



FOREIGN AFFAIRS

ARRESTED IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY – WOULD CANADA HELP YOU OUT?

Over half (53%) believe Canada would not help if they were arrested in another country, while 50% said the same in February

And over half (51%) say Canada should actively intervene to get Omar Khadr released—a 10 per cent increase since two weeks ago

From June 15 to 18, 2007, Angus Reid Strategies conducted an online survey among a randomly selected, representative sample of 1,028 adult Canadians. The margin of error for the total sample is +3.1%, 19 times out of 20. The results have been statistically weighted according to the most current education, age, gender and region Census data to ensure a sample representative of the entire adult population of Canada. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding.

**Public Release:
National Public Opinion Poll**

[VANCOUVER - June 26, 2007] – Over half of all Canadians believe the government would not help them if they were arrested in another country, a new Angus Reid Strategies poll has found.

In the online survey of a representative national sample, 53 per cent of Canadians say they are not confident that Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) would come to their assistance. When the same question was asked in February, 50 per cent of Canadians did not believe the Canadian government would come to their aid.

As well, this time fewer Canadians were uncertain about how to answer (29% unsure in February, compared with 27% today), but the number who believe in DFAIT remains constant at 23 per cent.

By region, Manitoba & Saskatchewan (65%) and Ontario (60%) show the least confidence in government aid abroad. Older and wealthier Canadians are also more likely to believe the government would not help them if they were in trouble in another country.

Conservative voters (32%) are the most likely to believe the government will help them if they are arrested abroad. Liberals and NDP voters are far more skeptical of government aid overseas.

The slight loss of confidence in Canada's ability to help may be due to the high profile stories of Kafila Siddiqui and Omar Khadr. In February, the case of Huseyin Celil was in the news, and China had not yet reached its decision on his charges.

In the case of Omar Khadr, more Canadians than ever are expressing a desire for the government to act. Fifty-one per cent believe that the Canadian government should actively intervene to secure Khadr's release, while 41 per cent said the same two weeks ago.

By region, Alberta is the only exception – there, 49 per cent believe Canada should not help Khadr out. Conservatives (56%) also hold strong belief that Canada should remain uninvolved in the Khadr case—while over half of Liberals (59%) and nearly two-thirds of NDP voters (64%) believe the opposite.

However, younger Canadians and those with university education feel strongly that Canada should act to secure Khadr's release.

**Arrested in a foreign country – would Canada help you out?
Contact: Craig Worden, Vice President, Public Affairs
416-644-4038 or craig.worden@angus-reid.com**

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Over half (53%) believe Canada would not help if they were arrested in another country

Q. Suppose that you were detained in a foreign country. Are you confident that Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) would come to your assistance?

	Total	Region						Vote in next federal election		
		BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL	Con	Lib	NDP
Yes	23%	25%	28%	22%	15%	32%	28%	32%	22%	17%
No	53%	55%	49%	65%	60%	39%	53%	50%	59%	52%
Not sure	24%	20%	23%	13%	24%	29%	18%	19%	19%	31%

	Total	Age			Income			Education		
		18-34	35-54	55+	<\$50K	\$50-99K	\$100K+	HS or less	College or Tech schl	Univ+
Yes	23%	24%	22%	25%	26%	25%	23%	26%	22%	23%
No	53%	43%	55%	59%	51%	51%	62%	53%	54%	51%
Not sure	24%	34%	23%	16%	23%	24%	15%	21%	24%	27%

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And over half (51%) say Canada should actively intervene to get Omar Khadr released

Q. As you may know, an American military judge recently dropped the charges of murder and terrorism against Canadian citizen Omar Khadr, who has spent almost five years in the Guantanamo Bay detention facility, due to a technicality. Khadr, the son of al-Qaeda fighter Ahmed Said Khadr, was 15 when the alleged incident took place. Do you agree or disagree with the Canadian government actively intervening to secure Omar Khadr's release?

	Region							Vote in next federal election		
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL	Con	Lib	NDP
Strongly agree	26%	33%	15%	24%	28%	25%	26%	12%	36%	35%
Moderately agree	25%	19%	25%	27%	28%	22%	26%	26%	22%	30%
Moderately disagree	14%	13%	30%	10%	14%	10%	15%	22%	10%	14%
Strongly disagree	24%	28%	19%	24%	23%	28%	12%	35%	18%	20%
Not sure	11%	7%	11%	15%	7%	15%	21%	6%	13%	2%
(net) Agree	51%	53%	40%	51%	56%	48%	53%	38%	59%	64%
(net) Disagree	38%	41%	49%	34%	37%	38%	27%	56%	28%	34%

	Age			Income			Education			
	Total	18-34	35-54	55+	<\$50K	\$50-99K	\$100K+	HS or less	College or Tech schl	Univ+
Strongly agree	26%	27%	25%	27%	28%	25%	32%	20%	25%	34%
Moderately agree	25%	35%	21%	21%	23%	30%	22%	23%	20%	33%
Moderately disagree	14%	15%	15%	11%	14%	12%	14%	16%	15%	10%
Strongly disagree	24%	10%	27%	32%	23%	23%	25%	24%	30%	16%
Not sure	11%	13%	12%	9%	12%	9%	6%	17%	10%	7%
(net) Agree	51%	62%	46%	48%	51%	55%	54%	43%	45%	67%
(net) Disagree	38%	25%	42%	43%	37%	36%	39%	41%	45%	26%

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Angus Reid Strategies is a North American full-service polling and market research firm which is a leader in the use of the Internet and rich media technology to collect high-quality, in-depth insights for a wide array of clients. Dr. Angus Reid and the Angus Reid Strategies team are pioneers in online research methodologies, and have been conducting online surveys since 1995. Located in Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto, and Montreal, our team of specialists provides solutions across every type and sector of research.

Angus Reid Strategies polls are conducted using the Angus Reid Forum online panel (www.angusreidforum.com), which is recruited via an industry-leading process that incorporates a randomized, widespread invitation approach and a triple opt-in screening procedure. The panel is maintained through state-of-the-art sampling techniques and frequent verifications of personal identity, contact information, and demographic characteristics. This premier online survey platform presents respondents with highly visual, interactive, and engaging surveys, ensuring that panel members provide thoughtful and reliable responses.

Angus Reid Strategies has been successful in predicting the outcome of this year's provincial elections:

In Quebec: <http://www.angusreidstrategies.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=news&newsid=37>

In Manitoba: <http://www.angusreidstrategies.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=news&newsid=56>

More information on the way Angus Reid Strategies conducts public opinion research can be found at http://www.angusreidstrategies.com/uploads/pages/pdfs/ARS.ARF_WHITE_PAPER.pdf

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**For more information, please contact
our spokesperson listed in the footnote.**

**Copies of this poll are available on our website:
www.angusreidstrategies.com**