



**U.S. Embassy, Gaborone  
Message for U.S. Citizens – 17 May 2011**

**NATIONWIDE STRIKE BY PUBLIC SECTOR EMPLOYEES EXTENDED**

The U.S. Embassy wishes to inform U.S. citizens that the country-wide strike by public sector employees which began April 18, 2011 has been extended by the labor unions and declared "indefinite." In addition, independent demonstrations by secondary school students in Molepolole, Ramotswa, and Mochudi took place on May 13 and May 16. At least one of these protests resulted in a confrontation between students and police. While the level of violence accompanying these demonstrations has been minimal, the Embassy encourages U.S. citizens living in and traveling to Botswana to remain alert and monitor the Embassy web site and local news for up-to-date security information.

The strike, which the Embassy estimates involves 20,000 - 30,000 government employees nationwide, has disrupted service delivery in public hospitals and clinics. On May 16, government schools closed until further notice and most private schools in Gaborone closed on May 17 apparently at the request of the Government of Botswana. Services such as electricity, water, and telecommunications, however, have not been severely affected. Military and police are prohibited from striking and have adhered to this directive.

While the embassy is not aware of any future planned demonstrations, we wish to remind U.S. citizens that even protests intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and possibly escalate into violence. U.S. citizens are therefore urged to avoid the areas of demonstrations, and to exercise caution if within the vicinity of any demonstrations.

Additional tips and guidance on security are available in our regular consular section newsletters. (For copies, please contact the consular section at the U.S. Embassy in Gaborone by email [[ConsularGaborone@state.gov](mailto:ConsularGaborone@state.gov)].) For emergency services outside regular business hours, please call the after-hours emergency number: (+267) 395-7111.

U.S. citizens traveling abroad should regularly monitor the U.S. Embassy's website the U.S. Department of State's, [Bureau of Consular Affairs website](#), where the current Worldwide Caution, Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and Country Specific Information 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 both living and traveling abroad. In addition to information on the Internet, travelers may obtain up-to-date information on security conditions by calling 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.

All U.S. citizens in Botswana are urged to register online at the [Bureau of Consular Affairs website](#). Registering gives U.S. citizens access to updated information on travel and security within Botswana and makes it easier for the Embassy to contact citizens in case of emergency. Please note the following contact information:

**U.S. Embassy to the Republic of Botswana**

Embassy Drive  
Government Enclave  
Gaborone  
Tel: 395-3982 (+267-395-3982)  
Fax: 318-0232 (+267-318-0232)  
Email: [ConsularGaborone@state.gov](mailto:ConsularGaborone@state.gov)  
After-hours emergencies: 395-7111 (+267-395-7111)

Local Botswana Emergency Contact Numbers:

Police: 999  
Fire: 998  
Ambulance: 997