## **News Release**

Secretary of State for External Affairs



## Communiqué

Secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures

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## UPDATED MIDDLE EAST TRAVEL ADVICE ISSUED TO CANADIANS

External Affairs and International Trade Canada today issued updated travel advice to Canadian citizens living in or visiting the Middle East. The advice reflects the Department's assessment of increasing tensions in the Middle East.

The travel advice updates one issued on December 21, 1990, and recommends that Canadians living or travelling in certain countries in this region, who plan to leave, should do so without delay.

The Department is issuing such advice at this time to provide Canadians with the best possible information to help them to decide on their travel plans. Canadians remaining in these countries should keep abreast of events and keep their plans under review.

The countries concerned are Kuwait, Iraq, Qatar, Bahrain, Jordan, the Eastern Province and Central Region of Saudi Arabia, including Riyadh, Yemen, Syria, Eastern Turkey, Israel and the Israeli-occupied territories. Residents in and visitors to other countries in the region, in particular Oman, the United Arab Emirates, other areas of Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Iran are being advised to exercise additional caution and to keep in close contact with the nearest Canadian embassy.

In issuing this consular advice, the Department noted that similar advice is being given by other countries, reflecting their respective assessments of the degree of risk in various countries and the number and situation of their nationals. There are about 17,000 Canadian nationals in the countries affected by this travel advice.