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Religious intolerance on the rise

22nd May, 2013

http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1305/130522-religious_freedom.html

Contents

The Article	2	Discussion (Student-Created Qs)	14
Warm-Ups	3	Language Work (Multiple Choice)	15
Before Reading / Listening	4	Spelling	16
While Reading / Listening	5	Put The Text Back Together	17
Match The Sentences And Listen	6	Put The Words In The Right Order	18
Listening Gap Fill	7	Circle The Correct Word	19
Comprehension Questions	8	Insert The Vowels (a, e, i, o, u)	20
Multiple Choice - Quiz	9	Punctuate The Text And Add Capitals	21
Role Play	10	Put A Slash (/) Where The Spaces Are	22
After Reading / Listening	11	Free Writing	23
Student Survey	12	Academic Writing	24
Discussion (20 Questions)	13	Homework	25
		Answers	26

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THE ARTICLE

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130522-religious_freedom.html

A report from the U.S. State Department has highlighted the rise of religious intolerance worldwide. U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry gave reporters a summary of the "International Religious Freedom" report. He said: "[It] shines light on the challenges people face as they seek nothing more than basic religious freedom and the right to worship as they wish." Kerry said a particularly worrying trend was the increased discrimination against Jews and Muslims around the world. The report highlighted a rise in anti-Islamic sentiment in Europe and Asia, and an increase in anti-Semitism in other parts of the world. Kerry warned that: "When countries undermine or attack religious freedom, they threaten their country's own stability."

The report opened with a quote from President Barack Obama, who said religious freedom was, "an essential part of human dignity, and without it our world cannot know lasting peace". The report outlined how nations were repressing religious freedom. It said: "Numerous governments imposed...undue and inappropriate restrictions on religious groups and abused their members, in some cases as part of formal government law and practice." The report also warned that denying freedom of worship increased the danger of political and societal instability. It said such a policy: "Undercuts society's ability to counter and combat the biased and warped interpretations of religion that violent extremists propagate."

Sources: <http://www.christianpost.com/news/kerry-blasphemy-apostasy-anti-semitism-troubling-trends-in-intl-religious-freedom-report-96277/>
<http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/irf/religiousfreedom/index.htm#wrapper>

WARM-UPS

1. RELIGION: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about religion. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

report / highlighted / intolerance / challenges / discrimination / religious freedom / human dignity / lasting peace / restrictions / instability / interpretations / extremists

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. DISCRIMINATION: What exists in your country? Complete this table and share what you wrote with your partner(s).

Against...	What kind / How bad?	How to fight and reduce it?
race / colour		
sex		
age		
religion		
income level		
dialect		

4. TOLERANCE: Students A **strongly** believe everyone in the world will be tolerant of others one day; Students B **strongly** believe this will never happen. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

5. FREEDOMS: Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the most important at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- religious freedom
- choice of who to marry
- freedom to travel
- freedom of speech
- freedom to join a union
- freedom to be creative
- freedom to work anywhere
- freedom to wear anything

6. FREEDOM: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'freedom'. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130522-religious_freedom.html

1. TRUE / FALSE:

Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- | | |
|--|-------|
| a. The Vatican in Rome has published a report about religious freedom. | T / F |
| b. John Kerry talked about challenges for people to worship freely. | T / F |
| c. Kerry said there was an increasing intolerance against Muslims & Jews. | T / F |
| d. Kerry said attacking religious freedom did not affect a nation's stability. | T / F |
| e. The report opened with words from a Hindu teacher. | T / F |
| f. Obama said there could be no lasting peace without religious freedom. | T / F |
| g. The article mentions three nations where there is no religious freedom. | T / F |
| h. The report suggests religious intolerance creates extremism. | T / F |

2. SYNONYM MATCH:

Match the following synonyms from the article.

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| 1. highlighted | a. encounter |
| 2. summary | b. refusing |
| 3. face | c. security |
| 4. trend | d. overview |
| 5. stability | e. needless |
| 6. essential | f. spread |
| 7. lasting | g. pointed out |
| 8. undue | h. vital |
| 9. denying | i. long-term |
| 10. propagate | j. shift |

3. PHRASE MATCH:

(Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. It shines light on the | a. anti-Islamic sentiment |
| 2. a particularly | b. of human dignity |
| 3. a rise in | c. own stability |
| 4. undermine or | d. interpretations of religion |
| 5. they threaten their country's | e. worrying trend |
| 6. an essential part | f. challenges people face |
| 7. ...how nations were repressing | g. extremists |
| 8. the danger of political and | h. attack religious freedom |
| 9. biased and warped | i. religious freedom |
| 10. violent | j. societal instability |

GAP FILL

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130522-religious_freedom.html

A report from the U.S. State Department has (1) _____ the rise of religious intolerance worldwide. U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry gave reporters a (2) _____ of the "International Religious Freedom" report. He said: "[It] (3) _____ light on the challenges people face as they seek nothing more than basic religious freedom and the right to worship as they (4) _____." Kerry said a particularly worrying (5) _____ was the increased discrimination against Jews and Muslims around the world. The report highlighted a rise in anti-Islamic (6) _____ in Europe and Asia, and an increase in anti-Semitism in other parts of the world. Kerry warned that: "When countries (7) _____ or attack religious freedom, they threaten their country's own (8) _____."

sentiment
wish
summary
stability
highlighted
undermine
shines
trend

The report opened with a (9) _____ from President Barack Obama, who said religious freedom was, "an essential part of human (10) _____, and without it our world cannot know (11) _____ peace". The report outlined how nations were repressing religious freedom. It said: "Numerous governments (12) _____ ...undue and inappropriate restrictions on religious groups and abused their members, in some (13) _____ as part of formal government law and practice." The report also warned that (14) _____ freedom of worship increased the danger of political and societal instability. It said such a policy: "Undercuts society's ability to (15) _____ and combat the biased and warped interpretations of religion that (16) _____ extremists propagate."

lasting
violent
denying
quote
imposed
dignity
counter
cases

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130522-religious_freedom.html

- 1) highlighted the rise of religious _____
 - a. intolerance the world over
 - b. intolerance world and wide
 - c. intolerance worldwide
 - d. intolerance world wild
- 2) challenges people face as they seek nothing more than _____
 - a. basics religious freedom
 - b. basic religious freedom
 - c. basically religious freedom
 - d. bases religious freedom
- 3) Kerry said a particularly worrying trend was the increased discrimination against _____
 - a. Jews and Muslim
 - b. Jew and Muslim
 - c. Jews and Muslims
 - d. Jew and Muslims
- 4) a rise in anti-Islamic sentiment in Europe and Asia, and an increase _____
 - a. in anti-Semitism
 - b. on anti-Semitism
 - c. an anti-Semitism
 - d. and anti-Semitism
- 5) When countries undermine or attack religious freedom, they threaten their _____
 - a. country's own stability
 - b. country zone stability
 - c. country-sewn stability
 - d. countries own stability
- 6) religious freedom was an essential part _____
 - a. of human dignities
 - b. of human dignify
 - c. of human dignity
 - d. of human dignified
- 7) without it our world cannot _____
 - a. know lasting peace
 - b. know last in peace
 - c. no lasting peace
 - d. no last in peace
- 8) Numerous governments imposed undue and _____
 - a. inappropriate restrictions
 - b. in appropriate restrictions
 - c. inappropriateness restrictions
 - d. inner pro-rata restrictions
- 9) denying freedom of worship increased the danger of political _____
 - a. and society all instability
 - b. and so site tall instability
 - c. and societal instability
 - d. and social instability
- 10) the biased and warped interpretations of religion that _____
 - a. violent extremists prop a gate
 - b. violent extremists proper gate
 - c. violent extremists propagate
 - d. violent extremists pro pay gate

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130522-religious_freedom.html

A report from the U.S. State Department has (1) _____ religious intolerance worldwide. U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry gave (2) _____ the "International Religious Freedom" report. He said: "[It] shines light on the challenges people (3) _____ more than basic religious freedom and the right to worship as they wish." Kerry said a (4) _____ was the increased discrimination against Jews and Muslims around the world. The report highlighted (5) _____ sentiment in Europe and Asia, and an increase in anti-Semitism in other parts of the world. Kerry warned that: "When countries (6) _____ religious freedom, they threaten their country's own stability."

The report opened with a quote from President Barack Obama, who said religious freedom was, "(7) _____ human dignity, and without it our world cannot (8) _____ ". The report outlined how nations were repressing religious freedom. It said: "Numerous governments imposed...undue and (9) _____ on religious groups and abused their members, in some cases as part of formal government law and practice." The report also (10) _____ of worship increased the danger (11) _____ instability. It said such a policy: "Undercuts society's ability to counter and combat the biased and warped interpretations of (12) _____ propagate."

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130522-religious_freedom.html

1. Who compiled the report?

2. What did John Kerry give reporters?

3. What trend did Kerry say was worrying?

4. Where was anti-Islamic feeling on the increase?

5. What do countries threaten by reducing religious freedom?

6. What did Obama say was non-existent without religious freedom?

7. According to the report, who was repressing religious freedom?

8. Who are some governments abusing?

9. What would denying freedom of worship lead to?

10. Who spreads twisted versions of religion?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130522-religious_freedom.html

1. Who compiled the report?
 - a) a Buddhist organisation
 - b) the World Council of Churches
 - c) the Vatican
 - d) the U.S. State Department
2. What did John Kerry give reporters?
 - a) a piece of his mind
 - b) a summary of the report
 - c) chocolates
 - d) his autograph
3. What trend did Kerry say was worrying?
 - a) the increase in cult religions
 - b) the falling number of worshippers
 - c) the discrimination against Jews and Muslims
 - d) the rise in atheism
4. Where was anti-Islamic feeling on the increase?
 - a) Europe and Asia
 - b) the USA
 - c) South America
 - d) Africa
5. What do countries threaten by reducing religious freedom?
 - a) printers of holy books
 - b) their independence
 - c) their own stability
 - d) places of worship
6. What did Obama say was non-existent without religious freedom?
 - a) diversity
 - b) long-lasting peace
 - c) churches
 - d) prayers
7. According to the report, who was repressing religious freedom?
 - a) ordinary people
 - b) the media / press
 - c) terrorist groups
 - d) numerous governments
8. Who are some governments abusing?
 - a) members of religious groups
 - b) refugees
 - c) women and children
 - d) terrorists
9. What would denying freedom of worship lead to?
 - a) more wars
 - b) fewer religious holidays
 - c) political and societal instability
 - d) falling numbers of worshippers
10. Who spreads twisted versions of religion?
 - a) religious leaders
 - b) extremists
 - c) newspapers
 - d) some national leaders

ROLE PLAY

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130522-religious_freedom.html

Role A – Religious freedom

You think religious freedom is the most important. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their freedom. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): freedom of speech, freedom to marry who you choose or freedom to wear what you want.

Role B – Freedom of speech

You think freedom of speech is the most important. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their freedom. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): religious freedom, freedom to marry who you choose or freedom to wear what you want.

Role C – Freedom to marry who you choose

You think freedom to marry who you choose is the most important. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their freedom. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): freedom of speech, religious freedom or freedom to wear what you want.

Role D – Freedom to wear what you want

You think freedom to wear what you want is the most important. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their freedom. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): freedom of speech, freedom to marry who you choose or religious freedom.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130522-religious_freedom.html

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'religious' and 'freedom'.

religious	freedom
------------------	----------------

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• highlighted• summary• face• trend• sentiment• threaten	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• quote• human• numerous• abused• denying• violent
---	---

RELIGION SURVEY

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130522-religious_freedom.html

Write five GOOD questions about religion in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.
When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

RELIGION DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'religion'?
- c) Why aren't people tolerant toward other religions?
- d) What role does religion play in your life?
- e) Do you accept and respect people from all religions?
- f) Why do some countries see religion as something dangerous?
- g) Why are there so many different religions?
- h) Why is there an increase in discrimination against Jews and Muslims?
- i) Does greater religious freedom lead to a more peaceful society?
- j) What do you like and dislike about religion?

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RELIGION DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a) Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
- b) Is religious freedom "an essential part of human dignity"?
- c) What do you think of people who do not believe in God?
- d) Which countries do you think repress religion or religions?
- e) If all religions promote peace, love and respect for all, why is there so much hate in the world?
- f) Is fighting a war in the name of God a contradiction?
- g) Does religion bring the world together?
- h) What would Jesus, the Prophet Mohamed, Buddha, etc. think of our world today?
- i) Are religious people happier than non-religious people?
- j) What questions would you like to ask the author of the report?

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

MULTIPLE CHOICE - LANGUAGE

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130522-religious_freedom.html

A report from the U.S. State Department has (1) ____ the rise of religious intolerance worldwide. U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry gave reporters a (2) ____ of the "International Religious Freedom" report. He said: "[It] shines light on the challenges people face (3) ____ they seek nothing more than basic religious freedom and the right to worship as they (4) ____." Kerry said a particularly worrying trend was the increased discrimination against Jews and Muslims around the world. The report highlighted a rise (5) ____ anti-Islamic sentiment in Europe and Asia, and an increase in anti-Semitism in other parts of the world. Kerry warned that: "When countries undermine or attack religious freedom, they threaten their country's own (6) ____."

The report opened with a quote from President Barack Obama, who said religious freedom was, "an essential part of human (7) ____, and without it our world cannot know lasting peace". The report outlined how nations were (8) ____ religious freedom. It said: "Numerous governments imposed...undue and inappropriate restrictions on religious groups and abused their members, in some (9) ____ as part of formal government law and practice." The report also warned that (10) ____ freedom of worship increased the danger of political and societal instability. It said (11) ____ a policy: "Undercuts society's ability to counter and combat the biased and warped interpretations of religion that violent extremists (12) ____."

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|-----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. | (a) highlighted | (b) heightened | (c) highs | (d) highly |
| 2. | (a) summation | (b) summons | (c) summary | (d) summersault |
| 3. | (a) gas | (b) was | (c) has | (d) as |
| 4. | (a) wishing | (b) wish | (c) wishes | (d) wishy-washy |
| 5. | (a) at | (b) to | (c) by | (d) in |
| 6. | (a) instability | (b) stable | (c) stability | (d) stabilise |
| 7. | (a) digress | (b) dignity | (c) digestion | (d) digraphic |
| 8. | (a) repressing | (b) repressed | (c) repressive | (d) represses |
| 9. | (a) cases | (b) causes | (c) castes | (d) cassis |
| 10. | (a) deniable | (b) denied | (c) denying | (d) deny |
| 11. | (a) thus | (b) much | (c) so | (d) such |
| 12. | (a) rotavate | (b) propagate | (c) motivate | (d) surrogate |

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SPELLING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130522-religious_freedom.html

Paragraph 1

1. tghhighdiel the rise
2. the eeshnalglc people face
3. a crriyaluatpl worrying trend
4. increased mditiinonscari
5. a rise in anti-Islamic etntnsime
6. nthaerte their country's own stability

Paragraph 2

7. an lstsneaei part
8. human itdingy
9. oprtarepaniip restrictions
10. giyendn freedom of worship
11. ibedas and warped interpretations
12. violent sirtmesxte

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130522-religious_freedom.html

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () worship as they wish." Kerry said a particularly worrying trend was the increased discrimination against Jews and Muslims
- () how nations were repressing religious freedom. It said: "Numerous governments imposed...undue and
- () the danger of political and societal instability. It said such a policy: "Undercuts society's ability to
- () an increase in anti-Semitism in other parts of the world. Kerry warned that: "When countries
- () around the world. The report highlighted a rise in anti-Islamic sentiment in Europe and Asia, and
- () light on the challenges people face as they seek nothing more than basic religious freedom and the right to
- () was, "an essential part of human dignity, and without it our world cannot know lasting peace". The report outlined
- () as part of formal government law and practice." The report also warned that denying freedom of worship increased
- () undermine or attack religious freedom, they threaten their country's own stability."
- () of State John Kerry gave reporters a summary of the "International Religious Freedom" report. He said: "[It] shines
- () The report opened with a quote from President Barack Obama, who said religious freedom
- () inappropriate restrictions on religious groups and abused their members, in some cases
- () counter and combat the biased and warped interpretations of religion that violent extremists propagate."
- (**1**) A report from the U.S. State Department has highlighted the rise of religious intolerance worldwide. U.S. Secretary

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130522-religious_freedom.html

1. the Highlighted worldwide intolerance religious of rise.

2. face on the It challenges shines people light.

3. highlighted The rise sentiment report. a anti-Islamic in

4. parts anti-Semitism in of in An the other increase world.

5. threaten country's stability They their own.

6. human Religious an of was part dignity freedom essential.

7. how Outlined freedom religious repressing were nations.

8. government As law part and of practice formal.

9. societal danger instability of political Increased and the.

10. The religion of interpretations warped and biased.

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130522-religious_freedom.html

A report from the U.S. State Department has *highlighted / heightened* the rise of religious intolerance worldwide. U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry gave reporters a *summation / summary* of the "International Religious Freedom" report. He said: "[It] shines *doubt / light* on the challenges people face *as / has* they seek *nothing / anything* more than basic religious freedom and the right to worship as they *wish / wishing*." Kerry said a particularly worrying *trendy / trend* was the increased discrimination *for / against* Jews and Muslims around the world. The report highlighted a rise in anti-Islamic sentiment in Europe and Asia, and an increase in anti-Semitism in other parts of the world. Kerry warned that: "When countries *mine / undermine* or attack religious freedom, they threaten their country's own *stability / instability*."

The report *opened / opener* with a quote from President Barack Obama, who said religious freedom was, "an *essence / essential* part of human *dignity / dignified*, and without it our world cannot know *lasting / lasted* peace". The report outlined how nations were repressing religious freedom. It said: "Numerous governments imposed...*undue / duly* and inappropriate restrictions *on / at* religious groups and abused their members, in some *causes / cases* as part of formal government law and *practical / practice*." The report also warned that *denying / denial* freedom of worship increased the danger of political and societal instability. It said such a policy: "Undercuts society's ability to counter and combat the biased and warped interpretations of religion that violent *extremes / extremists* propagate."

Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.

INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130522-religious_freedom.html

__ r_p_rt fr_m th__ .S. St_t_ D_p_rtm_nt h_s
h_ghl_gh_t_d th__ r_s__ f r_l_g__s __nt_l_r_nc_
w_rldw_d_. __.S. S_cr_t_ry _f St_t_ J_hn K_rry g_v_
r_p_rt_rs __ s_mm_ry _f th_ " _nt_rn_t__n_l R_l_g__s
Fr__d_m" r_p_rt. H__s__d: "[_t] sh_n_s l_gh_t _n th_
ch_ll_ng_s p__pl_f_c__s th_y s__k_n_th_ng m_r_th_n
b_s_c_r_l_g__s fr__d_m __nd th_r_gh_t t_w_rsh_p_s
th_y w_sh." K_rry s__d __ p_r_t_c_l_rly w_rry_ng tr_nd
w_s th__ _ncr__s_d d_scr_m_n_t__n _g__nst J_ws __nd
M_sl_ms __r__nd th_w_rld. Th_r_p_rt h_ghl_gh_t_d __
r_s__ _n __nt__-s_l_m_c_s__nt_m__nt __n __r_p__nd __s__,
__nd __n __ncr__s__ _n __nt__-S_m_t_s_m__n th_r_p_rts _f
th_w_rld. K_rry w_rn_d th_t: "Wh_n c__ntr__s
__nd_r_m_n__r__tt_ck r_l_g__s fr__d_m, th_y thr__t_n
th__r c__ntry's __wn st_b_l_ty."

Th_r_p_rt p_n_d w_th __q__t__fr_m Pr_s_d_nt B_r_ck
__b_m__, wh__s__d r_l_g__s fr__d_m w_s, " _n
__ss__nt__l p_r_t _f h_m_n_d_gn_ty, __nd w_th__t__t__r
w_rld c__nn_t kn_w l_st_ng p__c__". Th_r_p_rt __tl_n_d
h_w_n_t__ns w_r_r_p_r_s_s_ng r_l_g__s fr__d_m. _t
s__d: "N_m_r__s g_v_rnm__nts __mp_s_d... __nd__ __nd
__n_ppr_p_r__t_r_str_c_t__ns __n r_l_g__s gr__ps __nd
__b_s_d th__r m__mb_rs, __n s_m__c_s_s__s p_r_t _f
f_r_m_l_g_v_rnm__nt l_w __nd p_r_c_t_c__." Th_r_p_rt _ls_
w_rn_d th_t d_ny_ng fr__d_m __f w_rsh_p __ncr__s_d
th_d_ng_r __f p_l_t_c_l __nd s_c__t_l __nst_b_l_ty. _t
s__d s_ch __p_l_cy: " __nd_r_c_t_s s_c__ty's __b_l_ty t__
c__nt_r __nd c__mb_t th__b__s_d __nd w_rp_d
__nt_rpr_t_t__ns __f r_l_g__n th_t v__l__nt __xtr_m__sts
p_r_p_g_t__."

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130522-religious_freedom.html

a report from the us state department has highlighted the rise of religious intolerance worldwide us secretary of state john kerry gave reporters a summary of the "international religious freedom" report he said "[it] shines light on the challenges people face as they seek nothing more than basic religious freedom and the right to worship as they wish" kerry said a particularly worrying trend was the increased discrimination against jews and muslims around the world the report highlighted a rise in anti-islamic sentiment in europe and asia and an increase in anti-semitism in other parts of the world kerry warned that "when countries undermine or attack religious freedom they threaten their country's own stability"

the report opened with a quote from president barack obama who said religious freedom was "an essential part of human dignity and without it our world cannot know lasting peace" the report outlined how nations were repressing religious freedom it said "numerous governments imposed...undue and inappropriate restrictions on religious groups and abused their members in some cases as part of formal government law and practice" the report also warned that denying freedom of worship increased the danger of political and societal instability it said such a policy "undercuts society's ability to counter and combat the biased and warped interpretations of religion that violent extremists propagate"

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1305/130522-religious_freedom.html

A report from the U.S. State Department has highlighted the rise of religious intolerance worldwide. U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry gave reporters a summary of the "International Religious Freedom" report. He said: "[It] shines light on the challenges people face as they seek nothing more than basic religious freedom and the right to worship as they wish." Kerry said a particularly worrying trend was the increased discrimination against Jews and Muslims around the world.

The report highlighted a rise in anti-Islamic sentiment in Europe and Asia, and an increase in anti-Semitism in other parts of the world. Kerry warned that:

"When countries undermine or attack religious freedom, they threaten their country's own stability." The report opened with a quote from President Barack Obama, who said religious freedom was, "an essential part of human dignity, and without it our world cannot know lasting peace". The report outlined how nations were repressing religious freedom. It said: "Numerous governments imposed... undue and inappropriate restrictions on religious groups and abused their members, in some cases as part of formal government law and practice." The report also warned that denying freedom of worship increased the danger of political and societal instability. It said such a policy: "Undercuts society's ability to counter and combat the biased and warped interpretations of religion that violent extremists propagate."

HOMework

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find out more about religion. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. RELIGION: Make a poster about religious tolerance. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE: Write a magazine article about religious intolerance. Include imaginary interviews with people who have been subjected to religious intolerance.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

6. LETTER: Write a letter to an expert on religious intolerance. Ask him/her three questions about religion. Give him/her three of your ideas on how people can be more tolerant. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE (p.4)

a F b T c T d F e F f T g F h T

SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| 1. highlighted | a. pointed out |
| 2. summary | b. overview |
| 3. face | c. encounter |
| 4. trend | d. shift |
| 5. stability | e. security |
| 6. essential | f. vital |
| 7. lasting | g. long-term |
| 8. undue | h. needless |
| 9. denying | i. refusing |
| 10. propagate | j. spread |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. The U.S. State Department
2. A summary of the report
3. Discrimination against Jews and Muslims
4. Europe and Asia
5. Their own stability
6. Long-lasting peace
7. Nations / Numerous governments
8. Members of religious groups
9. Political and societal instability
10. Violent extremists

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

1. d 2. b 3. c 4. a 5. c 6. b 7. d 8. a 9. c 10. b

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.
(It's good for your English ;-)