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Al-Qaeda warns of more attacks

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5 August, 2005

THE ARTICLE

Al-Qaeda warns of more attacks

BNE: Al-Qaeda's deputy Ayman al-Zawahri has threatened more death and destruction in London. He blamed British Prime Minister Tony Blair for the recent bombings in London. Mr. Zawahri's worrying message was shown on the Arab satellite channel Al-Jazeera. His words were aimed at all countries currently fighting in Iraq. Zawahri stated: "Our message for you is crystal clear: You will not be safe until you withdraw from our lands, stop stealing our oil and wealth and stop supporting the corrupt rulers." Mr. Blair has declined to comment on the tape.

Zawahri's message also included a warning to the US. He said the greatest struggle would soon come and it would make America "forget the horrors of Vietnam". He warned that tens of thousands of US soldiers would die if America did not withdraw from Iraq. He requested Western nations to accept Osama bin Laden's solution: "Osama has offered you a truce if you leave Muslim lands. You will not dream of security until we live it as a reality in Palestine, and until all your armies leave Iraq and Afghanistan." Zawahri's message is the first from Al-Qaeda since November.

WARM-UPS

1. IRAQIS: You are an average Iraqi person trying to live a normal life in Iraq. In pairs / groups, talk about the following:

- Saddam Hussein
- Security
- Food prices
- The foreign soldiers in your country
- Suicide bombings
- George W. Bush
- Your children's future
- Al-Qaeda
- Fear
- Other

2. SOLDIER: You are a soldier in Iraq. Introduce yourself to the other "soldiers" in the class and talk about your job and daily life. What do you think about events in Iraq? Are you happy to stay or would you prefer to go home? After you have spoken to several students, sit down with a partner and share what you heard.

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

Al-Qaeda / death and destruction / London bombings / Al-Jazeera / US-led coalition / Iraqi oil / Vietnam / volcanoes / Muslim lands / Palestine / Afghanistan

Have a chat about the topics you liked. For more conversation, change topics and partners frequently.

4. DESTRUCTION: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "destruction". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

5. TERROR MEMORIES: In pairs / groups, write down five different terror attacks that you can remember. Where were you and what were you doing at the time you heard the news of these attacks? What details do you remember about the attacks?

Change partners and compare what you talked about.

6. QUICK DEBATE: Students A think the US-led coalition should stay in Iraq for a long time. Students B think the US-led coalition should leave Iraq immediately. Change partners often.

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

1. TRUE / FALSE: Look at the article's headline and guess whether these sentences are true (T) or false (F):

- | | |
|--|-------|
| a. Osama bin Laden has made a video warning of terror attacks. | T / F |
| b. Al-Qaeda said Tony Blair was to blame for the terror in London. | T / F |
| c. Al-Qaeda said it has more plans to attack London. | T / F |
| d. Tony Blair said the warning was nothing to worry about. | T / F |
| e. Al-Qaeda also warned Iraq would be deadlier than Vietnam. | T / F |
| f. Al-Qaeda has plans to use volcanoes as weapons of terror. | T / F |
| g. Osama bin Laden has offered a truce to Western countries. | T / F |
| h. Al-Qaeda said peace cannot exist without security in Palestine. | T / F |

2. SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article:

- | | |
|---------------|-------------------|
| a. deputy | pull out |
| b. threatened | troops |
| c. worrying | peace |
| d. withdraw | warned |
| e. rulers | answer |
| f. die | second in command |
| g. solution | countries |
| h. truce | leaders |
| i. lands | perish |
| j. armies | disturbing |

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

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| a. threatened more death | satellite channel Al-Jazeera |
| b. He blamed | British Prime Minister Tony Blair |
| c. shown on the Arab | thousands of US soldiers |
| d. Our message for you is crystal | to comment on the tape |
| e. Mr. Blair has declined | of Vietnam |
| f. Zawahri's message also included | truce if you leave Muslim lands |
| g. forget the horrors | and destruction in London |
| h. tens of | leave Iraq and Afghanistan |
| i. Osama has offered you a | a warning to the US |
| j. until all your armies | clear |

WHILE READING / LISTENING

GAP FILL: Put the words in the column on the right into the correct spaces.

Al-Qaeda warns of more attacks

BNE: Al-Qaeda's _____ Ayman al-Zawahri has threatened more death and _____ in London. He _____ British Prime Minister Tony Blair for the recent bombings in London. Mr. Zawahri's worrying message was _____ on the Arab satellite channel Al-Jazeera. His words were _____ at all countries currently fighting in Iraq. Zawahri stated: "Our message for you is _____ clear: You will not be safe until you withdraw from our _____, stop stealing our oil and wealth and stop supporting the corrupt rulers." Mr. Blair has _____ to comment on the tape.

Zawahri's message also _____ a warning to the US. He said the greatest _____ would soon come and it would make America "forget the _____ of Vietnam". He warned that tens of thousands of US soldiers would _____ if America did not withdraw from Iraq. He requested Western nations to _____ Osama bin Laden's solution: "Osama has offered you a _____ if you leave Muslim lands. You will not dream of _____ until we live it as a _____ in Palestine, and until all your armies leave Iraq and Afghanistan." Zawahri's message is the first from Al-Qaeda since November.

aimed
destruction
declined
deputy
shown
crystal
blamed
lands
accept
horrors
security
included
reality
die
truce
struggle

AFTER READING / LISTENING

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionaries / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'crystal' and 'clear'.

- 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 gap fill. 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. STUDENT "AL-QAEDA THREAT" SURVEY: In pairs / groups, write down questions about the threat of Al-Qaeda.

- Ask other classmates your questions and note down their answers.
- Go back to your original partner / group and compare your findings.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

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

- | | |
|--------------|-------------|
| • threatened | • struggle |
| • blamed | • horrors |
| • satellite | • requested |
| • aimed | • truce |
| • crystal | • reality |
| • corrupt | • November |

DISCUSSION

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

- a. What did you think when you first read this headline?
- b. Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- c. Are you tired of this kind of news or do you always follow it?
- d. Does Al-Qaeda frighten you?
- e. Do you know of any terror that have taken place against Muslims in recent years, for example in Srebreniza or Iraq?
- f. Do you think the media care more about "Western" lives than Muslim lives?
- g. What are the major aims of Al-Qaeda?
- h. Do you think the "war on terror" would stop if there were a Palestinian state and US forces left Iraq and Afghanistan?
- i. Do you think Iraqi oil is so important to Al-Qaeda?
- j. Do you think Londoners need to worry about the new threat?

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

- a. Did you like reading this article?
- b. What did you think about what you read?
- c. What is your country's position on the US-led force being in Iraq?
- d. Tony Blair said Iraq is not a reason for terrorism. Is he right?
- e. What do you think would happen if the US left Iraq tomorrow?
- f. Do you think Iraq could become worse than Vietnam for America?
- g. Do you think Muslims have reasons to be angry with the West?
- h. America may never be able to bring security to Iraq. What then?
- i. What do you think would happen if Al-Qaeda starts operating from inside Iran? Should America invade Iran too?
- j. Did you like this discussion?

AFTER DISCUSSION: Join another partner / group and tell them what you talked about.

- a. What question would you like to ask about this topic?
- b. What was the most interesting thing you heard?
- c. Was there a question you didn't like?
- d. Was there something you totally disagreed with?
- e. What did you like talking about?
- f. Do you want to know how anyone else answered the questions?
- g. Which was the most difficult question?

SPEAKING

IRAQI INTERVIEWS: You are an international reporter. Tomorrow you have an interview with someone living in Iraq. Students A interview an average Baghdad citizen, Students B interview a US soldier in Baghdad, Students C interview a Baghdad policeman, Students D interview an Al-Qaeda fighter. Form pairs / groups and write down eight questions you want to ask.

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

After you have finished, talk about the possible answers in your groups.

Change partners and role play your interviews. Take turns being the journalist and the interviewee.

After the role play, return to your original partner(s) and talk about what you heard from your interviewees. Discuss whether or not the answers you received from the interviewees are realistic or true.

LISTENING

Listen and fill in the spaces.

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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 more information on Al-Qaeda's deputy Ayman al-Zawahri. Share your findings with your class in the next lesson.

3. THREE COUNTRIES: Make a poster about the three countries Al-Qaeda is fighting for – Palestine, Iraq and Afghanistan. Explain how each is related to the war on terror. Show your posters to your classmates in your next lesson. Did you all find out similar things?

4. LETTER: Write a letter to Al-Qaeda's deputy Ayman al-Zawahri about his message. Explain what you think should happen to end the war on terror. Read your letter to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all write about similar things?

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE:

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

SYNONYM MATCH:

a. deputy	second in command
b. threatened	warned
c. worrying	disturbing
d. withdraw	pull out
e. rulers	leaders
f. die	perish
g. solution	answer
h. truce	peace
i. lands	countries
j. armies	troops

PHRASE MATCH:

a. threatened more death	and destruction in London
b. He blamed	British Prime Minister Tony Blair
c. shown on the Arab	satellite channel Al-Jazeera
d. Our message for you is crystal	clear
e. Mr. Blair has declined	to comment on the tape
f. Zawahri's message also included	a warning to the US
g. forget the horrors	of Vietnam
h. tens of	thousands of US soldiers
i. Osama has offered you a	truce if you leave Muslim lands
j. until all your armies	leave Iraq and Afghanistan

GAP FILL:

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Zawahri's message also **included** a warning to the US. He said the greatest **struggle** would soon come and it would make America "forget the **horrors** of Vietnam". He warned that tens of thousands of US soldiers would **die** if America did not withdraw from Iraq. He requested Western nations to **accept** Osama bin Laden's solution: "Osama has offered you a **truce** if you leave Muslim lands. You will not dream of **security** until we live it as a **reality** in Palestine, and until all your armies leave Iraq and Afghanistan." Zawahri's message is the first from Al-Qaeda since November.