CTO-C2- Interview with journalist Rukmini Callimachi

Listen to an interview with New York Times journalist Rukmini Callimachi about her report on terrorist group Isis. For items 1 to 10, choose the best option **(A, B or C) according to what is said in the recording. Write your answers in the grid provided. 0 is given as an example.**

Source: BBC Podcasts

0. (EXAMPLE) Emma Freud...
A. would like to be an investigative journalist.
B. likes wearing camouflage clothes.
C. works with international social activists.

1. Rukmini Callimachi...
A. has met several leaders of Isis.
B. has won several journalism awards.
C. presents an online programme.

2. Callimachi has been...
A. occasionally tracked by the FBI.
B. threatened by terrorists six times.
C. warned of terrorist threats by the police.

3. When she talks about her work, Callimachi says that...
A. she doesn´t do her job for the money.
B. there is no point in trying to understand terrorism.
C. very few people do what she does.

4. Callimachi and the interviewer agree that...
A. ideas are better than arms to combat terrorism.
B. the ideology of this type of terrorism is brutal.
C. we need to understand Isis in order to win the war.

5. Once, she interviewed a terrorist who had...
A. apparently executed someone for taking drugs.
B. travelled from Canada to kill someone.
C. whipped a 23-year-old man to death.

6. During the interview...
A. Callimachi could not see the terrorist.
B. Callimachi was accompanied by a colleague.
C. the terrorist felt emotionally disturbed.

7. From her words, we infer that Callimachi...
A. had contradictory feelings about the terrorist.
B. felt a lot of sympathy for the terrorist.
C. thought the terrorist had been brainwashed.

8. Callimachi says that after the interview, she ...
A. felt furious because people misunderstood her.
B. received a lot of criticism for her work.
C. was afraid that Isis might try to kidnap her.

9. She also says that she has...
A. been criticized by other terrorist groups.
B. had enough of doing this kind of work.
C. a hard time to justify herself for her job.

10. In the last part of the interview she says that she...
A. and her parents were political refugees for a long time.
B. is less inclined than others to make value judgements.
C. always had the feeling of belonging to a community.

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TRANSCRIPT

Emma: I'm Emma Freud. In real life I'm a writer and broadcaster, **(0) - A - in my dreams I'm an investigative journalist** exposing social injustice in dangerous international territories while wearing an attractive camouflage jumpsuit. Rukmini Callimachi is the person I wish I was. In real life she's the ISIS correspondent for the New York times, a four-time Pulitzer prize finalist and **(1) - C - host of the award-winning podcast Caliphate**, which charts a major interview with a former ISIS soldier. Just to set the scene, Rukmini, so that people know who you are. How many times have you interviewed members of ISIS?

Rukmini: Several dozen times. Over 50.

Emma: How many death threats have been made against you by terrorist groups?

Rukmini: I've lost track of how many, but I can tell you that on six different occasions **(2) - C - the FBI considered the threats against me to be serious enough that they themselves called to warn me of them**.

Emma: Why? Why do you do what you do?

Rukmini: I think that **(3) - C - what I'm doing is making a difference**. I feel that the work is important and, in the end, the war on terror has now cost over $1 trillion. It's not just in terms of cash, but also in terms of blood that has been spilled. And yet this group, in my opinion, remains very misunderstood. And I feel that that is where, where my work comes in, where I'm trying, I'm trying to understand them in a more, in a more meaningful way.

Emma: **(4) - C - In order to be able to defeat the ideology**, to understand in order to arm ourselves. Is that why?

Rukmini: That's that, that, **(4) - C - that's an accurate way to put it.** I mean, it's the, it's the ultimate adage, how do you defeat your enemy if you don't, if you don't know your enemy.

Emma: The thing that I took away from *Califate* was the, the, the journey that, that boy had gone on that, uh, up until I listened to you talking to him, was incomprehensible to me. How a Canadian 23-year-old, whatever it was, could lash other people with whips a hundred times, could **(5) - A - kill because somebody had smoking weed. I can't remember what the offense was**, but he was worthy of death according to the ISIS law and I, but, but by the end of those 11 hours, I understood it. I got it.

Rukmini: Right. That's exactly how we felt. Uh, we meaning myself and Andy Mills, who was the producer of *Caliphate*. That's exactly **(6) - B - how we felt after having spent hours, uh, speaking to Huzaifa**, during this incredible interview. But as **(7) - A - soon as you step away from it and you start trying to explain that to colleagues or to friends, it starts to fall apart. Because once again, you're explaining this monstrosity.** You're explaining that the most, the most grotesque thing in the world, which is taking another human life and taking it in a way that is meant to exert enormous pain.

Emma: And yet, in order, as you said earlier, to understand them, you need to talk to them. And in order to talk to them and to actually get somewhere, you need to come at them with a certain degree of compassion.

Rukmini: Um, **(8) - B - I've taken a lot of heat for this**. You know, there's not a lot of people who think that being empathetic towards ISIS is a good idea. In fact, when we were editing Caliphate, this was, this was one of our central concerns, is this empathy that I'm showing for this person who is an avowed murderer. Is that going to be misinterpreted as giving ISIS a platform or, or allowing ISIS to justify themselves? And **(9) - C - I'm always struggling with this internally** because of course I don't, I don't ever want my work to be, to be that. I came to the States when I was 10 years old as an immigrant. Um, I was born in Romania in the communist period, my, my parents, uh, fled the Ceausescu regime. We were, uh, for a short amount of time, political refugees, uh, in Switzerland. So my, my own story is a story of being an outsider, uh, a story of going from a place that, that I felt very comfortable and loved in to constantly being a curiosity or something different. And that I think has somehow conditioned me, um, to, to perhaps **(10) - B - be a tad less judgmental of people who are very different than, than ourselves.**

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