



# Stop Torture

Perspectives on torture:  
findings from 21 countries



GLOBESCAN

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Project 2619

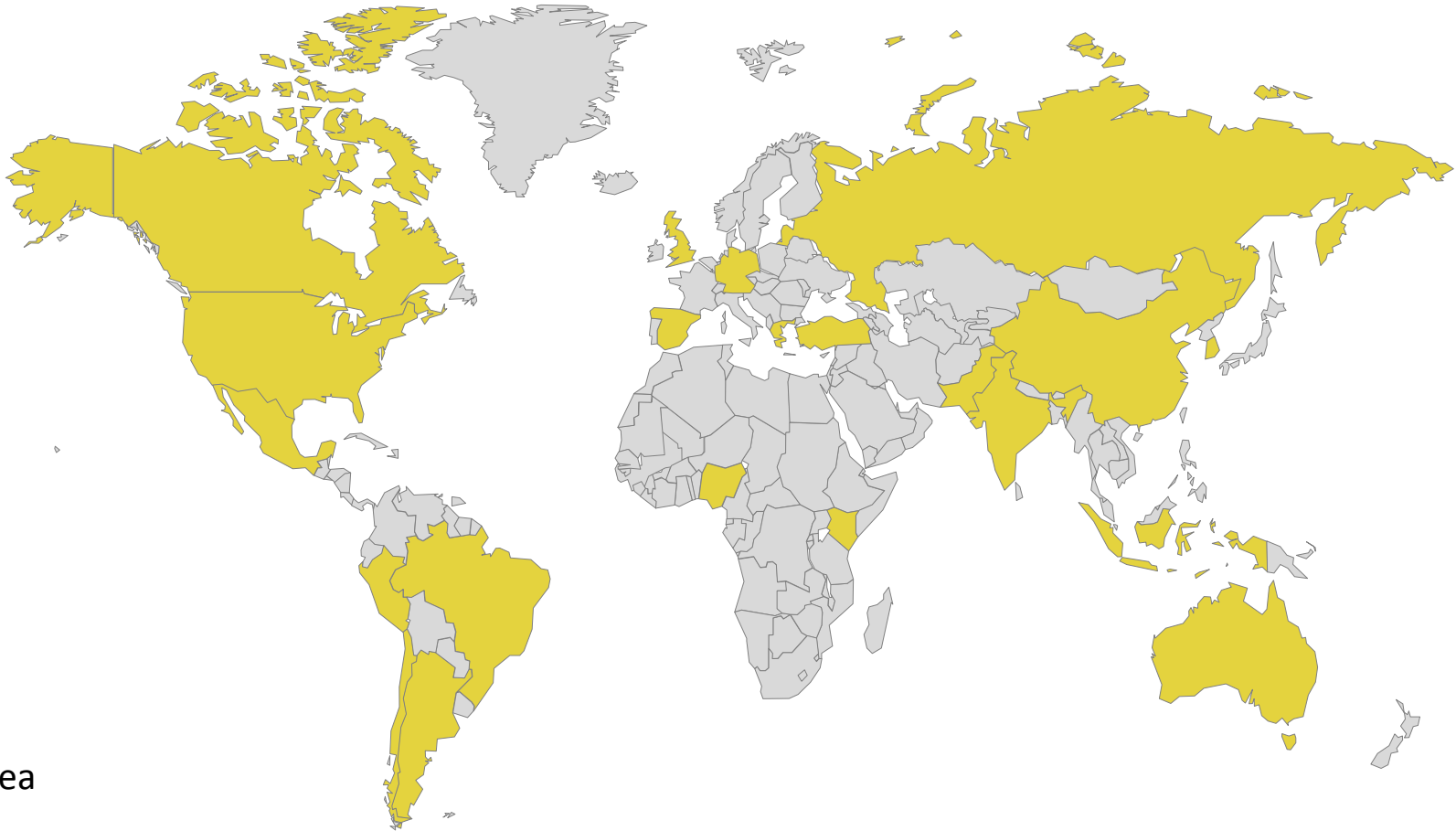
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# Introduction & Methodology

# Twenty-One Countries From Every Continent

Argentina  
 Australia  
 Brazil  
 Canada  
 Chile  
 China  
 Germany  
 Greece  
 India  
 Indonesia  
 Kenya  
 Mexico  
 Nigeria  
 Pakistan  
 Peru  
 Russia  
 South Korea  
 Spain  
 Turkey  
 UK  
 USA



# Country Fieldwork Details

| Country          | Sample size* | Field dates                  | Research partner           | Method       | Sample frame | Type of sample |
|------------------|--------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|
| <b>Argentina</b> | 1012         | 17 Jan 2014 – 27 Jan 2014    | TNS Gallup Argentina       | Face to face | 18+          | National       |
| <b>Australia</b> | 806          | 13 Jan 2014 – 18 Feb 2014    | Quest                      | Telephone    | 18+          | National       |
| <b>Brazil</b>    | 801          | 13 Jan 2014 – 7 Feb 2014     | Market Analysis            | Face to face | 18-69        | Urban          |
| <b>Canada</b>    | 1006         | 10 Jan 2014 – 18 Feb 2014    | Quest                      | Telephone    | 18+          | National       |
| <b>Chile</b>     | 1200         | 19 Dec 2013 – 6 Jan 2014     | Mori Chile                 | Face to face | 18+          | National       |
| <b>China</b>     | 1000         | 14 Jan 2014 – 23 Feb 2014    | SSI of CUC                 | Telephone    | 18+          | Urban          |
| <b>Germany</b>   | 1007         | 25 Mar 2014 – 28 Mar 2014    | TNS                        | Telephone    | 18+          | National       |
| <b>Greece</b>    | 702          | 17 March 2014 – 3 April 2014 | Institute of Communication | Telephone    | 18+          | National       |
| <b>India</b>     | 1064         | 10 Feb 2014 – 22 Feb 2014    | Team C Voter               | Face to face | 18+          | National       |
| <b>Indonesia</b> | 1000         | 11 Feb 2014 – 23 Feb 2014    | Data Marketing Research    | Face to face | 18+          | Urban          |

**\*Note:** these numbers show unweighted sample sizes; all countries are then weighted to 1000

**Brazil urban sample:** Pernambuco, Bahia, Distrito Federal, Goiás, Minas Gerais, Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, Paraná and Rio Grande do Sul

**China urban sample:** Beijing, Sichuang, Guangdong, Zhe Jiang, Shanghai. Liao Ning. Hu Bei, Shan Xi, He Nan, Fu Jian, Qing Hai, Yun Nan, An Hui, Nei Menggu, Si Chuang, Shan Xi, Guang Xi, Hei Longjiang

**Indonesia urban sample:** Jakarta, Surabaya, Bandung, Medan, Makassar

# Country Fieldwork Details

| Country            | Sample size* | Field dates               | Research partner    | Method       | Sample frame | Type of sample |
|--------------------|--------------|---------------------------|---------------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|
| <b>Kenya</b>       | 1010         | 4 Feb 2014 – 16 Feb 2014  | RPA                 | Face to face | 18+          | Urban          |
| <b>Mexico</b>      | 800          | 22 Feb 2014 – 27 Feb 2014 | Parametria          | Face to face | 18+          | National       |
| <b>Nigeria</b>     | 800          | 12 Jan 2014 – 28 Feb 2014 | Market Trends       | Face to face | 18+          | National       |
| <b>Pakistan</b>    | 2168         | 27 Jan 2014 – 15 Feb 2014 | Gallup Pakistan     | Face to face | 18+          | National       |
| <b>Peru</b>        | 1008         | 6 Feb 2014 – 11 Feb 2014  | Datum               | Face to face | 18-70        | National       |
| <b>Russia</b>      | 1021         | 24 Jan 2014 – 19 Feb 2014 | CESSI               | Face to face | 18+          | National       |
| <b>South Korea</b> | 1000         | 8 Feb 2014 – 11 Feb 2014  | East Asia Institute | Telephone    | 19+          | National       |
| <b>Spain</b>       | 800          | 17 Dec 2013 – 7 Jan 2014  | Sigma Dos Int.      | Telephone    | 18+          | National       |
| <b>Turkey</b>      | 1012         | 3 Jan 2014 – 24 Jan 2014  | Yontem              | Face to face | 15+          | National       |
| <b>UK</b>          | 1000         | 14 Jan 2014 – 22 Feb 2014 | Populus             | Telephone    | 18+          | National       |
| <b>USA</b>         | 1004         | 10 Jan 2014 – 17 Jan 2014 | Quest               | Telephone    | 18+          | National       |

**\*Note:** these numbers show unweighted sample sizes; all countries are then weighted to 1000

**Kenya urban sample:** Nairobi, Central, Eastern, Coast, Rift valley, Nyanza, Western

## Full Question Wording

Please tell me if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with each of the following statements.

- a) Clear rules against torture are crucial because any use of torture is immoral and will weaken international human rights
- b) Torture is sometimes necessary and acceptable to gain information that may protect the public
- c) If I were taken into custody by the authorities in my country, I am confident that I would be safe from torture

01. Strongly agree

02. Somewhat agree

03. Somewhat disagree

04. Strongly disagree

*VOLUNTEERED (DO NOT READ)*

99. Don't know/not applicable (DK/NA)



# Global Perspectives



# Less than half of the global public agree that they feel safe from torture in their country

## Fear of torture

- Across the twenty-one countries surveyed, less than half of the public (48%) agree that they would be safe from torture, should they be taken into custody in their country. 44% disagree and would not be confident that they are free from torture in their country.
- In only two countries – Australia and UK – do a majority of people *strongly* agree that they feel safe from torture.
- Fear of torture in custody is particularly prevalent in South America. In Brazil, 8 in 10 people are not confident that they would be safe from torture if they were taken into custody in their country.



48%

Less than half of the general public globally agree that they would feel safe from torture by the authorities in their country if they were taken into custody (23% strongly agree + 25% somewhat agree)

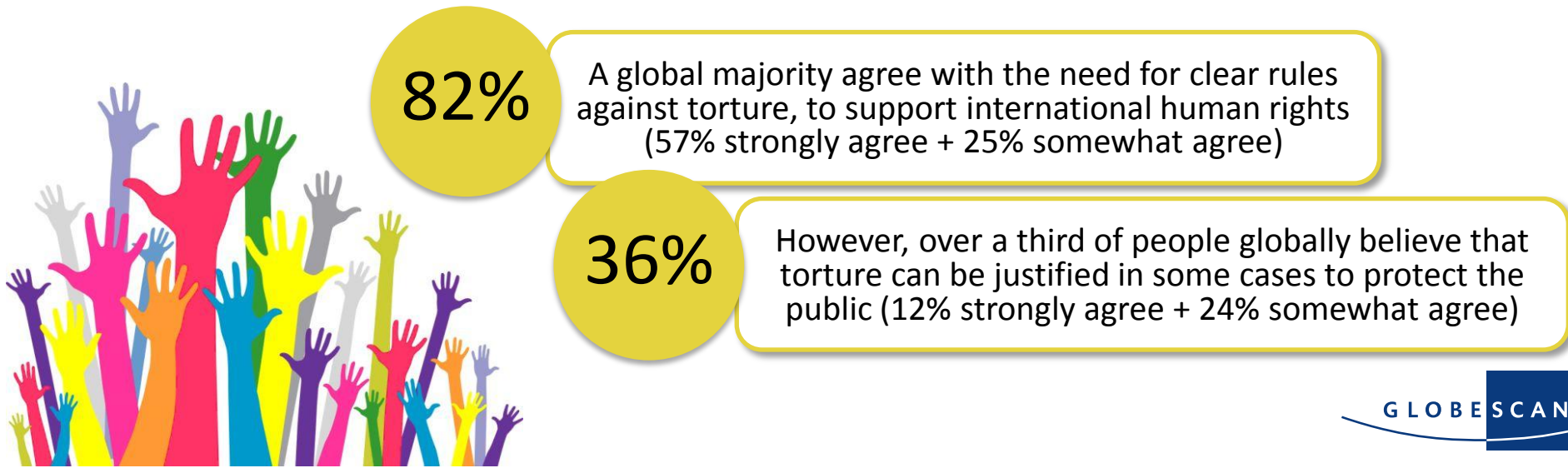
44%

While more than four in ten people globally do not feel safe from torture in their country (20% strongly disagree + 24% somewhat disagree)

# Public opinion is in favour of international rules prohibiting torture

## Justification versus prohibition of torture

- Public opinion supports international rules against torture in all countries surveyed (82%). This support is strong in most countries (57% overall strongly agree that we need international rules against torture).
- Support for international rules against torture is weakest in Argentina, India, Mexico, Nigeria and Peru, where less than three quarters of people agree that international rules against torture are necessary.
- When asked if torture could sometimes be justified to protect the public, a majority across the countries disagree (61%). However just over a third (36%) believe that in some cases torture by the authorities can sometimes be justified in the public interest. China and India show particularly high levels of justification for torture.



82%

A global majority agree with the need for clear rules against torture, to support international human rights (57% strongly agree + 25% somewhat agree)

36%

However, over a third of people globally believe that torture can be justified in some cases to protect the public (12% strongly agree + 24% somewhat agree)

# Global Data Overview

Strongly agree
  Somewhat agree
  Somewhat disagree
  Strongly disagree

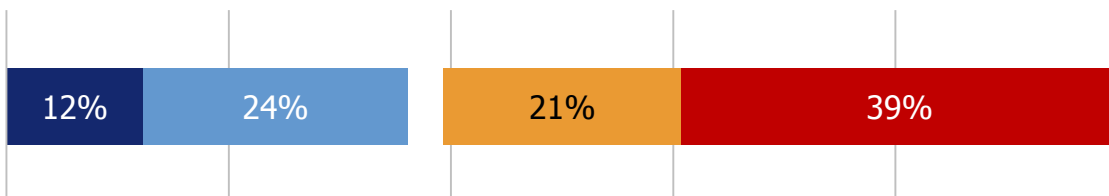
Public opinion globally is in favour of international rules against torture, with a majority of 57% in strong agreement

*'Clear rules against torture are needed because any use of torture is immoral and will weaken international human rights'*



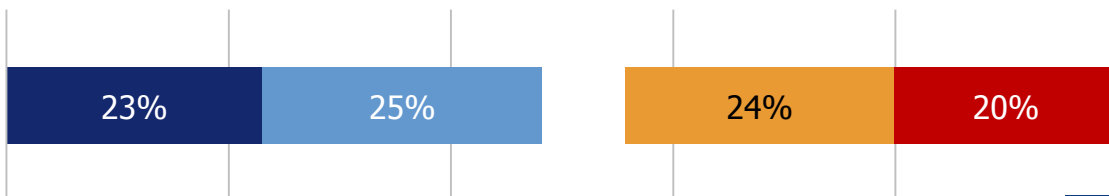
A majority of people globally (61%) believe that torture cannot be justified even when it may lead to information to protect the public

*'Torture is sometimes necessary and acceptable to gain information that may protect the public'*



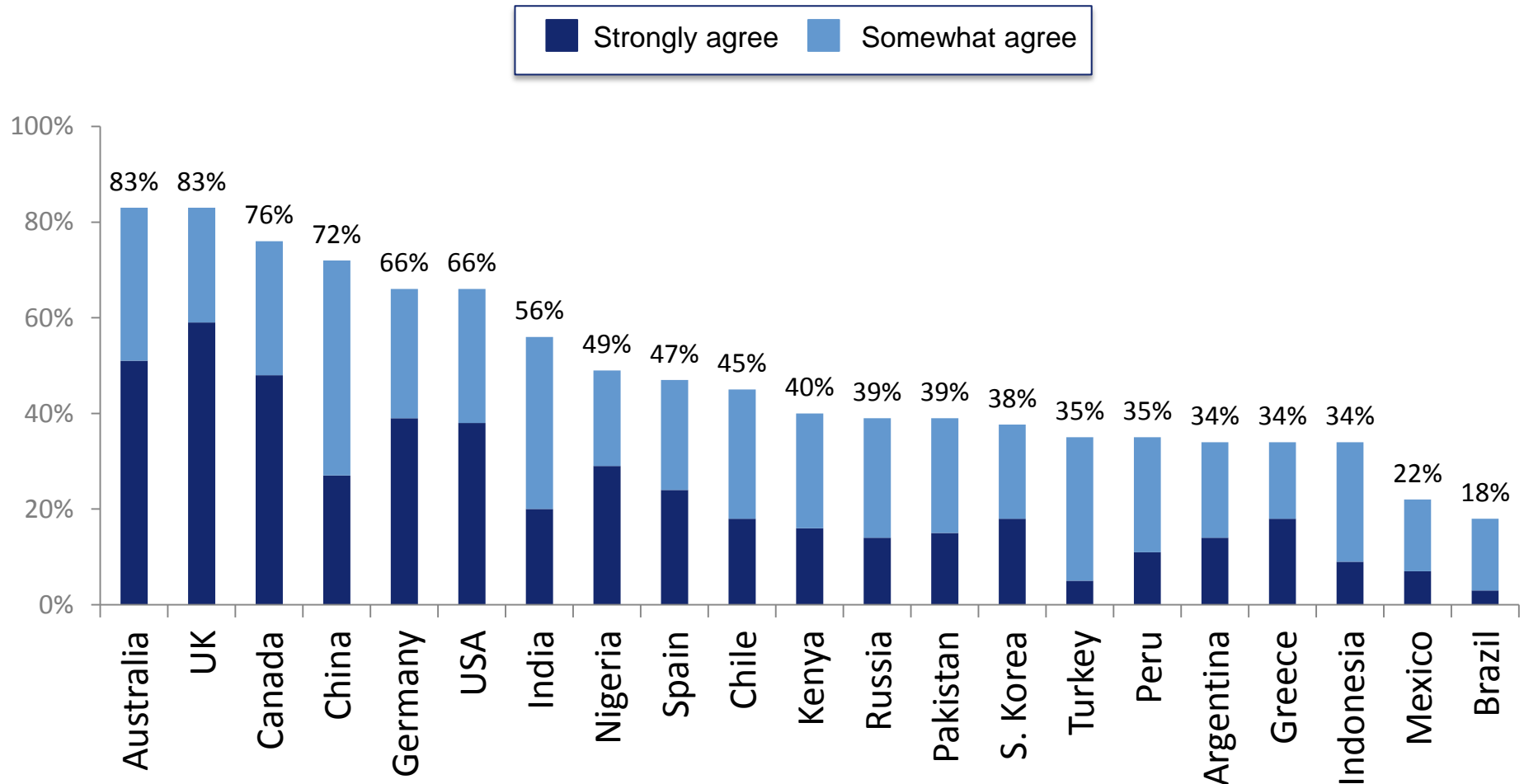
Perceptions of safety from torture is split globally. Less than half (48%) agree that they feel safe from torture in their country

*'If I were taken into custody by the authorities in my country, I am confident that I would be safe from torture'*



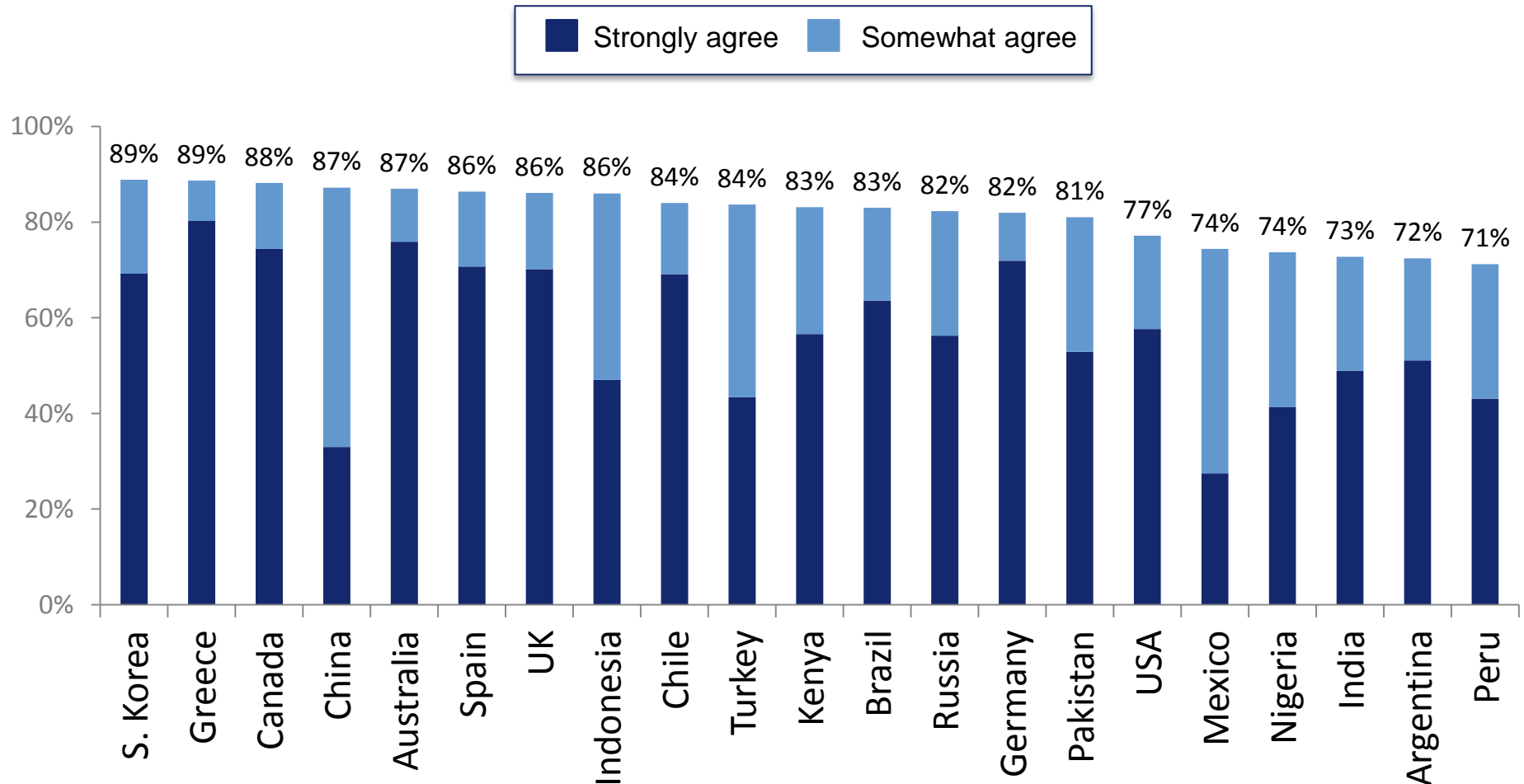
# There are wide variations in perceptions of safety, with fear of torture highest in Brazil and Mexico

*'If I were taken into custody by the authorities in my country, I am confident that I would be safe from torture'*



# Overall, a majority in all countries supports rules against torture

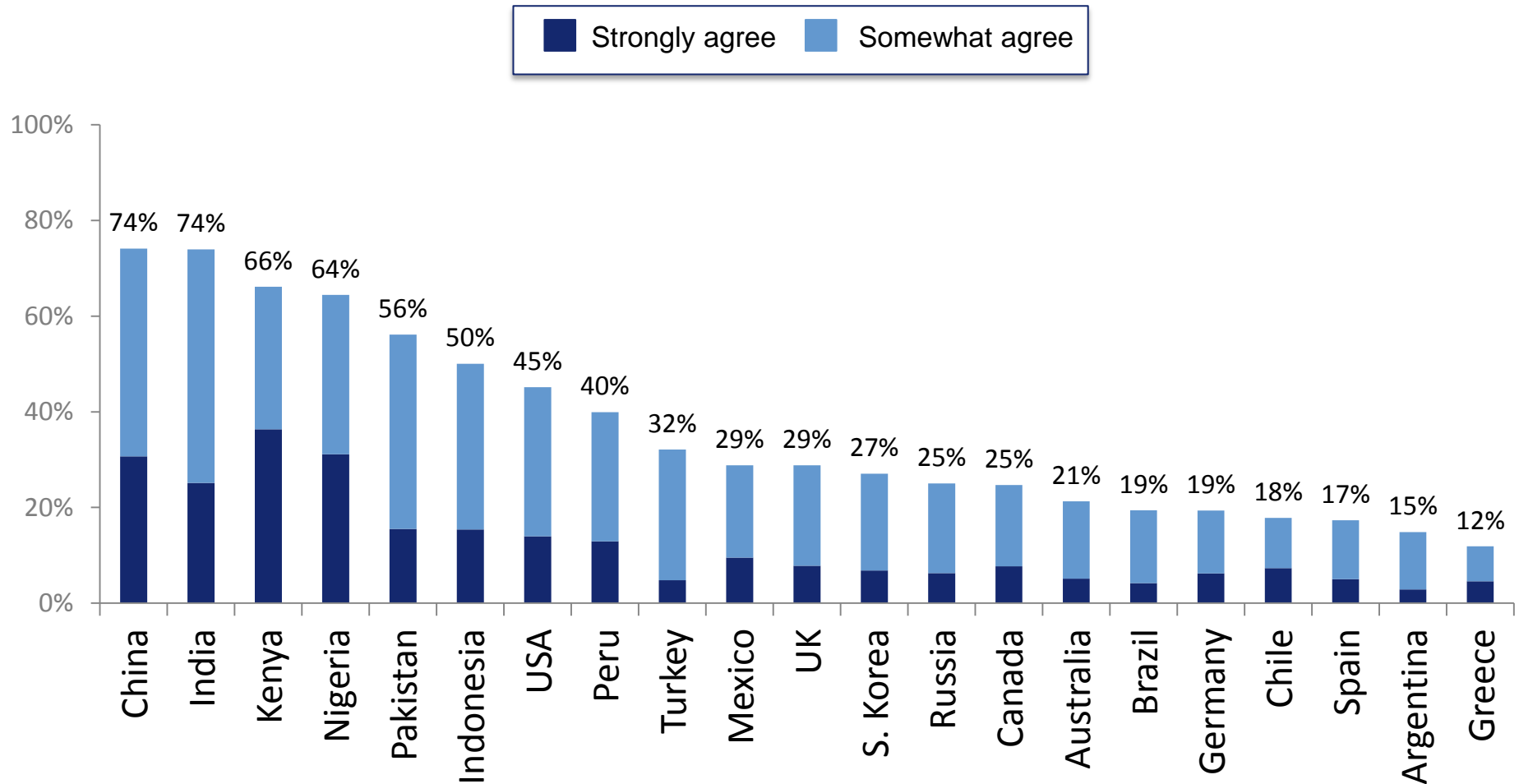
*'Clear rules against torture are needed because any use of torture is immoral and will weaken international human rights'*



# China and India show the highest levels of justification for torture



*'Torture is sometimes necessary and acceptable to gain information that may protect the public'*



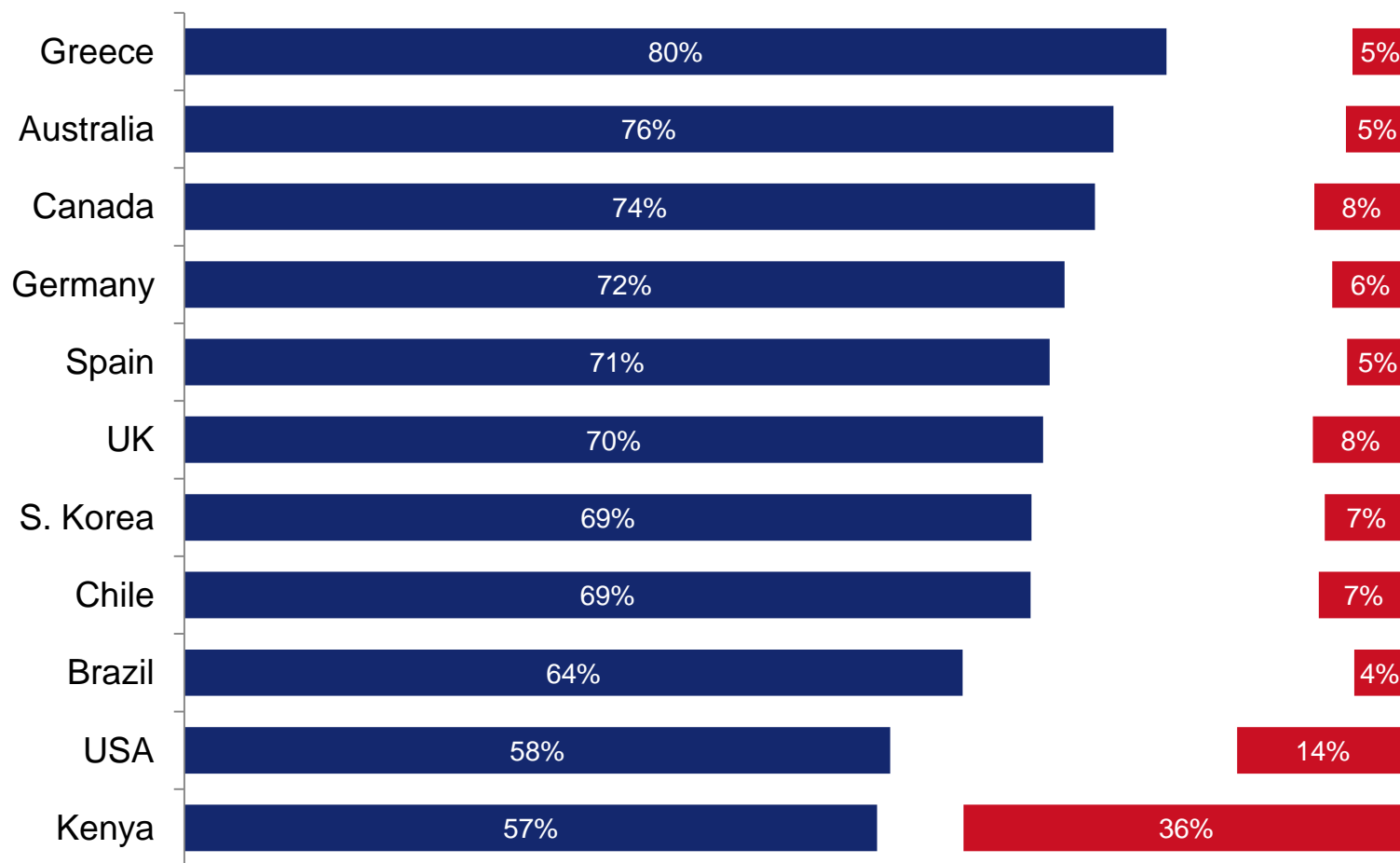
# Support for rules against torture vs. justification (1)

■ Strongly agree with statement 1:

*'Clear rules against torture are needed because any use of torture is immoral and will weaken international human rights'*

■ Strongly agree with statement 2:

*'Torture is sometimes necessary and acceptable to gain information that may protect the public'*





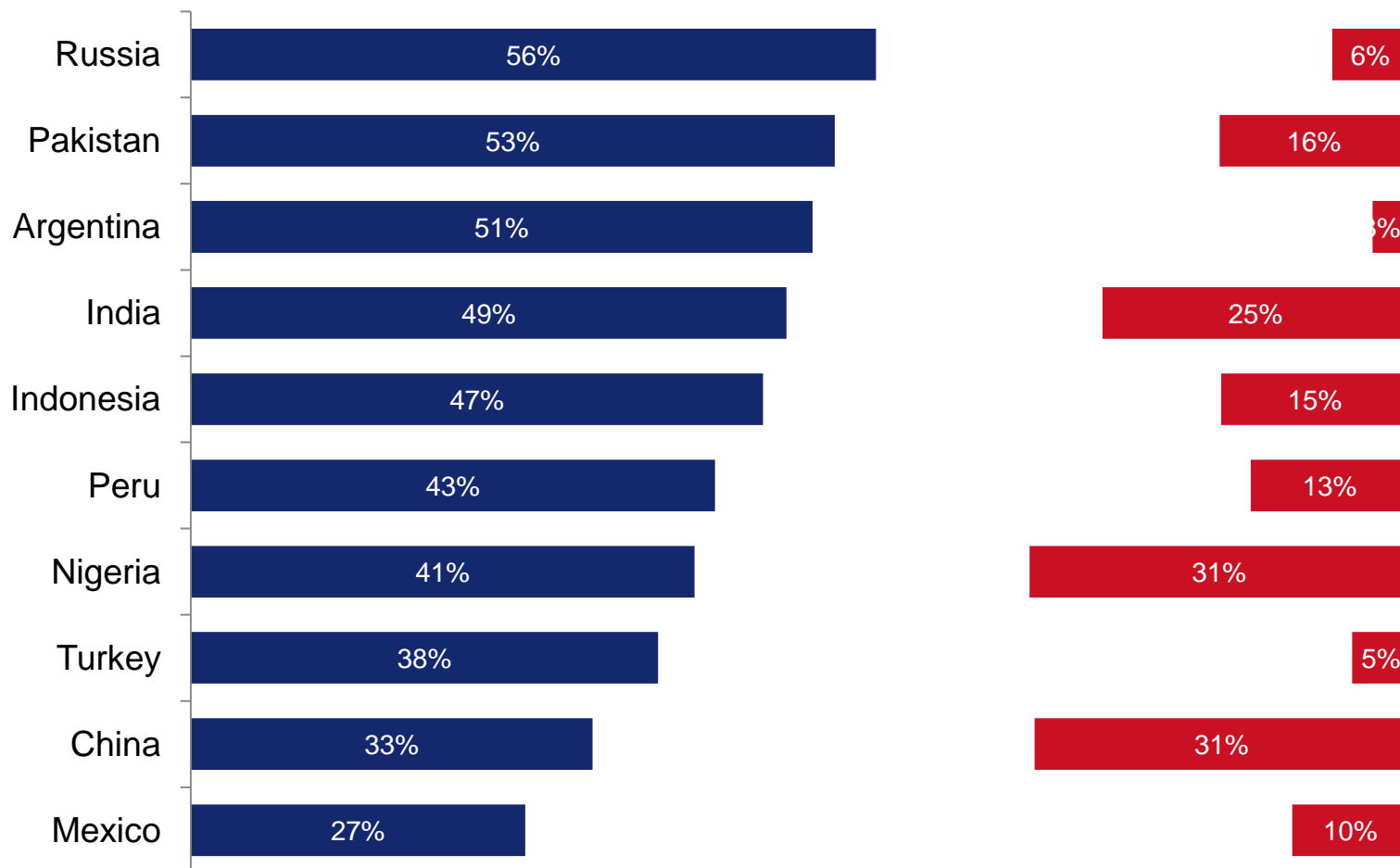
# Support for rules against torture vs. justification (2)

■ Strongly agree with statement 1:

*'Clear rules against torture are needed because any use of torture is immoral and will weaken international human rights'*

■ Strongly agree with statement 2:

*'Torture is sometimes necessary and acceptable to gain information that may protect the public'*



## Country Overviews



# Argentina Torture Overview



■ Strongly agree ■ Somewhat agree ■ Somewhat disagree ■ Strongly disagree

Nearly three quarters of the Argentinian public support the implementation of clear rules against torture

*'Clear rules against torture are needed because any use of torture is immoral and will weaken international human rights'*



For Argentinians the use of torture is not acceptable; over half of respondents strongly disagree with its use, even if it may protect the public

*'Torture is sometimes necessary and acceptable to gain information that may protect the public'*



Nearly half of Argentinians say they would not feel safe from torture if they were taken into custody in their country

*'If I were taken into custody by the authorities in my country, I am confident that I would be safe from torture'*





# Australia Torture Overview

■ Strongly agree ■ Somewhat agree ■ Somewhat disagree ■ Strongly disagree

The Australian public is very supportive of clear rules against torture, with over three quarters strongly agreeing

*'Clear rules against torture are needed because any use of torture is immoral and will weaken international human rights'*



Reflecting this anti-torture sentiment, over two-thirds disagree or strongly disagree that torture can be justified in some cases to protect the public

*'Torture is sometimes necessary and acceptable to gain information that may protect the public'*



Australians feel safe from torture in their country, with more than 80% agreeing

*'If I were taken into custody by the authorities in my country, I am confident that I would be safe from torture'*

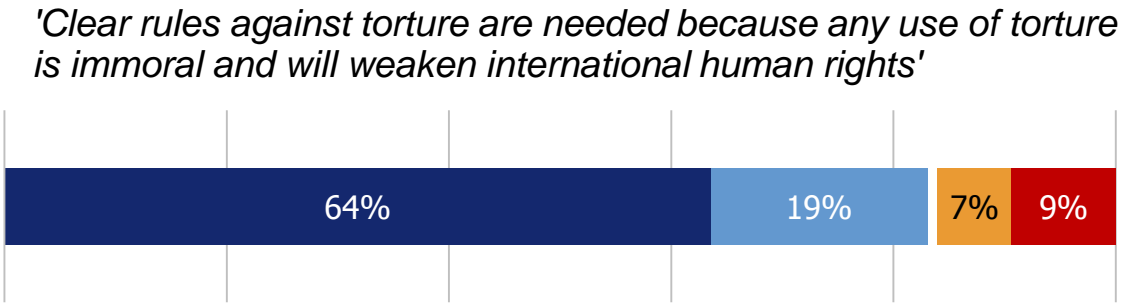




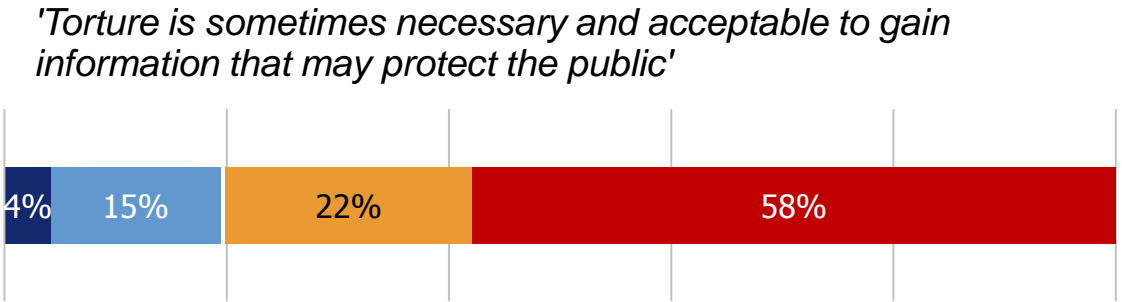
# Brazil Torture Overview



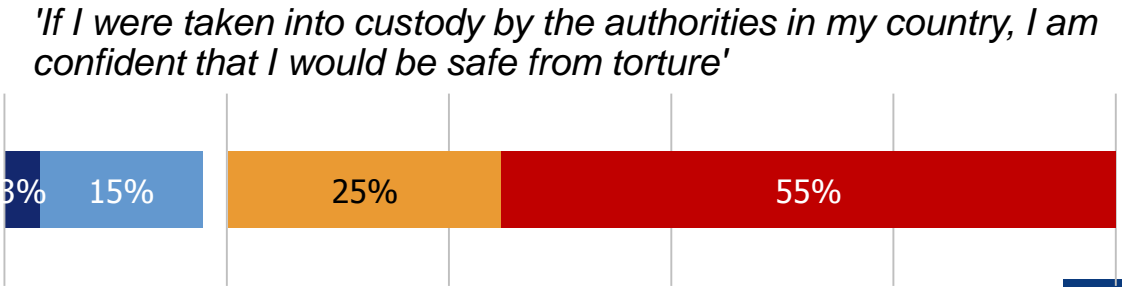
The majority of Brazilians support the implementation of clear rules against torture; 64% strongly agree that they are needed



Similarly, Brazilians do not see torture as justified, with over three quarters thinking that it is neither necessary nor acceptable



Brazilians are not confident that they would be safe if taken into custody in their country; only 3% strongly agree, compared to 55% who strongly disagree





# Canada Torture Overview

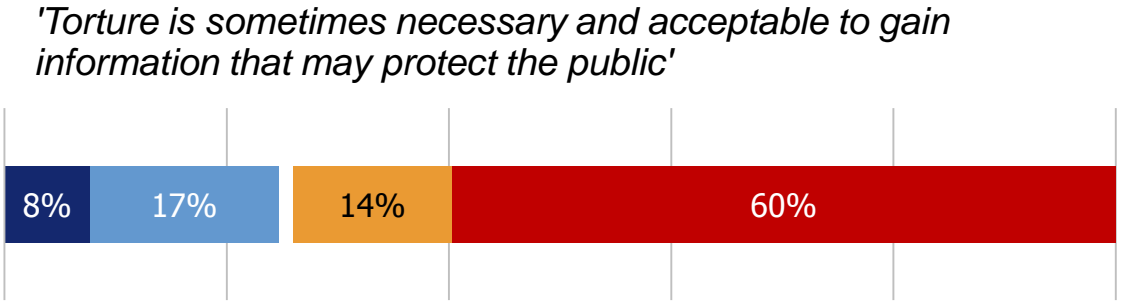


Canadians are in strong support of clear international rules against torture, to uphold human rights

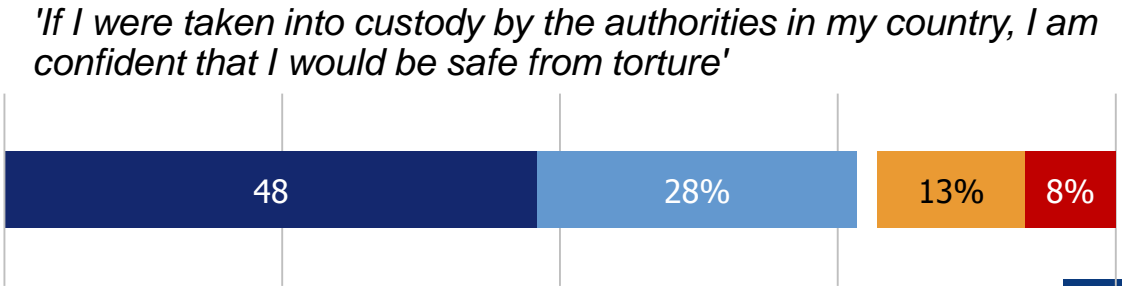
*'Clear rules against torture are needed because any use of torture is immoral and will weaken international human rights'*



60% of Canada's general public strongly believe that torture cannot be justified, even where information from torture could protect the public



Over three-quarters of Canadians agree that they feel safe; just over a fifth (22%) do not feel safe from torture





# Chile Torture Overview

■ Strongly agree ■ Somewhat agree ■ Somewhat disagree ■ Strongly disagree

Chileans are very supportive of international rules against torture, with 69% of the respondents strongly agreeing that they are needed

*'Clear rules against torture are needed because any use of torture is immoral and will weaken international human rights'*



The majority of Chileans believe that torture is neither a necessary nor an acceptable means of gaining information

*'Torture is sometimes necessary and acceptable to gain information that may protect the public'*



Chileans have mixed views on personal safety, with 45% agreeing they feel safe from torture, 30% disagreeing, and 25% unsure

*'If I were taken into custody by the authorities in my country, I am confident that I would be safe from torture'*







# China Torture Overview



Strongly agree   Somewhat agree   Somewhat disagree   Strongly disagree

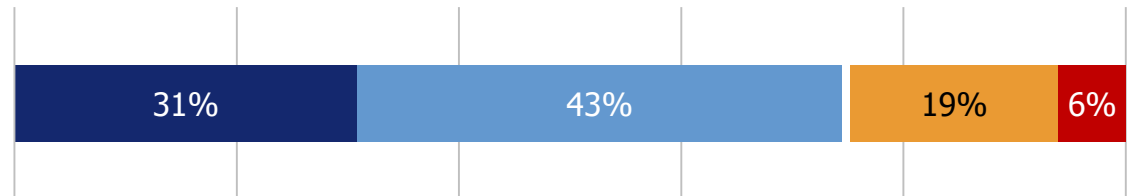
Most Chinese respondents believe that clear rules should be implemented against torture

*'Clear rules against torture are needed because any use of torture is immoral and will weaken international human rights'*



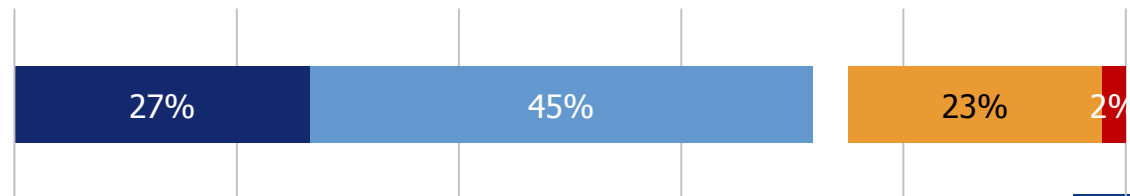
Nonetheless nearly 75% of the respondents think that torture can be justified to gain information

*'Torture is sometimes necessary and acceptable to gain information that may protect the public'*



The majority of Chinese respondents are confident that they would be safe from torture if taken into custody

*'If I were taken into custody by the authorities in my country, I am confident that I would be safe from torture'*





# Germany Torture Overview

■ Strongly agree ■ Somewhat agree ■ Somewhat disagree ■ Strongly disagree

A majority of Germans strongly agree that any use of torture is immoral and weakens international human rights

*'Clear rules against torture are needed because any use of torture is immoral and will weaken international human rights'*



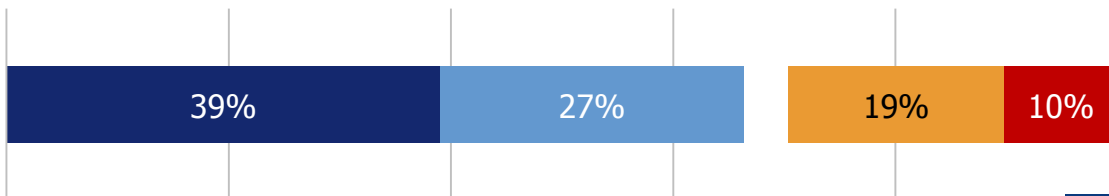
Fewer than one in five Germans agree that torture is sometimes in the public interest; the majority strongly disagree that torture can be justified in this way

*'Torture is sometimes necessary and acceptable to gain information that may protect the public'*



Only two thirds of German people surveyed agree that they would feel safe from torture, should they be taken into custody in their country

*'If I were taken into custody by the authorities in my country, I am confident that I would be safe from torture'*





# Greece Torture Overview

■ Strongly agree ■ Somewhat agree ■ Somewhat disagree ■ Strongly disagree

A large majority of Greek people strongly agree that clear rules against torture are required; just 10% disagree with this position

*'Clear rules against torture are needed because any use of torture is immoral and will weaken international human rights'*



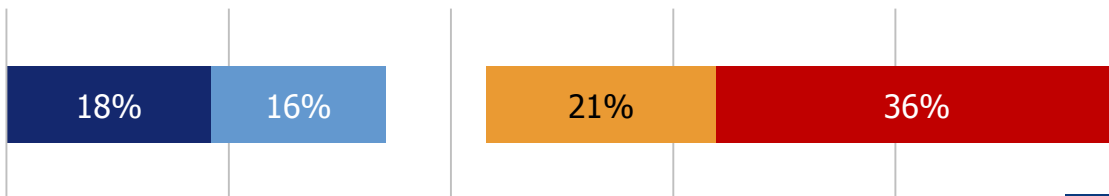
The Greek public do not support torture, and feel strongly about this, even where information could be used to protect the public

*'Torture is sometimes necessary and acceptable to gain information that may protect the public'*



Despite anti-torture sentiment, a majority of Greeks (57%) do not feel safe from torture in their country; this is high compared with other European countries

*'If I were taken into custody by the authorities in my country, I am confident that I would be safe from torture'*





# India Torture Overview



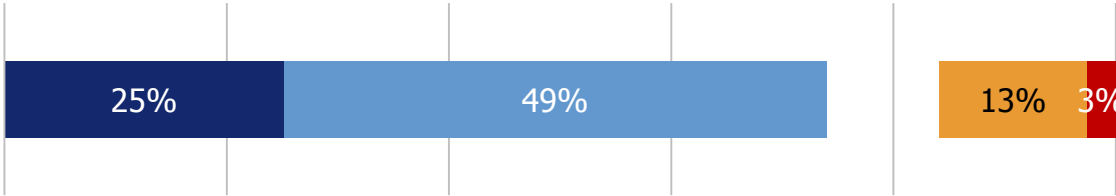
In India, the general public is in favour of clear rules against torture. Support is not as strong as elsewhere, with just under half strongly agreeing

*'Clear rules against torture are needed because any use of torture is immoral and will weaken international human rights'*



Despite being in favour of clear international rules, Indians also agree that torture can sometimes be justified where information may protect the public

*'Torture is sometimes necessary and acceptable to gain information that may protect the public'*



Confidence in the public's safety from torture is mixed in India but a majority of 56% agree at least somewhat that they feel safe

*'If I were taken into custody by the authorities in my country, I am confident that I would be safe from torture'*





# Indonesia Torture Overview

■ Strongly agree ■ Somewhat agree ■ Somewhat disagree ■ Strongly disagree

The wide majority of Indonesians supports the implementation of clear rules against torture

*'Clear rules against torture are needed because any use of torture is immoral and will weaken international human rights'*



Indonesian respondents are split between those who agree that torture can sometimes be justified and those who disagree

*'Torture is sometimes necessary and acceptable to gain information that may protect the public'*



Over half of the Indonesian respondents would not feel safe if taken into custody; only 9% strongly agree that they feel safe in their country

*'If I were taken into custody by the authorities in my country, I am confident that I would be safe from torture'*





# Kenya Torture Overview



■ Strongly agree ■ Somewhat agree ■ Somewhat disagree ■ Strongly disagree

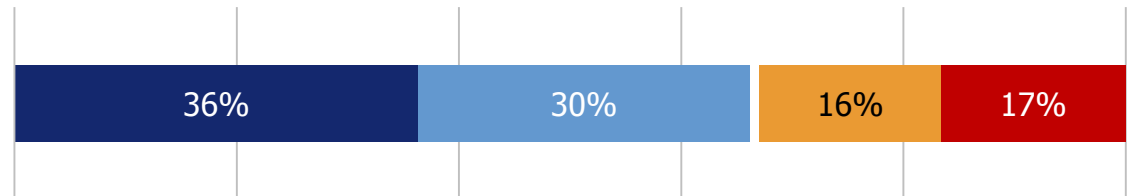
In Kenya, the majority agrees that clear rules are needed to fight against torture

*'Clear rules against torture are needed because any use of torture is immoral and will weaken international human rights'*



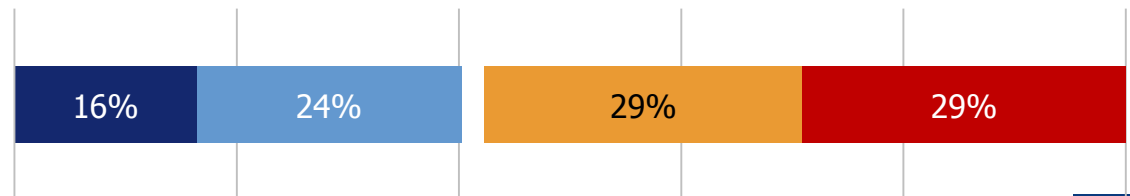
Despite this support for legislation against torture, two thirds of Kenyans think that torture can sometimes be acceptable

*'Torture is sometimes necessary and acceptable to gain information that may protect the public'*



More than half of the Kenyan public is not confident that they would be safe from torture if taken into custody

*'If I were taken into custody by the authorities in my country, I am confident that I would be safe from torture'*

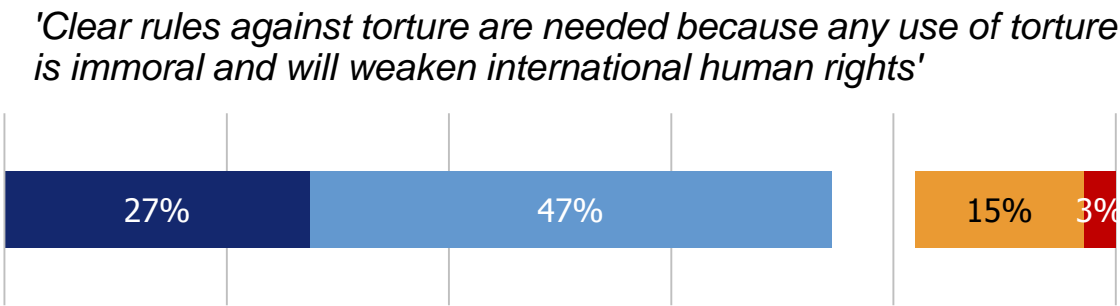




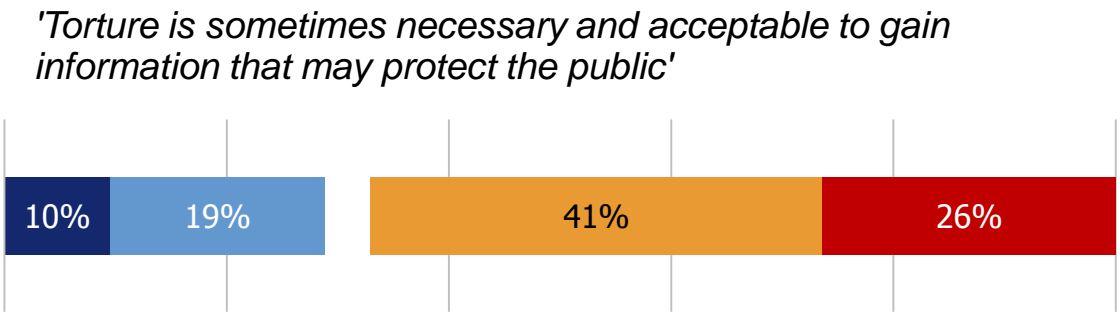
# Mexico Torture Overview



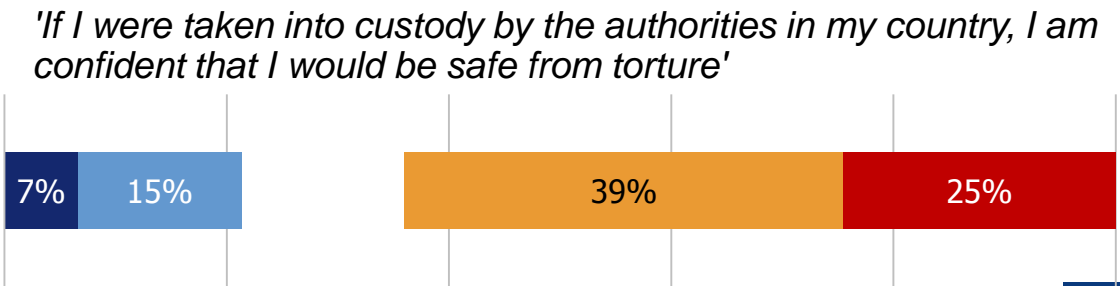
Mexicans are in support of rules against torture but the strength of their support is weaker than in other countries, with just over a quarter in strong agreement



The majority of the general public in Mexico believes that torture is not justified, even when it could lead to information to protect the public



Fear of torture is prevalent in Mexico, with 6 in 10 Mexicans disagreeing that they would feel safe if they were taken in to custody by the authorities



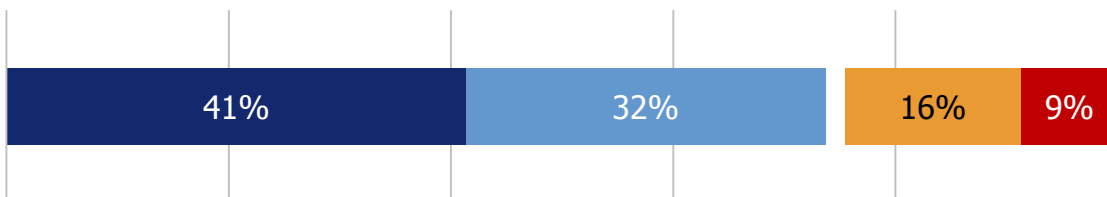


# Nigeria Torture Overview

■ Strongly agree  
 ■ Somewhat agree  
 ■ Somewhat disagree  
 ■ Strongly disagree

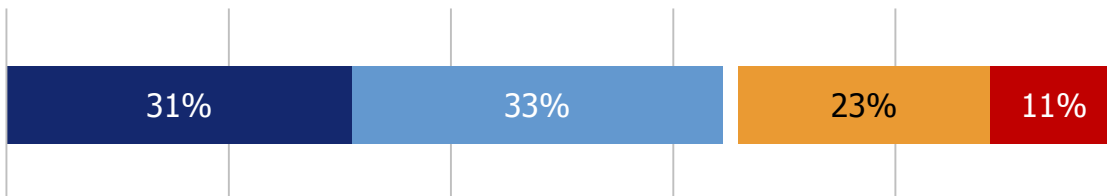
There is support in Nigeria for clear rules against torture, to support international human rights

*'Clear rules against torture are needed because any use of torture is immoral and will weaken international human rights'*



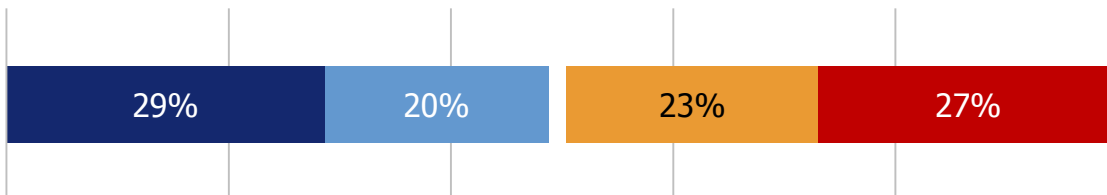
Despite this support for rules against torture, almost two thirds of Nigerians (64%) believe that torture can be justified

*'Torture is sometimes necessary and acceptable to gain information that may protect the public'*



Nigerians are split almost 50/50 on whether they feel safe from torture by the authorities in their country

*'If I were taken into custody by the authorities in my country, I am confident that I would be safe from torture'*





# Pakistan Torture Overview



■ Strongly agree ■ Somewhat agree ■ Somewhat disagree ■ Strongly disagree

The Pakistani general public support rules against torture, with a majority in strong agreement that torture is immoral and weakens human rights

*'Clear rules against torture are needed because any use of torture is immoral and will weaken international human rights'*



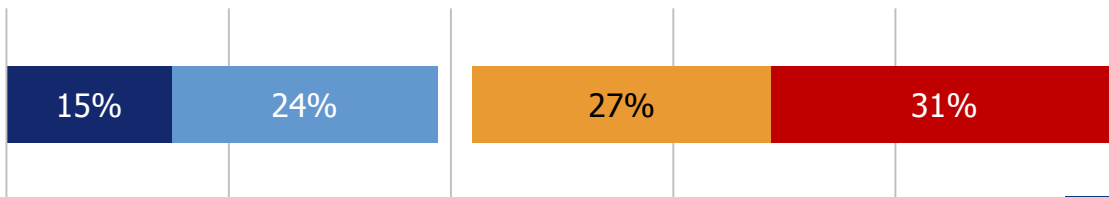
However, opinion is mixed over whether torture can be justified; more than half of respondents agree that in some cases torture is necessary

*'Torture is sometimes necessary and acceptable to gain information that may protect the public'*



The majority in Pakistan do not feel safe from torture by the authorities; just 15% of Pakistanis strongly believe that they are safe

*'If I were taken into custody by the authorities in my country, I am confident that I would be safe from torture'*



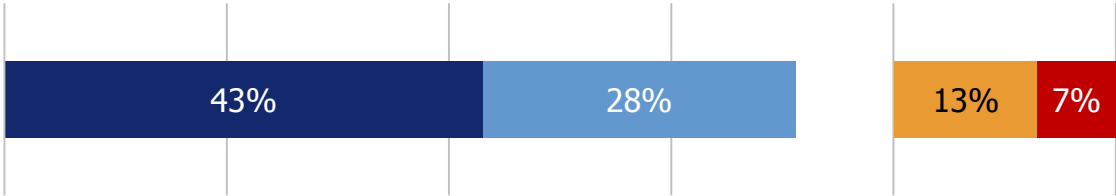


# Peru Torture Overview



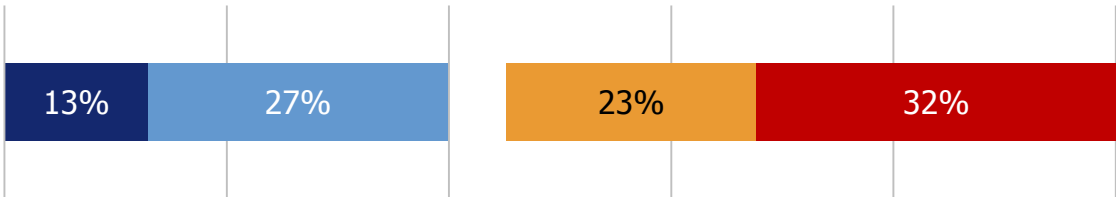
While the majority of Peruvians agree with clear rules against torture, support is weaker than in most other countries

*'Clear rules against torture are needed because any use of torture is immoral and will weaken international human rights'*



Opinion in Peru is split over whether torture can be justified to protect the public; 40% agree that it can be justified and 55% disagree

*'Torture is sometimes necessary and acceptable to gain information that may protect the public'*



Only 11% of people in Peru strongly agree that they would feel safe from torture by the authorities should they be taken into custody

*'If I were taken into custody by the authorities in my country, I am confident that I would be safe from torture'*

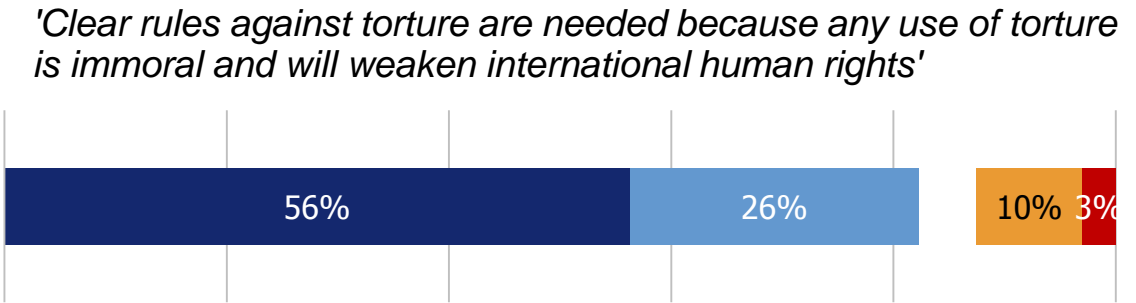




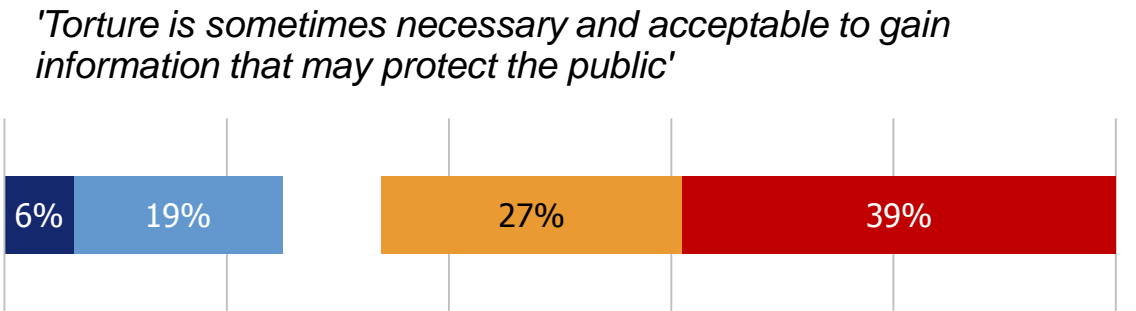
# Russia Torture Overview



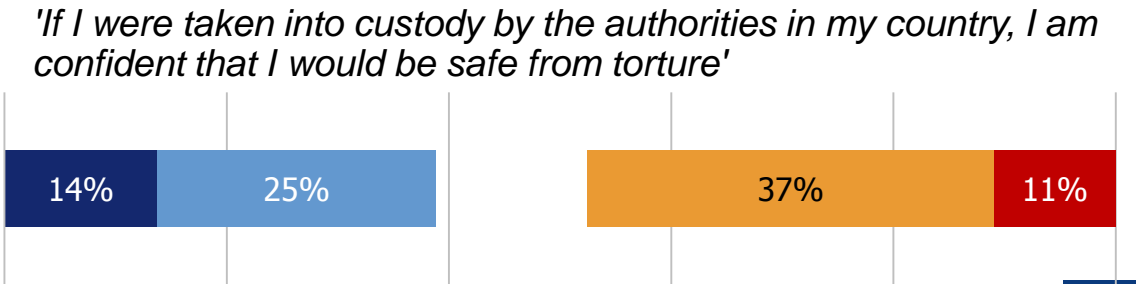
Russians are in strong agreement that clear rules are needed to prevent torture



The general population in Russia also consider that torture cannot be justified, even where it leads to information in the public interest



Feelings of safety from torture in Russia are mixed; nearly half of Russians surveyed disagree that they would be safe if they were taken into custody





# South Korea Torture Overview



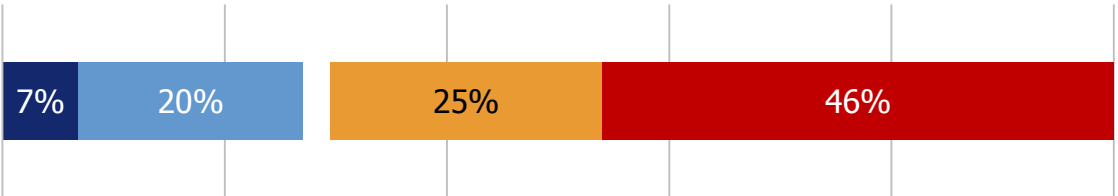
South Koreans are strongly in favour of clear rules against torture

*'Clear rules against torture are needed because any use of torture is immoral and will weaken international human rights'*



The South Korean public also generally believe that torture cannot be justified by information extraction

*'Torture is sometimes necessary and acceptable to gain information that may protect the public'*



Over half of respondents in South Korea do not feel confident that they are safe from torture by the authorities

*'If I were taken into custody by the authorities in my country, I am confident that I would be safe from torture'*





# Spain Torture Overview



The Spanish are particularly supportive of international rules against torture, with 71% in strong agreement

*'Clear rules against torture are needed because any use of torture is immoral and will weaken international human rights'*



Similarly, Spanish respondents are against torture even when it can lead to information to protect the public, with two-thirds strongly agreeing

*'Torture is sometimes necessary and acceptable to gain information that may protect the public'*



Despite this strong opposition to torture, feelings of safety are mixed in Spain with a near even spread of agree/disagree responses

*'If I were taken into custody by the authorities in my country, I am confident that I would be safe from torture'*





# Turkey Torture Overview



■ Strongly agree ■ Somewhat agree ■ Somewhat disagree ■ Strongly disagree

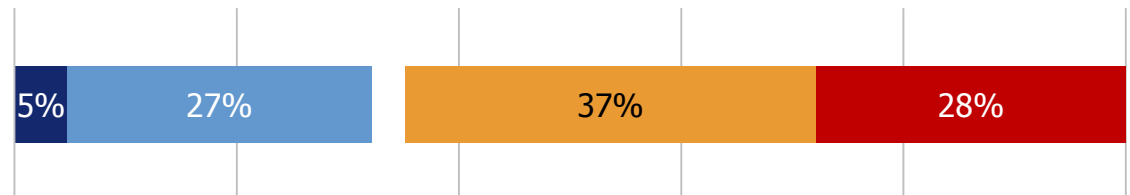
The Turkish public is in favour of implementing legislation against torture; 83% of the public agree that clear rules are necessary

*'Clear rules against torture are needed because any use of torture is immoral and will weaken international human rights'*



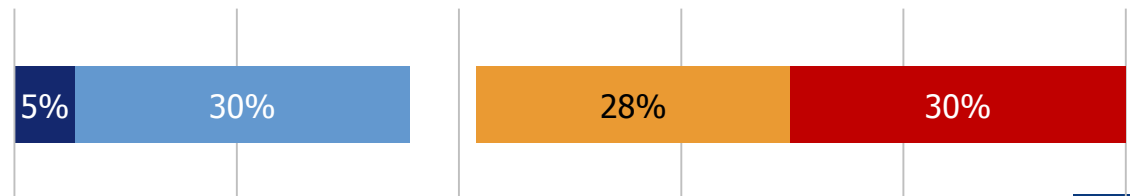
Turkish respondents are against the use of torture to gain information, although a third of the Turkish public still believe it can sometimes be justified

*'Torture is sometimes necessary and acceptable to gain information that may protect the public'*



Turks lack confidence in the authorities, with 58% believing they would not be safe from torture if taken into custody

*'If I were taken into custody by the authorities in my country, I am confident that I would be safe from torture'*







# UK Torture Overview



The UK population strongly supports clear international rules against torture

*'Clear rules against torture are needed because any use of torture is immoral and will weaken international human rights'*



The majority believe that information extraction does not justify torture. For 29%, it is sometimes necessary and acceptable to protect the public

*'Torture is sometimes necessary and acceptable to gain information that may protect the public'*



The vast majority of UK respondents feel safe from torture

*'If I were taken into custody by the authorities in my country, I am confident that I would be safe from torture'*





# USA Torture Overview

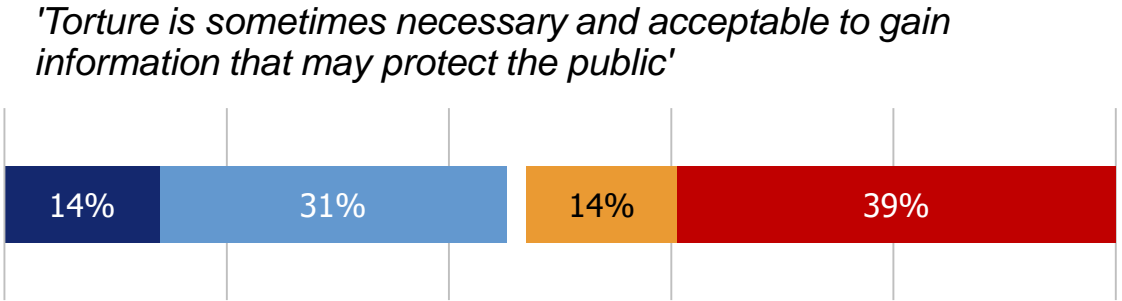


The majority of Americans agree that clear rules are needed to prevent torture, in order to uphold international human rights

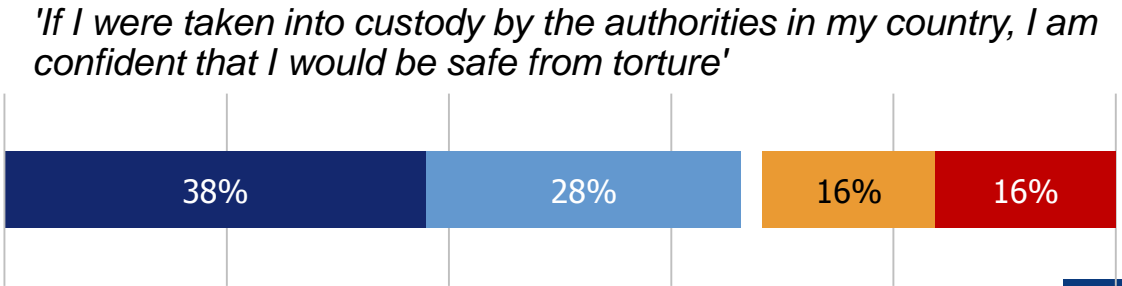
*'Clear rules against torture are needed because any use of torture is immoral and will weaken international human rights'*



US opinion on whether torture can be justified is more split than in other Western countries; 45% believe torture is necessary and acceptable in some cases



Americans also feel less safe than other Western nations, such as Canada and UK, with just 38% strongly agreeing they would be safe from torture





evidence and ideas. **applied**

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