

**THE WORLDPUBLICOPINION.ORG/KNOWLEDGE NETWORKS POLL**

**THE AMERICAN PUBLIC ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES**

**American and International Opinion  
on the Rights of Terrorism Suspects**

**American Questionnaire**

Dates of Survey: 6/27/06-7/2/06  
Sample Size: 1059

Margin of Error: +/- 3.1 % [full sample]

*Q1-Q4 previously released.*

INT-Q5: Please tell me whether you think that, in the area of advancing human rights in other countries, the United States does:

A very good job .....	14%
A good job.....	58
A bad job.....	21
A very bad job.....	5
(No Answer).....	3

**Good Job**

Republicans.....	85%
Democrats .....	61
Independents .....	70

**Bad Job**

Republicans.....	14%
Democrats .....	38
Independents .....	25

INT-Q6: As you may know, the US has signed treaties that prohibit governments from holding people in secret and that require that the International Committee of the Red Cross to have access to them. Do you think that these treaties are

Important for making sure governments treat people humanely .....	73%
Republicans.....	72
Democrats .....	78
Independents .....	67

Too restrictive because our government needs to have all options available when dealing with threats like terrorism ..... 23%

Republicans.....	26
Democrats .....	19
Independents .....	27

(No Answer)..... 4%

[HALF SAMPLE A,B]

HR-Q7: Suppose the US has detained an individual in Afghanistan who is not suspected of having any involvement in terrorism, but the US suspects this person might have useful information about a terrorist group. Suppose, when asked, he denies having such information. Do you think the US does or does not have the right to put this person in prison indefinitely as a way of putting pressure on him to talk?

Does have the right .....	37%
Republicans.....	44
Democrats .....	37
Independents .....	27

Does not have the right .....	58
Republicans.....	52
Democrats .....	60
Independents .....	61

(No Answer).....6

[IF DOES HAVE RIGHT]

HR-Q7a: Do you think that other countries do or do not have the right to imprison an American citizen who is not suspected of having any involvement in terrorism, but who they suspect might have useful information about a terrorist group?

Do have the right.....	26%*
Republicans.....	35
Democrats .....	21
Independents .....	21

Do not have the right.....	10
Republicans.....	8
Democrats .....	15
Independents .....	6

(No Answer).....0

[HALF SAMPLE C,D]

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\* Percent of total

HR-Q8: Suppose the US has detained an American citizen who is not suspected of having any involvement in terrorism, but the US suspects this person might have useful information about a terrorist group. Suppose, when asked, he denies having such information. Do you think the US does or does not have the right to put this person in prison indefinitely as a way of putting pressure on him to talk?

Does have the right .....	34%
Republicans.....	40
Democrats .....	28
Independents .....	34
Does not have the right .....	63
Republicans.....	60
Democrats .....	70
Independents .....	60
(No Answer).....	3

[IF DOES HAVE RIGHT]

HR-Q8a: Do you think that other countries do or do not have the right to imprison an American citizen who is not suspected of having any involvement in terrorism, but who they suspect might have useful information about a terrorist group?

Do have the right.....	25% <sup>†</sup>
Republicans.....	30
Democrats .....	21
Independents .....	23
Do not have the right.....	9
Republicans.....	11
Democrats .....	6
Independents .....	11
(No Answer).....	0

[FULL SAMPLE]

HR-Q9: Do you think that the US does or does not imprison people who are not suspected of having any involvement in terrorism, but who it suspects might have useful information about a terrorist group?

Does .....	72%
Republicans.....	68
Democrats .....	80
Independents .....	67

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<sup>†</sup> Percent of total

Does not .....	24
Republicans.....	29
Democrats .....	18
Independents .....	25
(No Answer).....	4

INT-Q10: Is it your impression that current US policies for detaining people it has captured and is holding in Guantanamo Bay are or are not legal, according to international treaties on the treatment of detainees?

Are legal.....	52%
Republicans.....	74
Democrats .....	38
Independents .....	45
Are not legal.....	38
Republicans.....	22
Democrats .....	55
Independents .....	36
(No Answer).....	9

[HALF SAMPLE A,B]

HR-Q11: STATEMENT: Here are some legal requirements for the treatment of detainees that are part of international laws the US has agreed to. Please say whether you favor or oppose having these legal requirements.

[GRID PATTERN WITH HR-Q11a-e ON SAME SCREEN—RANDOMIZE PRESENTATION]

	<b>Should have this right</b>	<b>Should not have this right</b>	<b>(No Answer)</b>
a. The right to request and receive a hearing where the detainee can make the case for why he should not be detained.	84%	13%	4%
Republicans	84	14	
Democrats	90	10	
Independents	75	15	
b. The right to have the detainee’s home government and family informed of the detainee’s capture and his location.	80%	17%	4%
Republicans	79	19	
Democrats	86	13	

Independents	71	19	
c. The right to have one's treatment monitored by an international humanitarian organization like the Red Cross.	84%	11%	5%
Republicans	83	12	
Democrats	92	8	
Independents	77	13	
d. The right to not be tortured	79%	17%	4%
Republicans	81	18	
Democrats	86	12	
Independents	67	22	
e. The right to not be threatened with torture	63%	33%	4%
Republicans	55	44	
Democrats	77	22	
Independents	54	35	

[HALF SAMPLE C,D]

INT-Q12: STATEMENT: As you may know, the United States has signed treaties that limit what a government can do to pressure detainees to give information. Here are some methods that are not allowed. For each one please say whether you approve of having a rule against it or if you think such a rule is too restrictive.

[GRID PATTERN WITH INT-Q12a-e ON SAME SCREEN—RANDOMIZE PRESENTATION]

	<b>Approve rule against</b>	<b>Rule too restrictive</b>	<b>(No Answer)</b>
a. Using physical torture	75%	21 %	4%
Republicans	74	26	
Democrats	78	20	
Independents	73	18	
b. Threatening physical torture	60%	37%	3%
Republicans	59	40	
Democrats	64	34	
Independents	53	38	
c. Treating detainees in a way that is humiliating or degrading	61%	36%	4%
Republicans	58	40	
Democrats	65	33	
Independents	56	34	
d. Using mental torture (such as making someone think that they or their family members will be killed)	64%	33%	3%
Republicans	60	40	
Democrats	71	28	
Independents	59	32	

*Q13-Q19 previously released.*

[3/4 SAMPLE B,C,D]

HR-Q20: As you may know, the way that the US has treated detainees at Guantanamo Bay has been strongly criticized by European allies, Muslim countries, and the UN Human Rights Commission. There is a debate about whether this negative reaction has important consequences. Thinking about this negative reaction to US treatment of detainees in Guantanamo--

HR-Q20a Do you think:

It weakens America's ability to get other countries to cooperate with the US in the war on terrorism.....	62%
Republicans.....	47
Democrats .....	75
Independents .....	61
It makes little or no difference.....	35%
Republicans.....	52
Democrats .....	23
Independents .....	30
(No Answer).....	4%

HR-Q20b Do you think:

It makes people in the Muslim world angrier at the US and more ready to support anti-American groups like al Qaeda.....	67%
Republicans.....	58
Democrats .....	80
Independents .....	59
It makes little or no difference.....	28%
Republicans.....	40
Democrats .....	18
Independents .....	29
(No Answer).....	5%

[FULL SAMPLE]

INT-Q21: Is it your impression that the US government is

Currently allowing interrogators to use torture to get information from suspected terrorists ..... 47%  
 Republicans.....37  
 Democrats .....59  
 Independents .....43

Making every effort to make sure that interrogators never use torture..... 45%  
 Republicans.....59  
 Democrats .....35  
 Independents .....41

(No Answer)..... 8%

[3/4 SAMPLE A,B,C]

HR-Q22: Do you think that the rules for treating someone who is being detained because they are suspected of terrorist activities should or should not be the same for citizens and non-citizens?

Should be the same ..... 63%  
 Republicans.....53  
 Democrats .....72  
 Independents .....64

Should not be the same .....33  
 Republicans.....46  
 Democrats .....26  
 Independents .....25

(No Answer).....4

[3/4 SAMPLE A,B,D]

HR-Q23: Is it your impression that when the United States conducts interrogations of detainees in Iraq it:

Sometimes uses private companies as contractors..... 40%  
 Republicans.....41  
 Democrats .....44  
 Independents .....33

Only uses US military personnel or intelligence agents ..... 51%  
 Republicans.....55  
 Democrats .....49  
 Independents .....50

(No Answer)..... 9%

HR-Q24: News and government reports indicate that the US has been using private contractors to conduct interrogations in Iraq. Do you:

Approve of using such private companies to  
 conduct interrogations..... 26%  
     Republicans.....35  
     Democrats .....19  
     Independents .....24

Think only military personnel or US intelligence agents should  
 conduct interrogations..... 68%  
     Republicans.....62  
     Democrats .....77  
     Independents .....64

(No Answer)..... 6%

[HALF SAMPLE C,D]

HR-Q25: STATEMENT: As you may know, when the US captures someone outside of the US there are a number of rights that this person has according to international treaties which the US and other countries have signed. Some people say when someone is suspected of planning or committing terrorism, and is not a regular soldier, the person should not have certain rights. For each of the following rights please tell me if you think that a terrorism suspect who is not a regular soldier should have this right.

[GRID PATTERN WITH HR-Q25a-e ON SAME SCREEN—RANDOMIZE PRESENTATION]

	Should have this right	Should not have this right	(No Answer)
a. The right to request and receive a hearing where the detainee can make the case for why he should not be detained.	73%	22%	5%
Republicans	69	29	
Democrats	84	15	
Independents	66	21	
b. The right to have the detainee’s home government and family informed of the detainee’s capture and his location.	66%	29%	5%
Republicans	67	31	



Democrats	75	24	
Independents	51	35	
c. The right to have one's treatment monitored by an international humanitarian organization like the Red Cross.	73%	22%	5%
Republicans	71	28	
Democrats	81	17	
Independents	64	23	
d. The right to not be tortured	75%	20%	5%
Republicans	78	20	
Democrats	82	16	
Independents	63	25	
e. The right to not be threatened with torture	57%	38%	5%
Republicans	50	47	
Democrats	67	31	
Independents	50	38	

[HALF SAMPLE A,B]

HR-Q26: When someone is arrested in the US there are a number of rights that that person has by US law. Some people say when someone is suspected of planning or committing terrorism the person should not have certain rights. For each of the following rights please tell me if you think that someone who is suspected of terrorism should have this right.

[GRID PATTERN WITH HR-26a-e ON SAME SCREEN—RANDOMIZE PRESENTATION]

	<b>Should have this right</b>	<b>Should not have this right</b>	<b>(No Answer)</b>
a. The right to a lawyer	77%	18%	5 %
Republicans	75	23	
Democrats	81	14	
Independents	73	18	
b. The right to not be held indefinitely without charges or a trial	60%	35%	5%
Republicans	53	45	
Democrats	69	34	
Independents	58	26	
c. The right to not be held in a secret prison	49%	45%	6%
Republicans	45	54	
Democrats	58	37	
Independents	44	44	
d. The right to not be tortured	76%	19%	5%
Republicans	80	19	
Democrats	76	19	
Independents	71	20	
e. The right to not be threatened with torture	61%	35%	4%
Republicans	51	47	

Democrats	71	26
Independents	60	32

[3/4 SAMPLE A,B,C]

HR-Q27: As you may know, the US participates in the UN Commission on Human Rights, which reviews human rights standards in various countries including the US. Recently, the Commission evaluated how the US treats detainees at Guantanamo Bay and determined that the US has held certain individuals for interrogation for several years without charging them with a crime, contrary to international conventions. Do you think the US should or should not change this practice according to the prescriptions of the UN Commission on Human Rights?

	<b>6/06</b>	<b>4/06</b>
Should change this practice .....	61%	63%
Republicans.....	51	49
Democrats .....	73	76
Independents .....	58	62
Should not change this practice .....	31%	30%
Republicans.....	43	47
Democrats .....	24	20
Independents .....	26	23
(No Answer).....	8	7

[FULL SAMPLE]

HR-Q28: As you may know from the news, the US has been secretly sending people suspected of terrorism to be questioned in other countries that are known to use torture. The US says that these countries have given assurances that the suspects will not be tortured. How likely do you think it is that some of these suspects will be tortured?

Not at all.....	4%
Not very .....	13
Somewhat.....	46
Very.....	32
(No Answer).....	5
Not at all/Not very	
Republicans.....	22%
Democrats .....	13
Independents .....	16
Somewhat/Very	
Republicans.....	75%
Democrats .....	84
Independents .....	72

HR-Q29: Do you think the US should or should not permit US military and intelligence agencies to secretly send terrorism suspects to other countries that are known to use torture?

Should .....	37%
Republicans.....	54
Democrats .....	25
Independents .....	32
Should not .....	57
Republicans.....	41
Democrats .....	72
Independents .....	56
(No Answer).....	6

INT-Q30: When acts of torture have been committed by military personnel, but their commander says that he or she did not order it and was not aware of it, should the commander be held responsible or not held responsible?

Held responsible.....	58%
Republicans.....	51
Democrats .....	68
Independents .....	53
Not held responsible .....	37
Republicans.....	47
Democrats .....	30
Independents .....	35
(No Answer).....	5

[3/4 SAMPLE A,C,D]

HR-Q31: Do you think that government officials who engage in, or order others to engage in, torture or cruel and humiliating treatment as a way to get information should or should not be tried and punished?

		<b>PIPA/KN</b>
Should be .....	<b>6/06</b>	<b>7/04</b>
Republicans.....	73%	71
Democrats .....	67	
Independents .....	84	
Should not be .....	67	
Republicans.....	20	24
Democrats .....	28	
Independents .....	14	

Independents .....	20	
(No Answer).....	6	5

[FULL SAMPLE]

STATEMENT: As you may know, numerous Iraqi prisoners were abused by US troops at the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq. Many photographs appeared in the news.

[3/4 SAMPLE A,C,D]

HR-Q32: From what you have seen, heard or read, do you think that the abuse of Iraqi prisoners at Abu Ghraib prison was

	<b>6/06</b>	<b>Newsweek 5/04</b>
A case of low ranking American soldiers acting on their own.....	52%	36
Republicans.....	70	
Democrats .....	39	
Independents .....	47	
Authorized by higher-ups in the military chain of command.....	40%	45
Republicans.....	28	
Democrats .....	56	
Independents .....	34	
(No Answer).....	8%	19

[3/4 SAMPLE A,B,D]

HR-Q33: Do you think that:

Civilian leaders in the administration authorized policies that led to the abuse of Iraqi prisoners.....	36%
Republicans.....	29
Democrats .....	47
Independents .....	30
These decisions were made entirely within the military.....	53%
Republicans.....	62
Democrats .....	45
Independents .....	52
(No Answer).....	11%

HR-Q34: How many of the key people responsible for the mistreatment of prisoners at Abu Ghraib prison do you think have been tried and punished?

None.....	12%
Just a few.....	60
Most.....	16
All.....	4
(No Answer).....	8

None/Just a few	
Republicans.....	66%
Democrats.....	82
Independents.....	68

Most/All	
Republicans.....	29%
Democrats.....	14
Independents.....	16

[3/4 SAMPLE B,C,D]

HR-Q35: Do you think that:

There should be an independent commission to determine who is responsible for the abuse of prisoners at Abu Ghraib.....	47%
Republicans.....	32
Democrats.....	60
Independents.....	48

This job should be left to military.....	47%
Republicans.....	65
Democrats.....	36
Independents.....	38

(No Answer)..... 6%

[FULL SAMPLE]

HR-Q36: In regard to the kinds of prisoner abuses that occurred at Abu Ghraib, which do you think is the most likely to be occurring in overseas military prisons today:

They have stopped.....	12%
Republicans.....	20
Democrats.....	6
Independents.....	10

They have diminished, but are still going on

to some extent .....	64
Republicans.....	64
Democrats .....	68
Independents .....	60
They are as widespread as before .....	16
Republicans.....	11
Democrats .....	21
Independents .....	16
 (No Answer).....	 8

**DEMOGRAPHIC DATA:**

[FULL SAMPLE]

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

Republican .....	26%
Independent.....	20
Democrat.....	29
Other .....	2
No preference.....	20
(No answer).....	3

[IF REPUBLICAN ON 50]

51. Would you call yourself a...:

Strong Republican .....	13%
Not very strong Republican .....	13
(No answer).....	*

[IF DEMOCRAT ON 50]

52. Would you call yourself a...:

Strong Democrat .....	16%
Not very strong Republican .....	13
(No answer).....	*

[IF NEITHER DEMOCRAT NOR REPUBLICAN ON 50]

53. Do you think yourself closer to the...:

Republican Party .....	8%
Democratic Party .....	9
Neither .....	25

(No answer).....3

[FULL SAMPLE]

D1. (Combined Q50 + Q53). Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a:

Republican ..... 34%  
 Independent.....28  
 Democrat.....38

D2. Age

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

D3. Education level (categorical)

Less than High School ..... 15%  
 High School Graduate.....32  
 Some College .....28  
 College Graduate .....26

D4. Race/Ethnicity

White, Non-Hispanic ..... 70%  
 Black, Non-Hispanic.....11  
 Other, Non-Hispanic .....5  
 Hispanic .....13  
 2+ Races, Non-Hispanic .....1

D5. Gender

Male ..... 48%  
 Female.....52

D6. Region

Northeast ..... 19%  
 Midwest.....22  
 South .....36  
 West .....23

**METHODOLOGY**

In the United States, the poll of 1059 respondents was fielded June 27-July 2 with a margin of error of +/- 3.1-4.3% depending on the sample size for each question. The poll was fielded by Knowledge Networks, using its nationwide panel, which is randomly selected from the entire adult population and subsequently provided internet access. For more information about this methodology, go to [www.knowledgenetworks.com/ganp](http://www.knowledgenetworks.com/ganp).