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INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL AND THE GULF CRISIS BANGLADESH AND AFGHANISTAN

External Affairs and International Trade Canada today issued updated travel advice to Canadian citizens living in or visiting areas affected by the Gulf crisis. This advice reflects the Department's assessment of uncertain conditions in the Middle East and other regions, and is issued to provide Canadians with the best possible information to help them to decide on their travel plans.

This advice updates previous travel advice, and recommends that Canadians living or travelling in certain countries in these regions, who plan to leave, should do so without delay. 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, Algeria and the Sudan.

Residents in and visitors to other countries in the region, in particular Oman, the United Arab Emirates, other areas of Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Iran, Morocco, Tunisia, Libya, Pakistan, Mauritania and Bangladesh, 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 notes 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 up to 19,700 Canadian nationals in the countries affected by this travel advice.

Standing travel advice already exists advising Canadians not to travel to Lebanon, Somalia and Afghanistan.

The full text of this updated travel advice is attached.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

Gulf Desk
Media Relations Office
External Affairs and International Trade Canada
(613)992-6346

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ADVICE TO CANADIANS

1. The following advice applies to the following countries affected by the Gulf crisis: Saudi Arabia (Eastern Province and Central Region including Riyadh), Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait, Iraq, Jordan, Yemen, Syria, eastern Turkey, Israel, the Israeli-occupied territories, Algeria and the Sudan.
 - (a) Because of conditions arising from the Gulf crisis, coupled with increasingly limited availability of airline seats, all Canadians in these countries who plan to leave should do so without delay.
 - (b) Canadian tourists, business and other travellers to these countries should defer their travel.
 - (c) Canadians normally resident in these countries and who are or plan to be out of the area on leave should extend their stay out of the region until the crisis abates.
 - (d) Persons with compelling reasons to remain should keep the situation under close review.
 - (e) Citizens who hold dual nationality are reminded that they may have obligations respecting the country where they have citizenship. This could affect plans they might otherwise wish to make in this respect.

2. The following advice applies to Egypt, Iran, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia (other than the Eastern Province and Central Region, including Riyadh area), Oman, Morocco, Tunisia, Pakistan, Libya, Mauritania and Bangladesh:

Canadians resident in or contemplating travel to these regions should be alert to the possibility of civil unrest including risk to foreigners in relation to developments in the Middle East and should be advised to exercise appropriate caution and prudence. These Canadians are advised to register with the nearest Canadian embassy. Canadians already registered should keep the embassy advised of changes in address or travel plans.

3. This advice is based on current conditions. Future travel should be based on ongoing assessments of the situation in the Middle East. Canadians contemplating travel to these regions should check with Canadian missions or the Department again closer to their departure date.

4. While the Government of Canada is providing advice in this respect, it is the responsibility of individual Canadians to make their own decisions and arrangements after considering all factors affecting their individual situations.