



December 7, 2005
REF: 2005-WBG-02

TO: All USAID/West Bank and Gaza Contractors, Grantees and Recipients

SUBJECT: Israel, West Bank and Gaza

Dear Implementing Partners

The American Embassy, Tel Aviv has made the following announcement regarding security in the West Bank and Gaza areas. USAID/West Bank and Gaza is providing this information for your information and use as appropriate.

This Public Announcement is being issued to alert U.S. citizens to security concerns during the upcoming Palestinian elections, especially in the West Bank and Gaza. This Public Announcement expires on January 18, 2005.

In light of the existing travel warning and the continuing unsettled security situation in the West Bank and Gaza, the Department of State remains concerned for the safety of Americans traveling in the West Bank and Gaza and continues to warn U.S. citizens to depart Gaza immediately and to defer travel to Israel, the West Bank and Gaza. We are particularly concerned that some Palestinian extremist elements, especially in Gaza, may attempt acts of violence against international election observers in an effort to undermine the Palestinian Authority's ability to conduct free and fair elections on January 9, 2005. American citizens are urged to carefully review the existing travel warning for those areas.

Current information on travel and security in Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza are available at <http://travel.state.gov>. This website lists: the Travel Warning for Israel, the West Bank and Gaza; the Middle East and North Africa Public Announcement; the Worldwide Caution Public Announcement; and the Consular Information Sheet for Israel, the West Bank and Gaza. U.S. citizens may also call the Department of State at 1-888-407-4747 within the United States, or, from overseas, 1-317-472-2328. The U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv may be reached at (972) (3) 519-7355 and the U.S. Consulate General in Jerusalem at (972) (2) 622-7250

Sincerely,

Leonel T. Pizarro
Contracting Officer