

# World Split in Torture " Ethics " - Israelis Top 43 % Endorse Torture

By [Global Research](#)

Global Research, March 08, 2007

[Palestine Free Voice](#) 6 March 2007

Theme: [Police State & Civil Rights](#)

In-depth Report: [PALESTINE](#)



## Torture Of Prisoners

Muslims in Israel, who represent 16% of the total number polled, are overwhelmingly against any use of torture.

All of the countries surveyed have signed up to the Geneva Conventions which prohibit the use of torture and cruel and degrading behaviour.

"We are judged by how we treat our enemies rather than how we treat our friends" Jay Kandy, London

Countries that face political violence are more likely to accept the idea that some degree of torture is permissible because of the "[extreme threat posed by terrorists](#)".

The Israelis has the largest percentage of those polled endorsing the use of a degree of torture on prisoners, with 43% saying they agreed that torture should be allowed.

## The question

Most countries have agreed to rules prohibiting torturing prisoners. Which position is closer to yours?

"[Terrorists pose such an extreme threat](#)" that governments should now be allowed to use some degree of torture if it may gain information that saves innocent lives

Clear rules against torture should be maintained because any use of torture is immoral and will weaken international human rights

## World split on torture ethics

Other countries that polled higher levels of acceptance of the use of torture include Iraq (42%), the Philippines (40%), Indonesia (40%), Russia (37%) and China (37%).

The Israeli figure conceals a stark difference in attitude within the country, split along religious lines.

A majority of Jewish respondents in Israel, 53%, favour allowing governments to use some degree of torture to obtain information from those in custody, while 39% want clear rules against it.

Meanwhile opposition to the practise is highest in Italy, where 81% of those questioned think torture is never justified.

Australia, France, Canada, the UK and Germany also registered high levels of opposition to any use of torture.

## Views on torturing prisoners

### Country

Against all torture \* Some degree permissible \* Neither/Don't Know

Australia	75%	22%	3%
Brazil	61%	32%	8%
Canada	74%	22%	4%
Chile	62%	22%	16%
China	49%	37%	13%
Egypt	65%	25%	9%
France	75%	19%	6%
Germany	71%	21%	7%
Gt Britain	72%	24%	4%
India	23%	32%	45%
Indonesia	51%	40%	8%
Iraq	55%	42%	1%
Israel	48%	43%	9%
Italy	81%	14%	6%
Kenya	53%	38%	9%
Mexico	50%	24%	27%
Nigeria	49%	39%	12%
Philippines	56%	40%	5%
Poland	62%	27%	12%
Russia	43%	37%	19%
S Korea	66%	31%	3%
Spain	65%	16%	19%
Turkey	62%	24%	14%
Ukraine	54%	29%	18%
US	58%	36%	7%
Average	59%	29%	12%

\*27,000 respondents in 25 countries were asked which position was closer to their own

views:

- \* Clear rules against torture should be maintained because any use of torture is immoral and will weaken international human rights standards against torture.
- \* Terrorists pose such an extreme threat that governments should now be allowed to use some degree of torture if it may gain information that saves innocent lives.

The survey was carried out for the BBC World Service by polling firm Globescan and the Program on International Policy Attitudes (PIPA).

All of the countries surveyed have signed up to the Geneva Conventions which prohibit the use of torture and cruel and degrading behaviour.

Source: BBC/Globescan/PIPA

The original source of this article is [Palestine Free Voice](#)  
Copyright © [Global Research](#), [Palestine Free Voice](#), 2007

---

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: [Global Research](#)

**Disclaimer:** The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: [publications@globalresearch.ca](mailto:publications@globalresearch.ca)  
[www.globalresearch.ca](http://www.globalresearch.ca) contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: [publications@globalresearch.ca](mailto:publications@globalresearch.ca)