
MEDIA STATEMENT

Monday 4 January 2016

UNITY IS GETTING ON WITH THE JOB OF PROTECTING AUSTRALIA'S BAGHDAD EMBASSY

Unity Resources Group, responsible for providing security at Australia's embassy in Baghdad, Iraq for the past five years, today said it is focused on continuing to deliver its high level of security and service to Australia's embassy in Baghdad, and would not be distracted by accusations made in recent days by disgruntled ex-contractors.

Executive Chairman Gordon Conroy said Unity Resources Group (Unity) is a high quality Australian owned company, providing essential protection and security services in a competitive international environment.

"I am proud of the professionalism of the team at Unity which assisted in the successful extension of our three year contract with the Australian Government," Mr Conroy said.

"Our team has done an exceptional job of keeping Australian Embassy officials and other dignitaries safe and secure over the last five years, and will continue to do so.

"Our new contract with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade requires that we meet high client standards of training, qualifications, experience and insurance policies for all personnel.

"As is normal practice, market competitiveness required that we revise some of our contractors' rates from, in the case of the base level contractor, more than \$185,000 per year to be closer to market rates. A number of contractors made the decision not to accept the new terms, and regrettably have now seen fit to attack Unity and its professional contractors."

Claims that new contractors do not meet the high standards required by DFAT are incorrect. Unity has recruited suitably qualified, experienced and capable replacements for those contractors who preferred not to continue under the new contract.

"Ongoing recruitment for various roles occurs regularly, and we have been encouraged by the high quality of experienced applicants. Our team is as strong as ever, and any assertion that there is a breach of contract is incorrect," Mr Conroy said.

Unity will not compromise the safety of its clients, staff or contractors by commenting on assertions made about sensitive operational matters.

ENDS

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