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

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.

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.

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
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Should</th>
<th>27%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Republicans</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democrats</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independents</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Should not                                 | 66   |
| Republicans                                | 63   |
| Democrats                                  | 66   |
| Independents                               | 70   |

| Don’t know/Refused                         | 7    |
DEMOGRAPHICS

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
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