

U.S.: Haiti still volatile

By UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL

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The State Department warned Americans Friday that the situation in Haiti is still volatile and urged them to take precautions while traveling there.

In a statement issued in Washington, the department said that although non-emergency staff and family members of U.S. Embassy personnel have been allowed to return, the security situation in Haiti remains shaky.

"Americans are reminded of the potential for spontaneous demonstrations and violent confrontations between armed groups," the department said.

The travel warning also urged U.S. visitors and residents in Haiti to remain vigilant because of the absence of an effective police force in much of the country and the potential for random violent crime.

Some areas are off-limits to the U.S. Embassy staff, including downtown Port-au-Prince after dark.

The embassy has imposed a curfew from 9:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m., which could change periodically. Staff members must remain in their homes or in U.S. government facilities during these hours, the State Department said.