

## **Plurality Favors Cuban Boy's Return**

A plurality of Americans say Elian Gonzalez should go home to his father.

Forty-six percent in an ABC News poll say the six-year-old boy should be returned to his father in Cuba, while 33 percent say he should remain with relatives in the United States. About one in six are undecided about the controversial case.

Gonzalez clung to an inner tube for two days after a boat carrying illegal immigrants from Cuba sank off Florida; 11 people drowned, including his mother. His rescue Nov. 25 ignited a debate on his future: His U.S. relatives, backed by Cuban-American groups, want to keep him; his father, supported by the Cuban government, wants him back.

	The Future of Elian Gonzalez:	
	Return to Cuba	Remain in United States
12/12/99	46%	33

U.S. officials in Cuba met Monday with the father, Juan-Miguel Gonzalez, to establish his parental rights. Friday, the boy's relatives in the United States filed a claim of political asylum on his behalf.

The question in this poll did not directly raise politics: "As you may know, a six year-old boy from Cuba was rescued at sea off the coast of Florida recently. His mother drowned and his father in Cuba wants the boy back. Do you think the boy should be returned to his father in Cuba, or should remain with his relatives in the United States?"

Among the few differences among groups, Republicans are somewhat more apt to say Gonzalez should be returned to his father; 53 percent say so, compared to 42 percent of Democrats. Men are slightly more apt to favor returning the boy to Cuba, while slightly more women are undecided.

	Return to Cuba	Remain in United States
Republicans	53%	29
Democrats	42	38
Independents	46	32
Men	50	34
Women	43	33

METHODOLOGY - This ABC News.com survey was conducted by telephone Dec. 8-12, 1999, among a random national sample of 1,013 adults. The results have a three-point error margin. Fieldwork by ICR-International Communications Research of Media, Pa.

Analysis by Gary Langer.

ABC News polls can be found at ABCNEWS.com on the Internet at:

<http://www.abcnews.com/sections/us/PollVault/PollVault.html>

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	Returned	Remain	Up to him (vol.)	No opin.
12/12/99	46	33	3	17