

LOCKERBIE

Britons Call for Investigation into Megrahi's Release from Prison

Two fifths of respondents think there is a link between the Lockerbie bomber's release and the financial interests of BP.

[LONDON – 29 July 2010] – Most people in Britain condemn the release from prison of Lockerbie bomber Abdelbaset Ali Mohmet al-Megrahi and want the British government to investigate the decision, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found.

In the online survey of a representative national sample of 1,992 British adults, three quarters of respondents (75%) oppose the release of Megrahi, a Libyan national, which was conceded on compassionate grounds by the Scottish government citing the prisoner's poor health condition.

Megrahi had been diagnosed with terminal prostate cancer and was serving a life sentence with a minimum term of 27 years for his role in the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over the Scottish town of Lockerbie in December 1988.

Many Britons (41%) believe that the Scottish government's decision to let Megrahi out of prison has something to do with the commercial interests of the British oil company BP, which has major operations in Libya.

Two thirds of respondents (65%) want the British Government to launch an investigation into Megrahi's release. Notably, while support for a government investigation into this case is high across Britain, it is lower in London (59%) and Scotland (53%).

KEY FINDINGS

- **75% of Britons condemn release of Megrahi on compassionate grounds**
- **41% say there is a correlation between his release and BP's commercial interests**
- **65% want an investigation into the decision to release the prisoner**

Full topline results are at the end of this release.

From July 20 to July 23, 2010, Angus Reid Public Opinion conducted an online survey among 1,992 randomly selected British adults who are Springboard UK panelists. The margin of error—which measures sampling variability—is +/- 2.2%. The results have been statistically weighted according to the most current education, age, gender and region data to ensure samples representative of the entire adult population of Great Britain. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding.

CONTACT:

Andy Morris, Research Director, London, + 44-203-178-3952, andy.morris@angus-reid.com

Respondents in Scotland are also more likely than others to support the original decision to allow Megrahi leave jail (31%, compared to less than 23% elsewhere in Britain).

Consult our August 2009 poll on Megrahi's release [here](#)

Download Full Tables

http://www.visioncritical.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/07/table_megrahi_july2010.pdf

Download Full Methodology Statement

http://www.visioncritical.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/07/2010-07-23_UK_Method.pdf

For all our polls, go to our [website](#) / Follow us on [Twitter](#)

CONTACT:

Andy Morris, Research Director, London, + 44-203-178-3952, andy.morris@angus-reid.com

Lockerbie

As you may know, Libyan national Abdelbaset Ali Mohmet al-Megrahi was serving a life sentence with a minimum term of 27 years for his role in the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over the Scottish town of Lockerbie in December 1988. Megrahi has been diagnosed with terminal prostate cancer. His advisers requested that he be freed from the Greenock prison (near Glasgow) on compassionate grounds, and the Scottish Government agreed to this request last year. All things considered, do you agree or disagree with the decision to release Megrahi on compassionate grounds?

	Total	Region				
		London	South of England	Midlands and Wales	North	Scotland
Agree	18%	23%	14%	14%	18%	31%
Disagree	75%	68%	79%	80%	75%	65%
Not sure	7%	9%	7%	6%	8%	4%

Lockerbie

From what you have seen, read or heard about this case, do you agree or disagree with each one of the following statements? –

“There is a link between BP’s commercial interests in Libya and the release of Megrahi”.

	Total	Region				
		London	South of England	Midlands and Wales	North	Scotland
Agree	41%	44%	39%	44%	41%	38%
Disagree	22%	22%	22%	22%	18%	37%
Not sure	37%	34%	39%	35%	41%	25%

CONTACT:

Andy Morris, Research Director, London, + 44-203-178-3952, andy.morris@angus-reid.com

Lockerbie

From what you have seen, read or heard about this case, do you agree or disagree with each one of the following statements? –

“The Government should launch an investigation into the decision to release Megrahi”.

		Region				
	Total	London	South of England	Midlands and Wales	North	Scotland
Agree	65%	59%	67%	65%	71%	53%
Disagree	25%	31%	21%	26%	21%	40%
Not sure	10%	10%	11%	10%	8%	7%

CONTACT:

Andy Morris, Research Director, London, + 44-203-178-3952, andy.morris@angus-reid.com

Angus Reid Public Opinion is a 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>**

CONTACT:

Andy Morris, Research Director, London, + 44-203-178-3952, andy.morris@angus-reid.com