



Upswing Research & Strategy Survey Finds Near-Unanimous Opposition to Unconditional U.S. Military Aid to Israel

A recent [survey](#) by Upswing Research & Strategy shed light on the near-unanimous opposition to unconditional U.S. military aid to Israel, in addition to other noteworthy findings of American public opinion towards issues related to Israel and Palestine. The poll was conducted last month in September among 850 Democratic primary voters nationwide and aimed to uncover viewpoints on a host of pertinent subjects, with a particular focus on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the Democratic Party's top priorities. Some of the study's key findings included: 1) the aforementioned strong opposition to unconditional U.S. military aid to Israel, 2) support for categorizing military aid as defensive or offensive, 3) high levels of support for requiring countries (such as Israel) to meet basic human rights standards in order to receive U.S. foreign aid, 4) deeply unfavorable views towards Israel, Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu, and the pro-Israel lobby in the United States, 5) overwhelmingly favorable views towards Palestine, the United Nations, and humanitarian organizations, 6) a plurality of voters sympathizing more with Palestinians than Israelis, 7) a majority belief that Israel is committing genocide in Gaza, and 8) a majority belief that Israel has murdered journalists in Gaza to suppress negative reporting.

One of the survey's most significant findings was that unconditional military aid to Israel was opposed by close to all respondents. Only 8% expressed a belief that the United States should continue to send Israel unconditional military aid, while 86% contended that the U.S. should either stop sending aid altogether or at least halt offensive weaponry. The plurality of the poll's respondents to this question – just a few percentage points short of 50% at 46% – relayed strong opposition to Israel's actions in Gaza. This prompted them to support the notion of stopping U.S. aid entirely in light of Israel's egregious human rights violations. The findings are consistent with numerous polls since the onset of the Gaza War back in October 2023 which demonstrate a clear increase in opposition among the American public regarding unconditional U.S. military aid to Israel.

The Upswing Research & Strategy poll also uncovered highly unfavorable ratings for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, The American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) and the pro-Israel lobby in the United States, and Israel. Netanyahu's unfavorable ratings were particularly high at 74%, with a miniscule favorable rating of only 6%. AIPAC was viewed unfavorably by a margin of 24% (40% to 16%), Israel by 23% (50% to 27%), and the pro-Israel lobby in the U.S. by 38% (52% to 14%). On the flip side, 60% of respondents viewed Palestine favorably compared to only 13% who did not – a wide margin of 47%. The United Nations had extremely high favorability numbers as well – a 66% gap of 73% to 7%, while the humanitarian organization Doctors Without Borders was viewed favorably by nearly all respondents at a split of 82% favorable to just 3% unfavorable. The universally criticized humanitarian crisis in Gaza is certainly one of the major factors that has resulted in all of the respective favorable and unfavorable ratings being at the levels that they currently sit at.

Another notable survey finding was that a plurality of respondents – at a total figure of 47% – sympathized mostly with Palestinians over Israelis, while a slightly smaller percentage of 43% expressed that they have equal sympathy for both. Most telling, however, was the fact that only an incredibly small portion of 5% conveyed that most of their sympathy lied with Israelis. The 42% gap between the “mostly for the Palestinians” percentage compared to the “mostly for the Israelis” percentage is substantial and shows the extent to which Israel's widely condemned

actions in Gaza have altered perceptions towards Palestinians and Israelis, respectively. In addition to this huge margin, it is also revealing that the “mostly for the Palestinians” figure even surpasses that of the one for “equal sympathy” – further demonstrating the immense level of outrage at Israel’s War on Gaza and the sense of injustice regarding the state of affairs surrounding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Finally, it was uplifting to see that most survey respondents acknowledged Israel’s murdering of journalists in Gaza for what it clearly was: a blatant attempt to suppress truthful reporting regarding the heinous Israeli war crimes and human rights violations taking place on the ground there. In doing so, an overwhelming majority of the voters polled rejected the long debunked Israeli government claim that the journalists were tied to Hamas and that the group uses Palestinians as “human shields.” 60% of respondents conveyed their belief that Israel murdered journalists in Gaza because they do not want the world to see reporting about their actions in Gaza, compared to only 15% who subscribed to the aforementioned refuted Israeli propaganda. Israel’s unprecedented killing of journalists in Gaza, in conjunction with its refusal to allow foreign reporters to have independent access to document what is transpiring in the Palestinian territory, has exposed the Israeli government’s deliberate efforts to censor coverage of its crimes there – something that is clearly reflected in the Upswing Research & Strategy poll’s results on the issue of the killing of journalists in Gaza.