

NEWS BREAK

Wednesday's News Break selects an article from Monday, April 18 of The Seattle Times e-Edition for an in-depth reading of the news. Read the selected article and answer the attached study questions. **Please remember to always preview the content of the article before sharing with your students.**

Airline ousts college student who spoke Arabic on plane (Main News, page A2).

Pre-Reading and Vocabulary

1. Look up the definition of the word "oust". Why do you think the language someone is speaking would make an airline remove them from a plane? Do you think speaking another language such as Arabic is a good reason for removing someone from a flight – why or why not?
2. **Vocabulary: Match the words to the numbered definitions in the chart below.**

A. alarmed	1. to make (a statement) more specific or limited in meaning or effect
B. allegation	2. to allow (something that is considered wrong) to continue
C. biased	3. to allow (something that is bad, unpleasant, etc.) to exist, happen, or be done
D. condone	4. an Islamic fundamentalist who participates in or supports jihad, especially armed and violent confrontation.
E. conduct	5. the practice of unfairly treating a person or group of people differently from other people or groups of people
F. discrimination	6. someone who has been forced to leave a country because of war or for religious or political reasons
G. escorted	7. a statement saying that someone has done something wrong or illegal
H. Islamophobia	8. to go with (someone or something) to give protection or guidance
I. jihadis	9. to hear (something that was said to another person) by accident
J. martyrdom	10. to cause (someone) to feel a sense of danger; to worry or frighten (someone)
K. overheard	11. a building at an airport where people get on and off airplanes
L. qualified	12. to plan and do (something, such as an activity)
M. refugee	13. dislike of or prejudice against Islam or Muslims, especially as a political force
N. terminal	14. the suffering and death of a martyr (a person who is killed or suffers greatly for a religion, cause, etc.)
O. tolerate	15. a tendency to believe that some people, ideas, etc., are better than others that usually results in treating some people unfairly

Comprehension

1. How did Khairuldeen Makhzoomi, a senior at the University of California, Berkeley come to the United States?
2. What did Makhzoomi say he was talking to his Uncle about on the phone in Arabic while on the plane?
3. What did another passenger tell the plane's crew she overheard him saying?
4. Who escorted Makhzoomi off the plane?
5. How did Makhzoomi say the person who escorted off the plane spoke to him?
6. What else happened to Makhzoomi while he was in the airport terminal?
7. Makhzoomi was also brought into a private room where he was questioned by whom?
 - a) FBI
 - b) Southwest Airlines
 - c) TSA agents
 - d) None of the above
8. Name one thing Makhzoomi was asked about while being questioned in the private room.
9. Makhzoomi's plane ticket was refunded by Southwest Airlines – true or false?
10. Zahra Billoo, executive director of the San Francisco Bay Area office of the Council of American-Islamic Relations, said there had been at least how many cases of Muslims being pulled off flights this year?

Additional Activities

1. Have students discuss what it means to “profile” someone. Then ask students to discuss what “racial profiling” is. Have students discuss whether they have ever been stopped by police, or some other person of authority based on specific characteristics like race or been a witness to racial profiling. Then have students answer the following questions: What personal rights does racial profiling violate? Why do you think racial profiling is used? Do you think there are any benefits to using racial profiling and if so what? What dangers do you think are associated with racial profiling?
2. Do you agree with the way Khairuldeen Makhzoomi was treated by the airline and the authorities involved? Do you think the woman sitting in front of him was justified in reporting him to the plane's crew – why or why not? What would you have done if you were the woman and in the same situation? What would you have done if you were Makhzoomi? In the article Makhzoomi said he was afraid, and that the employee spoke to him “like I was an animal.” How would you feel if someone spoke to you “like an animal”?

News Break is posted to the Web on Wednesday and Friday. Please share this NIE News Break program with other teachers. To sign-up for the electronic edition for your class, please register on-line or call 206/652-6290 or toll-free 1-888/775-2655. Copyright © 2016 The Seattle Times Company

Answer Key to Vocabulary

- A. 10
- B. 7
- C. 15
- D. 2
- E. 12
- F. 5
- G. 8
- H. 13
- I. 4
- J. 14
- K. 9
- L. 1
- M. 6
- N. 11
- O. 3

Answer Key to Comprehension Questions

1. He came to the U.S. as a refugee.
2. He said he was talking to his uncle about an event he attended that included a speech (by U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon). **(Answers may vary - slightly)**
3. The passenger said she overheard him making potentially threatening comments (talking about martyrdom and using a phrase often associated with jihadis) **(Answers may vary - slightly)**
4. Makhzoomi was escorted off the plane by a Southwest Airlines employee.
5. He said the employee spoke to him like he was an animal.
6. He was searched in front of a crowd of people while police officers watched him.
7. a) FBI
8. He was asked about his mother. He was also asked about his father. **(Only one answer is necessary)**
9. True
10. He said there had been at least six cases.