

American Outlook

**American Citizen Services
United States Mission, Turkey
Spring 2009 Newsletter**

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**GREETINGS FROM
AMBASSADOR JAMES F.
JEFFREY**

It's been a busy first few months following my arrival in Turkey in late November. We are extremely proud to

have hosted in March a visit by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to Turkey, and this month a successful visit by President Barak Obama. The President's visit – marked by his solemn tribute to Ataturk at Anitkabir and an inspiring speech to the Turkish Parliament – has provided us with a solid foundation for improving Turkish-American relations. This is a goal that I am committed to achieving.

And I look forward to asking for your help. By virtue of your special experience here, you understand both American and Turkish culture. As you have already learned, each of you will be called upon during your stay in Turkey to serve as “unofficial” ambassadors from the American people, to explain American culture and America's


commitment to democracy and rule of law.

I truly believe that we have a wonderful opportunity to work together to deepen and broaden U.S.-Turkish relations. This is my fourth assignment to Turkey, and I have worked on U.S.-Turkish relations for a large part of my career. I am delighted to return to Turkey as ambassador. I have been enchanted to find old friends here, to discover changes in Turkish society and culture, and to meet new people who share a commitment to expand Turkish-American cooperation.

I would love to hear your views about your situation in Turkey, and I would be pleased to address your concerns. You may send me your questions and comments to “Ask the Ambassador” on the U.S. Embassy website -- <http://turkey.usembassy.gov> – and we will endeavor to answer all your questions.

Yours truly,

James F. Jeffrey



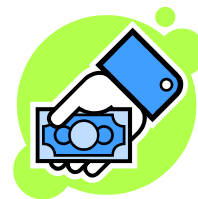
The American Citizen Services Unit is getting ready to initiate an online appointment system starting April 15, 2009! In order to provide more effective customer service, clients will be asked to make an online appointment for passport services, consular report of birth applications, notarials and other general services before visiting our Unit. This system allows clients to plan their visit in advance, ensure shorter wait times, and allow more efficient handling of individual cases.



REMINDER - UPDATE YOUR EMBASSY REGISTRATION

It is really important that you keep your contact information current at the Embassy in order for us to assist you in case of a crisis situation. If you recently moved or have a new phone number, take a minute to update your information at the U.S. State Department’s travel registration site. To update your information or register for the first time, visit the following website:

<https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/ui/>



“NEW TURKISH LIRA” NOW CALLED “TURKISH LIRA”

On January 1, 2005, Turkey created the “New Turkish Lira.” On January 1, 2009, the term ‘New’ was eliminated and Turkey introduced a new, smaller-sized currency referred to as Turkish

Lira. Until December 31, 2009, both currencies will be accepted by shopkeepers at a one for one exchange rate. The old “New Turkish Lira” banknotes will expire on December 31, 2009, but can still be redeemed from January 1, 2010 until December 31, 2019 at branches of the Central Bank of Republic of Turkey and Türkiye Cumhuriyeti Ziraat Bankası. For more information, please see the web site of the Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey at <http://www.tcmb.gov.tr/yeni/eng>.



USING YOUR U.S. DRIVER'S LICENSE IN TURKEY

Driver's licenses can be used in Turkey for a year providing that you carry a notarized translation of your American driver's license and your Turkish residence permit with you.

After one year, you need obtain a Turkish driver's license from the Turkish Security Directorate-Traffic Department. Information available at <http://www.trafik.gov.tr/>

In order to prepare your application for a Turkish driver's license, please gather the following documents to provide to the Turkish Security Directorate:

1. Original and notarized translation of your Driver's License (Original driver's license will be returned to you after the application process)
2. Drivers application forms and dossier from Drivers Association-Soforler Dernegi-
3. Residence permit
4. 4 photographs
5. Criminal record
6. Original Health report from State hospital or private medical clinics
7. A document which indicates your blood type
8. Receipt from the tax office shows that you paid the related fee--please see below for the fees -- 213 TL for regular automobile license)
9. Plus 40 TL card fee



DO YOU WANT TO BE AN EMBASSY WARDEN?

“What is required of us now is a new era of responsibility — a recognition, on the part of every American, that we have duties to ourselves, our nation, and the world, duties that we do not grudgingly accept but rather seize gladly, firm in the knowledge that there is nothing so satisfying to the spirit, so defining of our character, than giving

our all to a difficult task. This is the price and the promise of citizenship.”

*Inaugural Address by Barack Obama,
January 20, 2009*

Inspired by the call by President Obama to all American citizens to play an active role in the world, the American Embassy would like to invite those American citizens who are residing as permanent residents in Turkey to volunteer as an Embassy Warden to reach out to Americans living in their district for regular information updates and to help safeguard their security in Turkey. A Warden is an American citizen who volunteers to assist consular sections in host countries around the world in disaster preparedness and emergency services to Americans. Wardens are unpaid, but they are valued contacts of the American Embassy because we rely on them to help disseminate news, disaster preparedness info, and emergency travel advisories. It is not a time consuming duty, as the vast majority of messages for registered U.S. citizens are sent by e-mail from the Embassy directly to citizens. If you are interested in performing this valuable service for the American Embassy in Turkey, please send us an email at ankarawarden@state.gov



THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE PASSPORT APPLICATION WIZARD

When applying for a passport at the U.S. Embassy in Ankara, the American Citizen Services unit recommends that all applicants visit the online Passport Application Wizard (<https://pptform.state.gov/>). The Wizard will help you determine which form you need (Form DS-11, DS-82, DS-5504 or DS-4085), then help you to complete the form online, estimate your payment, and generate the form for you to print and submit.

Also, if your passport is ever lost or stolen, you can use the Wizard to print out a Statement Regarding Lost or Stolen Passport (DS-64). And if you are applying for a minor's passport and both parents cannot sign the application together, you can use the Wizard to print out a Statement of Consent (DS-3053).



TAX SEASON - THE TAX FORMS AND THE PUBLICATIONS

April 15 of each year is the due date for filing your Federal individual income tax return, if your tax year ends December 31st. Many Americans who live overseas, however, are missing vital documents and are unable to file their taxes by the due date of April 15. If you cannot file by the due date of your return, then you can request an extension of time to file. However, an extension of time to file is **not** an extension of time to pay. You will owe interest on any past due tax and you may be subject to a late payment penalty if payment is not made in a timely fashion. To receive an automatic 6-month extension of time to file your return, you can file [Form 4868](#) (PDF), *Application for Automatic Extension of Time to File U.S. Individual Income Tax Return*, by the due date of your return.

For more information, refer to the Form 4868 Instructions. If you are a United States citizen or resident alien, who is either: (1) living outside of the United States and Puerto Rico and your main place of business or post of duty is outside of the United States and Puerto Rico; or (2) in military or naval services on duty outside of the United States and Puerto Rico on the due date of your return, you are allowed an automatic 2-month extension until June 15 to file your return and pay any tax due. For additional information refer to

[Publication 54](#), *Tax Guide for U.S. Citizens and Resident Aliens Abroad*. If you use this automatic 2-month extension, you **must** attach a statement to your return explaining which of the two situations qualify you for the extension. For additional information on extensions, refer to [Topic 304](#), *Extensions of Time to File Your Tax Return*.

Here are the links to the most commonly used FEDERAL tax forms and instructions for your use:

[Form 1040 U.S. Individual Tax Return 2008](#)

[Instructions 1040 2008](#)

[Form 1040A U.S. Individual Tax Return 2008](#)

[Instructions 1040A 2008](#)

[Form 1040EZ Income Tax Return for Single and Joint Filers with No Dependents](#)

[Instructions 1040EZ 2008](#)

[Form 1040NR U.S. Nonresident Alien Income Tax Return](#)

[Instructions 1040NR 2008](#)

[Form 1040NR-EZ U.S. Income Tax Return for Certain Nonresident Aliens with No Dependents](#)

[Instructions 1040NR-EZ 2008](#)

[Form 2350 Application for Extension of Time to File U.S. Income Tax Return](#)

[Form W7 Application for IRS Individual Taxpayer Identification Number](#)

Please click on <http://www.irs.gov/formspubs/index.html?portlet=3> to see all tax forms and publications.

For State tax forms click on <http://www.taxadmin.org/fta/link/forms.html>

Please also note that: You may file your taxes electronically at <http://www.irs.gov/efile/index.html> and tax forms are available by mail from the IRS on-line at <http://www.irs.gov/businesses/page/0,,id=23108,00.html>



TAX PAYER ALERT: IDENTITY THEFT AND SCAMS

How can someone steal your identity? Identity theft occurs when someone uses your personal information such as your name, social security number, or other identifying information, without your permission, to commit fraud or other crimes.

Identity theft is a serious crime. People whose identities have been stolen can spend months or years -and their hard-earned money - cleaning up the mess thieves have made of their good name and credit record. In the meantime, victims may lose job opportunities, have

loans refused, or even get arrested for crimes they didn't commit.

Generally, identity thieves use someone's personal data to steal his or her financial accounts and run up charges on the victim's existing credit cards, but the IRS has identified other potential areas where this type of fraud may occur as they relate directly to your tax records. Undocumented workers or other individuals may use your social security number to get a job. That person's employer would report W-2 wages earned using your information to the IRS so it might appear that you did not report all of your income on your return.

An identity thief may file a tax return using your social security number to receive a refund or stimulus payment. If the thief already filed a return using your social security number, the IRS will believe that you already filed and received your refund, and the return you just submitted is a second copy or duplicate. If you do receive a notice from the IRS that leads you to believe someone may have used your social security number fraudulently, please notify the IRS immediately by responding to the name and number printed on the notice or letter. Be alert to possible identity theft if the notice or letter states that: More than one tax return for you was filed, or if the IRS records indicate you received wages from an employer unknown to you.

If you receive a notice, contact the IRS either by phone or in writing as directed in that notice. IRS tax examiners will work with you and other agencies, such as the Social Security Administration, to help resolve the problem. Please note

that the IRS does not initiate taxpayer communications through e-mail; the IRS does not request detailed personal information through e-mail; the IRS does not send e-mails requesting your PIN numbers, passwords or similar access information for credit cards, banks or other financial accounts.

If you receive an e-mail from someone claiming to be the IRS or directing you to an IRS site, do not reply; do not open any attachments. Attachments may contain malicious code that will infect your computer; and do not click on any links.

Phishing is the act of sending an e-mail to a user falsely claiming to be an established, legitimate enterprise in an attempt to scam the user into giving private information that will be used for identity theft.

IRS officials request that anyone who receives an e-mail that purports to be from the IRS, please forward it to the following address: phishing@irs.gov. According to the IRS website, as of March 2008, more than 33,000 scam e-mails have been forwarded to the IRS relating to some 1,500 different schemes. The only official IRS website is located at www.irs.gov.

MINIMIZING IDENTITY THEFT

Though you can't prevent identity theft entirely, you can minimize your risk. Protect your social security number.

- Don't carry your social security number (SSN); leave it in a secure place.
- Only give your SSN when absolutely necessary.

-- Your employer and financial institution may need your SSN for wage and tax reporting purposes. Don't give a business your SSN just because they ask for it. Find out why before giving it out.

-- Ask why your SSN is needed and if other types of identifiers can be used.

For more information on identity theft and your tax records, please visit www.irs.gov, and use the words "Identity Theft" in the search block.



DO YOU KNOW?

Do you know what to do when you lose your wallet and have no access to ready funds when travelling abroad?

First, you can contact your family or friends to wire transfer ready funds to you. But if you are stuck, and your friends and family cannot help you, what can you do? If you are destitute, as an American citizen, you can turn to a U.S. consular officer abroad for help. The American Citizens Services Unit (ACS) will help by contacting your family, friends, or business associates to raise private funds. It will help transmit these funds to you overseas.

The State Department transfers each year approximately \$500,000 in emergency loans to destitute Americans abroad to tide them over until private funds arrive. ACS also approves repatriation loans to pay for destitute Americans' return directly to the United States.



THE UPCOMING HOLIDAYS

The Embassy will be closed on the following American and Turkish holidays:

April 23, 2009 (Thursday) – National Sovereignty and Children's Day (Turkey)
May 19, 2009 (Tuesday) – Ataturk Memorial, Youth and Sports Day (Turkey)
May 25, 2009 (Monday) – Memorial Day (U.S.)
July 3, 2009 (Friday) – Independence Day (U.S.)
August 30, 2009 (Sunday) – Victory Day (Turkey)
September 7, 2009 (Monday) – Labor Day (U.S.)



Our Contact Info

Contact information for the U.S. Embassy and Consulates in Turkey:

Ankara: 110 Ataturk Boulevard
Tel: (90)(312) 455-5555
Fax (90)(312) 468-6131
<http://ankara.usembassy.gov>

Istanbul: Kaplilar Mevkii Sokak No. 2, 34460, Istinye, Sariyer,
Tel: (90) (212) 335-9000
Fax (90) (212) 335-9102
<http://istanbul.usconsulate.gov>

Adana: Girne Bulvari No. 212, Guzelevler Mahallesi, Yuregir
Tel: (90)(322) 346-6262
Fax (90)(322) 346-7916
<http://adana.usconsulate.gov>

Izmir Consular Agent:
(90)(232) 464-8755