



## **Views of US Plans in Iraq**

### **MIDDLE EAST BACKGROUNDER**

#### **Egypt**

Of the 22 countries polled, Egypt has a large majority in favor of an immediate withdrawal of US-led troops from Iraq. They believe overwhelmingly, however, that the United States plans to have a permanent military presence there. More than nine out of 10 Egyptians (93%) say the US-led forces should pull out of Iraq in a year and a majority says this should be done immediately (58%). A mere seven percent prefers that the troops stay indefinitely. Sixty-eight percent also say they believe that the United States plans to have permanent military bases in Iraq, more than the other predominantly Muslim countries polled. Less than one-third (32%) feels that the United States will remove its forces once Iraq has stabilized.

#### **Israel**

A slight majority of Israelis—but smaller than in most countries—favors the United States withdrawing its forces from Iraq within a year. Another modest majority, however, thinks the United States instead intends to keep military bases there. Fifty-two percent of Israelis would like US-led troops to leave Iraq either gradually over 12 months (28%) or immediately (24%). However, a relatively large 40 percent says that these forces should remain until Iraq is stable. A majority of Israelis think the United States does not plan to leave Iraq; by a margin of 53 percent to 36 percent, they say that the US plans to keep permanent military bases there rather than pull all of its troops out once the country is stable.

#### **Turkey**

The Turkish public is among those most convinced that that the US troops should get out of Iraq immediately. It also has one of the highest percentages convinced that the United States actually intends to keep troops there permanently. Nearly four out of five (79%) in Turkey believe that the US-led troops should leave within a year, including 64 percent who say they should leave immediately and 15 percent who prefer a gradual departure over 12 months. Only 11 percent believe troops should stay until Iraq is stable. Nearly two-thirds of Turkish respondents think the United States plans permanent bases in Iraq; only 17 percent say they believe the US plans to remove all of its forces.

For more information on this poll, please see the Questionnaire/Methodology:  
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