

U.S. Embassy Bahrain
Demonstration Notice 65 – December 15, 2013

With National Day on Monday, December the 16th, expect increases in demonstration and protest activity from Sunday afternoon, December 15, 2013 through Wednesday morning, December 18, 2013.

On Sunday, December 15, 2013, at 1930 (7:30 p.m.) an opposition group has called for a demonstration at its headquarters in Bilad al Qadeem. Traffic volume will be increased in this area. Avoid this area (Yellow circle).

On Monday, December the 16th, during three phases, violent opposition groups have called for demonstrations after the sunrise prayers, after afternoon prayers, and at 1530 (3:30 p.m.). These areas are predominantly in the restricted zones. However, it is likely that disruptions outside of these zones are possible. The Budaiya Highway corridor is extremely vulnerable during this time period. Use only main highways such as Sh. Isa bin Salman and Sh. Khalifa bin Salman King Faisal Highway, and Al Fatah Highway for transit. It is strongly advised you avoid the Budaiya Highway corridor and restricted zones.

On Tuesday, December the 17th, 2013, violent opposition groups have called for demonstrations under the slogan of “Martyr’s Day” in the center of Manama near the Souq. Anticipate that Ras Ruman, Hooraa, and the Diplomatic Quarter will also be affected. Demonstrations have been announced for nearly all restricted zones as well. Use only main highways such as Sh. Isa bin Salman and Sh. Khalifa bin Salman King Faisal Highway, and Al Fatah Highway for transit. It is strongly advised you avoid travel in the Manama City area, Ras Ruman, Hooraa, the Diplomatic Quarter, and the restricted areas (Yellow oval).

On Tuesday, December 17th, 2013, at 1430 (2:30 p.m.) a pro government group has called for a march beginning in Muharraq. This march will end in an unspecified location. Avoid this area (Orange oval).

As always, use caution as you drive and plan for additional time to arrive at your destination. It also remains extremely important you keep current with media coverage of local events and be aware of your surroundings. The Embassy will provide updates as necessary.

There has been an escalation in street level civil disobedience activities such as Molotov attacks on police, oil poured across roadways, tire fires outside of traditional areas, and IEDs both real and fake, to disrupt and delay traffic across the country. United States citizens should keep current with media coverage of local events and be aware of their surroundings at all times. If you encounter a large public gathering or demonstration, depart the vicinity immediately.

It is important to note that there have been no direct attacks on U.S. citizens in Bahrain to date. That said, spontaneous and at times violent anti-government demonstrations occur in some neighborhoods, particularly at night and on weekends. These demonstrations have included blockades of major highways with burning debris and establishment of unofficial checkpoints. Participants have thrown rocks and Molotov cocktails and used various other homemade weapons, including isolated use of improvised explosive devices. The Ministry of Interior maintains official checkpoints in some areas and routinely uses tear gas and stun grenades along with birdshot and other crowd control measures against demonstrators. Violent clashes between security forces and demonstrators can make travel in and around Bahrain dangerous without advance warning.

Please see below for a map. Areas shaded in red are off-limits to U.S. Citizen Embassy employees and their family members at all times. U.S. Citizen Embassy employees and their family members are permitted to travel in the areas shaded in yellow during daylight hours only. The Embassy advises all Americans to avoid travel within red zones as a general rule whenever possible.

We remind U.S. citizens that even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and possibly escalate into violence. U.S. citizens are therefore urged to avoid the areas of demonstrations if possible, and to exercise caution if within the vicinity of any demonstrations.

For the latest security information, U.S. citizens traveling abroad should regularly monitor the Department of State's Internet website at travel.state.gov where the [Worldwide Caution](#), [Country Specific Information](#), [Travel Warnings](#), and [Travel Alerts](#)

can be found. Follow us on [Twitter](#) and the Bureau of Consular Affairs page on [Facebook](#) as well. Download our free Smart Traveler app, available through [iTunes](#) or [Google Play](#), to have travel information at your fingertips.

In addition to information on the internet, travelers may obtain up-to-date information on security conditions by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or, from other countries, on a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm Monday through Friday, Eastern Time (except U.S. federal holidays).

The U.S. Embassy in Manama can be reached at (973) 1724-2700; the afterhours emergency number is (973) 1724-2957; the fax number is (973) 1725-6242. The Embassy's [website](http://bahrain.usembassy.gov), <http://bahrain.usembassy.gov>, includes travel information and the Worldwide Caution and Demonstration Notices. All U.S. citizens are encouraged to enroll in the [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program](#). The Consular Section can be reached at ManamaConsular@state.gov.

The U.S. Embassy is located at:

Bldg 979, Road 3119, Block 331, Zinj
Kingdom of Bahrain

