

# Statement

Secretary of  
State for  
External Affairs



# Déclaration

Secrétaire  
d'État aux  
Affaires  
extérieures

No. 172

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## CLARK COMMENTS ON SITUATION OF CANADIANS IN IRAQ AND THE GULF

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today welcomed the news that Graham Pierce, a Canadian held by Iraqi authorities in a Baghdad hotel, has been released to the Canadian Embassy. The Embassy is continuing discussions with the Iraqi authorities to get permission for the departure from Iraq of Mr. Pierce and of other Canadians who wish to leave.

"Canadian officials in both Ottawa and Baghdad had made repeated representations to secure the release of Mr. Pierce," stated Mr. Clark. "Canada calls on the further cooperation of the Iraqi authorities to permit the departure from Iraq and Kuwait of all Canadians who wish to leave."

The Canadian Embassy in Kuwait continues to be in touch with most of the approximately 400 Canadians there. They are reported to be safe and continue to be advised to stay indoors.

There are about 100 Canadians registered with the Embassy in Baghdad, including 15 members of the Canadian Armed Forces serving with a United Nations peacekeeping force on the Iraq-Iran border. Canadians in Iraq are also reported to be safe. The airport remains closed although some foreigners have succeeded in leaving by land through Jordan.

Because of the situation in the Gulf region, the Canadian Embassy in Riyadh is advising Canadians that dependents and non-essential personnel in the Eastern province of Saudi Arabia and Bahrain should consider leaving the area. Individuals and companies in areas other than the Eastern provinces and Bahrain should also consider decisions about having their dependents and non-essential personnel leave. There are about 3,000 Canadians registered with the Canadian Embassy in Riyadh, of whom about 1,000 live in the Eastern province. There are about 80 Canadians in Bahrain.

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Canadians resident in the Arabian peninsula and Gulf area who are currently outside the area should consider postponing their return until the situation stabilizes. Similarly, Canadians who are planning to visit the area affected by this situation should also consider whether it is essential that they travel at this time.

For more information, media representatives may contact:

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