

Most Swedes favor role in Libya mission

Written by AFP / The Swedish Wire
Tuesday, 22 March 2011 14:47 -

Some 65 percent of Swedes want their country to take part in the international air campaign to enforce a no-fly zone over Libya, a poll published Tuesday showed.

The Demoskop poll, published in the Expressen daily, showed some 33 percent of Swedes were against sending Swedish fighter jets to the mission.

Swedes also strongly support the mission to protect civilians in Libya itself, according to the poll, with some 88 percent of Swedes describing the UN-mandated mission as "right," against only 10 percent who said it was wrong.

Demoskop quizzed some 1,101 people Monday.

Sweden has for now said it supported the United Nations resolution enforcing a no-fly zone over Libya, but that it was waiting for a NATO request to decide whether or not it would take part in the mission.

The Swedish military said Monday six to eight Gripen fighter jets were available for the mission in Libya if Sweden decided to participate.

A poll published Tuesday in neighbouring Denmark -- a country whose fighter jets have already taken part in the Libyan operation -- showed 78 percent were in favour of the mission.

The Gallup poll, published in the Berlingske daily, also showed some 44 percent of Danes would be open to their soldiers taking part in ground operations in Libya.