

9/11 TRIALS

Americans Believe 9/11 Conspirators Should be Executed if Found Guilty

Respondents side with the notion of holding this particular trial in a military tribunal instead of a federal court.

[SAN FRANCISCO – Nov. 24, 2009] – Over two thirds of people in the United States want a group of Guantanamo prisoners allegedly involved in the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, to face the death penalty if convicted for their crimes, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found.

Five men who have been held at the Guantanamo Bay detention facility in Cuba—including alleged 9/11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed—are now expected to face trial in a New York City federal court for their alleged involvement in the terrorist attacks.

In the online survey of a representative sample of 1,006 American adults, 69 per cent of respondents say that, if the five men are found guilty, they should all be sentenced to death. Conversely, just over a fifth of Americans (22%) would agree with a sentence of life imprisonment with no possibility of parole.

Americans hold dissimilar views on the way the legal process should actually be conducted. While 44 per cent of respondents believe this trial should take place before a military tribunal, 32 per cent agree with a federal court hearing this case.

Party Allegiance

Republicans (55%) and Independents (51%) are more likely than Democrats (35%) to prefer a military tribunals over a trial in a federal court on this particular case. GOP voters (78%) are also particularly

KEY FINDINGS

- **44% would try 9/11 conspirators in a military tribunal; 32% prefer a federal court**
- **69% call for the death penalty if 9/11 conspirators are found guilty**

Full topline results are at the end of this release.

From November 17 to November 18, 2009, Angus Reid Strategies conducted an online survey among 1,006 American adults who are Springboard America panelists. The margin of error—which measures sampling variability—is +/- 3.1%. 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 the United States.

CONTACT:

Ashley Grosse, Senior Vice President, US Public Affairs, 415.489.7105, ashley.grosse@angus-reid.com
Mario Canseco, Vice President, Public Affairs, 604-647-3570, mario.canseco@angus-reid.com

supportive of a sentence calling for those accused of involvement in the 9/11 attacks, compared to Independents (68%), and Democrats (65%).

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9/11 Trials

As you may know, five of the more than 200 prisoners in the Guantanamo Bay detention facility are accused of involvement in the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. These five people, including alleged 9/11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, are expected to face trial in a New York federal court instead of a military tribunal. From what you have seen, read or heard, which of these options do you prefer?

	Region				
	Total	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
Holding a trial in a military tribunal	44%	45%	36%	46%	45%
Holding a trial in a federal court	32%	33%	33%	33%	30%
Not sure	24%	22%	31%	21%	25%

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	Political Allegiance			
	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Holding a trial in a military tribunal	44%	35%	55%	51%
Holding a trial in a federal court	32%	42%	27%	31%
Not sure	24%	23%	19%	18%

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9/11 Trials

If the five people accused of involvement in the 9/11 terrorist attacks are found guilty, which of these options would you prefer?

	Region				
	Total	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
Death penalty	69%	63%	64%	73%	71%
Life imprisonment without the possibility of parole	22%	29%	25%	19%	20%
Not sure	9%	8%	11%	8%	9%

9/11 Trials

If the five people accused of involvement in the 9/11 terrorist attacks are found guilty, which of these options would you prefer?

	Political Allegiance			
	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Death penalty	69%	65%	78%	68%
Life imprisonment without the possibility of parole	22%	30%	17%	22%
Not sure	9%	5%	5%	10%

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Angus Reid Public Opinion is the public affairs practice of Vision Critical—a global research and technology company specializing in custom online panels, private communities, and innovative online methods. Vision Critical 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

Vision Critical is now one of the largest market research enterprises in the world. In addition to its five offices in Canada—located in Vancouver, Calgary, Regina, Toronto, and Montreal—the firm also has offices in San Francisco, Chicago, New York, London, Paris and Sydney. Its team of specialists provides solutions across every type and sector of research, and currently serves over 200 international clients.

Angus Reid Public Opinion polls are conducted using the Angus Reid Forum (www.angusreidforum.com), Springboard America (www.springboardamerica.com) and Springboard UK (www.springboarduk.com) online panels, which are carefully recruited to ensure representation across all demographic and psychographic segments of these populations. Panel members pass through rigorous screening and a double opt-in process ensuring highly motivated and responsive members. These premier online survey platforms present respondents with highly visual, interactive, and engaging surveys, ensuring that panel members provide thoughtful and reliable responses. Each survey is actively sampled and weighted to model that characteristics of the universe required and employs the latest in quality control techniques to ensure data validity.

Angus Reid, the only public opinion firm to exclusively use online methods to follow the views of the electorate during the 2008 federal campaign, offered the most accurate prediction of the results of Canada's 40th election.

<http://bit.ly/4zxf1S>

Since 2006, Angus Reid has covered eight provincial elections in Canada—more than any other pollster in the country—and the results have accurately predicted the outcome of each of these democratic processes.

More information on the way Angus Reid conducts public opinion research can be found at

<http://bit.ly/3z0u1l>

- 30 -

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

Copies of this poll are available on our website:

<http://www.visioncritical.com/category/global-opinions-and-trends>

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