

ABC News/Washington Post poll: June 7, 2011

Nearly Six in 10 Back Libyan Involvement

Nearly six in 10 Americans support U.S. military involvement in NATO efforts against the Libyan government – but few of them want to see it increase from its current level.

Fifty-eight percent in the latest ABC News/Washington Post poll support the current U.S. role, essentially the same as in mid-April. Among supporters, seven in 10 say U.S. involvement should be held at the current level, vs. 15 percent increased and 11 percent trimmed back.

President Obama's approval rating for handling the situation also is essentially unchanged, at 44 percent; but there's been an 8-point drop in disapproval, to 41 percent, with more undecided.

NATO ratcheted up its campaign this morning with an unusual daytime bombing raid on Tripoli, targeting military barracks near Col. Muammar Gaddafi's residential compound. Gaddafi responded with a speech in which he vowed to "stay here 'til the end – dead, alive, victorious."

Gaddafi is a bone of contention in public views on the conflict: Supporters of U.S. involvement divide on whether its purpose should be only to protect civilians, or also to remove him from power.

That division helps explain why Obama's approval rating on Libya is lower than support for U.S. involvement overall. His approval rating slips from 62 percent of those who want only a civilian-protection mission (the current framework) to 54 percent of those who also want to oust Gaddafi. Among those who oppose the mission entirely, Obama gets just 25 percent approval.

METHODOLOGY – This ABC News/Washington Post poll was conducted by telephone June 2-5, 2011, among a random national sample of 1,002 adults, including landline and cell-phone-only respondents. Results have a margin of [sampling error](#) of 3.5 points. The survey was produced for ABC News by [Langer Research Associates](#) of New York, N.Y., with sampling, data collection and tabulation by TNS of Horsham, Pa.

Analysis by Gary Langer.

ABC News polls can be found at ABCNEWS.com at <http://abcnews.com/pollingunit>.

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Full results follow.

1, 2a-d, 3-4, 6a, 7-8, 12-14, 22-26, 30-40, 43-45 previously released.

5, 6b-d, 9-11, 15-21, 41-42 held for release.

2. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Obama is handling [ITEM]? Do you approve/disapprove strongly or somewhat?

e. (HALF SAMPLE) The situation in Libya

	----- Approve -----			----- Disapprove -----			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
6/5/11	44	20	24	41	13	28	15
4/17/11	42	23	19	49	19	30	9
3/13/11	45	24	22	34	14	20	21

27. Changing topics: A coalition of international forces has been enforcing a no fly-zone over Libya, and attacking Libyan forces when they're believed to be threatening civilians. Do you support or oppose the participation of U.S. military aircraft in this effort?

	Support	Oppose	No opinion
6/5/11	58	37	5
4/17/11	56	40	4

Compare to: (HALF SAMPLE) You may have heard about the idea that U.S. military aircraft could participate in creating a no-fly zone over Libya in order to keep Gaddafi's air force from attacking rebel-held areas. Is this something you would support or oppose?

	Support	Oppose	No opinion
3/13/11	56	37	7

28. (IF SUPPORT U.S. MILITARY PARTICIPATION) Should this military action (be carried out only to protect Libyan civilians), or should it (also seek to remove Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi [MOA-mar ka-DAFI] from power)?

	Only to protect civilians	Also seek to remove Gaddafi	No opinion
6/5/11	45	50	5
4/17/11	40	58	2

27/28 NET:

	----- Support -----						No
	NET	Only to protect civilians	Also seek to remove Gadaffi	DK/REF	Oppose	opinion	
6/5/11	58	26	29	3	37	5	
4/17/11	56	22	32	2	40	4	

29. (IF SUPPORT U.S. MILITARY PARTICIPATION) Do you think the level of U.S. military involvement in the situation with Libya should be increased, decreased, or kept about the same as it is now?

	Increased	Decreased	Same	No opinion
6/5/11	15	11	71	3
4/17/11	18	11	68	3

27/29 NET:

	----- Support -----					Oppose	No
	NET	Increased	Decreased	Same	DK/REF	opinion	
6/5/11	58	9	6	41	2	37	5
4/17/11	56	10	6	38	2	40	4

END