

Demonstration Notice - December 08, 2011

Spontaneous demonstrations take place in Bahrain from time to time in response to world events or local developments. United States citizens should keep current with media coverage of local events and be aware of their surroundings at all times. If you encounter a large public gathering or demonstration, depart the vicinity immediately.

- On 09 December 2011 at 1900 hrs, a demonstration is planned near Al Maqsha Village (near Burgerland roundabout).

As part of the Ashura religious observations, processions will take place throughout Bahrain. While the below list is not all-inclusive and these gatherings are expected to be peaceful, spontaneous demonstrations take place in Bahrain from time to time in response to world events or local developments and, if this occurs, appropriate measures should be taken to avoid these areas.

- On 08 December, afternoon processions are expected in the area near A'ali.
- On 09 December, afternoon processions are expected in the area near Sitra.

Over the last several days isolated incidents of processions turning into political demonstrations have occurred. Some demonstrators have engaged in clashes with the police and continue to employ tactics such as placing debris and oil on roadways and throwing steel spikes. These actions often result in adverse driving conditions, an increased police presence, and significant traffic delays. The Embassy expects these tactics to continue throughout this period. Please use caution as you drive and plan additional time to arrive at your destination.

See the below map for the gathering locations (indicated by the yellow circles).

We remind U.S. citizens that even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and possibly escalate into violence. U.S. citizens are therefore urged to avoid the areas of demonstrations if possible, and to exercise caution if within the vicinity of any demonstrations.

For the latest security information, U.S. citizens living and traveling abroad should regularly monitor the Department of State's Bureau of Consular Affairs Internet website at <http://travel.state.gov>, where the current Worldwide Caution, Country Specific Information for Bahrain, Travel Warnings and Travel Alerts can be found. Up-to-date information on security can also be obtained by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or, for callers outside the United States and Canada, 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).

The U.S. Embassy in Manama can be reached at (973) 1724-2700; the afterhours emergency number is (973) 1724-2957; the fax number is (973) 1725-6242. The Embassy's web site includes travel information and the Worldwide Caution and Demonstration Notices. All U.S. citizens are encouraged to enroll in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program. The Consular Section can be reached at ManamaConsular@state.gov.

