

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS**  
**- FINAL TOPLINE -**  
**April 3 - 8, 2002**  
**N=1362**

Q.B Now I will read a list of some stories covered by news organizations this past month. As I read each item, tell me if you happened to follow this news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely? [INSERT ITEM, ROTATE]

<b>ASKED IN US ONLY:</b>		<u>Very</u>	<u>Fairly</u>	<u>Not too</u>	<u>Not at all</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
		<u>Closely</u>	<u>Closely</u>	<u>Closely</u>	<u>Closely</u>	
a.	Continued violence in the Middle East between the Palestinians and the Israelis	44	33	13	9	1=100
	December, 2001	31	40	19	9	1=100
	Early September, 2001	21	33	25	20	1=100
	April, 2001 <sup>1</sup>	22	34	24	19	1=100
	Mid-October, 2000	30	38	18	13	1=100
	Early October, 2000	21	30	27	21	1=100
	November, 1998	18	33	28	19	2=100
	January, 1997	12	23	29	35	1=100
	October, 1996	17	34	26	23	*=100
	September, 1995	11	32	29	27	1=100
	September, 1993	23	33	24	19	1=100
	May, 1988	18	37	34	9	2=100
b.	The U.S. military effort in Afghanistan	45	37	12	5	1=100
	February, 2002	47	39	8	5	1=100
	January, 2002	51	35	9	4	1=100
	December, 2001	44	38	12	5	1=100
	Mid-November, 2001	49	36	11	3	1=100
	Early November, 2001	45	36	12	6	1=100
	Mid-October, 2001	51	35	10	3	1=100
	January, 1991 <sup>2</sup>	67	28	4	1	0=100
c.	Defending against terrorist attacks in the U.S.	49	35	10	5	1=100
	December, 2001 <sup>3</sup>	60	29	7	3	1=100
	Mid-November, 2001	66	25	6	2	1=100
	Early November, 2001	63	26	6	3	2=100
	Mid-October, 2001	78	16	4	1	1=100
	Early October, 2001 <sup>4</sup>	73	22	4	1	*=100
	Mid-September, 2001	74	22	3	1	*=100
d.	Droughts and water shortages in the U.S.	19	25	28	26	2=100
e.	Reports of sexual abuses by Catholic priests	27	34	25	13	1=100
	December, 1993	18	32	31	18	1=100

<sup>1</sup> In April 2001 the story was listed as "Continued violence in the Middle East." In Mid-October 2000 the story was listed as "Continued violence in the Middle East between the Palestinians and the Israelis." In Early October 2000 the story was listed as "Renewed violence in the Middle East between the Palestinians and the Israelis." In November, 1998 and September, 1995 the story was listed as "The latest Mideast peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinians." In January 1997 the story was listed as "Renewed tensions between Israelis and Palestinians over Hebron." In October 1996 the story was listed as "Renewed violence between Israelis & Palestinians on the West Bank and in Jerusalem." In September, 1993 the story was listed as "The peace accords between Israel and the PLO." In May 1988 the story was listed as "The conflict in the Middle East between the Palestinians and the Israelis in the occupied territories."

<sup>2</sup> In January 1991 the question was worded: "How closely have you been following news about the War in the Gulf?"

<sup>3</sup> From Mid-October 2001 to December 2001 the story was listed as "Terrorism attacks on the United States."

<sup>4</sup> In Early October 2001 and Mid-September 2001 the story was listed as "News about the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington?"