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## **Karzai ends peace talks with the Taliban**

[http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1110/111001-hamid\\_karzai.html](http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1110/111001-hamid_karzai.html)

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**1st October, 2011**

# THE ARTICLE

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1110/111001-hamid\\_karzai.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1110/111001-hamid_karzai.html)

Afghanistan's President Hamid Karzai says he will suspend peace talks with the Taliban after being unable to locate its leaders. He said he would instead move his focus to talking to Pakistan. Mr Karzai believes his country has a better chance of achieving peace and security by engaging with neighbouring Pakistan. Karzai told religious leaders in Kabul on Friday that he could not continue talks with Taliban leader Mullah Mohammed Omar because neither he nor any of the Taliban council could be found. He asked: "Who is the other side in the peace process? I do not have any answer other than saying the other side in the talks is Pakistan. This is because we cannot find Mullah Mohammed Omar.

President Karzai's statement comes days after the assassination of former Afghan president Burhanuddin Rabbani by a suicide bomber. The Taliban has neither confirmed nor denied responsibility for Mr Rabbani's killing, although President Karzai believes the group was responsible. He spoke of his horror at the manner in which the ex-president was killed, saying: "A messenger comes disguised as a Taliban council member and kills, and [the Taliban] neither confirm nor reject it." Mr Rabbani was Afghanistan's chief official in charge of negotiations with the Taliban. Mr Karzai said the assassination convinced him to focus on dialogue with Islamabad. It is the latest in a series of high profile killings of Afghan officials.

# WARM-UPS

**1. TALIBAN:** Walk around the class and talk to other students about the Taliban. Change partners often. Sit with your first partner(s) and share your findings.

**2. CHAT:** In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

*Afghanistan / peace talks / leaders / security / religious / neighbouring / process / statement / suicide bomber / responsibility / disguised / confirm / reject / high profile*

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

**3. AFGHANISTAN:** How can it find peace? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners and share what you wrote. Change and share again.

Players	has to...	... because...
Taliban		
Afghan government		
Pakistan		
Afghan people		
The USA		
United Nations		

**4. PEACE:** Students A **strongly** believe peace will come to Afghanistan one day; Students B **strongly** believe it won't. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**5. HOT SPOTS:** Which will become stable soonest? Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the soonest at the top. Change partners and share your rankings again.

- Afghanistan
- Libya
- North/South Korea
- Yemen
- Palestine
- Somalia
- Syria
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

**6. SECURITY:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'security'. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1110/111001-hamid\\_karzai.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1110/111001-hamid_karzai.html)

## 1. TRUE / FALSE:

Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- |   |       |
|---|-------|
| a. Afghanistan's president walked out of a conference with the Taliban. | T / F |
| b. The Afghan president cannot find the Taliban's leaders to talk to.   | T / F |
| c. Hamid Karzai said he would talk to Pakistan instead of the Taliban.  | T / F |
| d. The leader of the Taliban asked for talks to take place in Pakistan. | T / F |
| e. An ex-Afghanistan president was assassinated by a suicide bomber.    | T / F |
| f. The Taliban claimed responsibility for Burhanuddin Rabbani's death.  | T / F |
| g. Rabbani was killed by someone he believed to be a Taliban leader.    | T / F |
| h. Rabbani's death has made Hamid Karzai want to talk to the Taliban.   | T / F |

## 2. SYNONYM MATCH:

Match the following synonyms from the article.

- |                  |                |
|------------------|----------------|
| 1. suspend       | a. leading     |
| 2. locate        | b. securing    |
| 3. achieving     | c. party       |
| 4. side          | d. murder      |
| 5. other than    | e. put on hold |
| 6. assassination | f. ex-         |
| 7. former        | g. apart from  |
| 8. horror        | h. find        |
| 9. chief         | i. discussion  |
| 10. dialogue     | j. dismay      |

## 3. PHRASE MATCH:

(Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- |                                      |                              |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. suspend peace                     | a. ex-president was killed   |
| 2. unable to locate                  | b. talks with the Taliban    |
| 3. a better chance                   | c. profile killings          |
| 4. neither he nor any                | d. after the assassination   |
| 5. the other side in the peace       | e. its leaders               |
| 6. Karzai's statement comes days     | f. of the Taliban council    |
| 7. The Taliban has neither confirmed | g. charge of negotiations    |
| 8. the manner in which the           | h. of achieving peace        |
| 9. Afghanistan's chief official in   | i. process                   |
| 10. high                             | j. nor denied responsibility |

# WHILE READING / LISTENING

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1110/111001-hamid\\_karzai.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1110/111001-hamid_karzai.html)

**GAP FILL:** Put the words into the gaps in the text.

Afghanistan's President Hamid Karzai says he will (1) \_\_\_\_\_ peace talks with the Taliban after being (2) \_\_\_\_\_ to locate its leaders. He said he would instead move his focus to talking to Pakistan. Mr Karzai believes his country has a better (3) \_\_\_\_\_ of achieving peace and security by (4) \_\_\_\_\_ with neighbouring Pakistan. Karzai told religious leaders in Kabul on Friday that he could not continue (5) \_\_\_\_\_ with Taliban leader Mullah Mohammed Omar because neither he nor any of the Taliban council could be (6) \_\_\_\_\_. He asked: "Who is the other side in the peace (7) \_\_\_\_\_? I do not have any answer other than saying the (8) \_\_\_\_\_ side in the talks is Pakistan. This is because we cannot find Mullah Mohammed Omar.

*process*

*chance*

*suspend*

*engaging*

*unable*

*found*

*other*

*talks*

President Karzai's statement (9) \_\_\_\_\_ days after the assassination of former Afghan president Burhanuddin Rabbani by a suicide bomber. The Taliban has (10) \_\_\_\_\_ confirmed nor denied responsibility for Mr Rabbani's killing, although President Karzai believes the group was (11) \_\_\_\_\_. He spoke of his (12) \_\_\_\_\_ at the manner in which the ex-president was killed, saying: "A messenger comes (13) \_\_\_\_\_ as a Taliban council member and kills, and [the Taliban] neither (14) \_\_\_\_\_ nor reject it." Mr Rabbani was Afghanistan's chief official in charge of negotiations with the Taliban. Mr Karzai said the assassination (15) \_\_\_\_\_ him to focus on dialogue with Islamabad. It is the latest in a (16) \_\_\_\_\_ of high profile killings of Afghan officials.

*disguised*

*responsible*

*series*

*comes*

*confirm*

*convinced*

*neither*

*horror*

Karzai ends peace talks with the Taliban - 1st October, 2011

## **LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps**

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1110/111001-hamid\\_karzai.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1110/111001-hamid_karzai.html)

Afghanistan's President Hamid Karzai says he \_\_\_\_\_ with the Taliban after being \_\_\_\_\_ leaders. He said he would instead move his focus to talking to Pakistan. Mr Karzai believes his country has a better \_\_\_\_\_ peace and security by engaging with neighbouring Pakistan. Karzai \_\_\_\_\_ in Kabul on Friday that he could not continue talks with Taliban leader Mullah Mohammed Omar because neither he nor any of the Taliban council could be found. He asked: "Who is the other side \_\_\_\_\_? I do not have any answer other than saying the \_\_\_\_\_ talks is Pakistan. This is because we cannot find Mullah Mohammed Omar.

President Karzai's statement comes days after \_\_\_\_\_ former Afghan president Burhanuddin Rabbani by a suicide bomber. The Taliban has neither confirmed \_\_\_\_\_ for Mr Rabbani's killing, although President Karzai believes the \_\_\_\_\_. He spoke of his horror at the manner in which the ex-president was killed, saying: "A messenger \_\_\_\_\_ a Taliban council member and kills, and [the Taliban] neither confirm nor reject it." Mr Rabbani was Afghanistan's chief \_\_\_\_\_ negotiations with the Taliban. Mr Karzai said the assassination convinced him to focus on dialogue with Islamabad. It is the latest in a series \_\_\_\_\_ of Afghan officials.

Karzai ends peace talks with the Taliban – *1st October, 2011*

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# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1110/111001-hamid\\_karzai.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1110/111001-hamid_karzai.html)

**1. WORD SEARCH:** Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'peace' and 'talks'.

<b>peace</b>	<b>talks</b>
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- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS:** Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**3. GAP FILL:** In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

**4. VOCABULARY:** Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

**5. TEST EACH OTHER:** Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• suspend</li><li>• move</li><li>• engaging</li><li>• continue</li><li>• side</li><li>• cannot</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• days</li><li>• denied</li><li>• horror</li><li>• member</li><li>• chief</li><li>• profile</li></ul>
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# STUDENT TALIBAN SURVEY

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1110/111001-hamid\\_karzai.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1110/111001-hamid_karzai.html)

Write five GOOD questions about the Taliban in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.



## TALIBAN DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'Taliban'?
- c) What do you know about the beginnings of the Taliban?
- d) Do you think security will ever come to Afghanistan?
- e) Is Hamid Karzai right to suspend talks?
- f) How ill talking to Pakistan instead of the Taliban help?
- g) Why do you think Taliban leaders cannot be found?
- h) Is there really a peace process in Afghanistan?
- i) Has Hamid Karzai been an effective leader?
- j) What needs doing to bring peace and security to Afghanistan?

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## TALIBAN DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a) Did you like reading this article?
- b) What would you like to know about the Taliban?
- c) What do you know about the past 100 years of Afghanistan's history?
- d) Why are the Taliban staying quiet on the assassination of former Afghan president Burhanuddin Rabbani?
- e) What are the similarities and differences between the Taliban and Al Qaeda? Why do people think they are the same?
- f) Would you like to visit Afghanistan? Why (not)?
- g) Where will Afghanistan be in five, ten, twenty years?
- h) Are Afghan leaders brave to do the job they do?
- i) What do you think the Afghan people want?
- j) What questions would you like to ask Hamid Karzai?

# LANGUAGE – MULTIPLE CHOICE

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1110/111001-hamid\\_karzai.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1110/111001-hamid_karzai.html)

Afghanistan's President Hamid Karzai says he will (1) \_\_\_\_ peace talks with the Taliban after being unable to locate its leaders. He said he would (2) \_\_\_\_ move his focus to talking to Pakistan. Mr Karzai believes his country has a better chance (3) \_\_\_\_ achieving peace and security by engaging with neighbouring Pakistan. Karzai told religious leaders in Kabul on Friday that he could not continue talks with Taliban leader Mullah Mohammed Omar because neither he (4) \_\_\_\_ any of the Taliban council could be found. He asked: "Who is the other side in the peace (5) \_\_\_\_? I do not have any answer other than saying the other side in the (6) \_\_\_\_ is Pakistan. This is because we cannot find Mullah Mohammed Omar.

President Karzai's statement (7) \_\_\_\_ days after the assassination of former Afghan president Burhanuddin Rabbani by a suicide bomber. The Taliban has neither confirmed nor (8) \_\_\_\_ responsibility for Mr Rabbani's killing, although President Karzai believes the group was responsible. He spoke (9) \_\_\_\_ his horror at the manner in which the ex-president was killed, saying: "A messenger (10) \_\_\_\_ disguised as a Taliban council member and kills, and [the Taliban] neither confirm nor reject it." Mr Rabbani was Afghanistan's chief official (11) \_\_\_\_ charge of negotiations with the Taliban. Mr Karzai said the assassination convinced him to focus on dialogue with Islamabad. It is the latest in a (12) \_\_\_\_ of high profile killings of Afghan officials.

## Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- |     |                   |               |                |              |
|-----|-------------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|
| 1.  | (a) suspense      | (b) suspender | (c) suspension | (d) suspend  |
| 2.  | (a) in place      | (b) inside    | (c) instead    | (d) insight  |
| 3.  | (a) from          | (b) of        | (c) by         | (d) on       |
| 4.  | (a) nor           | (b) not       | (c) non        | (d) no       |
| 5.  | (a) train         | (b) time      | (c) process    | (d) full     |
| 6.  | (a) walkie-talkie | (b) talked    | (c) talkative  | (d) talks    |
| 7.  | (a) goes          | (b) comes     | (c) delays     | (d) circles  |
| 8.  | (a) denied        | (b) replied   | (c) contrived  | (d) supplied |
| 9.  | (a) to            | (b) of        | (c) for        | (d) so       |
| 10. | (a) coming        | (b) come      | (c) comes      | (d) become   |
| 11. | (a) in            | (b) by        | (c) on         | (d) at       |
| 12. | (a) serious       | (b) service   | (c) serial     | (d) series   |

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# WRITING

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1110/111001-hamid\\_karzai.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1110/111001-hamid_karzai.html)

Write about **Taliban** for 10 minutes. Correct your partner's paper.

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# HOMEWORK

**1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

**2. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find out more about the Taliban. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. TALIBAN:** Make a poster about the Taliban. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. PEACE:** Write a magazine article about peace in Afghanistan. Include imaginary interviews with an average Afghan, the Afghan president and a Taliban leader.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

**5. LETTER:** Write a letter to Hamid Karzai. Ask him three questions about the Taliban. Give him three of your opinions on how to secure peace. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## TRUE / FALSE:

a. F      b. T      c. T      d. F      e. T      f. F      g. T      h. F

## SYNONYM MATCH:

- |                  |                |
|------------------|----------------|
| 1. suspend       | a. put on hold |
| 2. locate        | b. find        |
| 3. achieving     | c. securing    |
| 4. side          | d. party       |
| 5. other than    | e. apart from  |
| 6. assassination | f. murder      |
| 7. former        | g. ex-         |
| 8. horror        | h. dismay      |
| 9. chief         | i. leading     |
| 10. dialogue     | j. discussion  |

## PHRASE MATCH:

- |                                      |                              |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. suspend peace                     | a. talks with the Taliban    |
| 2. unable to locate                  | b. its leaders               |
| 3. a better chance                   | c. of achieving peace        |
| 4. neither he nor any                | d. of the Taliban council    |
| 5. the other side in the peace       | e. process                   |
| 6. Karzai's statement comes days     | f. after the assassination   |
| 7. The Taliban has neither confirmed | g. nor denied responsibility |
| 8. the manner in which the           | h. ex-president was killed   |
| 9. Afghanistan's chief official in   | i. charge of negotiations    |
| 10. high                             | j. profile killings          |

## GAP FILL:

### Karzai ends peace talks with the Taliban

Afghanistan's President Hamid Karzai says he will (1) **suspend** peace talks with the Taliban after being (2) **unable** to locate its leaders. He said he would instead move his focus to talking to Pakistan. Mr Karzai believes his country has a better (3) **chance** of achieving peace and security by (4) **engaging** with neighbouring Pakistan. Karzai told religious leaders in Kabul on Friday that he could not continue (5) **talks** with Taliban leader Mullah Mohammed Omar because neither he nor any of the Taliban council could be (6) **found**. He asked: "Who is the other side in the peace (7) **process**? I do not have any answer other than saying the (8) **other** side in the talks is Pakistan. This is because we cannot find Mullah Mohammed Omar.

President Karzai's statement (9) **comes** days after the assassination of former Afghan president Burhanuddin Rabbani by a suicide bomber. The Taliban has (10) **neither** confirmed nor denied responsibility for Mr Rabbani's killing, although President Karzai believes the group was (11) **responsible**. He spoke of his (12) **horror** at the manner in which the ex-president was killed, saying: "A messenger comes (13) **disguised** as a Taliban council member and kills, and [the Taliban] neither (14) **confirm** nor reject it." Mr Rabbani was Afghanistan's chief official in charge of negotiations with the Taliban. Mr Karzai said the assassination (15) **convinced** him to focus on dialogue with Islamabad. It is the latest in a (16) **series** of high profile killings of Afghan officials.

## LANGUAGE WORK

1 - d    2 - c    3 - b    4 - a    5 - c    6 - d    7 - b    8 - a    9 - b    10 - c    11 - a    12 - d