

IMMIGRATION UPDATE®

August 2, 2013



TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF CERTAIN U.S. EMBASSIES AND CONSULATES ABROAD

The Department of State (DOS) has issued a <u>travel alert</u> for the Middle East and North Africa regions, which has led to the closing of 21 embassies/consulates for this coming Sunday, August 4, and possibly longer depending on security conditions. The following embassies/consults are temporarily closed: <u>Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, Algiers, Algeria; Amman, Jordan; Baghdad, Iraq; Cairo, Egypt; Dhahran, Saudi Arabia; Djibouti, Djibouti; Dhaka, Bangladesh; Doha, Qatar; Dubai, United Arab Emirates; Erbil, Iraq; Jeddah, Saudi Arabia; Kabul, Afghanistan; Khartoum, Sudan; Kuwait City, Kuwait; Manama, Bahrain; Muscat, Oman; Nouakchott, Mauritania; Riyadh, Saudi Arabia; Sana'a, Yemen; and Tripoli, Libya. These closures will likely delay visa processing and appointment availability at the affected locations.</u>

The DOS has also <u>reminded</u> U.S. citizens of the continued potential for terrorist attacks, particularly in the Middle East and North Africa, and possibly occurring in or emanating from the Arabian Peninsula. DOS recommends U.S. citizens register their travel plans with the Consular Section of the U.S. Embassy through the State Department's travel registration website. DOS also strongly recommends that U.S. citizens traveling abroad enroll in the Department of State's <u>Smart Traveler Enrollment Program</u> (STEP), which provides security updates and makes it easier for the U.S. embassy or nearest U.S. consulate to contact citizens in an emergency. For more travel tips, you can go to https://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/tips 6037.html

FosterQuan will continue to monitor these closures and other immigration related implications and will provide additional information in future Immigration Updates[©], and on our firm's website at www.fosterquan.com.