

Should World Leaders Skip the Olympics?*Global Poll Finds Human Rights in Tibet an Issue*

ROCHESTER, N.Y. – May 21, 2008 – A new **Financial Times / Harris Poll** finds that a majority of adults in Germany (55%) and France (54%) believe their leaders, Angela Merkel and Nicolas Sarkozy, should not attend the opening ceremonies of the Olympics in China this summer. In addition, pluralities in Italy (48%), Japan (45%), the United States (43%), and Great Britain (43%) as well as 39 percent of adults in Spain also believe their country's leader should skip this year's Opening Olympic ceremonies.

Additional results from the **Financial Times/Harris Poll** conducted online by Harris Interactive® among a total of 8,748 adults (aged 16-64) within France, Germany, Great Britain, Spain, and the United States, adults (aged 18-64) in Italy and Japan, and adults (aged 18-60) in China between 30 April and 14 May 2008 include:

- More than three-quarters of adults in France (84%) and half the adults in Germany (51%) say they have heard a lot about the recent global protests surrounding the freeing of Tibet from Chinese rule;
- Pluralities in China itself (46%), Great Britain (44%) and the United States (41%) have also heard a lot about these protests;
- At least three in five adults in Italy (60%), Japan (66%), and Spain (68%) have heard at least a little about the protests;
- Three-quarters of adults in Italy (75%) and Germany (74%), two-thirds of adults in Japan (69%), France (67%) and Spain (64%) and a majority of adults in the United States (59%) and Great Britain (53%) all believe Tibet should not be under Chinese rule.

Human Rights as Foreign Policy

One of the issues surrounding all of these concerns is human rights as part of a foreign policy strategy:

- Very strong majorities in the five European countries, the United States and Japan (between 56% in Japan and 85% in Italy) believe that human rights should be a central figure of their country's foreign policy;
- Interestingly, a plurality of Chinese adults (45%) believe human rights should be a central part of China's foreign policy compared to 38 percent who say that it should not be a central feature of their foreign policy.

TABLE 1
OPENING CEREMONIES ATTENDANCE

“How much would you support or oppose the attendance of [Nicolas Sarkozy, Silvio Berlusconi, Jose Luis Zapatero, Angela Merkel, Gordon Brown, George Bush, Yasuo Fukuda] at the opening of the Olympic Games in China in 2008?”

Base: All EU adults in five countries, Japanese and US adults

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States	Japan
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1088	1288	1087	1120	1106	1046	1002
SUPPORT (NET)	25	28	32	35	29	36	35
Completely support	6	8	16	15	12	16	4
Support more than oppose	19	20	16	20	17	20	31
OPPOSE (NET)	43	54	48	39	55	43	45
Oppose more than support	20	28	17	21	25	21	30
Completely oppose	23	26	32	17	31	23	14
Not sure	32	18	20	27	16	21	21

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding

TABLE 2
GLOBAL PROTESTS OVER TIBET

“How much, if anything, have you heard about the recent global protests surrounding the freeing of Tibet from Chinese rule?”

Base: All EU adults in five countries, Chinese, Japanese, and US adults

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States	China	Japan
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1088	1288	1087	1120	1106	1046	1011	1002
A lot	44	84	34	20	51	41	46	27
A little	44	16	60	68	44	45	50	66
Nothing at all	12	1	6	12	6	13	4	8

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding

TABLE 3
TIBET AS REGION OR NATION

“Some people want Tibet to be a sovereign nation not under Chinese rule, while others believe that Tibet is a natural region of China and should remain under Chinese rule. What do you think?”

Base: All EU adults in five countries, Japanese, Chinese, and US adults

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States	Japan
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1088	1288	1087	1120	1106	1046	1002
Tibet should <u>not</u> be under Chinese rule	53	67	75	64	74	59	69
Tibet should be under Chinese rule	5	9	3	7	7	5	5
Not at all sure	42	24	22	29	19	36	27

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding

The Harris Poll® #55, May 21, 2008

By Regina A. Corso, Director, *The Harris Poll*, Harris Interactive.

TABLE 4
HUMAN RIGHTS AS CENTRAL PART OF FOREIGN POLICY

“In your opinion, should human rights be a central figure of {France’s, Italy’s, Spain’s, Germany’s, the UK’s, the U.S.’s, Japan’s, China’s} foreign policy?”

Base: All EU adults in five countries, Japanese, Chinese, and US adults

	Great Britain	France	Italy	Spain	Germany	United States	China	Japan
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unweighted base	1088	1288	1087	1120	1106	1046	1011	1002
Human rights should be a central feature of our foreign policy	63	80	85	77	84	72	45	56
Human rights should <u>not</u> be a central feature of our foreign policy	14	11	6	8	6	11	38	21
Not at all sure	24	9	9	15	9	17	17	23

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding

Methodology

This **FT/Harris Poll** was conducted online by Harris Interactive among a total of 8748 adults (aged 16-64) within France (1,288), Germany (1,106), Great Britain (1,088), Spain (1,120), and the United States (1,046), adults (aged 18-64) in Italy (1,087) and Japan (1,002) and adults (aged 18-60) in China (1,011) between 30 April and 14 May 2008. Figures for age, sex, education, region and Internet usage were weighted where necessary to bring them into line with their actual proportions in the population. Propensity score weighting was used to adjust for respondents’ propensity to be online.

All sample surveys and polls, whether or not they use probability sampling, are subject to multiple sources of error which are most often not possible to quantify or estimate, including sampling error, coverage error, error associated with nonresponse, error associated with question wording and response options, and post-survey weighting and adjustments. Therefore, Harris Interactive avoids the words “margin of error” as they are misleading. All that can be calculated are different possible sampling errors with different probabilities for pure, unweighted, random samples with 100% response rates. These are only theoretical because no published polls come close to this ideal.

Respondents for this survey were selected from among those who have agreed to participate in Harris Interactive surveys. The data have been weighted to reflect the composition of the adult populations of the respective countries. Because the sample is based on those who agreed to participate in the Harris Interactive panel, no estimates of theoretical sampling error can be calculated.

These statements conform to the principles of disclosure of the National Council on Public Polls and of the British Polling Council.

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Press Contact:

Tracey McNerney
Harris Interactive
585-214-7756

Harris Interactive Inc. 5/08

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