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State Dept. OKs Some Haiti Departures

Associated Press

WASHINGTON - The State Department on Thursday authorized the departure of non-essential personnel and family members from Haiti because of the volatile security situation there.

At least 48 people have died in recent days as a result of political unrest.

In a travel warning, the State Department reaffirmed an earlier recommendation that U.S. citizens in Haiti consider departing until the situation stabilizes.

"Visitors and residents must remain vigilant due to the absence of an effective police force in Haiti," the statement said.

It also said there is potential for looting and that armed gangs have been setting up roadblocks.