

United States Embassy La Paz, Bolivia
Security Message for U.S. Citizens: *Protests in El Alto and Surrounding Areas*
October 15, 2015

U.S. Embassy La Paz advises U. S. citizens living and traveling in Bolivia that on October 17, 2015, civic organizations in Bolivia plan to hold a protest in El Alto and its surrounding areas to mark the 12th anniversary of “Black October” (an event of civil unrest in 2003). The protest will be directed at the U.S. Government to show support for Bolivia’s request for the extradition of former president Gonzalo “Goni” Sanchez de Lozada and members of his administration from the United States.

For the past few years, the “Black October” protest has been peaceful. However, it has turned violent in the past.

At this time, there is no indication that private U.S. citizens are the target of these demonstrations. However, we recommend avoiding areas around the U.S. Embassy and in El Alto this weekend. The Bolivian National Police does not foresee any problems in the Zona Sur area and will be providing additional police presence on Saturday October 17.

Even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and escalate into violence. Avoid areas where demonstrations are taking place and exercise caution when in the vicinity of any large gatherings, protests, or demonstrations.

For further information:

- See the [State Department's travel website](#) for the [Worldwide Caution](#), Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and [Bolivia Country Specific Information](#).
- Enroll in the [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#) to receive security messages and make it easier to locate you in an emergency.
- Contact the U.S. Embassy in Bolivia, located at 2780 Arce Avenue in La Paz, at +591-2-216-8246 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Friday. After-hours emergency number for U.S. citizens is +591-2-216-8500.

- Contact the U.S. Consular Agency in Santa Cruz, located at Radial Castilla, S/N, Across from the Colegio Santo Tomás playing field, at +591-3-351-3477 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Friday. After-hours emergency number for U.S. citizens is +591-2-216-8500.
- Call 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or 1-202-501-4444 from other countries from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).