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State Department Tells Americans Worldwide to ‘Exercise Increased Caution’ As U.S. War on Iran Intensifies

The warning, first issued Feb. 28 after U.S. combat operations in Iran began and updated March 22, cites travel disruptions, targeted U.S. diplomatic facilities, and the risk that Iran-linked groups could target American interests abroad.

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Protesters rally against U.S.-Israeli strikes on Iran outside the U.S. Embassy in Manila, Philippines.

The U.S. State Department is warning Americans around the world to “exercise increased caution” as the war the United States and Israel launched against Iran continues to unsettle travel

and security conditions far beyond the Middle East.

In its current worldwide caution, updated March 22, the department said Americans abroad, especially in the Middle East, should follow the latest security alerts from the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate, noting that periodic airspace closures may disrupt travel and that U.S. diplomatic facilities, including some outside the Middle East, have been targeted. The advisory also warns that groups supportive of Iran may target other U.S. interests overseas or places associated with Americans.

The warning is tied directly to the conflict that erupted on Feb. 28. The State Department's earlier worldwide caution said it was being issued "following the launch of U.S. combat operations in Iran." Israel launched what it called a pre-emptive attack on Iran that same day, and that U.S. strikes on Iranian targets were also underway.

In practical terms, the department is not ordering a general evacuation of Americans abroad, but it is telling them to treat the situation as a live and potentially fast-moving security event. The advisory urges Americans to enroll in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program, follow the State Department's security updates, and review country-specific advisories and embassy alerts before traveling.

The wording of the current alert is more pointed than the original Feb. 28 version. The initial notice emphasized the launch of U.S. combat operations in Iran and the risk of travel disruptions from periodic airspace closures. The updated March 22 caution keeps the travel warning in place while adding that U.S. diplomatic facilities have been targeted and that Iran-linked groups could target other U.S. interests worldwide.

For travelers, business people and Virgin Islanders with relatives overseas, the message is straightforward: Americans abroad should not assume the danger is confined to one country or one battlefield. The State Department is signaling that the repercussions of the war can show up in airport disruptions, consular restrictions and threats to U.S.-associated sites in multiple regions, not just in Iran or Israel.