

THE PIPA/KNOWLEDGE NETWORKS POLL

THE AMERICAN PUBLIC ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

American Public Favors Safe Havens in Syria

A Study of American Public Opinion

Dates of Survey: March 3-7, 2012
Sample Size: 727

Margin of Error: +/- 4.5 percentage points
MoE includes design effect of 1.5191

[DISPLAY]

In this survey, we'd like your opinions about some current issues. There is no right or wrong answer, so please answer the questions based on your knowledge or impressions. If you do not know the answer to a question, you can simply skip it and go on to the next question.

Q1-Q16 released separately.

[DISPLAY]

As you may know in Syria there have been large-scale demonstrations across the country calling for a more democratic government. The Syrian government has suppressed these demonstrations with military force, resulting in the deaths of thousands of civilians. Opposition forces are now organizing and there is the possibility of civil war.

The Arab League, a group of 21 countries in the region, has taken an active role in trying to deal with the conflict. It is demanding that the Syrian government stop its attacks on civilians, that the Syrian President step down, and for representatives of the Arab League to enter Syria and facilitate a democratic resolution of the conflict. The Syrian government has refused.

The Arab League has called for pressuring Syria by cutting off economic trade with Syria; the US and other countries have joined in these sanctions. But the Syrian government has continued its violent crackdown.

[SHOW ON THE SAME PAGE AS THE DISPLAY]

[SP]

Q17. Do you approve or disapprove of the United States joining in the economic sanctions against Syria?

Approve.....	71%
Republicans.....	85
Democrats	78
Independents	44

Disapprove	24
Republicans.....	12
Democrats	22
Independents	40
Don't know/Refused	5

[SP]

Q18. Members of the Arab League and Turkey are considering establishing safe havens on the border areas inside Syria to provide Syrians who are at risk of being attacked by government forces a place to retreat. Other nations would need to provide military aid to protect them. Some say this would violate Syria's sovereignty, while others say that the international community has a responsibility to protect Syrians at risk.

Do you think establishing such safe havens is:

A good idea.....	67%
Republicans.....	76
Democrats	73
Independents	46
Not a good idea	27
Republicans.....	21
Democrats	25
Independents	37
Don't know/Refused	6

[GRID, SP]

Q19. Suppose the Arab League decides to establish such safe havens and asks the US for help in defending them. Do you think the US should or should not be willing to do each of the following to defend the safe havens:

Q19a. Provide weapons

Should be willing	37%
Republicans.....	43
Democrats	42
Independents	22
Should not be willing	56
Republicans.....	53
Democrats	57
Independents	60
Don't know/Refused	7

Q19b. Provide air cover with US planes

Should be willing	48%
Republicans.....	54
Democrats	54
Independents	34
Should not be willing	45
Republicans.....	44
Democrats	44
Independents	47
Don't know/Refused	7

Q19c. Send US troops

Should be willing	15%
Republicans.....	18
Democrats	15
Independents	12
Should not be willing	77
Republicans.....	78
Democrats	82
Independents	69
Don't know/Refused	8

[SP]

Q20. Members of the Arab League are considering providing weapons to the opposition forces in Syria. Do you think the Arab League providing such weapons is:

A good idea	45%
Republicans.....	57
Democrats	51
Independents	24
Not a good idea	48
Republicans.....	41
Democrats	47
Independents	56
Don't know/Refused	7

[SP]

Q21. If the Arab League decides to provide weapons to the opposition forces in Syria and asks the US to help, do you think the US should or should not contribute weapons.

Should	27%
Republicans.....	31
Democrats	32
Independents	14
Should not.....	66
Republicans.....	63
Democrats	66
Independents	70
Don't know/Refused	7

DEMOGRAPHICS

[SP]

D1. Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a:

Republican	25%
Independent.....	18
Democrat.....	30
Other	3
No preference.....	20
Don't know/Refused	4

[SP]

[ASK IF D1 =2 OR 4 OR 5 OR REFUSED]

D1a. Do you think of yourself as closer to the:

Republican Party.....	10%*
Democratic Party	8
Neither.....	24
Don't know/Refused	4

D1-D1a. Overall party identification combined

Republican Party/Lean Republican.....	35%
Democratic Party/Lean Democrat.....	38
Independent.....	28

[SP]

[D2 AND D3 PRESENTED ON SAME SCREEN]

D2. Did you vote for a candidate for Congress in the last election in 2010?

Yes	59%
No.....	36
Don't know/Refused	5

D3. Do you typically vote in the PRIMARY elections for a political party?

Yes	53%
No.....	43
Don't know/Refused	4

* Percent of total

[SP]

D4. Of the candidates for President currently running, which do you prefer?

Barack Obama.....	35%
Newt Gingrich.....	7
Rick Santorum	12
Mitt Romney	17
Ron Paul.....	7
Other	15
Don't know/Refused	6

Age

18-29	22%
30-44	25
45-59	28
60+	25

Education

Less than high school.....	13%
High school	30
Some college.....	28
Bachelor's degree or higher	28

Race / Ethnicity

White, Non-Hispanic	67%
Black, Non-Hispanic.....	11
Other, Non-Hispanic	6
Hispanic	15
2+ Races, Non-Hispanic	1

Gender

Male	48%
Female.....	52

Race / Ethnicity

Northeast.....	18%
Midwest.....	22
South	37
West	23