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13 Syrians killed trying to help reporters

MANY FLASH AND ONLINE ACTIVITIES FOR THIS LESSON, PLUS A LISTENING, AT:

http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1202/120227-rescue_attempt.html

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ALL ANSWERS ARE IN THE TEXT ON PAGE 2.

27th February, 2012

THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1202/120227-rescue_attempt.html

Thirteen Syrian activists were killed on Monday trying to help four foreign journalists escape from the city of Homs. The reporters were covering the fighting between government troops who have surrounded the city and opposition fighters. The daring rescue attempt went wrong when Syrian security forces ambushed a group containing 40 activists and the four journalists. They were trying to leave the Bab Amr neighbourhood, which has been a centre of resistance to President Bashar al-Assad.

Syrian forces have killed more than 7,500 civilians since the uprising against President Bashar al-Assad began a year ago. A spokeswoman for the United Nations said: "There are [believable] reports that the death toll now often exceeds 100 civilians a day, including many women and children." US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton suggested the Syrian leader may be a war criminal. French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe warned Assad that he could face justice in the International Criminal Court in The Hague.

PHRASE MATCH

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1202/120227-rescue_attempt.html

Match the following phrases from the article.

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Thirteen Syrian activists were | a. fighters |
| 2. The reporters were covering | b. resistance |
| 3. opposition | c. killed on Monday |
| 4. daring rescue | d. 40 activists |
| 5. ambushed a group containing | e. the fighting |
| 6. a centre of | f. attempt |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. killed more than 7,500 civilians | a. civilians a day |
| 2. death | b. Minister |
| 3. exceeds 100 | c. justice |
| 4. war | d. toll |
| 5. Foreign | e. since the uprising |
| 6. face | f. criminal |

LISTENING GAP FILL

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1202/120227-rescue_attempt.html

Thirteen Syrian activists were killed on Monday _____
four _____ escape from the city of Homs. The
reporters were covering the fighting between government troops
who have _____ and opposition fighters. The
_____ went wrong when Syrian security
_____ a group containing 40 activists and the four
journalists. They were trying to leave the Bab Amr
neighbourhood, which has been a _____ to
President Bashar al-Assad.

Syrian forces have _____ 7,500 civilians
_____ against President Bashar al-Assad began a
year ago. A spokeswoman for the United Nations said: "There are
[believable] reports that _____ now often
_____ a day, including many women and
children." US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton suggested the
Syrian leader may be _____. French Foreign
Minister Alain Juppe warned Assad that he _____
in the International Criminal Court in The Hague.

MULTIPLE CHOICE

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1202/120227-rescue_attempt.html

Thirteen Syrian activists were killed on Monday (1) ____ to help four foreign journalists escape from the city of Homs. The reporters were (2) ____ the fighting between government troops who have surrounded the city and opposition (3) _____. The daring rescue attempt (4) ____ wrong when Syrian security forces ambushed a group containing 40 (5) ____ and the four journalists. They were trying to leave the Bab Amr neighbourhood, which has been a (6) ____ of resistance to President Bashar al-Assad.

Syrian forces have killed more than 7,500 civilians (7) ____ the uprising against President Bashar al-Assad began a year (8) _____. A spokeswoman for the United Nations said: "There are [believable] reports that the death (9) ____ now often exceeds 100 civilians a day, including many women and children." US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton (10) ____ the Syrian leader may be a war criminal. French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe (11) ____ Assad that he could (12) ____ justice in the International Criminal Court in The Hague.

Put the correct words from this table into the article.

- | | | | |
|-----|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1. | (a) tried | (b) tries | (c) trying |
| 2. | (a) covering | (b) covers | (c) covered |
| 3. | (a) fighting | (b) fighters | (c) fought |
| 4. | (a) went | (b) gone | (c) been |
| 5. | (a) activites | (b) actions | (c) activists |
| 6. | (a) centre | (b) middle | (c) oval |
| 7. | (a) past | (b) since | (c) ago |
| 8. | (a) since | (b) past | (c) ago |
| 9. | (a) toll | (b) roll | (c) poll |
| 10. | (a) suggestion | (b) suggested | (c) suggests |
| 11. | (a) warning | (b) warned | (c) warns |
| 12. | (a) head | (b) back | (c) face |

SPELLING

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1202/120227-rescue_attempt.html

Spell the jumbled words (from the text) correctly.

Paragraph 1

1. Thirteen Syrian cistaitsv
2. aesepc from the city
3. fighting between government rsotpo
4. The daring rescue pettamt
5. security eorscf ambushed a group
6. a tecner of resistance

Paragraph 2

7. 7,500 vnsailci
8. since the usiprign
9. the edhat toll
10. cesceed 100
11. a war crailinm
12. he could face sjcieut

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1202/120227-rescue_attempt.html

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () against President Bashar al-Assad began a year ago. A spokeswoman for the United Nations said:
- () fighters. The daring rescue attempt went wrong when Syrian security forces ambushed a
- () group containing 40 activists and the four journalists. They were trying to leave the Bab Amr neighbourhood,
- () the fighting between government troops who have surrounded the city and opposition
- () suggested the Syrian leader may be a war criminal. French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe warned
- () Assad that he could face justice in the International Criminal Court in The Hague.
- (**1**) Thirteen Syrian activists were killed on Monday trying to help four foreign
- () civilians a day, including many women and children." US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton
- () which has been a centre of resistance to President Bashar al-Assad.
- () journalists escape from the city of Homs. The reporters were covering
- () Syrian forces have killed more than 7,500 civilians since the uprising
- () "There are [believable] reports that the death toll now often exceeds 100

THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

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With a partner, put the words back into the correct order.

1. were activists Syrian Thirteen Monday on killed.

2. escape Help from four the foreign city journalists.

3. covering fighting The were the reporters.

4. daring attempt wrong The rescue went.

5. a ambushed forces Security group.

6. 500 forces more , Syrian killed 7 have than.

7. began Bashar President against uprising the Since.

8. civilians now often The exceeds death 100 toll.

9. leader criminal may be The a Syrian war.

10. could warned face Assad justice that he Juppe.

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

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

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

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

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

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

WRITING

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1202/120227-rescue_attempt.html

Write about Syria for 10 minutes. Show your partner your paper. Correct each other's work.

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. SYRIA: Search the Internet and find more information about Syria. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE: Write a magazine article about the situation in Syria. Include an imaginary interview with civilians. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

4. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

5. LETTER: Write a letter to a Syria expert. Ask him/her three questions about Syria. Give him/her three of your opinions on what's happening. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Your partner will answer the questions you asked.