**Listening Exercise 145**

Russia and ISIS 3

Guidelines:

1. Review the questions and vocabulary
2. Listen to the audio twice (control + click the link). (If link does not work from email, save to computer and then open).
3. Answer the questions
4. Refer to the answers to confirm correct responses and gauge understanding

**Vocabulary**

¿Cuán? How?

retrocedido receded

desplegar to deploy

milicias militias

hoy en día nowadays, today

asemejando resembling

cada vez más more and more, increasingly

Líbano Lebanon



**Questions**

1. By what metric have air attacks been successful?
   1. Enemy combatants KIA
   2. Enemy territory lost
   3. Friendly terrain occupied
   4. International borders restored
2. The speaker mentions it is one thing to conduct aerial bombardments and another to:
   1. Capture prisoners
   2. Conduct operations
   3. Occupy terrain
   4. Implement strategy
3. Syria’s ability to permanently deploy troops has:
   1. Diminished
   2. Disappeared
   3. Improved
   4. Failed
4. The speaker implies ground gained through Russian air attacks is being occupied by who?
   1. ISIS combatants
   2. Pro-Assad militias
   3. Syrian soldiers
   4. Iranian surrogates
5. Which wartime historical example is Syria coming to resemble?
   1. Turkey
   2. Lebanon
   3. Palestine
   4. Yemen
6. What does the speaker believe is a major problem in Syria today?
   1. Insufficient external support
   2. Poorly armed opposition
   3. Unorganized rebel groups
   4. Who’s fighting whom

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *¿En este panorama, cuán efectivos están siendo estos ataques contra el ISIS?* | *In this scenario, how effective are these attacks being against ISIS?* |
| Si uno se observa desde el punto de vista territorial, sí. El ISIS ha retrocedido aproximadamente un 40 por ciento entre lo que es el territorio sirio y lo que es el territorio iraquí en la frontera. La pregunta es ahora si el estado, finalmente, el estado sirio, va a tener finalmente la capacidad para ocupar ese terreno. Ya que es una cosa sólo los bombardeos aéreos y otra cosa es hacer uso efectivo del terreno con militares. | If one looks at it from the point of view of territory, yes. ISIS has retreated about 40 percent between what is Syrian territory and what is Iraqi territory on the border. The question now is whether the state, finally, the Syrian state, will finally be able to occupy that terrain. Since aerial bombing is one thing and making effective use of the ground with troops is another. |
| El estado sirio no tiene hoy la misma capacidad para desplegar el ejército de manera permanente en el terreno y este terreno que está siendo recuperado vía bombardeos aéreas por Rusia. Y, por otro lado, lo que estamos viendo también es un altísimo número de milicias. Estas milicias hoy en día responden al presidente Bashir Assad pero no se sabe en el día de mañana o una vez estabilizada la situación a quien van a responder. Este escenario se está asemejando cada vez más a lo que fue la guerra de Líbano donde, prácticamente, después de 15 años de… eh… conflictos no se sabía quién peleaba contra quien. Esto… eh… creo es uno de los principales problemas hoy en día. | The Syrian state today does not have the same ability to deploy the army permanently on the ground and the ground that is being recovered via Russian aerial bombardments. And, on the other hand, what we are also seeing is a very high number of militias. These militias today obey President Bashir Assad but it isn’t known if tomorrow or once the situation is stabilized who they will obey. This scenario is increasingly resembling what was the war in Lebanon where, practically, after 15 years of… eh… conflict no one knew who was fighting against whom. This… uh… I think is one of the main problems today. |