



DEMONSTRATION NOTICE

**U.S. Embassy
La Paz, Bolivia**

March 11, 2014

The U.S. Embassy in La Paz has received information that the Asociación de Productores de Coca de los Yungas de La Paz (Adepcoca) is organizing a demonstration in La Paz for Wednesday, March 12, 2014, to celebrate the Día Nacional de Acullico (National Coca Chewing Day). The demonstrators will gather at the Plaza del Maestro in La Paz and will march to the U.S. Embassy, where demonstrators will ask the United States to stop “demonizing” the Bolivian practice of chewing coca leaves. Other demonstrations may occur in other cities in Bolivia.

These demonstrations are likely to result in disruptions to pedestrian and vehicular traffic. Consequently, the U.S. Embassy in La Paz and the U.S. Consular Agencies in Santa Cruz and Cochabamba will suspend routine services for the general public on this date.

The U.S. Embassy in La Paz and both Consular Agencies will resume normal operations on Thursday, March 13, 2014. Persons seeking emergency services may contact the American Citizen Services Unit, U.S. Embassy, in La Paz at (2) 216-8246 or via email at ConsularLaPazACS@state.gov or the Consular Agencies at the telephone numbers cited below. We regret any inconvenience this suspension of routine operations may cause.

When demonstrations or roadblocks are encountered, U.S. citizens should not attempt to pass through them.

U.S citizens are reminded of the following emergency preparedness advice and directives:

- Maintain an adequate supply of food, water, medicines, and any other necessary items for your family on hand in your home.
- Fill your vehicle with gas and avoid letting it get below half tank.
- Avoid areas where roadblocks and demonstrations are occurring and do not attempt to run blockades.
- U.S. citizens are advised to monitor the local media.

The U.S. Embassy reminds you that demonstrations and road blockades are not unusual in Bolivia. Even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and escalate into violence between security forces, demonstrators, and bystanders. U.S. citizens should avoid areas of demonstrations, and exercise caution if in the vicinity of any large gatherings, protests, or demonstrations. Be alert and aware of your surroundings and pay attention to what the local

news media has to say. Please note that the police have limited capabilities outside major cities and communication is poor.

You can stay in touch and receive Embassy updates by checking the Embassy website, found [here](#). 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, by calling the 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).

U.S. citizens are encouraged to enroll in the [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#). U.S. citizens without internet access may enroll directly at the nearest U.S. Embassy or U.S. Consulate. By enrolling, U.S. citizens make it easier for the embassy/consulates to contact them in case of emergency. Stay up to date by bookmarking our [Bureau of Consular Affairs website](#), which contains the current Travel Warnings and Travel Alerts as well as the Worldwide Caution. Follow us on [Twitter](#) and the Bureau of Consular Affairs page on [Facebook](#), and download our free [Smart Traveler iPhone App](#) to have travel information at your fingertips.

You can contact the American Citizen Services Unit at the U.S. Embassy in La Paz, Bolivia via e-mail at consularlapazacs@state.gov or by telephone at 591-2-216-8246 during regular business hours (Monday to Thursday, 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.) or 591-216-8000, after hours and on weekends. The U.S. Embassy is located at 2780 Arce Avenue in La Paz, Bolivia, and is open to the public by appointment on Monday through Thursday from 08:15 to 11:45, and Thursdays from 13:45 to 15:00. You can schedule a non-emergency appointment by visiting this website <http://bolivia.usembassy.gov/>.

The Embassy operates two Consular Agencies in the cities of Santa Cruz and Cochabamba, Bolivia. These agencies can also provide assistance to U.S. citizens. The Santa Cruz Consular Agency is located on Roque Aguilera Avenue #146 (3rd ring). You can contact the Santa Cruz Consular Agency by telephone at 591-3-351-3477, during regular business hours (Monday and Tuesday from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Wednesday and Thursday from 08:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., and Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.). The Cochabamba Consular Agency is located on Edificio Saal, Avenida Pando 1122, 1st Floor. You can contact the Cochabamba Consular Agency by telephone at 591-4-411-6313, during regular business hours (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and Wednesday from 1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.). If you wish to visit the Consular Agencies for a non-emergency matter, please schedule an appointment through this website <http://bolivia.usembassy.gov/>.