



COUPLES MISSION TO ISRAEL September 9 – 17, 2017

Fax/mail completed application to:

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FAX (973) 884-7361
Phone (973) 929-3046 - Heidi
Phone (973) 929-2926 - Jill

1. Please reserve _____ space(s). **Please note that cancellations may result in penalties.**
2. **Personal Information** (include title - Mr./Mrs./Ms./Dr./Rabbi, etc.)

Title _____	Name as it appears on your passport (First, Middle & Last) _____	Nickname (for name tag) _____
Country of Citizenship _____	[<input type="checkbox"/>] Male [<input type="checkbox"/>] Female	Birth date ____/____/____
Passport # _____	Place of Issue _____	Exp. Date ____/____/____

NOTE: Passports must be valid for at least six months beyond the return date of the mission

3. **Address/Telephone:** Street _____ Apt. # _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Home Phone () _____ Work Phone () _____
 Cell Phone () _____ E-mail _____

4. **International Departure (ALL flight arrangements made on your own)**
Designated Flight: Depart Newark on September 9, 2017, United Airlines #90 at 10:45 p.m., arriving in Israel on September 10, 2017 at 4:20 p.m.
 - a. [☐] I will depart on the designated United Airlines flight with the mission
 - b. [☐] I will depart before the mission on (date) ____/____/____
 My flight info: Airline & Flight # _____ Departure Time & Arrival _____

5. **Return to the United States (ALL flight arrangements made on your own)**
Designated Flight: Depart Israel on September 16, 2017, United Airlines #91 at 11:10 p.m., arriving in Newark on September 17, 2017 at 4:15 a.m.
 - a. [☐] I will depart on the designated United Airlines flight with the mission
 - b. [☐] I will depart on (date) ____/____/____
 My flight info: Airline & Flight # _____ Departure Time & Arrival _____

6. Extensions: complete only if you answered (b) for entry 5 or 6

- a. [☐] I am extending and would like to reserve _____ room(s) at the _____ Hotel, and check out on ____/____/____
- b. [☐] I am extending but do not require hotel reservations to be booked.

NOTE: Federation recommends that all participants review their own personal insurance coverage needs with their insurance advisors to determine if additional travel insurance is required providing for reimbursement for trip delay, missed connections, sickness and accident medical expenses, lost baggage, personal effects, baggage delay, etc.

7. **Room type** (check one): ☐ Single ☐ Double ☐ King Bed ☐ Twin Beds
☐ Smoking ☐ Non-smoking ☐ Shabbat Observant

Note: When possible Federation will attempt to find roommates if requested. However if we are unsuccessful, participant will be subject to the single supplement charge.

- ☐ I wish to room with _____
☐ Please assign me a roommate. If one is not found, I understand I must pay the single supplement

Participant(s): ☐ Kosher ☐ Vegetarian ☐ Other _____

8. **Important Medical Information**

(Allergies/Prescription, Medication/Illness/Presently under Physician's Care, etc.)

10. **Emergency Contact:** _____
Name Relationship

Telephone (home) (work) (cell)

Federation reserves the right to limit participation based upon eligibility requirements and space available.

11. **Will you celebrate a Special Occasion on the Mission? Please specify with occasion and date:**

12. **Enclosed is my payment of \$_____ (check all that apply):**

- ☐ \$500 deposit per person (required with the application) .
Please bill me for the cost of the Mission minus the \$500 deposit.
☐ \$3,999 Land Only
☐ \$1,046 Single Supplement – **ADDITIONAL COST**
☐ Optional Pre-Mission to Eilat/Petra \$1,139 per person
☐ I have never been to Israel before on a Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest Mission and may be eligible for the Fried-Saginaw Endowment Fund subsidy of \$1,000.

All checks should be made payable to: Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest.

Name on credit card: _____

Credit card info: ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express

Name on Card: _____

Card number: _____ CVV2#* _____ Exp. date ____/____/____

If you use a credit card to pay for the Mission, you will be charged 3% for credit card processing

*CVV2 code is the last 3 digits located on the back of your card in the signature box for Visa & MC; and 4 digits located in the front of the card for AmEx.

13. **Signature:** Must be signed by the person completing the application - **IMPORTANT!**

Name (please print): _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

PLEASE READ AND SIGN THE RELEASE FORMS ON THE NEXT FEW PAGES.

Release of Liability for Death, Personal Injury, and Property Damage

Missions to Israel and Worldwide Travel

I am aware of the risks of travel to Israel and travel worldwide, including risks associated with my safety and security. These risks include, but are not limited to, property damage and loss, death, or injury by accident, disease, or terrorist acts. I am voluntarily participating in the Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ ("Federation")--- Mission (the "Mission") with a full understanding of these risks, and I assume and agree to accept any and all risks to my safety and security during the course of participating in the Mission.

I have read, or have had the opportunity to read the current World Health Organization update for the Poliovirus outbreak in Israel, the US State Department Polio Fact Sheet for Travelers and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention Polio Vaccine Guidance for Travelers and Note on Travel to Israel attached hereto. I understand that, in advance of the mission, I may periodically check the World Health Organization's website, found at <http://www.who.int/countries/isr/en/>, to see if the update has been superseded by new information

I have read, or have had the opportunity to read, the current United States Department of State's Travel Warning for Israel, Gaza, and the West Bank, attached hereto (see next page). I understand that, in advance of the mission, I may periodically check the State Department's website, found at <http://www.travel.state.gov>, to see if the Travel Warning has been superseded by a new Travel Warning.

I acknowledge and affirm that, notwithstanding any security arrangements that may be made by Federation, Federation does not guarantee and is not responsible for my personal safety or the safety of my property while participating in the Mission or any Mission-related activities, including, but not limited to, airline travel, ground transportation, meals, lodging, and recreational activities.

In light of the above and in consideration of being permitted to participate in the Mission, I do, for myself, my spouse, heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, release and forever discharge Federation, its respective subsidiaries, affiliates, predecessors, successors and assigns, and all of its respective past, present, and future officers, directors, shareholders, employees, agents, and contractors, and their respective heirs, executors, administrators and assigns (collectively, the "Releasees"), of and from any and every claim arising from or by reason of any bodily injury, personal injuries known or unknown (including emotional trauma), death, or property damage resulting or alleged to result from any accident, incident, or other episode that may occur, whether based upon the negligence of, or breach of contract by, any Releasee or any other party for whose acts or omissions any Releasee may be responsible in law or in fact, or any other cause or principle of law, as a result of my participation in the Mission or any activities in connection with the Mission.

This release contains the entire agreement between the parties to this release. This release supersedes any prior or contemporaneous agreements, understandings, and negotiations regarding its subject matter. This release shall be interpreted and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of New York, and shall be as broad and inclusive as permitted by such laws. If any provision of this release is held invalid, it is agreed that the balance shall, notwithstanding, continue in full force and legal effect.

I have carefully read the foregoing release and understand its contents, and acknowledge that this is a release of liability and such is a binding and fully enforceable contract between myself and Federation.

Having consulted, or having had the opportunity to consult, my own counsel as to its meaning and legal effect, I sign this release as my own free act. Please sign: Note: Federation requires that each adult 18 and over whose name appears on the same application, personally sign this security notice. Spouses, partners or roommates, etc., may not sign for one another. In the case of minors (participants under age 18), we require a signature by the parent for each child. Thank you for your cooperation.

Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Israel, The West Bank and Gaza Travel Warning

LAST UPDATED: SEPTEMBER 10, 2014

The U.S. Department of State warns U.S. citizens of the risks of traveling to Israel, the West Bank and Gaza due to the complex security environment there and the potential for violence and renewed hostilities.

This Travel Warning replaces the Travel Warning issued on July 21, 2014.

The Department of State continues its longstanding strong warning to U.S. citizens against travel to the Gaza Strip; the U.S. government does not permit employees to conduct official or personal travel there. Please see the section below on the situation in the Gaza Strip. Additionally, U.S. government officials may only travel to designated parts of the West Bank for personal travel. Please see the section below on the West Bank.

During the recent conflict between Israel and terrorist organizations in Gaza, long-range rockets launched from Gaza reached many locations in Israel and the West Bank – including Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, and other cities in the north and south. A ceasefire was announced on August 26 and, as of the date of this Travel Warning, is holding. The Government of Israel's Iron Dome missile defense system has successfully intercepted many rockets. However, in some cases missile impacts caused damage and injuries. U.S. citizen visitors to and U.S. citizen residents of Israel and the West Bank should familiarize themselves with the location of the nearest bomb shelter or other hardened site. Consult municipality websites, such as those for [Jerusalem](#) and [Tel Aviv](#), for lists of public bomb shelters and other emergency preparedness information. Visitors should seek information on shelters from hotel staff or building managers. We advise all U.S. citizens to follow the instructions of the [Home Front Command](#) on proper procedures in the event of rocket attacks or other crisis events.

Ben Gurion Airport is open and commercial flights are operating normally, although delays and cancellations can occur. Travelers should check with their airline prior to their planned travel to verify the flight schedule. Other border crossings are generally operating as normal; however, travelers should check the status of crossings before embarking on trips. See [information](#) on the status of the airport and other crossings.

U.S. citizens seeking to depart Israel, the West Bank, or Gaza are responsible for making their own travel arrangements. U.S. government-facilitated evacuations occur only when no viable commercial alternatives exist. The lack of a valid U.S. passport may hinder U.S. citizens' ability to depart the country and may slow the U.S. Embassy or Consulate General's ability to provide assistance.

U.S. citizens who do travel to or remain in Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza should take into consideration the rules governing travel by U.S. government employees:

- U.S. government personnel are not permitted to conduct official or personal travel to the Gaza Strip;
- U.S. government personnel are restricted from conducting personal travel to most parts of the West Bank (see below for details); travel for official business is done with special security arrangements coordinated by the U.S. Consulate General in Jerusalem;
- Because of the security situation, travel restrictions remain in effect for southern Israel, including Be'er Sheva and areas south of Be'er Sheva.
- All travel south of Ashdod remains prohibited for embassy employees and their families.
- U.S. government personnel are not permitted to travel east of Route 90 without advance approval;
- U.S. government personnel are not permitted to travel east of the Jordan River or east of Route 92 in the Golan area (although Route 92 itself is permitted if approved in advance);
- U.S. government personnel are not permitted to use public buses anywhere in Israel or the West Bank due to past attacks on public transportation.

View a [map](#) of the Golan area.

Major Metropolitan Areas in Israel

Personal safety conditions in major metropolitan areas, including Tel Aviv and Haifa and their surrounding regions, are comparable to or better than those in other major global cities. Please see below for specific information regarding Jerusalem. Visitors should observe appropriate personal security practices to reduce their vulnerability to crime, particularly late at night or in isolated or economically depressed areas, including in the countryside. Visitors are advised to avoid large gatherings or demonstrations and keep current with local news, which is available through numerous English language sources.

The Government of Israel has had a long-standing policy of issuing gas masks to its citizens and, starting in 2010, it began issuing replacement masks. It stopped this distribution process in early 2014 in response to regional events. Visitors and foreign residents in Israel are not issued masks and must individually procure them, if desired. The U.S. Embassy and Consulate General do not provide gas masks for persons who are not U.S. government employees or their dependents. For further emergency preparedness guidance, please visit the website of the Government of Israel's [Home Front Command](#), which provides information on how to choose a secure space in a home or apartment, as well as a list of the types of protective kits (gas masks) issued by the Government of Israel to its citizens. **Gaza Vicinity**

The Department of State recommends against travel to areas of Israel in the vicinity of the Gaza Strip. Travelers should be aware of the risks presented by the potential for military conflict between Hamas and Israel. In July 2014, Israel conducted ground operations in Gaza. Travelers in the regions immediately bordering Gaza may encounter small arms fire, anti-tank weapons, rockets, and mortars launched from inside Gaza toward Israeli cities and towns. These attacks can come with little or no warning. Visitors to these areas should remain aware of their surroundings and of the location of bomb shelters and should take note of announcements and guidance provided by the [Home Front Command](#).

Both Embassy and Consulate General personnel are currently not permitted to travel south of Ashdod, and travel to and south of Be'er Sheeva requires approval from the Regional Security Officer at the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv. Visitors to these areas should remain aware of their surroundings and should take note of announcements and guidance provided by the Israeli [Home Front Command](#).

Travelers should also be aware of the heightened state of alert maintained by Israeli authorities along Israel's border with Egypt. There have been cross-border incidents from Egypt, including rocket attacks and ground incursions, such as an attack that took place in August 2013 and one on January 20, 2014. Rockets were fired from Sinai in the direction of Eilat on July 15, 2014.

Northern Israel

Rocket attacks into Israel from Lebanon have occurred without warning along the Israeli-Lebanese border. Tensions have increased along portions of the Disengagement Zone with Syria in the Golan Heights as a result of the internal conflict occurring in Syria. Sporadic gunfire has occurred along the border region. There have been several incidents of mortar shells and light arms fire impacting on the Israeli-controlled side of the zone as a result of spillover from the fighting in Syria. Travelers should be aware that cross-border gunfire can occur without warning. Furthermore, there are active land mines in areas of the Golan Heights, so visitors should walk only on established roads or trails. The Syrian conflict is sporadic and unpredictable. U.S. government personnel who wish to travel east of Route 90 require advance approval. In addition, personal travel for U.S. government officials is not permitted east of the Jordan River or east of Route 92 in the Golan area, although Route 92 itself is permitted with advance approval.

Jerusalem

U.S. citizens visiting and living in Jerusalem should be aware of the numerous political, cultural, and religious tensions that permeate the city. These sensitivities have the potential to fuel protest-related activities, clashes, and civil unrest. Protest activities have occurred within the Old City and areas around Salah Ed-Din Street, Damascus Gate, Silwan, and the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhoods. Recently, demonstrations and clashes have occurred in several East Jerusalem areas, such as Shufat, Beit Hanina, Mt. of Olives, As Suwaneh, Abu Deis, Silwan, Shuafat Refugee Camp, inside the Old City (near Lions Gate), Issawiyeh, and Tsur Baher. Such events have recently resulted in violence between protesters and Israeli National Police (INP). The intensity of these violent clashes appears to have diminished, although the possibility of renewed clashes remains, mainly during evening hours. The INP continues to deploy a heavy presence in many of the neighborhoods that have seen clashes and may restrict vehicular traffic to some of these neighborhoods without notice. The clashes and demonstrations have not been anti-American in nature to date, but U.S. citizens are advised not to enter any neighborhoods restricted by the INP and to avoid any locations with active clashes. Since June 2014, Jerusalem has seen a marked increase in random violent activities. These random acts of violence have not been anti-American in nature, yet underscore the sometimes volatile nature of the current local security environment.

Travelers are reminded to exercise caution at Muslim religious sites on Fridays and on holy days, particularly during the holy month of Ramadan. There has recently been an increased police presence near the Damascus Gate, particularly on Fridays. The INP often imposes restrictions on visitors to the Old City's Temple Mount/ Haram al-Sharif. Travelers should be aware that the Temple Mount/Haram al-Sharif is often closed without warning by the INP. Additionally,

sporadic demonstrations can lead to violent clashes. U.S. government employees are prohibited from entering the Old City on Fridays during Ramadan due to congestion and security-related access restrictions.

U.S. citizens are advised to avoid open air public parks after dark as they are poorly lit and policed. There have been numerous reports received of after dark criminal activity associated with these parks.

While U.S. government employees are authorized to use the light rail system in Jerusalem, there has been an increase in individuals throwing stones at light rail trains, particularly near Shufat and along the northern end of the route.

The West Bank

The Department of State urges U.S. citizens to exercise caution when traveling to the West Bank. In June 2014, three Israeli teenagers, including a dual U.S. citizen, were kidnapped and murdered after attempting to hitchhike near Hebron. Demonstrations and violent incidents can occur without warning, and vehicles are regularly targeted by rocks, Molotov cocktails, and gunfire on West Bank roads. U.S. citizens have been killed in such attacks. There have also been an increasing number of violent incidents involving Israeli settlers and Palestinian villagers in the corridor stretching from Ramallah to Nablus, including attacks by Israeli settlers on Palestinian villages in which U.S. citizens have suffered injury or property damage, and attacks by Palestinians on settlements. U.S. citizens can be caught in the middle of potentially dangerous situations, and some U.S. citizens involved in political demonstrations in the West Bank have sustained serious injuries. The Department of State recommends that U.S. citizens avoid all demonstrations for their own safety. During periods of unrest, the Israeli Government may restrict access to the West Bank, and some areas may be placed under curfew. All persons in areas under curfew should remain indoors to avoid arrest or injury. Security conditions in the West Bank may hinder the ability of consular staff to offer timely assistance to U.S. citizens. Personal travel in the West Bank by U.S. government personnel and their families is permitted to the towns of Bethlehem and Jericho and on Routes 1, 443, and 90. The Rachel's Tomb checkpoint between Jerusalem and Bethlehem has recently seen an increase in public demonstrations, which have the potential to become violent. U.S. government officials may also engage in personal travel to Qumran off Route 90 by the Dead Sea and to the Allenby Bridge crossing to Jordan, as well as stops at roadside facilities along Routes 1 and 90. All other personal travel by U.S. government personnel in the West Bank is prohibited. U.S. government personnel routinely travel to the West Bank for official business, but do so with special security arrangements.

The Gaza Strip

The Department of State strongly urges U.S. citizens to avoid all travel to the Gaza Strip, which is under the control of Hamas, a foreign terrorist organization. U.S. citizens in Gaza are advised to depart immediately. The security environment within Gaza, including its border with Egypt and its seacoast, is dangerous and volatile. Exchanges of fire between the Israel Defense Forces and militant groups in Gaza take place regularly, and civilians have been caught in the crossfire in the past. Although the Rafah crossing between Gaza and Egypt normally allows for some passenger travel, prior coordination with local authorities - which could take days or weeks to process - may be required, and crossing points may be closed for days or weeks. Travelers who enter the Gaza Strip through the Rafah crossing must also exit through the Rafah crossing, and those entering the Gaza Strip may not be able to depart at a time of their choosing. Many U.S. citizens have been unable to exit Gaza or faced lengthy delays in doing so. Furthermore, the schedule and requirements for exiting through the Rafah crossing are unpredictable and can involve significant expense. Because U.S. citizen employees of the U.S. government are not allowed to enter the Gaza Strip or have contact with Hamas, the ability of consular staff to offer timely assistance to U.S. citizens, including assistance departing Gaza, is extremely limited. The Consulate General and Embassy do not generally assist U.S. citizens to exit Gaza via the Erez crossing to Israel. U.S. citizens who choose to travel to Gaza cannot rely on the U.S. government to assist them in departing Gaza.

Entry/Exit Difficulties

Some U.S. citizens holding Israeli nationality, possessing a Palestinian identity card, or who are of Arab or Muslim origin have experienced significant difficulties in entering or exiting Israel or the West Bank. U.S. citizens planning to travel to Israel, the West Bank, or Gaza should consult the detailed information concerning entry and exit difficulties in the [Country Specific Information](#).

Contact the [Consular Section of the U.S. Embassy](#) for information and assistance in Israel, the Golan Heights, and ports of entry at Ben Gurion Airport, Haifa Port, the northern (Jordan River/Sheikh Hussein) and southern (Arava) border crossings connecting Israel and Jordan, and the border crossings between Israel and Egypt. An embassy officer can be contacted at (972) (3) 519-7575 from Monday through Friday during working hours. The after-hours emergency number is (972) (3) 519-7551.

Contact the [Consular Section of the U.S. Consulate General in Jerusalem](#) for information and assistance in Jerusalem, the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and the Allenby/King Hussein Bridge crossing between the West Bank and Jordan, at (972) (2) 630-4000 from Monday through Friday during working hours. The after-hours emergency number is (972) (2) 622-7250.

For More Information

The Department of State urges those U.S. citizens who live in or travel to Israel, the West Bank or Gaza to enroll in the Department of State's [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#) in order to obtain the most current information on travel and security within Israel, the West Bank and Gaza. Enrollment in STEP makes it easier for the Embassy or Consulate General to contact U.S. citizens in case of emergency.

For information on "What the Department of State Can and Can't Do in a Crisis," please visit the Bureau of Consular Affairs' [Emergencies and Crisis link](#) at www.travel.state.gov

For the latest security information, U.S. citizens traveling abroad should regularly monitor the [Department of State's Internet website](#) where the [Worldwide Caution](#), [Country Specific Information for Israel, the West Bank and Gaza](#), [Travel Warnings](#), and [Travel Alerts](#) can be found, including the current [Travel Warning for Israel, the West Bank and Gaza](#). You can also follow the Bureau of Consular Affairs on [Twitter](#) and on [Facebook](#). Up-to-date information on security conditions can also be accessed at <http://israel.usembassy.gov>, <http://jerusalem.usconsulate.gov> or on the [Embassy](#) and [Consulate General](#) Facebook pages.

Up-to-date information on travel and security in Israel, the West Bank and Gaza can also be obtained by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada, or, for callers outside of 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).

Embassies & Consulates

U.S. Embassy Tel Aviv

71 Hayarkon Street

Tel Aviv Israel 63903

Telephone: +(972) (3) 519-7575

Emergency After-Hours Telephone: +(972) (3) 519-7551

Fax: +(972) (3) 516-4390, or 516-0315

Contact the Consular Section of the U.S. Embassy for information and assistance in Israel and the Golan Heights, at the ports of entry at Ben Gurion Airport, Haifa Port, the northern (Shaykh Hussein) and southern (Arava) border crossings connecting Israel and Jordan, and the border crossings between Israel and Egypt.

The Embassy also has a consular agent in Haifa at 26 Ben Gurion Boulevard, telephone (972) (4) 853-1470. The consular agent can provide both routine and emergency citizen services in the northern part of Israel. After normal working hours you can contact him via the Embassy. amctelaviv@state.gov

U.S. Consulate General Jerusalem

14 David Flusser,

Jerusalem 93392

Telephone: +(972) (2) 622-7230 or +(972) (2) 630-4000

Emergency After-Hours Telephone: +(972) (2) 622-7250

Fax: +(972) (2) 630-4070

Contact the U.S. Consulate General in Jerusalem for information and assistance in the following areas: Jerusalem, the West Bank, and Gaza

PLEASE SIGN: _____

DATE: _____

Note: Each adult 18 and over whose name appears on the same application, needs to personally sign this security notice/release. Spouses, roommates, etc. may not sign for one another.

Worldwide Caution: October 2014

The Department of State is updating the Worldwide Caution to provide information on the continuing threat of terrorist actions and violence against U.S. citizens and interests throughout the world. U.S. citizens are reminded to maintain a high level of vigilance and to take appropriate steps to increase their security awareness. This replaces the Worldwide Caution dated April 10, 2014.

The Department of State remains concerned about the continued threat of terrorist attacks, demonstrations, and other violent actions against U.S. citizens and interests overseas. On September 22, 2014, the United States and regional partners commenced military action against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), a designated terrorist organization in Syria and Iraq. In response to the airstrikes, ISIL called on supporters to attack foreigners wherever they are. Authorities believe there is an increased likelihood of reprisal attacks against U.S., Western and coalition partner interests throughout the world, especially in the Middle East, North Africa, Europe, and Asia.

Kidnappings and hostage events involving U.S. citizens have become increasingly prevalent as ISIL, al-Qa'ida and its affiliates have increased attempts to finance their operations through kidnapping for ransom operations. ISIL, al-Qa'ida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) and al-Qa'ida in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) are particularly effective with kidnapping for ransom and are using ransom money to fund the range of their activities. Kidnapping targets are usually Western citizens from governments or third parties that have established a pattern of paying ransoms for the release of individuals in custody.

Extremists may elect to use conventional or non-conventional weapons, and target both official and private interests. Examples of such targets include high-profile sporting events, residential areas, business offices, hotels, clubs, restaurants, places of worship, schools, public areas, shopping malls, and other tourist destinations both in the United States and abroad where U.S. citizens gather in large numbers, including during holidays.

U.S. citizens are reminded of the potential for terrorists to attack public transportation systems and other tourist infrastructure. Extremists have targeted and attempted attacks on subway and rail systems, aviation, and maritime services. In the past, these types of attacks have occurred in cities such as Moscow, London, Madrid, Glasgow, and New York City.

EUROPE: Current information suggests that ISIL, al-Qa'ida, its affiliated organizations, and other terrorist groups continue to plan terrorist attacks against U.S. and Western interests in Europe. Authorities believe the likelihood of a terror attack in Europe is increased as European members of ISIL return from Syria and Iraq. Additionally, there is a continuing threat in Europe from unaffiliated persons planning attacks inspired by major terrorist organizations but conducted on an individual basis. In the past several years, organized extremist attacks have been planned or carried out in various European countries. European governments have taken action to guard against terrorist attacks, and some have made official declarations regarding heightened threat conditions.

MIDDLE EAST and NORTH AFRICA: Credible information indicates terrorist groups also seek to continue attacks against U.S. interests in the Middle East and North Africa. The U.S. government remains highly concerned about possible attacks against U.S. citizens, facilities, businesses, and perceived U.S. and Western interests.

No part of Syria should be considered immune from violence. The security situation remains dangerous and unpredictable as a civil war between government and armed anti-government groups continues throughout the country. There is an increased threat of terrorism from groups such as ISIL, al-Nusrah, as well as other extremists whose tactics include use of suicide bombers, kidnappings, use of small and heavy arms, and improvised explosive devices (IEDs). Since the start of the uprising against Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's regime in March 2011, the United States has received reports of numerous foreigners kidnapped in Syria, many of whom are still in captivity. The majority of the victims are journalists and aid workers. U.S. citizens and other Westerners have been murdered by ISIL in Syria. Violent extremists from various countries operate in Syria and may be planning attacks against the United States and other Western targets.

A number of extremist groups also operate in Lebanon and the potential for death or injury in Lebanon exists because of periodic terrorist bombing attacks throughout the country. As a result of spillover violence from the Syria crisis, Sunni groups are active and Hizballah, a group designated by the U.S. government as a terrorist organization, has been present and active for many years.

U.S. citizens in Iraq remain at high risk for kidnapping and terrorist violence. Numerous insurgent groups, including ISIL, previously known as al-Qa'ida in Iraq, remain active and terrorist activity and violence persist in many areas of the country. ISIL and its allies control Mosul, Iraq's second largest city, and have captured significant territory across central Iraq and continue to engage with Iraqi security forces in that region.

Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), the Movement for Unity and Jihad in West Africa (MUJAO), and al-Murabitun remain active and operate primarily in southern Algeria, southwestern Libya and Tunisia in the wake of French and African intervention in northern Mali. In Algeria, terrorists sporadically attack Westerners and Algerian government targets, particularly in the Kabylie region, and near Algeria's borders with Libya and Mali. In September, a French tourist was kidnapped and murdered by an Algerian-based terrorist group. Terrorists have targeted oil processing plants in Algeria, Saudi Arabia, and Yemen. In Libya, various groups have called for attacks against U.S. citizens and U.S. interests. Terrorist organizations continue to be active in Yemen, including al-Qa'ida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP).

AFRICA: Al-Qa'ida continues to operate primarily in North Africa. Vestiges of extremist elements, including AQIM, MUJAO, and al-Murabitun continue small scale operations in northern Mali mostly related to planting land mines on

lines of communication used by UN peacekeeping troops. The major parts of these groups were forced to move to southern Algeria, southwestern Libya and Tunisia in the wake of French and African intervention in northern Mali. Terrorist groups have stepped up their rhetoric calling for additional attacks or kidnapping attempts on westerners and others, particularly those linked to support for international military intervention.

Additionally, the terrorist group AQIM has declared its intention to attack Western targets throughout the Sahel (an area that stretches across the African continent between the Atlantic Ocean and the Red Sea to include Senegal, Mali, Algeria, Niger, Chad, Sudan, and Eritrea). It has claimed responsibility for kidnappings, attempted kidnappings, and the murder of several Westerners throughout the region, including southern Algeria.

Al-Shabaab assassinations, suicide bombings, hostage taking, and indiscriminate attacks in civilian-populated areas are frequent in Somalia. Terrorist operatives and armed groups in Somalia have demonstrated their intent to attack Somali authorities, the African Union Mission in Somalia, and non-military targets such as international donor offices and humanitarian assistance providers. Al-Shabaab retains its demonstrated capability to carry out attacks in government-controlled territory in Somalia and in neighboring countries such as Kenya and Djibouti.

Boko Haram, an extremist group based in northeast Nigeria, has claimed responsibility for many attacks, mainly in northern Nigeria. The first months of 2014 have seen a continued increase in Boko Haram attacks and clashes with Nigerian government security forces in northern Nigeria. Boko Haram has also targeted women and children for kidnapping, reportedly kidnapping women in northern states for marriage as "slave brides," and kidnapping more than 200 school girls from a private school in Borno state. Boko Haram is known to descend on whole towns, robbing banks and businesses, attacking police and military installations, and setting fire to private homes. U.S. citizen missionaries in northern Nigeria have received specific written threats to their safety and well-being, although none have yet been harmed.

U.S. citizens considering travel by sea near the Horn of Africa, the Gulf of Guinea, or in the southern Red Sea should exercise extreme caution, as there have been armed attacks, robberies, and kidnappings for ransom by pirates. The threat of hijacking to merchant vessels continues to exist in Somali territorial waters and as far as 1,000 nautical miles off the coast of Somalia, Yemen, and Kenya in international waters. There has also been a recent rise in piracy and armed robbery in the Gulf of Guinea, including hijackings.

U.S. government maritime authorities advise mariners to avoid the port of Mogadishu and to remain at least 200 nautical miles off the coast of Somalia. In addition, when transiting around the Horn of Africa, the Gulf of Guinea, or in the Red Sea, it is strongly recommended that vessels travel in convoys and maintain good communications at all times.

U.S. citizens traveling on commercial passenger vessels should consult with the shipping or cruise ship company regarding precautions that will be taken to avoid hijacking incidents. Commercial vessels should review the Department of Transportation Maritime Administration's Horn of Africa Piracy page for information on maritime advisories, self-protection measures, and naval forces in the region.

SOUTH ASIA: The U.S. government continues to receive information that terrorist groups in South Asia may also be planning attacks in the region, possibly against U.S. government facilities, U.S. citizens, or U.S. interests. The presence of al-Qa'ida, Taliban elements, Lashkar-e-Tayyiba, indigenous sectarian groups, and other terror organizations, many of which are on the U.S. government's list of designated Foreign Terrorist Organizations, poses a potential danger to U.S. citizens in the region. Terrorists and their sympathizers have demonstrated their willingness and ability to attack locations where U.S. citizens or Westerners are known to congregate or visit.

The presence of several foreign and indigenous terrorist groups poses a danger to U.S. citizens throughout Pakistan.

Across the country, terrorist attacks frequently occur against civilian, government, and foreign targets. Attacks have included armed assaults on heavily guarded sites, including Pakistani military installations and airports. The Government of Pakistan maintains heightened security measures, particularly in the major cities. Terrorists and criminal groups regularly resort to kidnapping for ransom.

No province in Afghanistan should be considered immune from violence and crime, and the strong possibility exists throughout the country for hostile acts, either targeted or random, against U.S. and other foreign nationals at any time.

Elements of the former Taliban regime and members of other terrorist organizations hostile to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and foreign nationals remain active in every province of the country. Furthermore, travel to all areas of Afghanistan remains unsafe due to ongoing military combat operations, landmines, banditry, armed rivalry between political and tribal groups, and the possibility of insurgent attacks, including attacks using vehicle-borne or other improvised explosive devices. U.S. citizens are increasingly targeted for kidnapping. The threat situation in Afghanistan is still considered critical and is expected to remain so through the current political and military transition.

India continues to experience terrorist and insurgent activities which may affect U.S. citizens directly or indirectly.

Anti-Western terrorist groups active in India include Islamist extremist groups such as Harkat-ul-Jihad-i-Islami, Harakat ul-Mujahidin, Indian Mujahideen, Jaish-e-Mohammed, and Lashkar-e Tayyiba. Past attacks have targeted public places, including some frequented by Westerners, such as luxury and other hotels, trains, train stations, markets, cinemas, mosques, and restaurants in large urban areas. Attacks have taken place during the busy evening hours in markets and other crowded places, but could occur at any time.

CENTRAL ASIA: Supporters of terrorist groups such as the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan, al-Qa'ida, the Islamic Jihad Union, and the Eastern Turkistan Islamic Movement remain active in Central Asia. These groups have expressed anti-U.S. sentiments and may attempt to target U.S. government interests.

EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC: Information from credible sources suggests that there is a continued risk of armed terrorist and criminal groups operating and planning attacks against foreigners, including U.S. citizens, in the East Asian

and Pacific region. Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) and the Abu Sayyaf Group, have cells operating throughout Southeast Asia and JI is linked to al-Qaida and other regional terrorist groups.

There is a risk of travel to the southern Philippines, specifically related to kidnapping threats in the Sulu Archipelago and the ongoing threat of violence on the island of Mindanao, particularly in Central Mindanao.

Over the past year there have been several kidnappings-for-ransom targeting foreigners in the Eastern Sabah province of Malaysia and in the southern Sulu Sea area by terrorist or insurgent groups based in the Sulu Archipelago of the Philippines. In addition to incursions on the coastal and island resorts themselves, criminal or terrorist bands may attempt to intercept boats ferrying tourists in the area.

Indonesian security forces have disrupted a number of terrorist cells, including JI, a terrorist organization that carried out several significant bombings in Jakarta and Bali over the past decade. Although Indonesian counterterrorism efforts have been successful in preventing terrorists from conducting large-scale attacks in recent years, extremists in Indonesia may demonstrate a willingness and ability to carry out small-scale violent attacks with little or no warning.

Before You Go

The Department of State urges U.S. citizens living overseas or planning to travel abroad to enroll in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP). When you enroll in STEP, we can keep you up to date with important safety and security announcements. Enrolling will also make it easier for the Embassy to contact you in the event of an emergency. You should remember to keep all of your information in STEP up to date; it is particularly important when you enroll or update your information to include a current phone number and e-mail address.

U.S. citizens are strongly encouraged to maintain a high level of vigilance, be aware of local events, and take the appropriate steps to bolster their personal security. For additional information, please refer to Traveler's Checklist.

U.S. government facilities worldwide remain at a heightened state of alert. These facilities may temporarily close or periodically suspend public services to assess their security posture. In those instances, U.S. embassies and consulates will make every effort to provide emergency services to U.S. citizens. U.S. citizens abroad are urged to monitor the local news and maintain contact with the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.

As the Department of State continues to develop information on potential security threats to U.S. citizens overseas, it shares credible threat information through its Consular Information Program documents, including Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, Country Specific Information, and Emergency and Security Messages, all of which are available on the Bureau of Consular Affairs website at <http://travel.state.gov>. Stay up to date by bookmarking our website or downloading our free Smart 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, from other countries, on a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm Monday through Friday, Eastern Time (except U.S. federal holidays). I have read and understand the World Wide Caution:

PLEASE SIGN: _____

DATE: _____

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I am of full age and competent to sign this release. I agree that this release shall be binding on legal representatives, my heirs, assigns, and me. I have read this release and I fully understand its contents.

Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Complete Address: _____

Tel: _____ E-mail: _____ Fax: _____