



**U.S. Embassy Juba, South Sudan
Security Message for U.S. Citizens:
Political Tension in Juba – Gatherings Expected for SPLA Day**

May 16, 2014

This message is to alert U.S. citizens that Friday May 16, 2014, is Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) Day, a South Sudanese holiday celebrating the history of the army. In recognition of the holiday, the U.S. Mission in South Sudan will be officially closed.

Security forces have closed the road through the Dr. John Garang Memorial and it is expected to remain closed through the majority of the day. There will be a parade between 0900 – 1100 hours originating in the vicinity of the Bullock police station and ending at the Garang Memorial. Road closures along the parade route are anticipated before, during, and after the parade. In years past, there has been celebratory gun fire in the evening hours following the parade.

Given the potential for large crowds to gather along the parade route and the ongoing hostilities with rebel SPLA factions, the U.S. Embassy encourages you to avoid Ministries Road and the vicinity of the Garang Memorial and to exercise additional caution when moving about downtown Juba particularly during evening hours.

Recent gatherings have involved violence, including the recent disabled-veteran demonstrations in Juba, which involved vandalism of passing vehicles. Even gatherings intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and escalate into violence. You should avoid areas of demonstrations, and exercise caution if in the vicinity of any large gatherings, protests, or demonstrations. Review your personal security plans; remain aware of your surroundings, including local events; and monitor local news stations for updates. Maintain a high level of vigilance and take appropriate steps to enhance your personal security.

U.S. citizens are reminded that the U.S. Embassy in Juba further drew down its personnel on January 3, 2014, and therefore can offer only very limited emergency services to U.S. citizens in South Sudan. Due to the draw down in personnel in Juba, the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi [Tel.: +254 (20) 363 6451 or +254 (20) 363 6170, e-mail: Kenya_acs@state.gov] is available to help U.S. citizens in South Sudan who need assistance; in an emergency, contact the U.S. Embassy in Juba [daytime: +211 (0)912 105 188; after hours: +211 (0)912 105 107].

Regularly monitor the [State Department's website](#), where you can find current [Travel Warnings](#), including the [Travel Warning for South Sudan](#), [Travel Alerts](#), and the [Worldwide Caution](#). Read the [Country Specific Information for South Sudan](#). For information on "What the Department of State Can and Can't Do in a Crisis," please visit the [Bureau of Consular Affairs Emergencies and Crises](#) page.

U.S. citizens in South Sudan can obtain the latest security information by visiting the U.S. Embassy website. You can also call 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or 1-202-501-4444 from other countries. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays). Follow us on Twitter and [Facebook](#).

Thank you for registering through the [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program](#) which has enabled you to receive this information. Please help us improve our outreach to the U.S. citizen community in South Sudan by urging your U.S. citizen friends and colleagues to register their presence in South Sudan at travel.state.gov.