TO: Fall Semester Purdue-WL study abroad students

FROM: Brian Harley, Senior Director and Associate Dean, Office of Programs for Study Abroad

DATE: October 19, 2023

RE: Personal safety, State Department guidance

The war and violence in Israel and other regions has gripped our attention.  While no Purdue-WL study abroad students were in Israel, Gaza, or the West Bank, we are sympathetic to all those who are suffering.  Furthermore, the U.S. State Department issued a [Worldwide Caution](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ftravel.state.gov%2Fcontent%2Ftravel%2Fen%2Ftraveladvisories%2Ftraveladvisories%2Fworldwide-caution.html%3Futm_source%3DFA23%2B-%2BSTO%2BFall%2BStudents%26utm_campaign%3Dc8e00d9303-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2023_08_28_07_23_COPY_01%26utm_medium%3Demail%26utm_term%3D0_-a1895bd410-%255BLIST_EMAIL_ID%255D&data=05%7C01%7Cbharley%40purdue.edu%7C359ac02ea5d44579a53208dbd0d3da42%7C4130bd397c53419cb1e58758d6d63f21%7C0%7C0%7C638333380564137202%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=XWfaMcOKSJ825kSFfd7G45IQf6K0IuXvDC1numRyunk%3D&reserved=0) notification today (October 19. 2023) owing to increased tensions around the world. The admonition did not single out a specific event or region. And please note that a series of such Worldwide Cautions has been in place over the years.

Safety and security of students is our highest priority.  While we continue to monitor the situations, we are also confident in the support of partnering colleagues around the world for the information and care that they provide to our students.

For students, this is another poignant reminder that everyday decisions are of tantamount importance to safety and well-being.  We continue to encourage students to heed the advice of local leadership and civil authorities. Further, we would echo the advice of the US State Department, including wisdom that U.S. citizens should exercise vigilance in public transportation systems, high-profile sporting events, residential areas, business offices, hotels, clubs, restaurants, places of worship, schools, public areas, shopping malls, and other tourist destinations.

Students should feel comfortable discussing any questions or concerns with their program Advisor or local leadership. Likewise students may contact me directly but also continue to reference our [**Safety and Security**](https://www.purdue.edu/IPPU/SA/healthsafety/index.html) website resources.   Best wishes for a safe and successful semester!

Respectfully,

Brian D. Harley, Ph.D.
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