
Half of Americans Disapprove of How Obama Handles Terrorism

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The slide in the president's approval ratings on terrorism comes as the White House ramps up its fight against the Islamic State group that recently beheaded three Westerners, including two US journalists.

The New York Times-CBS poll found that 50 percent hold a negative view of how Obama is generally dealing with terrorism , while only 41 percent approve.

The poll also found that 55 percent do not believe Obama has a clear plan for dealing with the IS militants and 57 percent say he is not being tough enough on the group.

Forty-eight percent disapprove of how Obama is handling the IS situation, compared to 39 who approve.

While 69 percent are in favor of anti-IS US airstrikes in Syria, 55 percent oppose sending ground troops to that country or to neighboring Iraq to target the extremists.

The survey results were released as Obama and lawmakers ratcheted up the pressure on the Islamic State Wednesday, with the president declaring there was no hiding place for the jihadists. "Our reach is long," he warned.

According to The Times, the finding that 50 percent disapprove of how Obama is handling terrorism represents a 12-point increase from March.

"The findings represent the first time since he became president that more Americans rate Mr. Obama negatively on terrorism than they do positively," The Times reported.

Overall, 58 percent of Americans now hold a negative view of Obama's overall handling of foreign policy, compared to 34 who view it positively.

According to the poll, 33 percent think the Obama administration's policies have made the country less safe.

The survey also showed deep dissatisfaction with Congress, with 70 percent disapproving of the performance of Republicans and 61 percent unhappy with how Democrats are handling their jobs.

The poll involved 1,009 adults and was carried out by phone from September 12 through September 15. It had a margin of error of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.
