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Al-Qaeda's Zaraqawi wounded in Iraq

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25 May, 2005

THE ARTICLE

Al-Qaeda's Zarqawi wounded in Iraq

BNE: There are reports that the leader of Al-Qaeda in Iraq, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, has been injured. Sources say he was wounded during fighting with American soldiers. The Jordanian-born rebel leader is number one on America's "most wanted" list in Iraq. The White House says he is responsible for planning many horrific suicide bombings against American and Iraqi forces. He is also said to be the brains behind numerous kidnappings and assassinations. The American Government is offering a \$25-million reward for information that will lead to Zarqawi's capture.

There is still too little information to know exactly how Zarqawi was wounded. However, a statement posted on the website of the Al-Qaeda Organization for Holy War in Iraq has asked its followers to pray for his recovery. This might mean his injuries are serious. The site said he had "an injury he suffered while serving in the command of God." The website has used his injuries to encourage its fighters to increase their attacks on American troops: "It heightens our motivation to tighten the net on all enemies of God and step up our attacks against them."

WARM-UPS

1. IN HIDING: In pairs / groups, think of reasons how a man who is wanted and wounded in Iraq can hide. His photograph is never out of the newspapers. What kind of lifestyle does he have? What does he do every day? How does he get his injuries treated? Who can he talk to? Can he go shopping or take a bus? How does he avoid the US soldiers who are looking for him?

2. MY IRAQ HISTORY: Talk with your partner about Iraq. Try to make a timeline of your interest. When did you first hear of Iraq? How long have you followed news of Iraq? Did you follow the war in Iraq and Saddam's capture every day? Are you still interested? Do you keep up with the news? What things have made you angriest or saddest? Have your opinions on Iraq changed?

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

Al-Qaeda / Abu Musab al-Zarqawi / rebels / White House / Iraq / kidnappings / brains / \$25-million reward / Holy War / enemies

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

4. AL-QAEDA: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with Al-Qaeda. Share your words with your partner / group and talk about them.

5. ZARQAWI OPINIONS: In pairs / groups, decide which of these opinion you agree with. Discuss how much truth there is in each one.

- a. Zarqawi is a freedom fighter, not a terrorist.
- b. The US army will soon capture Zarqawi.
- c. Zarqawi should be sentenced to death for his crimes.
- d. Zarqawi will never be captured. Neither will Osama bin Laden.
- e. If Zarqawi dies, he will become a hero.
- f. If Zarqawi is captured, it would end the fighting in Iraq.
- g. I would give the US Government any information they wanted for \$25 million.
- h. Iraq will be a peaceful country by the end of this year.

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

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

- | | |
|--|-------|
| a. An Al-Qaeda leader has been shot three times. | T / F |
| b. Zarqawi is America's most wanted man in Iraq. | T / F |
| c. Zarqawi has a very large brain. | T / F |
| d. There is a \$25-million reward for the capture of Zarqawi. | T / F |
| e. We still don't know enough about Zarqawi's injuries. | T / F |
| f. An Al-Qaeda website asked followers to pray for his recovery. | T / F |
| g. The website called for an end to fighting in Iraq. | T / F |
| h. Zarqawi's injuries may make Al-Qaeda increase its attacks. | T / F |

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

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| a. sources | guerilla |
| b. rebel | the mastermind |
| c. horrific | increases |
| d. the brains | not enough |
| e. numerous | informants |
| f. too little | supporters |
| g. posted | many |
| h. followers | desire |
| i. heightens | terrifying |
| j. motivation | placed |

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

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| a. Sources | are serious |
| b. rebel | bombings |
| c. America's "most wanted" | our motivation |
| d. suicide | kidnappings |
| e. numerous | say he was wounded |
| f. There is still too | up our attacks |
| g. a statement posted | leader |
| h. his injuries | on the website |
| i. It heightens | little information |
| j. step | list |

WHILE READING / LISTENING

SYNONYM FILL: There are six gaps in the article. There are six groups of synonyms below the article. Place the number of the synonym group in the correct gap (It is not important to guess a correct word - any of the synonyms from each group could be put into the relevant gap).

Al-Qaeda's Zarqawi wounded in Iraq

BNE: There are reports that the leader of Al-Qaeda in Iraq, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, has been injured. Sources say he was wounded during _____ with American soldiers. The Jordanian-born rebel leader is number one on America's "most wanted" list in Iraq. The White House says he is responsible for planning many _____ suicide bombings against American and Iraqi forces. He is also said to be the _____ behind numerous kidnappings and assassinations. The American Government is offering a \$25-million reward for information that will lead to Zarqawi's capture.

There is still too little information to know _____ how Zarqawi was wounded. However, a statement posted on the website of the Al-Qaeda Organization for Holy War in Iraq has asked its _____ to pray for his recovery. This might mean his injuries are serious. The site said he had "an injury he suffered while serving in the command of God." The website has used his injuries to encourage its fighters to increase their attacks on American troops: "It heightens our _____ to tighten the net on all enemies of God and step up our attacks against them."

1

exactly
for certain
precisely
for sure

2

fighting
clashes
skirmishes
scraps

3

motivation
desire
reason
drive

4

horrific
terrifying
hideous
outrageous

5

followers
supporters
believers
disciples

6

brains
mastermind
engineer
architect

AFTER READING

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

- 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. SYNONYM FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers and talk about the words in the lists of synonyms. Which were unknown / are interesting?

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

5. STUDENT IRAQ SURVEY: In pairs / groups write down questions about the conflict / political situation in Iraq.

- Ask other classmates your questions and note down their answers.
- Go back to your original partner / group and compare your findings.
- Make a mini-presentation to another group / the class 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:

- | | |
|------------|------------|
| • reports | • little |
| • fighting | • posted |
| • list | • recovery |
| • suicide | • serious |
| • brains | • increase |
| • reward | • net |

DISCUSSION

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

- a. Was the headline interesting?
- b. What did you think when you first saw the headline?
- c. Do you like reading about Iraq?
- d. What do you know about Zarqawi?
- e. What adjective would you use to describe him?
- f. Is he as important as Osama bin Laden?
- g. What do you think of the phrase "Holy War"?
- h. Is the situation in Iraq getting better or worse?
- i. Do you think Iraq will be a stable country soon?
- j. When do you think American forces should pull out of Iraq?

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

- a. Did you like reading the article?
- b. What did you think of this news?
- c. Have your feelings changed about Iraq from a year ago?
- d. What do you think should happen to Zarqawi?
- e. How do you think he has escaped capture for so long?
- f. Would his death or capture change Iraq?
- g. George W. Bush says Iraq is moving in the right direction. What do you think?
- h. Worldwide terrorist attacks increased greatly last year. Is the war on terror being won?
- i. Would you betray your best friend for \$25 million?
- 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

IRAQ DISCUSSION: In pairs / groups, prepare the points you will need in a discussion on Iraq. In column 1, write down reasons that support your argument. In column 2, write down weak points in your arguments. Think of what you can say to turn these weak points into strong points. In column 3, write down your opponents' reasons. In column 4, write down weak points in your opponent's argument.

- Pair(s) Team(s) A: America should pull out of Iraq within the next month.
- Pair(s) Team(s) B: America should stay in Iraq for many years.

OUR REASONS	WEAKNESSES	OPPONENTS' REASONS	OPPONENTS' WEAKNESSES

After the discussion, talk with your partner / group about it. Which student(s) spoke well? What did you learn? Did you hear anything that changed your opinions on Iraq? Did you agree with what you were saying? Do you think you spoke well? Were you happy with how the discussion ended?

LANGUAGE / WRITING

MY NEWS STORY:

In pairs / groups, write a different story using the following language from this lesson's news article. Put your own words in the spaces.

MY PRESS: There are reports that the leader of _____ has been _____ in _____. Sources say he was _____ during _____ with _____. The _____-born leader is number _____ on America's "most wanted" list in _____. The White House says he is responsible for _____ against _____. He is also said to be the brains behind _____. The American Government is offering a \$_____ reward for information that _____.

There is _____ information to know _____. However, a statement posted on the website of _____ has asked its followers to _____. This might mean _____. The site said he had _____. The website also said he _____. The whole world is waiting to see what will happen next.

- Read your news reports to another partner group. Ask them what they think.
- With a new partner / group, correct each other's writing. Make suggestions for a better story.
- Pretend you are real reporters. Ask each other questions about your stories

LISTENING

Listen and fill in the spaces.

Al-Qaeda's Zarqawi wounded in Iraq

BNE: There are reports _____ of Al-Qaeda in Iraq, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, has been injured. Sources say he was wounded _____ with American soldiers. The Jordanian-born rebel leader is number one on America's "_____ " list in Iraq. The White House says he is responsible for planning many horrific _____ against American and Iraqi forces. He is also said to be the brains behind numerous kidnappings and assassinations. The American Government is offering a \$25-million reward for information that _____ Zarqawi's capture.

There is _____ information to know exactly how Zarqawi was wounded. However, a statement posted on the website of the Al-Qaeda Organization for _____ in Iraq has asked its followers _____ his recovery. This might mean his injuries are serious. The site said he had "an injury he suffered while serving _____ of God." The website has used his injuries to encourage its fighters to increase their attacks on American troops: "It heightens our motivation to _____ on all enemies of God and step up our attacks against them."

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 Musab Zarqawi. Share your findings with your class in the next lesson.

3. IRAQ: Write an essay about what you think should happen in Iraq over the next year. Compare your ideas with your classmates' ideas in your next lesson.

4. REPORT: Write a report of the situation in Iraq, from the invasion to today. Focus on the positive and negative points. Show your report to your classmates in your next lesson. Do you have the same ideas?

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE:

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

SYNONYM MATCH:

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| a. sources | informants |
| b. rebel | guerilla |
| c. horrific | terrifying |
| d. the brains | the mastermind |
| e. numerous | many |
| f. too little | not enough |
| g. posted | placed |
| h. followers | supporters |
| i. heightens | increases |
| j. motivation | desire |

PHRASE MATCH:

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| a. Sources | say he was wounded |
| b. rebel | leader |
| c. America's "most wanted" | list |
| d. suicide | bombings |
| e. numerous | kidnappings |
| f. There is still too | little information |
| g. a statement posted | on the website |
| h. his injuries | are serious |
| i. It heightens | our motivation |
| j. step | up our attacks |

SYNONYM FILL:

Al-Qaeda's Zarqawi wounded in Iraq

BNE: There are reports that the leader of Al-Qaeda in Iraq, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, has been injured. Sources say he was wounded during ---2--- with American soldiers. The Jordanian-born rebel leader is number one on America's "most wanted" list in Iraq. The White House says he is responsible for planning many ---4--- suicide bombings against American and Iraqi forces. He is also said to be the ---6--- behind numerous kidnappings and assassinations. The American Government is offering a \$25-million reward for information that will lead to Zarqawi's capture.

There is still too little information to know ---1--- how Zarqawi was wounded. However, a statement posted on the website of the Al-Qaeda Organization for Holy War in Iraq has asked its ---5--- to pray for his recovery. This might mean his injuries are serious. The site said he had "an injury he suffered while serving in the command of God." The website has used his injuries to encourage its fighters to increase their attacks on American troops: "It heightens our ---3--- to tighten the net on all enemies of God and step up our attacks against them."