



U.S. Mission, Kazakhstan

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**Emergency Message for U.S. Citizens:
Violent Demonstrations in Western Kazakhstan
December 18, 2011**

The U.S. Embassy has learned of two violent demonstrations in the cities of Zhanaozen and Shepte in the Mangistau Region of Kazakhstan. These demonstrations have resulted in death and injuries. In Zhanaozen, there have been reports of Molotov cocktails being used and looting during the night. In response to these incidents, the Government of Kazakhstan has issued a 20-day State of Emergency in Zhanaozen, which is set to expire on January 5 at 7:00 AM.

We urge U.S. citizens to exercise vigilance and to take measures for their own safety and security at all times. These measures include paying attention to surrounding circumstances and events and avoiding crowds.

Even demonstrations that are meant to be peaceful can become violent and unpredictable. You should avoid them if at all possible. Be alert and aware of your surroundings and pay attention to what the local news media has to say.

For the latest security information, U.S. citizens residing and traveling abroad should regularly monitor the Department's Bureau of Consular Affairs travel website, where the current Worldwide Caution, Travel Alerts, and Travel Warnings 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 in other areas, by calling 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).

If you have any questions, please call the Consular Section: (727)-250-49-00 or send an inquiry to USAKZ@state.gov

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Web-site: <http://kazakhstan.usembassy.gov>

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