

'IF YOU ARE SAFE I AM SAFE' SURVEY 2018: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This survey sought to discover levels of support for the message 'If you are safe, I am safe'.

The Sample

The sample 372 residents of Baghdad spread across five districts that represented different mixes of Shi'a and Sunni sectarian identities. Two were districts populated entirely with one sectarian community: Amil all Shi'a and Adamiya all Sunni; two had a majority of one sect and a minority of the other: Hurriya a majority of Shi'a and Saba Abkar a majority of Sunni; one district was more evenly mixed between the communities: Saidiya.

Unsafe or safe

56% to 44% interviewed (62% to 32% when weighted for strength of answer) felt physically unsafe compared to safe. There was significant district variation: 86% unsafe in Hurriya compared to Saba Abkar where 38% describe themselves as unsafe. When asked about the threat to their sectarian identity, 32% felt very threatened or threatened, and 52% sometimes threatened; 16% 'not really threatened' or 'not threatened at all'. There are wide district variations: 28% in Adamiya and Saidiya, 0% in Hurriya and 5% in Amil do not feel threatened, but the remainder do.

Attitudes to reconciliation

On average, 84% of our sample saw reconciliation as necessary for Iraq to have a future, for peace, for prosperity and good governance at the national level, and 88% for personal prosperity, safety and quality of life.

Do groups need to be made to feel safe if there is to be reconciliation? 88% agreed, 3% did not agree. Reconciliation is not possible where one of the groups feels threatened by the other — do you agree? 48% agreed, 8% disagreed and 44% did not know.

Asking about the key question: 'If you are safe, I am safe'

We tested comprehension of the message; then we asked about agreement statements that reflect elements of the message before asking about agreement with the message 'If you are safe, I am safe'. We also asked about whether it made them more hopeful and if they would want it to be implemented in Iraq, including asking for their responses to four proposals for implementation. Finally, we asked if they would help make it a reality in Iraq as well as spread the message.

(The survey also asked a range of questions about safety and attitudes to reconciliation, as well as a few questions that sought general attitudes about expectations and attitudes of the sample to government.)

Testing agreement with the concept

We put four statements to the sample and there were very high levels of overall agreement (and strong agreement) with these.

That to be safe —

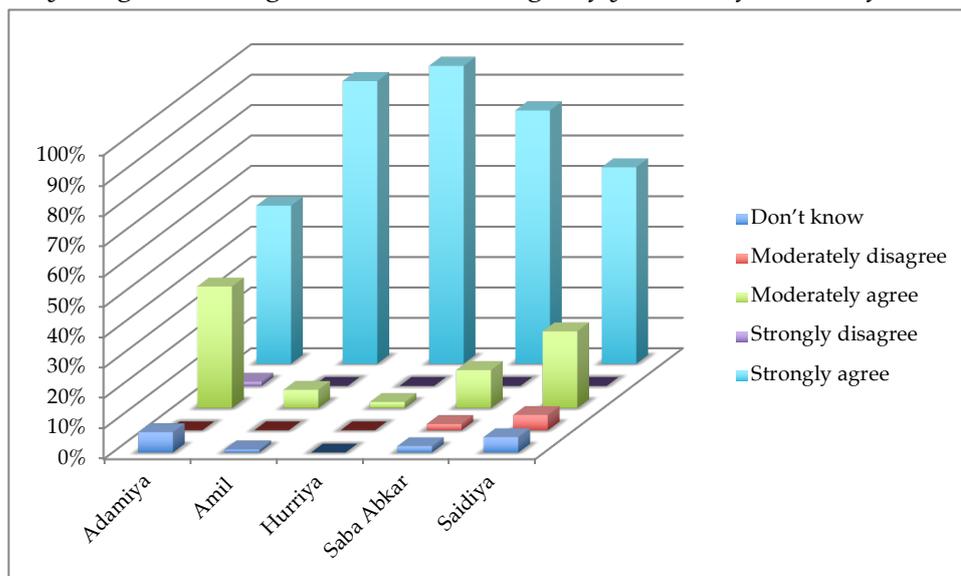
1. *we need to make other people safe: 90.32% overall agreement (59.6% strong);*
2. *the safety of your group depends on the safety of other groups: 91.42% (45.16%);*
3. *that when and their communities don't feel threatened, they are less likely to threaten others: 90.59% (38.71%);*
4. *that reducing the threat people and communities feel will make for greater safety for all: 92.74% (49.73%).*

There are important district variations, both in terms of overall agreement and strength of agreement and the location of 'don't knows' (high in Adamiya and Saidiya) and low disagreement present in some districts (particularly Saba Abkar).

Agreement with 'If you are safe, I am safe'

The respondents were asked a set of questions to assess their cognitive, emotional and behavioural responses to the message 'If you are safe, I am safe'. They were asked about agreement with the message, if it made them more hopeful and if so, how much.

Do you agree or disagree with this message, 'If you are safe, I am safe'?



| | <i>Adamiya</i> | <i>Amil</i> | <i>Hurriya</i> | <i>Saba Abkar</i> | <i>Saidiya</i> | <i>Five districts</i> |
|----------------------------|----------------|-------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| Don't know | 6.67% | 1.00% | 0.00% | 2.08% | 5.05% | 3.23% |
| Moderately disagree | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 2.08% | 5.05% | 1.61% |
| Moderately agree | 40.00% | 6.00% | 2.00% | 12.50% | 25.25% | 18.28% |
| Strongly disagree | 1.33% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.27% |
| Strongly agree | 52.00% | 93.00% | 98.00% | 83.33% | 64.65% | 76.61% |

Agreement with the message was 94.89% across the sample (76.61% strongly agreed). Those who disagreed 1.88% (0.27% strongly); and don't know 3.23%. This is the highest agreement level in the questionnaire; there is very low disagreement with the message and, notably, few 'don't know's'.

How does the message, 'If you are safe, I am safe' make you feel?

To assess whether the message was able to affect emotions, respondents were asked whether it made them feel less hopeful, do different or more hopeful?

| | Adamiya | Amil | Hurriya | Saba Abkar | Saidiya | Five districts |
|---------------------|---------|---------|---------|------------|---------|----------------|
| Less hopeful | 8.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 2.08% | 4.04% | 2.96% |
| More hopeful | 73.33% | 100.00% | 100.00% | 91.67% | 80.81% | 88.44% |
| No different | 18.67% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 6.25% | 15.15% | 8.60% |

This shows that the message has a strong and positive impact on emotional responses. Only 11 people out of 372 felt 'less hopeful' and 32 no different: 329 felt more hopeful).

For those whom it made more hopeful, how much more hopeful did it make you feel?

| | Adamiya | Amil | Hurriya | Saba Abkar | Saidiya | Five districts |
|-----------------------|---------|------|---------|------------|---------|----------------|
| Mildly more | 0% | 1% | 0% | 2% | 4% | 1.48% |
| Quite strongly | 50% | 13% | 18% | 9% | 27% | 23.15% |
| Strongly | 50% | 86% | 82% | 89% | 70% | 75.37% |

The 329 respondents who felt more hopeful (88.44% of the sample) were asked to what degree did the message make them more hopeful. 75.37% said strongly; 23.15% quite strongly and 1.48% mildly. District variation was evident.

'If you are safe, I am safe' in Iraq.

Do you think that an Iraq based on this message 'If you are safe, I am safe' would be a better place to live?

93.26% agreed, 2.16% thought it would not and 4.58% did not know. District variation for agreement ranged from 100% in Hurriya, 99% in Amil, 95.83% in Saba Abkar, 89.33% in Adamiya and 85.71% in Saidiya.

Do you think that the government should work to make 'If you are safe, I am safe' a reality in Iraq?

90.86% replied 'Yes'. 2.96% 'No' and 6.18% did not know. District responses varied – with Hurriya 100% and Amil 99%, Saba Abkar with 93.75% agreeing. In Saidiya, 82.83% agreed and in Adamiya, 82.67% agreed — the remainder mostly don't know.

How should 'If you are safe, I am safe' be implemented in Iraq.

Those surveyed were given four different proposals for government action to make 'If you are safe, I am safe' a reality in Iraq and asked if they agreed or not with each one. Affirmative responses were high: *reform the police to reflect and respect all Iraqis: 97%; government not favouring any one sect: 98%; always work in the interests of all Iraqis and not of parties or sects: 98%; introduce and*

enforce a code of conduct for all government employees to treat all Iraqis fairly and equally: 92%.

Public support in implementing ‘If you are safe, I am safe’ in Iraq.

The first question asks for a general response: *would you help implement ‘If you are safe, I am safe’* (‘Yes’ 91.67%); the second and third propose specific actions: *would you help spread the message* (89.52% ‘Yes’), and *would you like to find out more* (89.52%). District variation is 100%-97% ‘Yes’ (Amil) to 80.81% (Saidiya) for these three questions.

Conclusion

Whilst there are variations across the five districts, and there are some small minorities who are uncertain and smaller ones that disagree with the message, the vast majority of people in every district — which means both Shi’a and Sunni living in different degrees of isolation from or mixing with each other — agree with ‘If you are safe, I am safe’. It makes them feel more hopeful, they would want to live in an Iraq based on it and to see the government make it a reality. A substantial majority would help make it a reality too.