

A Special TNS opinion OmniBus Report

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The
Middle East
Crisis

tns opinion

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Main Findings

According to public opinion, the Israeli military intervention in Lebanon was unjustified

The majority of people interviewed in the three main European countries (Germany, France and the UK) consider that Israel's military intervention in Lebanon in order to fight Hezbollah was unjustified. Americans share the opposite view. These are the main findings of a study conducted by TNS opinion amongst more than 4000 persons, just one day before the adoption of a UN resolution for a cease fire in the region.¹

Out of the four countries covered by this study, the French appear to be the most critical (66% do not agree with the statement proposed). An even more striking fact is that more than one in three respondents in France found this military intervention totally unjustified (37%). A clear majority of Germans come to the same conclusion (65% respond "unjustified"), reinforcing the majority point of view measured in France. In the UK, the balance is similar (46% believe that this action was not justified compared to 24% who hold the opposite view), though a significant proportion of the respondents do not want to take a stance in the debate (29% chose either the "do not know" option or simply refused to answer).

The military intervention of Israel in Lebanon to fight against Hezbollah was justified.



USA



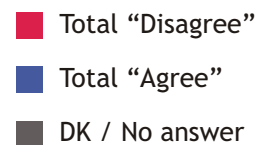
UK



Germany



France



¹ This study was conducted between August 10th and 13th 2006, in Germany, France, the UK and the USA. All national samples are representative of the population aged 15 and over (18 and over in the UK & the USA) living in each respective country.

Main Findings

These results seem to indirectly indicate that a significant proportion of public opinion in these countries consider that Israel has gone too far in its response to the kidnapping of two Israeli soldiers by the Hezbollah. In other words, this action was felt to be disproportionate, hence unjustified.

The state of opinion in the USA is quite different from that measured in the three main European countries. Indeed, 45% of Americans support Israel's decision to intervene against Hezbollah in Lebanon (34% find it unjustified).

Conducted just one day before the implementation of the cease fire, the survey also indicates that respondents consider that continuation of the Israeli intervention in Lebanon would not have lead to an effective fight against Hezbollah. 69% in Germany (vs. 19%), 69% in France (vs. 26%), 47% in the UK (vs. 21%) share this opinion. Americans are clearly divided on this question: while 40% consider that continuation of the Israeli military intervention could be successful, 37% believe the contrary.

All in all, these results also seem to underline the perception of limited success in the Israeli operation in Lebanon. The recent adoption of the 1701 UN resolution seems to reply to the wish expressed in many countries to see a cease fire being implemented in the region.

The continuation of Israel's military intervention in Lebanon will enable an effective fight against Hezbollah.



USA



UK



Germany



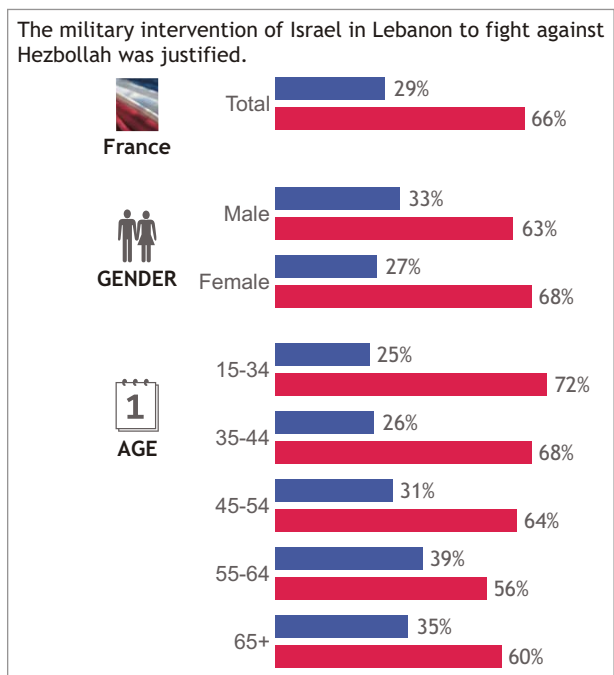
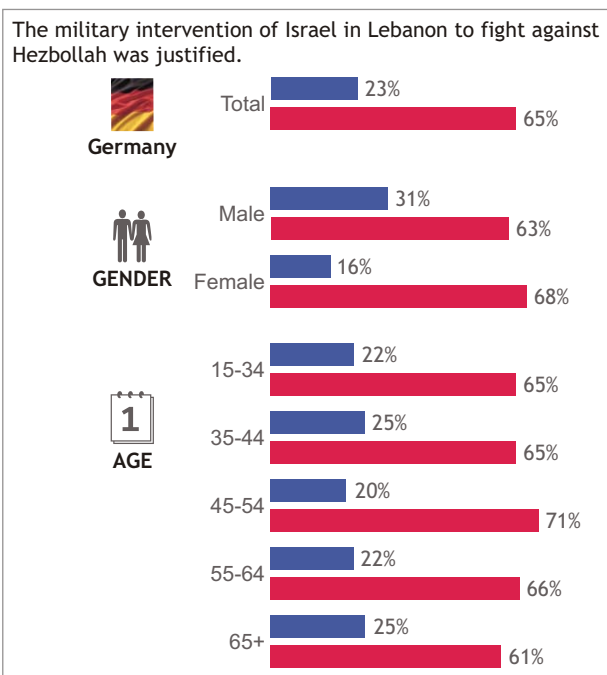
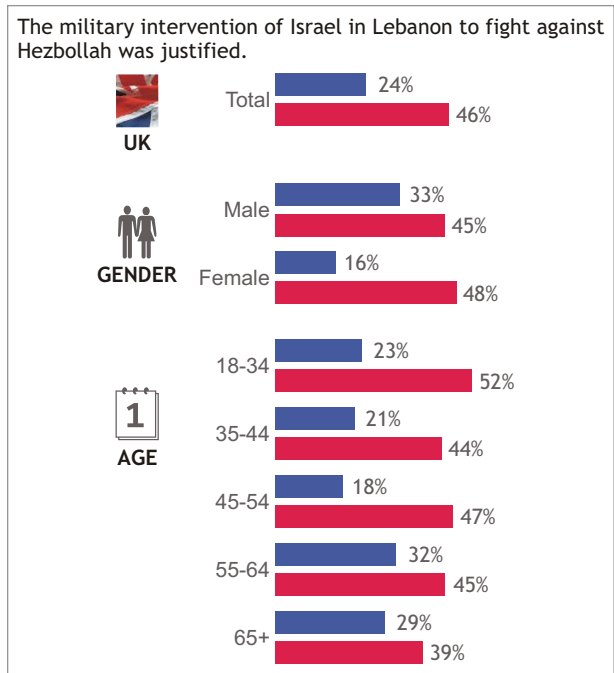
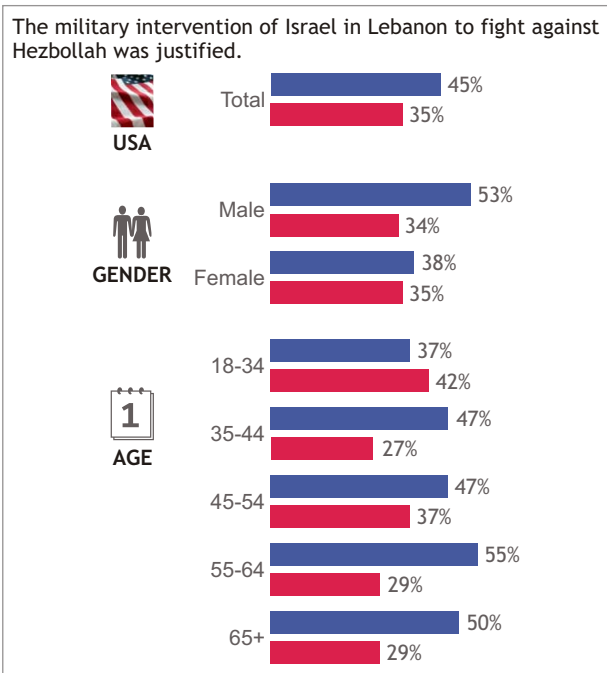
France



- Total "Disagree"
- Total "Agree"
- DK / No answer

Main Findings

Finally, the study also shows that in all countries surveyed men tend to be a little bit more inclined to support Israel's decision than women. On the contrary, the younger the respondent, the more they tend to criticise this military intervention in Lebanon.



■ Total "Agree" ■ Total "Disagree"

Methodological Note

The interviews were conducted between the 11/08/2006 and the 13/08/2006 by TNS Opinion network of partner institutes in the following countries:

Country	Method	#Int.	Fieldwork
Germany	Telephone	1002	11-12/08/2006
France	Telephone	1007	10-11/08/2006
United Kingdom	Telephone	1006	11-13/08/2006
United States	Telephone	1052	10-13/08/2006

Each national sample is representative of the population aged 15 years and older.

The sample sizes amount to approximately 1,000 respondents in each Country.

About TNS opinion

TNS opinion is a coordination centre for international studies based in Brussels. TNS opinion conducts both quantitative and qualitative multi-country surveys. Being part of the TNS group, TNS opinion can conduct surveys in more than 110 different countries.

This study was carried out using TNS opinion's international omnibus survey. German and French version of the results are available upon request.

For more information about the company, www.tns-opinion.com or contact TNS opinion at tns@tns-opinion.com

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The justification of the intervention

Question: Concerning the current conflict between Israel and Hezbollah in Lebanon, tell me whether you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

Option: The military intervention of Israel in Lebanon to fight against Hezbollah was justified.

	Germany	France	UK	USA
Total "Agree"	23%	29%	24%	45%
Fully agree	7%	6%	9%	22%
Tend to agree	16%	23%	15%	23%
Total "Disagree"	65%	66%	46%	35%
Fully agree	30%	29%	21%	17%
Tend to agree	35%	37%	25%	18%
DK / No Answer	12%	5%	30%	20%

Question: Concerning the current conflict between Israel and Hezbollah in Lebanon, tell me whether you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

Option: The military intervention of Israel in Lebanon to fight against Hezbollah was justified.

	Germany			France			UK			USA		
	Total "Agree"	Total "Disagree"	Don't know No answer	Total "Agree"	Total "Disagree"	Don't know No answer	Total "Agree"	Total "Disagree"	Don't know No answer	Total "Agree"	Total "Disagree"	Don't know No answer
TOTAL	23%	65%	12%	29%	66%	5%	24%	46%	30%	45%	35%	20%

GENDER

Male	31%	63%	6%	33%	63%	4%	33%	45%	22%	53%	34%	13%
Female	16%	68%	16%	27%	68%	5%	16%	48%	36%	38%	35%	27%

AGE

15-34*	22%	65%	13%	25%	72%	3%	23%	52%	25%	37%	42%	21%
35-44	25%	65%	10%	26%	68%	6%	21%	44%	35%	47%	27%	26%
45-54	20%	71%	9%	31%	64%	5%	18%	47%	35%	47%	37%	16%
55-64	22%	66%	12%	39%	56%	5%	32%	45%	23%	55%	29%	16%
65+	25%	61%	14%	35%	60%	5%	29%	39%	32%	50%	29%	21%

* 18-34 in the UK and the USA

The effectiveness of the intervention

Question: Concerning the current conflict between Israel and Hezbollah in Lebanon, tell me whether you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

Option: The continuation of Israel's military intervention in Lebanon will enable an effective fight against Hezbollah.

	Germany	France	UK	USA
Total "Agree"	19%	26%	21%	40%
Fully agree	5%	6%	9%	18%
Tend to agree	14%	20%	12%	22%
Total "Disagree"	69%	69%	47%	37%
Fully agree	33%	28%	21%	21%
Tend to agree	36%	41%	26%	16%
DK / No Answer	12%	5%	32%	23%

Question: Concerning the current conflict between Israel and Hezbollah in Lebanon, tell me whether you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

Option: The continuation of Israel's military intervention in Lebanon will enable an effective fight against Hezbollah.

	Germany			France			UK			USA		
	Total "Agree"	Total "Disagree"	Don't know No answer	Total "Agree"	Total "Disagree"	Don't know No answer	Total "Agree"	Total "Disagree"	Don't know No answer	Total "Agree"	Total "Disagree"	Don't know No answer
TOTAL	19%	69%	12%	26%	69%	5%	21%	47%	32%	40%	37%	23%

GENDER

Male	24%	68%	8%	25%	71%	4%	27%	51%	22%	44%	40%	16%
Female	14%	70%	16%	27%	68%	5%	15%	44%	41%	37%	33%	30%

AGE

15-34*	21%	67%	13%	25%	72%	3%	20%	51%	29%	39%	39%	22%
35-44	13%	78%	9%	27%	68%	5%	17%	47%	36%	34%	40%	26%
45-54	12%	76%	12%	26%	68%	6%	13%	49%	38%	42%	36%	22%
55-64	18%	66%	16%	28%	67%	5%	24%	52%	24%	48%	31%	21%
65+	26%	62%	12%	29%	66%	5%	31%	35%	34%	42%	34%	24%

* 18-34 in the UK and the USA