



*Embassy of the United States of America
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia*

WARDEN MESSAGE

December 31, 2008

The Embassy requests that wardens pass the following message in its entirety to members of the American Community:

The U.S. Embassy would like all American citizens to be aware of the growing violence between Israel and the Palestinian Hamas-ruled administration of the Gaza Strip. Following the break-down of their six month cease fire, Hamas and the Israel have launched attacks on each other's territories with tragic effects on the civilian populations. The situation continues to be unpredictable and volatile. Some reports indicate that the Israeli government plans to use their military forces to enter Gaza; should this happen, it could dramatically affect security in the region.

While we are unaware of any specific threats in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, a general desire for prudence has led the U.S. Embassy to restrict travel of their employees to within the city limits of Riyadh, Jeddah and Dhahran. American citizens should exercise caution and take prudent security measures: maintain a high level of vigilance, avoid crowds and demonstrations, keep a low profile, vary times and routes for all travel, and ensure that travel documents and visas are current and valid.

U.S. citizens living or traveling abroad are encouraged to register with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate through the State Department's travel registration web site at <https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/ui/> so that they can obtain updated information on travel and security. Americans without Internet access may register directly with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate. By registering, American citizens make it easier for the Embassy or Consulate to contact them in case of emergency.

For the latest security information, Americans traveling abroad should regularly monitor the State Department's Internet web site at <http://travel.state.gov>, where the current Worldwide Caution, Travel Warnings, including the Travel Warning for Saudi Arabia, and Travel Alerts can be found. Up-to-date information on security can also be obtained by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll free in the U.S. and Canada or, for callers outside the U.S. and Canada, a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. Holidays).

American citizens are reminded to keep their registration up-to-date. See <https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/ui/> for registration information.

To hear recordings of the most recent security information, you may call the Embassy in Riyadh at +966-1-488-3800 and press 6 for regional or worldwide security information or press 7 for “Travel Warning for Saudi Arabia.”

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You can also review earlier Warden Messages at <http://riyadh.usembassy.gov/service/advisories-for-americans-in-ksa/warden-messages.html>.

General Inquiries: RiyadhACS@state.gov
Registration Inquiries: RegistrationRID@state.gov
ACS Website: <http://riyadh.usembassy.gov/service.html>