



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

SECURITY MESSAGE FOR U.S. CITIZENS

May 23, 2015

As reported in the media, on May 22 a suicide bomber attacked a Shi'ite-affiliated mosque in Al-Qadeh in the Qatif Governorate, reportedly killing at least 21 people and wounding several others who were attending religious services. Saudi authorities are investigating the incident. According to press reports, the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) has claimed responsibility for the attack.

U.S. government personnel are currently restricted from traveling to some locations in Saudi Arabia. These include areas within 50 miles of the Yemeni border, the neighborhood of Awamiya in the city of Qatif, and the Governorate of Al-Hasa in the Eastern Province. U.S. citizens are urged to carefully consider travel plans to these areas.

The Embassy reminds you that regardless of location, it is always advisable to keep your security and situational awareness levels high. Please follow these good personal security practices:

Avoid crowds or large gatherings when traveling in public;

Know where you are going and have a plan of what to do in the event you encounter demonstrations or violence;

Identify safe areas (for example police stations, hospitals, Saudi Government buildings) in your area and how to get to them quickly;

Tell co-workers or neighbors where you're going and when you intend to return;

Minimize your profile while in public;

Always carry a cell phone and make sure you have emergency numbers pre-programmed into your phone such as U.S. Consulate General in Dhahran (013-330-3200), the U.S. Embassy in Riyadh (011-488-3800), and U.S. Consulate General in Jeddah (012-667-0080). The emergency number for the Saudi Police, Fire, and Rescue is 999;

Be prepared to postpone or cancel activities for personal safety concerns;

Report concerns you may have to the U.S. Embassy in Riyadh, the U.S. Consulate General in Dhahran, or the U.S. Consulate General in Jeddah.

U.S. citizens traveling abroad should regularly monitor the [U.S. Department of State's, Bureau of Consular Affairs website](#), where the current [Worldwide Caution](#), [Travel Warnings](#), [Travel Alerts](#), and [Country Specific Information](#) can be found. The U.S. Embassy also encourages U.S. citizens to review the "[Traveler's Checklist](#)" which includes valuable security information for those both living and traveling abroad. Follow us on [Twitter](#) and the Bureau of Consular Affairs page on [Facebook](#) as well. In addition to information on the Internet, travelers may obtain up-to-date information on security conditions by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada, or outside the United States and Canada on a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).

S-11/2015

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