

WARDEN MESSAGE

U.S. Embassy – Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire Security Update December 15, 2010

The Ouattara government has announced it and its supporters intend to march to the television station Ivorian National Radio and Television (RTI) on Thursday, December 16, ostensibly to broadcast the swearing-in ceremony of his cabinet, and to hold, on Friday, December 17, a cabinet-level meeting at a government site. The U.S. Embassy will reduce personnel staffing on those days, and recommends all other embassy personnel stay home on Thursday and Friday and avoid the areas encompassing the march.

There is increasing military presence in the vicinity of the Golf Hotel of Abidjan. Traffic is slow, congested and at times completely blocked. 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.

U.S. citizens requiring emergency services during the current political situation should visit the Embassy Monday through Thursday mornings from 8:30 to 11:30 am, and afternoons 1:30 to 3:30 pm. The Consular Section has temporarily curtailed routine visa services (see further information at: http://abidjan.usembassy.gov/general_information6.html).

Our latest security information is available at telephone number (25 2249-4001). We encourage U.S. citizens without access to Internet to call and listen to the latest security information in English and French. Citizens may also leave a brief message. We will monitor the voice-mail frequently and will respond to any emergency messages as quickly as possible.

The State Department continues to advise U.S. citizens outside of the country to defer travel to Cote d'Ivoire.

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 and other foreign embassies are encouraging employees or citizens go on holiday travel early to ensure their safety.** Several embassies have advised citizens to depart, and a few have evacuated non-essential personnel. **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.