

Terror in disfavor in Saudi poll

by UPI

WASHINGTON -- The vast majority of Saudi Arabian citizens oppose terrorism and have low regard for Al-Qaida and its leader, a Washington group's poll showed. Terror Free Tomorrow, an international public opinion research group, surveyed 1,004 Saudis in Arabic from Nov. 30-Dec. 5, and found 15 percent have a favorable view of Saudi exile and al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden. "I think that the people of Saudi Arabia have so overwhelmingly turned against bin Laden, al-Qaida and terrorism in general, that nine out of 10 of them look at all three unfavorably," the group's president, Ken Ballen, told CNN. When it came to support for two groups the United States considers terrorist organizations -- Lebanon's Hezbollah and the Palestinian Hamas movement -- support for them showed erosion, the report said. Hezbollah had 33 percent favorable responses and 42 percent unfavorable, while opinions on Hamas were more narrowly divided, with 37 percent favorable and 38 percent unfavorable, the poll said. The poll data carry a margin of error of 3 percentage points.

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