

U.S. Mission to the United Arab Emirates  
U.S. Embassy Abu Dhabi – U.S. Consulate General Dubai  
**Message # 06/2012: Spice on Prohibited Drug list as of June 1, 2012**

Over the last several weeks, the UAE has experienced an increase of drug-related arrests. A number of these arrests have been of American citizens, in a broad range of ages. The American community in the UAE should be aware that penalties for possession, use, or trafficking in illegal drugs in the United Arab Emirates are severe, and convicted offenders can expect long jail sentences and heavy fines. Most drug offences carry a minimum jail term of four years, while the penalty for smuggling with intent to distribute is 10 years and a fine of Dh50,000. Selling narcotics, even small amounts, can lead to long prison sentences, or even the death penalty in the most serious cases. The law enforcement authorities in the UAE are treating all drug violations very seriously.

More information on substances currently banned in the UAE is found on the U.S. Consulate's website at: [http://dubai.usconsulate.gov/banned\\_items.html](http://dubai.usconsulate.gov/banned_items.html) .

For information on the Consulate's role in regard to arrested American citizens, please visit the Department of State's website at:  
[http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/emergencies/arrest/arrest\\_3879.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/emergencies/arrest/arrest_3879.html).