

Survey shows support for US actions against Islamic State

Washington (dpa) - US military efforts against the terrorist group Islamic State are broadly supported throughout the world, according to a survey released Tuesday by the Pew Research Center.

In the midst of the rise of the terrorist group, a median of 62 per cent of people polled by Pew Research Center in 40 countries say they support US military action against Islamic State, including the current US campaign in Iraq and Syria.

The current US campaign against the militants is backed by majorities in European countries and endorsed by people in key Middle Eastern nations, the Washington-based research centre said.

Pew's survey was answered by 45,435 respondents in 40 different countries. It was conducted March 25 to May 27, 2015.

The survey also asked people whether they believed the use of torture against terrorist suspects after 9/11 was justified. Only about one-third of the people surveyed believe that it was. That compares with about 60 per cent of Americans who believe that the torture tactics were justified. The survey also found that assessments of US economic power are on the rise.

In 30 of 40 countries, a plurality or majority say the US is the world's leading economic power. But when asked about the future, people in 27 out of the 40 countries said that China had already eclipsed or will eventually eclipse the US as the dominant superpower.

Overall ratings of the US remain positive, with a global median of about 70 per cent expressing a favorable opinion.

President Barack Obama also remains popular in most countries, and his ratings have improved over the last year in 14 nations. The sharpest decline in Obama's popularity occurred in Israel, where confidence in the US president slipped from 71 per cent in 2014 to 49 per cent this year.

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