

United States Embassy Seoul, Republic of Korea
Security Message for U.S. Citizens:
Demonstrations Planned for Saturday, November 14
Date: November 13, 2015

U.S. Embassy Seoul informs U.S. citizens that several demonstrations are expected to take place in downtown areas beginning at noon on Saturday, November 14. The Korean Farmers' Solidarity Movement will demonstrate near Namdaemun (South Gate); the National Poor Associations will demonstrate at Seoul Station Train Plaza; the Korean Alliance of Progressive Movements will demonstrate at Marronnier Park (approximately 4 kilometers northeast of the U.S. Embassy); and the 21C Korea College Students' Union (Habdaeryun) will demonstrate at the Dongwha Duty Free Building (across from the Kyobo building). At the conclusion of the demonstrations, these groups will march to Seoul City Hall Plaza where they will join with the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions (KCTU) for a unified demonstration scheduled to begin at 2:00 p.m.

The local authorities advise that these groups will not be authorized to march from Seoul City Hall Plaza, and they warn that this restriction will increase the risk of violence. The local authorities anticipate that tens of thousands will participate in this mass demonstration.

The protestors plan to march to Gwangwhamun Plaza, which is located directly in front of the U.S. Embassy. U.S. citizens are advised to avoid areas where demonstrations are taking place and exercise caution in the vicinity of any large gatherings, protests, or demonstrations. Even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and escalate into violence.

Review your personal security plans, remain aware of your surroundings, including local events, and monitor local news stations for updates. Be vigilant and take appropriate steps to enhance your personal security.

We strongly recommend that U.S. citizens traveling or residing abroad enroll in the Department of State's [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#) at the [State Department's website](#). STEP enrollment gives you the latest security updates and makes it easier for the U.S. embassy or nearest U.S. consulate to contact you in an

emergency. If you don't have Internet access, enroll directly at the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.

Monitor the current Travel Warnings and Travel Alerts, and the Worldwide Caution on the [State Department's website](#). Read the [Country Specific Information for Republic of Korea](#). For additional information, refer to the ["Traveler's Checklist"](#).

Contact the U.S. embassy or consulate for up-to-date information on travel restrictions. 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](#) to have travel information at your fingertips.

The U.S. Embassy in Seoul is located at 188 Sejong-daero, Jongno-gu and is open from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., telephone 02-397-4000. If you are a U.S. citizen in need of urgent assistance *outside of business hours*, **the emergency after-hours number for the U.S. Embassy/Consulate is 02-397-4114.**