

MINIMAL IMPACT OF ZARQAWI'S DEATH

June 10-11, 2006

Despite the death of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the leader of Al Qaeda in Iraq, Americans do not yet see things as going well for the U.S. in its overall efforts in Iraq. His killing has done little to change Americans' expectations about future violence there, or terrorist threats against the U.S. However, there are indications that Americans may be more hopeful about the long term prospect for stability in Iraq.

Most other assessments of the war remain unchanged. And when it comes to opinions of President Bush himself, there has been little impact: the President's rating is now also being held down by concerns about immigration, high gas prices and renewed worries about the economy.

GEORGE W. BUSH

The President has realized no gain in his job approval rating as a result of the death of Zarqawi. It is not much changed from last month's rating in this poll. Now, one in three Americans approve of the job he is doing as President; 35% approved in mid-May.

BUSH'S JOB APPROVAL

	Now	5/2006
Approve	33%	35%
Disapprove	60	60

After Saddam's capture in December 2003, the President's approval rating rose from 52% to 58%. A couple of months later, however, it fell to 47%.

BUSH'S JOB APPROVAL IN 2003

	After Saddam's Capture	Before Saddam's Capture
Approve	58%	52%
Disapprove	33	40

Evaluations of President Bush's handling of the war in Iraq and terrorism also have not changed since last month. But the President's current low job approval rating may have as much to do with the poor evaluations he receives on handling domestic issues as with Iraq. Only 33% approve of the way he is handling the issue of immigration, down from 38% in May. His approval rating for handling the economy

remains at 33%, and while approval of his handling of gas prices has risen, it is still only 18%.

BUSH'S APPROVAL RATINGS

	Now	5/2006
War in Iraq	33%	31%
Terrorism	47%	46%
Immigration	33%	38%
Economy	33%	34%
Gas prices	18%	13%

Republicans remain the President's strongest supporters, with 74% approving, the same percentage as a month ago. Most Republicans also approve of his handling of the economy, the war in Iraq and terrorism. But 39% approve of his handling of gas prices, and only 52% approve when it comes to his handling of immigration.

The issue of immigration is also a concern among conservatives. Just 37% of conservatives approve of the way the President is handling immigration, down 11 points from 48% last month. But a majority of conservatives approve of the way the President is handling his job overall.

ZARQAWI'S DEATH

By the weekend, when the poll was conducted, most Americans had heard about the killing of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi by Iraqi and U.S. troops. Few expect his death to have a positive impact on the violence in Iraq, whether targeted against U.S. troops in Iraq or Iraqis themselves.

30% think the death of the terrorist leader in Iraq will actually increase attacks against U.S. troops in Iraq, and 22% say it will increase the terrorist threat against the U.S. Fewer say the risks will be reduced. Most Americans expect Zarqawi's death to have little impact on either. 50% say attacks against U.S. troops will not change, and even more, 61%, think the threat of terrorism against the U.S. will stay the same.

AS A RESULT OF KILLING ZARQAWI, THE FOLLOWING THREATS WILL:

	Attacks on U.S. Troops	Terrorist Threat to U.S.
Increase	30%	22%
Decrease	16	13
Same	50	61

In December 2003, just after the capture of Saddam Hussein, Americans were also not convinced there would be major change. About half thought Saddam's capture would have no effect on attacks on U.S. troops in Iraq.

ATTACKS ON U.S. TROOPS WILL...

	After Zarqawi Death	After Saddam Capture
	Now	12/2003
Increase	30%	19%
Decrease	16	24
Same	50	52

Similarly, over half of Americans expect that violence against Iraqi civilians won't change as a result of Zarqawi's death. 62% think the sectarian violence among the different ethnic groups in Iraq will stay the same.

AS A RESULT OF KILLING ZARQAWI, THE FOLLOWING THREATS WILL:

	Attacks on Iraqis	Fighting among Iraqi ethnic groups
Increase	24%	17%
Decrease	18	16
Same	54	62

Americans are only slightly more hopeful that Zarqawi's death may lead Iraq to greater stability in general. 31% expect that will be the case. Still, 54% think his death will have no impact on Iraq's stability.

AS A RESULT OF KILLING ZARQAWI, IRAQ WILL BECOME:

More stable	31%
Less stable	10
No effect	54

But there are indications that more Americans have become more optimistic - at least when looking at the long term. A larger majority of Americans in the last few months believes the U.S. will ultimately find success in Iraq. Last month, 55% said it was likely, now 60% say it is.

LIKELIHOOD U.S. WILL SUCCEED IN IRAQ

	Now	5/2006	3/2006	1/2006
Very likely	19%	11%	15%	21%
Somewhat likely	41	44	36	42
Not very likely	24	29	31	24
Not at all likely	13	15	16	11

And looking ahead, Americans have slightly more positive prospects for the country eventually becoming a fully stable democracy. More than half say it eventually will be, though it will take a long time.

WILL IRAQ BECOME A STABLE DEMOCRACY?

	Now	4/2006	1/2006	12/2003
Yes, in next year or two	4%	6%	6%	7%
Yes, in more than a year or two	50	45	52	59
No	43	47	39	31

Most Americans have heard or read at least some about the killing of Zarqawi, including 41% who have heard or read a lot. But in the days following Zarqawi's death, 22% still say they have heard little or nothing.

The war still ranks ahead of the economy as the country's main concern in the minds of Americans, but the number who volunteer it when asked the number one problem is down from last month, perhaps another effect of the death of al-Zarqawi. Immigration and high gas prices remain issues, as is terrorism, generally. 5% cite terrorism, the same percentage who say President Bush himself is the country's biggest problem.

	MOST IMPORTANT PROBLEM		
	Now	5/2006	4/2006
War in Iraq	20%	28%	23%
Economy/jobs	12	15	12
Immigration	7	12	8
Gas and oil prices	6	6	13
Terrorism	5	5	3
The President	5	3	3

EVALUATING IRAQ

Americans still hold negative views of how the war is going, and whether or not it was the right thing to do. 55% say things are going badly for the U.S. in Iraq, nearly the same number that said so last month. An overwhelming number of Americans - 82% - describe what they see in Iraq right now as a civil war between Iraqis.

This lack of change is a marked difference from sentiments before and after Saddam Hussein's capture in December 2003. Right after the former dictator was found in his "spider hole," the percent who said things were going well for the U.S. in Iraq jumped from 47% to 65%. That fell within months to 37%, after disclosure of abuses at the Abu Ghraib prison, rose after the 2004 election, but has remained low since then.

	HOW ARE THINGS IN IRAQ GOING FOR U.S.?						
	Now	5/2006	2/2006	2/2005	5/2004	Saddam's Capture	
						After	Before
Well	43%	41%	36%	53%	37%	65%	47%
Badly	55	57	62	47	60	31	51

Americans are only marginally more likely now to think the U.S. is now winning in Iraq. Today only 34% say the U.S. is winning; 29% said so in March. Most - 55% - still call the war a stalemate.

WHO IS WINNING THE WAR IN IRAQ?

	Now	3/2006	1/2006	5/2004
The United States	34%	29%	36%	31%
Neither side	55	53	48	54
Iraqi resistance	9	12	9	10

As has been the case through much of the war, most Republicans say things are going well and that the U.S. is winning. Democrats and Independents say it is going badly, and the war is a stalemate.

As for the overall war on terrorism, fewer than half of Americans, 43%, think the U.S. is winning that war. That is a moderate improvement from last year, when 38% said the U.S. was winning, and nearly matches opinion in late 2004.

WHO IS WINNING THE WAR ON TERROR?

	Now	8/2005	11/2004
U.S.	43%	38%	44%
Neither side	42	39	38
Terrorists	11	15	12

A majority of Americans now say the Iraq war is part of the broader war on terror, a change since March, and matching opinion last December. 41% call it a major part of the war on terror, up from 35% in March, and another 13% call it a minor part.

IS IRAQ PART OF WAR ON TERROR?

	Now	3/2006	12/2005	11/2004	5/2003
Yes, major part	41%	35%	41%	34%	51%
Yes, minor part	13	11	12	9	14
No, separate	41	49	43	51	32

But the military success in eliminating Iraq's top terrorist has not had an impact on Americans' views about how long troops should stay in Iraq. The nation remains divided on this, with 48% saying troops should stay as long as it takes to stabilize Iraq, and 46% saying leave as soon as possible.

When Americans look back on the decision to go to war, over half still say it was the wrong thing -- that the U.S. should have stayed out of Iraq. 51% say so now; 53% said so last month.

DID U.S. DO THE RIGHT THING GOING TO WAR WITH IRAQ?

	Now	5/2006	3/2006
Should have stayed out	51%	53%	54%
Right thing	44	43	41

When given the option, one in four Americans say the U.S. was right to remove Saddam Hussein but then should have left Iraq right afterward. 39% say it was right to both remove Saddam and try to rebuild the

country, as the U.S. has done. 35% say the U.S. should have stayed out altogether. These feelings are unchanged from last April.

Most Americans, 62%, continue to say the results of the war have not been worth their costs. In March 70% said so.

EVALUATING THE ECONOMY

Although there was good news from Iraq last week, at home Americans face an economy they now believe is in bad shape - a sharp change from last month. The declining stock market (the Dow Jones industrial average dropped 350 points in one week), increasing interest rates, and general softening in the economy, along with high gas prices, appear to have affected Americans. Today 47% say the economy is doing well; last month most, 53%, said it was.

RATING THE NATIONAL ECONOMY

	Now	5/2006	4/2006
Good	47%	53%	57%
Bad	53	46	41

And many Americans think the economy - which had been a bright spot for this Administration -- is not only bad, but getting worse. 45% said it is headed downward, while 43% say it is staying the same and only 11% say it is getting better. Last month, perhaps foretelling the worsened ratings today, 47% said it was getting worse.

And Americans continue to say the nation is on the wrong track: 69% think so. This is about the same as last month, when 70% thought so.

DISMAY WITH CONGRESS

Congressional job approval remains low, at 26%, where it was last month. Republicans, whose party controls both houses of Congress, disapprove of its performance even more than Democrats. 62% of Republicans disapprove today; 56% of Democrats do. 62% of Independents also disapprove. From April until now, as the immigration debate has heated up, Republican ratings of Congress have been as poor as Democrats'.

CONGRESS' JOB APPROVAL

	Total	Rep.	Dem.	Ind.
Approve	26%	26%	28%	23%
Disapprove	60	62	56	62

IRAN

More Americans today than last month view Iran as a threat that requires military action now, although this remains a minority view. Still, 21% say that now. A majority continues to say Iran can be dealt with through diplomacy. Just 19% say Iran is not a threat.

IRAN IS...

	Now	5/2006	4/2006
A threat requiring military action now	21%	11%	18%
A threat that can be contained via diplomacy now	55	58	58
Not a threat to the U.S. now	19	22	16

This poll was conducted among a nationwide random sample of 659 adults, interviewed by telephone June 10-11, 2006. The error due to sampling for results based on the entire sample could be plus or minus four percentage points. Error for subgroups may be higher.

CBS NEWS POLL
Minimal Impact of Zarqawi's Death
June 10-11, 2006

q1 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as President?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **				
	*** Party ID ***				
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	May06b
	%	%	%	%	%
Approve	33	74	6	26	35
Disapprove	60	21	87	65	60
DK/NA	7	5	7	9	5

q2 Do you feel things in this country are generally going in the right direction or do you feel things have pretty seriously gotten off on the wrong track?

					May06a
Right direction	27	55	6	23	23
Wrong track	69	36	93	72	70
DK/NA	4	9	1	5	7

q3 What do you think is the most important problem facing this country today?

					May06b
War in Iraq	20	18	29	14	28
Economy/jobs	12	6	12	15	15
Immigration	7	14	5	4	12
Gas/Heating Oil Crisis	6	7	5	7	6
The President/G.W. Bush	5	0	5	9	3
Terrorism (general)	5	8	4	3	5
Poverty / Homelessness	3	3	2	4	1
Education	3	2	3	4	1
Health Care	3	2	4	3	4
Attn. to domestic affairs	3	1	3	5	1
Politicians/Government	3	4	1	3	1
Environment	2	2	2	3	2
Foreign Policy	2	4	2	1	2
Religious Values	2	2	2	1	0
Moral Values/Family Values	2	5	1	1	1
Budget Deficit/Nat'l Debt	2	0	4	2	0
Crime	2	3	0	2	0
Other	4	6	1	7	14
DK/NA	6	8	5	4	4

q4 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the economy?

Approve	33	67	14	25	34
Disapprove	59	22	82	66	57
DK/NA	8	11	4	9	9

q5 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the situation with Iraq?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **				
	*** Party ID ***				
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	May06b
	%	%	%	%	%
Approve	33	71	9	27	31
Disapprove	61	24	85	67	64
DK/NA	6	5	6	6	5

q6 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the campaign against terrorism?

Approve	47	79	26	41	46
Disapprove	46	16	67	50	47
DK/NA	7	5	7	9	7

q7 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the issue of gasoline prices?

Approve	18	39	6	12	13
Disapprove	71	44	89	75	79
DK/NA	11	17	5	13	8

q8 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the issue of immigration?

Approve	33	52	24	26	38
Disapprove	56	39	67	59	53
DK/NA	11	9	9	15	9

q9 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Congress is handling its job?

Approve	26	26	28	23	26
Disapprove	60	62	56	62	59
DK/NA	14	12	16	15	15

q10 Which comes closer to your opinion--Iran is a threat to the United States that requires military action now, Iran is a threat that can be contained with diplomacy now, or Iran is not a threat to the United States at this time?

					May06a
Threat requiring action now	21	30	17	17	11
Threat that can be contained	55	54	56	55	58
Not a threat at this time	19	11	24	21	22
Don't know/No answer	5	5	3	7	9

q11 FOR FUTURE RELEASE

q12 Do you think the result of the war with Iraq was worth the loss of American life and other costs of attacking Iraq, or not?

					Mar06a
Worth it	33	69	10	28	25
Not worth it	62	26	86	67	70
DK/NA	5	5	4	5	5

q13 How would you rate the condition of the national economy these days? Is it very good, fairly good, fairly bad, or very bad?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **					
*** Party ID ***					
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	May06a
	%	%	%	%	%
Very good	6	11	2	5	6
Fairly good	41	68	24	35	47
Fairly bad	33	16	43	36	31
Very bad	20	5	29	23	15
DK/NA	0	0	2	1	1

q14 Do you think the economy is getting better, getting worse, or staying about the same?

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	May06a
Better	11	20	5	9	14
Worse	45	23	58	51	47
Same	43	54	37	39	39
DK/NA	1	3	0	1	0

q15 Looking back, do you think the United States did the right thing in taking military action against Iraq, or should the US have stayed out?

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	May06b
Right thing	44	76	22	40	43
Stayed out	51	21	72	54	53
Don't know/No answer	5	3	6	6	4

q16 How would you say things are going for the US in its efforts to bring stability and order to Iraq? Would you say things are going very well, somewhat well, somewhat badly, or very badly?

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	May06b
Very well	5	13	0	3	5
Somewhat well	38	59	18	41	36
Somewhat badly	33	24	41	31	29
Very badly	22	4	37	22	28
Don't know/No answer	2	0	4	3	2

q17 Should the United States troops stay in Iraq as long as it takes to make sure Iraq is a stable democracy, even if it takes a long time, or should U.S. troops leave Iraq as soon as possible, even if Iraq is not completely stable?

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Apr06a
Stay as long as it takes	48	73	31	44	47
Leave as soon as possible	46	20	64	48	47
DK/NA	6	7	5	8	6

q18 Regardless of whether you think taking military action in Iraq was the right thing to do--would you say that the U.S. is very likely to succeed in Iraq, somewhat likely to succeed, not very likely to succeed, or not at all likely to succeed in Iraq?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	May06a
	%	%	%	%	%
Very likely	19	37	7	16	11
Somewhat likely	41	47	37	41	44
Not very likely	24	11	37	23	29
Not at all likely	13	3	17	18	15
Don't know/No answer	3	2	2	2	1

q19 Which comes closer to your view about the Iraq war: 1. The U.S. was right to remove Saddam Hussein AND stay in Iraq to help build a new government there; 2. The U.S. was right to remove Saddam Hussein, but then should have left Iraq soon after that, or 3. The U.S. should never have gotten involved in Iraq in the first place.

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Apr06b
Right to remove and stay	39	75	14	34	36
Remove Saddam and left after	25	13	31	28	28
Never gotten involved	35	11	53	35	33
DK/NA	1	1	2	3	3

q20 Which of these do you think is most likely?...1. Iraq will become a stable democracy in the next year or two. 2. Iraq will become a stable democracy, but it will take longer than a year or two. 3. Iraq will probably never become a stable democracy.

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Apr06a
Will in the next year or two	4	8	1	5	6
Will, but will take longer	50	66	42	45	45
Will never become a democracy	43	23	55	47	47
Don't know/No answer	3	3	2	3	2

q21 Who do you think is currently winning the war in Iraq -- the United States, or the Iraqi resistance and insurgents, or neither side?

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Mar06a
The U.S.	34	62	16	28	29
Iraqi resistance	9	4	13	9	12
Neither side	55	31	70	60	53
Don't know/No answer	2	3	1	3	6

q22 Do you think of the war in Iraq as part of the war on terrorism, or do you think of it as separate from the war on terrorism? IF PART OF WAR ON TERROR, ASK: Is that a major part of the war on terrorism, or a minor part of the war on terrorism?

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	
Major part of war on terror	41	69	19	42	35
Minor part of war on terror	13	13	15	11	11
No part	41	15	63	40	49
Don't know/No answer	5	3	3	7	5

q23 Who do you think is currently winning the war against terrorism -- the United States and its allies, neither side, or the terrorists?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **				Aug05b
	*** Party ID ***				
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	
	%	%	%	%	%
The U.S. and its allies	43	68	29	39	38
Neither side	42	25	51	48	39
Terrorists	11	4	18	11	15
DK/NA	4	3	2	2	8

q24 Would you say there is a civil war going on in Iraq among different groups of Iraqis right now, or not?

					Apr06a
Yes	82	71	92	81	78
No	12	22	5	13	18
Don't know/No answer	6	7	3	6	4

q28 The United States military has killed Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the terrorist leader in Iraq. How much have you heard or read about this --a lot, some, not much, or nothing at all?

A lot	41	46	43	36
Some	36	35	38	35
Not much	16	13	16	20
Nothing at all	6	5	3	9
DK/NA	0	1	0	0

q29 Now that al-Zarqawi has been killed, do you think the attacks against civilians in Iraq will increase, decrease, or stay about the same?

Increase	24	18	28	23
Decrease	18	24	12	20
Stay same	54	54	57	51
DK/NA	4	4	3	6

q30 Now that al-Zarqawi has been killed, do you think the attacks against U.S. troops in Iraq will increase, decrease, or stay about the same?

Increase	30	18	39	31
Decrease	16	23	9	17
Stay same	50	55	49	48
DK/NA	4	4	2	4

q31 As a result of the killing of al-Zarqawi, do you think the threat of terrorism against the United States will increase, decrease, or stay about the same?

Increase	22	16	32	18
Decrease	13	22	6	14
About the same	61	59	60	65
DK/NA	4	3	2	3

q32 Now that al-Zarqawi has been killed, do you think Iraq will probably become more stable, less stable, or won't his death have much affect on Iraq's stability?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
More stable	31	41	21	34
Less stable	10	7	15	7
No affect	54	47	59	56
DK/NA	5	5	5	3

q33 Now that al-Zarqawi has been killed, do you think the fighting among different ethnic groups in Iraq will increase, decrease, or stay about the same?

Increase	17	13	24	13
Decrease	16	21	13	16
Stay same	62	60	59	67
DK/NA	5	6	4	4

	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>	<u>WEIGHTED</u>
Total Respondents	659	
Total Republicans	196	192
Total Democrats	244	236
Total Independents	219	231