

What Coalition?

The US and Britain cannot find “the willing” to lead

Washington says that in the war on Iraq they lead a coalition of 45 nations. This is a transparent sham:

- 15 of the 45 are *too ashamed* to be named.
- 24 of the rest are sending *NO troops*. This includes Spain!
- 4 are sending token numbers (*less than 300* at most).

That leaves Australia (2,000 troops), the UK (45,000) and the US (315,000). It's not a coalition, it's a gang.

Among the 15 not willing to be named are presumably Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Oman, the United Arab Emirates and Djibouti where US forces are based. *None of them will sign on in public.* Egypt might be another. And Israel is not on the list either.

Also conspicuous by their absence are NATO allies Canada, Belgium, and Norway (not just France and Germany) and the larger Central and South American countries Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Mexico.

The full list, annotated:

Country	Troops	Comment	Country	Troops	Comment
Afghanistan		We promised them rebuilding money but the Bush administration forgot to request any in the latest budget. ¹	Korea		a little busy with the North
Albania	70	For noncombatant roles only.	Latvia		“seeking US financial or military support” ³
Australia	2,000	76% of the people oppose joining a US-led attack that does not have UN approval. ²	Lithuania		“seeking US financial or military support” ³
Azerbaijan		Squeezed between Iran, Armenia, Georgia and Russia, and positioning itself for resolution of South Caucasus conflicts.	Macedonia		wants US support in the Balkans
Bulgaria		“seeking US financial or military support” ³	Netherlands		89% of the people against action without UN approval; 72% against even with it ⁶
Colombia		major US-financed drug war in progress	Nicaragua		wouldn't want their harbor mined again
Czech Rep.	few	“a chemical-biological warfare support unit” ³	Philippines		“already involved in the war on terrorism” ³
Denmark		79% of the people against action without UN approval; 57% against even with it. ⁴	Poland	200	“Support for the US has dropped from 80% to 50%.” ³
El Salvador		On which side is their bread buttered?	Romania	278	“non-combat experts in demining and in chemical and biological decontamination, and military police” ⁵
Eritrea		seeking US support in a boundary dispute with Ethiopia (q.v.) ³	Slovakia		75% against war without UN backing ⁷
Estonia		“seeking US financial or military support” ³	Spain		“Spain will not participate in any attack or offensive missions,” said Prime Minister Aznar. ⁸ Presumably because “only 14% have a favourable image” of the US. ³
Ethiopia		seeking US support in a boundary dispute with Eritrea (q.v.) ³	Turkey		The Parliament turned down a huge (up to \$26 billion) bribe to let US troops in but the government will allow overflights.
Georgia		“already involved in the war on terrorism” ³	UK	45,000	Blurred vision
Hungary		wants UK & US support for entry to the EU	US	315,000	130,000 in Kuwait, 95,000 in Qatar, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, etc, and 90,000 on their way
Italy		“Only 34% [of the people] view the US positively, compared to 70% in 2002.” ³	Uzbekistan		“a major beneficiary of U.S. assistance during and after the war in Afghanistan” ⁹
Japan		“restricting its support to post-Saddam reconstruction” ⁵			

¹BBC 2/13/03 ²The Australian 2/4/03 ³BBC 03/18/03 ⁴AFP 1/25/03 ⁵Guardian 3/19/03 ⁶AFP 1/27/03 ⁷Sydney Morning Herald 1/30/03 ⁸AP 3/18/03 ⁹Washington Post 12/04/02

For more info, see <http://www.mbeaw.org> and links there.

For San Francisco Bay Area organizations and activities, <http://bapd.org>.

In Santa Cruz, <http://www.rcnv.org>. This flyer made 3/12/03 by

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