

U.S. Embassy Bahrain

Demonstration Message for U.S. Citizens – Religious Processions and Gatherings

August 9, 2012

Sensitive religious celebrations, processions, and gatherings take place in Bahrain from time to time. As such, Embassy employees and dependents should be aware of the following:

On Thursday August 9th, Friday August 10th, Saturday August 11th, and Tuesday August 14th, religious processions are expected to occur in the vicinity of the Manama Souq. Additionally, religious gatherings will likely occur throughout Bahrain during this same time. These events are in remembrance of the death of the Imam Ali and to celebrate the Night of Al Qadr.

As a result, the Manama Souq is being placed off limits for U.S. Embassy personnel from 2000 to 0200 on 9, 10, 11, and 14 August. You may encounter heavy traffic during these periods. It is recommended that you avoid this area if at all possible during the suggested hours mentioned above.

Separately, while there have been no direct attacks on U.S. citizens resulting from the ongoing spontaneous and at times violent anti-government demonstrations, major highways have often been blocked with burning debris and unofficial checkpoints have been established. Participants have thrown rocks and Molotov cocktails and used various other homemade weapons to include 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 violent demonstrators. These clashes between can make travel in and around Bahrain dangerous without advance warning.

U.S. citizens traveling and residing abroad should enroll in the [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program](#) (STEP). U.S. citizens without internet access may enroll directly at the U.S. Embassy. By enrolling, U.S. citizens make it easier for the Embassy to contact them in case of emergency. 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. The U.S. Embassy also encourages U.S. citizens to review "[A Safe Trip Abroad.](#)" which includes valuable security information for those living and traveling abroad. Follow us on [Twitter](#) and the Bureau of Consular Affairs page on [Facebook](#) as well. You can also download our free [Smart Traveler iPhone App](#) to have travel information at your fingertips. 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 [web site](#) includes travel

information and the Worldwide Caution and [Demonstration Notices](#), and can be found at <http://Bahrain.USEmbassy.Gov>. The Consular Section can be reached at ManamaConsular@state.gov.

