

Emergency Message: August 23rd Referendum

August 17, 2011

This message is a reminder to U.S. citizens of the nationwide referendum scheduled for August 23rd in Liberia. U.S. citizens should be aware of the likelihood of increased traffic problems, large crowds around referendum events and voting locations, and the likelihood of political rallies and demonstrations surrounding the referendum.

In addition, we want to remind U.S. citizens that even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and possibly escalate into violence between demonstrators and/or with local law enforcement. The recent violence between police and market sellers in the Red Light commercial district of Paynesville is an example of how quickly such situations can escalate. Avoid areas of demonstrations and exercise caution if you find yourself in the vicinity of any demonstrations.

You can stay in touch and get Embassy updates by checking the [U.S. Embassy Monrovia website](#). You can also get global updates at the U.S. Department of State's, [Bureau of Consular Affairs website](#) where you can find the current [Worldwide Caution](#), Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and [Country Specific Information](#). If you don't have internet access, we have a call center for updates, which can be reached toll-free at 1-888-407-4747 in the U.S. and Canada, or outside the U.S. 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 federal holidays).

If you are going to live in or travel to Liberia, please take the time to tell us about your trip by enrolling in the [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#). If you enroll, we can keep you up to date with important safety and security announcements. It will also help your friends and family get in touch with you in an emergency. Even if you have already enrolled, you should remember to keep all of your information in STEP up to date. It is important during enrollment or updating of information to include your current phone number and current email address where you can be reached in case of an emergency.

The U.S. Embassy in Monrovia is located on United Nations Drive in Mamba Point; mailing address 111 UN Drive, Mamba Point, Monrovia, Liberia. The Embassy telephone number is (+231) 77-054-825. The Embassy fax number is (+231) 77-010-370.

For after-hours emergencies, U.S. citizens should call (+231) 77-054-825 and ask to speak with the duty officer.