



**U.S. Embassy, Gaborone
Warden Message – 30 July 2010**

UPDATE ON CRIME IN GABORONE

U.S. Embassy Gaborone reminds all U.S. citizens to stay vigilant in regards to the crime situation in Gaborone. Criminal gangs and elements operating in Gaborone are actively targeting careless individuals who present an easy target. Exercise personal responsibility by being vigilant and adhering to security guidelines and tips to prevent becoming a victim of crime.

Over the last week the Embassy is aware of six reported incidents of serious crimes/attempted crimes against diplomats, other expatriates, and Batswana in Gaborone. These incidents include:

- The stabbing and slashing of an expat in an office area near Kgale Hill during an attempted lap top robbery;
- The armed robbery of a group of diplomats near the Gaborone Dam area;
- The violent assault and beating of a diplomat just outside her residence during an attempted hand bag robbery;
- The theft of a handbag from a diplomat while their vehicle was broken down on the side of the road;
- The attempted theft of a cell phone from an American tourist at Riverwalk Mall resulting in a group of local Batswana shoppers beating the thief who was caught in the act; and
- Individuals impersonating government of Botswana officials attempting gain entry into a residence.

The Embassy notes that the Kgale Hill and Gaborone Dam areas are documented high crime areas. There are gangs of criminals that live and hide in the surrounding bush that actively target individuals or groups they perceive they can intimidate or overpower. The Embassy encourages anyone planning a visit to Kgale Hill and Gaborone Dam to travel **only** in very large groups including many able bodied and strong individuals.

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 fax [318-0232] or email [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

After-hours emergencies: 395-7111 (+267-395-7111)

Local Botswana Emergency Contact Numbers:

Police: 999

Fire: 998

Ambulance: 997