



# communiqué

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## TEMPORARY WITHDRAWAL OF CANADIAN EMBASSY PERSONNEL FROM IRAN

The Department of External Affairs announced today that the operations of the Canadian Embassy in Tehran have been temporarily suspended and Ambassador Taylor and all Canada-based staff withdrawn from Iran. This does not signify that Canada is breaking off or suspending relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran, and while Canadian diplomatic staff are absent from Iran, bilateral relations will be conducted through the Iranian Embassy in Ottawa and periodic visits to Iran by Canadian diplomatic personnel.

This action is the final step in progressive reductions in Embassy staff over the past several weeks resulting from the difficult conditions and possibilities for the Embassy in conducting normal business. The situation will be monitored closely, in order to determine the appropriate moment for Canadian personnel to return to Tehran and resume resident representation.