



USAID | WEST BANK/GAZA

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

December 31, 2008
~~2008~~-WBG-04

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

Dear Implementing Partners,

Please find below the U.S. Department of State's Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC) Jerusalem issued notice to OSAC members on December 30, 2008:

Please remember to be cautious when traveling in and around the West Bank. The Palestinian population's emotions are extremely high. Also note that emotions are high with Israeli settlers and there is a possibility of sporadic settler violence. There is always a possibility of demonstrations, unexpected clashes erupting and isolated incidents taking place throughout the West Bank near Israeli settlements, bypass routes, checkpoints, and also in areas where Palestinian National Security members attempt to contain an incident. For that reason, you should remain very alert and observant of your surroundings.

For all your Gaza staff, please advise them that it is best to remain in their homes and not attempt to leave their homes to go to a supermarket or elsewhere. They should avoid traveling in a vehicle as they may be mistaken for having other intentions and they do not necessarily know who might be traveling on the route alongside, in front of, or behind their vehicles.

Additionally, please find below the Warden Message issued by U.S. Embassy Tel Aviv on December 30, 2008:

Today's Warden Message alerts U.S. citizens to current IDF operations in the Gaza Strip and ongoing rocket attacks from Gaza by militants and terrorist organizations into Israel. U.S. Government employees, for the time being, have been restricted from traveling within a 30 KM radius of the Gaza Strip, inside of which the vast majority of rockets and mortars have fallen. To travel inside the 30 KM radius, the Embassy's Regional Security Officer's approval is required. Further, no U.S. government official travel is permitted inside the Gaza Strip.

Militants and terrorist organizations in Gaza continue to launch numerous rocket and mortar attacks against Israel. On December 28 and 29, several longer-range missiles landed in Ashdod, located about 35 KM from Gaza. On December 29, a longer range missile also landed in Yavne, which is just north of Ashdod. Though