

U.S. CITIZEN SERVICES

U.S. Embassy – Abidjan, Cote d’Ivoire

Warden Message – Security Update December 13, 2010

There is a stand-off between Gbagbo and Ouattara supporters near the Golf Hotel of Abidjan. U.S. Embassy personnel have been instructed to avoid the main access road near the Golf Hotel in the Riviera neighborhood. The Embassy urges U.S. citizens to do the same until further notice.

The State Department continues to advise U.S. citizens outside of the country to defer travel to Cote d’Ivoire. The tenuous political situation in Cote d’Ivoire is in its second week without a fully functioning federal government. The Independent Electoral Commission, credible and accredited observers, and the United Nations have all confirmed results that declare Alassane Ouattara the legitimate President of Cote d’Ivoire. Both Ouattara and former President Laurent Gbagbo, were sworn in as President of the Republic of Cote d’Ivoire in separate ceremonies on December 4, 2010.

As the International Community, including the United States, continues to increase pressure on the Gbagbo regime to step down peacefully, the U.S. Embassy cannot rule out the possibility that U.S. citizens might get caught up in a potential conflict between those loyal to the incumbent and those loyal to the opposition candidate. Corporations and NGOs, including the United Nations and the World Bank, have temporarily relocated employees to places outside the country or drawn down to essential personnel. **The U.S. Embassy along with other foreign embassies have suggested that their employees or citizens go on holiday travel early in order to remain safe while the political situation remains unresolved and may further deteriorate.** The U.S. Embassy is reviewing its security posture and asks private citizens to do the same.

U.S. citizens should consider their own personal security and contingency plans, including temporary departure from Cote d’Ivoire. The Consular Section continues to receive inquiries from U.S. citizens asking what kind of assistance the Embassy can provide. For your convenience we are repeating the information provided by the U.S. Embassy at the U.S. Citizen Town Hall Meeting on October 28, 2010, along with some additional information, which can also be found on the main page of the U.S. Embassy Website: <http://abidjan.usembassy.gov/>.

Please ensure that your contact and personal information is up-to-date by enrolling in the Smart Travelers Enrollment Program (STEP). Stay up to date by also checking the consular pages on U.S. Embassy Abidjan's website at <http://abidjan.usembassy.gov/travelregist.html>. You can also get global updates at the U.S.

Department of State's, [Bureau of Consular Affairs website](#) where you can find the current Worldwide Caution, Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and Country Specific Information. If you don't have internet access, we have a call center for updates--1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the U.S. and Canada, or outside the U.S. and Canada on a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444.

If you have questions or concerns about safety or related issues, you are encouraged to contact the consular section at the Embassy by sending an email message to Abjamcit@state.gov . In emergencies and for urgent security matters, you can call the Embassy switchboard at 225-22-49-40-00; the emergency after-hours telephone is: +225-22-49-44-50.

The U.S. Embassy is located in the Riviera Golf neighborhood of the Cocody section of Abidjan, east of the downtown area. The Embassy's postal address is 01 B.P. 1712 Abidjan 01.