

## Israel-Gaza Ceasefire: In both Canada and US, firm majority say hostilities should end immediately

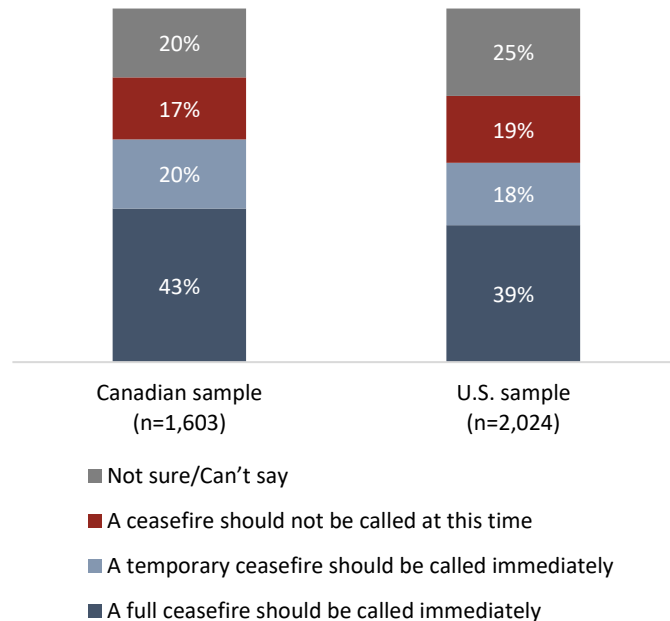
*Two-in-five say permanent ceasefire needed, one-in-five would pause fighting temporarily*

**June 6, 2024** – U.S. President Joe Biden made his strongest statement against the Israeli military action in Gaza to date last week when he called for an end to hostilities. His proposal for ceasefire was [quickly supported](#) by Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. In stating that it is [“time for this war to end”](#), Biden evidently reflects the views of many Canadians and Americans.

New data in a cross-border study from the non-profit Angus Reid Institute finds two-in-five in each of Canada and the United States supporting a full, immediate ceasefire, with another one-in-five saying that a temporary ceasefire is needed. A smaller number – approximately one-in-five in both countries – disagrees that any ceasefire should be called, while many in each country have no firm views.

With pressure [building internationally](#) on Israel to end its military offensive in Gaza, sympathy for the Palestinians is evidently growing. Compared to November, both Canadians and Americans are more likely now to say they sympathize primarily with the Palestinian. Canadians are divided nearly evenly, with 25 per cent saying they sympathize most with Israel, 27 per cent equally on both sides, and 28 per cent with the Palestinians (an increase of 10 points). In the U.S., 31 per cent say they feel more sympathy for Israelis, 27 per cent both sides, and 19 per cent the Palestinians (an increase of six points).

### When it comes to this conflict, what is your view?



### METHODOLOGY:

The Angus Reid Institute conducted an online survey from May 24-28, 2024 among a representative randomized sample of 1,603 Canadian adults who are members of [Angus Reid Forum](#). For comparison purposes only, a probability sample of this size would carry a margin of error of +/- 2 percentage points, 19 times out of 20. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding.

ARI conducted a second online survey from May 24-28, 2024 among a representative randomized sample of 2,024 American adults who are members of [Angus Reid Forum USA](#). For comparison purposes only, a probability sample of this size would carry a margin of error of +/- 2 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

Both surveys were self-commissioned and paid for by ARI. Detailed tables are found at the end of this release.

A growing sense that Israel's response has been "heavy handed" may be driving views of the conflict overall. Asked about this, U.S. opinion among respondents has flipped from plurality disagreement to

### CONTACT:

Shachi Kurl, President: 604.908.1693 [shachi.kurl@angusreid.org](mailto:shachi.kurl@angusreid.org) @shachikurl  
Dave Korzinski, Research Director: 250.899.0821 [dave.korzinski@angusreid.org](mailto:dave.korzinski@angusreid.org)  
Jon Roe, Research Associate: 825.437.1147 [jon.roe@angusreid.org](mailto:jon.roe@angusreid.org)

plurality agreement since November. In Canada, an eight-point increase in agreement has pushed this view into a majority (53 per cent agree).

### More Key Findings:

- Trump and Biden supporters disagree whether Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Minister of Defence Yoav Gallant should be charged with war crimes. Two-thirds of Biden supporters (65%) say yes, compared to just 29 per cent of would-be Trump voters. On the same question with respect to Hamas' leadership, the vast majority agree.
- Half of Canadian Jews in this survey support a ceasefire, whether permanent (28%) or temporary (22%). Two-in-five (42%) say this should not take place.
- Current Canadian Conservative Party supporters largely disagree that Israel's response has been too aggressive (54%). Those who say they would support the Liberals or New Democrats are overwhelmingly likely to say that it has been (68% and 77% agree, respectively).

### About ARI

*The **Angus Reid Institute (ARI)** was founded in October 2014 by pollster and sociologist, Dr. Angus Reid. ARI is a national, not-for-profit, non-partisan public opinion research foundation established to advance education by commissioning, conducting and disseminating to the public accessible and impartial statistical data, research and policy analysis on economics, political science, philanthropy, public administration, domestic and international affairs and other socio-economic issues of importance to Canada and its world.*

### INDEX

#### Part One: Majority say ceasefire needed; plurality say it should be permanent

- Two-in-five say full ceasefire should be called, similar support in Canada and U.S.

#### Part Two: Sympathies shift toward Palestinians as Israeli response questioned

#### Part Three: Should leaders be charged with war crimes?

#### Part Four: Majorities in both countries would recognize Palestinian state

---

### CONTACT:

Shachi Kurl, President: 604.908.1693 [shachi.kurl@angusreid.org](mailto:shachi.kurl@angusreid.org) @shachikurl  
Dave Korzinski, Research Director: 250.899.0821 [dave.korzinski@angusreid.org](mailto:dave.korzinski@angusreid.org)  
Jon Roe, Research Associate: 825.437.1147 [jon.roe@angusreid.org](mailto:jon.roe@angusreid.org)

## Part One: Majority say ceasefire needed; plurality say it should be permanent

The war in Gaza continues, eight months on from Hamas' terrorist attack on Israel that killed [at least 1,200 and saw Hamas kidnap more than 250 others](#). In recent weeks, [international pressure](#) on Israel to end its combat operations in the Gaza strip has increased as the death toll continues to rise. The Ministry of Health in Gaza – [part of the Hamas-run government](#) – estimates [more than 35,000 people](#) have died in Gaza since the war began, including both Hamas combatants and civilians.

In Canada, attention to the conflict remains high. At least three-quarters of Canadians have said they have been following the war in the news and discussing it with friends and family whenever the Angus Reid Institute have surveyed on the subject ([see detailed tables](#)).

A majority (64%) of Americans are also following the war closely ([see detailed tables](#)).

### Related:

- [Israel-Gaza: Canadians share sympathies with both sides in warzone, two-thirds call for ceasefire](#)
- [In Gaza-Israel conflict, sympathies now shared equally between both sides after shift in Canadian opinion](#)

### Two-in-five say full ceasefire should be called, similar support in Canada and U.S.

Last week, U.S. President Joe Biden said it was "[time for this war to end](#)", arguing the Israel's invasion of Gaza had weakened Hamas to the point where it was no longer able to carry out an attack on the same scale as the one on Oct. 7. The president said Israel had proposed a [three-phase deal](#) which included both a ceasefire and the release of hostages by Hamas. However, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has called the deal Biden released as "[incomplete](#)", disagreeing with [U.S. officials](#). Comments by Biden to Time magazine [insinuating that Netanyahu was extending the war for political gain](#) further increased tensions between Israel and the U.S., and cast further doubt on the likeliness of Israel accepting a ceasefire deal.

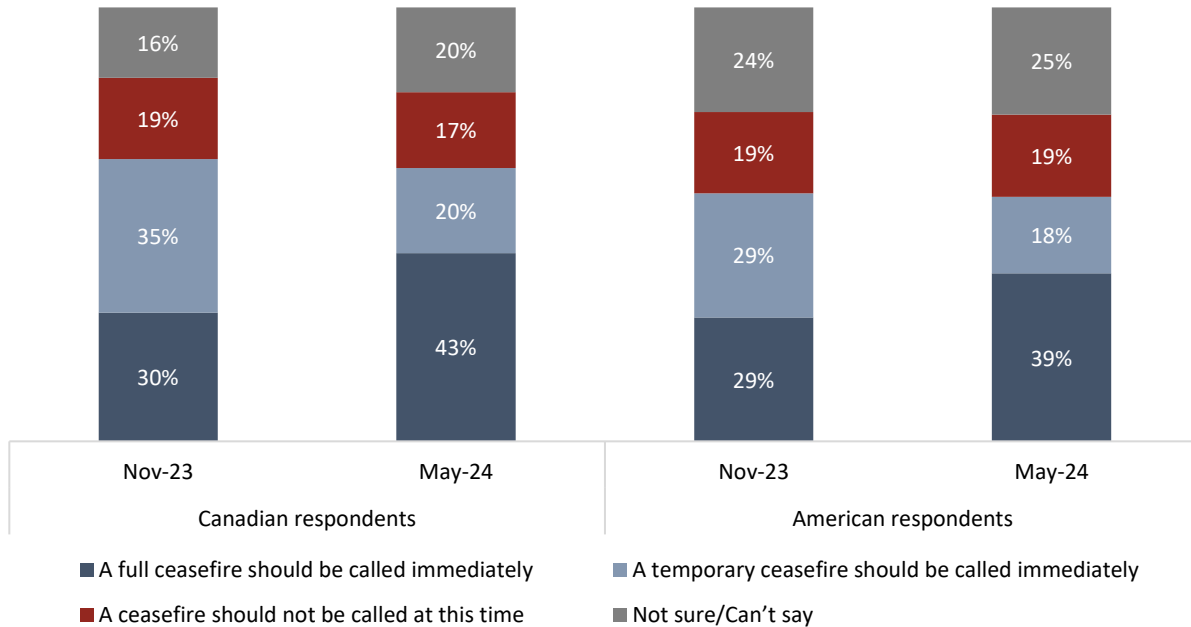
Public opinion appears to be shifting as the war continues. A majority of Canadians (63%) and Americans (57%) believe a ceasefire should be called, including at least two-in-five in both countries who believe the ceasefire should be lasting. In Canada, the proportion calling for a permanent ceasefire has increased by 13 points since November; in the U.S., by 10:

---

### CONTACT:

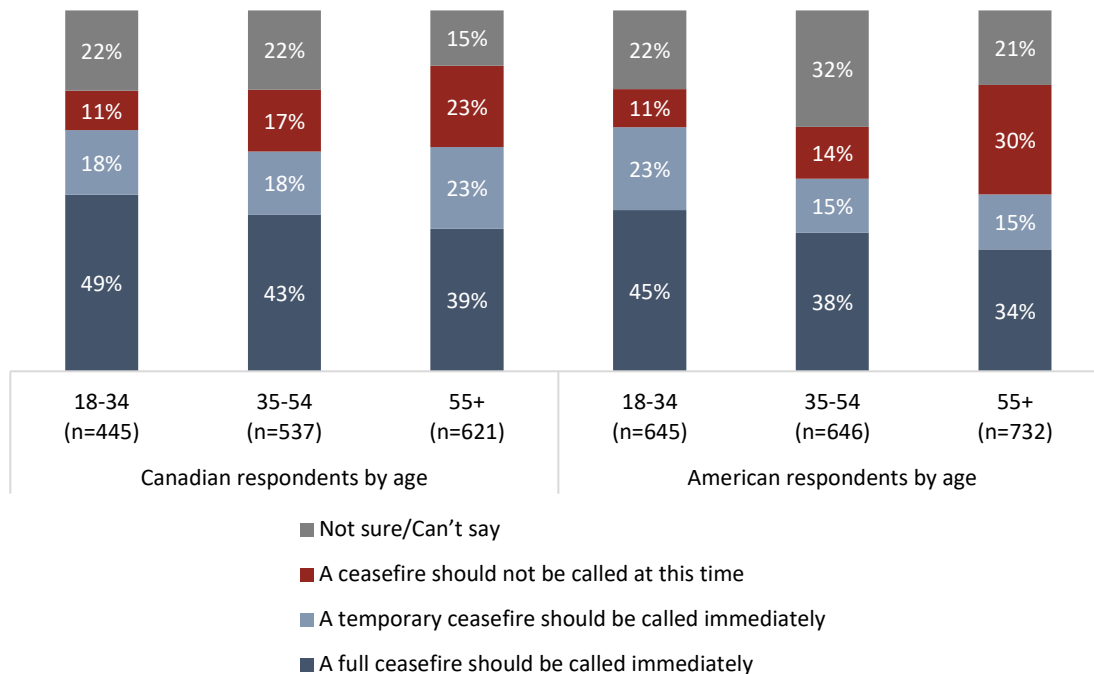
Shachi Kurl, President: 604.908.1693 [shachi.kurl@angusreid.org](mailto:shachi.kurl@angusreid.org) @shachikurl  
 Dave Korzinski, Research Director: 250.899.0821 [dave.korzinski@angusreid.org](mailto:dave.korzinski@angusreid.org)  
 Jon Roe, Research Associate: 825.437.1147 [jon.roe@angusreid.org](mailto:jon.roe@angusreid.org)

**When it comes to this conflict, what is your view?**



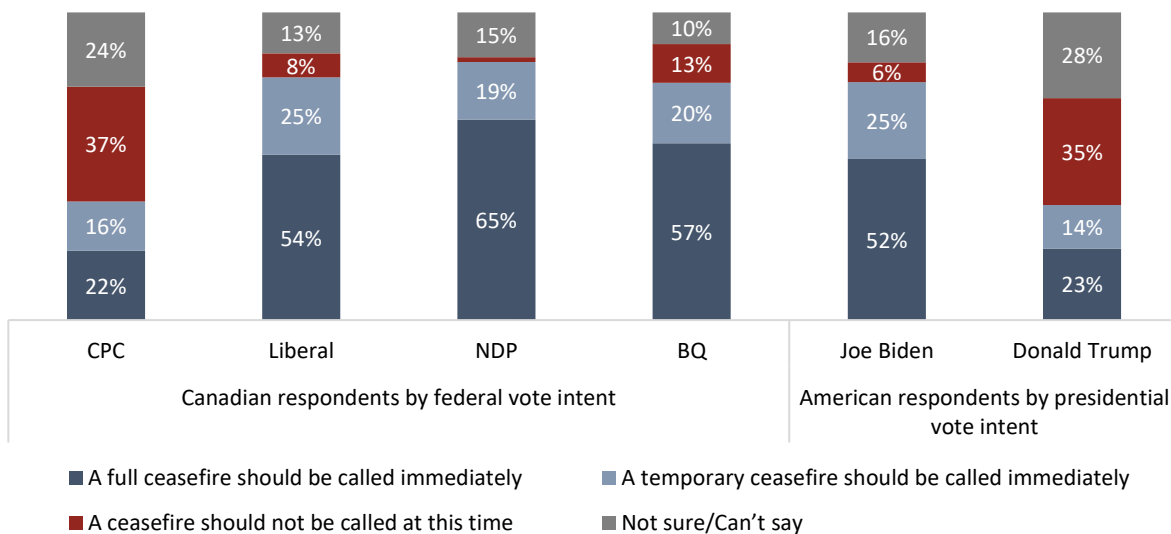
Age is a driving factor on both sides of the border of believe as to whether it is time for a cessation of hostilities. Younger adults in both countries are more likely to call for a full ceasefire. However, a majority of all Canadian and American age groups believe a ceasefire, temporary or full, should be implemented, with the exception of Americans older than 54, of whom only half (49%) say there should be a deal to end the conflict. Americans of that age are the most likely to say it is not time for a ceasefire:

**When it comes to this conflict, what is your view?**



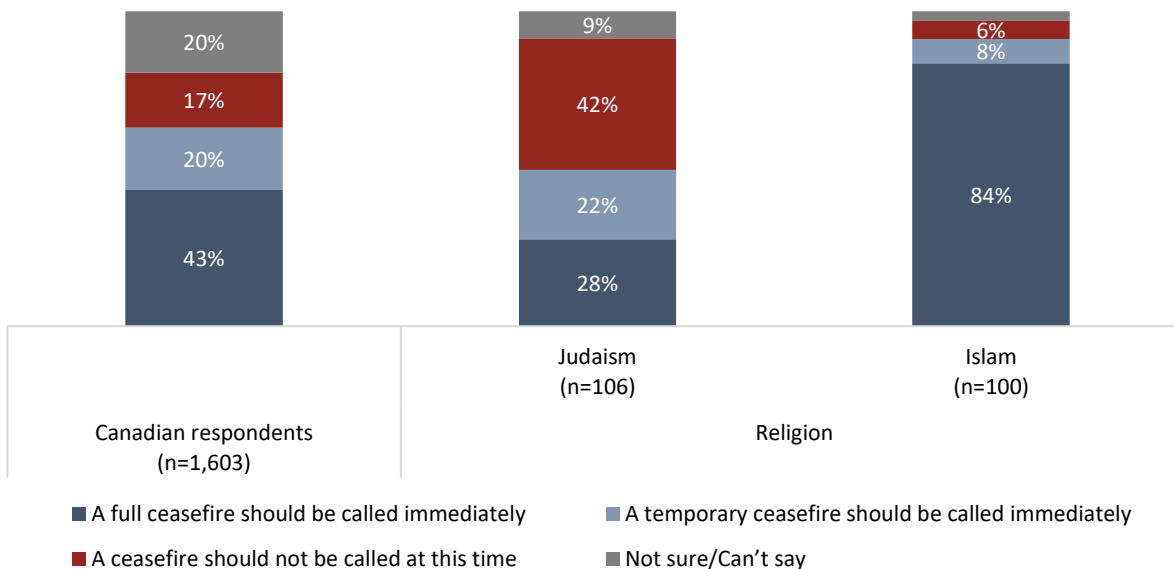
Canadians and Americans who say they would support right-of-centre options on the ballot if elections were held today in their respective countries are more divided on the issue than other likely voters. Nearly as many likely CPC voters believe a ceasefire should be called (38%) as not (37%); similarly, equal sized proportions of those who would vote for former U.S. President Donald Trump believe it is time for the fighting to stop (37%) as not (35%):

**When it comes to this conflict, what is your view?**



To explore the views of Jews and Muslims on this conflict, the Angus Reid Institute surveyed an additional sample of 100 or more Muslims and Jews in Canada. Canadian Jews lean towards believing some sort of ceasefire should be called (50%), but many – two-in-five (42%) – say it is not the time to end the conflict. Overwhelmingly, Canadian Muslims call for hostilities to end:

**When it comes to this conflict, what is your view?**

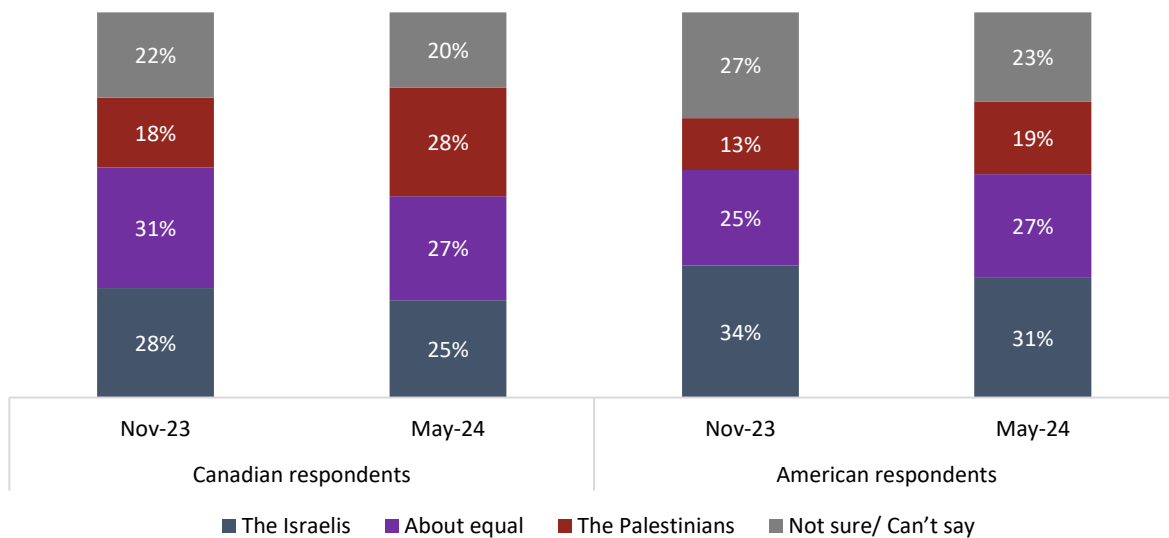


## Part Two: Sympathies shift toward Palestinians as Israeli response questioned

At the outset of the war, near-equal sized groups of Canadians said their sympathies were shared equally between both sides (31%) or were more with the Israelis (28%). One-in-five (18%) said they sympathised more with the Palestinians. Eight months on, Canadians' sympathies have shifted and are near-evenly divided between lying mostly with the Palestinians (28%), the Israelis (25%) or both sides (27%). This represents a 10-point gain in the proportion of Canadians who say they sympathize more with the Palestinians.

American sympathies now resemble Canadian sentiment from the outset of the war, which represents a shift, but one not as dramatic as that seen north of the border. In November, Americans who sympathised more with the Israelis outnumbered those who sympathized primarily with Palestinians by nearly three-to-one. The gap between those groups has decreased to 12-points:

### In the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, do your sympathies rest more with...?



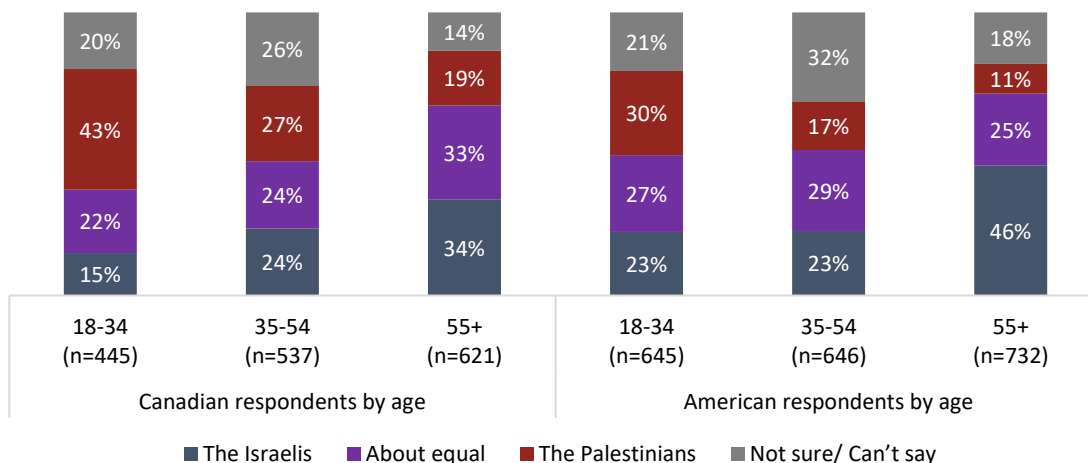
Sympathies vary by age in both countries with younger adults on both sides of the border saying they are more likely to sympathise with the Palestinians than the Israelis. However, in Canada, a plurality (43%) of 18- to 34-year-olds say they feel more affinity for the Palestinians, outnumbering the proportion in that age group who say their sympathies are even between both groups (22%) and lie more with the Israelis (15%) combined:

**Related:** [Generational divide over support for pro-Palestinian camps, length of time they can stay](#)

#### CONTACT:

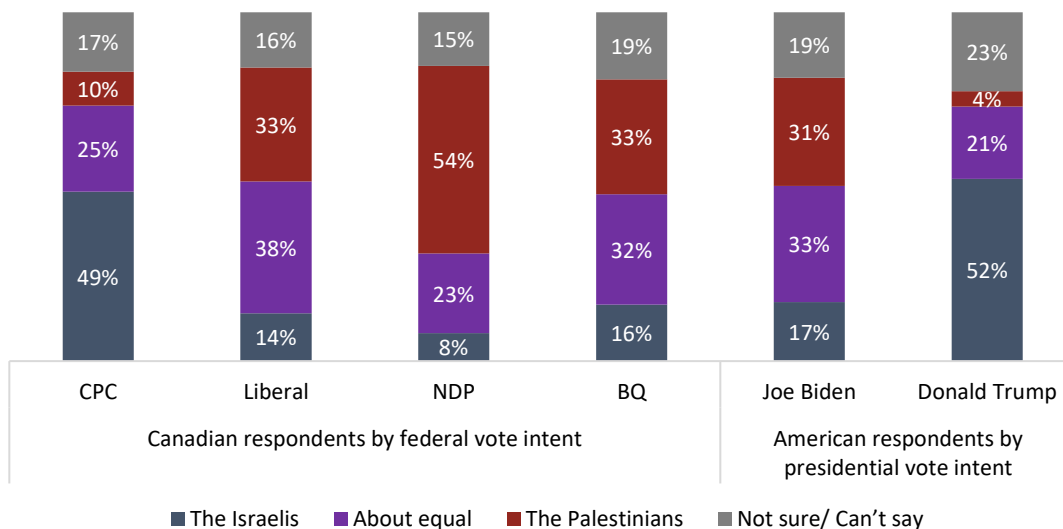
Shachi Kurl, President: 604.908.1693 [shachi.kurl@angusreid.org](mailto:shachi.kurl@angusreid.org) @shachikurl  
 Dave Korzinski, Research Director: 250.899.0821 [dave.korzinski@angusreid.org](mailto:dave.korzinski@angusreid.org)  
 Jon Roe, Research Associate: 825.437.1147 [jon.roe@angusreid.org](mailto:jon.roe@angusreid.org)

**In the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, do your sympathies rest more with...?**



Likely NDP voters are the only political grouping on either side of the border that say they feel more affinity for the Palestinians in this conflict at a majority level (54%). Americans who would vote for Donald Trump if the presidential election were today sympathise with the Israelis at a majority level (52%), while half (49%) of Canadians who would vote Conservative if a federal election were held say the same:

**In the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, do your sympathies rest more with...?**

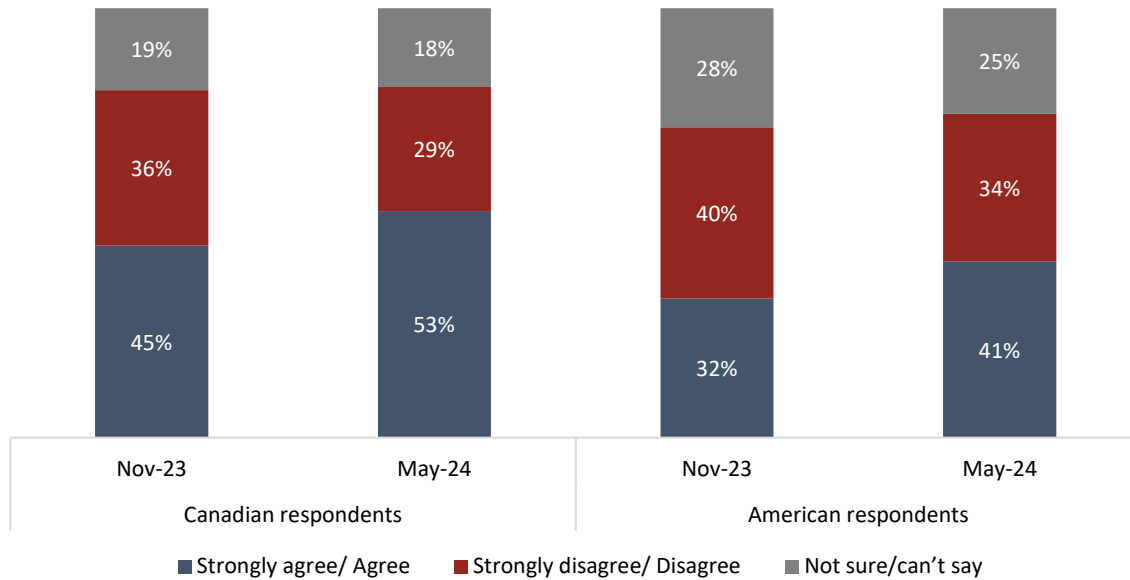


The shift in sympathies coincides with a growing view among Canadians and Americans that Israel's response to the Oct. 7 attack has been too heavy handed. In November, Canadians leaned towards believing that was the case, while Americans were more likely to disagree than agree. Now, a majority of Canadians (53%) and plurality of Americans (41%) agree that Israel's response has been disproportionate:

**CONTACT:**

Shachi Kurl, President: 604.908.1693 [shachi.kurl@angusreid.org](mailto:shachi.kurl@angusreid.org) @shachikurl  
 Dave Korzinski, Research Director: 250.899.0821 [dave.korzinski@angusreid.org](mailto:dave.korzinski@angusreid.org)  
 Jon Roe, Research Associate: 825.437.1147 [jon.roe@angusreid.org](mailto:jon.roe@angusreid.org)

Agree vs. disagree -  
"Israel's response to the Hamas attack has been too heavy handed"



Likely CPC voters and those who say they would vote for Trump if the presidential election were today disagree that Israel has responded too severely to the Oct. 7 terrorist attack at a majority level. A majority of all other groups of political supporters in both countries believe the response has been too heavy handed (see detailed tables for [Canada](#), [the U.S.](#)).

**Part Three: Should leaders be charged with war crimes?**

The International Criminal Court's prosecutor [said in May](#) the court was seeking arrest warrants for war crimes and crimes against humanity for Netanyahu, Israel's defence minister Yoav Gallant, and Hamas leaders Yahya Sinwar, Mohammed Diab Ibrahim al-Masri, and Ismail Haniyeh. The application is under review by ICC judges. Previously, the ICC had issued a similar warrant for Russian president Vladimir Putin after Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Neither Israel nor the United States are members of the ICC and do not recognize its authority.

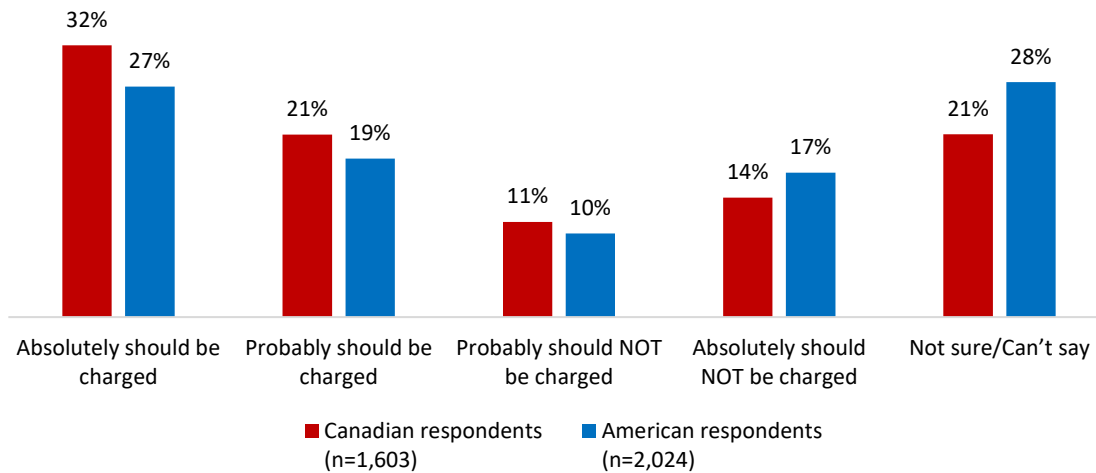
The ICC [accused](#) Netanyahu and Gallant of "causing extermination, causing starvation as a method of war, including the denial of humanitarian relief supplies, deliberately targeting civilians in the conflict." The Hamas leaders are accused of "extermination, murder, taking of hostages, rape and sexual assault in detention."

A majority (53%) of Canadians believe Netanyahu and Gallant should "absolutely" or "probably" be charged for war crimes. Americans, as well, are more likely to believe the Israeli leaders should be charged (46%) than not. There are sizable groups on both sides of the border that aren't sure (21% Canada, 28% U.S.):

**CONTACT:**

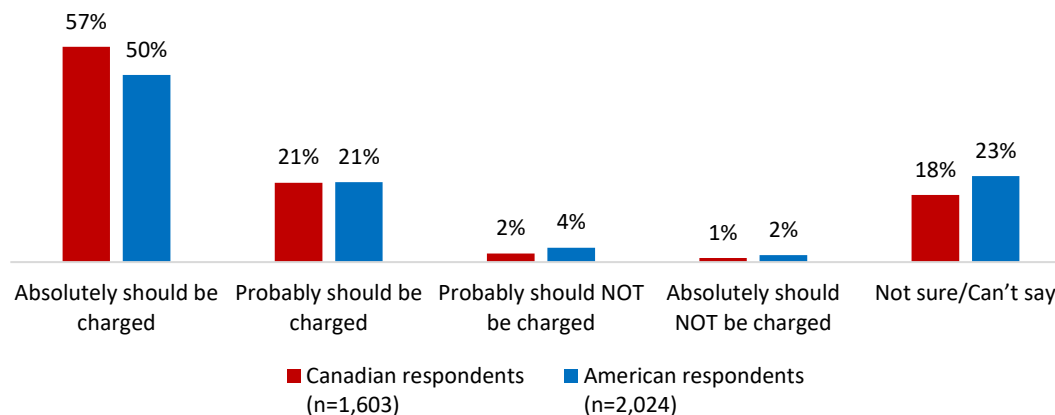
Shachi Kurl, President: 604.908.1693 [shachi.kurl@angusreid.org](mailto:shachi.kurl@angusreid.org) @shachikurl  
 Dave Korzinski, Research Director: 250.899.0821 [dave.korzinski@angusreid.org](mailto:dave.korzinski@angusreid.org)  
 Jon Roe, Research Associate: 825.437.1147 [jon.roe@angusreid.org](mailto:jon.roe@angusreid.org)

**Based on what you have read, seen, and heard, should the following be charged for alleged war crimes committed during the current conflict:  
Israeli leaders Netanyahu and Gallant**



There is much more consensus and certainty of belief among Americans and Canadians that senior Hamas leadership should be charged with war crimes for their actions beginning on Oct. 7 and throughout the war. A majority in Canada (57%) and half of Americans (50%) believe Sinwar, al-Masri and Haniyeh should “absolutely” be charged with war crimes, while a further one-in-five in both countries believe charges “probably” should be filed. Both nations recognize Hamas as [a terrorist organization](#).

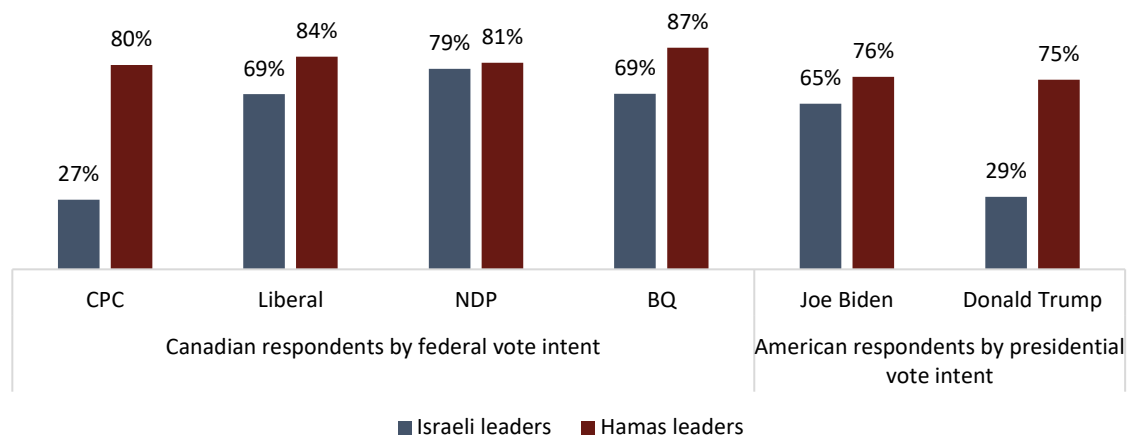
**Based on what you have read, seen, and heard, should the following be charged for alleged war crimes committed during the current conflict:  
Hamas leaders**



While there is broad agreement across political lines that Hamas leaders should be charged with war crimes, there is disagreement when it comes to the potential ICC charges filed against Israeli leadership. Fewer than three-in-ten likely CPC voters in Canada (27%) and Trump supporters in the U.S. (29%)

believe Netanyahu and Gallant should face charges. For all other political groups, at least two-thirds say the Israeli leaders should “probably” or “absolutely” be charged with war crimes:

**Percentage who believe the following should 'absolutely' or 'probably' be charged for alleged war crimes committed during the current conflict**



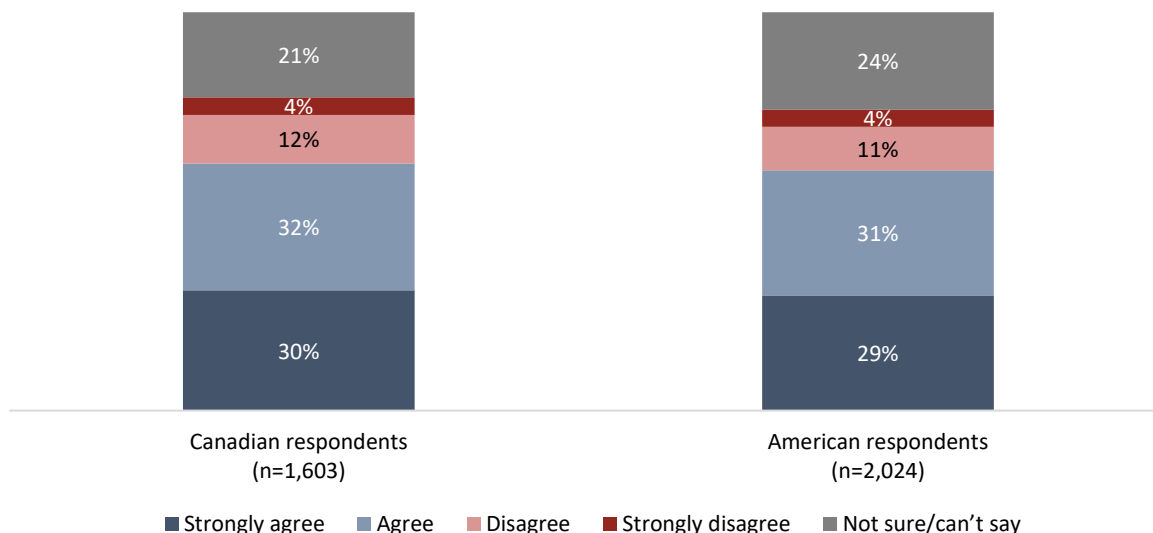
#### Part Four: Majorities in both countries would recognize Palestinian state

While most Canadians and Americans believe there is a need for a ceasefire, majorities also believe Hamas is a barrier to lasting peace in Israel. Though adults younger than 35 in both countries are more likely to disagree, at least two-in-five 18- to 34-year-olds in Canada (45%, [see detailed tables](#)) and half in the U.S. (50%, [see detailed tables](#)) believe peace in Israel will not happen with Hamas still in Gaza:

**CONTACT:**

Shachi Kurl, President: 604.908.1693 [shachi.kurl@angusreid.org](mailto:shachi.kurl@angusreid.org) @shachikurl  
 Dave Korzinski, Research Director: 250.899.0821 [dave.korzinski@angusreid.org](mailto:dave.korzinski@angusreid.org)  
 Jon Roe, Research Associate: 825.437.1147 [jon.roe@angusreid.org](mailto:jon.roe@angusreid.org)

Agree vs. disagree -  
"Peace in Israel is impossible as long as Hamas is still operating in Gaza"



Canada currently does not recognize Palestine as a state and moves towards official recognition have proven controversial. A motion filed by the NDP [in March](#) for Canada to officially recognize Palestine was passed in the House of Commons only after it was amended by the Liberals to instead say Canada would “work with international partners” to work “towards the establishment of the State of Palestine as part of a negotiated two-state solution.” It [nearly resulted](#) in Liberal MP Anthony Housefather leaving the party, as he argued the motion “rewards Hamas.” In May, Canada [abstained from a U.N. vote](#) granting new rights to Palestinian representatives.

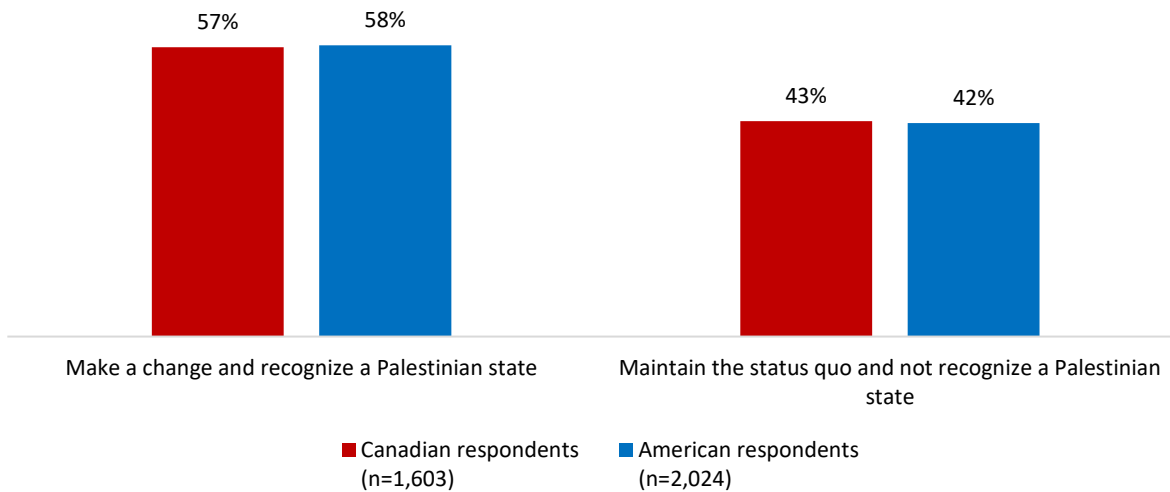
The U.S. also does not recognize an independent Palestinian state, but that could change when the war in Gaza ends, [according to reports in February](#). In the interim, the U.S. used its U.N. security council veto to block the U.N. from recognizing a Palestinian state by granting it full membership to the United Nations [in April](#).

In both countries, majorities say their governments should recognize an independent Palestinian state. Palestine state-recognition is opposed by a majority of likely CPC voters (69%, [see detailed tables](#)) and those who say they would vote for Trump if the presidential election were held today (65%, [see detailed tables](#)).

**CONTACT:**

Shachi Kurl, President: 604.908.1693 [shachi.kurl@angusreid.org](mailto:shachi.kurl@angusreid.org) @shachikurl  
 Dave Korzinski, Research Director: 250.899.0821 [dave.korzinski@angusreid.org](mailto:dave.korzinski@angusreid.org)  
 Jon Roe, Research Associate: 825.437.1147 [jon.roe@angusreid.org](mailto:jon.roe@angusreid.org)

Canada/The United States does not currently recognize a Palestinian state.  
Should the country you live in...



*For detailed results for Canadian respondents by age, gender, region, education, and other demographics, [click here](#).*

*For detailed results for American respondents by age, gender, region, education, and other demographics, [click here](#).*

**CONTACT:**

Shachi Kurl, President: 604.908.1693 [shachi.kurl@angusreid.org](mailto:shachi.kurl@angusreid.org) @shachikurl  
Dave Korzinski, Research Director: 250.899.0821 [dave.korzinski@angusreid.org](mailto:dave.korzinski@angusreid.org)  
Jon Roe, Research Associate: 825.437.1147 [jon.roe@angusreid.org](mailto:jon.roe@angusreid.org)