

## US orders non-essential diplomatic staff and their families to leave Tunisia - BBC

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The BBC reports that the United States has ordered the withdrawal of all non essential diplomatic staff from Tunisia and Sudan. in both cases the the defences of the US embassy were breached and in Tunis the American Cooperative School was ransacked and set on fire and most of its equipment was stolen.

Americans were also warned against all travel to Tunisia, after four people lost their lives during attacks on the embassy in Tunis and the neighbouring American school.

"US citizens remaining in Tunisia should use extreme caution and avoid demonstrations," the US travel advisory said.

The Canadian government also announced on Sunday it was closing its embassies in Sudan, Libya and Egypt for the day as a precautionary measure.

A joint statement from the governing troika in Tunisia President Moncef Marzouki, President of the Constituent Assembly, Dr. Mustapha Ben Jaafar and Prime Minister Hamdai Jebali asserted their "commitment to protect the foundations of security and stability across the whole national territory." TAP reported.

"Tunisia will in no way serve as a refuge to international terrorism, within the framework of compliance with the supremacy of law and institutions, and the principles of human rights, as well," they promised, reasserting determination to face up to "the gangs that resort to the use of political violence."

The reluctance of the Ennhada led government to intervene to control salafist violence against civil society has cost its international image dear . President Marzouki asserted on a visit to France last week that Tunisia was **"not immersed in islam"** following an assault on a French local government official by salafists in Tunisia. The government has promised to take action against the perpetrators of violence. Actions must now match words to regain international credibility and the assurance that the government can control society.



Attack on Tunisian Embassy.Photo: AFP