



U.S. Mission, Kazakhstan

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## **Security Message for U.S. Citizens** **October 3, 2012**

Following recent events in Western Kazakhstan, such as the September 5 explosion in Atyrau, the U.S. Mission Kazakhstan encourages U.S. citizens resident in, or traveling to, Western Kazakhstan to remain vigilant. Although previous violent activity has primarily been directed towards Kazakhstani governmental entities, it is possible that this focus could shift to other targets.

The U.S. Mission Kazakhstan recommends that all U.S. citizens resident in Kazakhstan register with the Consular Sections in Astana and Almaty either online through the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP). Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP), or in person during American Citizen Services (ACS) hours. Further information can be found online at [http://kazakhstan.usembassy.gov/contact\\_acs.html](http://kazakhstan.usembassy.gov/contact_acs.html). By enrolling, U.S. citizens make it easier for the Embassy or Consulate to contact them in case of emergency.

We remind U.S. citizens that even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and possibly escalate into violence. Please avoid areas where demonstrations occur or are planned and exercise caution if within the vicinity of any large gatherings. Please stay current with media coverage of local events, be aware of your surroundings, and practice personal security awareness at all times.

U.S. citizens traveling abroad should regularly monitor 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 living and traveling abroad.

Follow us on Twitter and the Bureau of Consular Affairs page on Facebook as well. You can also download our free Smart Traveler App available through iTunes and the Android market to have travel information at your fingertips. In addition to information on the internet, travelers may obtain the latest information on security conditions by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada, or outside the United States and Canada on 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).

For further information, U.S. citizens may telephone the United States Embassy Astana at 7-7172-70-21-00 or for after-hours emergencies 8-7172-70-22-00 or the U.S. Consulate General Almaty at 7-727-250-49-00 (you may use the same number for after-hours emergencies).