

DECLASSIFIED**From:****Sent:** 22 April 2007 07:04**To:****Subject:** FW: IDF Attack 21st April 2007 - Follow Up ActionsFYI
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FTN**From:** @fco.gov.uk [mailto: @fco.gov.uk]**Sent:** 22 April 2007 10:54**To:** AllStaff@fco.gov.uk**Cc:** fcoopsbaghdad@control-risks.com; baghdadopscoord@control-risks.com; CRIraq8@control-risks.com; govcommsbaghdadstl@control-risks.com; Govcommsbaghdad@control-risks.com**Subject:** IDF Attack 21st April 2007 - Follow Up Actions

All,

The IDF attack yesterday was the first attack in many months where rounds actually impacted inside the British Embassy Compound. The basic procedures worked well. The Incident was well controlled by the Embassy Operations Room, staffed by CRG, with the IZ Police and EOD on the scene very quickly. The Garda World Gurkha Guard Force were excellent in their cordon and search operation. All wardens should also be congratulated on the speedy manner in which they conducted the Head Count. I was therefore able to give the FCO Response Centre in London an accurate report that all were safe and well within 15 minutes of the first impact. However, as always with such incidents there are lessons to be learnt. I would welcome any feedback but the points to note are:

- We will investigate, as a matter of urgency, the number and location of the Duck and Cover Shelters as there may be some gaps in the coverage
- Security prevents giving out too much information over the PA system as others outside may be listening
- The cordon and search operation does take sometime to complete. Whilst it is relatively easy to identify the location of rounds which detonate, these missile are notoriously unreliable and the percentage of unexploded rounds (UXO) can be quite high. The GGF therefore have to sweep the whole compound before we can be certain that it is safe for staff to leave hard cover. Please continue to be patient whilst this is undertaken
- No staff, contractors, or visitors are permitted to enter or leave the compound when the alarm has sounded. All gates are closed and barriers locked. The GGF have to reconfigure to conduct the searches and also it would be unsafe for them to try and search vehicles in this situation. Visitors trying to enter will be turned away and staff will be directed into the Visitors' car park where they will have to remain, either in their vehicle, if armoured, or in a Duck and Cover until the situation is clear.
- Where practical staff should keep their radio with them and turn it on to Channel 1 - the Embassy Staff Channel. This will provide another means of communication should the phone system be shut down.

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Certainly in the US Embassy, staff are not permitted to use mobile phones during an alarm activation so that the net is free for the emergency services.

If you have any thoughts or comments please pass them on to me

Regards

Chief Overseas Security Manager (RSO)
British Embassy Baghdad
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Mobile Iraqna
FTN
Email:

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