

In the last few days, Canadian embassies in the Middle East have been reporting that larger numbers of Canadians with dual nationalities--primarily of Arab origin--have been able to leave Iraq and Kuwait on their other passports. Given the nature of these individual departures, there are no precise figures. Some of these people may have chosen to remain in the region and many have not contacted the nearest Canadian Embassy.

Canada has prepositioned a Nationair DC-8 in Ankara, Turkey, pending the development of evacuation plans. If required, the aircraft is ready to fly into Iraq or elsewhere.

The Government of Iraq insists that all foreigners departing legally have exit visas. They are required to complete a number of forms and produce extensive documentation. This often requires the applicant to make several trips to the Registry Office in Baghdad or to other government offices. Diplomatic staff are refused entry to the Registry Office and are thus unable to help their nationals in this process.

Once the documentation is complete and the applicant has undergone a lengthy interview, several days are required for processing.

Canada continues to press Iraq to allow all Canadians who wish to do so to leave both Kuwait and Iraq.