

# Aid agencies warn of Iraq pullout

Level 1 | Elementary

## 1 Key Vocabulary

hostage  
troops

aid agencies  
kidnap

militant  
withdraw

1. If you \_\_\_\_\_ someone, you keep them as a prisoner and ask their family or friends for money.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ is another word for 'remove' or 'take away'.
3. A \_\_\_\_\_ is a person who uses extreme or violent methods to get political changes.
4. The person held prisoner by a kidnapper is called a \_\_\_\_\_.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ is another word for 'soldiers'.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ are organisations that help people in poor countries.

## 2 Find the information

Look in the text and find this information as quickly as possible:

1. What is the name of the Italian prime minister?
2. What does the organisation Bridge to Baghdad do?
3. How many aid workers were kidnapped recently?
4. Find 3 aid organisations mentioned in the text.
5. What is the name of Osama bin Laden's deputy?
6. What is the name of the Australian prime minister?

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## Aid agencies warn of Iraq pullout after kidnappings

Sophie Arie and Luke Harding

International aid agencies work in many countries. They help poor people, sick people and people who have difficult lives.

At the moment the situation in Iraq is very dangerous for the international aid agencies. Because of this many have already left Iraq. Many more will leave in the next few days. Now there are only a few which are operating there.

Recently armed men kidnapped four aid workers from their office in Baghdad. Two of the aid workers were Italian women. This is the first time that militants have attacked aid agencies and the first time they have kidnapped women. Many people now believe that all the remaining aid workers will now leave Iraq because of this kidnapping.

Jean-Dominique Bunel, an aid agency worker, said in an interview with a French press agency: "Most international organisations are preparing to leave Iraq and some foreign workers have already left." He said he did not know who had kidnapped the Italians who work for an organisation called Bridge to Baghdad, which helps Iraqi children.

An Iraqi group called Ansar al-Zawahri said it had kidnapped the women. In a message on an Islamist website, it said: "This is the first of our attacks against Italy." The name of the group may have a connection with Osama bin Laden's deputy, Ayman al-Zawahri.

The security situation in Iraq is getting worse and almost all the main aid organisations,

including the United Nations and the International Red Cross have now left the country. The people who are still in Iraq now have to think very carefully about the situation after the latest kidnapping. Twenty armed men ran into the organisation's office in central Baghdad and kidnapped the four aid workers.

The Italian prime minister, Silvio Berlusconi, said he was "shocked and surprised" that the kidnappers had attacked women because "the Islamic religion protects women". Some Italian politicians, who were against the war in Iraq, said that the most important thing was to save the lives of the hostages.

The kidnapping in Baghdad happened 10 days after the murder of the Italian journalist Enzo Baldoni. Militants kidnapped Mr Baldoni while he was travelling to Najaf with the Italian Red Cross. Italy did not accept the kidnappers' demands for its troops to leave Iraq, so the militants killed Mr Baldoni.

Another militant group released a video. The video shows men wearing masks cutting off the head of a Turkish lorry driver. They kidnapped the driver while he was taking goods to an American army base in Mosul in the north of Iraq.

Militants also kidnapped two Australian hostages. The Australian prime minister, John Howard, said he would not withdraw Australian troops from Iraq as a result of the kidnapping.

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## 3 Comprehension check

Match the beginnings and endings of the sentences:

1. Many aid agencies are leaving Iraq ...
  2. The kidnappers killed Mr Baldoni ...
  3. The kidnappers kidnapped the Italian women ...
  4. Mr Berlusconi was shocked and surprised ...
  5. The kidnappers killed the Turkish lorry driver ...
  6. The militants kidnapped two Australian hostages ...
- 
- a. ... because the Italian government did not accept their demands.
  - b. ... because the Islamic religion protects women.
  - c. ... because he was taking goods to an American army base.
  - d. ... because it is becoming too dangerous.
  - e. ... because they want Australian troops to leave Iraq.
  - f. ... as their “first attack against Italy”.

## 4 Vocabulary - professions

Fill the gaps with the names of different professions. All except number 5 are in the text.

1. A \_\_\_\_\_ is someone who writes for a newspaper.
2. A \_\_\_\_\_ is someone who transports goods by lorry.
3. A \_\_\_\_\_ is someone who represents people in parliament.
4. An \_\_\_\_\_ is someone who works for an aid agency.
5. A \_\_\_\_\_ is someone who translates from one language to another.

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## 5 Vocabulary - prepositions

Complete the sentences using a preposition. Check your answers in the text.

1. The kidnappings happened 10 days \_\_\_\_\_ the murder of an Italian journalist.
2. Many Italian politicians were \_\_\_\_\_ the war in Iraq.
3. More people will leave \_\_\_\_\_ the next few days.
4. Many people will leave Iraq because \_\_\_\_\_ the kidnapping.
5. The journalist was travelling to Najaf \_\_\_\_\_ the Italian Red Cross.
6. The situation is very dangerous \_\_\_\_\_ the aid agencies.
7. The name may have a connection \_\_\_\_\_ bin Laden's deputy.
8. Armed men ran \_\_\_\_\_ the agency's office in Baghdad.

## 6 Grammar focus - 'the first time' + present perfect

Look at this sentence from the text:

“This is the first time that militants have attacked aid agencies.”

The present perfect tense is often use with the expression ‘This is the first time ...’ (or ‘second time’ and so on)

For example, ‘This is the first time I’ve been to this restaurant’.

Make similar sentences using these prompts:

1. first time/I/be/Scotland
2. first time/I/see/this film
3. second time/I/fly/with this airline
4. first time/she/be/football match
5. second time/I/see/this programme
6. first time/he/travel/abroad

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## Key

### 1 Key Vocabulary

- |            |             |                 |
|------------|-------------|-----------------|
| 1. kidnap  | 2. withdraw | 3. militant     |
| 4. hostage | 5. troops   | 6. aid agencies |

### 2 Find the information

1. Silvio Berlusconi
2. It helps children in Iraq
3. Four
4. Bridges to Baghdad, the United Nations, the International Red Cross
5. Ayman al-Zawahri
6. John Howard

### 3 Comprehension Check

1. d; 2. a; 3. f; 4. b; 5. c; 6. e

### 4 Vocabulary Professions

- |               |                 |               |
|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 1. journalist | 2. lorry driver | 3. politician |
| 4. aid worker | 5. translator   |               |

### 5 Vocabulary Prepositions

- |          |            |         |         |
|----------|------------|---------|---------|
| 1. after | 2. against | 3. in   | 4. of   |
| 5. with  | 6. for     | 7. with | 8. into |

### 6 Grammar Focus the first time + present perfect

1. This is the first time I've been to Scotland.
2. This is the first time I've seen this film.
3. This is the second time I've flown with this airline.
4. This is the first time she's been to a football match.
5. This is the second time I've seen this programme.
6. This is the first time he's travelled abroad