

US to include UAE in its Global Entry Programme

WASHINGTON, DC

Easing cross border travel for Emiratis, the UAE and US governments signed an agreement between the UAE Ministry of Interior and the US Department of Homeland Security that will lead to the UAE's inclusion in the US Global Entry Programme by October 2024.

The signing took place on the sidelines of President His Highness Shaikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan's official visit to the US. Global Entry is an initiative that expedites entry procedures into US ports of entry.

"This arrangement represents another step forward in our shared efforts to strengthen bilateral security and facilitate commerce and travel," said UAE Ambassador to the US Youssef Al Otaiba.

Travel made easier

"Once the UAE and US finalise consultations, Emirati citizens who apply and are approved for the Global Entry programme will be able to enter the US using the Global Entry system at 75 airports in the US and other countries," he added.

Global Entry participants who are Emiratis must still have a valid US visa to enter the country.

—WAM

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Israel rejects allies' call for Lebanon truce

NETANYAHU ORDERS MILITARY 'TO CONTINUE FIGHTING WITH FULL FORCE'

DUBAI

BY ALEX ABRAHAM
Senior Associate Editor

A 21-day ceasefire in Lebanon that would have brought much-needed relief to tens of thousands of civilians on the border with Israel, has been flatly rejected by Israel.

"There will be no ceasefire in the north. We will continue to fight against the Hezbollah terrorist organisation with all our strength until victory and the safe return of the residents of the north to their homes," Foreign Minister Israel Katz said in a post on social media platform X.

The United States, France and other allies issued the joint statement calling for a 21-day halt in fighting, with US President Joe Biden, his French counterpart, Emmanuel Macron, and other allies meeting on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York.

The situation in Lebanon has become "intolerable" and "is in nobody's interest, neither of the people of Israel nor of the people of Lebanon," the statement said.

Earlier, Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu's office issued a statement saying he had "not even responded" to the truce proposal, and that he had ordered the military "to continue the fighting with full force".

Fighting continued yesterday, with the Israeli military saying it had struck "approximately 75 terror targets" in the Bekaa Valley in eastern Lebanon and the south, both Hezbollah bastions that have seen a huge exodus of people fleeing their homes in recent days.

Nine killed

One strike near the ancient city of Baalbek killed at least nine people, Lebanon's health ministry said. The official National News Agency described the overnight bombing of the area as "the most violent" of recent days.

Lebanon said more than 31,000 people had crossed into Syria during the past two days.

At the UN, Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas called on the international community to stop sending weapons to Israel in order to halt bloodshed in the West Bank and Gaza.

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