



**U.S. Embassy, Gaborone**  
**Security Message for U.S. Citizens – 21 June 2012**

Recently, two individuals were attacked while traveling on the N4 highway between Pretoria, South Africa and Gaborone, Botswana. The attacks occurred between the towns of Brits and Hartbeespoort. The couple's vehicle overturned in an attempt to avoid hitting debris deliberately placed in the road by three assailants. The men initially pretended to offer assistance then robbed both and sexually assaulted one of the victims. Reports further indicate this was not the first time these individuals employed this tactic. A subsequent South African Police Service investigation led to the arrest of several men found to be in possession of the stolen merchandise.

In light of these arrests, the embassy is **not** advising U.S. citizens to avoid the N4 by taking longer, more circuitous routes. However, the embassy does encourage you to exercise caution and maintain heightened situational awareness when traveling in unfamiliar areas. It is also best to travel during the daylight hours to maximize your visibility. Be mindful that large portions of the highway between Gaborone and Pretoria/Johannesburg are isolated, so it is important to remember to perform preventive maintenance on your vehicle prior to any long trips (i.e. check tire tread, check fluid levels, check spare tire, check for tire jacks, etc.). It is also important to ensure that your cellular telephone is capable of dialing internationally between Botswana and South Africa.

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.

You can stay in touch and get Embassy updates by checking the website of the [U.S. Embassy in Gaborone](#). 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 Warning](#), Travel Alerts, and [Country Specific Information](#). Follow us on [Twitter](#) and the Bureau of Consular Affairs page on [Facebook](#) as well, or you can download our free Smart Traveler iPhone App for travel information at your fingertips. If you don't have internet access, current information on safety and security can also be obtained by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada, or, for callers from other countries, a 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).

All U.S. citizens in Botswana are urged to register online at the [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program](#) (STEP). 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: 267-395-7111

<http://botswana.usembassy.gov>

**Local Botswana Emergency Contact Numbers:**

Police: 999

Fire: 998

Ambulance: 997