

United States Embassy, Dhaka, Bangladesh
Security Message for U.S. Citizens

Security and Situational Awareness (Revised Notice)
Nov 1, 2014

A recent anonymous posting on a Jihadist website encouraged attacks against American and other international schools in predominantly Muslim countries, including Western teachers employed at these schools. That message referenced schools in the localities of Jeddah (Saudi Arabia) and Maadi (Egypt) as examples, and these cities as locations with high concentrations of potential targets. The U.S. Embassy is unaware of any specific, credible threat against any American school or individual in Bangladesh. Nonetheless, the Embassy is working with local schools identified with the United States to review their security posture. U.S. citizens residing in or visiting Bangladesh should remain vigilant regarding their personal security and alert to local security developments.

It is always advisable to keep your security and situational awareness levels high. Please follow these good personal security practices:

- Avoid crowds or large gatherings when traveling in public;
- Know where you are going and have a plan of what to do in the event you encounter demonstrations or violence;
- Identify safe areas (for example police stations, hospitals, government buildings) in your area and how to get to them quickly;
- Tell co-workers or neighbors where you're going and when you intend to return;
- Minimize your profile while in public;
- Always carry a cell phone and make sure you have emergency numbers pre-programmed into your phone such as the US Embassy phone number (88) (02) 5566-2000. Emergency numbers: Police (88) (02) 999, Fire (88) 01713-038181
- Be prepared to postpone or cancel activities for personal safety concerns;
- Report concerns you may have to the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate.

We strongly recommend that U.S. citizens traveling to or residing in Bangladesh enroll in the Department of State's [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#) (STEP). STEP enrollment gives you the latest security updates, and makes it easier for the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate to contact you in an emergency. If you don't have Internet access, enroll directly with the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.

Please note that this revised notice corrects an error in the original notice, which had mistakenly added Bangladesh to Jeddah (Saudi Arabia) and Maadi (Egypt) as examples referenced in the posting with localities where international schools are concentrated. There was no such reference to Bangladesh, and the Embassy deeply regrets this unfortunate mistake.