Survey of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon

May 10 – June 10, 2012

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Survey Specifications

- The International Republican Institute (IRI) conducted the survey using a trusted public opinion research firm with extensive regional experience. Field work occurred from May 10 – June 10, 2012, in the districts of Akkar, Tripoli and Baalbeck which are located in the Bekaa and North governorates of Lebanon.

- The sample for the survey was drawn from statistics from the United Nations Refugee Agency UNHCR. UNHCR reported 19,068 registered individual refugees as of May 10, 2012, with an additional 3,000 awaiting registration. Estimates, based upon mapping for this survey, suggest the total refugee population in these areas of Lebanon was nearer to 40,000.

- The survey was conducted by face-to-face interview and utilized a skip pattern to select respondents in areas where refugees are residing. Field teams first mapped the location (neighborhood/building/dwelling) where refugees are residing; and then developed an estimate of the number of refugees in each area. Field teams estimated the number of refugees (n) and divided the number of residents in the location by (n) to create a skip pattern. For example, if 375 were estimated as residing in a neighborhood or school, 375/n was used to calculate the skip pattern used to select respondents. Respondents were aged 18 years and older.

- The total number of respondents was 1,188. Although 1,188 questionnaires were successfully completed, one out of every two initially selected respondents declined to be interviewed; many citing concerns over personnel safety.

- The survey's margin of error is +/- 2.8 percent.

- Data collection occurred during a spike in Lebanese factional fighting, linked to the crisis in Syria, which resulted in significant numbers of dead and wounded. This fighting caused delays in the data collection as accessing certain areas became prohibitively difficult and dangerous.

- Approximately 30 percent of interviews were back-checked following the completion of field work as a quality control measure. Back checking yielded a zero error rate on interviews checked.

- The information in this report has been compiled in accordance with international standards for market and social research methodologies. Figures in charts and tables may not sum to 100 percent due to rounding error.

Demographics

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Respondent Administrative Division

Respondent Governorate
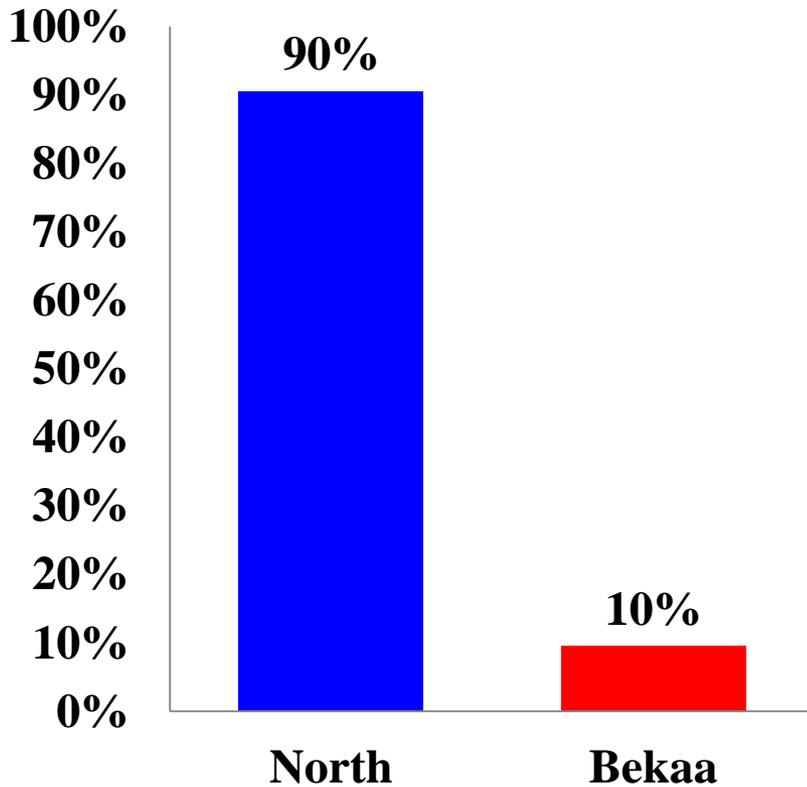
Respondent District
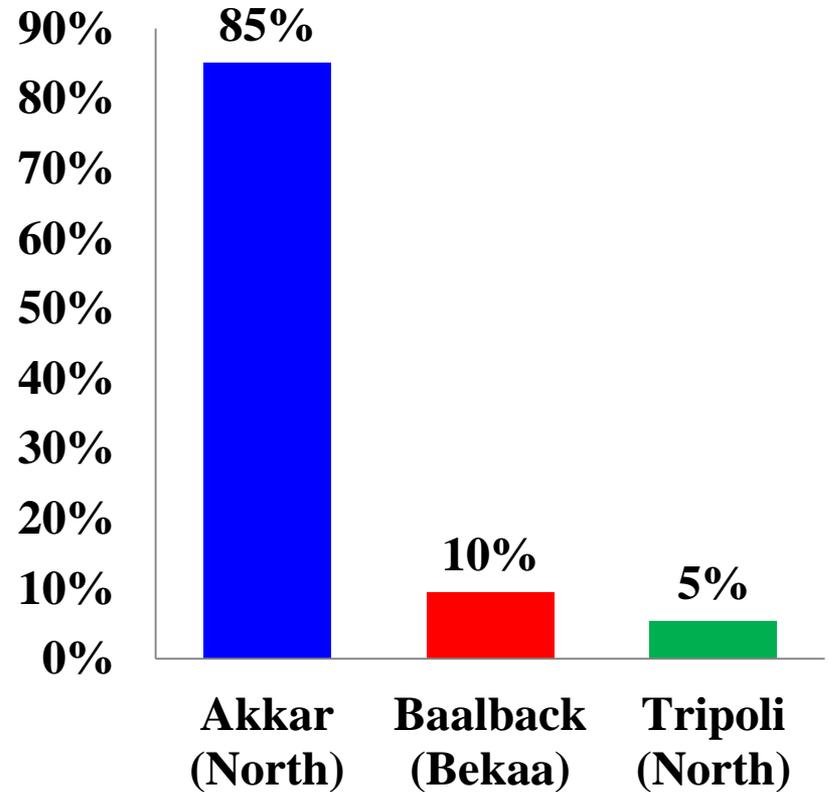
Respondent Location at Time of Survey (in Lebanon)

Area*	Frequency	Percent
Wady Khalid	692	58%
Qaa	113	10%
Machta Hasan	94	8%
Halba	85	7%
Machha	61	5 %
Machta Hammoud	60	5%
Abi Samra	34	3%
Bab El Tabbaneh	30	3%
Knisse	17	1%
Akroum	2	<1%
Total	1,188	100%

*Abi Samra and Bab El Tabbaneh are neighborhoods, all other areas are municipalities

Gender

■ Male ■ Female

41%

59%
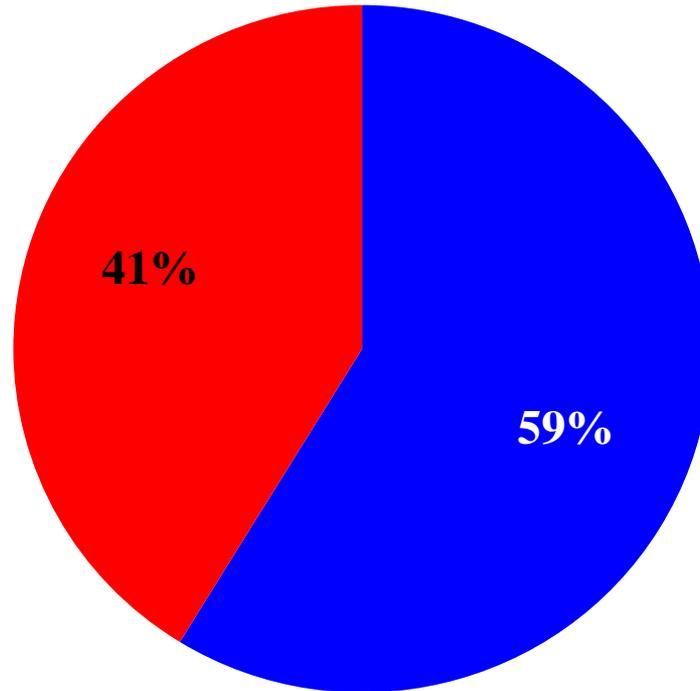
Age
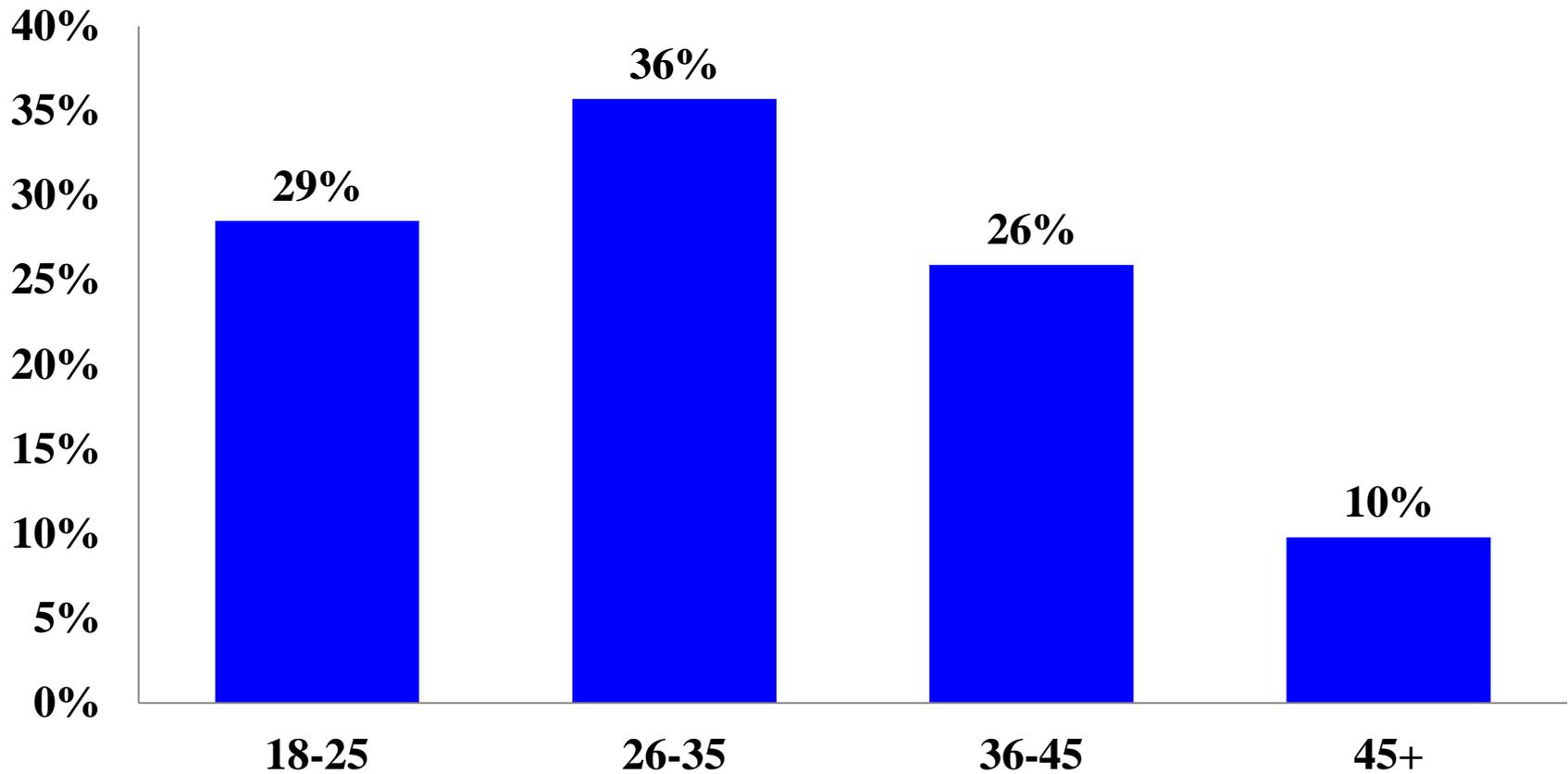
Please tell me the highest level of formal education you have attained.

Vocational	**6%**
Unfinished primary	**10%**
Primary	**24%**
Unfinished lower secondary	**14%**
Lower secondary	**8%**
Unfinished upper secondary	**7%**
Upper secondary	**13%**
Unfinished higher	**13%**
Higher	**6%**

What is your occupation?

Occupation	Percentage
Pensioner (retired)	1%
Farmer	1%
Unemployed	4%
Student	8%
White collar worker	17%
Housewife	24%
Blue collar worker	44%
DK/REF	2%
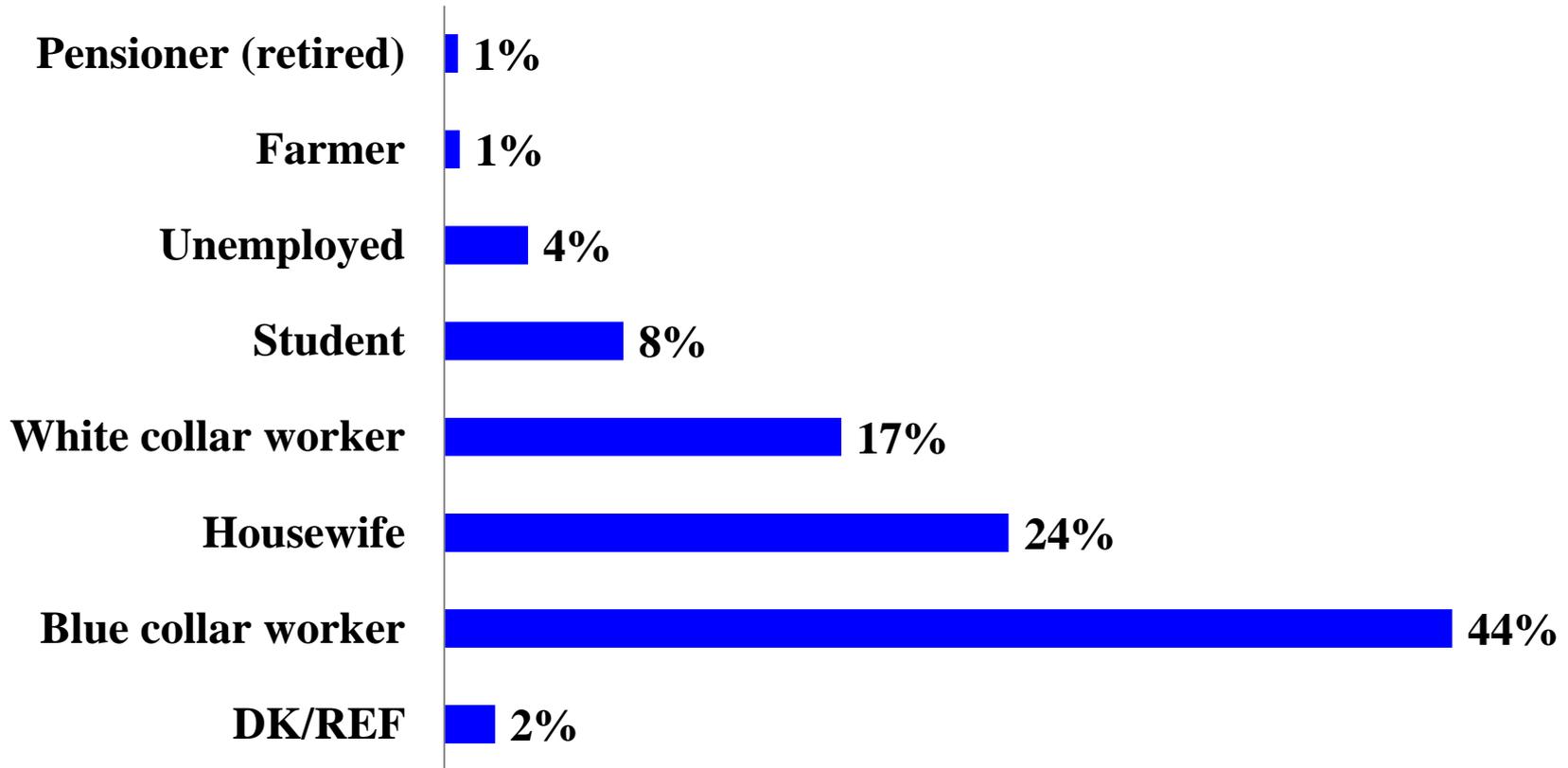
What is your total monthly income of your household from all sources?

Income	Percent
100,001 SYP or more	<1%
80,001 to 100,000 SYP	1%
70,001 to 80,000 SYP	1%
60,001 to 70,000 SYP	1%
50,001 to 60,000 SYP	1%
40,001 to 50,000 SYP	2%
30,001 to 40,000 SYP	6%
20,001 to 30,000 SYP	18%
10,001 to 20,000 SYP	36%
5,001 to 10,000 SYP	31%
5,000 SYP or less	<1%
DK/REF	2%
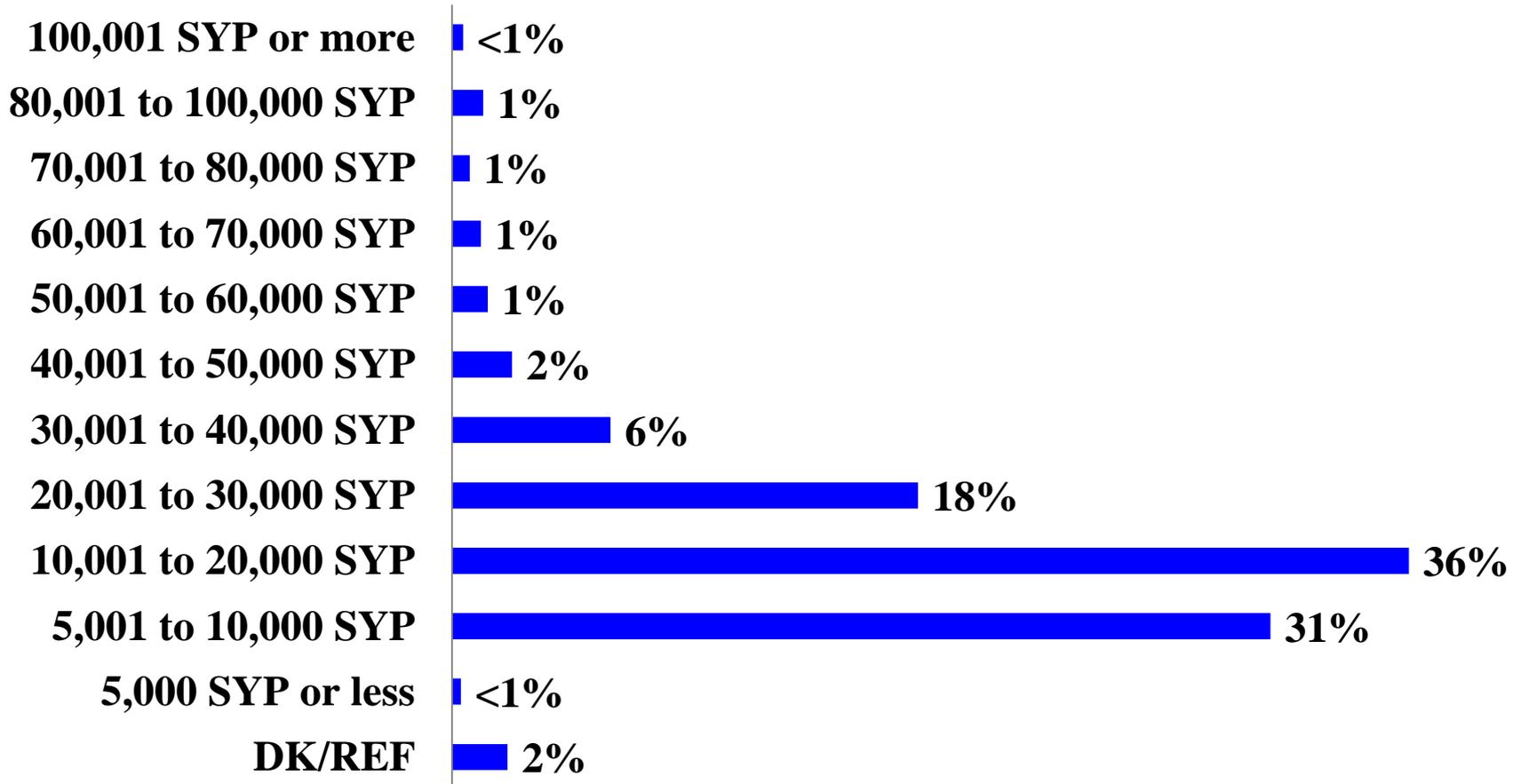
Are you a member of a political party or do you sympathize with any particular party?

Yes, member   **Yes, sympathizer**   **No, neither**

1%   1%

98%

How often do you pray?

1%   76%   20%   3% <1%

0%   20%   40%   60%   80%   100%

■ Don't pray   ■ Very often   ■ Often   ■ Somewhat often   ■ Not often
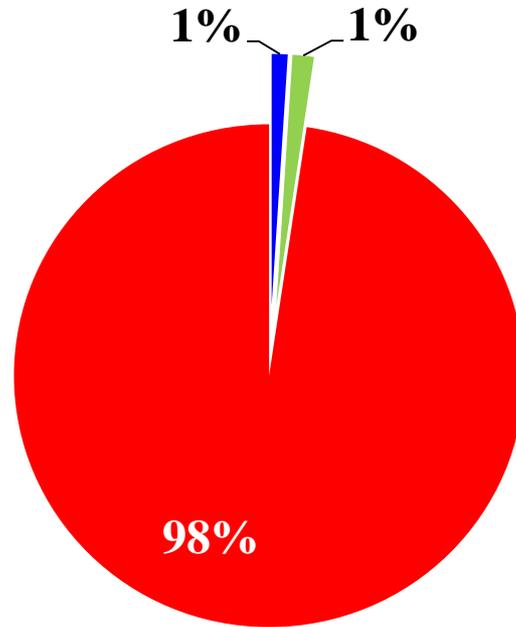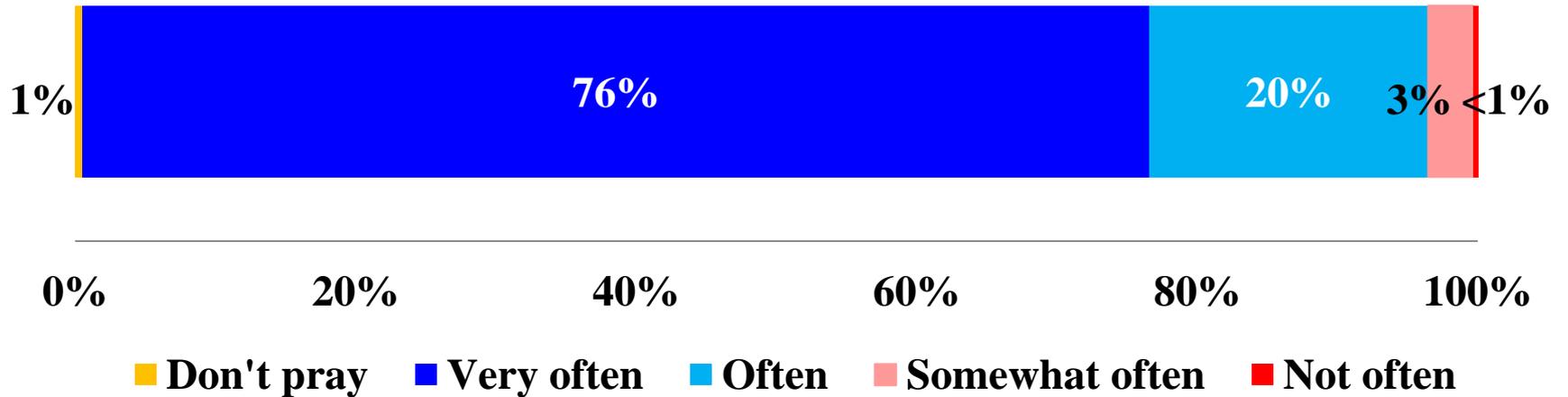
Are you currently living with family, friends or other?
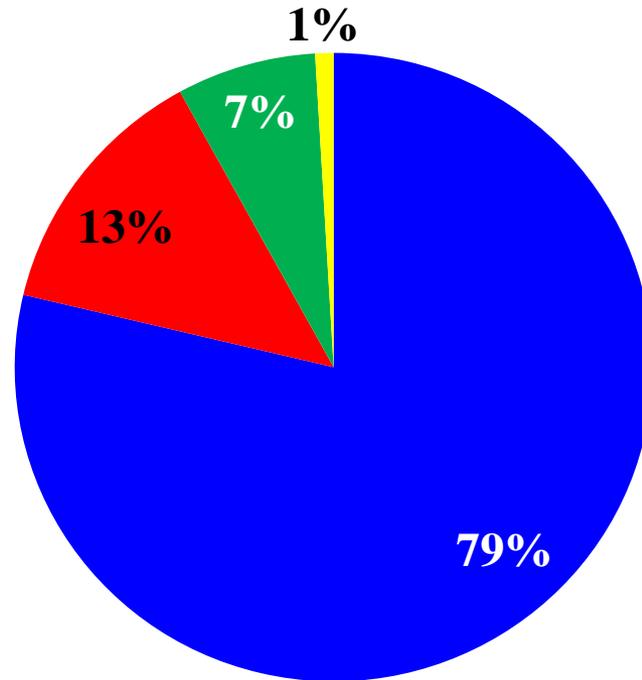
Are you living in a hotel, apartment, house, public building, temporary dwelling (e.g. tent), other? (open-ended)

Category	Percentage
Hotel	1%
Residence complex	2%
Tent	4%
Apartment	17%
House	18%
School	25%
Temporary dwelling	28%
Other	<1%
DK/REF	6%
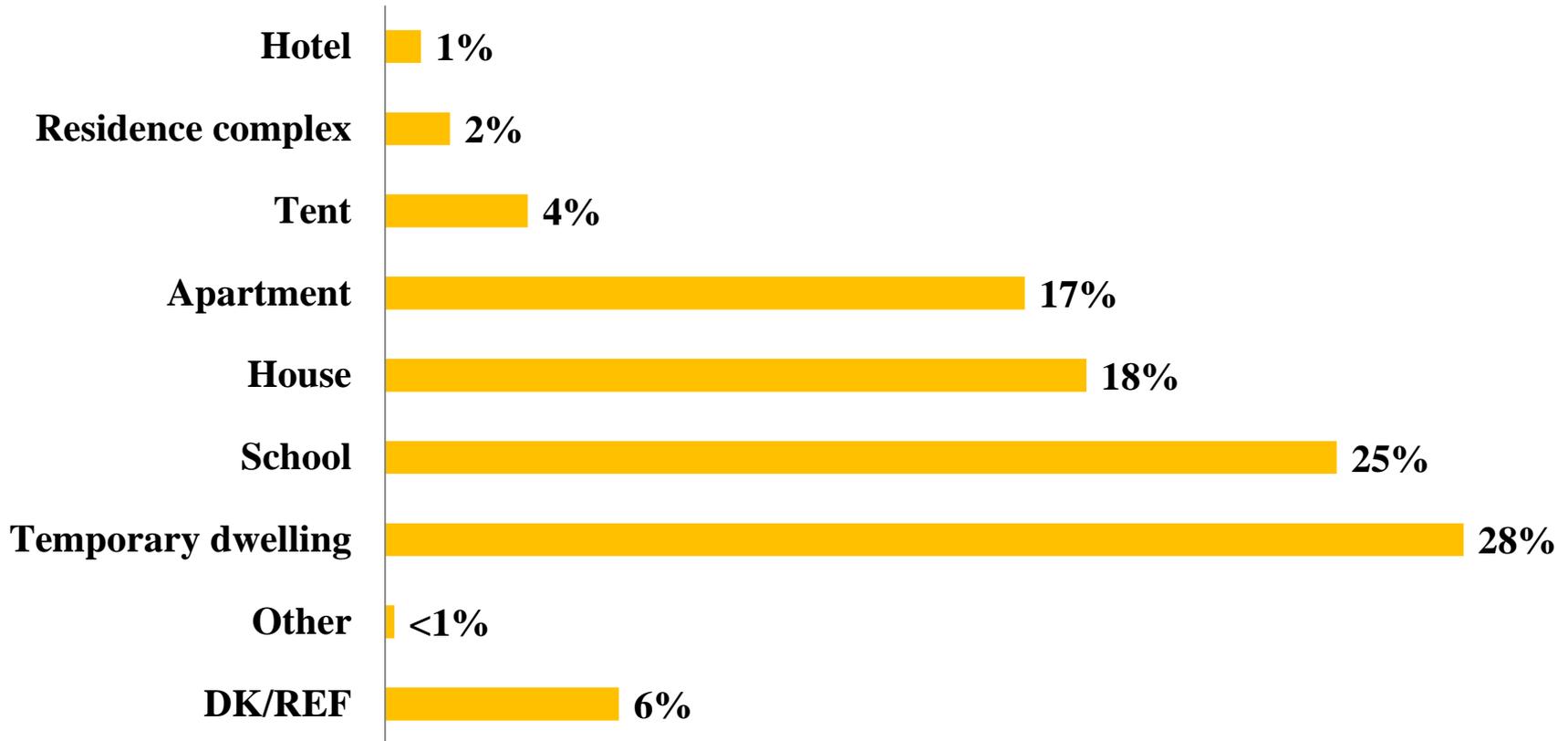
Are you receiving assistance from any local or international agencies?

■ Yes ■ No ■ DK/REF

1%

35%

64%

When did you leave Syria?

12 months ago*	21%
11 months ago	2%
10 months ago	2%
9 months ago	6%
8 months ago	11%
7 months ago	8%
6 months ago	7%
5 months ago	8%
4 months ago	5%
3 months ago	11%
2 months ago	5%
1 month ago	4%
Other	8%
DK/REF	3%
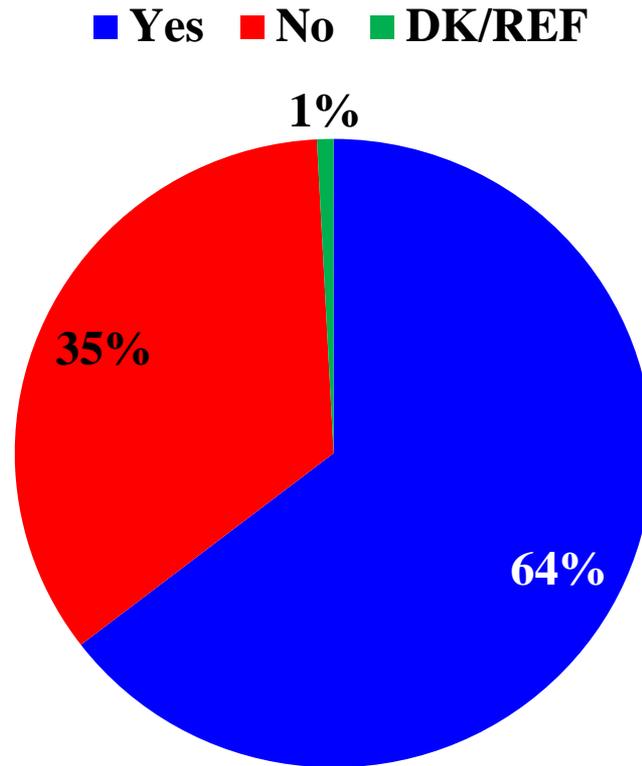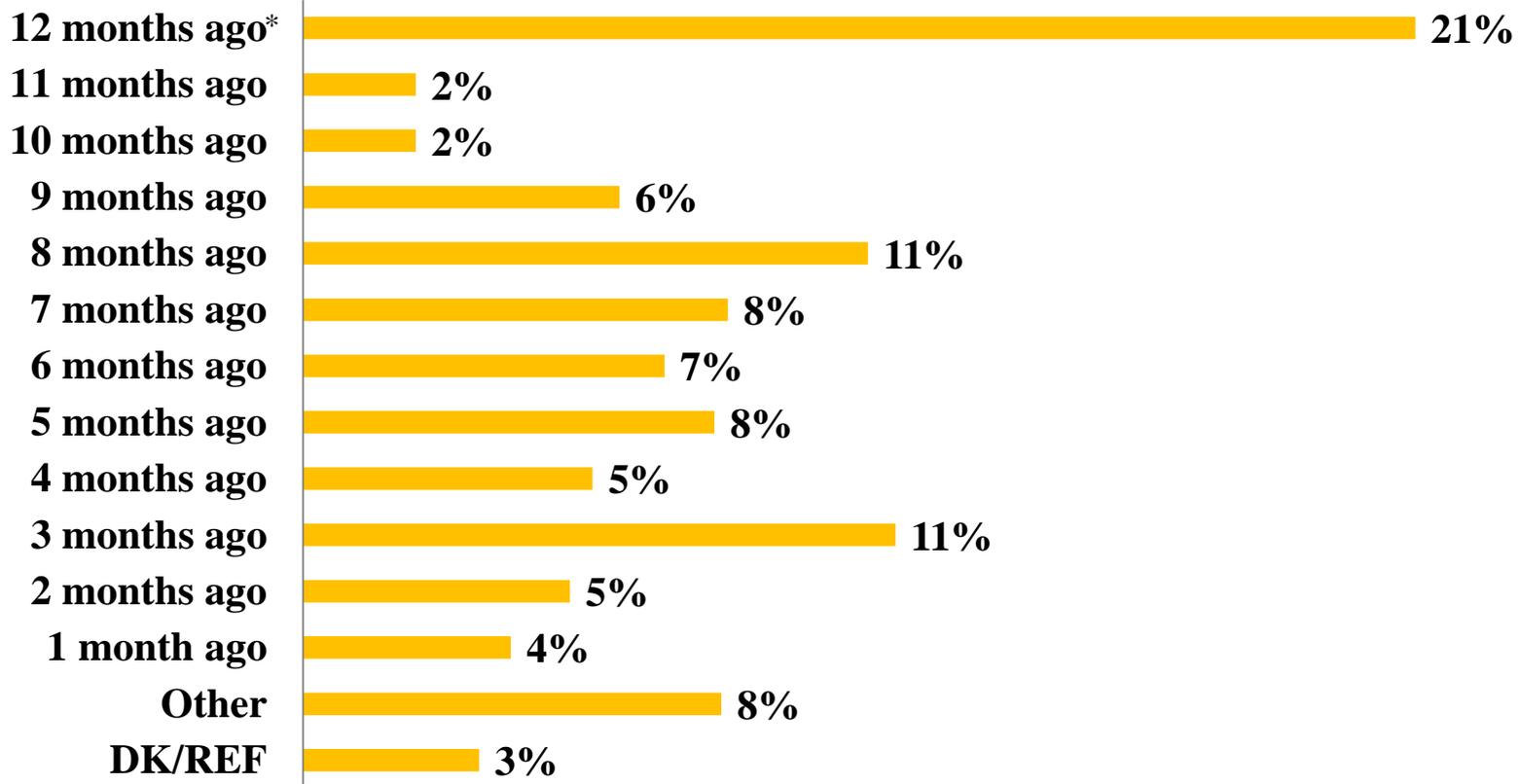
*Fieldwork for this survey was conducted from May 10 – June 10, 2012. 12 months ago before the fielding of the poll coincides with the first major regime offensive into the Homs governorate. All responses indicating individuals left Syria more than 12 months before taking the survey are reflected in the above chart as "Other."

Which city, town or village are you from?*

Location	Percentage
Al Kasir	2%
Hasyaa	3%
Kherbet Hamam	3%
Bab Amro	5%
Al Hosn	5%
Rably	6%
Al Mozaina	7%
Talkalakh	14%
Homs	42%
Other	12%
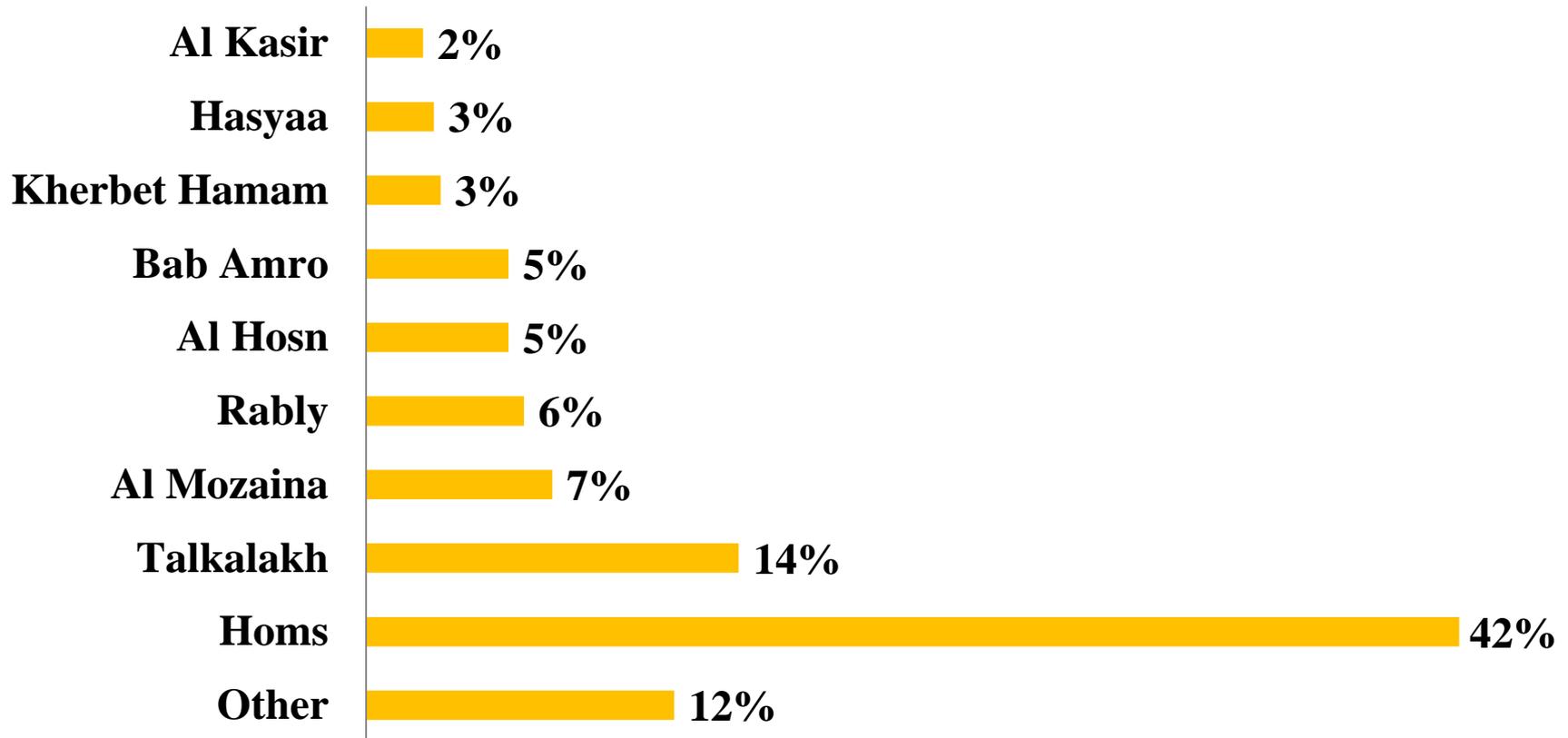
*All locations indicated on this slide, with the exception of "Other," are in the Homs Governorate

Reasons for Leaving

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Why did you leave Syria?

- Intimidation by government forces
- Marriage or social reasons
- No job opportunities
- No educational opportunities
- DK/REF

4% 1%
10%
10%
75%
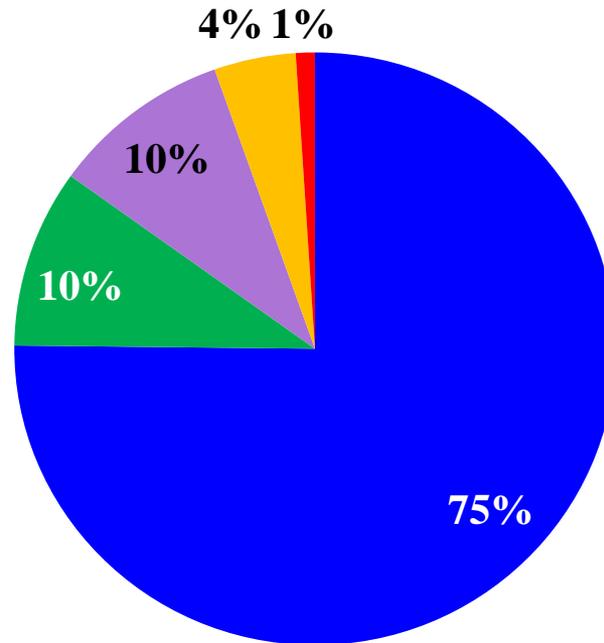
When do you expect to return home?

Don't know   **Within 1 month**   **Between 1 and 6 months**   **1 year**   **Never**

60%
16%
15%
6%
3%
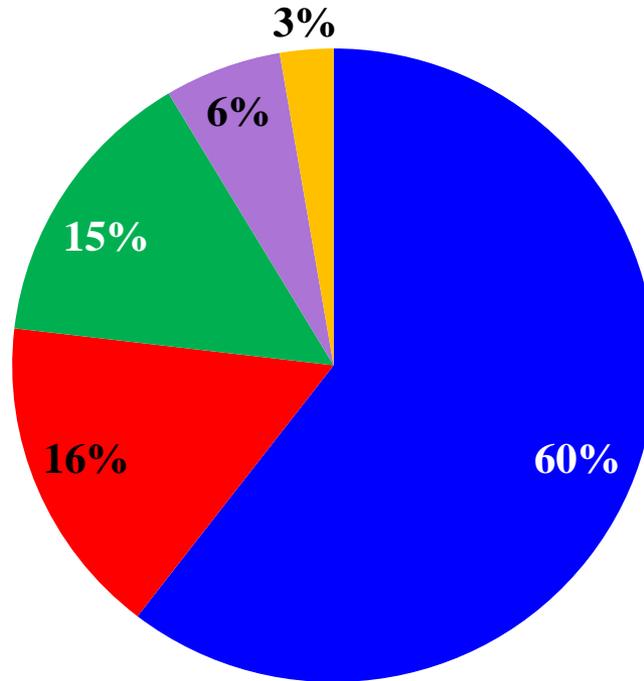
Is it possible for you to return home now*?

Legend: ■ Yes ■ No ■ DK/REF

Pie chart:
- 20% Yes
- 78% No
- 2% DK/REF

If no, why? (n=922)

- Absence of work — 8%
- Lack of money — 11%
- Fear of arrest — 39%
- Government violence — 71%
- Opposition violence
- Other — 4%
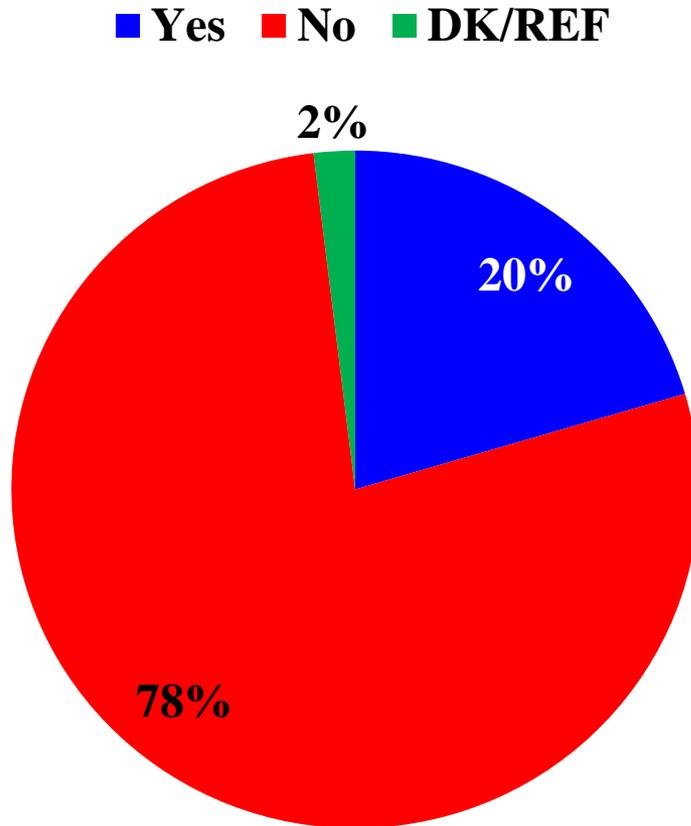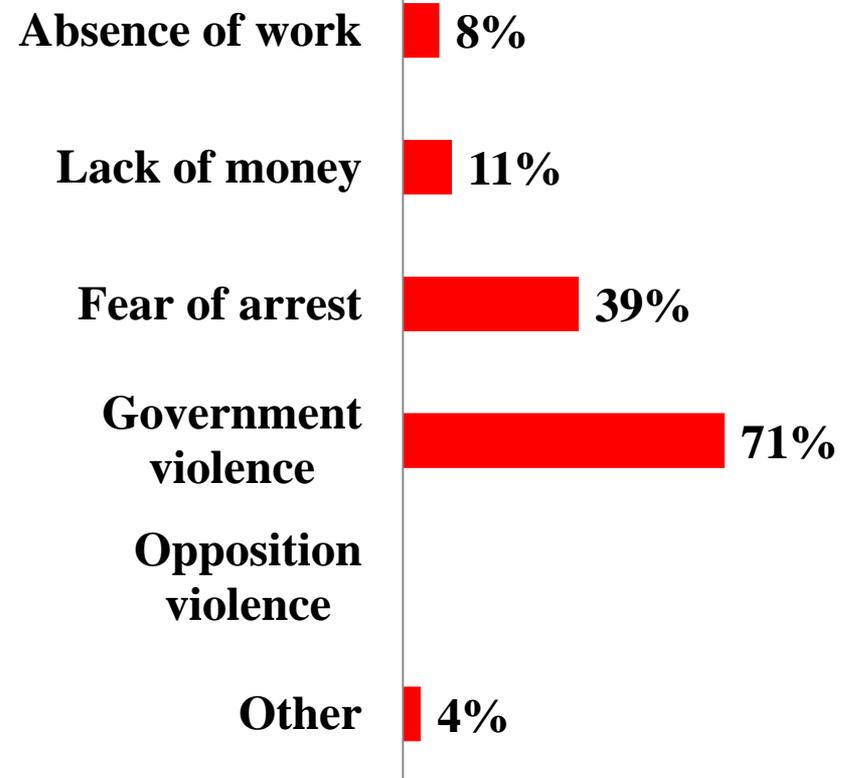
*Note: Fieldwork was conducted from May 10 – June 10, 2012

Under what conditions do you see yourself returning home?

Government reforms **3%**

Improved economic opportunities **32%**

Cessation of current violence **50%**

Change of government **68%**

Other **2%**
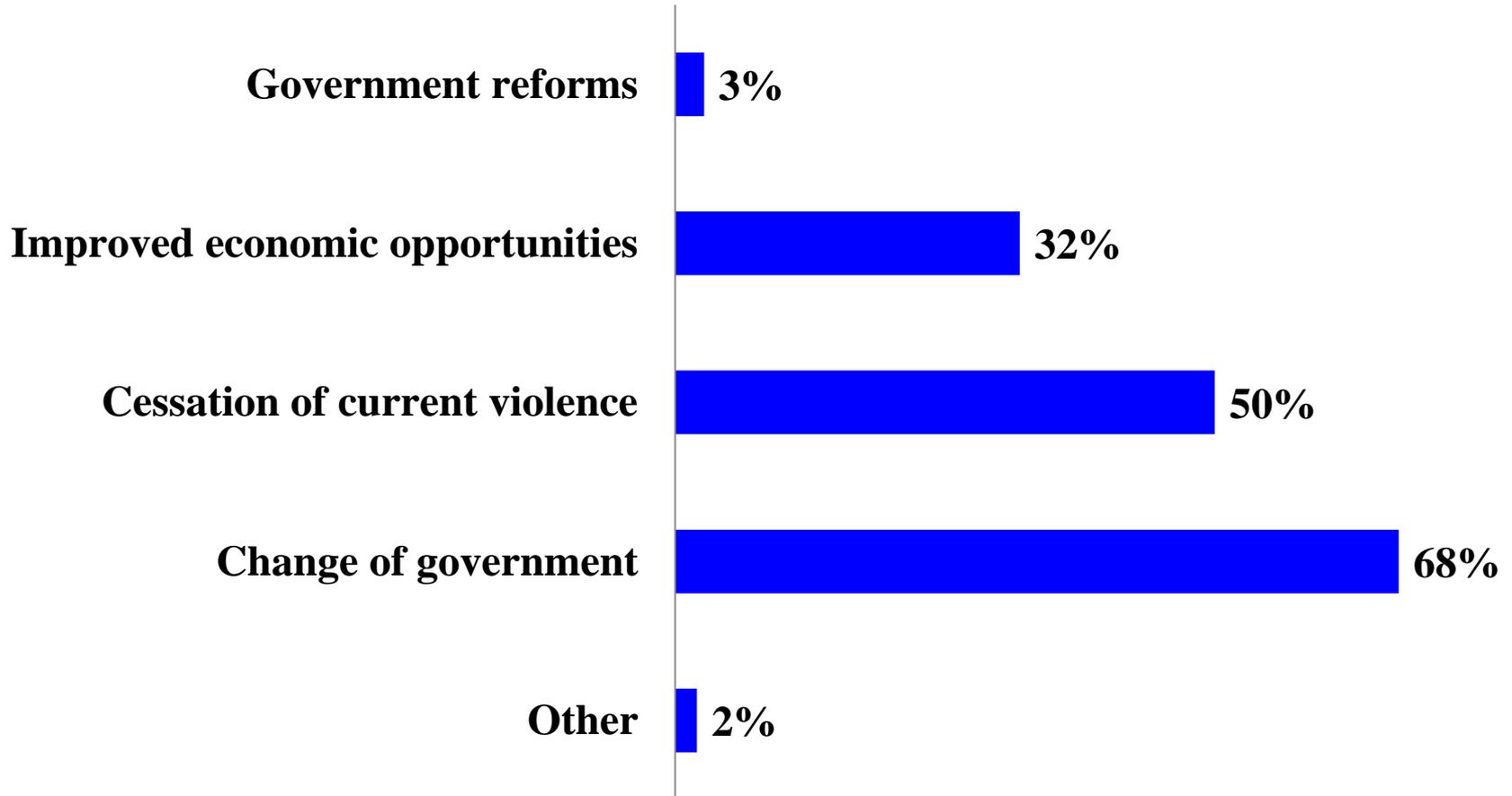
Media and Communications

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What is the principal way that you get your news and information about the situation in Syria?

Newspapers **1%**

Radio **1%**

Internet **3%**

Conversations with friends, co-workers and neighbors **3%**

Television **92%**
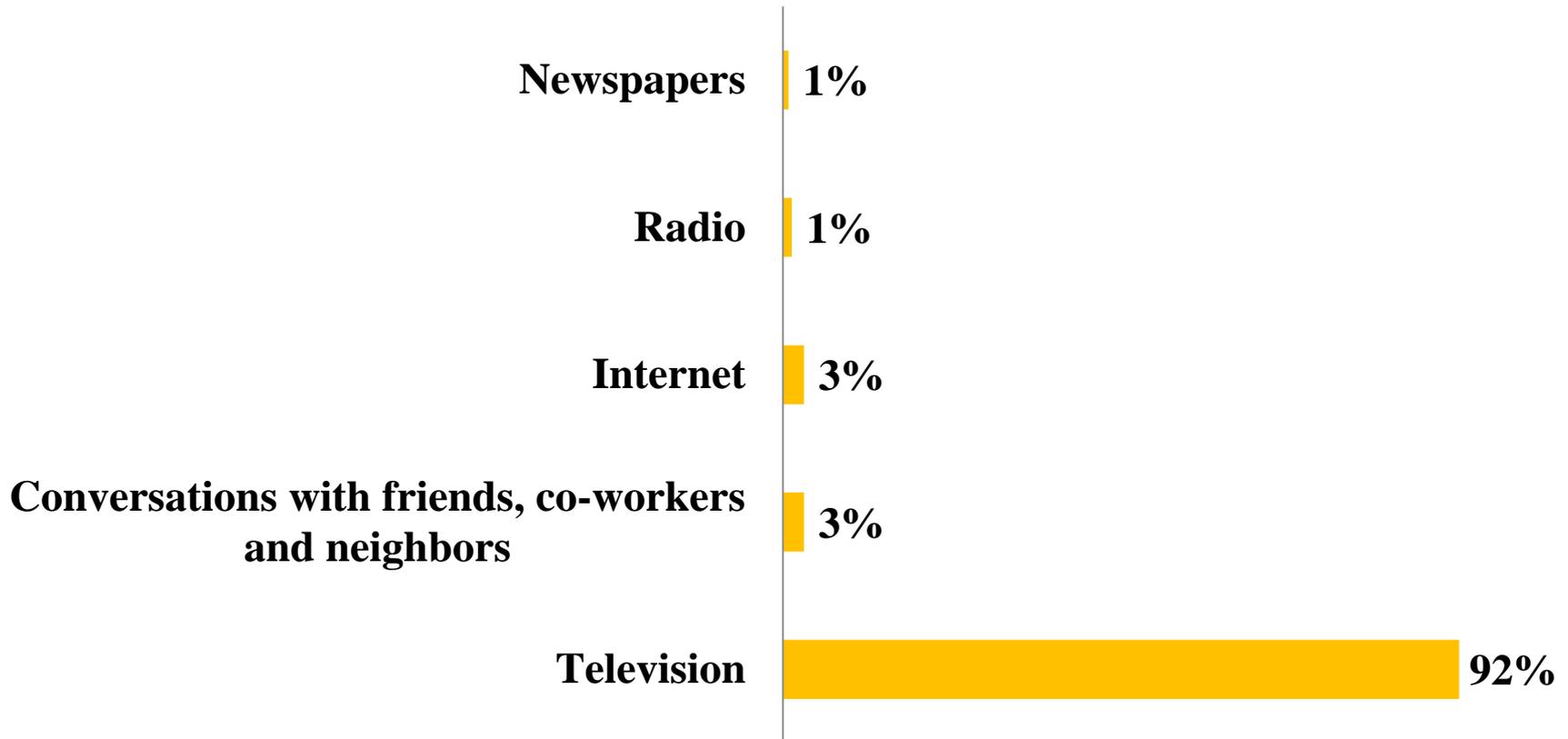
How frequently are you in contact with friends or family inside Syria?

Bar chart:
- Rarely: 47%
- Once a week: 27%
- Three to four days per week: 15%
- Everyday: 11%
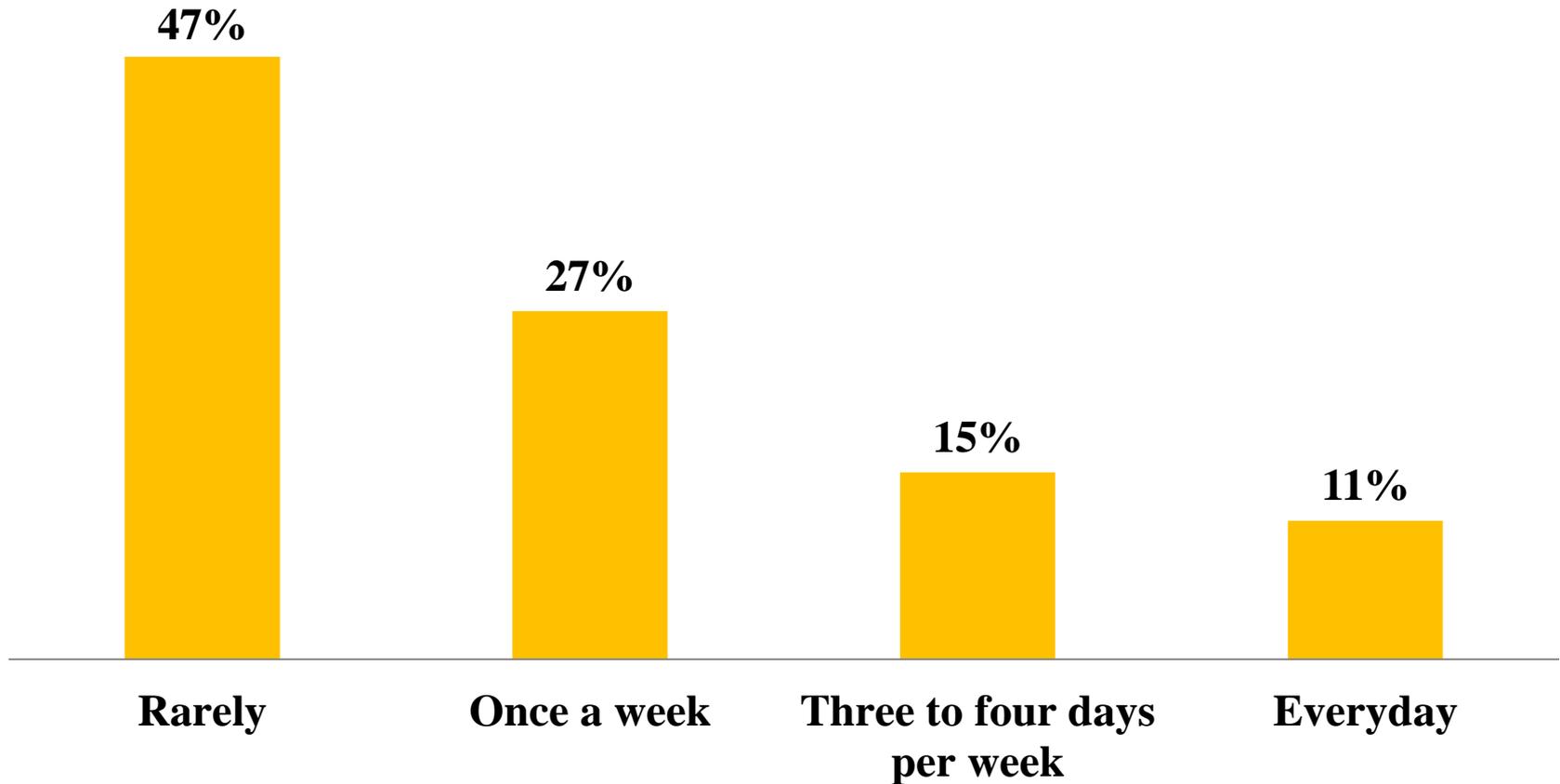
How frequently do you use the Internet to communicate with friends/family inside or to keep informed about the situation?

- Rarely: 74%
- Once a week: 10%
- Three to four days per week: 10%
- Everyday: 6%
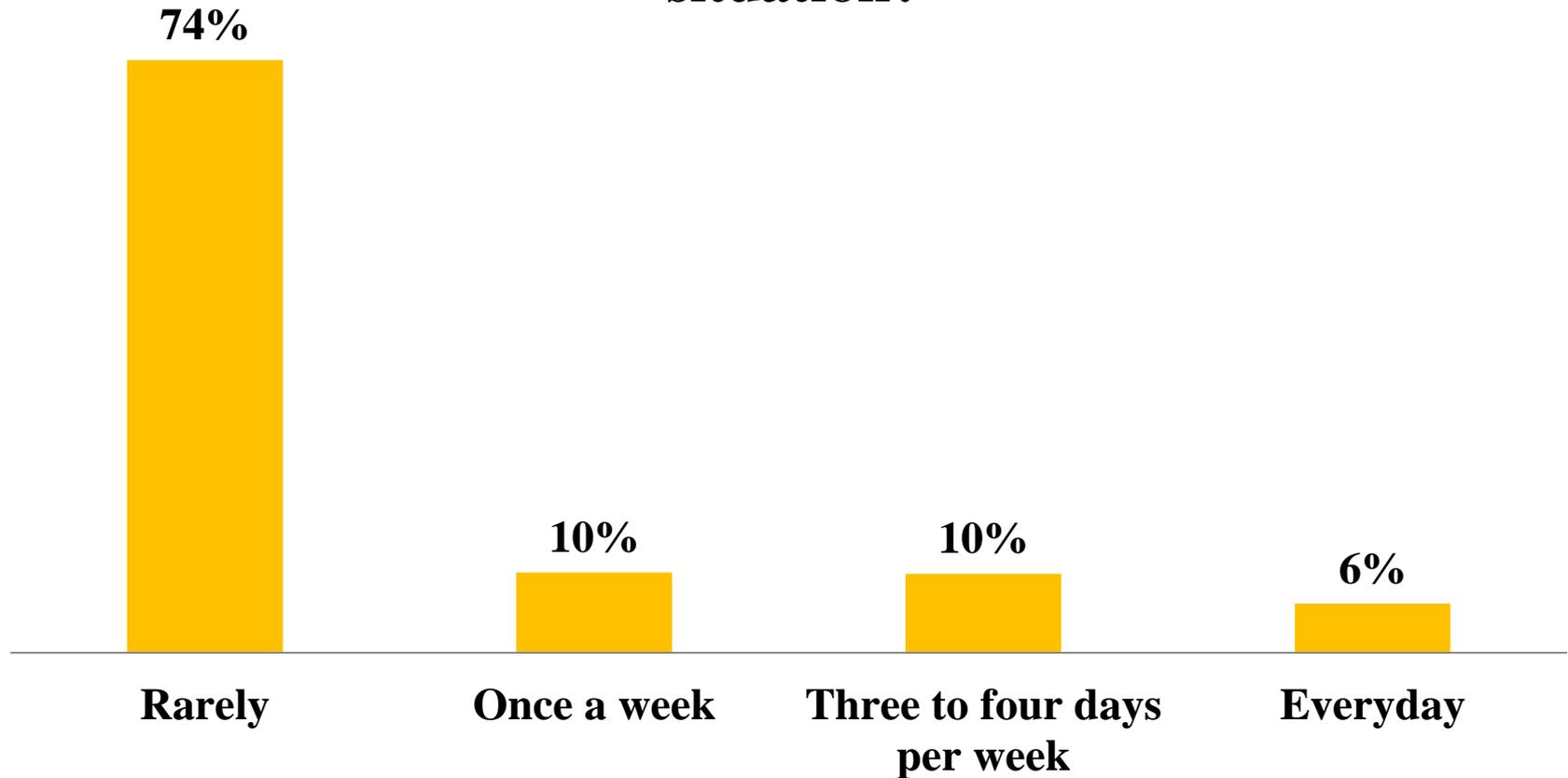
Which one source of news and political information do you prefer or trust the most?

Source	Percentage
Al Watan newspaper	0%
Abu Dhabi television	0%
Al Sharq newspaper	0%
Al Hayat newspaper	0%
Barada TV	2%
Internet	3%
Al Wesal television	5%
Future TV	7%
Al Jazeera television	27%
Al Arabiya television	48%
Other	10%
DK/REF	1%
None	1%
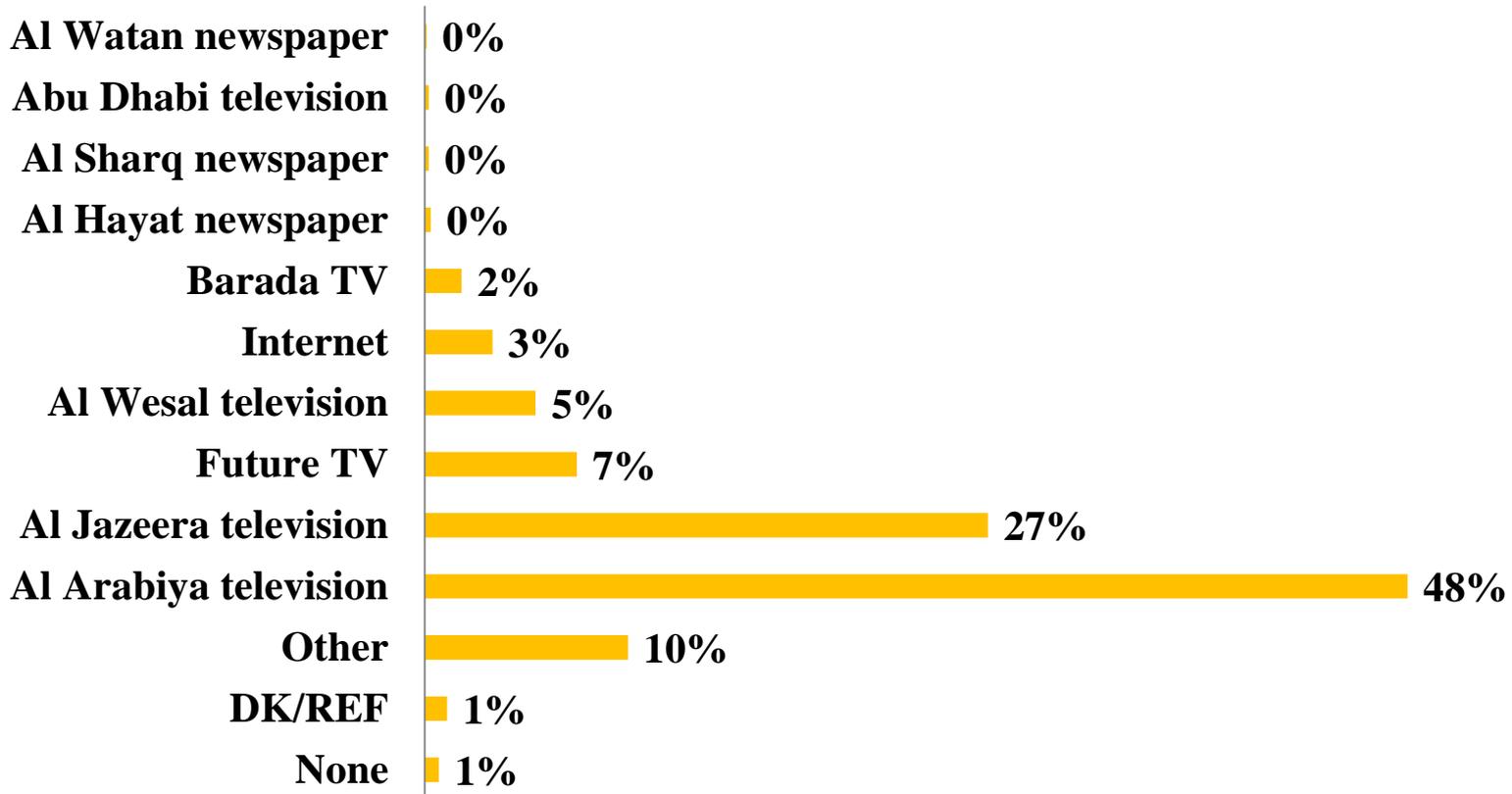
Do you own a telephone?

In Syria

- ■ Yes, a mobile
- ■ Yes, a landline in the house
- ■ No

7%

29%

64%
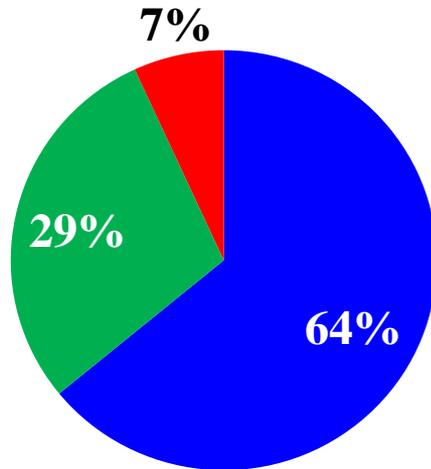
In Lebanon

- ■ Yes, a mobile
- ■ Yes, a landline in the house
- ■ No

45%

50%

5%
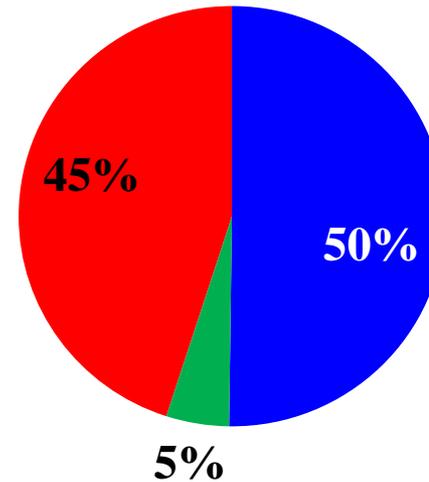
Do you have access to the following?

General

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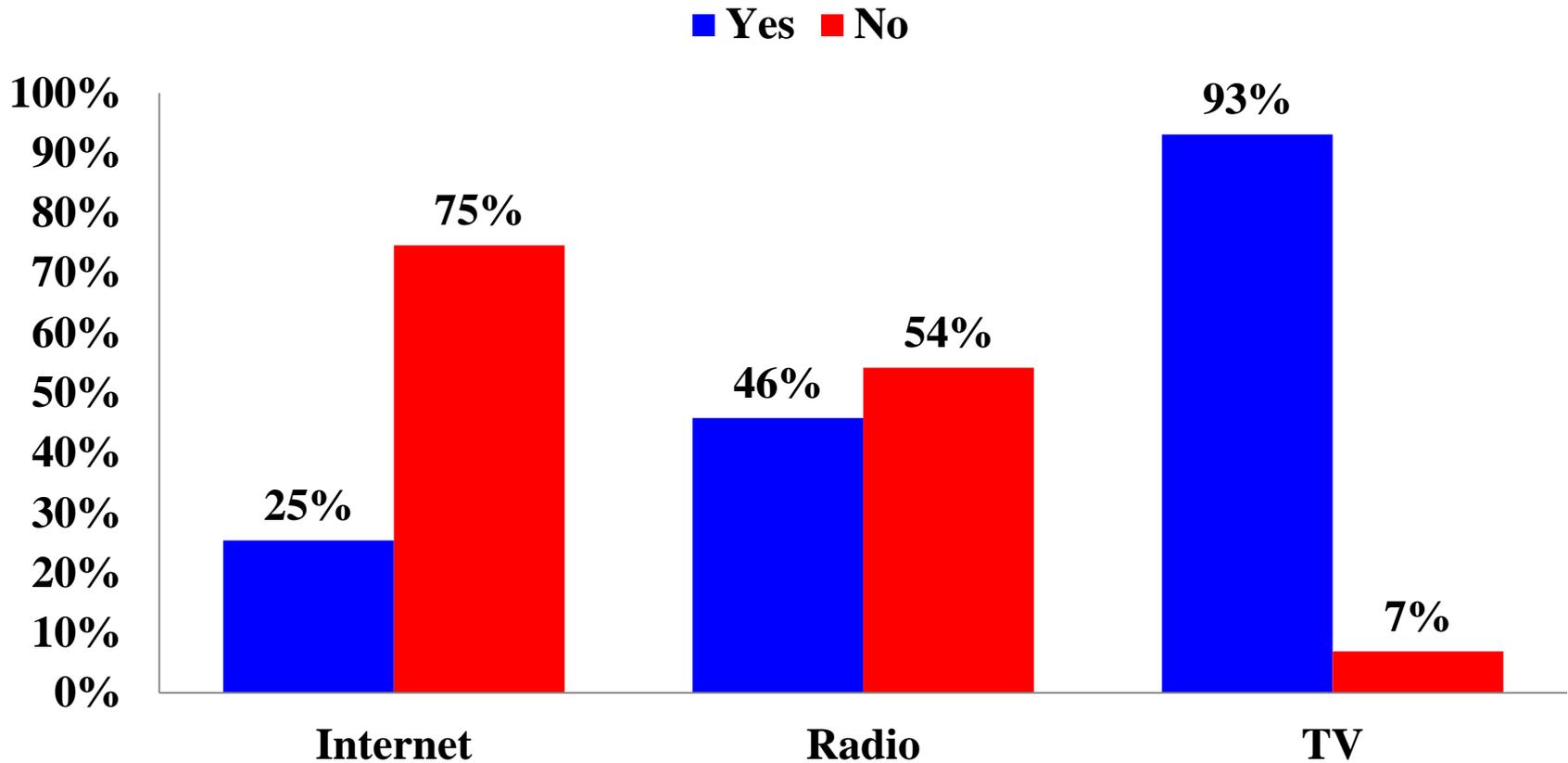
Generally speaking, do you think that things in Syria are going in the right direction or the wrong direction?

■ **Right direction** ■ **Wrong direction** ■ **DK/NA**

| 76% | 22% | 3% |

In your opinion, why do you think that the country is heading in the right direction ? (open-ended)

- 22% — The embattled regime is dictatorial
- 19% — People want the regime to fall
- 13% — The people want freedom
- 11% — The revolution ends in freedom & dignity
- 5% — The country needs a new president
- 5% — The current regime is falling day after day
- 5% — We want to live in peace
- 4% — The regime is under the control of Iran
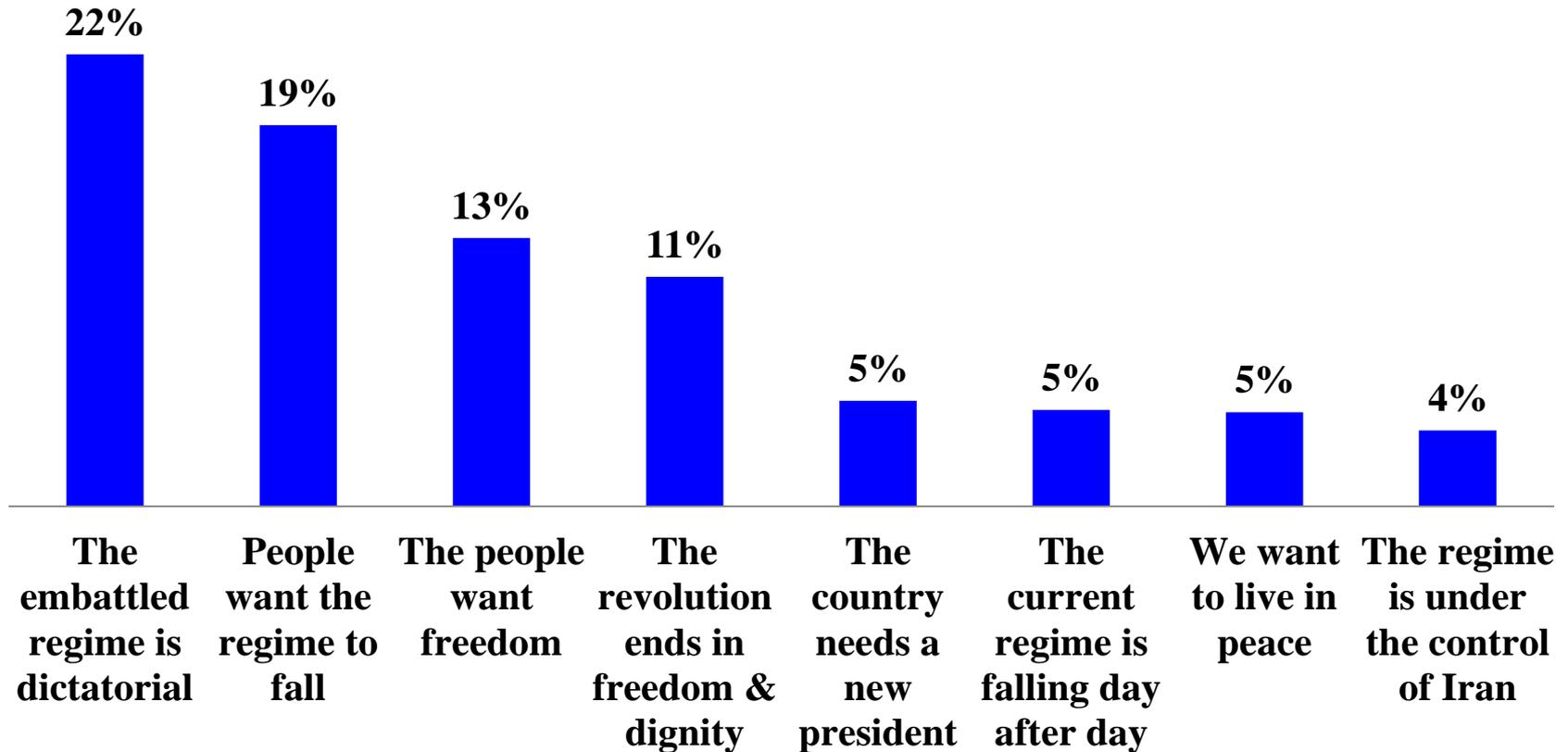
In your opinion, why do you think that the country is heading in the right direction? (open-ended) (continued)

To overthrow the regime for killing people	The progress achieved by the Syrian rebels	Return of human rights	The regime doesn't treat all confessions equally	To improve the economic situation	It's time to end the Alawi regime in Syria	Return to an Islamic regime	Foreign countries want the regime to fall
4%	3%	3%	2%	2%	1%	1%	1%
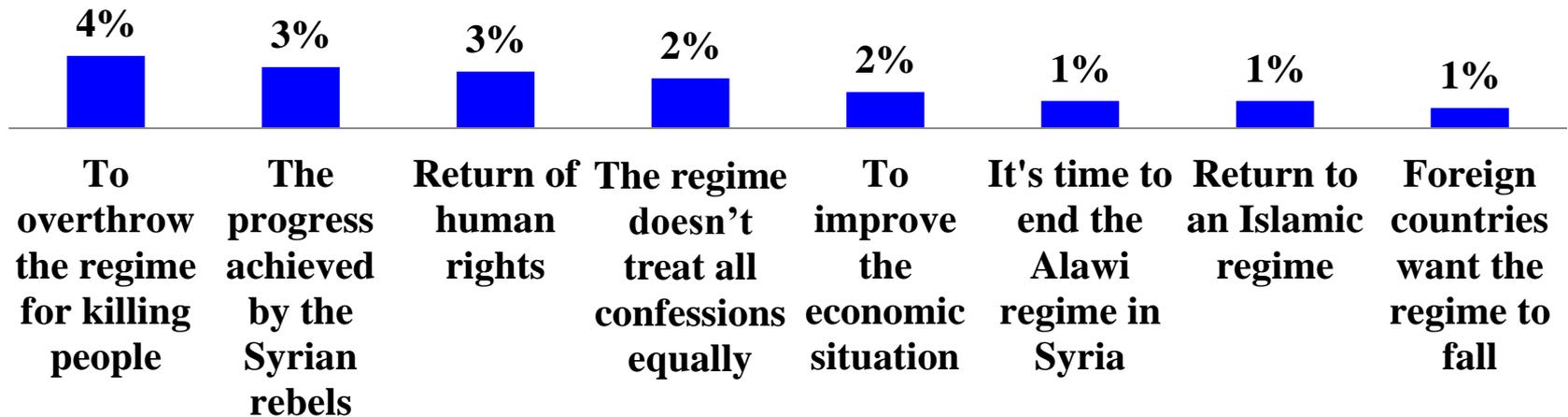
In your opinion, why do you think that the country is heading in the wrong direction? (open-ended)

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Nothing changed in Syria	3%
The collapse of the economy	3%
Absence of security	3%
Civil war	5%
The revolution is divided	6%
People want a fair regime	6%
Sectarianism	7%
The revolution has become violent	9%
Foreign intervention in Syria	18%
Violence and destruction	38%
DK	1%
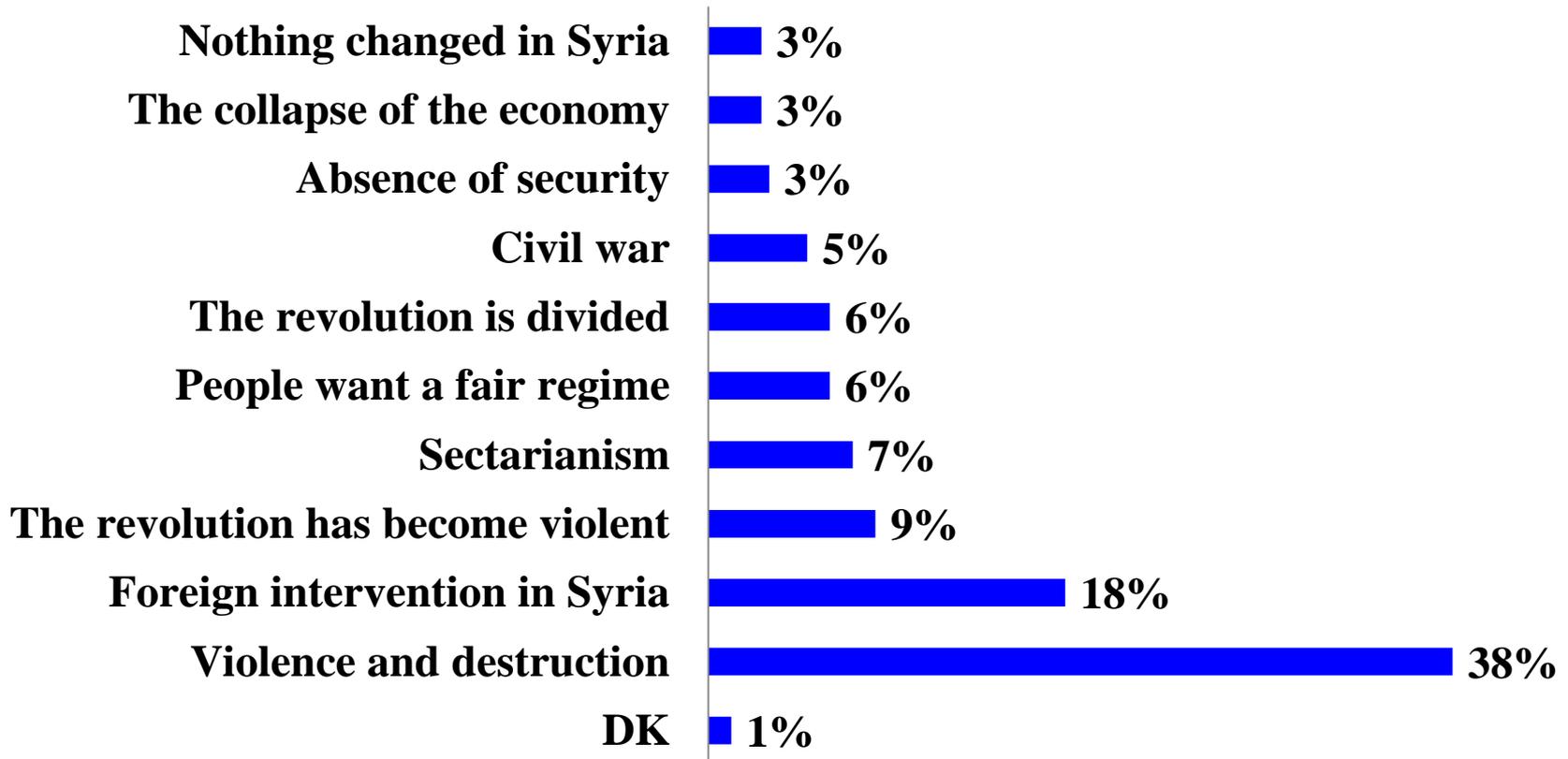
Are you optimistic or pessimistic about the future?

Legend:
- DK/REF
- Very optimistic
- Optimistic
- Neutral
- Pessimistic
- Very pessimistic

DK/REF	Very optimistic	Optimistic	Neutral	Pessimistic	Very pessimistic
3%	43%	23%	16%	7%	8%
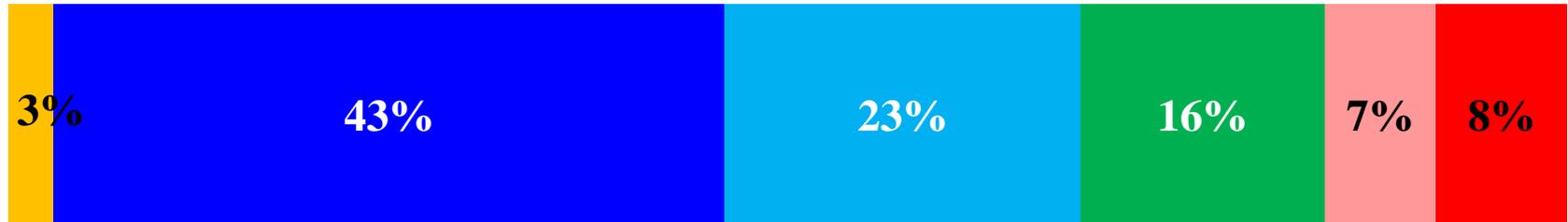
In your opinion, what are the main problems Syria is facing at the moment? (open-ended)

Top Ten Responses

Response	Percentage
Rape of women	7%
Destruction of homes	9%
Violence	9%
Poverty and hunger	11%
Displacement	12%
Killing innocent people and children	22%
The economic situation	35%
The president	45%
Security situation	45%
Current regime	54%
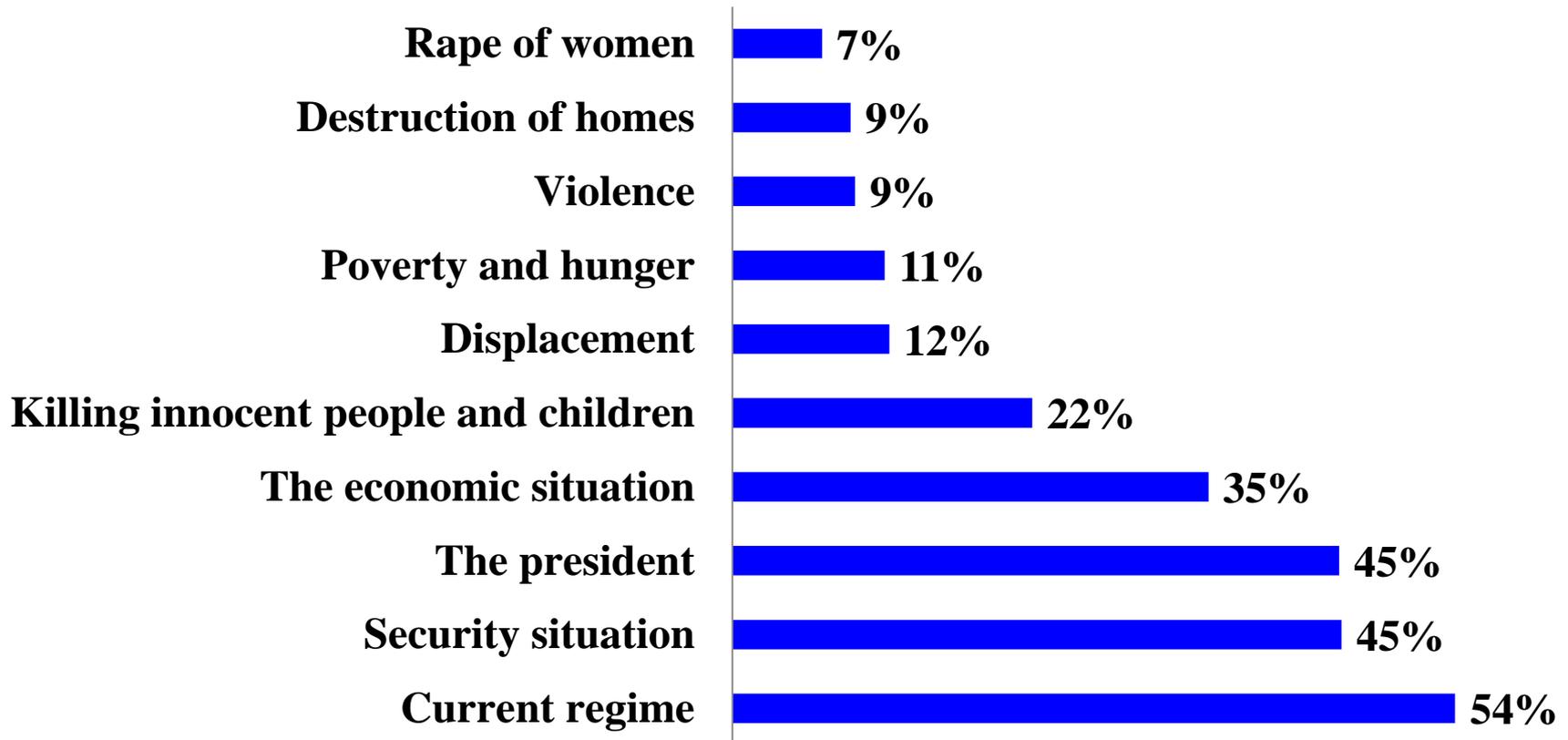
In your opinion, what are the main problems Syria is facing at the moment? (open-ended)

Problem	First Mention	Second Mention	Third Mention	Total
Current regime	25%	23%	6%	54%
Security situation	6%	19%	20%	45%
The President	32%	8%	5%	45%
The economic situation	7%	11%	18%	35%
Killing innocent people and children	8%	9%	5%	22%
DK/REF	1%	1%	12%	14%
Displacement	2%	4%	6%	12%
Poverty and hunger	4%	4%	4%	11%
Violence	4%	3%	3%	9%
Destruction of homes	2%	3%	4%	9%
Rape of women	1%	3%	3%	7%
The absence of democracy	1%	2%	3%	6%
Sectarianism	2%	1%	2%	4%
Detention	1%	2%	1%	4%
Foreign interventions	1%	1%	1%	4%

For each country, please tell me whether it is playing a positive or negative role today in resolving Syria's current challenges.

Country	Positive	Negative	No Role	DK
Saudi Arabia	94%	1%	3%	2%
Turkey	91%	2%	4%	3%
Jordan	89%	1%	7%	2%
European Union	87%	3%	7%	3%
Qatar	85%	6%	5%	4%
United States	75%	9%	10%	6%
Libya	71%	3%	18%	8%
France	70%	11%	10%	10%
United Kingdom	62%	14%	14%	10%
Egypt	50%	9%	36%	5%
Lebanon	48%	18%	32%	2%
Iraq	22%	31%	37%	10%
Russia	20%	74%	2%	5%
China	17%	70%	7%	6%
Iran	1%	95%	3%	1%

Legend: ■ Positive ■ Negative ■ No Role ■ DK
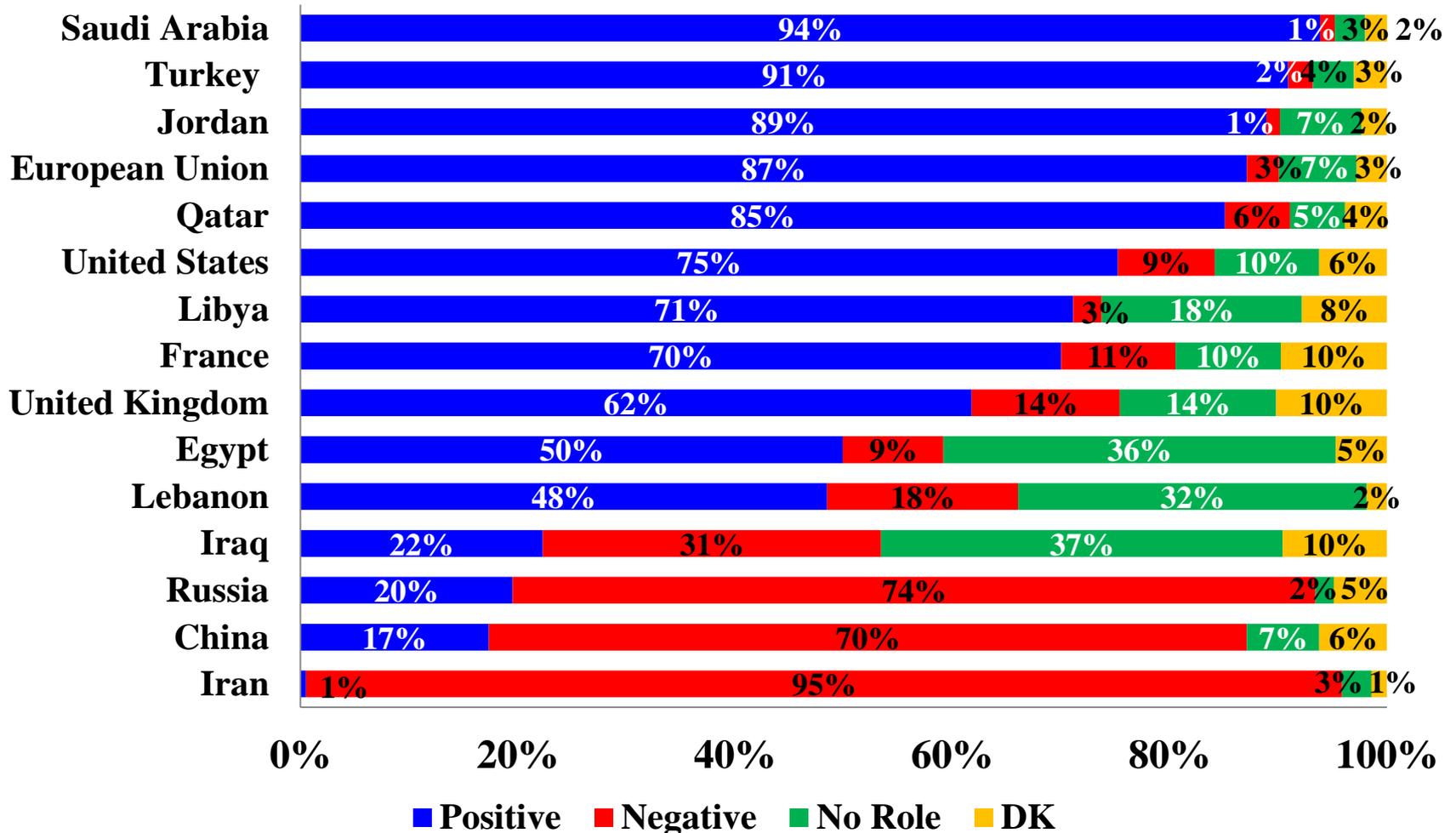
Now, from the same list, tell me which countries you would like to see Syria have cooperative relations with in the future?

Country	Percentage
Saudi Arabia	67%
Turkey	54%
Lebanon	48%
Qatar	46%
European Union	41%
Jordan	39%
United States	34%
France	30%
United Kingdom	27%
Libya	25%
Egypt	17%
Russia	10%
Iraq	9%
China	5%
Iran	1%
No answer	3%
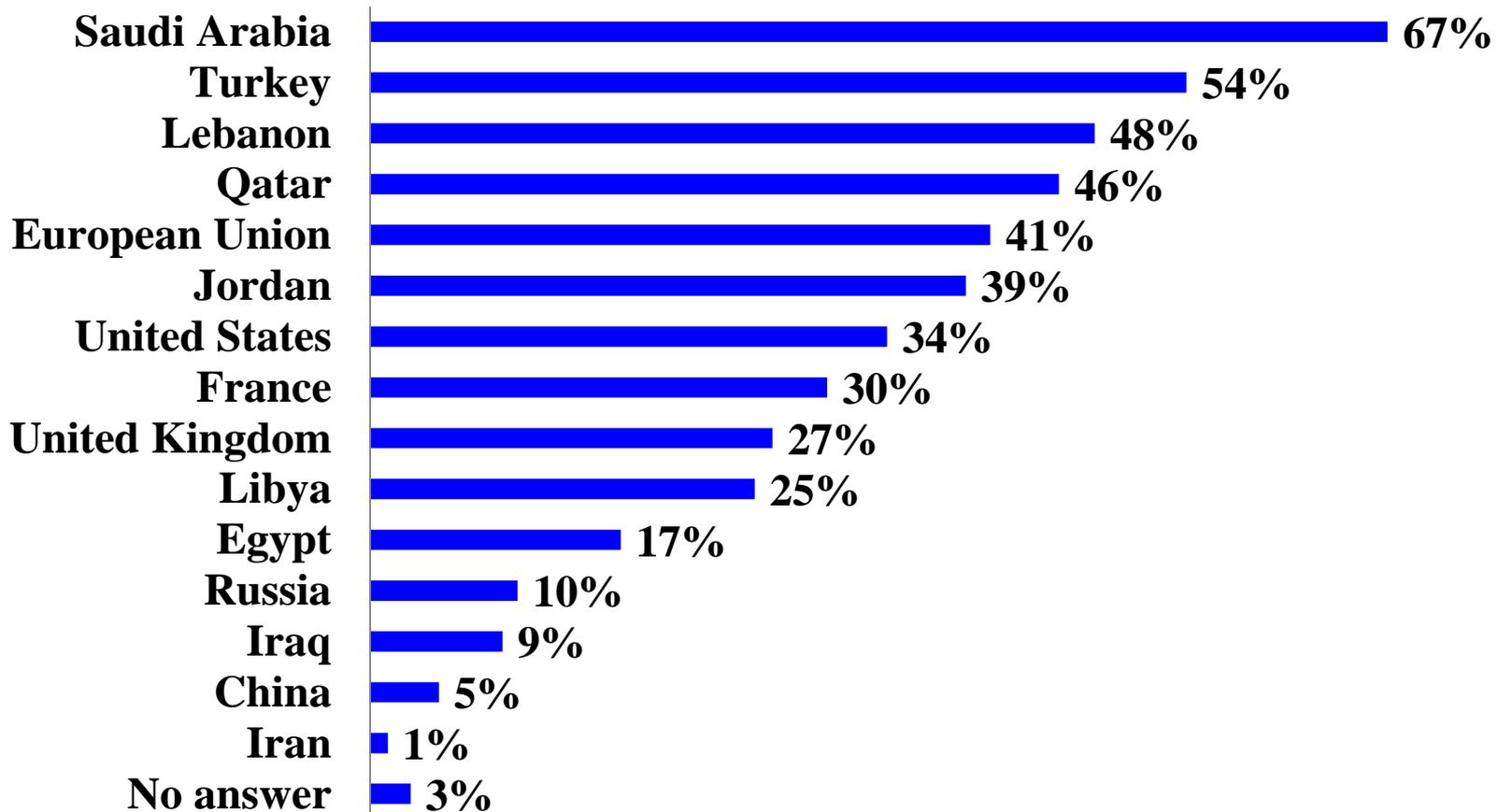
Have you heard about former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan's plan to end the conflict in Syria?

If yes, do you support the plan?
(n = 1,067)

2%
8%

- ■ Yes
- ■ No
- ■ DK/REF

90%

2%

32%

- ■ Yes
- ■ No
- ■ DK/REF

66%
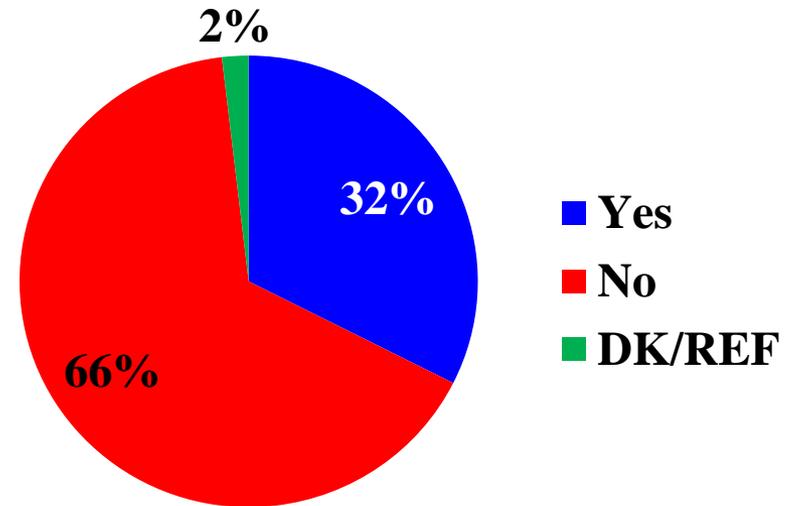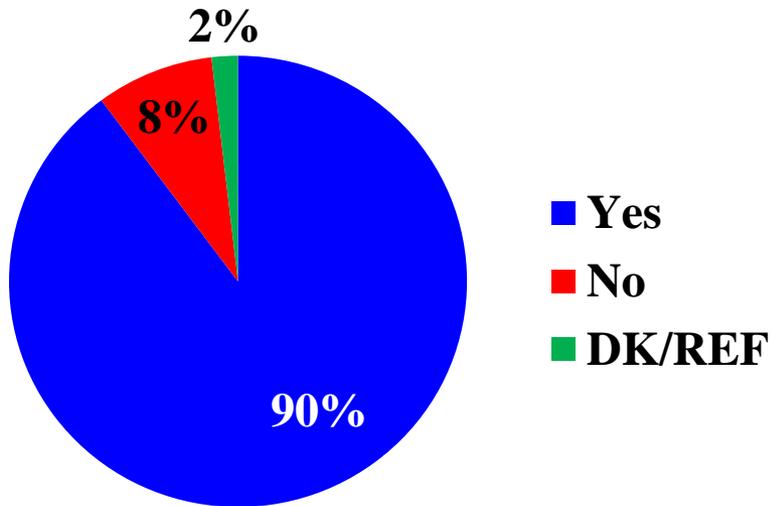
Over the past year, long-time leaders in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya and Yemen have been removed from office. Have these been positive or negative events for the region?

Very positive — 35%
Positive — 39%
Neutral — 16%
Negative — 7%
Very negative — 1%
DK/REF — 2%

Political

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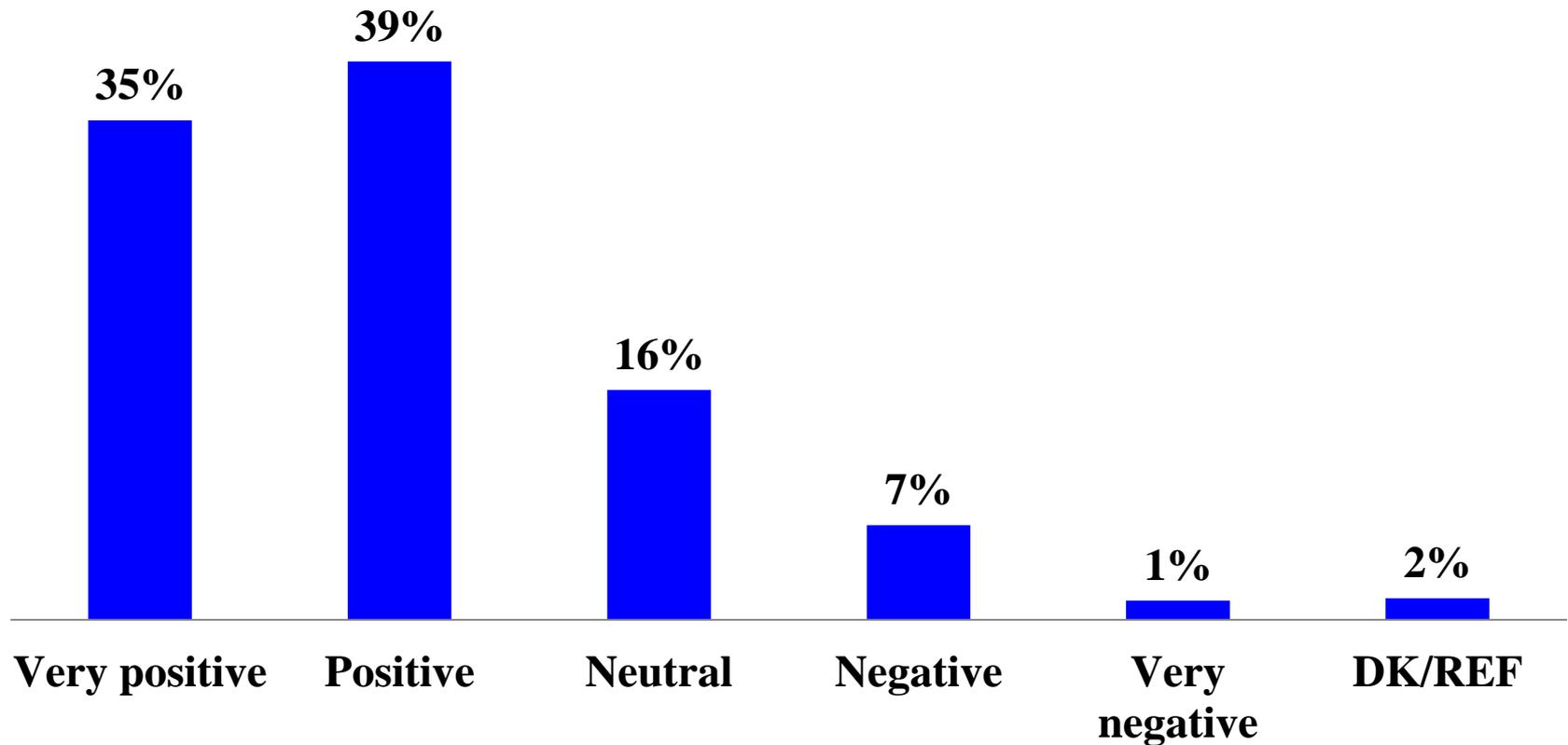
In general, are you interested in politics?

Very interested	Interested	Neutral	Not interested	Not interested at all	DK/REF
11%	50%	26%	10%	3%	1%
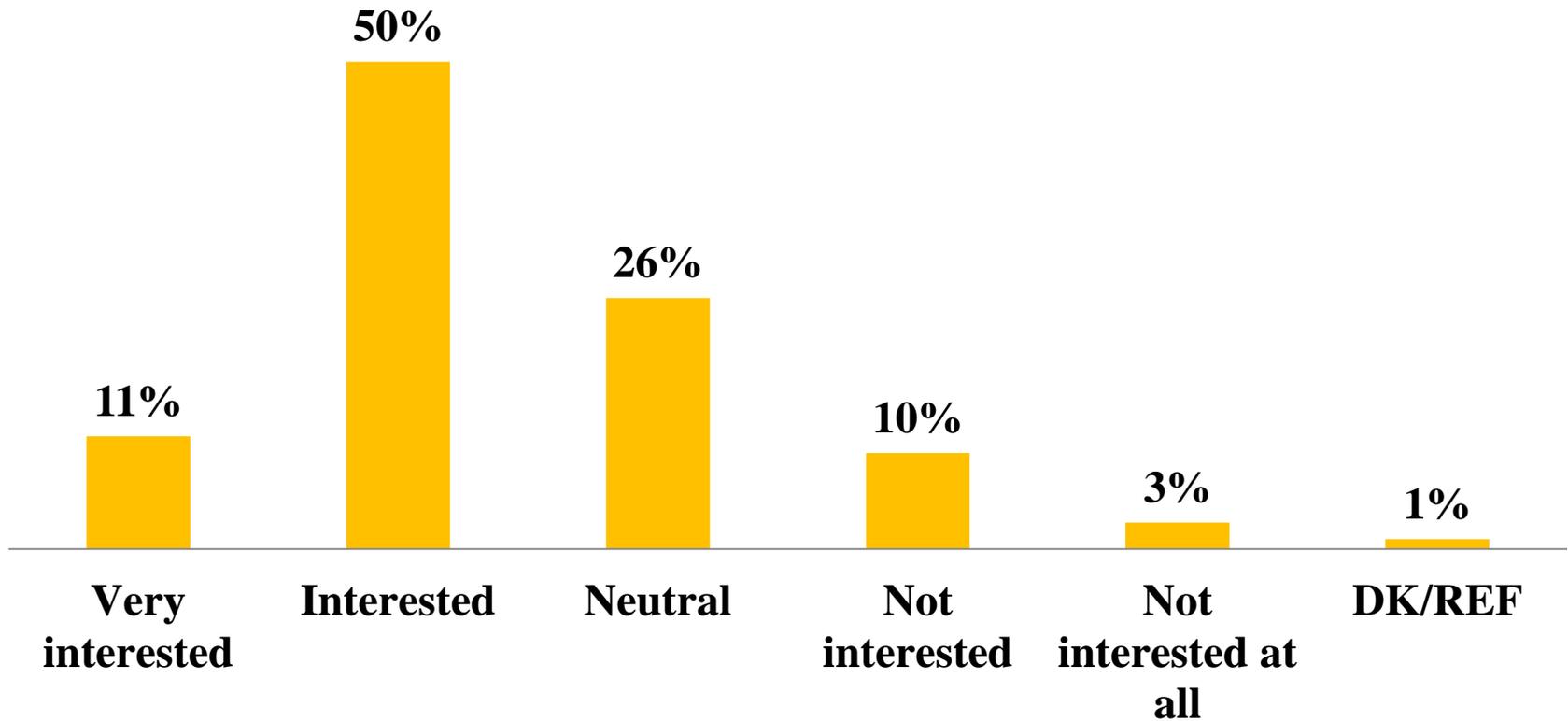
In general, do you approve of the performance of the following Syrian institutions?

Legend:
- ■ Strongly approve
- ■ Approve
- ■ Neutral
- ■ Disapprove
- ■ Strongly disapprove
- ■ DK/REF

Security Forces: <1%, 20%, 80%

Ministries: <1%, 22%, 78%

Judiciary: 1%, <1%, 20%, 78%

President: <1%, 20%, 80%

Parliament: 1%, 1%, 27%, 72%

(x-axis: 0%, 20%, 40%, 60%, 80%, 100%)

44
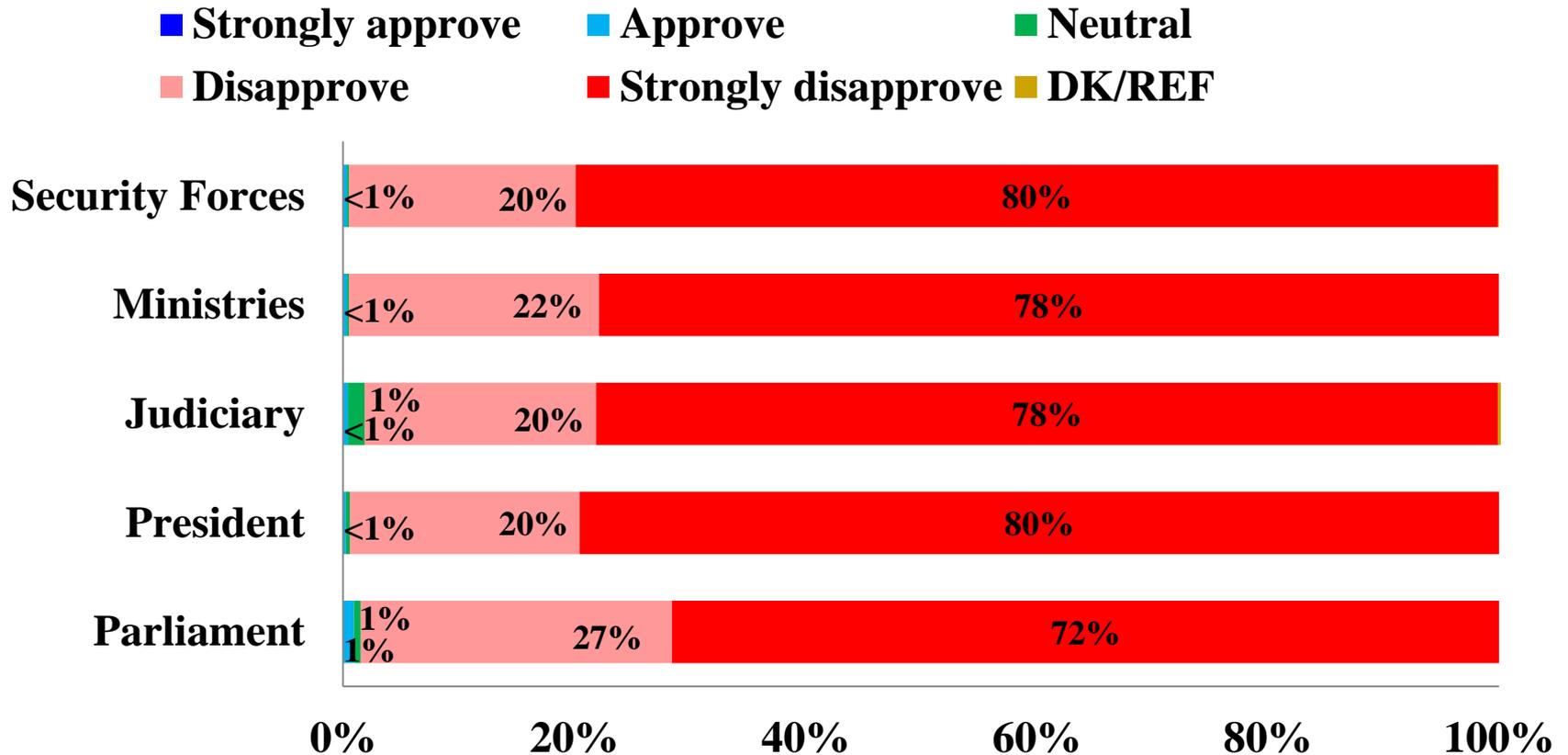
In your opinion, are all groups in the country treated equally?

Completely equal	
Mostly equal	1%
Some variation	6%
Significant variation	89%
DK	3%
REF	1%
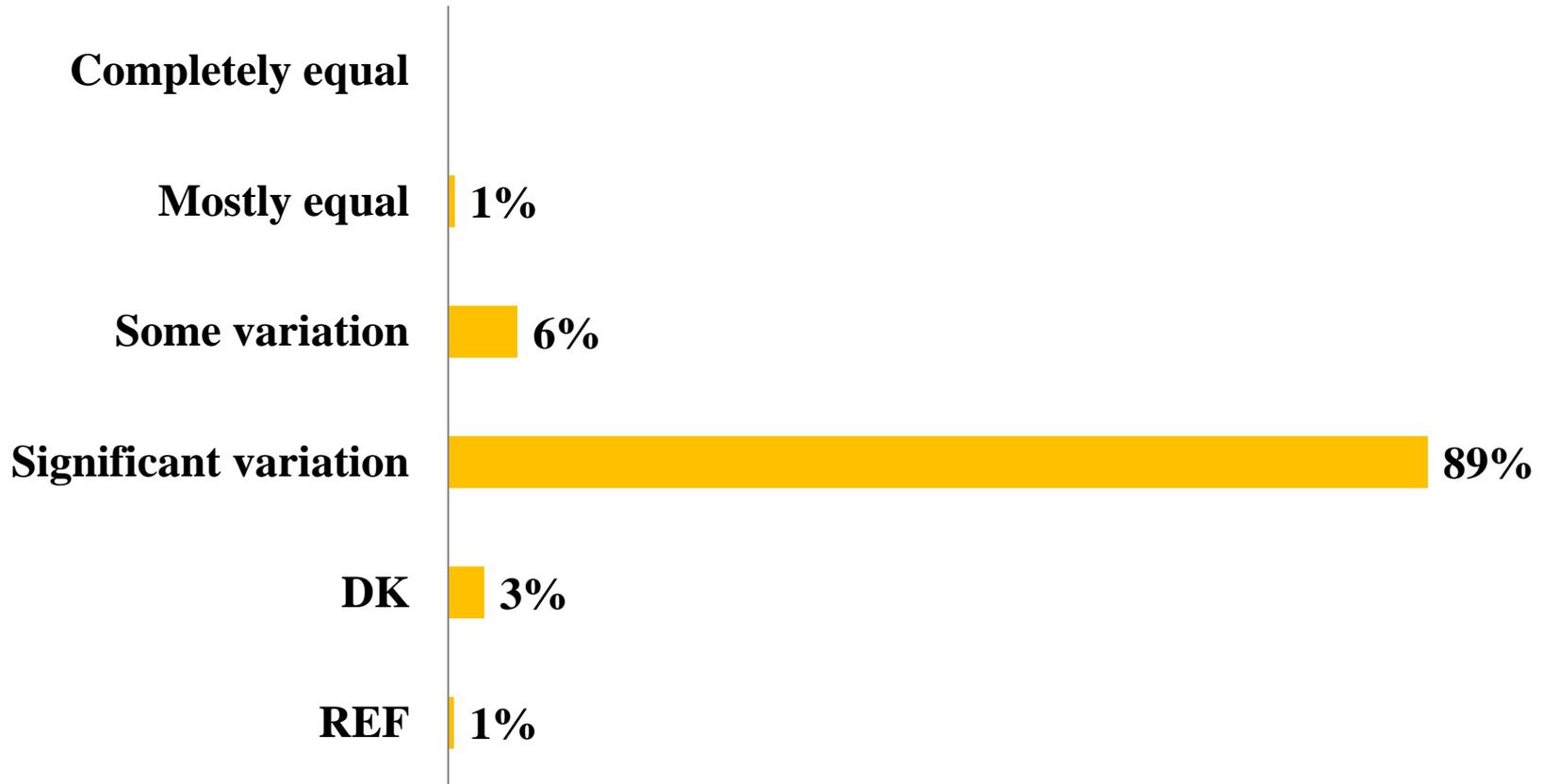
For the most part, do you have faith in the judicial system?

Yes   1%

No   94%

DK   5%

REF   <1%

How much do you trust the following people/institutions?

	DK/REF	Completely trust	Somewhat trust	Neutral	Somewhat do not trust	Completely do not trust
Health services	3%	27%	11%	9%	21%	28%
Security forces	<1%	1%	2%	2%	38%	57%
CSO's/NGO's	3%	27%	9%	17%	20%	24%
Media	2%	11%	9%	15%	32%	31%
Clerics	2%	32%	19%	24%	7%	16%
Private Sector	2%	27%	8%	20%	16%	26%
Courts	1%			4%	40%	54%
Office of the President	<1%			<1%	31%	68%
Government Ministries	2%			1%	39%	59%
Members of Parliament	<1%			2%	44%	53%
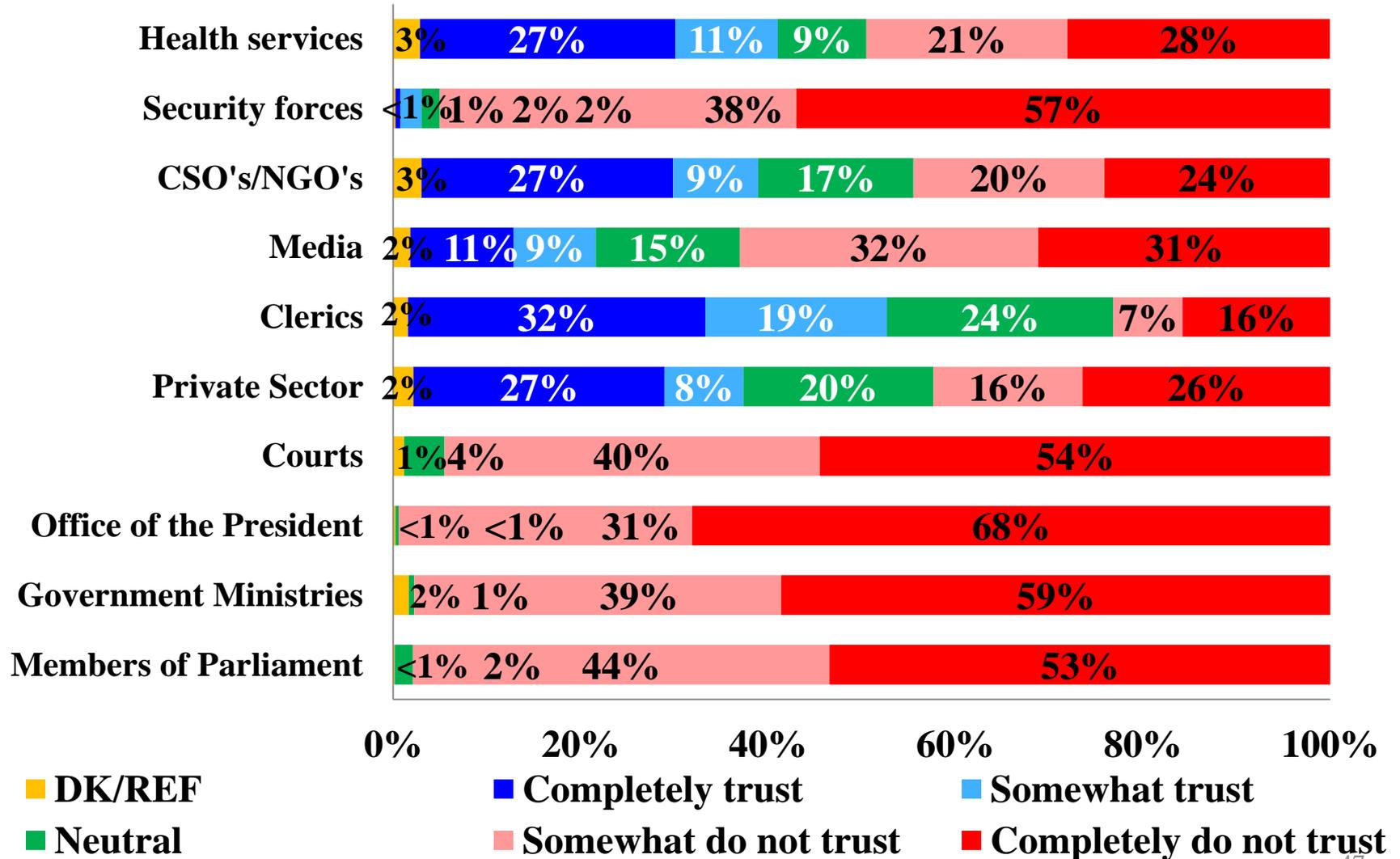
In your opinion, which of the following would have a positive impact on the situation in Syria today?

Legend:
- **DK/REF** (yellow)
- **Very positive impact** (dark blue)
- **Positive impact** (light blue)
- **Neutral** (green)
- **Negative impact** (pink)
- **Very negative impact** (red)

Category	DK/REF	Very positive impact	Positive impact	Neutral	Negative impact	Very negative impact
International military intervention	3%	49%	4%	12%	19%	13%
UN-sponsored humanitarian assistance	1%	79%	11%	8%	1%	
Change of government/president	4%	90%	4%	2%	1%	
End of foreign interference	3%	18%	30%	27%	14%	7%
Syrian government-led reforms	3%	17%	3%	12%	37%	28%

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%
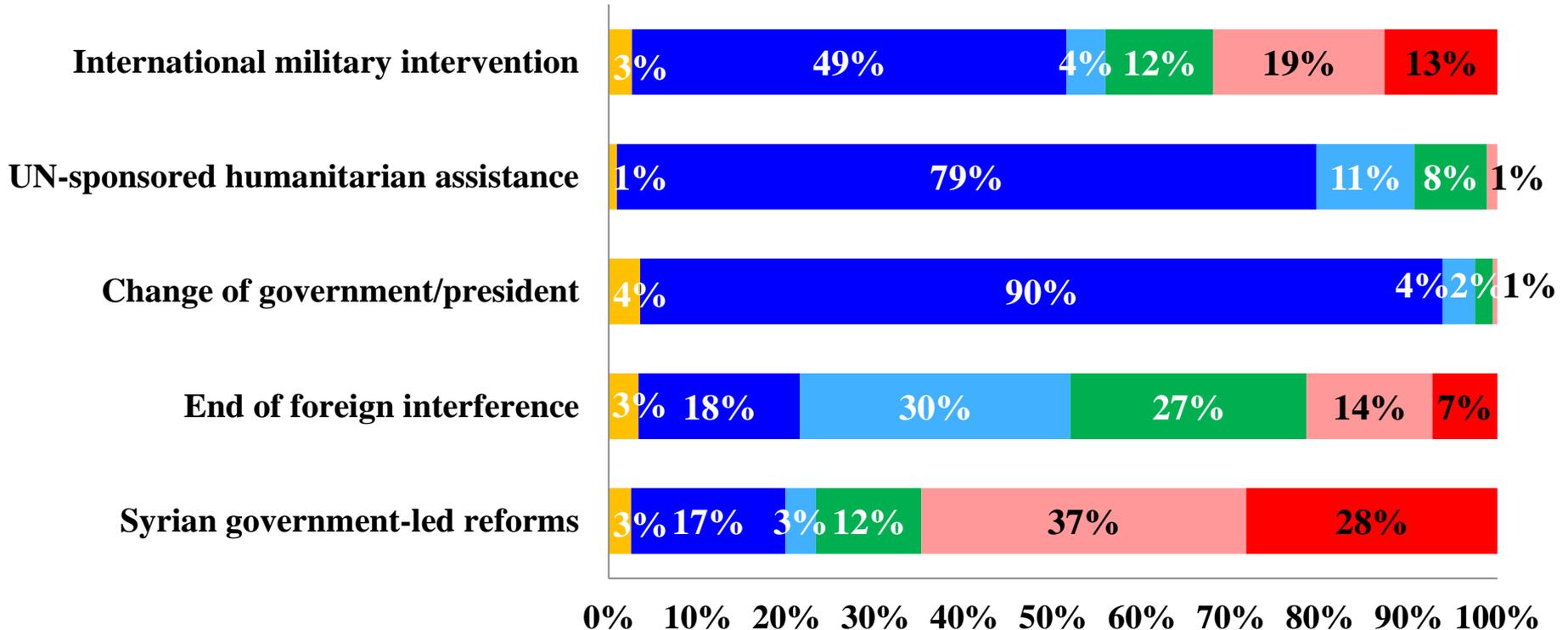
Opposition

The Opposition

Do you support the aims of the opposition?

| 1% | 56% | 31% | 10% | 3% |

0%   20%   40%   60%   80%   100%

- ■ DK/REF
- ■ Support
- ■ Somewhat support
- ■ Neutral
- ■ Somewhat do not support*
- ■ Don't support
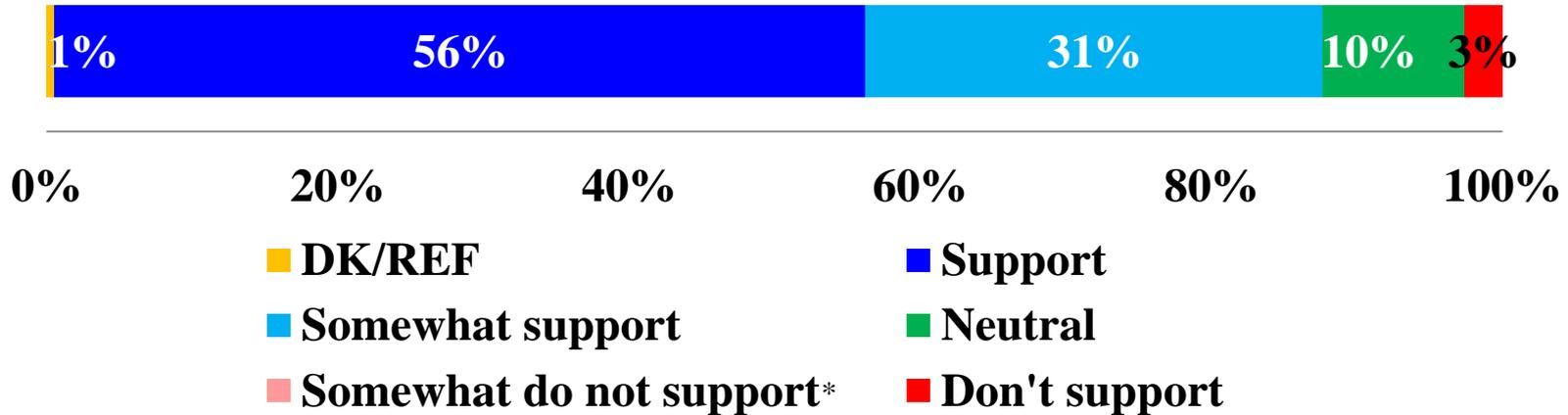
Have opposition groups made their aims clear to the public?

- ■ DK/REF
- ■ Clear
- ■ Somewhat clear
- ■ Neutral
- ■ Somewhat not clear
- ■ Not clear

1%

1% 10% 11% 42% 36%

0%   20%   40%   60%   80%   100%
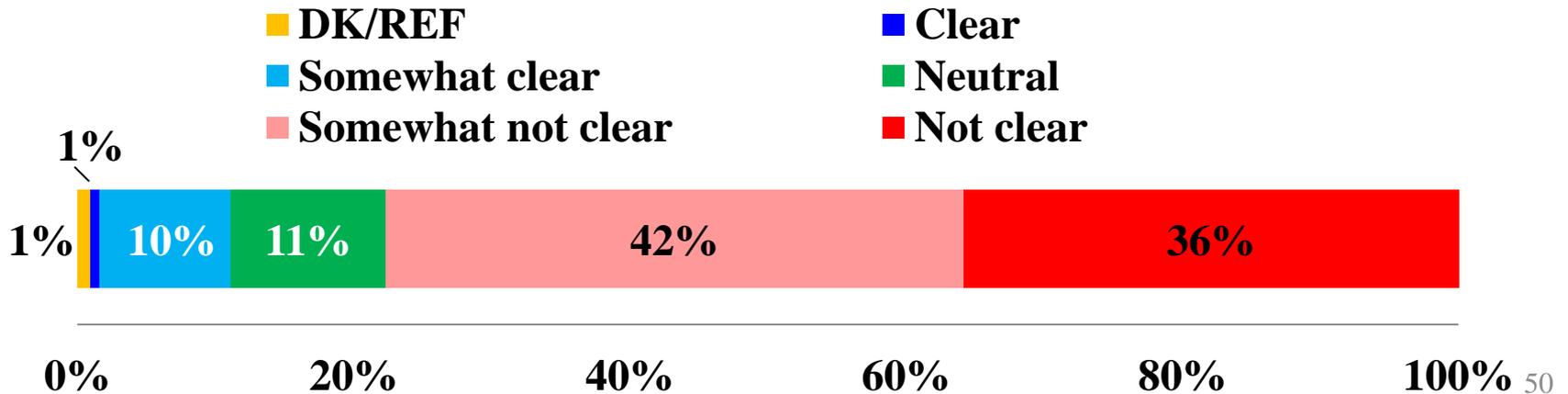
*Zero respondents selected this option

Do you believe that opposition groups and the government should enter a dialogue?

■ **Yes** ■ **No** ■ **DK/REF**

- 9%
- 25%
- 66%
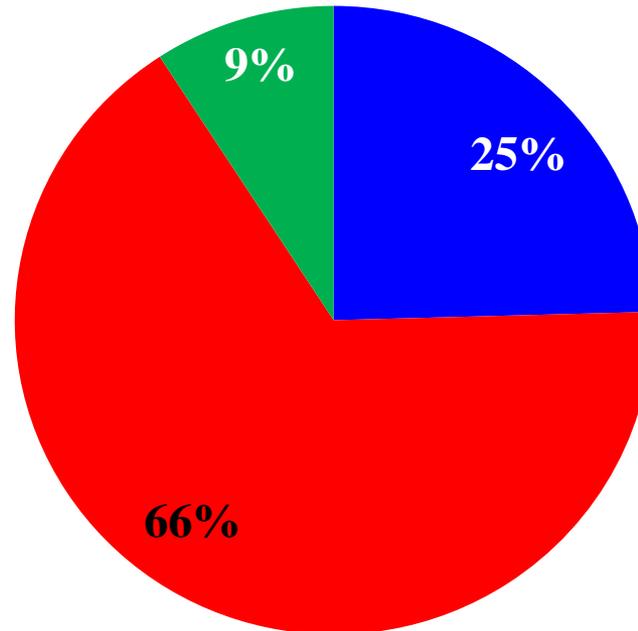
To what extent would such dialogue be productive?

Legend:
- DK/REF
- Productive
- Somewhat productive
- Neutral
- Somewhat unproductive
- Not productive

<1%	6%	6%	42%	33%	13%

0%   20%   40%   60%   80%   100%
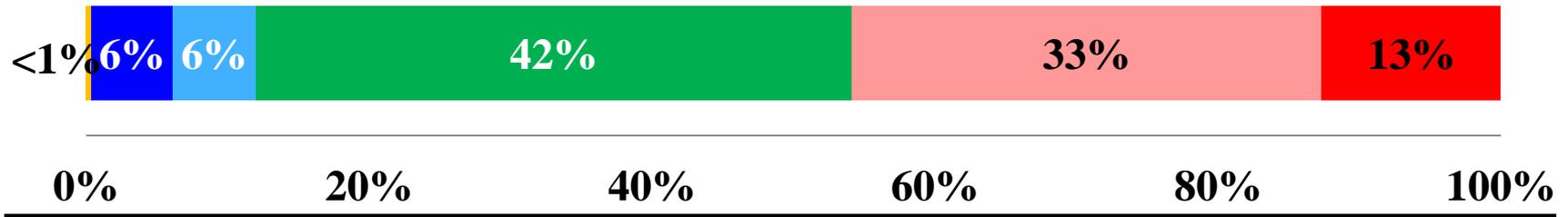
Do you believe the government is sincere about wanting to enter a dialogue with the opposition?

Legend: Yes ■ No ■ DK ■ REF

5%	71%	22%	2%

0%   20%   40%   60%   80%   100%

Can you name a leading opposition group? (open-ended)

|	
Sheikh Adnan Al Arour	<1%
National Salvation Front	1%
Committee for Revival of Civil Society	1%
Revolutionary Councils	1%
Muslim Brotherhood	2%
Syrian National Council	2%
Syrian Patriotic Group	5%
Local Coordination Committees	5%
Free Syrian Army	83%
DK/REF	1%
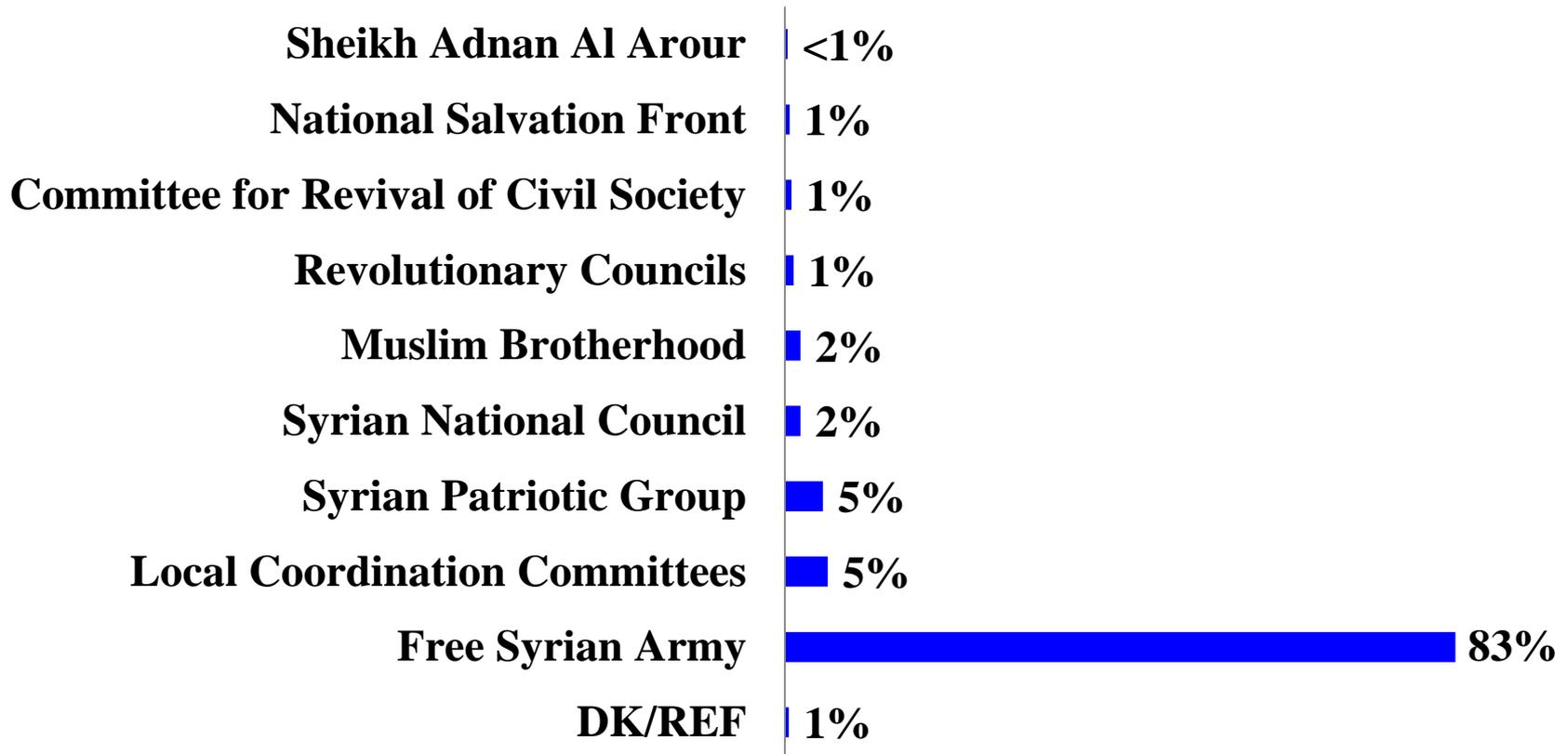
From the list below, please rank the top three opposition groups with which you are most familiar.

| Group	First Mention	Second Mention	Third Mention	Total
Free Syrian Army	82%	10%	5%	98%
Local Coordination Committees	4%	22%	20%	46%
Syrian Patriotic Group	5%	3%	25%	33%
National Coordination Committee	1%	10%	16%	27%
Revolutionary Councils	1%	10%	8%	20%
Syrian National Council	2%	13%	4%	19%
National Salvation Front	1%	14%	3%	17%
Muslim Brotherhood	2%	10%	4%	16%
Committee for Revival of Civil Society	1%	1%	7%	8%
Yekiti Party	0%	3%	1%	4%
Damascus Declaration	0%	1%	2%	3%
Kurdish Future Movement	0%	1%	0%	1%
Other	0%	1%	1%	2%
DK/REF	0%	1%	5%	7%

# Do you support the objectives of the group you selected above?

Yes DK/REF

4%

96%
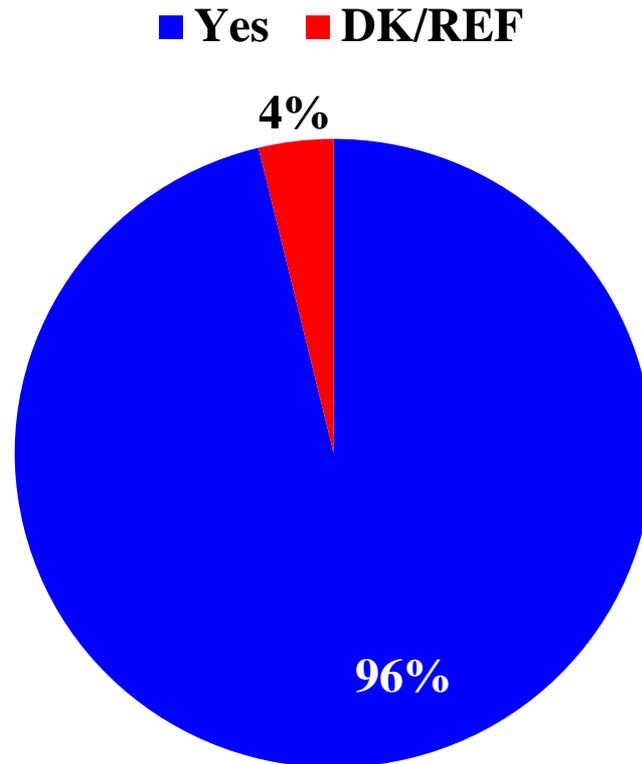
In your opinion, has this or another group outlined a realistic solution to the current challenges facing Syria?

■ **Yes**   ■ **No**   ■ **DK/REF**


- 8%
- 36%
- 56%
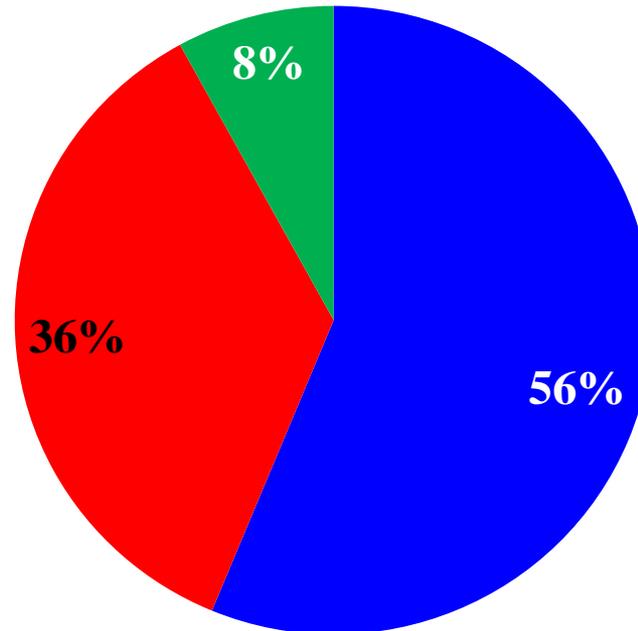
The Syrian National Council (SNC)

The international community views the Syrian National Council as a legitimate representative of the Syrian people. Do you agree with this?

■ DK/REF ■ Agree ■ Somewhat agree ■ Neutral ■ Somewhat disagree ■ Disagree

| 1% | 26% | 41% | 14% | 15% | 4% |

0%   20%   40%   60%   80%   100%
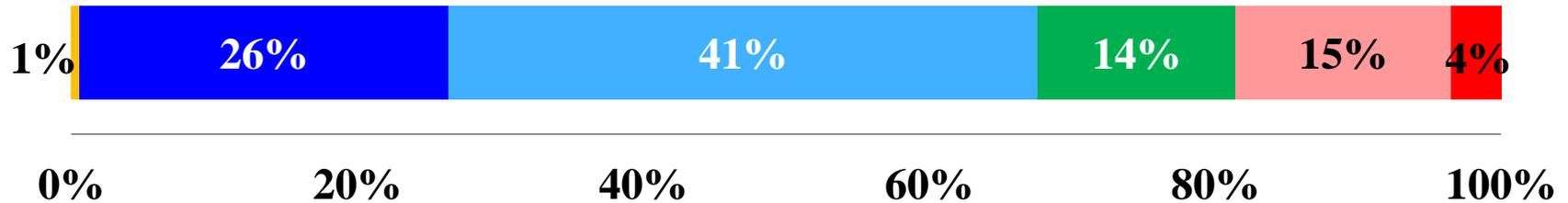
How do you rate the performance of the SNC?

■ DK/REF ■ Satisfied ■ Somewhat satisfied ■ Neutral ■ Somewhat dissatisfied ■ Dissatisfied

| 1% | 15% | 42% | 17% | 22% | 4% |

0%   20%   40%   60%   80%   100%

Should the SNC lead a transitional government in the future?

■ **Yes** ■ **No** ■ **DK** ■ **REF**
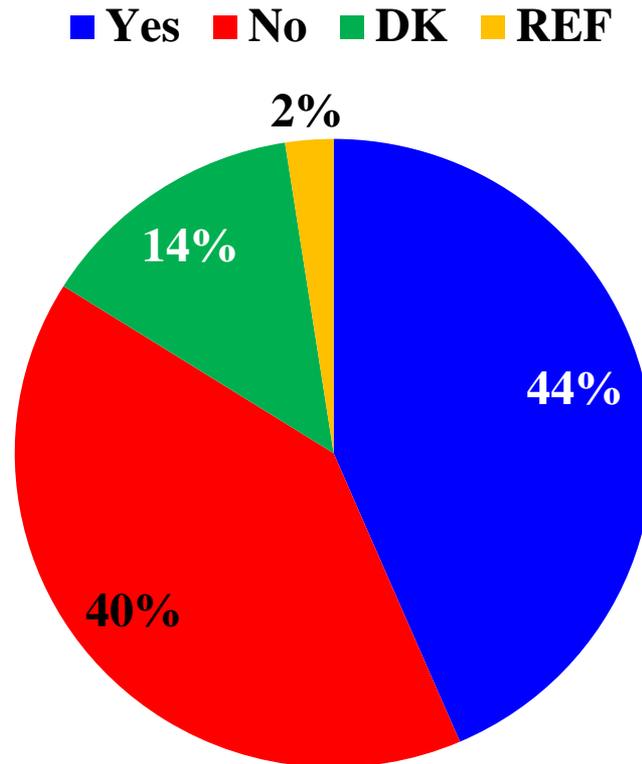
Please rate on a scale of one to five the following actions that the international community has debated taking. Five means this action must happen and one means this action should not happen

Action	DK/REF	5	4	3	2	1
Do nothing	7%	2%	1%	4%	41%	45%
Continue with diplomatic negotiations to end the fighting	2%	38%	10%	6%	27%	16%
A no-fly zone over the country	2%	74%	12%	8%	2%	2%
Foreign intervention to change government	2%	56%	10%	12%	10%	10%
Foreign intervention to protect citizens	2%	79%	9%	5%	3%	2%
Provision of arms and training to the opposition	1%	68%	18%	8%	2%	2%
Enforcement of safe humanitarian corridors and safe zones		96%	1%	3%		

59

Were there to be a change of government, what should be the next steps in the process?

43%	39%	13%	3%	2%
Straight to elections after resignation of current government	Transitional government leading to elections	Constitution writing after parliamentary elections	A constitutional assembly leading to elections	DK/REF

The Future

The International Republican Institute

IRI
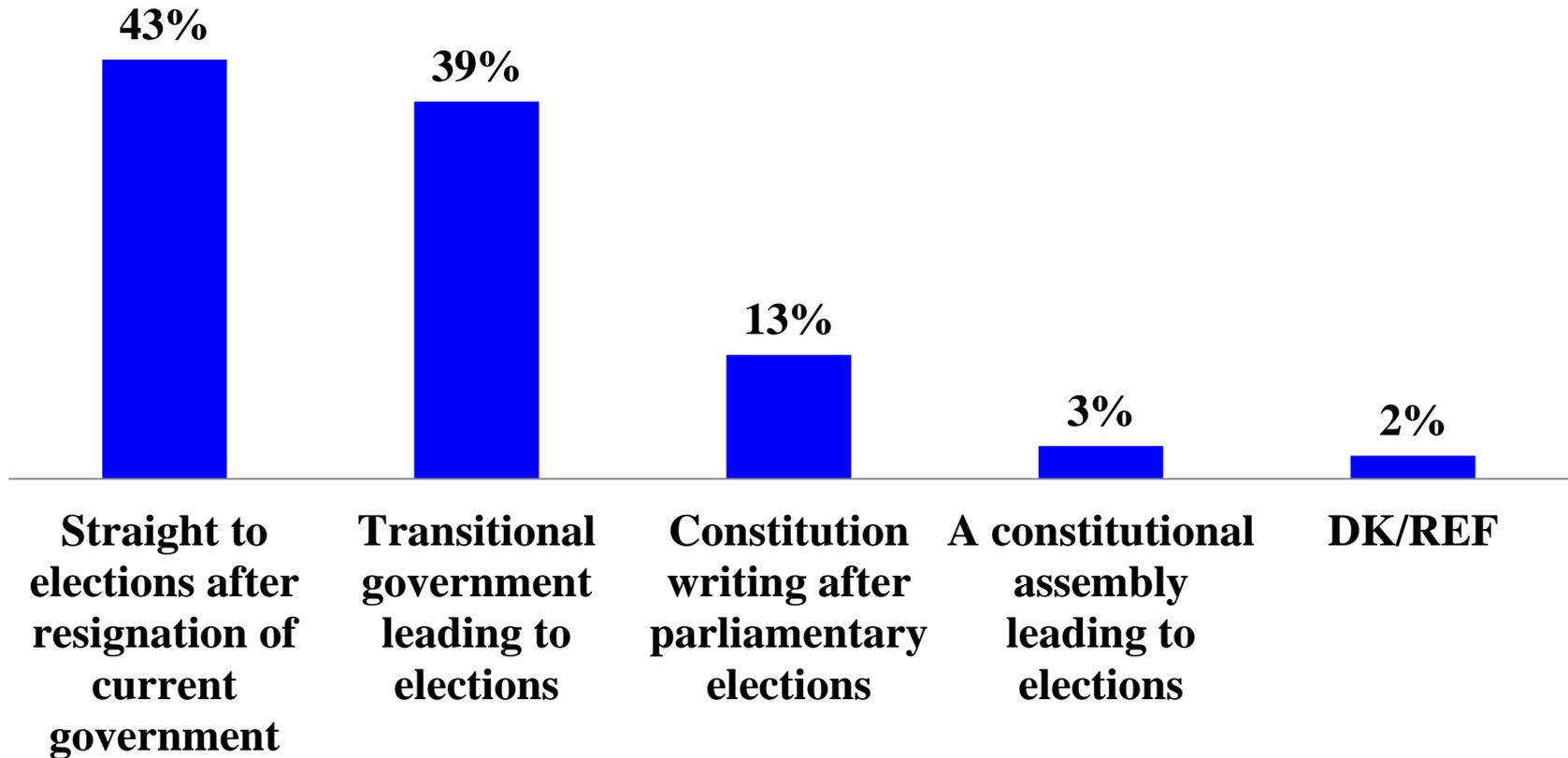
advancing democracy worldwide

Is the current crisis in Syria a struggle for power or human rights?

Power Human rights Both Neither DK/REF
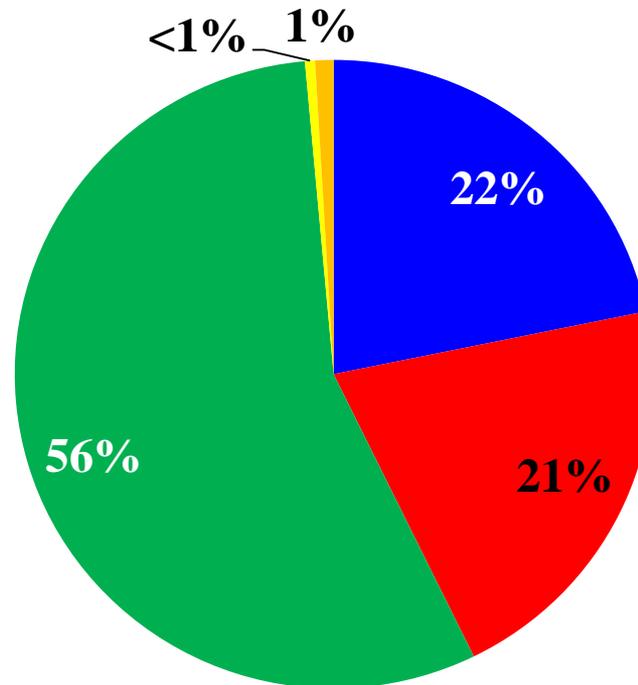
What system of government would you like to see in the future for Syria? (open-ended)

- **Democracy/Free democracy** — 93%
- **Islamic** — 2%
- **Parliamentary** — 1%
- **Any system that represents Syrian people** — 1%
- **Monarchy** — 1%
- **DK/REF** — 2%
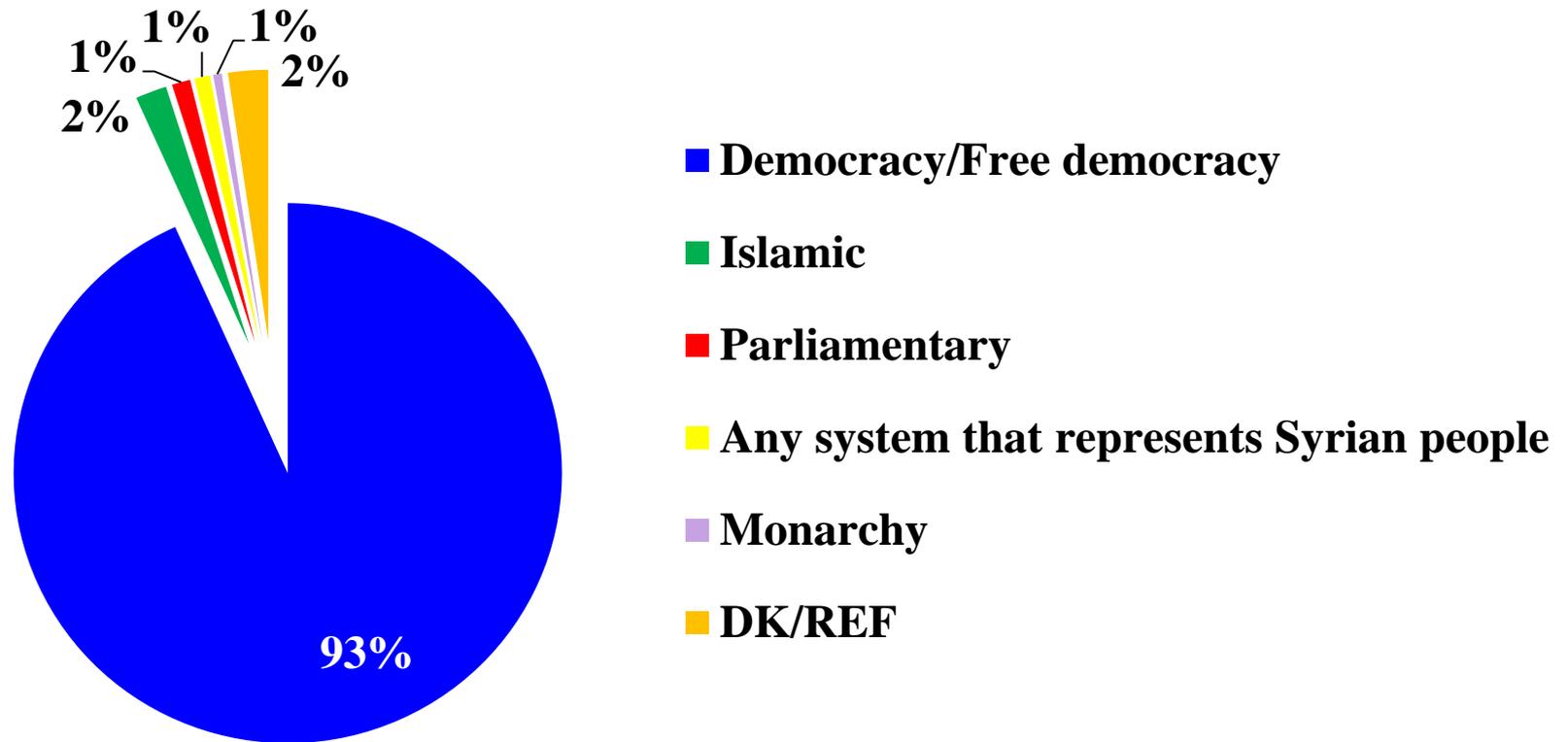
Is there a country with a political system you would most like to see for Syria in the future? (open ended)

Country	Percentage
Saudi Arabia	3%
Turkey	10%
France	12%
Lebanon	56%
Other	10%
None	5%
DK/REF	4%