



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Zafar,

I wanted to thank you for organizing and attending the recent meeting on September 17 regarding security concerns during the upcoming hajj. I found our discussion very useful and enjoyed meeting the group of Muslim American organization representatives.

Pursuant to our discussion, I wanted to let you know that the U.S. Consulate General in Jeddah is fully prepared and ready to assist any U.S. citizen pilgrims who may encounter difficulties while performing the hajj. The Consulate General has expanded its on-call staff to handle any unexpected incidents or needs during the hajj period. Consular officers have also met with Saudi officials and local hajj arrangers to discuss preparations and have visited the three hajj sites outside of Mecca. During the site visits, the consular officers saw many clearly marked medical clinics and information offices.

In a meeting with a Hajj Ministry official, consular officers discussed safety and security concerns. The ministry official assured the consular officers that the Saudi government is aware of potential problems and is prepared to take appropriate action to secure the safety of U.S. pilgrims, including the separation of Shia and Sunni camps.

The consular section will continue to engage with Saudi officials and with the travel agencies throughout the hajj period to ensure the welfare of all U.S. pilgrims. U.S. Consulate Jeddah can be reached during business hours or after hours at + (966) (12) 667-0080 or by email at JeddahACS@state.gov. If you have any further questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at (202) 485-6186 or via email at lopatkiewiczv@state.gov.

Sincerely,

Viki Lopatkiewicz
Division Chief
Office of American Citizens Services
and Crisis Management
Near East and South/Central Asia