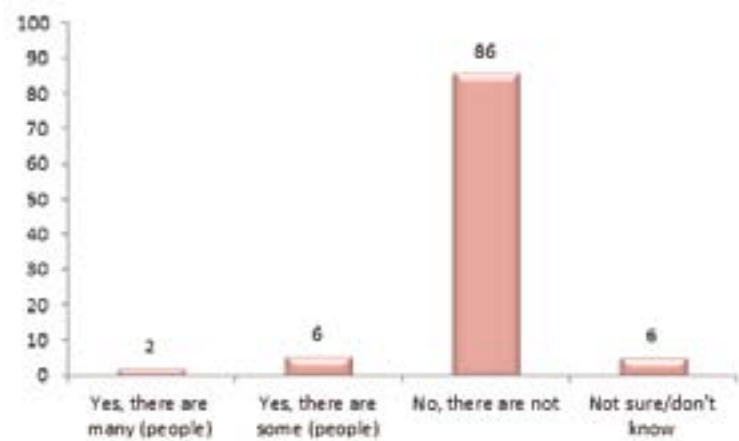


Figure 16: In general, do you have a positive or a negative outlook on ISIS organization?



Table 4: the main TV channel that you depend on to get updated about ISIS news

Source	%
Jordanian TV	30
Al-Jazeera	27
Roya TV	13
Al-Arabiah TV	12
Alhaqiqah TV	5
Top of Form	
Al-Arabiya Event	5
Noor Alordon	2
Jordan Now	1
Hawa Alordon	1
BBC Arabic	1
Other Jordanian TV's	1
Other Arabic TV's	2
Total	100

• Respondents’ attitudes about the war and the international coalition against ISIS

Figure 17: There where formed an international and Arabian alliance of more than 60 countries confronting ISIS through military air strikes in Iraq and Syria. To what extent do you support this alliance? Do you support it to a large, medium or small extent or you do not support it at all?

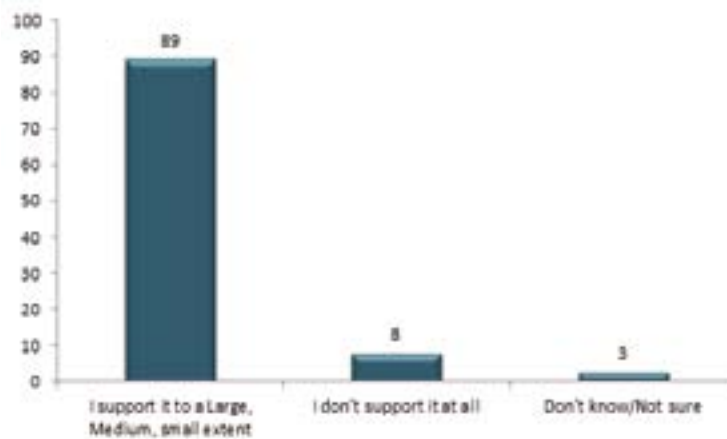


Figure 18: Jordan is now participating as a part of the Arabian and the international alliance, through confronting military air strikes against ISIS in Iraq and Syria, to what extent do you support these operations, do you support it to a large, medium or small extent or not at all?

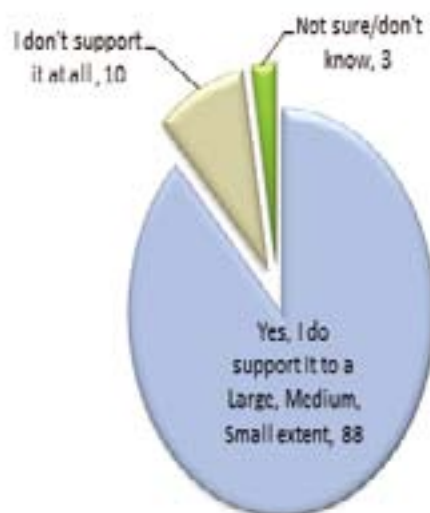
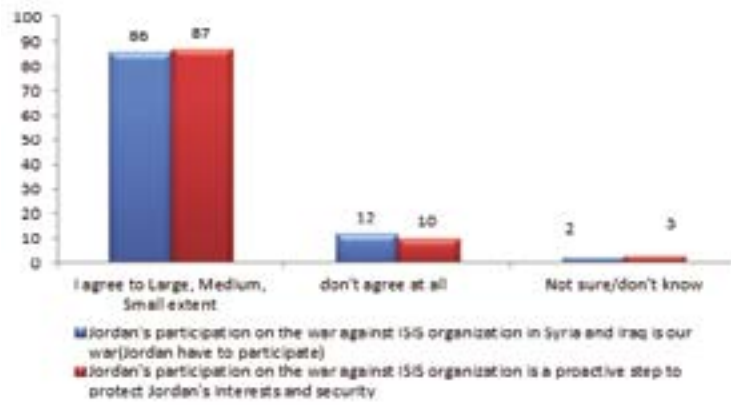


Figure 19: Do you Support....



• **The Martyrdom of pilot Captain Moath Kasasbeh**

Figure 20: Have you watched the whole or partially the video that shows the Martyrdom of the pilot Moath Al Kasasbeh

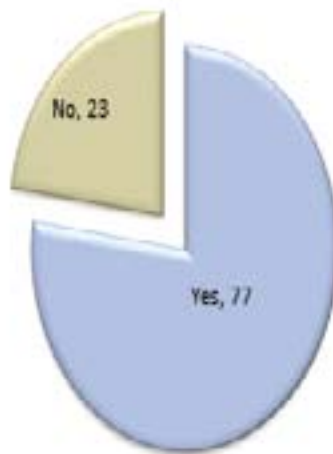


Figure 21: Have you participated in any of the following to express you solidarity or anger as a result of Moath Al Kasasbeh's martyrdom?

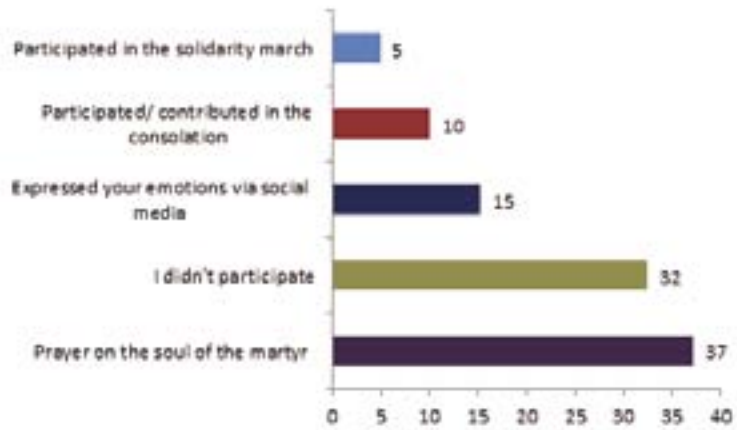


Figure 22: Do think that ISIS burn of the pilot Moath Al kasasbeh had a religious justification or its not religiously justified?



• The extent of the success of the security forces in managing the crisis management with “ISIS”

Figure 23: To what extent do you think that security services succeeded in handling the crises with ISIS organization? (The negotiations to release martyr Moath, and the Jordanian respond after murdering him)?

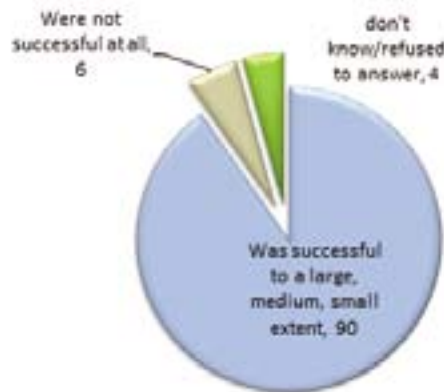


Figure 24: There are several options for the Jordanian state to deal with threats that ISIS have on Jordan, which option do you agree with more than from following options:

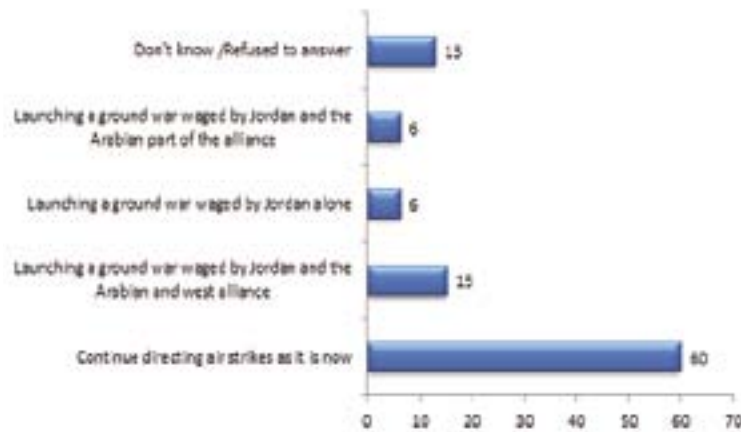


Figure 25: The Jordanian government executed the two prisoners: Sajida Al Rishawi and Ziad Al Karboly as an initial reaction to the murder of the pilot Moath Al Kasasbeh, Do you agree with the execution of the two prisoners or not?

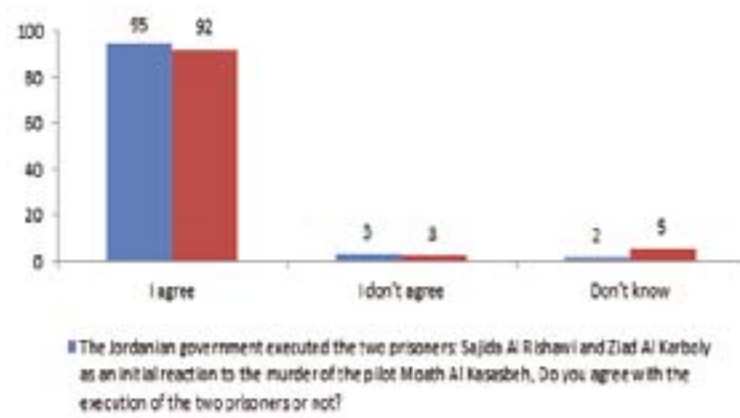


Figure 26: In comparison with the last 12 months and on a gradual scale from 1 to 5 , where "1" means "very bad" and "5" means "very good", where do you put the (current) security --Mean



• Demographic Data

Middle Region	47.9
Amman	28.1
Balqa	4.8
Zarqa	12.6
Madaba	2.4
North Region	28.1
Irbid	16.2
Mafraq	4.2
Jarash	3.9
Ajloun	3.8
South Region	24.0
Karak	7.8
Tafelah	5.4
Ma'an	5.4
Aqaba	5.4
Total	100

Highest Education Level	
	%
Less than Secondary	43.4
Secondary	34.6
Diploma	9.1
BA+	13
Total	100

Family income equal 300JOD per month	
	%
Much less than 300	4.9
Less than 300	17.3
Almost Equal to 300	28.5
More than 300	40.8
Much more than that	8.5
Total	100