



**Opinion Poll Report**  
**Views of Experts and Specialists on**  
**The Return of the Taliban to Power in Afghanistan**

## Executive Summary

- ❑ Of total respondents, 72 percent were male experts, and 28 percent were female experts.
- ❑ Non-Arab experts constituted 52 percent of the total respondents, while Arab experts made up 48 percent.
- ❑ 73 percent of experts were interested in following the recent events in Afghanistan (the American withdrawal and the return of the Taliban to power), while 27 percent were interested to some extent.
- ❑ 97 percent of experts believed that the return of the Taliban to power in Afghanistan would have an impact on the Arab and Muslim region, with 72 percent of them saying the impact would be negative.
- ❑ 80 percent of experts said there would be a rapprochement between the Taliban and the Muslim Brotherhood group, with 86 percent of them saying it would be a significant rapprochement.
- ❑ 92 percent of experts expected that activities by extremist groups around the world would be affected by the return of the Taliban to power in Afghanistan, with 86 percent believing that activities would increase.
- ❑ 72% expected a return of Al-Qaeda's activities in Afghanistan under the rule of the Taliban.
- ❑ 59 percent believed that future relations between ISIS (Khorasan Province) and the Taliban would be of a hostile nature.
- ❑ 51 percent expected that the Taliban's rule of Afghanistan this time round, compared to their rule between 1996-2001, would be more open to the outside world and tougher toward the local community.
- ❑ 52 percent expected the Taliban to pay no attention to civil rights (the rights of minorities, women etc.) in their rule of Afghanistan.
- ❑ 66 percent expected that a state of instability and conflict would characterize the future of Afghanistan under the rule of the Taliban.

## Introduction

As part of its opinion poll series, TRENDS Research & Advisory Center conducted a poll on “**The Return of the Taliban to Power in Afghanistan**”. The poll aimed to explore the opinions of experts and specialists in international political affairs in order to gauge the impact of the return of the Taliban to power in Afghanistan, on both Afghanistan and the international community.

The poll included eleven questions:

Are you interested in the recent developments in Afghanistan (American withdrawal and Taliban assuming power .1 ?again)

2. Do you think that the Taliban rule in Afghanistan will have an impact on the Arab and Islamic world?

3. If yes, what will be the nature of this impact?

4. Do you think that there will be a rapprochement between the Taliban and the Muslim Brotherhood?

5. Do you think that the Taliban rule in Afghanistan will have an impact on the activity of extremist groups in the world?

6. If yes, what will be the outcome of this current situation on the activity of these groups across the world?

7. Do you expect Al-Qaeda to resume its activity in Afghanistan now that the Taliban has assumed control of the country?

8. How do you see the future of relations between ISIS (Khorasan Province) and the Taliban?

9. In your opinion, how will the current Taliban rule in Afghanistan be in comparison with its rule between 1996 - 2001?

10. Do you think that the Taliban will pay more attention to civil rights (minorities rights, women rights, etc.)?

11. Generally, what do you think the future will hold in store for Afghanistan now that the Taliban has assumed control of the country?

## Objectives of the Poll

- To determine the degree to which experts followed recent developments in Afghanistan (the American withdrawal and the return of the Taliban to power).
- To understand the impact of the return of the Taliban rule in Afghanistan on the Arab and Muslim world.
- To determine whether there would be a rapprochement between the Taliban and the Muslim Brotherhood group.
- To assess the extent to which activities by extremist groups would be affected by the return of the Taliban rule in Afghanistan.
- To predict whether Al-Qaeda would come back to Afghanistan with the Taliban in power.
- To determine the shape of future relations between ISIS (Khorasan Province) and the Taliban.
- To compare the Taliban rule of Afghanistan now with their previous rule between 1996-2001.
- To determine the extent to which the Taliban would pay attention to civil rights (the rights of minorities, women etc.).
- To predict the future of Afghanistan under Taliban rule in general

## Methodology



### Characteristics of the Sample

The sample consisted of experts specialized in international political affairs



### Questionnaire Format

An electronic questionnaire was designed for the purpose of this survey.



### Sample Selection

Due to difficulties reaching the target audience, snowball sampling method was used. A questionnaire link was sent to experts whose details were available in the databases at the TRENDS Research & Advisory Center. Experts were asked to share the link with others who fit the sample profile.



### Data Analysis

SPSS and Excel statistical programs were used to process and analyze the data, extract tables and graphs, and prepare the statistical report.



### Duration of the Poll

The data were collected over two weeks.

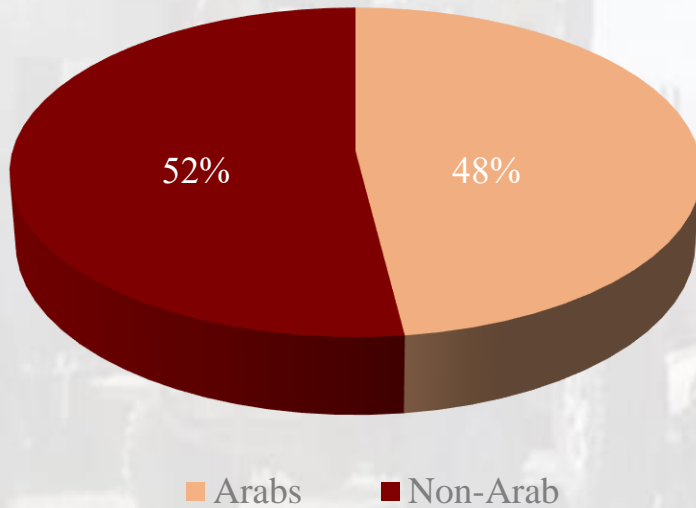


### Data Collection

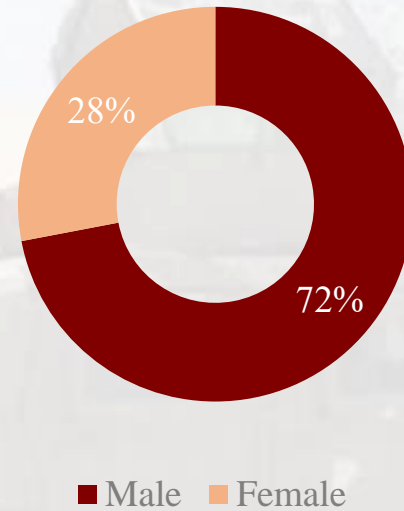
The electronic data collection method was used whereby the questionnaire was posted on the TRENDS website.

## Sample Distribution

### By Nationality

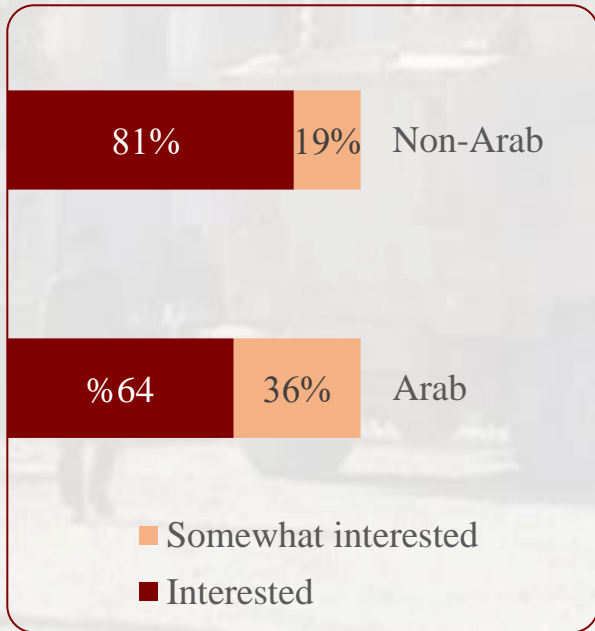


### By Gender

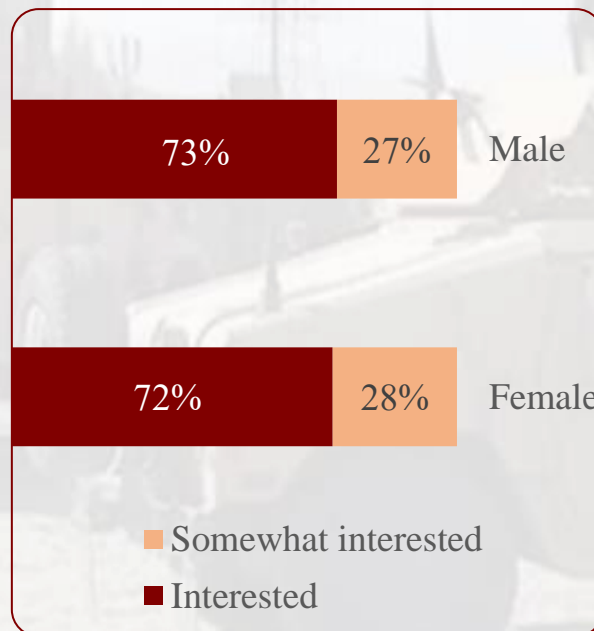


## Interest in following the recent developments in Afghanistan (the American withdrawal and the return of Taliban to power)

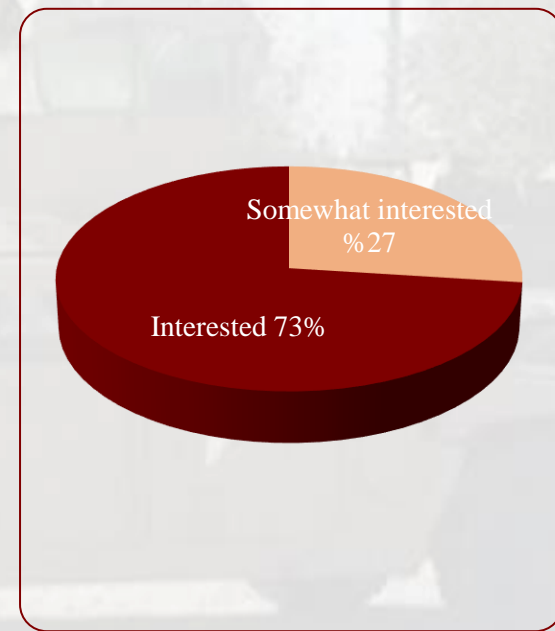
Interest in following the recent events in Afghanistan was higher among non-Arab experts (81 percent) than among their Arab counterparts (64 percent)



73 percent of male and 72 percent of female experts showed interest in the recent events in Afghanistan

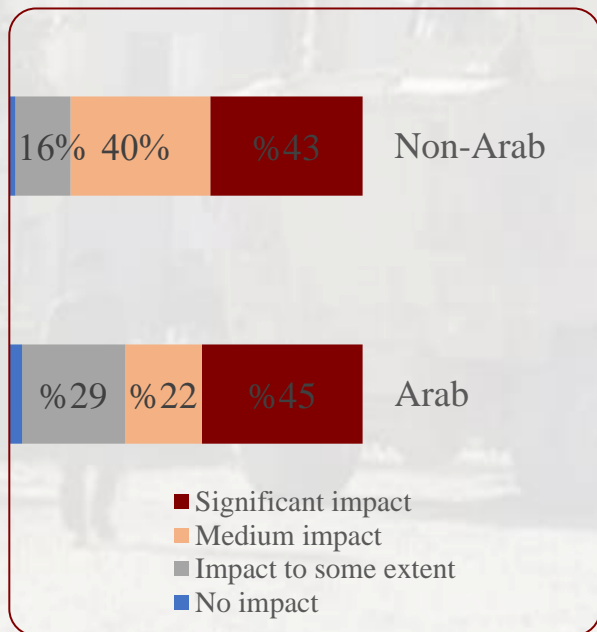


7 out of 10 experts were interested in the recent events in Afghanistan

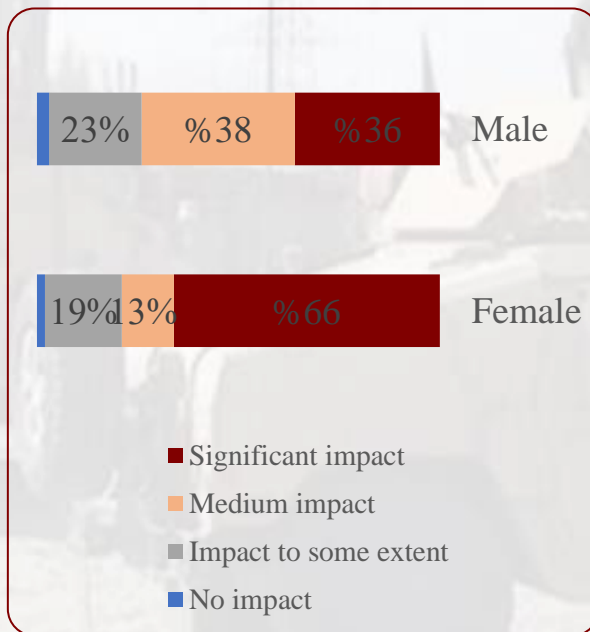


## The impact of the Taliban's return to power in Afghanistan on the Arab and Muslim region

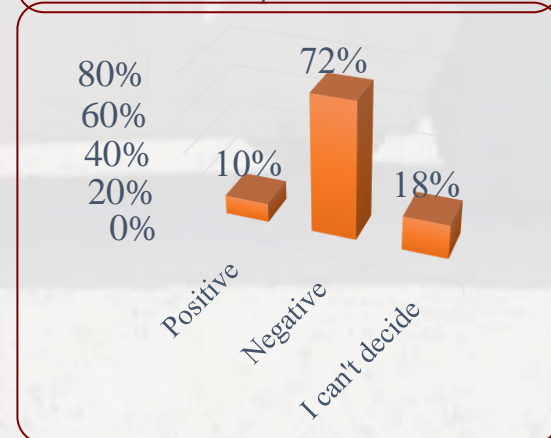
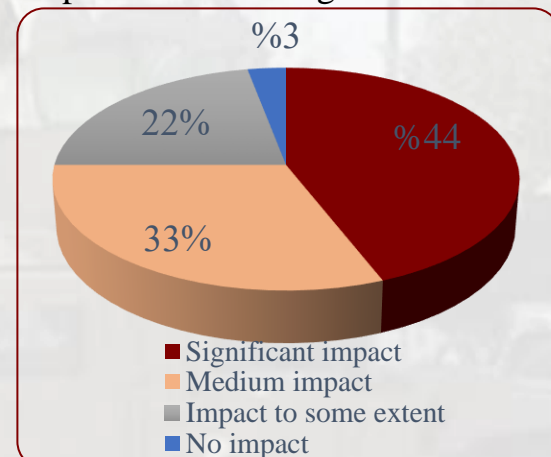
45 percent of Arab experts believed that the Taliban rule would have a significant impact on the Arab and Muslim world.



66 percent of female experts said the Taliban rule would have a negative impact on the Arab and Muslim world, compared to 36 percent of male experts.



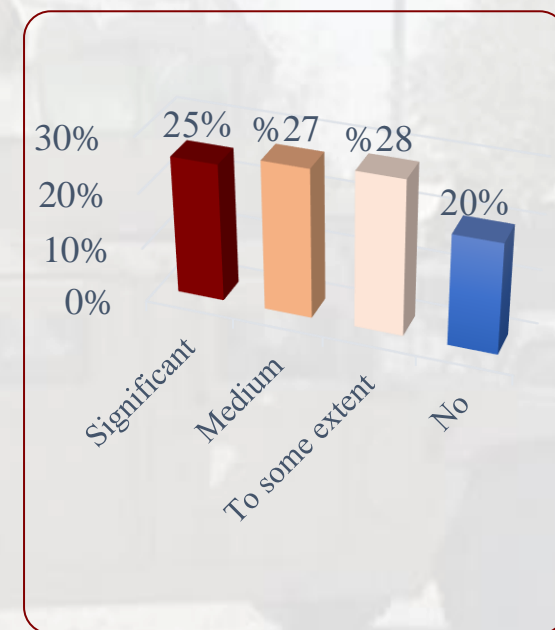
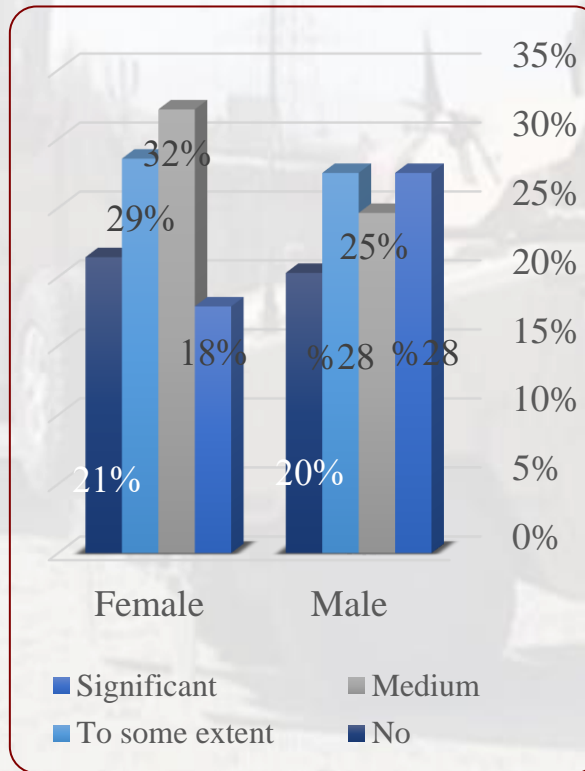
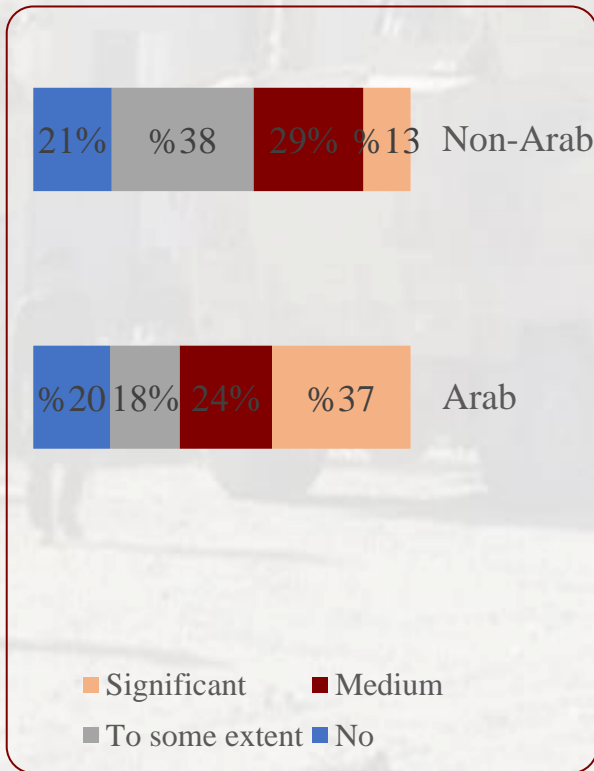
97 percent of experts believed that the Taliban's return to power in Afghanistan would have an impact on the Arab and Muslim world, with 72 percent of them saying this impact would be negative.





## Rapprochement between the Taliban and the Muslim Brotherhood group

4 out of 5 experts expected a rapprochement between the Taliban and the Muslim Brotherhood group

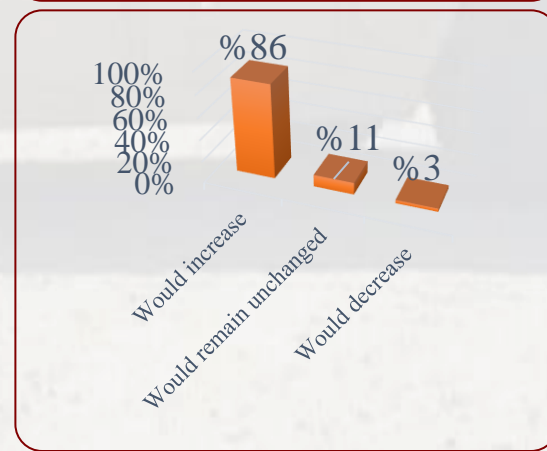
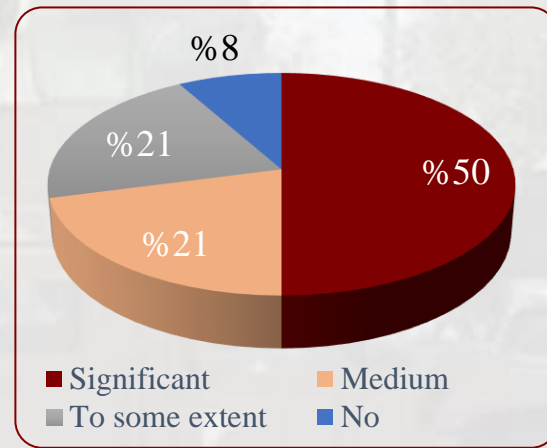
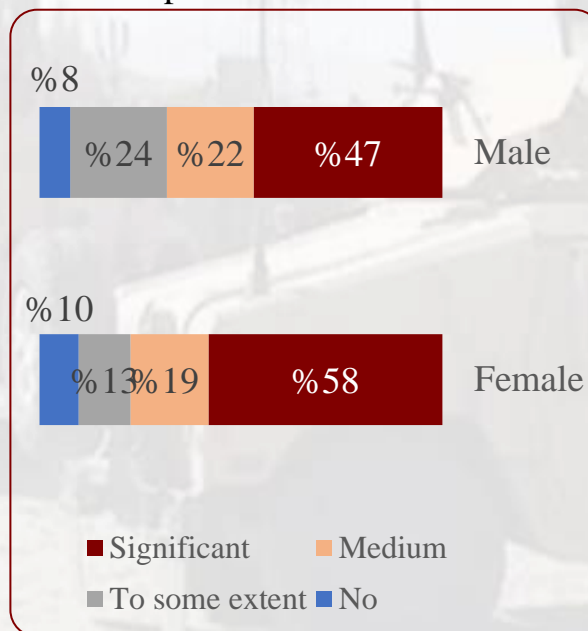
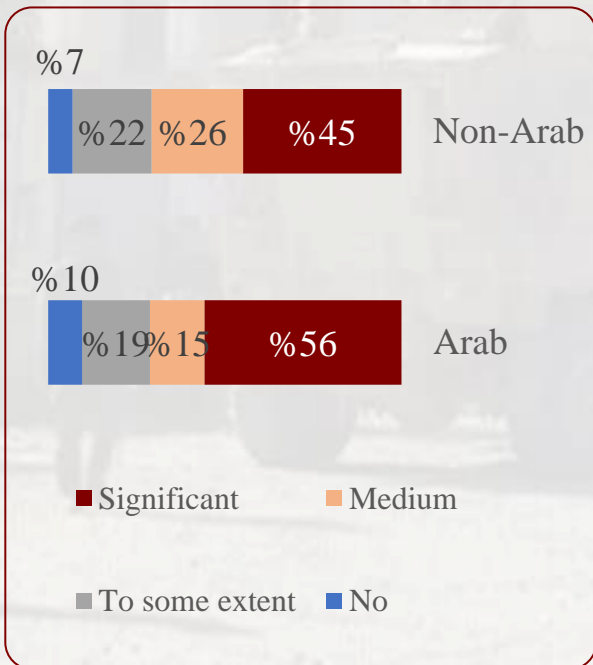


## Impact of the Taliban's return to power in Afghanistan on the activities of extremist groups in the world

56 percent of Arab experts believed that the return of the Taliban to power in Afghanistan would significantly affect the activities of extremist groups around the world.

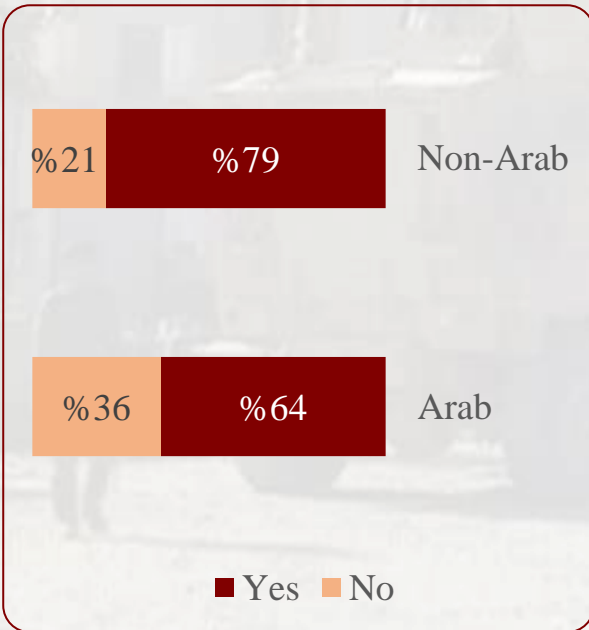
58 percent of female experts said the activities of extremist groups would be affected significantly by the return of the Taliban to power in Afghanistan, compared to 47 percent of male experts who said the same.

92 percent of experts believed that the return of the Taliban to power would affect the activities of extremist groups in the world, with 86 percent saying that the activities would increase.

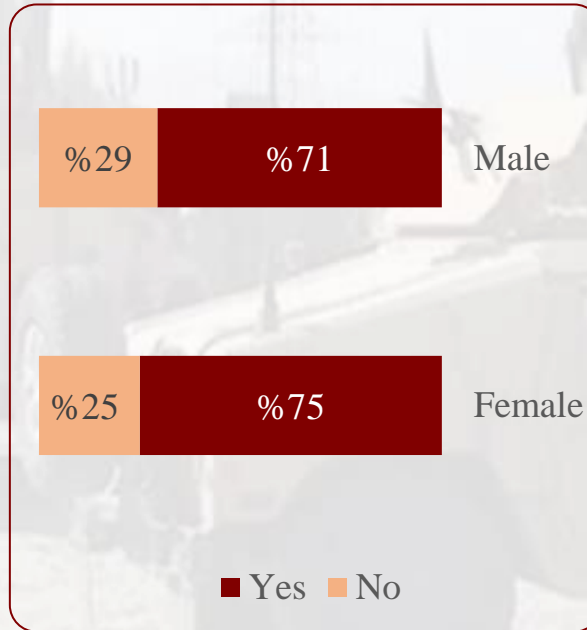


## The return of Al-Qaeda to Afghanistan with the Taliban in power

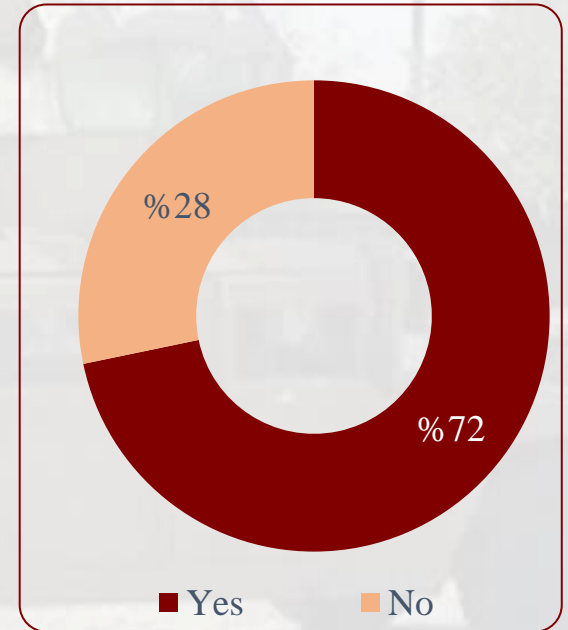
79 percent of non-Arab experts and 64 percent of Arab experts believed that Al-Qaeda would resume its activities in Afghanistan.



71 percent of male experts and 75 percent of female experts expected Al-Qaeda to resume its operations from Afghanistan.



7 out of 10 experts believed that Al-Qaeda would return to Afghanistan with the Taliban in power.

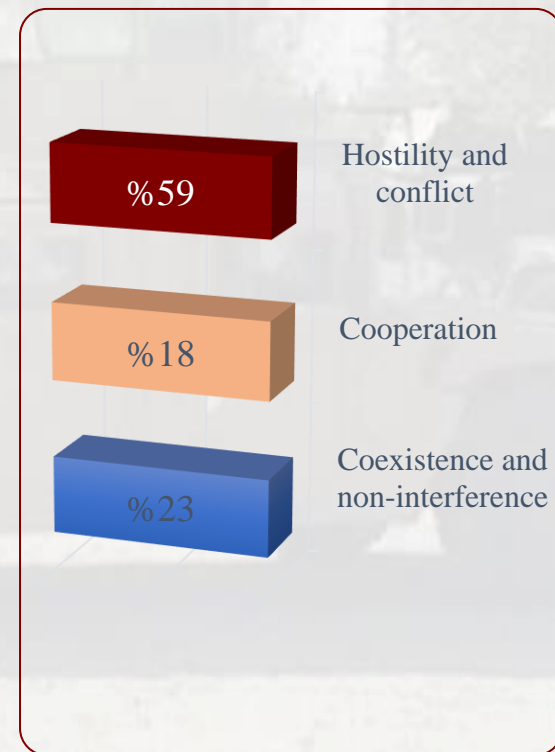
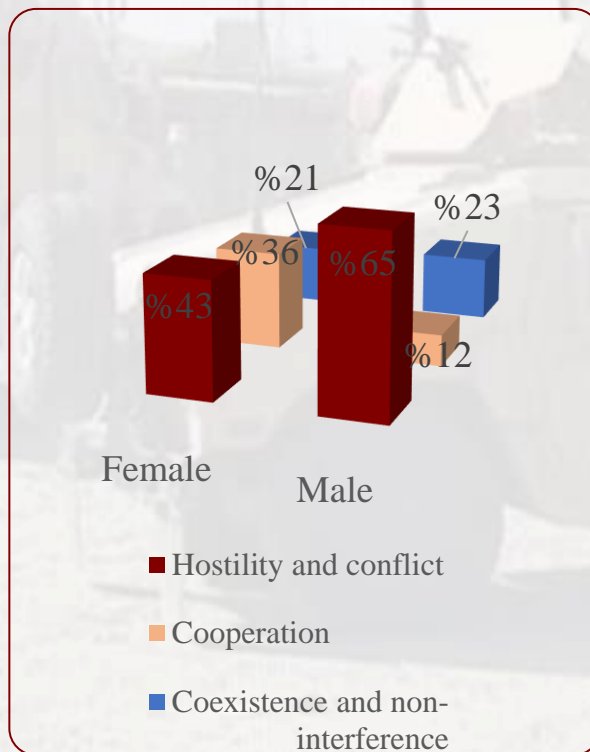
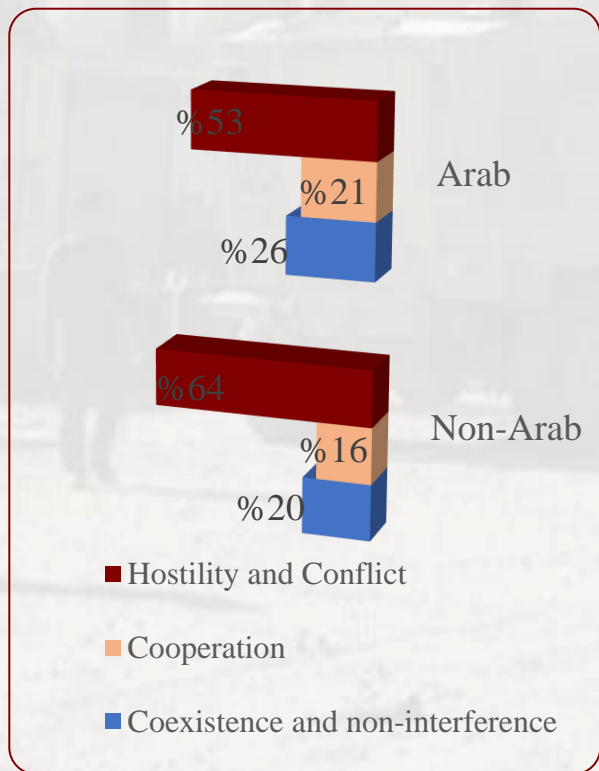


## The future of the relations between ISIS (Khorasan Province) and the Taliban

53 percent of non-Arab experts and 64 percent of Arab experts believed that future relations between ISIS and the Taliban would be characterized by hostility and conflict.

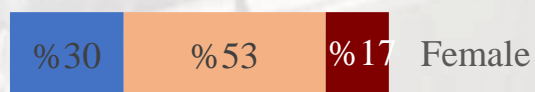
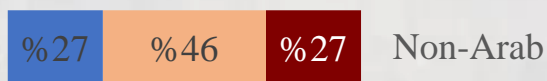
65 percent of male experts and 43 percent of female experts expected that future relations between ISIS and the Taliban would be characterized by hostility and conflict.

Around 60 percent of experts said future relations between ISIS and the Taliban would be hostile.



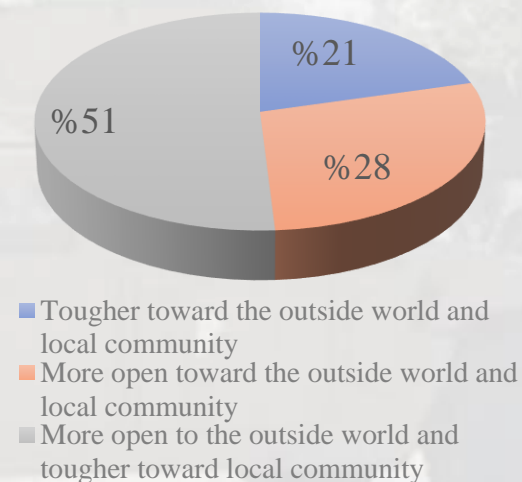
## The Taliban rule of Afghanistan now compared to their rule between 1996-2001

More than half of the experts expected that the Taliban rule of Afghanistan this time round would be more open to the outside world and tougher toward the local community, compared to their rule between 1996-2001.



- More open toward the outside world and local community
- More open to the outside world and tougher toward local community
- Tougher toward the outside world and local community

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- More open to the outside world and tougher toward local community
- Tougher toward the outside and local community



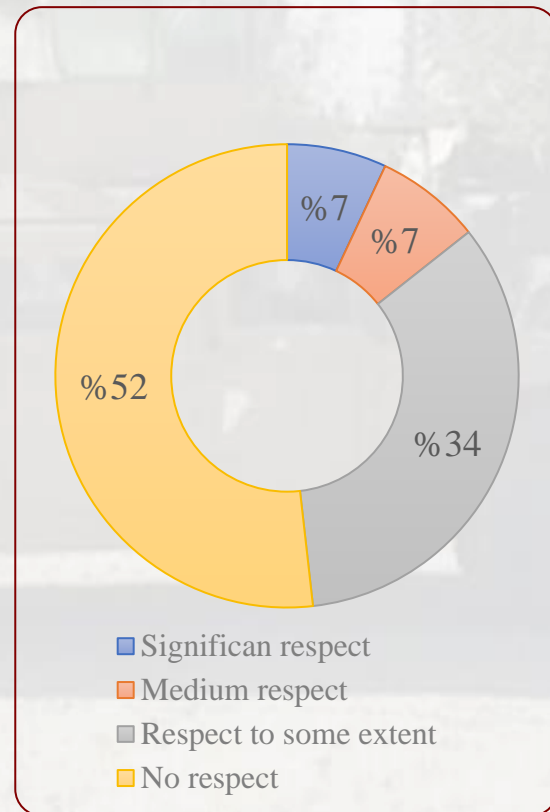
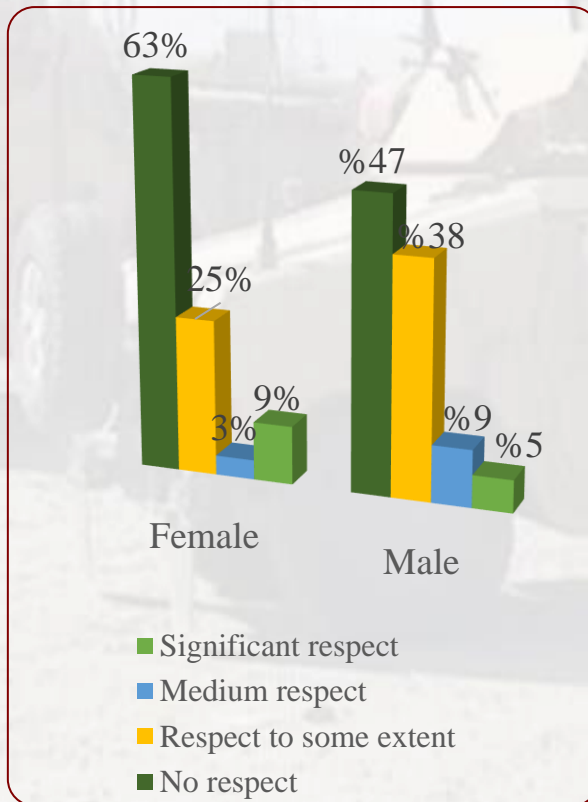
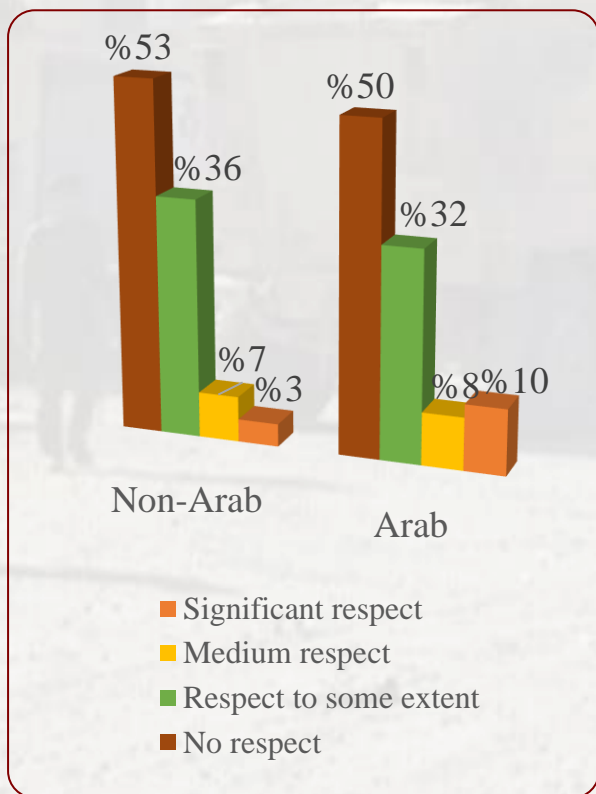
- Tougher toward the outside world and local community
- More open toward the outside world and local community
- More open to the outside world and tougher toward local community

## The Taliban's respect for civil rights (the rights of minorities, women, etc.)

50 percent of Arab experts and 53 percent of their non-Arab counterparts believed that the Taliban would not show any respect for personal civil rights.

63 percent of female experts believed that the Taliban would not respect civil rights, compared to 47 percent of male experts who believed the same.

More than half of experts believed that the Taliban would not show any respect for civil rights.

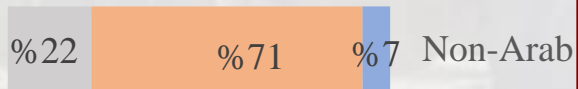
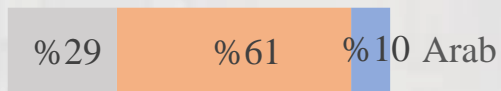


## The future of Afghanistan under the Taliban

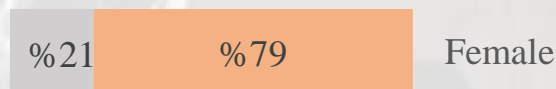
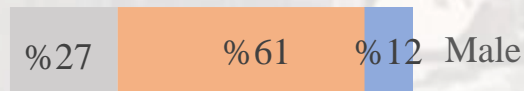
71 percent of non-Arab experts expected that the future of Afghanistan under the Taliban would be fraught with conflicts, compared to 61 percent of Arab experts who expected the same.

Only 12 percent of male experts expected a stable and promising future in Afghanistan under the Taliban.

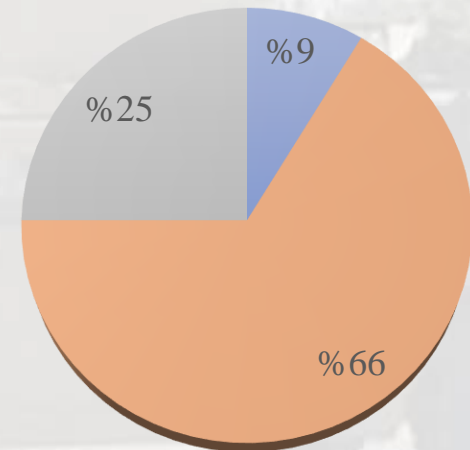
66 percent of experts expected a future of instability and conflict in Afghanistan under the Taliban.



- Stability, growth and development
- Instability and conflicts
- Continuation of the status quo



- Stability, growth and development
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