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United States Embassy Skopje, Macedonia

Emergency Message for U.S. citizens: Possible Demonstrations in Macedonia during the Weekend of March 8

The U.S. Embassy would like to advise U.S. citizens in Macedonia that various groups have called for demonstrations to be held on Friday, March 8, 2013 in front of the Government building in Skopje after noon prayers at the Jaja-Pasha mosque, which is located in the municipality of Cair in Skopje. Demonstrations last week in Skopje began in front of the Government building, but later moved to other parts of the city, resulting in clashes between demonstrators and Macedonian police as well as violence among demonstrators that led to injuries and burned vehicles. In the days following the demonstrations, attacks against young people on streets and buses in Macedonia, which are alleged to have been ethnically motivated, were reported to the police. Due to the potential for violence connected with any demonstrations in the upcoming days and weeks, the U.S. Embassy strongly advises U.S. citizens in Macedonia to avoid all areas where demonstrations are taking place.

Spontaneous demonstrations take place in Macedonia from time to time in response to world events or local developments. We remind U.S. citizens that even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can become violent and unpredictable. You should avoid them if at all possible. 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 and follow instructions of local authorities.

We strongly recommend that U.S. citizens traveling to or residing in Macedonia enroll in the Department of State's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) at <https://step.state.gov/step>. 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 with the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.

Regularly monitor the State Department's website at <http://travel.state.gov>, where you can find current Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and the Worldwide Caution. Read the Country Specific Information for Macedonia at http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_4965.html. For additional information, refer to "A Safe Trip Abroad" on the State Department's website.

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 from within 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 at <https://mobile.twitter.com/travelgov> and Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/travelgov>, and download our free Smart Traveler iPhone App at <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/smart-traveler/id442693988?mt=8> to have travel information at your fingertips.

[The U.S. Embassy in Skopje, Macedonia](#) is located at Samoilova 21, 1000 Skopje and is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. tel: (02) 310-2000. If you are a U.S. citizen in need of urgent assistance, the emergency number for the U.S. Embassy is (02) 310-2000, [e-mail](#).