



OFFICIAL: Sensitive

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Ministerial Submission

Cleared by: FAS CCD

Date sent to MO: PLE to select a date.

Action Requested By: 28 February 2026

Reason for Urgency: Air strikes in the Middle East

FOR: Senator the Hon Penny Wong  
 INFO: The Hon Matt Thistlethwaite MP

Travel Advice: Israel increase level to Do Not Travel

<p><b>Key Issues:</b> Following reported strikes by the United States and Israel on Iran on 28 February, we recommend an increase in the overall travel advice level for Israel from 'Reconsider your need to travel' (level 3 of 4) to 'do not travel' (level 4 of 4) due to the volatile security situation and the risk of the security situation deteriorating further. There is a heightened threat of military and terrorist reprisal attacks by Iran and its proxies against Israel. Airspace closures and flight disruptions are already occurring across Israel and the region. Attacks targeting Israel in 2024 and 2025 breached Israel's 'Iron Dome' missile defence in some instances and this remains a risk. The Israeli Australian community will have high levels of interest in this change and requests for assisted departure options are expected.</p>	
<p><b>Recommendation:</b>                  That you:</p> <p>a) Agree to increase Australia's overall travel advice level for Israel from Reconsider your need to travel (level 3 of 4) to <b>Do not travel</b> (level 4 of 4) due to the volatile security situation, armed conflict, civil unrest and terrorism.</p>	<p><b>Decision:</b></p> <p><u>Agreed</u> / Not Agreed</p>
<p><b>Domestic/Media Considerations:</b> There will be high media and community interest. We will update the talking points accordingly.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Penny Wong</p> <p><i>[Signature]</i>                  Penny Wong                  1/2/26</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Verbally agreed 28/2</i>  <i>[Signature]</i>                  1/3</p>	
<p><b>Information:</b></p> <p>Matt Thistlethwaite</p> <p><i>/ /</i></p>	<p><u>Noted</u></p>
<p><b>From:</b> Elizabeth McGregor , ISG   CCD   CIB - Consular Communications and Policy Branch                  s 22(1)(a)(ii)</p>	<p><b>Contact:</b> Claire Rochecoste                  s 22(1)(a)(ii)</p>
<p>Can this proposal be funded from within your existing <u>divisional</u> allocation (departmental/aid)? Choose an item.                  If the proposal high risk/high value (over \$100m) concept has been approved by the Development Program Committee? Choose an item.</p>	
<p><b>Consultation:</b> NIL</p>	
<p><b>Use of AI:</b> N/A</p>	

**Background:**

1. You (Minister Wong) are the delegate for approving country-wide travel advice level increases under DFAT's travel advice policy framework (Administrative Circular AC071/25).
2. Following reported strikes by the United States and Israel on Iran on 28 February, we assess that the current security situation in Israel is deteriorating and may worsen quickly. There remains ongoing uncertainty in the region, with a potential for further escalation between Israel, Iran and its proxies and possible reprisal attacks. Israel has issued a nationwide state of emergency and advised to citizens to take shelter in protected areas.
3. Given the safety risks arising from such a rapid deterioration, and the likely diminishing options for Australians to leave, we recommended increasing our travel advice to '**do not travel**' (level 4 of 4).
4. On 25 February, Australia directed the departures of all dependants of Australian officials posted to Israel.
5. Tel Aviv Post has activated its CAP to Red and recommends this change.
6. Our Israel travel advice was last raised to *Do Not Travel* in June 2025 during the Israel-Iran conflict.
7. Current key like-minded country travel advice is as set out below, but these could quickly change.
  - **Canada:** Level 3/4: Avoid non-essential travel to Israel due to the unpredictable security situation and ongoing tensions in the region. The Canadians have additional DNT regional advisories for Palestine and borders with Syria, Lebanon and the Gaza Strip.
  - **New Zealand:** Level 3/4: Avoid non-essential travel to Israel due to ongoing regional tensions and a volatile security situation.
  - **US:** Level 3/4: Reconsider travel to Israel and the West Bank due to terrorism and civil unrest. The US has do not travel to Gaza; the area of Northern Israel within 2.4 miles of the Lebanon and Syrian borders due to continued military presence and activity; and the Egyptian border within 2.4 miles, except the Taba crossing, which is open.
  - **UK:** Level 2/3: Advise against all but essential travel, to parts of Israel and Palestine. FCDO continues to advise against all travel to parts of Israel and Palestine.
8. We propose the following updated text of the travel advice (mirrored in social media) to read:

*We've reviewed our advice for Israel. Due to the deteriorating security situation, we've raised our level of advice and now advise, do not travel to Israel due to the volatile security situation, armed conflict, civil unrest and terrorism. The security situation could deteriorate rapidly throughout Israel with little or no notice. Flight disruptions are likely, including due to airport and airspace closures. Prioritise your safety, monitor events and follow local advice.*



### Ministerial Submission

Cleared by:

Date sent to MO: PLE to select a date.

FOR: Senator the Hon Penny Wong

Action Requested By: 28 February 2026

INFO: The Hon Matt Thistlethwaite MP

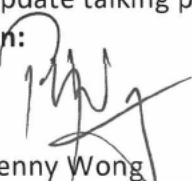
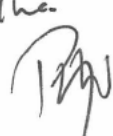
Reason for Urgency: Air strikes in the Middle East

### Travel Advice: Lebanon increase to Do Not Travel

**Key Issues:** Following reported strikes by Israel and the US on Iran on 28 February, and Israeli strikes on southern Lebanon, we recommend an increase in the overall travel advice level for Lebanon from 'reconsider your need to travel' (level 3 of 4) to '**Do not travel**' due to the volatile security situation and the risk of the security situation deteriorating further (level 4 of 4). The regional security environment remains unpredictable, with increased tensions and the likelihood of reprisal attacks. There is a heightened threat of large-scale Israeli military airstrikes against Lebanon and this risk could escalate rapidly without notice including through retaliatory action by Hizballah as Iran's proxy. The Lebanese Australian community will take a high interest in this change and likely to trigger requests for assisted departure options

**Recommendation:**  
That you:  
  
a) Agree to increase Australia's overall travel advice level for Lebanon to do not travel (level 4 of 4) due to the volatile security situation, armed conflict, civil unrest and terrorism.

**Decision:**  
  
Agreed / Not Agreed

**Domestic/Media Considerations:** There will be high levels of media and community interest. We will update talking points accordingly.  
**Action:**  
  
Penny Wong  
1/3/26  
*Verbally agreed 28/2*  
*The*  
  
1/3

**Information:** Noted  
  
Matt Thistlethwaite  
  
/ /

**From:** Harinder Sidhu ISG | CCD | CIB - Consular Communications and Policy Branch  
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**Contact:** Claire Rochecouste  
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Can this proposal be funded from within your existing divisional allocation (departmental/aid)? Choose an item.  
If the proposal high risk/high value (over \$100m) concept has been approved by the Development Program Committee? Choose an item.

**Consultation:** MAD, DSD, Beirut Post

**Use of AI:** N/A

## Background:

You (Minister Wong) are the delegate for approving country-wide travel advice level increases under DFAT's travel advice policy framework (Administrative Circular AC071/25).

2. Following reported strikes by Israel and the United States on Iran on 28 February, and strikes by Israel in southern Lebanon, we assess that the current security situation in Lebanon is deteriorating and may worsen quickly. There remains ongoing uncertainty in the region, with a potential for further escalation between Israel and Hizballah and possible reprisal attacks.

3. Given the safety risks that could arise from such a rapid deterioration, and the likely diminishing options for Australians to leave, we recommend increasing our travel advice to 'Do not travel' (level 4 of 4). Our Lebanon travel advice was raised to *Do Not Travel* in October 2023 and was subsequently lowered to reconsider your need to travel (level 3) in September 2025.

4. The regional security environment remains unpredictable. There is a heightened threat of large-scale Israeli military airstrikes against Lebanon and this risk could escalate rapidly without notice.

5. At level 4, our standard advice is: Do not travel to this location. If you're already in this location, you should consider leaving if it's safe to do so. Your travel insurance policy may be void. The Australian Government may not be able to help you. In most cases, our ability to provide consular assistance in Do not travel destinations is extremely limited.

6. On 25 February 2026 Australia directed the departure of all dependants of Australian officials posted to Lebanon. On 24 February, the US announced the draw-down of 50 officers from its Beirut embassy and suspended all consular services

7. Current like-minded overall country travel advice is as set out below.

- **Canada:** Level 3/4: Avoid non-essential travel to Lebanon due to ongoing tensions in the region, the unpredictable security situation, the continued risk of terrorist attacks and the conflict with Israel.

- **US:** Level 4/4: Do Not Travel to Lebanon due to crime, terrorism, civil unrest, kidnapping, unexploded landmines, and the risk of armed conflict. Some areas, especially near the borders, have increased risk.

- **UK:** Level 1/3: with higher regional levels advising against all travel, including areas in Beirut, Mount Lebanon, areas in the South and areas in Nabatiyeh, Beqaa, Baalbek-Hermel, north and Akkar Governorates, plus the Palestinian refugee camps.

- **New Zealand:** Level 4/4: Do not travel to Lebanon due to the volatile security situation and the risk of the security situation deteriorating further.

7. We propose the following updated text of the travel advice (mirrored in social media) will read:

*We've reviewed our advice for Lebanon. Due to the deteriorating regional security situation, we've raised our level of advice, and now advise do not travel to Lebanon due to the volatile security situation, armed conflict, civil unrest and terrorism. The security situation could deteriorate rapidly throughout Lebanon with little or no notice. Flight disruptions are likely, including due to airport and airspace closures. Prioritise your safety, monitor events and follow local advice.*

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Australian Government  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Ministerial Submission

Cleared by: FAS CCD

Date sent to MO: 28 February 2026

Action Requested By: 28 February 2026

Reason for Urgency: Middle East situation.

FOR: Senator the Hon Penny Wong  
INFO: The Hon Matt Thistlethwaite MP

Travel advice increases: Middle East and Armenia

<p><b>Key Issues:</b> We recommend an increase to the overall travel advice level for <b>Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar and United Arab Emirates (UAE)</b>, to 'Do Not Travel' (level 4 of 4). On 28 February, there have been retaliatory air strikes in these destinations following US and Israeli military strikes on Iran. Retaliatory strikes are expected to continue for several days. We also recommend an increase to the overall travel advice level for <b>Jordan</b> to 'Reconsider your need to travel' (level 3 of 4). Airspace closures are occurring, the security situation is likely to deteriorate further, and widespread movement and transport disruptions are expected. We recommend a level increase for <b>Armenia</b>, which borders Iran, to 'Exercise a high degree of caution' (level 2 of 4).</p>	
<p><b>Recommendation:</b> That you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Agree to increase the travel advice level for <b>Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar and UAE</b> to 'Do Not Travel' (level 4 of 4) overall due to the security situation in these destinations, including ongoing reprisal strikes.</li> <li>b) Agree to increase the travel advice level for <b>Jordan</b> to 'Reconsider your need to travel' (level 3 of 4) overall due to the security situation in the region.</li> <li>c) Agree to increase the travel advice level for <b>Armenia</b> to 'Exercise a high degree of caution' (level 2 of 4) overall due to the security situation in Iran.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Decision:</b></p> <p><u>Agreed / Not Agreed</u></p> <p><u>Agreed / Not Agreed</u></p> <p><u>Agreed / Not Agreed</u></p>
<p><b>Domestic/Media Considerations:</b> There will be media interest, including expectations of government departure assistance. Updated talking points are being provided.</p> <p><b>Action:</b></p> <p><i>[Signature]</i> Penny Wong <i>13/26</i></p> <p><i>Verbally agreed 28/2</i> <i>Th.</i> <i>[Signature]</i> 1/3</p>	
<p><b>Information:</b></p> <p>Matt Thistlethwaite</p> <p><i>/ /</i></p>	
<p><b>From:</b> Claire Rochecouste, ISG   CCD   CIB - Consular Communications and Policy Branch s 22(1)(a)(ii)</p>	<p><b>Contact:</b> s 22(1)(a)(ii)   Mob number: s 22(1)(a)(ii)</p>
<p>Can this proposal be funded from within your existing <u>divisional</u> allocation (departmental/aid)? Not Applicable</p> <p>If the proposal high risk/high value (over \$100m) concept has been approved by the Development Program Committee? Not Applicable</p>	
<p><b>Consultation:</b> FAS MAD, A/g FAS EUD, DSD, Middle East posts.</p>	
<p><b>Use of AI:</b> N/A</p>	

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**Background:**

You (Minister Wong) are the delegate for approving country-wide travel advice level increases under DFAT's travel advice policy framework (Administrative Circular AC071/25).

2. Following military strikes by the US and Israel on Iran, there have been reports of retaliatory missile attacks on targets in all of Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, United Arab Emirates (UAE). Australian officials and their families are sheltering in place at posts in these destinations. The situation is expected to deteriorate further across the Middle East. This poses a security risk across the broader region and could lead to disruptions in movement and transportation, including possible border closures, flight cancellations and airspace closures.

3. We recommend increasing travel advisories for **Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar and UAE** from 'Exercise a high degree of caution' (level 2 of 4) to '**Do Not Travel**' (level 4 of 4). We recommend increasing travel advisories for Jordan to '**Reconsider your need to travel**' (level 3 of 4) due to its proximity to Israel and the broader regional security situation. Retaliatory strikes are expected to continue for some days, and there is high probability of collateral damage.

4. Given the safety risks to Australians in the Middle East following the outbreak of conflict and the strong likelihood of significant travel disruptions, we recommend it would be appropriate to increase our travel advice as set out above, commensurate with the volatile security environment in the region.

5. Like-minded countries are reviewing travel advice settings and we anticipate more changes in coming hours.

6. Our proposed updated text of the travel advice (mirrored in social media) would read:

*Due to the security situation in the region and military strikes in [destination], we've raised our level of advice for [Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, and UAE] to 'Do Not Travel' (level 4 of 4). Retaliatory strikes have been reported following military strikes on Iran. Australian officials and dependants are sheltering in place during strikes. Australians should shelter in place during strikes. Prioritise your safety, monitor events and follow local advice. Military conflict in the region may result in widespread movement restrictions, airspace closures, flight cancellations and other travel disruptions. Demonstrations and protest activity may also occur, and local security situations could deteriorate with little notice.*

*Due to the overall security situation in the region, we've raised our level of advice for Jordan to 'Reconsider your need to travel' (level 3 of 4). Retaliatory strikes have been reported in the Middle East region following military strikes on Iran. Prioritise your safety, monitor events and follow local advice. Military conflict in the region may result in widespread movement restrictions, airspace closures, flight cancellations and other travel disruptions. Demonstrations and protest activity may also occur, and local security situations could deteriorate with little notice.*

7. We also recommend increasing travel advisory for **Armenia** from 'Exercise normal safety precautions' (level 1 of 4) to 'Exercise a high degree of caution' (level 2 of 4), given it borders Iran. Other neighbouring countries are already at a higher level, including Türkiye (level 2 overall), Azerbaijan (level 3 overall).

8. We will keep travel advisories for Oman and Saudi Arabia under review. Iran, Iraq, Syria and Yemen are already set to 'Do Not Travel' (level 4 of 4), along with Israel and Lebanon which you agreed to raise to level 4 earlier today. **Palestine** was already at 'Do Not Travel' overall but we will update this advisory to reflect the move to Level 4 for **Jerusalem** (which is also included in our travel advice for Israel) – as an intra-country level change this can be approved by FAS CCD.

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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**Title:** Qatar: Iranian retaliatory response – Sitrep 1  
**MRN:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) 28/02/2026 s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**To:** Canberra  
**Cc:** Africa Posts , Middle East Posts , ASEAN Posts  
**From:** Doha  
Sent by: s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Response:** Routine, Information Only

**Summary:**

At 09:26 on 28 February, Israel and the United States launched pre-emptive strikes on Iran, prompting an immediate Iranian response that included missile fire targeting the US-operated Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar. By 13:30, three rounds of missiles had been reported towards Doha, all of which were intercepted according to local reporting. s 22(1)(a)(ii)

We used social media channels to amplify shelter in place alerts and share updated travel advice. Qatar has temporarily closed its airspace.

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii) **Travel Advice**

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

8. s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
updated to “Do Not Travel.”

Post has recommended Travel Advice be

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**Sent By:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)**Prepared By:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)**Approved By:** HOM (Flanagan)**Topics:** CONSULAR/Consular Contingency Planning , POLITICAL-ECONOMIC  
/International Political , CONSULAR/Crisis Management , POLITICAL-  
ECONOMIC/Civil Aviation

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - this section, together with the following pages (9-12) are irrelevant and have been removed.

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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**Title:** Qatar: Sitrep 2  
**MRN:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) 01/03/2026 s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**To:** Canberra  
**Cc:** Africa Posts , Middle East Posts , ASEAN Posts  
**From:** Doha  
Sent by: s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**References:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Attachments:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Response:** Routine, Information Only

**Summary:**

Iranian missiles continue to be intercepted over Doha, with more than 100 audible blasts in the skies through the day. Missile debris has fallen in populated areas but to date there are no reports of direct strikes. s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii) -

**Travel Advice**

6. Post has amplified the travel advice - which is now at the level of Do Not Travel - across official social media channels and the Facebook group used by the Australian community.

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**Sent By:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Prepared By:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Approved By:** HOM (Flanagan)  
**Topics:** CONSULAR/Consular Contingency Planning , POLITICAL-ECONOMIC /International Political , CONSULAR/Crisis Management , POLITICAL-ECONOMIC/Civil Aviation

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - this section, together with the following pages (15-18) are irrelevant and have been removed.

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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**Title:** Lebanon: Middle East Regional Conflict 2026 - Sitrep 1**MRN:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) 01/03/2026 s 22(1)(a)(ii)**To:** Canberra**Cc:** Middle East Posts**From:** Beirut  
Sent by: s 22(1)(a)(ii)**Response:** Routine, Information Only**Summary:**  
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Post has broadcast the raised travel advice on social media. Lebanese airspace is open and MEA flights are continuing apace, but most other airlines have cancelled their flights.

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**Travel advice level**

8. The overall travel advice for Lebanon was raised to Do Not Travel on 28 February to reflect the deteriorating regional security situation. The updates have been shared to post's social media channels.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**Sent By:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Prepared By:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Approved By:** HOM  
**Topics:** POLITICAL-ECONOMIC/International Political , SECURITY/Threats & Risks , CONSULAR/Crisis Management

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - this section, together with the following pages (21-25) are irrelevant and have been removed.

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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**Title:** Lebanon: Middle East Regional Conflict – SITREP 3  
**MRN:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) 02/03/2026 s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**To:** Canberra  
**Cc:** Middle East Posts  
**From:** Beirut  
Sent by: s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Response:** Routine, Information Only

**Summary:**

In the early hours of 2 March, Hizballah launched a volley of rockets into northern Israel. Israel has responded with heavy strikes in Beirut's southern suburbs, southern Lebanon and the Bekaa Valley. s 22(1)(a)(ii) Airspace remains open and Middle East Airlines continues to fly. Post is closed to the public 2 and 3 March, with most staff working from home. Consular demand is low so far and focused on departures.

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

***Travel advice***

8. Post assesses the current travel advice level for Lebanon remains appropriate. UK government travel advice was raised to 'all but essential' and 'against all travel' (orange and red equivalent) for Lebanon on 1 March.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**Sent By:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Prepared By:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Approved By:** HOM  
**Topics:** POLITICAL-ECONOMIC/International Political , CONSULAR/Crisis Management

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - this section, together with the following pages (29-32) are irrelevant and have been removed.

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**Title:** Lebanon: Middle East Regional Conflict – SITREP 5**MRN:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) 03/03/2026 s 22(1)(a)(ii)**To:** Canberra**Cc:** Middle East Posts**From:** Beirut

Sent by: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**Response:** Routine, Information Only**Summary:**

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Australians to take commercial flights out of Lebanon. s 22(1)(a)(ii) Post is encouraging

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

***Travel advice***

8. Post assesses the current travel advice level for Lebanon remains appropriate.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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**Sent By:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Prepared By:** Beirut Post  
**Approved By:** DHOM  
**Topics:** POLITICAL-ECONOMIC/International Political , CONSULAR/Crisis Management , POLITICAL-ECONOMIC/Domestic Political

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - this section, together with the following pages (35-39) are irrelevant and have been removed.

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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**Title:** **Kuwait:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**MRN:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) 28/02/2026 s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**To:** Canberra  
**Cc:** Middle East Posts  
**From:** Kuwait City  
Sent by: s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Response:** **Routine, Information Only**  
**Summary:**  
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

ost has instructed to Australians in Kuwait to shelter in place via a social media alert, and HOM has recommended Kuwait's travel advisory be raised to Level 4 (DNT).

**Sent By:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Prepared By:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Topics:** CONSULAR/Consular Contingency Planning , CONSULAR/Crisis Management

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - this section, together with the following pages (41-43) are irrelevant and have been removed.

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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**Title:** **Kuwait:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) – **Sitrep 1 - 28 February 2026**  
**MRN:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) 01/03/2026 s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**To:** Canberra  
**Cc:** Middle East Posts  
**From:** Kuwait City  
 Sent by: s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Attachments:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Response:** **Routine, Information Only**

**Summary:**

On 28 February, following Israel and US strikes on Iran, Iran retaliated with missile and drone attacks on Kuwait. s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Kuwait has closed its airspace.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

e have amplified smartraveller messaging and advised Australians to shelter in place. Kuwait's MFA has requested an Australian statement or minister level call in solidarity.

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

10. Post has re-shared subsequent Smartraveller updates across Instagram and Facebook, including the “Do Not Travel” advisory update.

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii) **Travel Advice**

13. s 22(1)(a)(ii) Kuwait's travel advisory has been elevated to "Do Not Travel", which remains appropriate.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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**Sent By:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Prepared By:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Approved By:** HOM s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Topics:** CONSULAR/Consular Contingency Planning , POLITICAL-ECONOMIC /International Political , CONSULAR/Crisis Management , POLITICAL-ECONOMIC/Civil Aviation

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - this section, together with the following pages (48-51) are irrelevant and have been removed.

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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**Title:** **Kuwait: Middle East Regional Conflict 2026 – Sitrep 2 - 01 March 2026****MRN:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) 02/03/2026 s 22(1)(a)(ii)**To:** Canberra**Cc:** Middle East Posts**From:** Kuwait City

Sent by: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**References:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)**Response:** **Routine, Information Only****Summary:**

Kuwait is currently calm. Kuwait Armed Forces announced interception of 97 ballistic missiles and 283 drones overnight. s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Land borders with Saudi Arabia are open, airspace remained closed, and repairs to Kuwait airport have begun. s 22(1)(a)(ii) and post received four consular assistance enquiries.

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii) **Travel Advice**

17. s 22(1)(a)(ii) “Do Not Travel” advice remains appropriate.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**Sent By:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Prepared By:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Approved By:** HOM s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Topics:** CONSULAR/Consular Contingency Planning , POLITICAL-ECONOMIC /International Political , CONSULAR/Crisis Management , POLITICAL-ECONOMIC/Civil Aviation

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - this section, together with the following pages (55-59) are irrelevant and have been removed.

**PROTECTED**

**OFFICIAL:Sensitive**

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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**Title:** **Riyadh Accreditations: Middle East Conflict 2026 - Sitrep 1 - 28  
February 2026 1845hrs**

**MRN:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) 01/03/2026 s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**To:** Canberra

**Cc:** Middle East Posts

**From:** Riyadh  
Sent by: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**References:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**Response:** **Routine, Information Only**

**Summary:**  
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Saudi and Omani airspace and airports remain open. Bahrain's airspace is closed.  
The Houthis announced they were resuming attacks on Israeli and US linked ships in the Red Sea. s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

10. Travel advice has been raised to Do Not Travel. Australians were advised to shelter in place through post's social media accounts prior to the first strike. We have encouraged Australians in Bahrain to follow the advice of local authorities. Bahrain's Ministry of Interior is issuing clear and practical advice in both English and Arabic. Bahrain activated its sirens prior to the strikes.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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**OFFICIAL:Sensitive**

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**Sent By:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Prepared By:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Approved By:** HOM  
**Topics:** POLITICAL-ECONOMIC/International Political , CONSULAR/Crisis Management

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - this section, together with the following pages (63-66) are irrelevant and have been removed.

**OFFICIAL:Sensitive**

**OFFICIAL:Sensitive**

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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**Title:** **Riyadh Accreditations: Middle East Conflict 2026 - Sitrep 2 - 1 March 2026 1400hrs**

**MRN:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) 01/03/2026 s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**To:** Canberra

**Cc:** Middle East Posts

**From:** Riyadh

Sent by: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**References:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**Attachments:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**Response:** **Routine, Information Only**

**Summary:**

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Prince Sultan Air Base outside

Riyadh was hit overnight and injuries were reported. Eyewitnesses continue to report missile interceptions over Riyadh, with more than 20 ballistic missile attacks estimated on or over Saudi Arabia since Saturday. In Bahrain, Iranian drones hit several civilian high-rise towers, including the ENA Tower in downtown Manama. Authorities reported four people had been injured. Duqm Port (in south-east Oman) was targeted by two drones, injuring one person. Air travel is disrupted but Saudi and Omani airspace and airports remain open for international flights, except for brief closures during incoming strikes.

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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**OFFICIAL:Sensitive**

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**Bahrain update**  
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

10. Travel advice remains Do Not Travel. Australians have been advised to shelter in place through post's social media accounts.

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**OFFICIAL:Sensitive**

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**Sent By:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Prepared By:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Topics:** POLITICAL-ECONOMIC/International Political , CONSULAR/Crisis Management

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - this section, together with the following pages (70-73) are irrelevant and have been removed.

**OFFICIAL:Sensitive**

**OFFICIAL:Sensitive**

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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**Title:** **Riyadh Accreditations: Middle East Conflict 2026 - Sitrep 3 - 1 March 2026 2000hrs**

**MRN:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) 02/03/2026 s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**To:** Canberra

**Cc:** Middle East Posts

**From:** Riyadh  
Sent by: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**References:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**Response:** **Routine, Information Only**

**Summary:**  
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Iranian attacks targeted two oil tankers off Oman's north-eastern coast. Bahrain's airspace remains closed, but Saudi and Omani airspace and airports are remained open for international flights, except for brief closures during incoming strikes.

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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**OFFICIAL:Sensitive**

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**Bahrain update**

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**OFFICIAL:Sensitive**

**OFFICIAL:Sensitive**

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

15. Travel advice remains Do Not Travel.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**OFFICIAL:Sensitive**

**OFFICIAL:Sensitive**

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**Sent By:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Prepared By:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Approved By:** HOM  
**Topics:** POLITICAL-ECONOMIC/International Political , CONSULAR/Crisis Management

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - this section, together with the following pages (78-81) are irrelevant and have been removed.

**OFFICIAL:Sensitive**

**OFFICIAL:Sensitive**

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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**Title:** **Riyadh Accreditations: Middle East Conflict 2026 - Sitrep 4 - 2 March 2026 1900hrs**

**MRN:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) 03/03/2026 s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**To:** Canberra

**Cc:** Middle East Posts

**From:** Riyadh  
Sent by: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**References:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**Response:** **Routine, Information Only**

**Summary:**  
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Bahrain's airspace remains closed. Saudi and Omani airports remain open for international flights, except for brief closures during incoming strikes.

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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**OFFICIAL:Sensitive**

**OFFICIAL:Sensitive**

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**Bahrain update**

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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**OFFICIAL:Sensitive**

**OFFICIAL:Sensitive**

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

16. Travel advice remains appropriate at Do Not Travel.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**OFFICIAL:Sensitive**



**OFFICIAL:Sensitive**

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**Sent By:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) -  
**Prepared By:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Approved By:** HOM  
**Topics:** POLITICAL-ECONOMIC/International Political , CONSULAR/Crisis  
Management

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - this section, together with the following pages (87-90) are irrelevant and have been removed.

**OFFICIAL:Sensitive**

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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**From:** Claire Rochecouste  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 3 March 2026 10:29 PM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Cc:** Travel Advice  
**Subject:** RE: For approval: Updates to the Conflict (red banner) page based on ROP message [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Cleared. Thanks <sup>s 22(1)</sup><sub>(a)(ii)</sub> for improving the tone and language.

OFFICIAL

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**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 3, 2026 8:06 PM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; Claire Rochecouste <Claire.Rochecouste@dfat.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Travel Advice <travel.advice@dfat.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: For approval: Updates to the Conflict (red banner) page based on ROP message [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Approved by me, thanks <sup>s 22(1)</sup><sub>(a)(ii)</sub>

Claire – over you **for approval by 10am tomorrow.**

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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Director | Smartraveller Communications Section (CIN)  
 Consular Communications and Policy Branch (CIB) | Consular and Crisis Management Division (CCD)  
 Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
 s 22(1)(a)(ii) | [E Smarttraveller.comms@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Smarttraveller.comms@dfat.gov.au)  
[smartraveller.gov.au](http://smartraveller.gov.au) | [Facebook](#) | [X](#) | [Instagram](#) | [YouTube](#)



*We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia, and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to all First Nations peoples, their cultures and to their Elders, past, present and emerging.*

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**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 3 March 2026 4:51 PM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>  
**Subject:** For approval: Updates to the Conflict (red banner) page based on ROP message [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

Hi **s 22(1)(a)(ii)**

I've made some suggested updates to the 'If you're in the affected area' section based on the latest ROP message. Seeking your clearance before sending to Claire.

 [Content update - Conflict in the Middle East.docx](#)

Cheers

**s 22(1)(a)(ii)**

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Digital Communications Lead | Smartraveller Communications Section (CIN)  
Consular Communications and Policy Branch (CIB) | Consular and Crisis Management Division (CCD)  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

**s 22(1)(a)(ii)** | **E** [Smartraveller.comms@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Smartraveller.comms@dfat.gov.au)

[smartraveller.gov.au](http://smartraveller.gov.au) | [Facebook](#) | [X](#) | [Instagram](#) | [YouTube](#)



*[We acknowledge](#) the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia, and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to all First Nations peoples, their cultures and to their Elders, past, present and emerging.*

OFFICIAL

## Smartraveller communications

Subject:	Article: Conflict in the Middle East
Date:	4/3/2026

On this page:

- [Latest update](#)
- [If you're in the affected area](#)
- Government services for Australians in the Middle East
- [Transiting the Middle East](#)

### Latest update

The regional conflict is likely to continue and could escalate. Do not travel to, or transit through, the following locations:

- Bahrain
- Iran
- Iraq
- Israel
- Kuwait
- Lebanon
- Palestine
- Qatar
- Syria
- United Arab Emirates (UAE)
- Yemen

If you are in the region and want to leave, do not wait until it's too late. If you can secure a flight out and it's safe to travel to the airport, leave now while commercial flights are available.

Australian citizens, permanent residents and their immediate family members can [register with DFAT](#) if they are in:

- [Bahrain](#)
- [Iran](#)
- [Israel](#)
- [Kuwait](#)
- [Lebanon](#)
- [Qatar](#)
- the [UAE](#).

We send updates directly to registered Australians. Keep your registration up to date so we can contact you.

If you need emergency consular assistance:

- +61 2 6261 3305 (from overseas)
- 1300 555 135 (within Australia).

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## OFFICIAL

Terrorist attacks can happen at any time or place. Maintain a high level of security awareness. Avoid places that attract foreigners, tourists or crowds. If there's a security incident, follow the advice of local authorities. Read our advice about terrorism.

The safety of Australians overseas is our priority, including our diplomatic staff. Australian embassies and consulates in the UAE, Israel and Qatar are closed. Do not go to closed mission. Non-essential Australian officials have also been directed to leave:

- Israel
- Lebanon
- Qatar
- the UAE

A small number of Australian officials remain in these places to provide essential consular services. All dependants of Australian officials have left the Middle East. Read our [travel advisories](#) for more details.

## If you're in the affected areas

- Make plans to leave if safe to do so. Stay informed about the status of land, sea and air border crossings.
- Stay indoors in a safe place and limit your movements. If you must go out, take heightened personal security measures. Be aware of your surroundings.
- Attacks have targeted airports, hotels, roads, bridges and other civilian infrastructure.
- There is growing concern about the increased risk of attacks on Israeli, Jewish and US interests.
- Avoid:
  - Israeli and US diplomatic missions and locations associated with Israeli, Jewish and US interests
  - government buildings
  - military sites
  - energy infrastructure, including oil production facilities
  - other foreign diplomatic missions and foreign interests.
- Follow the instructions of local authorities and monitor local warning systems. If warned of an imminent attack, move to a shelter, ideally underground or close to ground level. If that isn't possible, seek an inner room without windows.
- Keep in contact with your family and friends. Let them know you're safe.
- Stay updated. Follow local and international media. Subscribe to Smartraveller and follow us on social media @smartraveller. Also follow the [social media of the nearest Australian embassy or consulate](#).

Be aware that local infrastructure, including airports, phone and internet access, may be disrupted.

Read our advice about [what to do when there is armed conflict](#).

## Government services for Australians in the Middle East

### Online passport applications

Online passport applications are temporarily open for Australians in:

- Israel
- Iraq
- Kuwait

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- Lebanon
- Qatar
- UAE

You can apply online if:

- you've held a 10-year Australian passport issued after 1 January 2006, or
- you're applying for a child passport.

Go to [passports.gov.au](https://passports.gov.au) to apply.

DFAT will contact you to arrange delivery or pick-up of your passport.

## Returning pets to Australia

Australia's import rules for cats and dogs from Middle Eastern countries have not changed.

Cats and dogs must:

- arrive in Australia with a valid biosecurity import permit
- meet all import requirements.

If you need advice about bringing your pet to Australia, contact the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF):

- +61 3 8318 6700 from overseas
- 1800 900 090 in Australia
- [imports@aff.gov.au](mailto:imports@aff.gov.au).

For more information:

- read our [advice about travelling with pets](#)
- [learn more from DAFF](#).

## Centrelink payments

If you get a Centrelink payment and can't return to Australia as planned, you may be eligible for an extension to your payment.

To discuss your circumstances and request an extension, [contact Services Australia](#).

Visit Service Australia for [more information about getting payments overseas](#).

## Visas

For [information about Australian visas](#), visit the Department of Home Affairs.

## Transiting the Middle East

Advice to 'do not travel' also includes applies to transit and layovers in affected locations. Even if you don't plan to leave the airport, do not transit through these countries.

Airports, hotels, roads, bridges and other infrastructure in the region have been struck with missiles.

Airspace may close at short notice. Flights can change or stop at short suddenly. Borders can close.

If you transit through a 'Do not travel' location you may be unable to leave. Your safety will be at risk.

Read our advice about the [global travel impacts of conflict in the Middle East](#).

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**From:** Claire Rochecouste  
**Sent:** Sunday, 1 March 2026 4:21 PM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Cc:** Travel Advice  
**Subject:** RE: YELLOW crisis banner - 1 March 2026 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Thanks <sup>s 22(1)(a)</sup><sub>(ii)</sub> these look good.

A few edits at 'travel impacts'.

Please make yellow banner title 'Global travel impacts of conflict in the Middle East'

Cleared to go up!

**Claire Rochecouste** (she/her)  
 Assistant Secretary  
 Consular Communications and Policy Branch | Consular and Crisis Management Division  
 s 22(1)(a)(ii)


OFFICIAL

**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 1, 2026 3:50 PM  
**To:** Claire Rochecouste <Claire.Rochecouste@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>  
**Cc:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: YELLOW crisis banner - 1 March 2026 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi Claire,

I have split the current article into two separate pages:

- s 22(1)(a)(ii)
- For the **yellow** banner:  [Content update - Travel impacts of conflict in the middle east.docx](#)

For your review/approval.

Cheers

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Digital Communications Lead | Smartraveller Communications Section (CIN)  
 Consular Communications and Policy Branch (CIB) | Consular and Crisis Management Division (CCD)  
 Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

s 22(1)(a)(ii) | [E Smarttraveller.comms@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Smarttraveller.comms@dfat.gov.au)

[smartraveller.gov.au](http://smartraveller.gov.au) | [Facebook](#) | [X](#) | [Instagram](#) | [YouTube](#)



*We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia, and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to all First Nations peoples, their cultures and to their Elders, past, present and emerging.*

**From:** Claire Rochecouste <Claire.Rochecouste@dfat.gov.au>

**Sent:** Sunday, 1 March 2026 2:45 PM

**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au

**Cc:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au

**Subject:** RE: YELLOW crisis banner - 1 March 2026 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

As agreed, let's:

Expand Red banner to also refer to ROP and add ROP links to Middle East conflicts page

Add yellow! banner beneath it linking to new Global travel disruptions article/page s 47E(d)

Lebanon on homepage swaps to Israel for today.

Socials

Agree we should stick to yellow ! for this. Edit on s 22(1)(a)(ii) version:

//

Military conflict in the Middle East has caused widespread airspace closures, flight cancellations and other travel disruptions both in the region and globally.

Your travel plans may be impacted, even if your destination is not in the Middle East. Flights can change at short notice. Contact your travel agent or airline to confirm your plans. Review your travel insurance to understand what is covered in the event of cancellations.

There are heightened security risks in the Middle East. Prioritise your safety, monitor events and follow local advice, including instructions to shelter in place.

//

Cleared as above.

**Claire Rochecouste** (she/her)

Assistant Secretary

Consular Communications and Policy Branch | Consular and Crisis Management Division

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL

s 22(1)(a)(ii)





OFFICIAL

## Smartraveller communications

Subject:	Article: Global travel impacts of conflict in the Middle East
Date:	1/3/2026

New yellow banner text:

**GLOBAL ALERT** Travel and security impacts of conflict in the Middle East

Military conflict in the Middle East has caused widespread airspace closures, flight cancellations and other travel disruptions both in the region and globally.

Your travel plans may be affected even if your destination is not in the Middle East.

### Transiting the Middle East

'Do not travel' advice also applies to transit and layovers in affected locations. Even if you don't plan to leave the airport, do not transit through these countries.

The regional conflict is likely to continue and could escalate.

Airports, hotels, roads, bridges and other locations have been struck with missiles.

Airspace may close at short notice. Flights can change or stop suddenly. Borders can close.

If you travel to or transit through a 'Do not travel' country, you may be unable to leave. Your safety will be at risk.

### What you should do

Read the [travel advice for your destination and all transit points](#), and [subscribe for free updates](#).

If your trip includes a transit or stop in a 'Do not travel' country, contact your travel agent or airline about alternative routes, re-booking or refunds. Do not cancel your flights until you get professional advice.

Check your travel insurance policy for coverage of flight delays, cancellations and changes to travel advice levels.

If your trip does **not** include a 'Do not travel' country, still confirm your flights with your travel agent or airline 48 hours before you travel. Monitor your flight for updates until you leave for the airport.

Airline and insurance call centres are currently under pressure. You may experience long wait times.

Global safety and security

Conflict in the Middle East could impact safety and security elsewhere. There is a heightened risk of reprisal attacks and further escalation. [Protests and civil unrest](#) may happen globally. The risk of [terrorist attacks](#) can increase, particularly around:

- places of worship
- shopping malls and markets
- public transport and transportation hubs
- bars, nightclubs, cafes and restaurants
- hotels and residential compounds
- embassies
- government facilities, police stations and locations of security forces
- festivals and concerts

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## OFFICIAL

- stadiums and sporting venues.

There is growing concern about increased risk of attacks on Israeli, Jewish and US interests globally. Avoid Israeli and U.S diplomatic missions and locations associated with Israeli, Jewish and US interests

## While you're travelling

- Prioritise your safety, take official warnings seriously and follow the advice of local authorities.
- Monitor local and international news and be aware of current affairs where you're going.
- Be alert to possible threats, especially in public places or mass gatherings.
- Avoid locations that could be at higher risk of terrorist attacks.
- Report anything suspicious to the police.
- Keep in touch with your travel agent, airline and travel insurance policy provider in the event of flight delays, cancellations, or increased travel advice levels.

## Do Not Travel locations:

In the Middle East region, the Australian Government advises Do Not Travel to:

- Bahrain
- Iran
- Iraq
- Israel
- Kuwait
- Lebanon
- Palestine
- Qatar
- Syria
- United Arab Emirates
- Yemen

Australian embassies and consulates in Israel and the UAE remain closed. Non-essential Australian officials have been directed to leave:

- Israel
- Lebanon
- the UAE

A small number of Australian officials remain in these locations to provide essential consular services. All dependants of Australian officials have left the Middle East.

## Read more

Read our advice about:

- [conflict](#)
- [terrorism](#)
- [kidnapping](#)
- [protests and civil unrest](#).