

Widespread Concern about Terrorist Risks in Canada

Harper Earns Good Performance Score on Mid-East

**Israeli Response to Hezbollah About Right or Too Little vs.
Too Much by Close to a 2:1 Margin**

Iran, Saudis Blamed for Lebanon War

—Nation-Wide Poll



**COMPAS Inc.
Public Opinion and Customer Research
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Discussion

Overview

An overwhelming majority of Canadians are concerned about a terrorist attack on Canadian soil.

For his Middle East policy, Harper earns a good performance score (60%)—higher than the large majority of scores earned by the Chretien and Martin governments. His good average score obscures polarization with 17% of those with an opinion giving him a score of 100% and 7%, a score of zero.

Asked if Israel's reaction to Hezbollah's attack was too little, about right, or too much, a near two-thirds majority say too little or about right.

Iran and Saudi Arabia share the blame for the breakout of war between Hezbollah and Israel, albeit for different reasons. Iran helped trigger it, say 81% of Canadians, in order to sidetrack U.N. criticism of its nuclear weapons program.

The Saudis share responsibility for Lebanon's destruction and ought to help rebuild it, say 91% of Canadians, because of the history of Saudi financial support for extremist organizations.

Concerns about Terrorism in Canada

A large majority (82%) believe that there is reason for concern about terrorism on Canadian soil because the magnitude of the potential threat may be too large for security forces to monitor adequately.



Harper Earns Good Performance Scores—Passionate Supporters Outnumber More than 2:1 Passionate Opponents

Harper earns a good¹ performance score (60%) for his government's Middle East policy thanks to very strong support overpowering opposition by a margin of about 2.5:1—17% of those with an opinion give him a perfect score of 100% and 7%, a score of zero.

65% Say Israeli Reaction to Hezbollah About Right or Too Little; 35% Say Too Much

Canadians are divided nearly 2:1 (65:33) in believing that Israel's response was appropriate or too little vs. too strong. Many say that they have not yet decided how to assess Israel's response (21%).

Teheran Helped Spark War to Sidetrack U.N. Criticism of Iran's Nuclear Program, say 80% of Canadians

By a huge margin Canadians believe that Hezbollah started the war in part to help its patrons in Teheran distract the United Nations from focusing on Iran's nuclear weapons program. Eighty-one percent of Canadians have an opinion on this.

Among those with an opinion, 81% believe that Iran's desire to distract the United Nations from focusing on its nuclear development plans was at least a small factor in the timing of the attack on Israel by Hezbollah. Asked to score the degree to which Iran's nuclear ambitions were a factor in the war's outbreak, Canadians on average say that Iran's strategic interest accounted for about half the reason (48%).

¹ Harper's score is higher than more than three-quarters of the performance scores earned by the Chretien and Martin governments in COMPAS' proprietary database of performance scores.



Saudis Should Help Rebuild Lebanon, say 91% of Canadians

The vast majority believe that Saudi Arabia shares responsibility for the war because of its history of funding extremist² organizations. Most Canadians (70%) have an opinion on the issue.

Among those with an opinion, 91% believe that Saudi Arabia should share the cost of rebuilding the war-torn country. On average, Canadians believe that the Saudis should absorb 57% of the cost.

Tables

“Speaking about Lebanon, Canada’s Stephen Harper said that Hezbollah’s attempt to destroy Israel “will only bring the death of innocent people.” On a 100 point school report card, what score would you give the Prime Minister for his position on the situation?”

Mean ³	English Mean ⁴	French Mean ⁵	DNK ⁶	Percentage Who Gave 0 ⁷	Percentage Who Gave 100 ⁸
60	63	51	14	7	17

² The wording of our question referred to support for “extremist” as opposed to terrorist organizations. Had the stronger word, terrorist, been used instead, the Canadian public’s desire for Saudi financial responsibility might have been stronger.

³ Of those with an opinion

⁴ Of those with an opinion

⁵ Of those with an opinion

⁶ UNPROMTED

⁷ Of those with an opinion

⁸ Of those with an opinion



*COMPAS Poll on Harper, Domestic Terrorism, and the Middle East
Undertaken for B'nai Brith Canada, 20060803*

“In Canada, it is against the law to belong to Hezbollah and other terrorist organizations. Do you believe that Canadians...”

ROTATE

	All Respondents	Those With an Opinion
Have reason to worry because the 50 terrorist organizations in Canada are a lot to monitor?	76	82
Have no need to worry because our police will always stop terrorists before it's too late	17	18
[UNPROMTED] Don't know or no opinion	7	N/A

“The President of Iran, which arms and funds Hezbollah, has just said that Hezbollah will destroy Israel within days. If you were an Israeli, would you feel that the Israeli government's response to attack was...” ROTATE POLLS

	All Respondents	Those With an Opinion
Too little	17	21
About right	35	44
Too much	27	35
[UNPROMTED] Don't know or no opinion	21	N/A



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“Two weeks ago a big issue in the news was Iran’s nuclear arms program. Do you think the war was timed to stop the world thinking about Iran’s nuclear weapons? Please use a 100 point scale where 100 means Iran was the only factor in the timing of the war and 0, not at all a factor.”

Mean ⁹	English Mean ¹⁰	French Mean ¹¹	DNK ¹²	Percentage Who Gave 0 ¹³	Percentage Who Gave 100 ¹⁴
48	48	50	19	19	8

My last question is about Saudi Arabia, a source of funds for extremist organizations. On a 100 point scale, what percentage of the costs for Lebanon’s recovery should be paid by Saudi Arabia?

Mean ¹⁵	English Mean ¹⁶	French Mean ¹⁷	DNK ¹⁸	Percentage Who Gave 0 ¹⁹	Percentage Who Gave 100 ²⁰
57	55	64	30	9	16

⁹ Of those with an opinion
¹⁰ Of those with an opinion
¹¹ Of those with an opinion
¹² UNPROMPTED
¹³ Of those with an opinion
¹⁴ Of those with an opinion
¹⁵ Of those with an opinion
¹⁶ Of those with an opinion
¹⁷ Of those with an opinion
¹⁸ UNPROMPTED
¹⁹ Of those with an opinion
²⁰ Of those with an opinion



Methodology

A representative national sample of n=502 was interviewed July 27-August 1, 2006 with a sizeable number of interviews conducted July 31st and August 1st, after the Qana airstrikes on July 30th and before major reports of the Israeli ground offensive. Samples of this size are deemed accurate to within 4.5 percentage points 19 times out of 20. Dr. Conrad Winn was the principal investigator on this study, commissioned by B'nai Brith Canada. He can be reached at 416-598-0310.

