

News

Frenemies Unite Against Common ISIS Threat

Anna Cheshire, staff writer

In a brief, televised speech on Sept. 10, President Obama said, "I will not hesitate to take action against ISIL [aka ISIS] in Syria, as well as Iraq. This is a core principle of my presidency: if you threaten America, you will find no safe haven." Many journalists and political commentators suggested that this was an empty threat from a President who had failed to take action against the group after it beheaded two American reporters. However, less than two weeks later, on Sept. 22, in a move that surprised his critics, the President did take decisive "action" by ordering the U.S. military to launch a series of airstrikes against ISIS targets in the Middle East.

Additionally surprising was the unprecedented display of solidarity, in a region known for fierce infighting, when five Arab states (Qatar, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and the United Arab Emirates) joined the U.S. led coalition and carried out their own military campaigns against the terror network. In a Sept. 25 article, CNN's Political Commentator Peter Beinart said, "It's a remarkable diplomatic achievement. I don't think it was expected that there would be this much Arab support."

And the support continues. TIME.com reports that since the strikes began, Denmark, Belgium, Australia and France have all joined the coalition and pledged to "bolster" American efforts. In a 524 to 43 Parliamentary vote, the United Kingdom also joined the alliance. U.K. Prime Minister David Cameron said, "The brutality is staggering. Beheadings, crucifixions, the gouging out of eyes, the use of rape as

a weapon, the slaughter of children. There isn't a 'walk on by' option."

As the week has progressed, and with growing support for the cause, the U.S. and other countries have continued to carry out numerous attacks against ISIS in both Syria and Iraq. Using Tomahawk missiles, Predator drones, attack planes and the brand new \$350 million F-22 Raptor bomber, the assaults have been highly

their lives and seek to both recruit new members to the organization and warn of forthcoming attacks on the US and the Western world. According to Reuters, an unidentified ISIS rebel has said, "These attacks will be answered."

Perhaps as an answer to his critics, maybe to justify U.S. actions, or possibly to state his absolute intention to see this line of action to its fruition, President Obama

said in a Sept. 24 speech to the United Nations General Assembly, we are, "at a crossroads between war and peace; between disorder and integration; between fear and hope. The terrorist group known as ISIL must be degraded and ultimately destroyed." He went on to address the atrocities committed by ISIS, saying, "No God condones this terror. No grievance justifies these actions. There can be no reasoning -- no negotiation -- with

this brand of evil. The only language understood by killers like this is the language of force. So the United States of America will work with a broad coalition to dismantle this network of death...Those who have joined ISIL should leave the battlefield while they can."

Summing up the week's events and laying out the road ahead, the President emphasized the need for the world to continue to aid American efforts against ISIS. He said, "If there was ever a challenge in our interconnected world that cannot be met by one nation alone, it is this."



via Getty Images

selective and concentrated on hard targets such as armories, training facilities and communication centers. The Syrian city of Raqqa, a longtime ISIS stronghold and pseudo capital of the organization, was hit particularly hard. Aleppo, another Syrian city, also came under attack because of its support of the Khorasan Group, who, according to CNN, "is a splinter al Qaeda group actively plotting against a U.S. homeland target and Western targets" and potentially more dangerous to America than ISIS.

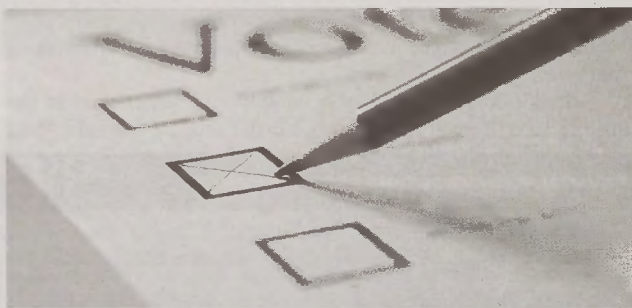
ISIS has responded to the airstrikes by releasing two propaganda videos entitled "Flames of War." These films display images of wounded soldiers begging for

Freshman Election Results

Sarah Cullen, staff Writer

Congratulations to the following students who were elected in this year's freshman elections!

Alex Hewson – President
Kayla Burton – Vice President
Shonda Mitchell – Treasurer
Starr Sirucek – Secretary
Baileigh Jones & Ashley Brown – Cornhuskin' Co-Chairs
Karla Salgado & Hedaya Megeed – Stunt Co-Chairs
Caroline Hale – Honor Council Representative
Ellen Cleary – Student Life Representative
Caroline Bass & Megan Munson – Senate Representatives



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As a reminder, there are still tons of leadership roles and opportunities left for Elections Board Representatives, Honor Council, Senate, Student Life and Class Historian. Good luck and have a great first year!