

Rebels set up new state in Iraq and Syria

2nd July, 2014

CREATIVE COMMONS



Rebels that are fighting the governments of Iraq and Syria have set up their own state. It is called a caliphate, an Islamic nation. The rebels are

from the group ISIS (the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria). The group is also called ISIL (the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant). The newly declared state stretches from Aleppo in the north of Syria to Diyala in eastern Iraq. That is the area under the control of the rebels who have been fighting government troops in both countries. ISIL put a recorded statement online on Sunday announcing the new state. It said ISIL's leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi would be "the caliph" (the head of the state) and that he would also be "leader for Muslims everywhere".

Wikipedia says ISIS state says ISIS leaders think their state should be bigger. They also want parts of Jordan, Israel, Palestine, Lebanon, southern Turkey, and Cyprus. Its members are largely Sunni Muslims who say they are disliked by the governments of Iraq and Syria. It was linked to Al Qaeda when it first started but those links have been cut. Wikipedia said: "ISIS had close links with al-Qaeda until 2014, but in February of that year, after an eight-month power struggle, al-Qaeda cut all ties with the group." Reports are that Al Qaeda did not agree with attacks on civilians that have led to thousands of deaths. Iraq has received several military jets from Russia to help fight the rebels.

Sources: BBC / Wikipedia / Oman Tribune

Writing

It is better to let Iraq solve its own problems. Other countries should stay out. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

rebels / fighting / north / control / troops / fighting / statement / head of state / leaders / governments / close links / power struggle / attacks / civilians / military jets

True / False

- Rebels have declared a new state between Iraq and Syria. T / F
- The new state includes parts of Iraq and Syria. T / F
- The rebels are generally known by two names. T / F
- The head of the new state is called a "president". T / F
- A Wikipedia article says ISIS wants parts of other countries too. T / F
- The Syrian and Iraqi governments have good relations with the rebels. T / F
- The rebels are working closely with al-Qaeda. T / F
- The rebels have just bought fighter jets from Russia. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|-------------|----------------|
| 1. fighting | a. bits |
| 2. set up | b. announced |
| 3. declared | c. fight |
| 4. area | d. established |
| 5. head | e. mainly |
| 6. parts | f. region |
| 7. largely | g. planes |
| 8. linked | h. battling |
| 9. struggle | i. connected |
| 10. jets | j. leader |

Discussion – Student A

- What do you think of what is happening in Iraq?
- What would happen if ISIS went into other countries?
- Do you think ISIS is here to stay or will it disappear?
- What are the differences between ISIS and Iraq's government?
- What advice would you give to an average Iraqi?
- What can the world do to help people caught in the fighting?
- What do you think Iraq will be like in 10 years from now?
- What questions would you like to ask the head of ISIS?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. set up their | a. group ISIS |
| 2. It is called a caliphate, | b. power struggle |
| 3. The rebels are from the | c. of the state |
| 4. The newly declared state stretches | d. own state |
| 5. the head | e. Sunni Muslims |
| 6. Its members are largely | f. to Al Qaeda |
| 7. It was linked | g. from Aleppo in the north |
| 8. those links have | h. jets |
| 9. after an eight-month | i. an Islamic nation |
| 10. military | j. been cut |

Discussion – Student B

- What is happening in Iraq?
- Why is there so much fighting?
- What do you think of the new state?
- Should the UN make new borders / countries in Iraq?
- Should the UN make new borders in the Middle East?
- Do you think the new state will survive?
- How interested are you in news of Iraq?
- What do you know about the recent history of Iraq?

Spelling

- Rebels that are ngithgfi
- an Islamic onadni
- The newly eedralcd state
- Diyala in taseenr Iraq
- government topors
- a recorded eemtnats online
- rthusone Turkey
- Its members are lglraey Sunni Muslims
- they are skiledi
- an eight-month power guserltg
- attacks on vsiaiincl
- Iraitym jets

Answers – Synonym Match

1. h	2. d	3. b	4. f	5. j
6. a	7. e	8. i	9. c	10. g

Role Play

Role A – Strong leader

You think a strong leader is most important for a new state. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are not so necessary about their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): money, United Nations support or an army.

Role B – Money

You think money is most important for a new state. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are not so necessary about their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): a strong leader, United Nations support or an army.

Role C – United Nations support

You think United Nations support is most important for a new state. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are not so necessary about their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): money, a strong leader or an army.

Role D – An army

You think an army is most important for a new state. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are not so necessary about their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): money, United Nations support or a strong leader.

Speaking – New

What do you have to do when you set these new things up? A new...

- | | |
|----------------|--------------------|
| - state | - constitution |
| - capital city | - flag |
| - army | - education system |
| - government | - police force |

Answers – True False

a	T	b	T	c	T	d	F	e	T	f	F	g	F	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.