

U.S. Embassy Bahrain
Security Message to U.S. Citizens – June 13, 2013

Opposition groups have called for a march in Sar village near the Sar Matam on Friday, June 14, 2013 at 1700 (5:00 pm.) Travel in and around Sar Avenue and Avenue 35 will likely be affected. Avoid this area. (See Blue Circle below.)

A violent opposition group has called for a mass rally in Sar village near the Sar Matam on Friday, June 14, 2013 at 19:30 (7:30 pm.) Travel in and around Sar Avenue and Avenue 35 will likely be affected. Avoid this area. (See Blue Circle below.)

A violent opposition group has announced a call for a mass sit-in on Saturday, June 15, 2013. No specific places or times have been mentioned. Use caution and exercise an increased level of awareness during this weekend throughout the day and evening hours. Expect that clashes with police and demonstrators will take place mainly in the off-limits areas; however, we also anticipate demonstration activity and clashes outside of the off-limits areas. We highly recommend avoiding the mall areas.

Spontaneous demonstrations take place in Bahrain from time to time in response to world events or local developments. U.S. 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.

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 living and traveling abroad should regularly monitor the Department of State's Bureau of Consular Affairs Internet website at <http://travel.state.gov>, where the current Worldwide Caution, Country Specific Information for Bahrain, Travel Warnings and Travel Alerts can be found. Up-to-date information on security can also be obtained by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or, for callers outside the United States and Canada, a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (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. The Consular Section can be reached at ManamaConsular@state.gov.

U.S. citizens traveling and residing abroad should enroll in the [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program](https://step.state.gov) (STEP) at <https://step.state.gov>. U.S. citizens without internet access may enroll directly at the U.S. Embassy or Consulate at their destination. By enrolling, U.S. citizens make it easier for the Embassy to contact them in case of emergency. You can also follow the Bureau of Consular Affairs on [Twitter](#) and on [Facebook](#) and download our free Smart Traveler App available through [iTunes](#) and Google Play to have travel information at your fingertips.

