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Americans on Torture

June 25, 2009

Questionnaire

Dates of Survey: May 27-June 4, 2009
Sample Size: 805

Margin of Error: +/- 3.5% (full sample)

Q1-T1. The US has signed a number of treaties establishing international laws governing how a country, in the context of armed conflict, must treat an individual it has detained—that is, has captured and is holding. These rules limit what the US can do to detainees and what other countries can do when they detain Americans. Do you favor or oppose having such laws?

	6/09	7/04
Favor	75%	88%
Oppose	22	10
Refused/Don't know	3	2

Q2-T2. Here is a legal requirement for the treatment of detainees that are part of international laws the US has agreed to. Please say whether you favor or oppose having this legal requirement: Detainees have a right to a hearing in which the government makes its case for why the detainee should be held and the detainee can challenge the government's right to hold him or her.

	6/09	7/04
Favor	81%	81%
Oppose	16	17
Refused/Don't know	3	2

STATEMENT. The US and most countries in the world have signed a number of conventions—that is, treaties that create international laws—that prohibit certain methods for trying to get information from detainees. Here are some of these prohibitions. For each one please select whether you favor having it or if you think it is too restrictive.

Q3-T3. Governments should never use physical torture

	6/09	7/04
Favor	59%	66%
Too restrictive	39	30
Refused/Don't know	2	4

[IF “TOO RESTRICTIVE” on Q3]

Q3a-T3a. Do you think the international conventions on the treatment of detainees should be changed to allow governments to use physical torture?

	6/09
Yes	21%*
No.....	17
Refused/Don't know	1

Q4-T4. Governments should never use mental torture (such as making someone think that they or their family members will be killed)

	6/09	7/04
Favor	61%	55%
Too restrictive	37	41
Refused/Don't know	3	4

[IF “TOO RESTRICTIVE” on Q4]

Q4a-T4a. Do you think the international conventions on the treatment of detainees should be changed to allow governments to use mental torture?

	6/09
Yes	22%†
No.....	13
Refused/Don't know	1

[1/3 SAMPLE B]

SC1. STATEMENT: Let's say that the US is holding someone prisoner and intelligence sources say that there is a modest chance that this person has some information about a possible terrorist attack on the US that may prove critical to stopping the attack, but this person denies having such information. Please select whether you would favor or oppose using each of the following methods as a way of trying to get the prisoner to reveal the information he may have.

[1/3 SAMPLE C]

SC2. STATEMENT: Let's say that the US is holding someone prisoner and intelligence sources say that there is a strong chance that this person has some information about a suspected member of a terrorist group, but the prisoner denies having such information. Please select whether you would favor or oppose using each of the following methods as a way of trying to get the prisoner to reveal the information he may have.

* Percent of total.

† Percent of total.

[1/3 SAMPLE D]

SC3. STATEMENT: Let's say that the US is holding someone prisoner and intelligence sources say that there is a strong chance that this person has information about a possible terrorist attack on the US that may prove critical to stopping the attack, but this person denies having such information. Please select whether you would favor or oppose using each of the following methods as a way of trying to get the prisoner to reveal the information he may have.

Q5a-T5a. Not allowing the detainee to sleep

	SC1		SC2		SC3	
	6/09	7/04	6/09	7/04	6/09	7/04
Favor	53%	56%	48%	55%	52%	65%
Oppose	45	40	51	37	44	35
Refused/Don't know	2	4	1	8	4	1

Q5b-T5b. Keeping a hood over the detainee's head for long periods of time

	SC1		SC2		SC3	
	6/09	7/04	6/09	7/04	6/09	7/04
Favor	54%	50%	46%	49%	47%	56%
Oppose	44	46	52	44	49	43
Refused/Don't know	2	5	2	7	4	1

Q5c-T5c. Bombarding the detainee with loud noise for long periods of time

	SC1		SC2		SC3	
	6/09	7/04	6/09	7/04	6/09	7/04
Favor	47%	48%	42%	47%	47%	56%
Oppose	51	49	57	45	49	43
Refused/Don't know	3	3	1	8	4	2

Q5d-T5d. Exposing the detainee to extreme heat or cold

	SC1		SC2		SC3	
	6/09	7/04	6/09	7/04	6/09	7/04
Favor	36%	31%	24%	23%	30%	34%
Oppose	61	65	75	69	66	65
Refused/Don't know	3	4	1	8	4	1

Q5e-T5e. Punching or kicking the detainee

SC1	SC2	SC3
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	6/09	7/04	6/09	7/04	6/09	7/04
Favor	16%	18%	16%	9%	17%	18%
Oppose	82	79	83	84	80	81
Refused/Don't know	2	3	1	8	3	1

Q5f-T5f. Making the detainee go naked

	SC1		SC2		SC3	
	6/09	7/04	6/09	7/04	6/09	7/04
Favor	28%	28%	24%	19%	26%	25%
Oppose	70	69	73	74	71	75
Refused/Don't know	2	3	3	8	3	1

Q5g-T5g. Holding the detainee's head under water

	SC1		SC2		SC3	
	6/09	7/04	6/09	7/04	6/09	7/04
Favor	20%	16%	18%	8%	19%	17%
Oppose	77	81	81	87	78	81
Refused/Don't know	4	3	1	6	3	2

Q5h-T5h. Applying electric shocks to the detainee

	SC1		SC2		SC3	
	6/09	7/04	6/09	7/04	6/09	7/04
Favor	18%	20%	16%	11%	17%	19%
Oppose	79	76	82	84	81	81
Refused/Don't know	3	4	2	6	3	1

Q5i-T5i. Using threatening dogs to frighten detainees

	SC1		SC2		SC3	
	6/09	7/04	6/09	7/04	6/09	7/04
Favor	37%	37%	37%	30%	33%	41%
Oppose	60	59	61	62	64	58
Refused/Don't know	3	4	2	8	3	1

Q5j-T5j. Forcing detainees to remain in a physically stressful position for an extended period

	SC1		SC2		SC3	
	6/09	7/04	6/09	7/04	6/09	7/04

Favor	47%	44%	38%	40%	40%	52%
Oppose	50	53	59	54	56	47
Refused/Don't know	3	4	2	7	3	1

Q5k-T5k. Offering detainees a positive incentive for giving information

	SC1		SC2		SC3	
	6/09	7/04	6/09	7/04	6/09	7/04
Favor	87%	85%	83%	83%	79%	87%
Oppose	11	12	16	11	17	12
Refused/Don't know	1	4	1	6	3	1

Q6-T6. If a soldier is ordered to take an action against a detainee that the soldier believes is in violation of international law, should the soldier have the right to refuse to follow the order or not?

	6/09	7/04
Should	73%	77%
Should not	25	19
(No answer).....	2	4

DEMOGRAPHICS

D1. Gender

Male	49%
Female.....	51

D2. Race/ethnicity

White, Non-Hispanic	69%
Black, Non-Hispanic.....	11
Other, Non-Hispanic	5
Hispanic	13
2+ Races, Non-Hispanic	1

D3. Highest level of school completed

Less than high school.....	13%
High school.....	31
Some college.....	28
Bachelor's degree or higher	27

D4. Religion

Christian.....	71%
Muslim.....	*
Jewish.....	2
Buddhist.....	1
Hindu.....	*
Other	7
No religious preference.....	18
Refused/Don't know	1

[ASK ONLY IF "CHRISTIAN" ON D4]

D4a. Would you describe yourself as a 'born- again' or evangelical?

Yes	37%*
No.....	47
No opinion	15
Refused/Don't know	1

* Percent of total.

D5: Would you say you are . . .

Very religious.....	20%
Somewhat religious.....	46
Not very religious	19
Not at all religious.....	14
Refused/Don't know	1

D6. Age

18-29	22%
30-39	16
40-49	20
50-59	19
60 or higher.....	23

D7. Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a:

Republican	28%
Independent.....	17
Democrat.....	36
Other	3
No preference.....	16
Refused/Don't know	1

D7a. Do you think of yourself as closer to the:

Republican Party.....	25%
Democratic Party	23
Neither.....	51
Refused/Don't know	1

METHODOLOGY

The poll of 805 respondents was fielded May 27 to June 4, 2009 with a margin of error of +/- 3.5 percentage points. It was fielded by Knowledge Networks, a polling, social science, and market research firm in Menlo Park, California, with a stratified random sample of its large-scale nationwide research panel. This panel itself has been randomly recruited from the national population of households having telephones; households without internet access are subsequently provided with free web access and an internet appliance. Thus the panel is not limited to those

who already have home internet access. The distribution of the sample in the Web-enabled panel closely tracks the distribution of United States Census counts for the US population on age, race, Hispanic ethnicity, geographical region, employment status, income, education, etc. Upon survey completion, the data were weighted by gender, age, education, ethnicity, and partisan identity. For more information about the online survey methodology, please go to: www.knowledgenetworks.com/ganp.