

Arab League agrees to make Arab "army"

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The Arab League has agreed to make a joint Arab "army" that could have 40,000 special troops. It will be a little like NATO. When one of the member countries of the joint Army is being attacked, the other countries will help defend it. Any member country

can ask for help and the other countries will help it. Arab League members say the new Arab military force will help with the many security issues there are in the Middle East. The Arab League tweeted that there will be meetings over the next month to study how to create the force. The findings of the meetings will be presented to the defence ministers of Arab nations within four months. The defence ministers will then decide which countries will provide the soldiers and equipment.

Not all Arab League countries supported the idea of a joint Arab military force. Iraq said it was against creating such a force. It said one Arab country should not use its military in another Arab country. An Iraqi spokesperson said the best way to sort out problems was to have meetings and discussions. Lebanon also had worries about the possible new force. It said any military action should have the agreement of most countries. The Arab League also discussed the current challenges in the region. It asked the Houthi forces in Yemen to leave the capital Sanaa and give up their weapons. League members also discussed the best way to bring peace and stability back to Syria.

Sources: *Al Jazeera / Times of Oman / Al Arabiya*

Writing

The Arab League military force is a good thing. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

agreed / special / army / attacked / military / meetings / findings / defence ministers / supported / problems / military action / agreement / current challenges / weapons

True / False

- The new Arab League force will have up to 100,000 soldiers. T / F
- The article says the new force will be closely linked to NATO. T / F
- The article says the force will operate in areas outside the Middle East. T / F
- Defence ministers will choose which countries provide the soldiers. T / F
- The new force has the backing of all Arab countries. T / F
- Iraq said discussions were better than military action by the new force. T / F
- The Arab League asked the Houthis in Yemen to give up their weapons. T / F
- The Arab League talked about peace in Syria. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| 1. make | a. arms |
| 2. help | b. choose |
| 3. issues | c. give |
| 4. decide | d. talked about |
| 5. provide | e. concerns |
| 6. idea | f. form |
| 7. worries | g. present |
| 8. current | h. problems |
| 9. weapons | i. assistance |
| 10. discussed | j. concept |

Discussion – Student A

- What do you think of the idea from the Arab League?
- What would the Arab League military force do?
- How successful do you think the force would be?
- Why would the Arab League force be like NATO?
- What do you know about the Middle East?
- What security issues are there in the Middle East?
- Why are Arab League countries talking about this now?
- Which countries will be best in the new military force?

Breaking News English - The Mini Lesson

Phrase Match

- 40,000 special
- Any member country can
- security
- defence
- which countries will provide the soldiers
- Not all Arab League countries supported
- it was against creating
- sort
- current challenges
- bring peace and stability
- issues
- such a force
- and equipment
- the idea
- in the region
- out problems
- troops
- back to Syria
- ask for help
- ministers

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of Iraq's argument?
- Should all countries sort out problems with discussions instead of wars?
- How can we sort out the problems in Yemen?
- How can we sort out the problems in Syria?
- When and how will peace and stability come to the region?
- What do you think the rest of the world thinks about the force?
- What advice do you have for the Arab League?
- What would you like to ask the head of the Arab League?

Spelling

- 40,000 special stoorp
- the other countries will help nddfee it
- security essuis
- The fisingd of the meetings
- dcefene ministers
- provide the soldiers and eqpnmteiu
- countries oepudprst the idea
- have meetings and uncosdsiiss
- the gemeterna of most countries
- the current challenges in the neiorg
- give up their neasopw
- peace and bsiatylit

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. i	3. e	4. b	5. c
6. j	7. e	8. g	9. a	10. d

Role Play

Role A – Syria

You think Syria has the biggest problems. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their country's problems aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which of these has the easiest problems to solve (and why): Afghanistan, Yemen or Iraq.

Role B – Afghanistan

You think Afghanistan has the biggest problems. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their country's problems aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which of these has the easiest problems to solve (and why): Syria, Yemen or Iraq.

Role C – Yemen

You think Yemen has the biggest problems. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their country's problems aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which of these has the easiest problems to solve (and why): Afghanistan, Syria or Iraq.

Role D – Iraq

You think Iraq has the biggest problems. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their country's problems aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which of these has the easiest problems to solve (and why): Afghanistan, Yemen or Syria.

Speaking – Security

Rank these with your partner. Put the countries with the biggest security issues at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Yemen
- Syria
- Egypt
- Afghanistan
- Pakistan
- Iraq
- Lebanon
- Libya

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	F	d	T	e	F	f	T	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.