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After Charlie Hebdo, Balancing Press Freedom and Respect for Religion

Majority Says Publishing Cartoons Was 'Okay,' But About Half of Non-Whites Say 'Not Okay'

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
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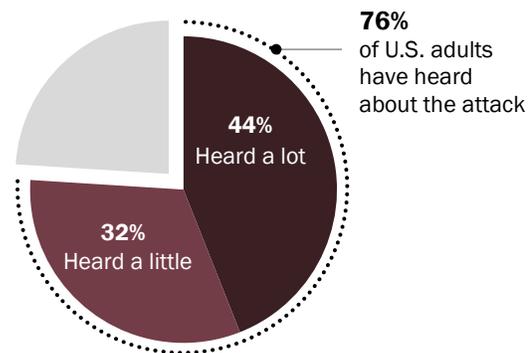
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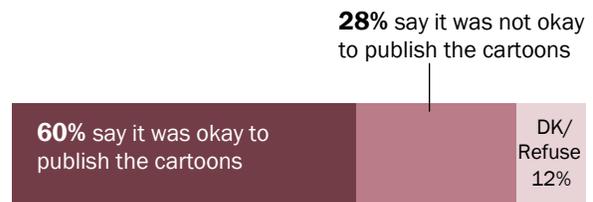
Majority Says Publishing Cartoons Was ‘Okay,’ But About Half of Non-Whites Say ‘Not Okay’

About three-in-four Americans (76%) have heard at least a little about the attack on the offices of the satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo, according to a new poll by the Pew Research Center, conducted January 22-25 among 1,003 adults. Of these, a majority (60%) says that it was okay for Charlie Hebdo to have published cartoons that depict the Prophet Muhammad, but nearly three-in-ten (28%) do not support the magazine’s decision to publish this material – saying it was not okay.

Majority Has Heard of Hebdo Attack, Says Publishing Cartoons Depicting Prophet Muhammad Was Okay



Of the 76% of U.S. adults who have heard about the attack...



Survey conducted Jan. 22-25, 2015.

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The reasons Americans give for their views on the subject highlight an ongoing tension in the U.S. between the values of free expression and religious tolerance.

When asked to explain their position on whether or not it was okay to publish these cartoons, a majority of those who heard about the attack and say it was okay to publish cite freedom of speech and of the press (70%).

Tension Between Press Freedom and Religious Sensitivity in Judging Hebdo Cartoons

% who name ____ as the reason to publish or not publish

Among those who say it was "Okay" to publish		Among those who say it was "Not okay" to publish	
	%		%
Freedom of the press/speech	70	Should respect religious beliefs	35
All religions get criticized/lampooned	8	Offensive/politically incorrect/not appropriate	31
The cartoons are harmless	6	Provoked anger/violence/terrorism	7

Survey conducted Jan. 22-25, 2015. Up to three responses were allowed. Responses that were mentioned by 5% or more of respondents in each category included in table. Other reasons below 5% can be found in the topline. "Okay" to publish (N=503). "Not okay" to publish (N=207).

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"Offensive things should be legal and tolerated in order for there to be freedom of speech."

"I think it was poor judgment and poor taste, but it was within freedom of speech."

"It's their right to express their views on satirical matters and it's one that should not be given up out of fear or pressure."

Another justification, albeit expressed by a far smaller portion (8%), is that everyone gets criticized, parodied, and lampooned – not just one group or religion.

"They made fun of the pope and other religions too, as long as they don't pick favorites. They're equal opportunity insulters."

"They publish cartoons about any and everybody, so why should we separate Muslims?"

Coming at the issue from the opposite perspective, the most common reason offered by those who say it was not okay to publish the cartoons is religious tolerance and respect. About two-thirds of those who disapprove of publishing the cartoons named some aspect or variation of tolerance and

respect; 35% say that religious beliefs should be respected, and 31% say the cartoons were offensive, politically incorrect or inappropriate.

“Because I agree with free speech, but I also have a strong respect for people’s religious ideas. It’s a matter of respect – things you just don’t do.”

“It would be like making fun of Buddha or Jesus Christ ... Anybody would be insulted.”

“I found all of them to be offensive whether it was Jews or the pope and the Islamic ones. There is no dignity in that.”

A much smaller proportion (7%) says that they are against publication of the cartoons because they provoked violence, threats or anger.

“People get nutty. Be careful what you publish.”

“It was instigating. It wasn’t right to publish it and wasn’t right to blow up the place in response.”

Non-Whites and Women Less Likely to Think It Was Okay to Publish; Republicans More Likely

Opinions about the appropriateness of publishing the cartoons vary considerably among demographic groups. One difference that stands out is between whites and non-whites.¹

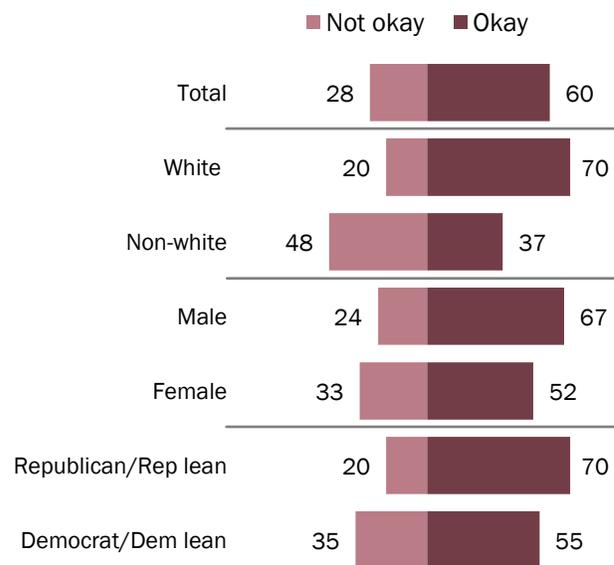
While seven-in-ten whites who have heard about the attack support Charlie Hebdo's decision to publish the cartoons, this is true of just 37% of non-whites. Instead, about half (48%) of non-whites decry the cartoons – saying it was not okay to publish them.

Men are more likely than women to support the publishing of the cartoons, with two-thirds (67%) of men who heard about the attack saying it was okay to publish, compared with about half (52%) of women. Women, on the other hand, express more opposition to the cartoons (33%, versus 24% among men).

Politically, support for publishing the cartoons is far higher among Republicans and Republican leaners (70%) than among Democrats and Democratic leaners (55%). And among Democrats, the difference between whites and non-whites persists.²

Whites, Men and Republicans More Likely to Think It Was Okay for Charlie Hebdo to Publish Cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad

Among those who have heard about the attack, % who say it was okay or not okay to publish the cartoons



Survey conducted Jan. 22-25, 2015. Based on respondents who heard at least "a little" about the attack (N=799). Whites do not include Hispanics, while non-whites do include Hispanics.

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¹ Whites include only non-Hispanic whites. Hispanics are included in non-whites. Samples sizes not large enough to break out Hispanics and blacks separately from non-whites.

² Sample sizes not large enough for this analysis among Republicans and Republican leaners or non-leaning independents.

Opinions also vary with level of education, as those with at least some college education are more likely to say it was okay to publish than those with lower education levels (69% of college grads say it was okay to publish, compared with 62% of those with some college and 48% of those with high school or less).

There is not much difference in opinion when it comes to religious affiliation. Protestants, Catholics and the unaffiliated all support the publishing of the cartoons at roughly the same rate.

Was Publishing the Cartoons Depicting the Prophet Muhammad Okay or Not Okay?

Among those who have heard about the attack, % who say it was okay or not okay to publish the cartoons

	Okay %	Not Okay %	DK/ Refused %
Total	60	28	12=100
Men	67	24	9=100
Women	52	33	14=100
White Non-Hispanic	70	20	10=100
Total Non-White	37	48	15=100
18-29	54	35	12=100
30-49	60	27	13=100
50-64	67	25	8=100
65+	55	31	14=100
College grad+	69	20	12=100
Some college	62	30	8=100
HS or less	48	36	16=100
Republican/Rep leaner	70	20	11=100
White Rep/Rep lean	74	16	10=100
Democrat/Dem leaner	55	35	10=100
White Dem/Dem lean	66	25	9=100
Non-white Dem/Dem lean	39	49	12=100
Protestant	59	29	13=100
White evangelical	66	21	13=100
White mainline	72	20	8=100
Catholic	60	31	9=100
White Catholic	71	19	10=100
Unaffiliated	62	25	13=100

Survey conducted Jan. 22-25, 2015. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding. Based on respondents who heard at least "a little" about the attack (N=799).

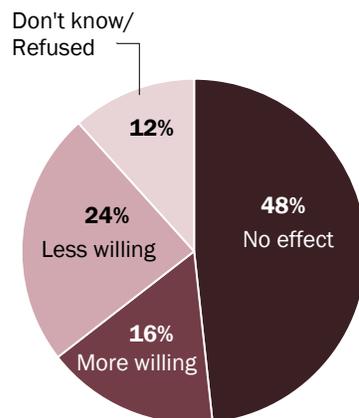
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Four-in-Ten Think Attack Will Have Some Impact on U.S. News Media's Coverage of Religion

An important question that arises from this event is what effect, if any, the attack might have on the kind of religious content U.S. news organizations are willing to publish. Overall, about half (48%) of those who have heard about the attack say that there will be no effect on U.S. news organizations in their willingness to publish or air things that may offend some people's religious beliefs. About a quarter (24%) feels U.S. news organizations will be less willing to publish this type of content. This split is similar among those who do and do not think publishing the cartoons was okay.

Nearly A Quarter Think U.S. News Organizations Will Become Less Willing to Publish Things That May Offend Religious Views

Among those who have heard about the attack, % who think the attack will make U.S. news organizations...



Survey conducted Jan. 22-25, 2015.
Based on respondents who heard at least "a little" about the attack (N=799).

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About the Survey

The analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted January 22-25, 2015 among a national sample of 1,003 adults, 18 years of age or older, living in the continental United States (501 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 502 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 284 who had no landline telephone). The survey was conducted by interviewers at Princeton Data Source under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International. A combination of landline and cell phone random digit dial samples were used; both samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish. Respondents in the landline sample were selected by randomly asking for the youngest adult male or female who is now at home. Interviews in the cell sample were conducted with the person who answered the phone, if that person was an adult 18 years of age or older. For detailed information about our survey methodology, see <http://people-press.org/methodology/>

The combined landline and cell phone sample are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race, Hispanic origin and region to parameters from the 2013 Census Bureau's American Community Survey and population density to parameters from the Decennial Census. The sample also is weighted to match current patterns of telephone status (landline only, cell phone only, or both landline and cell phone), based on extrapolations from the 2014 National Health Interview Survey. The weighting procedure also accounts for the fact that respondents with both landline and cell phones have a greater probability of being included in the combined sample and adjusts for household size among respondents with a landline phone. Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting.

The following table shows the unweighted sample sizes and the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

Group	Unweighted sample size	Plus or minus ...
Total sample	1,003	3.6 percentage points
Heard of attack	799	4.0 percentage points
Of those who have heard of attack by subgroup:		
White non-Hispanic	586	4.7 percentage points
Total non-white (including Hispanics)	192	8.1 percentage points
Males	390	5.7 percentage points
Females	409	5.6 percentage points
Republican/Rep leaners	335	6.2 percentage points
Democrat/Dem leaners	339	6.1 percentage points

Sample sizes and sampling errors for other subgroups are available upon request.

In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

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JANUARY 22-25, 2015 OMNIBUS
FINAL TOPLINE
N=1,003**

ASK ALL:

PEW.1 As I read a list of some stories covered by news organizations this past week, please tell me if you happened to follow each news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely. First, **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE] [IF NECESSARY "Did you follow [ITEM] very closely, fairly closely, not too closely or not at all closely?"]**

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
a. Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy					
January 22-25, 2015	26	30	18	24	2
January 8-11, 2015	24	35	17	24	1
December 4-7, 2014	28	31	20	19	1
November 6-9, 2014	31	35	21	12	2
October 16-19, 2014	26	33	22	18	1
September 25-28, 2014	25	33	22	19	1
July 31-August 3, 2014	27	29	23	21	1
June 5-8, 2014	26	28	20	24	1
March 20-23, 2014	30	34	18	17	2
March 6-9, 2014	27	31	19	22	1
February 27-March 2, 2014	27	32	16	24	1
February 6-9, 2014	28	29	20	22	1
January 30-February 2, 2014	29	31	17	23	*
January 9-12, 2014	28	29	19	23	1
January 2-5, 2014	29	31	17	22	1

SEE TREND FOR PREVIOUS YEARS: <http://www.people-press.org/files/2015/01/NII-Economy-trend.pdf>

b. Developments in Paris after the terrorist shootings at a magazine office and a supermarket					
January 22-25, 2015	25	28	20	26	2
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
January 8-11, 2015: <i>The terrorist shootings at a newspaper office in Paris</i>	29	33	16	20	2
January 2-5, 2014: <i>Two terrorist bombings in Russia</i>	11	26	21	40	1
September 25-29, 2013: <i>The terrorist attacks at a shopping mall in Nairobi, Kenya</i>	25	32	19	24	*
May 23-26, 2013: <i>The murder of a British soldier in London, in a suspected terrorist attack</i>	18	24	21	35	2
July 28-31, 2011: <i>A bombing and shooting attack in Norway that killed more than 70 people</i>	24	33	20	23	*
July 23-24, 2011: <i>A bombing and shooting attack in Norway that killed over 90 people</i>	26	31	17	26	1
January 27-30, 2011: <i>Suicide bombings at an airport in Russia that killed at least 35 people</i>	14	30	24	31	1
April 1-5, 2010: <i>Suicide bombings in Russia</i>	10	26	24	40	*
July 17-20, 2009: <i>The bombing of two hotels in Indonesia</i>	13	26	23	36	2

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	Very closely	Fairly closely	Not too closely	Not at all closely	(VOL.) DK/Ref
December, 2008: <i>The terrorist attacks in Mumbai, India</i>	29	37	20	14	*
September, 2008: <i>A bombing at a Marriott Hotel in Pakistan that killed over 50 people</i>	16	32	23	28	1
July, 2007: <i>The investigation into who was responsible for car bombs that were discovered in London and a car bomb that went off at an airport in Scotland</i>	34	30	19	16	1
July, 2007: <i>British police finding and defusing a car bomb in London</i>	34	31	16	18	1
August, 2006: <i>British officials stopping a terrorist plot to blow up planes flying to the U.S.</i>	54	26	9	9	2
October, 2005: <i>The recent terrorist bombings in Bali, Indonesia</i>	13	31	26	29	1
July, 2005: <i>The terrorist bombings in London, England</i>	48	37	11	4	*
September, 2004: <i>The killing of Russian school children by Chechen rebels</i>	48	30	11	10	1
March, 2004: <i>The terrorist bombings in Madrid, Spain</i>	34	35	18	12	1
Late October, 2002: <i>The terrorist bombing of a nightclub in Bali, Indonesia</i>	20	34	25	20	1
c. Barack Obama's State of the Union speech					
January 22-25, 2015	20	23	15	41	2
January 30-February 2, 2014	20	19	16	43	1
February 14-17, 2013	26	20	16	37	*
January 26-29, 2012	29	18	16	37	1
January 27-30, 2011	28	22	13	36	1
January 29-February 1, 2010	33	22	17	29	1
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
February 27-March 2, 2009: <i>Barack Obama's first address to a joint session of Congress</i>	37	26	14	23	*
February 1-4, 2008: <i>President Bush's State of the Union address</i>	18	17	20	45	*
January 26-29, 2007: <i>Reports about George Bush's State of the Union address</i>	25	26	20	28	1
February, 2006: <i>George W. Bush's State of the Union address</i>	24	22	19	34	1
February, 2003	36	24	15	24	1
January, 1994: <i>Reports about Bill Clinton's State of the Union address</i>	26	25	18	31	*
February, 1992: <i>President Bush's State of the Union Address</i>	26	26	20	27	1
d. Reports about the Islamic militant group in Iraq and Syria, known as ISIS					
January 22-25, 2015	25	33	21	21	1
December 4-7, 2014	28	29	21	21	1
November 20-23, 2014	31	31	17	20	1
October 16-19, 2014: <i>U.S. airstrikes against ISIS and other Islamic militant groups in Iraq and Syria</i>	29	33	19	19	1
October 2-5, 2014	31	30	21	18	1

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
September 25-28, 2014: <i>U.S. airstrikes against ISIS and other Islamic militant groups in the Middle East</i>	37	32	16	14	1
September 11-14, 2014: <i>Reports about the Islamic militant group in Iraq and Syria, known as ISIS</i>	37	30	16	17	*
August 14-17, 2014: <i>U.S. airstrikes against an Islamic militant group in Iraq</i>	23	29	21	26	1
June 26-29, 2014: <i>Growing violence and political instability in Iraq</i>	25	29	18	27	1

ASK ALL:

PEW.2 How much, if anything, have you read or heard about the attack in Paris, France on the satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo? Have you heard ... **[READ]**

Jan 22-25

2015

44	A lot
32	A little [OR]
23	Nothing at all
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

ASK ALL:

PEW.3 As you may know, over the past several years this magazine has published cartoons depicting the Prophet Muhammad, which some people found offensive to their religious beliefs. Do you think publishing these cartoons was okay or not okay?

Jan 22-25

2015

Based on heard
about attack
[N=799]

60	Okay
28	Not okay
12	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

ASK IF "OKAY" OR "NOT OKAY" (PEW.3=1,2) [N=857]:

PEW.4 Just in your own words, why do you feel that it was [IF PEW.3=1 okay; IF PEW.3=2 not okay] for them to publish these cartoons? [OPEN-END; ACCEPT UP TO THREE RESPONSES; PROBE ONCE WITH "ANYTHING ELSE"]³

Based on those who heard "a lot" or "a little" about attack (PEW.2=1,2):

Jan 22-25, 2015 Said okay to publish [N=503]		Jan 22-25, 2015 Said not okay to publish [N=207]	
70	Freedom of press/speech	35	Should respect religious beliefs
8	All religions get criticized/lampooned	31	Offensive/politically incorrect/not appropriate
6	The cartoons are harmless	7	Provoked anger/violence/terrorist
2	People don't have to read it	3	Muslims unfairly singled out
2	Freedom of religion	2	Did not have to publish them
2	Weren't intended to offend	2	Are limits to what should be published
1	The attack was not justified	1	Did not like cartoons/not funny
1	Newsworthy/important	1	Freedom of religion
1	General negative religion	1	Freedom of speech/press
1	General negative Muslim		
1	General anti-terrorist	3	Other
		16	Don't know/Refused
2	Other		
7	Don't know/Refused		

ASK ALL:

PEW.5 Do you think that the attacks in France will make U.S. news organizations more willing, less willing or have no effect on their willingness to publish or air things that may offend some people's religious beliefs?

Jan 22-25 2015 Based on heard about attack [N=799]	
16	More willing
24	Less willing
48	No effect
12	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

ASK ALL:

PARTY In politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or independent?

ASK IF INDEP/NO PREF/OTHER/DK/REF (PARTY=3,4,5,9):

PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to the Republican Party or more to the Democratic Party?

	Republican	Democrat	Independent	(VOL.) No preference	(VOL.) Other party	(VOL.) DK/Ref	Lean Rep	Lean Dem
January 22-25, 2015	24	29	34	8	1	4	12	14

³ If respondents volunteered more than one response, Pew Research accepted up to three.