

## Japan, Jordan and the fight against ISIS

*Will both Jordan and Japan contribute more to the U.S.-led effort to “degrade and destroy” the notorious Islamic State group?*

- 1) In recent weeks the Islamic State group has brutally murdered two of their hostages. One a captured Jordanian fighter pilot, the other a Japanese journalist. They burned the former alive and beheaded the latter. Both countries had urged the group to release these hostages but to no avail.
- 2) Islamic State wanted a jihadi suicide-murderer in Jordanian captivity to be released and \$200 million from Japan for the release of journalist Kenji Goto. Both hefty demands they could never seriously have expected to be reasonably realized, showing that they sought to, from the get-go, gruesomely butcher these two individuals in another grisly barbarism.
- 3) In light of their murders one wonders if both countries will search for innovative ways to help the multinational U.S.-led effort to confront, undermine and ultimately destroy that sadistic group. Not necessarily through direct military involvement.
- 4) While Jordan contributed to the air campaign against Islamic State after their pilot, Lt. Muath Al-Kaseasbeh, was captured, after his F-16 malfunctioned and crashed, they stopped launching air strikes. Since their pilot was killed it will be interesting to see if they rejoin the air campaign, perhaps after a brief hiatus in order to ensure all their jets are airworthy and pass various important safety and maintenance checks, and unequivocally demonstrate to Islamic State that they do not fear them.
- 5) The spokesperson of Jordan's armed forces indicated that the kingdom would not relent and promised that “punishment and revenge” will befall that group and that Al-Kaseasbeh's, “blood will not be shed in vain.” In addition to these vows Jordan has announced it will execute the prisoner which Islamic State sought the release of from Jordanian custody.
- 6) Similarly Japan's Prime Minister, Shinzo Abe, has said these terrorists will be made “pay the price” for the sordid murder of Goto. Mainstream reports indicate that Japan's society is deeply shocked and unsettled by the murder of their fellow citizen.
- 7) Obituaries emphasize how much he cared for Syria, the suffering of its people and a deep sense of solidarity for Arabian people. A Tweet of his from 2010 recently resurfaced which clearly illustrates the sense of affinity he felt towards Arabs. In it he stated, “Closing my eyes and holding still. It's the end if I get mad or scream.. It's close to a prayer. Hate is not for humans. Judgement lies with God. That's what I learned from my Arabic brothers and sisters.”
- 8) Obviously Japan is a good distance away geographically from the fray in Iraq and Syria. Also like Germany Japan hasn't directly participated in Middle Eastern wars with the United States and other western powers. Germany and Japan are in the same category since they both, as the dreaded Axis Powers in the Second World War, and haven't fought any wars since that time.
- 9) In lieu of a direct involvement, such as deploying some of its air forces' F-15's or something like that, Japan could contribute to the campaign against Islamic State in ways similar to how Germany has done. Providing groups fighting Islamic State, weapons and technological know-how is something they have excelled at. This would be a productive way of undermining Islamic State. **【The News Hub より抜粋】**  
from the get-go:最初から (get-on が米口語ではじめ) gruesomely:身の毛もよだつように butcher: (不必要に)殺す  
grisly:恐ろしい (形容詞) hiatus:中断 airworthy:耐空性の unequivocally:疑いなく、絶対に relent:態度を軟化する  
befall: (悪いことが)起こる sordid:卑劣な obituary:死亡記事 fray:鬭い dread:恐れる in lieu of: ~の代わりに  
 ☆Ice breaker for active discussion☆  
 1. How do you feel about the recent killings of 2 Japanese and a Jordanian pilot by the ISIS?  
 2. What is ISIS or ISIL? What is your knowledge about them?  
 3. Japan is very far from the war zone.  
 How should Japan be involve in the war against the terrorist?  
 4. Many young people from all over the world want to join the ISIS.  
 What do you think are the reasons behind it and what can we do to stop it?  
 5. Many journalists still want to go to the war zone to cover stories.  
 What is your opinion about it?  
 6. Make sentences using the following words: butcher, grisly, hiatus, unequivocally, relent, sordid, obituary, fray and in lieu of.

NEWS de TALK by PHILOS

1月20日、動画で Jihadi John が後藤さんと湯川さんの身代金2億ドルを72時間以内に払うよう日本政府に要求。24日、湯川さんの遺体とされる写真を持つ後藤さんの静止画がネットに載り後藤さんだとする音声は、ヨルダン政府にイラク人女性死刑囚の釈放を自らの解放と交換に求め、金はもう求めないとした。27日、12月にISが拘束したヨルダン空軍の操縦士の写真を掲げる後藤さんの静止画像と、後藤さんを名乗る音声で日没までにトルコ国境に死刑囚を移送しなければ、操縦士を処刑すると警告。日没後、ヨルダン担当大臣が「操縦士の生存が確認されぬうちに次の段階に移れない」と語った。膠着状態の後、日本時間2月1日5時頃、後藤さん殺害を示す画像が流れた。2月3日操縦士焼殺映像が流れ、ヨルダンは殺害が1ヵ月前と発表、報復を誓い、翌日死刑囚らを処刑。