



DEMONSTRATION NOTICE

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

March 20, 2012
1:09 PM

The U.S. Embassy in La Paz has received information about various demonstrations that are taking place around La Paz and in Santa Cruz on March 20-22, 2012:

- In La Paz, around 300-400 sugar cane producers from Bermejo are marching from Mariscal Santa Cruz Avenue via Camacho Avenue to the Murillo Square. As a result, access routes to Murillo Square are already closed, including Calle Potosi, Calle Ayacucho, and Calle Colon.
- Two groups of 500-600 and 200-300 peaceful protesters have blocked the road the highways La Paz – El Alto and La Paz - Oruro, Mario Mercado Avenue, Satellite sector (Faro Murillo), and United Nations Avenue. They will march to the Ministry of Education, demanding more teachers for the schools. The major routes to the airport and to the refinery are currently blocked.
- Another group of 50 victims of former military governments who are demanding reparation payments from the Bolivian government are holding a vigil in front of the Ministry of Justice, 16 de Julio Av is blocked (El Prado).
- In Santa Cruz, health workers announced a new 48-hour strike for Wednesday and Thursday, March 21-22. If the conflict continues, this strike may continue beyond these dates.

U.S. citizens should avoid the blocked off areas and should not attempt to pass through roadblocks.

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, and even though they might be intended to be peaceful they can turn confrontational between security forces, demonstrators, and bystanders, and escalate into violence. You should avoid them if at all possible. If you find yourself in the vicinity of a large gathering, you should leave the area immediately for your own safety. 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 get Embassy updates by checking the Embassy website, found [here](#). You can also get global updates at the U.S. Department of State's [Bureau of Consular Affairs website](#) where you can find the current Worldwide Caution, Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and Country Specific Information. If you don't have internet access, we have a call center for updates--1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the U.S. and Canada, or outside the U.S. and Canada on a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444.

You can contact the American Citizen Services Unit at the U.S. Embassy in La Paz, Bolivia, via e-mail at consularlapaz@state.gov or by telephone at 591-2-216-8246 during regular business hours (Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.) or 591-715-33713 after hours and on weekends. The U.S. Embassy is located at 2780 Avenida Arce in La Paz, Bolivia, and is open to the public by appointment on Monday through Thursday from 08:00 to 12:30, and Thursdays from 14:00 to 16:00. You can schedule a non-emergency appointment by visiting this [website](#).

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 - Friday, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 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 and Thursday, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and Wednesday, 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.