

News Release

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SITUATION IN COLOMBIA

The Department of External Affairs today recommended that Canadians not travel to Colombia and suggested that Canadians already in that country consider leaving.

This advice comes in the wake of increased violence in the South American country following the Colombian Government's crackdown on the operations of illegal drug cartels.

Violence in Colombia has been escalating since August and the Canadian Government has issued periodic advisories about travel in the region. Until recently, violence has been random but concentrated in Medellin with outbreaks in other areas, including Bogota. Bombings have now extended to tourist areas such as Cartagena.

With the worsening situation in Colombia, Canada has withdrawn dependents of Canadian Embassy personnel in Bogota.

The full staff of Canadians remains in the Embassy where normal operations and services continue.

Commercial travel remains available to those Canadians who wish to leave Colombia. Our Embassy will continue to provide normal consular assistance to Canadians requiring it.

Some 700 Canadians are registered with the Embassy in Bogota. Canadian officials are contacting them in order to inform them of the Government's advice.

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Secretary of State
for
External Affairs

Secrétaire d'État
aux
Affaires extérieures

Canada