

9/11

# Americans Disagree with Iranian President on 9/11 “Fabrication”

*Two-thirds of respondents stand by the conclusions of the 9/11 Commission, which blamed al-Qaeda for the attacks.*

[NEW YORK – Mar. 17, 2010] – The recent suggestion by Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad that the 9/11 attacks were a “fabrication” is rejected by a large proportion of Americans, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found.

The online survey of a representative national sample of 1,007 Americans asked respondents to say whether they agreed or disagreed with a statement made by Ahmadinejad earlier this month.

Ahmadinejad stated on Mar. 6: “The Sept. 11 incident was a big fabrication as a pretext for the campaign against terrorism and a prelude for staging an invasion against Afghanistan.”

Respondents were shown the entire statement, but were not informed that the Iranian President himself had voiced those views. In all, 62 per cent of respondents disagree with the statement, 26 per cent of respondents agree with it, and 12 per cent are undecided.

Republicans (80%) are more likely to reject the statement than Independents (66%) or Democrats (55%).

## KEY FINDINGS

- **62% disagree with the notion that 9/11 was a “fabrication” and a pretext to invade Afghanistan**
- **67% believe 9/11 was an attack carried out by members of the al-Qaeda terrorist organization**
- **15% of respondents believe two allegations about 9/11 (controlled demolition at WTC, United 93 shot down) are credible**

Full topline results are at the end of this release.

*From March 9 to March 10, 2010, Angus Reid Public Opinion conducted an online survey among 1,007 American adults who are Springboard America panelists. The margin of error—which measures sampling variability—is +/- 3.1%. The results have been statistically weighted according to the most current education, age, gender and region Census data to ensure a sample representative of the entire adult population of the United States.*

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## **The 9/11 Commission**

In all, two-thirds of Americans (67%) agree with the commission that investigated the events of Sept. 11, 2001, which concluded that an attack was carried out by 19 hijackers who were members of the al-Qaeda terrorist organization, led by Osama bin Laden. Only 12 per cent of respondents reject the commission's findings, and one-in-five Americans (21%) are undecided.

Four-in-five Republicans (80%) stand by the commission's findings, while two-thirds of Democrats (66%) and Independents (65) concur.

## **Conspiracy Theories**

The survey asked respondents whether four things that have been said and written about the events of 9/11 are actually credible. Just 15 per cent of respondents think the collapse of the World Trade Center was the result of a controlled demolition, and the same proportion believe that United Airlines Flight 93, which crashed in Pennsylvania, was shot down.

In addition, 13 per cent of respondents think no airplane actually crashed at the Pentagon on Sept. 11, and six per cent claim that no airplanes crashed into the World Trade Center at all.

## **Analysis**

A majority of Americans are on the same side when it comes to 9/11, stating that the event was not a fabrication, that the conclusions of the 9/11 commission are correct, and that the conspiracy theories are not credible.

While one-in-four Americans believe 9/11 was a fabrication designed to facilitate the campaign against terrorism, the proportion of respondents who openly reject the conclusions of the 9/11 commission—and who find the conspiracy theories as credible—is far lower.

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### 9/11

Do you agree or disagree with this statement? – “The Sept. 11 incident was a big fabrication as a pretext for the campaign against terrorism and a prelude for staging an invasion against Afghanistan.”

Party ID				
	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Agree	26%	33%	11%	27%
Disagree	62%	55%	80%	66%
Not sure	12%	12%	10%	8%

### 9/11

The commission that investigated the events of Sept. 11, 2001 concluded that an attack was carried out by 19 hijackers who were members of the al-Qaeda terrorist organization, led by Osama bin Laden. Do you believe this is what actually happened on 9/11?

Party ID				
	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Yes	67%	66%	80%	65%
No	12%	13%	7%	12%
Not sure	21%	20%	12%	22%

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9/11			
Many things have been said and written about the events of 9/11. For each of the following statements, please say whether you deem them credible or not credible.			
	Credible	Not credible	Not sure
The collapse of the World Trade Center was the result of a controlled demolition	15%	74%	11%
United Airlines Flight 93, which crashed in Pennsylvania, was shot down	15%	62%	22%
No airplane actually crashed at the Pentagon on Sept. 11	13%	76%	11%
No airplanes crashed into the World Trade Center—the images seen on television were altered	6%	87%	7%

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*Angus Reid Public Opinion is a practice of Vision Critical—a global research and technology company specializing in custom online panels, private communities, and innovative online methods. Vision Critical is a leader in the use of the Internet and rich media technology to collect high-quality, in-depth insights for a wide array of clients. Dr. Angus Reid and the Angus Reid Public Opinion team are pioneers in online research methodologies, and have been conducting online surveys since 1995*

*Vision Critical is now one of the largest market research enterprises in the world. In addition to its five offices in Canada—located in Vancouver, Calgary, Regina, Toronto, and Montreal—the firm also has offices in San Francisco, Chicago, New York, London, Paris and Sydney. Its team of specialists provides solutions across every type and sector of research, and currently serves over 200 international clients.*

*Angus Reid Public Opinion polls are conducted using the Angus Reid Forum ([www.angusreidforum.com](http://www.angusreidforum.com)), Springboard America ([www.springboardamerica.com](http://www.springboardamerica.com)) and Springboard UK ([www.springboarduk.com](http://www.springboarduk.com)) online panels, which are carefully recruited to ensure representation across all demographic and psychographic segments of these populations. Panel members pass through rigorous screening and a double opt-in process ensuring highly motivated and responsive members. These premier online survey platforms present respondents with highly visual, interactive, and engaging surveys, ensuring that panel members provide thoughtful and reliable responses. Each survey is actively sampled and weighted to model that characteristics of the universe required and employs the latest in quality control techniques to ensure data validity.*

*Since 2006, Angus Reid has covered eight provincial elections in Canada—more than any other pollster in the country—and the results have accurately predicted the outcome of each of these democratic processes.*

*Angus Reid, the only public opinion firm to exclusively use online methods to follow the views of the electorate during the 2008 federal campaign, offered the most accurate prediction of the results of Canada's 40th election. More information on our electoral record can be found at:*  
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*More information on the way Angus Reid conducts public opinion research can be found at*  
<http://www.visioncritical.com/what-we-do/practices/angus-reid-public-opinion/>

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**For more information, please contact  
our spokesperson listed in the footnote.**

**Copies of this poll are available on our website:**  
<http://www.visioncritical.com/category/global-opinions-and-trends>

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