

Israel-Hamas Conflict – Global Immigration Updates

2024-18, 14 March 2024

Due to the unfolding crisis in the Israel-Gaza region, we have been monitoring the key developments related to Israel and countries around the globe in this regard. Please find the most essential updates on Israel-Hamas conflict.

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Country list

ASPAC		AMERICAS		EUROPE		MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA	
Australia	Mongolia	Argentina	El Salvador	Austria	Malta	Bahrain	Israel
China	Philippines	Brazil	Guatemala	Belgium	Netherlands	Kenya	UAE
Fiji	Singapore	Canada	Mexico	Bulgaria	Norway	Turkey	
Hong Kong	South Korea	Chile	US	Czech Republic	Poland		
Japan	Vietnam	Colombia	Uruguay	Croatia	Romania		
Kazakhstan		Dominican Republic		Denmark	Slovakia		
				Finland	Spain		
				Georgia	Serbia		
				Greece	Sweden		
				Ireland	Ukraine		
				Luxembourg			

Israel updates

Cross-border

- The prevailing risk of escalation within the region and beyond, with spill-over effects globally, are to be followed closely, as these may have immediate impacts on mobile employees and business operations broadly. **For timely analysis and more information on the Middle East related geopolitical developments, KPMG global alliance partners with Eurasia Group publish at [Eurasia Group | Home](#)**

Travel

- Several airlines have resumed operations to and from Israel or have announced the plan to reinstate flights to Tel Aviv in early 2024. Availability of flights should be checked on specific airline basis and delays and cancellation of flights should be expected.
- The Rafah border (from Gaza strip to Egypt) crossing has been the subject of a security alert. The state of the situation at the Rafah crossing is expected to remain unpredictable and fluid.
- Israel is controlling borders tightly. Security related closures can severely affect checkpoint crossings and entry and exit to country. Large crowds increasing risk of personal safety may gather due to unannounced border closures, limited hours of operations and other restrictions.

Israel passport holders

- The PIBA announced the extension of the period during which it is possible to leave and enter the borders of Israel with a foreign passport, until December 31, 2024. ([Link](#))
- The biometrics law has been amended mandating the storage of fingerprints in the biometric database for all identity card and passport applications. In 2024, all residents who apply for these documents will have their fingerprints collected and stored in the database without their consent. Additionally, during this period, individuals will not be able to request deletion of their fingerprints from the database. ([Link](#))
- On December 18, 2023, the PIBA published an updated list of frequently asked questions and answers regarding passports, identity cards, and registrations. The list covers topics such as the status of bureaus, the issuance of temporary passports, and others. ([Link](#)) ([Link](#))
- The US Embassy has resumed non-immigrant and immigrant visa services in Israel. The interview waiver program has been extended for certain eligible non-immigrant applicants for visa renewal applications, if those are applied within 48 months of the initial visa's expiration date. Applicants may be eligible for the waiver if they apply in Israel, have no prior visa refusals, and show no apparent or potential ineligibility. However, it is at authority discretion to require in-person interviews.

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- The bill submitted by the Minister of the Interior that allows issuance of 17 ID cards and passports via online, without the need to visit bureaus, was approved. It proposes that an adult with a biometric identification document that has expired in the last six months or will expire in the coming year can apply online and receive new document valid for up to five years. It suggests that the process of submitting online applications will be regulated as a one-time order for six months and will be possibly extended for additional six months. ([Link](#))

Mobility considerations

- Israel citizens are visa free to Schengen area, i.e., they can stay for a duration of maximum 90 days in any 180-day period. The right to work remotely during the visa free stay should be assessed per country.
- There are various opportunities for work and residence permits for Israeli and other foreign nationals currently residing in Israel and seeking to leave a country. If a company considers offering an employment or assignment abroad, we recommend a case-by-case analysis per country to determine the suitable type of permit/visa. If the intention is to assess opportunities to work for a longer period remotely outside of Israel with a specific remote work visa, please refer to [KPMG's Digital Nomad and Remote work visa options map](#) and KPMG for further assessment.
- KPMG advises Israeli and other foreign nationals residing in Israel to keep important documents such as passports and marriage and birth certificates up to date and available as original versions. Notarized or legalized copies of marriage and birth certificates are recommended to be made available as well, if there is an intention to enable quick document collection for any work arrangements abroad with accompanying family.
- KPMG strongly advises foreign employees considering to return to Israel to complete an assessment of the current immigration status to confirm any required actions before the return.

Foreign workers, visa holders and employers

- Work permit applications currently in process may be delayed due to staff shortages within the immigration authorities in Israel and/or at Israeli Consulates internationally.
- The PIBA extended the validity period for other than foreign worker visas until February 8, 2024. There has been no further notice of automatic extension, and therefore, visa extensions may need to be carried out as per the usual process.
- Israel's Ministry of the Interior may grant a "Special Waiver" for consular processing to foreign nationals whose B-1 Expert work visa expires during the conflict while they are out of Israel. Additionally, the waiver may be applicable for new cases in case the international consulate is non-operational. Applicants must demonstrate that they have been in Israel with a B-1 visa and left due to the conflict or that the international consulate is non-operational due to the conflict.

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- Israel has resumed accepting a “US Tourist Approval” applications (via the Al-Munassiq app or as part of 3-month B-2 visa application at Allenby Bridge border crossing) for dual nationals holding US and Palestinian citizenship. Dual nationals may apply for a B-2 visa in Israel and travel between Israel and the West Bank.
- The PIBA has extended the work permits for all foreign employees working in domestic nursing and agriculture industries whose permits have expired or will expire between October 7, 2023, and January 7, 2024. The extension is granted for three months from the date of expiration. ([Link](#))
- The PIBA has announced an automatic three-month extension of work licenses and permits for all foreign workers in the hotel industry whose licenses expire on December 31, 2023, without the need for renewal applications or additional fees. This extension is valid until March 31, 2024. ([Link](#))
- The PIBA has announced that there will be no enforcement
 - in hotels in relation to the employment of illegal foreign workers in Israel until February 29, 2024. ([Link](#))
 - in geriatric institutions in relation to the employment of illegal residents in Israel until March 31, 2024. ([Link](#))
 - for foreign nursing workers in relation to illegal stay until April 30, 2024. ([Link](#))
- License extensions for asylum seekers and Sudanese/Eritrean individuals whose licenses expired since January 1, 2023, will be automatically extended without the need for their presence. This extension will not apply to political asylum seekers. ([Link](#))
- The Israeli government has announced that the procedure for setting conditions related to geographic boundaries and managing asylum seekers and infiltrators' licenses will not be implemented until June 30, 2024. ([Link](#))
- In light of the security situation, a reminder is being issued to all foreign workers residing in Israel that the call center of the Population and Immigration Authority, managed by the CIMI association, is available to provide assistance and address any inquiries or requests for support. ([Link](#))

Administrative closures

- The Ministry of Interior's regional offices have limited operations and intermitted closures should be expected.
- Operating hours of the PIBA offices may change. Announcements should be reviewed regularly from [here](#).
- The PIBA announced that its Enforcement and Foreigners Administration Offices in Eilat and Bnei Brak will resume regular operations from January 14, 2024. ([Link](#)) ([Link](#))

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ASPAC

Australia

- **TRAVEL ADVISORY:** The Australian government raised the Travel Advisory Level for Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories to Level 3 – Reconsider need to travel on October 14, 2023. ([Link](#))
- **REPATRIATION FLIGHTS:** The Australian government has implemented a plan to ensure the safe departure of its citizens from Israel. The government has organized special charter flights and has successfully evacuated 255 Australians on October 15, 2023, despite the cancellation of two previous flights on Saturday due to security concerns. ([Link](#))

China

- **TRAVEL ADVISORY:**
 - The Foreign Ministry of Affairs has issued safety alerts and advised Chinese citizens not to travel to Israel or Palestine considering ongoing crisis. Chinese nationals and institutions are reminded to stay on high alert, take extra safety precautions, prepare for contingencies, and be ready to find safe shelters. ([Link](#))
 - Chinese Embassy in Israel subsequently noticed via official website that Chinese nationals are suggested to utilize commercial flights to return to China or depart from Israel as soon as possible while still in operation to avoid risks and ensure safety. ([Link](#))

Fiji

- **REPATRIATION FLIGHTS:** On October 12, 2023, Fiji Airways chartered a repatriation flight from Tel Aviv in Israel to Nadi, Fiji. The flight brought back citizens from Fiji, Australia, New Zealand, the United States, Canada and the Philippines. ([Link](#))

Hong Kong

- **AIR TRAVEL:** February 29, 2024: In view of the uncertainty related to the ongoing situation in Israel, all Cathay Pacific flights to and from Tel Aviv from today up to and including 24 October 2024 will be cancelled. ([Link](#))
- **TRAVEL ADVISORY:** Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government has raised the Outbound Travel Alert (OTA) for Israel to red. The government advises residents to reconsider non-essential travel to Israel and to exercise caution, especially those already in the country. Residents are advised to avoid traveling to Gaza and nearby areas, as well as areas along the border with Syria and Lebanon, due to the volatile security situation. ([Link](#)) ([Link](#))

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Japan

— EVACUATION:

- October 20, 2023: Japan Self-Defense Force (SDF) aircraft evacuated 83 citizens, including 60 Japanese nationals, 18 South Koreans, and others. ([Link](#))
- November 2, 2023: SDF aircraft evacuated 46 people from Israel, including 20 Japanese citizens. ([Link](#))

— TRAVEL ADVISORY:

- Level 4 (immediate evacuation) in Gaza Strip and around as well as the Lebanon-Israel border zone.
- Level 3 (reconsider travel) in the West Bank excluding Jericho, Bethlehem, Ramallah, the main roads connecting these three cities and Jerusalem, and National Highways 1 and 90 within the West Bank.
- Level 2 (refrain nonessential and non-urgent travel) in the rest of regions.

Kazakhstan

- **REPATRIATION FLIGHTS:** Air Astana operated a repatriation flight carrying 124 Kazakh nationals and 42 foreigners to Kazakhstan from Tel Aviv on October 10. According to Air Astana, passengers with air tickets for any dates were allowed on this flight. ([Link](#)) ([Link](#))

Mongolia

- **EVACUATION:** The Mongolian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in collaboration with its embassies in Ankara and Abu Dhabi, evacuated nine of its citizens who requested to return from Israel. ([Link](#)) ([Link](#))

Philippines

— EVACUATION:

- Alert level-4 signifies the mandatory evacuation of Filipinos from the areas. The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) reports that there are over 30,000 Filipinos residing and working in Israel. ([Link](#))

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- The government is closely coordinating with the Philippine Embassy in Tel Aviv and the Migrant Workers Office (MWO) in Israel to ensure their safety and welfare. Meanwhile, the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) has opened a hotline, as well as several mobile numbers, to accept calls and queries from OFWs and the Filipino community who are in need of government assistance. ([Link](#))
- The government is considering elevating the alert level in northern Israel by next week if the situation continues to worsen. President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has conveyed that the Israeli government has assured that Filipinos in Gaza will be permitted to depart immediately. The Philippine Embassy in Cairo is also on standby to facilitate the Filipinos' passage through the Rafah border. ([Link](#))

Singapore

- **TRAVEL ADVISORY:** Singaporeans currently travelling to or residing in Israel should leave immediately using any available commercial transportation options. This recommendation is issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) in response to the ongoing conflict in the region. ([Link](#))
- **EVACUATION:** Five Singaporeans were evacuated from Tel Aviv to Seoul on a South Korean military plane, organized by the South Korean government. The Singaporean embassies in Tel Aviv and Seoul worked with their host governments to ensure their safe return. The Singapore Government thanked South Korea for their assistance. The Republic of Korea Air Force used a KC-330 aircraft for the evacuation. ([Link](#))

South Korea

- **TRAVEL ADVISORY:** The South Korean government advises its citizens to leave Israel and refrain from entering the country again. The travel warning for the Gaza Strip remains at Level 4. Other areas are upgraded to Level 3. ([Link](#)) ([Link](#))
- **REPATRIATION FLIGHTS:** South Korea's Air Force KC-330 Cygnus multi-role tanker aircraft evacuated 220 passengers including 51 Japanese, six Singaporean nationals, and 163 South Korean nationals of which 82 were short-term travelers and 81 were long-term sojourners. ([Link](#))

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Vietnam

— TRAVEL ADVISORY:

- Vietnamese citizens in Israel are advised to prepare for evacuation or return to Vietnam due to the conflict in the Middle East. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs urges citizens to avoid non-essential travel to Israel and to follow local authorities' news and warnings.
- Vietnamese citizens currently in Israel are safe, but the situation is complicated, and the government is prepared to provide protection measures if needed. Citizens can register their personal information and evacuation preferences on the embassy's website, and those in need of assistance can contact the embassy or the Consular Department's hotline. ([Link](#))
- Confirmed email of the citizen protection hotline of the Consular Department: baohocongdan@gmail.com. ([Link](#))
- **EVACUATION:** Japanese military aircraft evacuated four Vietnamese citizens from Israel as the conflict between Hamas and Israel continues. The aircraft, carrying 20 Japanese, 15 South Koreans, four Vietnamese, and one Taiwanese, landed in Japan. ([Link](#)) ([Link](#)) ([Link](#))

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AMERICAS

Argentina

- **REPATRIATION FLIGHTS:** Argentina is initiating an airlift to transport its citizens from Israel, with a focus on the initial leg of the journey from Tel Aviv to Rome. ([Link](#))
- **EVACUATION:** Argentina evacuated more than 1,400 citizens from Israel. Three Air Force flights transported 210 Argentines to Rome, then to Buenos Aires. The temporary shelter in Rome is managed by the Foreign Ministry, which establishes flight priorities. ([Link](#))

Brazil

- **AIR TRAVEL:** It is recommended by the Embassy that all nationals who have airline tickets, or who can purchase them, board available commercial flights from Ben-Gurion airport, which continues to operate. Brazilian nationals who already have airline tickets should, therefore, always prioritize immediate boarding on commercial flights for which they have tickets. ([Link](#))
- **TRAVEL ADVISORY:** The Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs is advising Brazilian citizens living and traveling in Israel and Palestine to follow the guidelines of local authorities and remain close to safety shelters. The ministry also urges citizens to contact the Brazilian embassy in Tel Aviv and the representative office in Ramallah for assistance. The embassy's general consular services remain operational, and citizens can use a provided form to facilitate contact and help identify those in need of assistance. ([Link](#))
- **REPATRIATION FLIGHTS:** The Brazilian government is repatriating nationals from Israel and Palestine due to the security situation. Brazilian Air Force aircrafts are used for the repatriation flights and are primarily for Brazilians living in Brazil who do not have confirmed tickets with commercial airlines. Since the start of the conflict between Israel and Hamas, on October 7, 2023, Brazil has carried out another 9 repatriation flights for Brazilians who were in Israel. In total, 1,432 Brazilians and 53 pets were brought to Brazil. ([Link](#))

Canada

- **TRAVEL ADVISORY:** Canadian Government has announced to avoid non-essential travel to Israel, the West Bank and Gaza Strip due to the ongoing regional armed conflict and the unpredictable security situation. Commercial availability remains limited out of Ben Gurion Airport. ([Link](#))
- **AIR TRAVEL:** Israeli citizens are required to obtain an Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA) before traveling to Canada. Currently, there is no delay in processing eTAs for Israeli nationals. ([Link](#))

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– EVACUATION:

- Canadian citizens are being evacuated back to Canada with special military flights operating from Tel Aviv to Athens and then connected to Air Canada flights for travelling from Athens to Canada and the government is still working on the evacuations of Canadian citizens and assessing demand for continued military evacuations. ([Link](#))
- Canada continues to plan assisted departure for Canadian citizens, Permanent Residents and eligible family members to safe third locations, when conditions allow. Those seeking to exit Gaza must contact Global Affairs Canada as soon as possible. ([Link](#))

– PASSPORT/ VISA HOLDERS:

- The Canadian government announced special measures for extended family members in Gaza. These temporary measures will end when 1,000 complete temporary resident visa (TRV) applications have been received and have been accepted for processing or 1 year after these measures come into effect, whichever comes first. ([Link](#))
- Israeli and Palestine passport holders currently residing in Canada with valid temporary resident status can now apply for fee-exempt study or open work permits that are valid for up to three years. This applies to immediate family members, including spouses, common-law partners, dependent children, and dependent grandchildren, of Canadian citizens or permanent residents who left Israel or the Palestine on or after October 7, 2023, and are also in Canada with valid temporary resident status. The deadline to submit these applications is June 12, 2024. ([Link](#)) ([Link](#))

Chile

– TRAVEL ADVISORY:

- Chilean residents and visitors are advised to stay close to a shelter and follow the instructions of the Israeli authorities. The Home Front Command recommends that people remain in their places of residence or temporary accommodation and identify nearby shelters. In the event of sirens, individuals should heed the instructions to go to the nearest mamad (bunker) for safety. ([Link](#))
- Together with the prior information, the main suggestion the authorities are making to fellow Chileans and foreigners' residents of Chile on Israel, is to not only follow the instructions of local authorities but to also to consider leaving the territory, to the extent possible, and as soon as the opportunity presents itself. This official recommendation is also extended to those in Lebanon and Palestine. ([Link](#))
- **CROSS-BORDER UPDATES:** The Consulate of Chile has provided the updates and links. Regarding the status of the border crossing or airport, it is recommended to check the status, as updated by the by Israeli authorities, before traveling. ([Link](#))

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- **REPATRIATION FLIGHTS:** The Chilean Air Force (FACH) Boeing 737-300 plane, sent to evacuate citizens from the conflict zone in Israel has completed its fourth flight on October 12, 2023. According to the Foreign Affairs Ministry, a total of 279 people, including both Chileans and foreigners, were evacuated to Athens and Madrid. President Gabriel Boric has ordered the flights to continue until all Chilean citizens in the area are safe. ([Link](#))
- **ADMINISTRATIVE CLOSURES:** The consular services of Israel's Embassy on Chile remain suspended until further notice, while the Chilean Embassy remains working on Israel's territory. ([Link](#))
- **OTHER GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE:**
 - The Consulate of Chile has provided the following updates:
 - Guide to action for emergencies
 - Guide to municipal shelters, in case of not having shelter in the building
 - In Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, the official list of shelters is available on the municipality websites. ([Link](#))
 - The Chilean embassy can be reached and contacted, if necessary ([Link](#))
 - As the conflict changes and the territories involved shift and expand, the Embassy of Chile on Lebanon has started to apply a registry of Chileans, both residents and visitors, to have identified those within the region and to contact them for safety check-ups. ([Link](#))

Colombia

- **OTHER GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE:**
 - The Colombian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has assisted nearly 200 Colombians in rescheduling their flights back to Colombia. The Ministry is also in contact with a group of 67 pilgrims in Tiberias. Additionally, the Comprehensive Citizen Service Center (CIAC) has its service channels enabled 24/7 for assistance. ([Link](#))
- **TRAVEL ADVISORY:** Travel recommendations made by the Embassy of Colombia in Tel Aviv are:
 - Avoid crowded areas, including religious sites, due to potential security threats
 - Be vigilant when using public transportation or in high traffic areas
 - Treat all alerts from local authorities as real and seek shelter immediately
 - Contact the relevant local authorities' emergency telephone lines in case of an emergency ([Link](#))

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- **REPATRIATION FLIGHTS:** A Colombian military plane carried 81 evacuees, including 72 Colombians, seven Peruvians, one Mexican, and one Dominican, landed at Catam Air Base on October 28. ([Link](#))
- **PASSPORT/ VISA HOLDERS:** Israelis in Colombia are still unrestricted nationality and can apply for the same visas as always. Additionally, they can also apply for refugee status by fulfilling the requirements for it.
- **EVACUATION:** Colombia's government announced that its air force had evacuated 110 Colombian nationals from Tel Aviv amid the Israel-Hamas conflict. ([Link](#))

Dominican Republic

- **EVACUATION:** The Dominican Republic evacuated the last 10 Dominican citizens from Israel due to the ongoing conflict on October 19, 2023. ([Link](#))

El Salvador

- **EVACUATION:** The government evacuated its 20 citizens from Israel. The government provided support, including air tickets, ground transportation, food, lodging, and medicine. In total, 62 Salvadorans were assisted, with 56 returning to El Salvador, 6 to the United States or Canada, and 26 receiving air tickets and other necessities. ([Link](#))

Guatemala

- **EVACUATION:** The Guatemalan government coordinated with governments of countries including Canada, Taiwan, Ecuador and Cyprus to repatriate its citizens from Israel. The Guatemala embassy in Israel confirmed that all citizens who requested support to leave that country, have been successfully evacuated. ([Link](#)) ([Link](#)) ([Link](#)) ([Link](#))

Mexico

- **REPATRIATION FLIGHTS:** The Mexican army is carrying out humanitarian flights aimed at bringing home nationals from Israel amid the attack on the country by Hamas. ([Link](#))
- **TRAVEL ADVISORY:** The Mexican government is urging its citizens to exercise caution and refrain from unnecessary travel to the region. Assistance is being provided to Mexicans in Israel and Palestine who may require support during these times. ([Link](#))

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United States

- **ISRAELI VISA / PASSPORT HOLDERS:** Effective immediately, Israeli nationals may apply for visa-free business or tourism travel to the United States under the Visa Waiver Program (VWP). The administration had previously announced that VWP travel for Israeli nationals would take effect by November 30, 2023. Under the US VWP, eligible individuals of selected countries can apply for travel authorization to the United States through ESTA, an online portal. ([Link](#))
- **AIR TRAVEL:** The commercial flight availability from Ben Gurion Airport is severely limited. However, some US citizens have been able to leave Israel and reach Jordan via the border crossings, such as Allenby Bridge. ([Link](#))
- **TRAVEL ADVISORY:** The US Department of State has issued a recommendation to travelers to reconsider their plans for travel to Israel and the West Bank. They have also advised against travel to the Gaza Strip. ([Link](#))
- **EVACUATION:** The US government, encourages US citizens to reach out to the US Embassy in Jerusalem or the branch office in Tel Aviv, should they need assistance departing Israel. ([Link](#))

Note: Israel citizens are visa free to Schengen area, i.e., they can stay for a duration of maximum 90 days in any 180-day period. The right to work remotely during the stay should be assessed on country basis.

Uruguay

- **EVACUATION:** On October 17, Uruguayan Air Force C-130 Hercules evacuated 72 people from Israel to Madrid, including 25 children. In addition to 52 Uruguayans, there were 23 individuals from Spain, Peru, and Argentina. ([Link](#))

EUROPE

Austria

- **TRAVEL ADVISORY:** The Austrian Embassy has issued a partial travel warning in areas near the Gaza Strip and the Lebanon and Syria borders and advised that Israel has declared a state of war. The embassy advised to follow Israeli authorities' instructions, stay in protected areas, and register with BMEIA for updates ([Link](#)). Travel within Israel is difficult and should be avoided, and Ben Gurion Airport is open, but most airlines have suspended regular flights. The areas around the Gaza Strip and along the border with Lebanon are to be considered a restricted military area. ([Link](#))
- **REPATRIATION FLIGHTS:**
 - On October 13, 2023, an evacuation flight organized by Austria's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and operated by Austrian Airlines landed safely at Vienna International Airport with 162 passengers, including 81 Austrian citizens and their non-Austrian family members, as well as citizens from 14 other countries, including infants, from Tel Aviv. ([Link](#))
 - Austria's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, along with the Austrian Embassy in Tel Aviv, successfully evacuated the 83 Austrian citizens and 15 other nationals from Israel, Germany, Spain, Hungary, the United States, and the Netherlands to Larnaca, Cyprus, via an aircraft on October 11, 2023. ([Link](#))

Belgium

- **TRAVEL ADVISORY:** All non-essential travel to the Israel is strongly discouraged. Travelers are advised to respect local authorities' recommendations, monitor media developments, and exercise patience and caution. Those currently in Israel, Jerusalem, or the Palestinian Territory should register with Travelers Online and be prepared for possible flight cancellations. Travelers with Palestinian passports or origin may face significant travel restrictions and should check entry requirements with the Israeli Embassy before traveling. ([Link](#))
- **PASSPORT/ VISA HOLDERS:** Belgian citizens with other valid passports (such as Israeli, US, Brazilian) can travel to Belgium using their foreign passport and apply for a Belgian passport at the municipality or Brussels once they arrive. Belgian citizens without other citizenship are advised to check the validity of their travel documents and apply for a new passport if necessary. ([Link](#))
- **REPATRIATION FLIGHTS:** The first group of Belgian nationals stranded in Israel/Palestine have returned home, with a Belgian Defense Airbus A400M aircraft (flight BAF643) landing at the military airport in Brussels. The plane carried 92 Belgians and 13 other European passengers. ([Link](#))

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Bulgaria

- **AIR TRAVEL:** Bulgaria Air has temporarily suspended its flights between Sofia and Tel Aviv. Each flight to the country must undergo a preliminary assessment and obtain insurance coverage, which has proven impossible to obtain. ([Link](#))
- **TRAVEL ADVISORY:** The Bulgarian government has issued a level 4 warning, i.e., 'Termination warning throughout the country (except in case of extreme necessity)'. ([Link](#))
- **EVACUATION:** The Bulgarian Foreign Ministry evacuated 57 Bulgarians in a private flight from Israel to Bulgaria on October 11, with priority given to tourists, families with small children, and those in risky areas. Another government plane left Tel Aviv with 92 Bulgarians and one Croatian on October 9, with mainly tourists, and a group of dentists who were part of a conference. ([Link](#)) ([Link](#))

Czech Republic

- **TRAVEL ADVISORY:**
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs provided travel warnings for Israel recommending to avoid all non-essential travel to Israel. ([Link](#))
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic encourages all travelers to evaluate the need for traveling to Israel and to avoid all non-essential trips to the area. If the trip still must be carried out, the Ministry recommends that all travelers register via the tracking system DROZD that helps tracking all travels to potentially dangerous areas and aiming the help and assistance in extraordinary situations. ([Link](#))

Croatia

- **TRAVEL ADVISORY:** The foreign ministry has advised Croatian nationals to remain in safe locations until the situation stabilizes. The ministry is also advising citizens to follow instructions from the Home Front Command, the Israeli Defense Forces, and local media. ([Link](#))
- **EVACUATION:** Croatia evacuated the majority of its citizens from the Gaza Strip. The first group of 22 Croatian nationals, mostly families with children, arrived at Zagreb airport on November 4. Following this, another six Croatian citizens were evacuated from Gaza and reached their destination on November 5. ([Link](#))

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Denmark

- **AIR TRAVEL:** Norwegian Air has cancelled flights from Copenhagen to Tel Aviv, as well as return flights, until December 19, 2023, due to the conflict between Israel and the Hamas. ([Link](#))

Finland

- **AIR TRAVEL:** Due to the ongoing uncertainty in Israel, Finnair has canceled all flights to Tel Aviv until the end of March 2024. The airline is unable to reroute citizen currently in Israel, as alternative flights are limited and filling up quickly. ([Link](#))
- **TRAVEL ADVISORY:** As of October 8, 2023, the Foreign Ministry advises against all but essential travel to Israel. The ministry urges Finish nationals to register their travel plans with the ministry. ([Link](#))
- **REPATRIATION FLIGHTS:** On October 11, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs repatriated 149 Finnish citizens from Israel on an evacuation flight, with the assistance of various authorities and the consular rapid response team. Additionally, Finland collaborated with Sweden to evacuate 31 people to Stockholm Arlanda Airport. ([Link](#))

Georgia

- **AIR TRAVEL:** Georgian Airway has discontinued its direct flights and now operates the Larnaca-Tbilisi route instead. Elal, Isrear, and Airk are providing daily flights [22.10.2023]. Approximately 1,550 Georgian citizens have left Israel, including individuals with dual citizenship of Israel and Georgia [6.11.2023 – this is number of people who left during the preceding 3 weeks period]. ([Link](#)) ([Link](#))

Greece

- **TRAVEL ADVISORY:** The Ministry of Foreign Affairs advises Greek citizens to avoid, except when absolutely necessary, non-essential travels to Israel, the Palestinian Territories and Lebanon. ([Link](#)) ([Link](#))

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— EVACUATION:

- The Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through its embassy and consulate in Israel, has completed the evacuation process. The first group of 90 Greeks returned on October 9, followed by another 68 on October 10, and a final group of 72 on October 12. ([Link](#))
- On November 3, 2023, 16 Greek citizens and their family members were evacuated from Gaza
- On November 12, 2023, Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced the safe passage of Greek citizens and their family members from the Gaza Strip to Egypt via the Rafah border crossing

Ireland

- **TRAVEL ADVISORY:** As of January 11, 2024, and in accordance with updated guidance issued on November 1, 2023, Ireland's Department of Foreign Affairs strongly advises against all travel to Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory. Irish citizens are advised to avoid traveling near the Gaza Strip, the Alpha Line (Syrian border) within 500 m of the border, and within 5 km of the border with Lebanon, and recently evacuated communities in the north due to ongoing military operations. ([Link](#))

Luxembourg

- **TRAVEL ADVISORY:** The Luxembourg government advises its citizens against traveling to the region. Additionally, the government is urging Luxembourg nationals currently in the region to exercise extreme caution, stay informed of any developments in the security situation, and follow the instructions of local authorities. ([Link](#))
- **EVACUATION:** The Luxembourg government evacuated 17 citizens and residents from Israel on a military transport plane as part of the Multinational Multirole Tanker Transport Unit (MMU) partnership within NATO. In total, 52 Luxembourg citizens and residents have left Israel since the Hamas attack, with one more still awaiting evacuation. ([Link](#))

Malta

- **TRAVEL ADVISORY:** The Malta Ministry of Foreign Affairs has advised against unnecessary travel to Israel and the Palestinian territories. ([Link](#))

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Netherlands

- **TRAVEL ADVISORY:** Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated that the color code of the travel advice for Israel is orange and red. Citizens are advised to only travel to the orange areas in Israel if it is strictly necessary, while travels to red areas should be avoided. ([Link](#))

Norway

— AIR TRAVEL:

- On 18 October 2023, the Immigration Appeals Board (UNE) and the Norwegian Directorate of Immigration (UDI) decided to temporarily suspend the duty to return to Gaza. The duty to return to Gaza has been temporarily suspended for up to six months, until April 17, 2024. ([Link](#))
- **GOVERNMENT UPDATES:** Applicants staying in Palestine and Israel are contacting UDI to gather information regarding prioritization of applications and the application process. ([Link](#))
- **TRAVEL ADVISORY:** The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has tightened travel advice for Israel and Palestine due to the security situation. The advisory recommends against non-essential travel to all of Israel, and advises against all travel to Gaza, Nablus, and Jenin in the West Bank, as well as the rest of the West Bank including East Jerusalem, except for essential travel. ([Link](#))
- **EVACUATION:** The Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs evacuated approximately 226 Norwegian citizens from Gaza. A special flight by Norwegian Air transported around 80 citizens from Cairo to Norway, while an additional 146 were approved to exit Gaza via the Rafah border crossing into Egypt, with half being children.

Poland

- **TRAVEL ADVISORY:** The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has imposed the highest (fourth) level of warning for travelers and advised to avoid all travel to Israel, as well as to the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. ([Link](#))
- **EVACUATION:**
 - The Polish government confirmed the evacuation of Polish citizens from Israel, stating that an 'evacuation bridge' was established to transport citizens to the island of Crete. The country's five Lockheed C-130 Hercules aircraft were used for the evacuation. ([Link](#)) ([Link](#))
 - So far, until November 15, 2023, 18 Polish citizens have been evacuated from the Gaza Strip. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs assured that the evacuation operation has not been terminated. ([Link](#))

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Romania

— TRAVEL ADVISORY:

- The Foreign Ministry of Romania has advised to avoid unnecessary travel and to be cautious when traveling to Palestine. The ministry also advised that Romanian citizens should avoid traveling to Jerusalem (the Old City and adjacent Arab neighborhoods), as well as in the regions of proximity to the Gaza Strip that belong to the State of Israel. ([Link](#))
- Similar travel alert is applicable to Israel. ([Link](#))

— EVACUATION:

- The Foreign Ministry evacuated 245 Romanian citizens, aboard four planes, two of which were operated by Tarom, the country's national carrier. ([Link](#))
- The Romanian Foreign Ministry announced that 103 Romanian citizens and their families have successfully crossed the border from Gaza Strip at Rafah and reached Egypt. These individuals will be transported to Cairo and then flown to Bucharest on a special flight. ([Link](#))

Slovakia

- **REPATRIATION FLIGHTS:** Repatriation flight was provided by the government special air service of the Slovak Republic, to evacuate more than 260 Slovak citizens from Israel. ([Link](#))

— TRAVEL ADVISORY:

- The Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic advised that Slovak citizens residing in Israel to exercise caution and to adhere to the instructions given by the local authorities. If necessary, they are encouraged to contact the Embassy in Tel Aviv.
- Necessary information and contacts are provided on the Ministry's website (www.mzv.sk) or the Embassy's website, and on social media. ([Link](#))

Spain

- **REPATRIATION FLIGHTS:** On October 10, 2023, Spain sent two military aircrafts to Israel to evacuate approximately 500 Spanish citizens who were in the country for tourism or temporary work, following deadly attacks by Islamist Hamas over the weekend. The evacuation does not include Spanish citizens who are in Israel for other reasons. ([Link](#))
- **TRAVEL ADVISORY:** Travelers are recommended to stay informed and register their data in the [Traveler Registry](#) to facilitate assistance in any emergency or need situations. ([Link](#))

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- **EVACUATION:** A group of 139 Spanish-Palestinian citizens, including 39 women, 33 men, three infants, and 64 children, have arrived in Madrid after being evacuated from Gaza in three stages. They traveled from Cairo on an Air and Space Army A330 aircraft. The evacuees left Gaza through the Rafah border crossing and were transported to Cairo by buses with Spanish embassy staff. ([Link](#))

Serbia

- **EVACUATION:** As of October 9, 2023, the Serbian government evacuated a total of 132 passengers from Tel Aviv Airport, Israel, on Air Serbia's special flight. ([Link](#))
- **AIR TRAVEL:**
 - On November 10, 2023, Arkia Israeli Airlines plans to restore flights between Tel Aviv and Belgrade. The carrier will maintain two weekly rotations between the two cities, with its 122-seat Embraer E195 aircraft. ([Link](#))
 - Air Serbia has delayed the resumption of its flights between Belgrade and Tel Aviv due to the ongoing security situation in Israel. ([Link](#))

Sweden

- **TRAVEL ADVISORY:** As of October 17, 2023, Sweden's Ministry of Foreign Affairs strongly advises against all travel to the border area with the Gaza Strip within a distance of 40 kilometers from the border. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs also advises against all travel to the border area with Lebanon within a distance of 10 kilometers from the border, all travel to the occupied Golan Heights and lastly since October 7 the Ministry of Foreign Affairs also advises against non-essential travel to all of Israel.
- **REPATRIATION FLIGHTS:** On October 13, a Swedish charter plane from Tel Aviv landed in Sweden with 143 Swedish nationals with the efforts of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the Embassy of Sweden in Tel Aviv and the Consulate-General in Jerusalem. At the moment, no further assisted departure under Swedish auspices is planned. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs work to assist Swedes continues in close cooperation with other Nordic, European and other like-minded countries. Swedes in Israel and relatives of people who wish to get in touch with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs consular emergency in Stockholm are asked to call the special emergency number: +46 8 408 19 00. ([Link](#))

Ukraine

- **EVACUATION:** 29 Ukrainians were refused evacuation from Gaza. However, in Egypt they were interrogated, investigated, and only then released. ([Link](#))

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MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA

Bahrain

- **EVACUATION:** The Ministry of Foreign Affairs evacuated six Bahraini citizens from the Gaza Strip, through Rafah border crossing, to Egypt. ([Link](#))

Kenya

- **EVACUATION:** Kenya has evacuated 11 citizens from Israel, with more than 500 nationals registered at the Kenyan embassy in Israel. ([Link](#))

Turkey

- **EVACUATION:**
- The Turkish government evacuated 27 cancer patients from Gaza. Moreover, approximately 700 people (322 Turkish citizens, 214 Palestinian, etc.) requested evacuation from Gaza. ([Link](#))
- The Turkish government evacuated Turkish nationals from Gaza. ([Link](#))

United Arab Emirates

- **TRAVEL ADVISORY:** Ministry of Foreign Affairs provided instructions and advise for Emirati travelers to exercise caution due to the security conditions in Israel. ([Link](#))
- **EVACUATION:** 120 injured Palestinian children and cancer patients along with their families have been evacuated from Gaza to the UAE. ([Link](#))

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