

Soldier admits guilt over Iraq photos (Tue 3 May, 2005)

WARM-UPS

CHAT: Talk in pairs or groups about: U.S. soldiers / Abu Ghraib prison / naked Iraqi prisoners scandal / Arab countries / Donald Rumsfeld / image of U.S. military / officers ... For more conversation, change topics and partners frequently.

SCANDAL: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word “scandal”. Share your words with your partner / group and talk about them.

THE PHOTOS: In pairs / groups, interview each other about what you remember of the Abu Ghraib prison abuse photos. What images can you remember? What were your first thoughts when you saw the photos? Did you want to see all of the photos? How did you think the photos would affect world opinion? Who did you think was responsible?

PRISONER RIGHTS: What are the rights of prisoners of war (P.O.W.s)? Make a list of five basic rights with a partner. Change partners. Add your list to your new partner’s list and make a new list, putting five rights in order of importance. Return to your original partner and compare your new lists.

LYNNIE OPINIONS: Look at the following opinions about the Lynndie England case and talk about them with your partner / group:

- a. Lynndie England should receive the maximum 16 years in prison for her actions.
- b. Donald Rumsfeld is the person most responsible. He should have resigned.
- c. Lynndie has a little baby. She mustn’t go to prison.
- d. The photos were not so shocking. That kind of thing probably happens in prisons everywhere.
- e. Soldiers with learning problems should not be put in charge of prisoners.
- f. U.S. soldiers should stick to the highest standards of behaviour.
- g. Lynndie’s actions were wrong. That’s clear. But sixteen years in prison is too long.
- h. George W. Bush must apologize to Arab nations for this outrage.

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PRE-READING

WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionaries / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... of the words 'prisoner' and 'abuse'.

TRUE / FALSE: Look at the article's headline and guess whether these sentences are true or false:

- a. Lynndie England has pleaded not guilty to charges of prisoner abuse. T / F
- b. Lynndie England faces a maximum sentence of sixteen years in prison. T / F
- c. Lawyers will say Lynndie has learning problems. T / F
- d. The Abu Ghraib photos caused uproar among Arab nations. T / F
- e. U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld resigned. T / F
- f. Lynndie said she received orders from above to "soften up" the prisoners. T / F

SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article:

- | | | |
|----|--------------|------------|
| a. | scandal | attacked |
| b. | confessed | shame |
| c. | carrying out | nude |
| d. | lawyers | admitted |
| e. | naked | fury |
| f. | outrage | performing |
| g. | criticized | authority |
| h. | command | defense |

PHRASE MATCH: Match the following phrases from the article (sometimes more than one combination is possible):

- | | | |
|----|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| a. | pleaded | baby |
| b. | confessed to a total | from above |
| c. | faces a maximum sentence | outrage |
| d. | newborn | guilty |
| e. | caused | criticized |
| f. | widely | of seven charges |
| g. | orders for the photos came | of command |
| h. | high up in the U.S. chain | of sixteen years in prison |

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READING:

1. **GAP FILL:** Fill the gaps with the words in the column on the right.

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BNE: Lynndie England, the U.S. soldier at the _____ of _____ the Iraqi prison photos scandal, has pleaded _____ to abusing prisoners in Iraq. She confessed to a total of seven _____, including mistreating prisoners and not carrying out her duties correctly. England faces a maximum _____ of sixteen years in prison. However, she will probably _____ less than ten years. Her lawyers will say that she has mental health and learning _____ and that she has a newborn baby.

charges

problems

centre

sentence

guilty

receive

The photographs of Ms England and her _____ laughing at naked Iraqi _____ shocked the world last year. Images of her holding a naked Iraqi prisoner on a dog leash caused _____ in Arab countries. The U.S. military was _____ criticized around the world and many people wanted Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld to _____. Lynndie claims the orders for the photos came from above. She says officers higher up in the U.S. chain of _____ told her to “soften up” the prisoners.

resign

outrage

widely

colleagues

command

detainees

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DISCUSSION

- a. Did you like this article?
- b. Did anything in the article make you angry?
- c. Did you agree with everything you read in the article?
- d. How do you feel about the Abu Ghraib photo scandal?
- e. Newspapers often use the word “scandal” in this story. Do you think “outrage” is a better word?
- f. Should Lynndie England go to prison for the full sixteen years?
- g. Do you think officers told her to take part in the photos?
- h. Do you think Donald Rumsfeld should have accepted responsibility?
- i. Do you think the photos harmed America’s image a lot?
- j. How bad do you think the photos were?
- k. A proverb says “all’s fair in love and war”. Do you think the actions in the photos were an acceptable way of getting information from prisoners?
- l. Should the prisoners in the photos be given compensation?
- m. Do the prisoners in the photos have the right to sue the U.S. Government?
- n. If you compare what happens in wartime prisons, don’t you think these photos are a storm in a tea cup?
- o. Should President George W. Bush apologize to Arab nations for the photos?
- p. Did you like this discussion?
- q. Teacher / Student additional questions.

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 information on Abu Ghraib. Share your findings with your class in the next lesson.
- 3. LYNNDIE’S SENTENCE:** You are the judge in the Lynndie England case. Decide her sentence and explain your reasoning.
- 4. PUBLIC IMAGE:** Write an article on the effect of the Abu Ghraib photos on America’s image around the world.

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SPEAKING 1:

ABU GHRAIB ROLE PLAY: Use the following role play cards in a discussion about the Abu Ghraib photos – You have to agree on a sentence for Lynndie England. With your role partners build your role and develop your “strategy” before the role play begins. The hints under each role may help you. After the role play, discuss whether you really believed what you were saying.

THE ROLES:

Student A

Lynndie England

Orders from above / “soften up” / my baby / learning problems / learnt my lesson ...

Student B

Lynndie England’s mother

Wonderful daughter, Lynndie’s new baby, suffered enough, army officers ...

Student C

Donald Rumsfeld (U.S. Defense Secretary)

Not my problem, justice must be done, maximum prison sentence needed to keep Arab countries happy, terrible woman to give America a bad image ...

Student D

Abu Ghraib prisoner

Terrible memories, humiliated, cannot sleep, pain, insult to my religion and people, she enjoyed it, want sixteen years in prison for Lynndie ...

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SPEAKING 2:

PRISONER RIGHTS: Your task is to decide which of the rights in the table below prisoners should have in a prisoner of war (P.O.W.) camp. Make rules next to the rights to explain your decisions.

RIGHTS	RULES
a lawyer	
chocolate	
a single room	
a telephone	
a daily shower	
exercise	
desserts	
a daily newspaper	
a television	
an interpreter	
e-mail	
religious worship	

After you have made your rules, tell another partner / group what you decided. Your partner(s) will give you feedback on your decisions.

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TEXT:

GAP FILL:

Soldier admits guilt over Iraq photos

BNE: Lynndie England, the U.S. soldier at the **centre** of the Iraqi prison photos scandal, has pleaded **guilty** to abusing prisoners in Iraq. She confessed to a total of seven **charges**, including mistreating prisoners and not carrying out her duties correctly. England faces a maximum **sentence** of sixteen years in prison. However, she will probably **receive** less than ten years. Her lawyers will say that she has mental health and learning **problems** and that she has a newborn baby.

The photographs of Ms England and her **colleagues** laughing at naked Iraqi **detainees** shocked the world last year. Images of her holding a naked Iraqi prisoner on a dog leash caused **outrage** in Arab countries. The U.S. military was **widely** criticized around the world and many people wanted Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld to **resign**. Lynndie claims the orders for the photos came from above. She says officers higher up in the U.S. chain of **command** told her to “soften up” the prisoners.