

News Release

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GULF CRISIS - SITUATION REPORT

The Canadian evacuation Iraqi Airways 707 departed Baghdad at about 0900 EDT with 140 members of the Canadian community, mostly women and children, on board (135 from Kuwait, and 5 from Iraq who boarded in Baghdad). As seats were still available, 12 American citizens and 10 Irish citizens were able to board in Baghdad.

The flight arrived in Ankara at 17:29 local time and passengers were transferred to the chartered Nationair DC-8 waiting there. The flight is continuing, via London/Gatwick, on to Canada where it is expected to reach Toronto early tomorrow morning.

All Canadian women and children who wished to leave Baghdad and were in possession of exit permission were accommodated. Several women with Canadian passports did not wish to be included in today's flight, some because they have alternative travel plans, others because they have decided to remain in Iraq.

Our Mission in London is standing by to offer help to the deplaning passengers. Arrangements are in place with Toronto airport and various social or reception services to assist arriving passengers.

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Canada

It remains difficult to be precise about the size of the Canadian community remaining in Kuwait. However, there are considered to be about 60 Canadian citizens left there, of whom the majority are males. In addition there are some Landed Immigrants and others with a significant Canadian connection.

Canada continues to press the Iraqi authorities to permit foreigners to leave. The Canadian Embassies in Baghdad and Kuwait will continue to assist Canadians there.