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Level 5

U.S.A. starts air strikes in Iraq

11th August, 2014

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1408/140811-yazidis.html>

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Please try Level 4 (easier) and the 26-page Level 6 (harder).

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THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1408/140811-yazidis.html>

The USA is targeting the Islamic State (IS) in northern Iraq. Several air strikes have destroyed heavy weaponry that the IS captured from the Iraqi army. President Obama said the attacks are to protect US residents in Erbil, the capital of Iraq's Kurdistan region. IS recently changed its name from ISIS. The group now controls a quarter of Iraq (including the country's largest dam), and a third of Syria. Mr Obama made it clear he would support Iraqis but would not send troops to Iraq. He said: "American combat troops will not be returning to fight in Iraq."

The air strikes are also to protect Iraq's Yazidi people. The Yazidis are ethnically Kurdish. Their religion has elements of Judaism, Christianity, Islam and Zoroastrianism. The IS said Yazidis must convert to Islam, pay a tax, or face death. The UN warned of a humanitarian catastrophe and ethnic cleansing. Reports are that the IS have taken hundreds of Yazidi women hostage. Obama said the latest military action is also "a humanitarian effort" to help save thousands of [Yazidis] who are trapped on a mountain without food and water and facing almost certain death".

Sources: http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2014-08/09/c_133543405.htm
<http://en.itar-tass.com/world/744142>
<http://www.aawsat.net/2014/08/article55335215>

MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1408/140811-yazidis.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. The USA is | a. a quarter of Iraq |
| 2. air strikes have destroyed | b. from the Iraqi army |
| 3. captured | c. its name from ISIS |
| 4. the attacks are to | d. largest dam |
| 5. IS recently changed | e. targeting the Islamic State |
| 6. The group now controls | f. protect US residents |
| 7. including the country's | g. be returning |
| 8. combat troops will not | h. heavy weaponry |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. protect Iraq's | a. or face death |
| 2. The Yazidis are ethnically | b. of Judaism |
| 3. Their religion has elements | c. action |
| 4. convert to Islam, pay a tax, | d. Kurdish |
| 5. a humanitarian | e. certain death |
| 6. the latest military | f. catastrophe |
| 7. a humanitarian | g. Yazidi people |
| 8. facing almost | h. effort |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1408/140811-yazidis.html>

The USA (1) _____ Islamic State (IS) in northern Iraq. Several air strikes have destroyed (2) _____ that the IS captured from the Iraqi army. President Obama said the attacks are to (3) _____ Erbil, the capital of Iraq's Kurdistan region. IS recently changed its name from ISIS. The group (4) _____ of Iraq (including the country's largest dam), and a third of Syria. Mr Obama (5) _____ would support Iraqis but would not send troops to Iraq. He said: "American combat troops (6) _____ to fight in Iraq."

The air strikes (7) _____ Iraq's Yazidi people. The Yazidis are ethnically Kurdish. Their religion has elements of Judaism, Christianity, Islam and Zoroastrianism. The IS said Yazidis (8) _____, pay a tax, or face death. The UN warned of a (9) _____ and ethnic cleansing. Reports are that the IS (10) _____ of Yazidi women hostage. Obama said the (11) _____ is also "a humanitarian effort" to help save thousands of [Yazidis] who are trapped on a mountain without food and water and facing (12) _____".

IRAQ SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1408/140811-yazidis.html>

Write five GOOD questions about Iraq 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.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

f)

g)

h)

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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

f)

g)

h)

