



THURSDAY JUNE 21, 2012

Widespread Condemnation for Assad in Neighboring Countries

But Lebanese Shia Backing Syrian Regime

Andrew Kohut,

President, Pew Research Center

Pew Global Attitudes Project:

Richard Wike, Associate Director

Juliana Menasce Horowitz,
Senior Researcher

Katie Simmons, Research Associate

Jacob Poushter, Research Analyst

Cathy Barker, Research Assistant

Pew Research Center:

James Bell,

Director of International Survey Research,
Pew Research Center

Bruce Stokes,

Director of Pew Global Economic Attitudes,
Pew Research Center

Elizabeth Mueller Gross,

Vice President, Pew Research Center

For Media Inquiries Contact:

Richard Wike

Vidya Krishnamurthy

202.419.4372

<http://pewglobal.org>

Widespread Condemnation for Assad in Neighboring Countries But Lebanese Shia Backing Syrian Regime

With the uprising against him showing no signs of abating, Syrian President Bashar al-Assad is widely unpopular in neighboring countries. And the vast majority of Jordanians, Egyptians, Tunisians and Turks would like to see him step down. In Lebanon, however, views differ sharply along sectarian lines, with Shia Muslims overwhelmingly expressing support for the Assad regime.

Even though many would like to see Assad out of office, there is no consensus on taking action to dislodge him from power. There is limited support for tougher international economic sanctions or Arab military intervention, and very little support for Western military action.

These are among the key findings from a survey by the Pew Research Center’s Global Attitudes Project, conducted from March 19 to April 20, prior to the May 25 massacre in Houla, Syria, as well as other recent acts of violence against civilians by pro-Assad forces.

Few Have Positive View of Assad

Large majorities hold an unfavorable opinion of Assad in Jordan, Tunisia, Egypt and Turkey. In Lebanon, which was occupied by Syrian forces for three decades before they withdrew in 2006, about six-in-ten (59%) express an

Most Say Assad Should Step Down

	Yes, step down	No, should not step down	DK
	%	%	%
Jordan	89	9	2
Egypt	89	10	1
Tunisia	88	7	5
Turkey	67	14	19
Lebanon	53	44	2
<i>Christian</i>	67	28	5
<i>Sunni</i>	80	20	1
<i>Shia</i>	3	97	0

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Q121.

Unfavorable Views of Assad Widespread

	Favorable	Unfavorable	DK
	%	%	%
Jordan	8	90	2
Tunisia	8	84	9
Egypt	11	84	5
Turkey	10	73	16
Lebanon	42	59	0
<i>Christian</i>	34	66	0
<i>Sunni</i>	8	92	0
<i>Shia</i>	96	4	0

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Q44d.

unfavorable view of Assad, but opinions of him vary dramatically across the country's major religious communities.

About nine-in-ten Lebanese Sunni Muslims (92%) express a negative opinion of Assad, as do 66% of the country's Christians. However, almost all Shia Muslims (96%) have a favorable view of Assad, who is a member of the Alawite sect, an offshoot of Shia Islam.

Assad Should Go, But No Consensus on Taking Action

Nearly nine-in-ten say Assad should step down in Jordan, Egypt and Tunisia, and two-thirds agree in Turkey. Again, views in Lebanon reflect sectarian divisions: 80% of Sunnis and 67% of Christians want Syria's autocratic ruler to leave office, compared with just 3% of Shia Muslims.

The widespread desire for Assad to step down does not translate, however, into support for economic sanctions or military action against Syria. Tunisia is the only country in which a majority approves of tougher sanctions on Syria.

Similarly, Tunisia is the only nation polled in which most would support military intervention by Arab states to remove Assad from power.

Limited Support for Sanctions or Military Action

	Assad should step down	<i>% Approve</i>		
	%	More sanctions	Arab military intervention	Western military intervention
	%	%	%	%
Jordan	89	41	38	10
Egypt	89	49	47	11
Tunisia	88	63	61	38
Turkey	67	39	29	24
Lebanon	53	20	19	8

Respondents were first asked whether or not Assad should step down. Those who said he should step down were then asked whether they would support economic sanctions, Arab military intervention, and Western military intervention.

All figures based on total sample.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Q121-Q124.

And there is no country in which a majority favors military intervention by Western countries. About four-in-ten Tunisians (38%) endorse this idea, while fewer than a quarter in Turkey, Egypt, Jordan and Lebanon support Western military action.

About the Pew Global Attitudes Project

The *Pew Research Center's Global Attitudes Project* conducts public opinion surveys around the world on a broad array of subjects ranging from people's assessments of their own lives to their views about the current state of the world and important issues of the day. The project is directed by Andrew Kohut, president of the Pew Research Center, a nonpartisan "fact tank" in Washington, DC, that provides information on the issues, attitudes, and trends shaping America and the world. The *Pew Global Attitudes Project* is principally funded by The Pew Charitable Trusts.

Since its inception in 2001, the *Pew Global Attitudes Project* has released numerous major reports, analyses, and other releases, on topics including attitudes toward the U.S. and American foreign policy, globalization, terrorism, and democracy.

Pew Global Attitudes Project team members include Richard Wike (Associate Director), Juliana Menasce Horowitz, Katie Simmons, Jacob Poushter, and Cathy Barker. Other contributors to the project include Pew Research Center staff members James Bell (Director, International Survey Research), Bruce Stokes (Director, Pew Global Economic Attitudes), and Elizabeth Mueller Gross (Vice President), as well as Bruce Drake, Neha Sahgal, Carroll Doherty, and Michael Dimock. Additional members of the team include Mary McIntosh, president of Princeton Survey Research Associates International, and Mike Mokrzycki. The *Pew Global Attitudes Project* team regularly consults with survey and policy experts, regional and academic experts, journalists, and policymakers whose expertise provides tremendous guidance in shaping the surveys.

Pew Global Attitudes Project Public Opinion Surveys

<u>Survey</u>	<u>Sample</u>	<u>Interviews</u>
Summer 2002	44 Nations	38,263
November 2002	6 Nations	6,056
March 2003	9 Nations	5,520
May 2003	21 Publics*	15,948
Spring 2004	9 Nations	7,765
Spring 2005	17 Nations	17,766
Spring 2006	15 Nations	16,710
Spring 2007	47 Publics*	45,239
Spring 2008	24 Nations	24,717
Spring 2009	25 Publics*	26,397
Fall 2009	14 Nations	14,760
Spring 2010	22 Nations	24,790
Spring 2011	23 Publics*	29,100
Spring 2012	21 Nations	26,210

* Includes the Palestinian territories.

The *Pew Global Attitudes Project's* co-chairs are on leave through 2012. The project is co-chaired by former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright, currently principal, the Albright Stonebridge Group, and by former Senator John C. Danforth, currently partner, Bryan Cave LLP.

All of the project's reports and commentaries are available at www.pewglobal.org. The data are also made available on our website within two years of publication. Findings from the project are also analyzed in *America Against the World: How We Are Different and Why We Are Disliked* by Andrew Kohut and Bruce Stokes, published by Times Books. A paperback edition of the book was released in May 2007.

For further information, please contact:
 Richard Wike
 Associate Director, Pew Global Attitudes Project
 202.419.4400 / rwike@pewresearch.org

Methods in Detail

About the 2012 Pew Global Attitudes Survey

Results for the survey are based on face-to-face interviews conducted under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International. Survey results are based on national samples. For further details on sample designs, see below.

The descriptions below show the margin of sampling error based on all interviews conducted in that country. For results based on the full sample in a given country, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling and other random effects is plus or minus the margin of error. In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

Country: **Egypt**
Sample design: Multi-stage cluster sample stratified by governorates (excluding Frontier governorates for security reasons – about 2% of the population) proportional to population size and urban/rural population
Mode: Face-to-face adults 18 plus
Languages: Arabic
Fieldwork dates: March 19 – April 10, 2012
Sample size: 1,000
Margin of Error: ± 4.2 percentage points
Representative: Adult population (excluding Frontier governorates or about 2% of the population)

Country: **Jordan**
Sample design: Multi-stage cluster sample stratified by region and Jordan's 12 governorates and proportional to population size and urban/rural population
Mode: Face-to-face adults 18 plus
Languages: Arabic
Fieldwork dates: March 19 – April 10, 2012
Sample size: 1,000
Margin of Error: ± 4.8 percentage points
Representative: Adult population

Country:	Lebanon
Sample design:	Multi-stage cluster sample stratified by Lebanon's seven major regions (excluding a small area in Beirut controlled by a militia group and a few villages in the south Lebanon, which border Israel and are inaccessible to outsiders) and proportional to population size and urban/rural population
Mode:	Face-to-face adults 18 plus
Languages:	Arabic
Fieldwork dates:	March 19 – April 10, 2012
Sample size:	1,000
Margin of Error:	±4.2 percentage points
Representative:	Adult population
Country:	Tunisia
Sample design:	Multi-stage cluster sample stratified by governorate and proportional to population size and urban/rural population
Mode:	Face-to-face adults 18 plus
Languages:	Tunisian Arabic
Fieldwork dates:	March 22 – April 20, 2012
Sample size:	1,000
Margin of Error:	±3.9 percentage points
Representative:	Adult population
Country:	Turkey
Sample design:	Multi-stage cluster sample in all 26 regions (based on geographical location and level of development [NUTS 2]) and proportional to population size and urban/rural population
Mode:	Face-to-face adults 18 plus
Languages:	Turkish
Fieldwork dates:	March 20 – April 11, 2012
Sample size:	1,001
Margin of Error:	±5.2 percentage points
Representative:	Adult population

Pew Global Attitudes Project
2012 Spring Survey Topline Results
June 21, 2012 Release

Methodological notes:

- Survey results are based on national samples. For further details on sample designs, see Survey Methods section.
- Due to rounding, percentages may not total 100%. The topline “total” columns show 100%, because they are based on unrounded numbers.
- Not all questions included in the Spring 2012 survey are presented in this topline. Omitted questions have either been previously released or will be released in future reports.

		Q44d Now I'd like to ask your views about some additional political leaders. Please tell me if you have a very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or very unfavorable opinion of: d. Syrian President Bashar al-Assad					
		Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	DK/Refused	Total
Turkey	Spring, 2012	2	8	19	54	16	100
Egypt	Spring, 2012	5	6	36	48	5	100
Jordan	Spring, 2012	2	6	23	67	2	100
Lebanon	Spring, 2012	28	14	13	46	0	100
Tunisia	Spring, 2012	3	5	8	76	9	100

		Q121 Do you think Syrian President Bashar al-Assad should step down or not?			
		Yes, should step down	No, should not step down	DK/Refused	Total
Turkey	Spring, 2012	67	14	19	100
Egypt	Spring, 2012	89	10	1	100
Jordan	Spring, 2012	89	9	2	100
Lebanon	Spring, 2012	53	44	2	100
Tunisia	Spring, 2012	88	7	5	100

		Q122 ASK IF THINKS ASSAD SHOULD STEP DOWN: Would you approve or disapprove of tougher international economic sanctions on Syria to put pressure on President Assad to step down?				
		Approve	Disapprove	DK/Refused	Total	N=
Turkey	Spring, 2012	59	32	9	100	686
Egypt	Spring, 2012	55	43	2	100	892
Jordan	Spring, 2012	46	53	1	100	891
Lebanon	Spring, 2012	38	60	2	100	533
Tunisia	Spring, 2012	72	23	5	100	880

		Q123 ASK IF THINKS ASSAD SHOULD STEP DOWN: Would you approve or disapprove of Arab states intervening militarily in Syria to put pressure on President Assad to step down?				
		Approve	Disapprove	DK/Refused	Total	N=
Turkey	Spring, 2012	44	45	11	100	686
Egypt	Spring, 2012	53	45	2	100	892
Jordan	Spring, 2012	42	55	3	100	891
Lebanon	Spring, 2012	36	60	4	100	533
Tunisia	Spring, 2012	70	27	4	100	880

		Q124 ASK IF THINKS ASSAD SHOULD STEP DOWN: Would you approve or disapprove of Western countries intervening militarily in Syria to put pressure on President Assad to step down?				
		Approve	Disapprove	DK/Refused	Total	N=
Turkey	Spring, 2012	35	53	11	100	686
Egypt	Spring, 2012	12	87	0	100	892
Jordan	Spring, 2012	11	82	7	100	891
Lebanon	Spring, 2012	15	84	1	100	533
Tunisia	Spring, 2012	43	52	5	100	880