

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## WESTERN EUROPE, CANADA SEE AFGHANISTAN MISSION AS FAILURE

GLOBAL POLL: BRITAIN, FRANCE, ITALY, GERMANY, CANADA

- » Countries with troops in Afghanistan think war against militant groups has been unsuccessful
- » Canadians (49%) are less skeptical of mission than Britons (63%), French (63%), Italians (66%) and Germans (69%)
- » German adults over 55 (78%) are most displeased with Afghan mission

*For this global study, Angus Reid Strategies conducted online surveys among randomly selected, representative samples of adults in five countries:*

*Britain – 1,000 adults, conducted from Jul. 26 to Jul. 29, 2007*

*France – 1,000 adults, conducted from Jul. 26 to Jul. 28, 2007*

*Italy – 1,000 adults, conducted from Jul. 26 to Jul. 27, 2007*

*Germany – 1,000 adults, conducted from Jul. 26 to Jul. 28, 2007*

*Canada – 1,075 adults, conducted from Aug. 10 to Aug. 11, 2007*

*The margin of error for the total sample in each country is +/-3.1 %, 19 times out of 20. 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 each country. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding.*

[VANCOUVER – August 27, 2007] – Almost six years after the 9/11 attacks in the United States that led to the start of the global war on terrorism, most people in four European countries and Canada—all with troops serving in Afghanistan—are questioning the success of the military effort, according to a survey conducted by the Angus Reid Global Monitor in partnership with Angus Reid Strategies.

At least 49 per cent of respondents in Britain, France, Italy, Germany and Canada believe the mission of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) to root out global terrorism from its starting point in Afghanistan is a failure. The online survey of representative national samples of adults found that Germans are most skeptical about the effectiveness of the military effort (69%), while 22 per cent of Canadians deem it a success—the highest number across all nations. In all countries, men are generally more inclined than women to say the war has been effective so far.

People in Britain—the closest current U.S. ally in the war on terrorism—are not content with their engagement in Afghanistan, where at least 73 British soldiers have died. Only 21 per cent of male respondents in Britain think the effort to combat terrorists has been positive, while only 12 per cent of women agree. Respondents age 55 and older (69%) are the most prone to deem the Afghan mission a failure. Some Britons aged 18 to 34 (31%) are either uninformed about the mission or uncertain about its outcome.

France and Italy have similar responses in the survey. Around 62 per cent of respondents in all demographics agree that the war in Afghanistan is a failure. France has lost at least 10 soldiers serving with NATO, while Italy has lost nine. In France, older respondents (67%) are more likely to say the war has been a letdown. Men (65%) are more certain than women (60%). By contrast, younger respondents in Italy (69%) drive the negative views on the war in Afghanistan, and women (69%) are also more inclined to call it a failure than men (62%).

Germany has about 3,000 troops currently serving in Afghanistan, the third largest contingent in the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) led by NATO. At least 21 German soldiers have died so far, and the war is constantly at the top of the agenda in the country's political debate. More than 63 per cent of men, women, and people in all age brackets deem the mission a failure, but German adults age 55 and older (78%) clearly hold stronger views.

Canadian troops in Afghanistan are operating in Kandahar, and at least 69 soldiers have been killed, including 19 this year alone. The renewal of the Afghan mission—which is due to expire in February 2009—is politically sensitive in the North American country. Although Canadians are less suspicious of the war on terror than their European counterparts, the number of people who think the effort has been ineffective is still high, with 46 per cent of male respondents and 52 per cent of female respondents deeming the mission in Afghanistan as a failure.

## OVERALL RESPONSES THE NATO MISSION IN AFGHANISTAN

Q. (Your country) has contributed troops to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) mission in Afghanistan. So far, do you think the war against militant groups in Afghanistan has been mostly a success or mostly a failure?

	BRITAIN	FRANCE	ITALY	GERMANY	CANADA
A success	<b>16%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>22%</b>
A failure	<b>63%</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>49%</b>
Not sure	<b>21%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>29%</b>



### BRITAIN THE NATO MISSION IN AFGHANISTAN

Q. Britain has contributed troops to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) mission in Afghanistan. So far, do you think the war against militant groups in Afghanistan has been mostly a success or mostly a failure?

	GENDER		AGE		
	Men	Women	18-34	35-54	55+
A success	<b>21%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>15%</b>
A failure	<b>60%</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>69%</b>
Not sure	<b>18%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>16%</b>



### FRANCE THE NATO MISSION IN AFGHANISTAN

Q. France has contributed troops to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) mission in Afghanistan. So far, do you think the war against militant groups in Afghanistan has been mostly a success or mostly a failure?

	GENDER		AGE		
	Men	Women	18-34	35-54	55+
A success	<b>14%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>10%</b>
A failure	<b>65%</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>67%</b>
Not sure	<b>20%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>23%</b>



### ITALY THE NATO MISSION IN AFGHANISTAN

Q. Italy has contributed troops to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) mission in Afghanistan. So far, do you think the war against militant groups in Afghanistan has been mostly a success or mostly a failure?

	GENDER		AGE		
	Men	Women	18-34	35-54	55+
A success	<b>24%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>19%</b>
A failure	<b>62%</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>65%</b>
Not sure	<b>14%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>16%</b>



## GERMANY THE NATO MISSION IN AFGHANISTAN

Q. Germany has contributed troops to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) mission in Afghanistan. So far, do you think the war against militant groups in Afghanistan has been mostly a success or mostly a failure?

	GENDER		AGE		
	Men	Women	18-34	35-54	55+
A success	<b>20%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>12%</b>
A failure	<b>69%</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>78%</b>
Not sure	<b>11%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>10%</b>



## CANADA THE NATO MISSION IN AFGHANISTAN

Q. Canada has contributed troops to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) mission in Afghanistan. So far, do you think the war against militant groups in Afghanistan has been mostly a success or mostly a failure?

	GENDER		AGE		
	Men	Women	18-34	35-54	55+
A success	<b>29%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>24%</b>
A failure	<b>46%</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>52%</b>
Not sure	<b>24%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>23%</b>

## ABOUT THE ANGUS REID GLOBAL MONITOR

The **Angus Reid Global Monitor** ([angus-reid.com](http://angus-reid.com)) is an independent research group that analyzes worldwide public opinion, and tracks elections, leadership races and other democratic processes around the globe. It is a non-partisan institute supported by Angus Reid Strategies, and provides high-quality analysis and research for public dissemination and benefit.

The core of the Global Monitor's work is maintaining and updating the **world's largest online public opinion database every day**, which includes more than 16,000 surveys from every continent, on topics ranging from approval ratings, voting intention studies, and reviews of public sentiment on a wide array of global issues. Entries go beyond simply recording the numbers and percentages: each poll is located, translated if necessary, and annotated with a brief analytic and contextual review.

The Global Monitor's research is guided by four principles: insight, fairness, accuracy and immediacy. The website receives more than one million page views each month, and has been cited by the Washington Post, the Christian Science Monitor, the Economist, the Council on Foreign Relations, Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting (FAIR), the UK Social Science Information Gateway, and more.

For more information, please visit the Global Monitor at [angus-reid.com](http://angus-reid.com).

## ABOUT ANGUS REID STRATEGIES

Angus Reid Strategies is a North American full-service polling and market research firm which 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 Strategies team are pioneers in online research methodologies, and have been conducting online surveys since 1995. Located in Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto, and Montreal, our team of specialists provides solutions across every type and sector of research.

Angus Reid Strategies polls in Canada are conducted using the Angus Reid Forum online panel ([www.angusreidforum.com](http://www.angusreidforum.com)), which is recruited via an industry-leading process that incorporates a randomized, widespread invitation approach and a triple opt-in screening procedure. The panel is maintained through state-of-the-art sampling techniques and frequent verifications of personal identity, contact information, and demographic characteristics. This premier online survey platform presents respondents with highly visual, interactive, and engaging surveys, ensuring that panel members provide thoughtful and reliable responses.

Angus Reid Strategies has been successful in predicting the outcome of this year's provincial elections in Quebec and Manitoba.

More information on the way Angus Reid Strategies conducts public opinion research can be found in our white paper.

For even more information, please visit [angusreidstrategies.com](http://angusreidstrategies.com).