

## (July 18, 2006) For Current Information on the Situation in Lebanon

### Current Information on Situation in Lebanon

Washington, D.C. - On July 12th, the militant group Hezbollah, which operates in southern Lebanon, kidnapped two Israeli soldiers. In an attempt to pressure Hezbollah into releasing the kidnapped soldiers, Israel has launched several air strikes into Lebanon. As this situation continues to escalate, the U.S. State Department is working to evacuate Americans from Lebanon.

The U.S. Embassy encourages Americans in Lebanon or with loved ones in Lebanon who have not yet registered to phone the Department of State at 202-501-4444 from overseas, or at 1-888-407-4747 if calling from the U.S. and Canada. Those who wish to leave should ready themselves immediately. They should prepare important travel documents such as a valid U.S. passport, birth certificates, and other civil documents such as marriage. Each traveler will each be allowed one suitcase only-not to exceed 15 kilos (30 pounds). Pets will not be allowed to travel. In order to ensure a safe and orderly departure, the U.S. Embassy is asking Americans not to move until they are contacted by Embassy personnel or by an American Embassy warden. All Americans who wish to travel will be transported, although not everyone will travel at the same time.

You may also wish to visit the U.S. Embassy's website at <http://lebanon.usembassy.gov/> and the Department of State's website at <http://www.lipinski.house.gov/administrator/www.state.gov> to get the latest updates on the situation.

For Q&A's on evacuation of American citizens from Lebanon.