



## Syria Iraq: The Islamic State militant group

- 1) Islamic State stands with al-Qaeda as one of the most dangerous jihadist groups, after its gains in Syria and Iraq. Under its former name Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Isis), it was formed in April 2013, growing out of al-Qaeda in Iraq (AQI).
- 2) It has since been **disavowed** by al-Qaeda, but has become one of the main jihadist groups fighting government forces in Syria and Iraq. Its precise size is unclear but it is thought to include thousands of fighters, including many foreign jihadists.
- 3) The organisation is led by Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. Little is known about him, but it is believed he was born in Samarra, north of Baghdad, in 1971 and joined the **insurgency** that erupted in Iraq soon after the 2003 US-led invasion.
- 4) In 2010 he emerged as the leader of al-Qaeda in Iraq, one of the groups that later became Isis. Baghdadi is regarded as a battlefield commander and **tactician**, which analysts say makes his group more attractive to young jihadists than al-Qaeda, which is led by Ayman al-Zawahiri, an Islamic **theologian**.
- 5) Prof Peter Neumann of King's College London estimates that about 80% of Western fighters in Syria have joined the group. IS claims to have fighters from the UK, France, Germany and other European countries, as well as the US, the Arab world and the Caucasus.
- 6) Unlike other rebel groups in Syria, IS is seen to be working towards an Islamic emirate that **straddles** Syria and Iraq. The group has seen considerable military success. In March 2013, it took over the Syrian city of Raqqa - the first provincial capital to fall under rebel control.
- 7) In January 2014, it capitalised on growing tension between Iraq's Sunni minority and Shia-led government by taking control of the predominantly Sunni city of Fallujah, in the western province of Anbar. It also seized large sections of the provincial capital, Ramadi, and has a presence in a number of towns near the Turkish and Syrian borders.
- 8) The group has gained a reputation for brutal rule in the areas that it controls. However, it was its conquest of Mosul in June that sent shockwaves around the world. US said the fall of Iraq's second city posed a threat to the entire region. It may also have made ISIS the most cash-rich militant group in the world.
- 9) Initially, the group relied on donations from wealthy individuals in Gulf Arab states, particularly Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, who supported its fight against President Bashar al-Assad. Today, IS is said to earn significant amounts from the oil fields it controls in eastern Syria, reportedly selling some of the supply back to the Syrian government. It is also believed to have been selling **looted antiquities** from historical sites.
- 10) Prof Neumann believes that before the capture of Mosul in June 2014, IS had cash and assets worth about \$900m (£500m). Afterwards, this rose to around \$2bn (£1.18bn). The group reportedly took hundreds of millions of dollars from Mosul's branch of Iraq's central bank. And its financial **windfall** looked set to continue if it maintains control of oil fields in northern Iraq. 【08/02/2014/BBC】

*disavow: (関係等を)否認する insurgency: 反乱 tactician: 戦術家 theologian: 神学者 straddle: またぐ loot: 略奪する antiquities: 古代の遺物 windfall: たなぼた*

## ISIS Releases A New Video Of Captured Journalist John Cantlie

- 1) The militant Islamic State group has released another propaganda video featuring captured British journalist John Cantlie.
- 2) The video, which again shows Cantlie speaking in front of a camera in an orange jumpsuit, was released just after the US and five Arab nations launched airstrikes on ISIS targets in Syria Monday night. In the clip, which lasts 5 minutes and 55 seconds, Cantlie warns viewers that the US is leading us into the "Gulf War III."
- 3) "In this program, we'll see how the Western governments are hastily marching towards all-out war in Iraq and Syria without paying any heed to the lessons of the recent past," Cantlie said. "Not since Vietnam have we witnessed such a potential mess in the making."
- 4) The video is the latest in a series of programs that Cantlie has **purportedly** been forced to record in order to "show you the truth" about ISIS and Western media propaganda. Cantlie describes himself as "the British citizen abandoned my government, and long-term prisoner of the Islamic State."
- 5) His first video came one week ago, his outfit and tone hauntingly reminiscent of the two US journalists recently beheaded by ISIS on camera, James Foley and Steven Sotloff. Cantlie's videos, however, are different from the other ISIS hostages because he is not kneeling before a killer and a knife but instead seated at a desk reading what appears to be a scripted message. 【09/23/2014/ The Huffington Post】 purportedly: 噂によれば

### ★Ice breaker for active discussion★

1. What is ISIS or ISIL? What are their goals or ideals? How different are they from other militant groups?
2. What is the reason behind the beheading of some journalists in Syria by the ISIS?
3. US President Obama has expressed his plan to continue fighting the militant group.  
Do you agree with his decision or should he stop the attacks? Why?
4. There are some westerners who go to Syria or Iraq and join the group (ISIL). Why do you think they do so?
5. How is social media responsible for attracting the attention of more people to join the militant group?
6. What is your definition of patriotism?
7. Make sentences using following words; disavow, insurgency, tactician, commander, theologian, straddle, capitalize, loot, windfall, cash-rich, purportedly and reminiscent.

集団処刑や拷問など残虐ぶりはアルカイダにも非難される。IS。優れた戦闘能力、要員募集能力を持つ準国家並みの組織。人質の身代金や石油収入等、資金も潤沢。米国は、アジア重視、ウクライナ巡るロシアとの対応、そして「イスラム国」という3つの外交課題に直面している。