

### **Exercise #5 – Evaluate Newspaper Articles**

Read the two newspaper articles “Good life returns to Timbuktu” (by Robyn Dixon, *Los Angeles Times*, February 12, 2013) and “Jihadists Launch Surprise Attack” (by Kirsta Larson, Associated Press, *U-T San Diego*, February 11, 2013). Both articles address events in northern Mali but they are strikingly different in word choice and contextual facts.

The *Los Angeles Times* article refers to “militants,” “insurgents,” “extremists” “occupiers” “zealots” who “tried for nine months to impose their extreme form of Islam.” Among them were members of a group related to Al Qaeda. The *U-T San Diego* article refers to “jihadists,” “Islamic fighters,” “Islamic radicals,” “Islamic combatants,” “Islamic rebels,” and “Islamic extremists.”

Approximately 90 percent of people in Mali are Muslims, including members of the Malian army and residents of the city of Gao (the subject of the *U-T San Diego* article). So what clarity does repetitious use of the word “Islamic” bring to the story?

Thinking of the 5 statements in the definition of Islamophobia in Exercise 1, review the two articles and assess how each addresses the issues raised in the 5 statements.