

Embassy Notice on Demonstrations in the KLCC Area on Sunday February 27, 2011

There is a strong possibility that a demonstration by the Hindu Action Force (HINDRAF), a coalition of Indian NGOs, will take place in the vicinity of KLCC on Sunday February 27 at approximately 9:00 a.m. The demonstration has no connection to the United States nor is it, we understand, directed in any way at Americans in Malaysia. Police have issued a warning that HINDRAF, which is banned by the government, has not gotten the proper permits and that any such demonstration will be considered an illegal assembly that will warrant action taken against participants. HINDRAF organized a political rally in November 2007 in defiance of police warnings that resulted in the gathering of 20,000 people. Police used water cannons and tear gas to disperse the crowd and arrested approximately 400 demonstrators.

The Embassy strongly urges American citizens to avoid driving or walking around the KLCC area on Sunday.

We remind American citizens that even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and possibly escalate into violence. American citizens are therefore urged to avoid areas of demonstrations if possible, and to exercise caution if within the vicinity of any demonstrations. American citizens should stay current with media coverage of local events and be aware of their surroundings at all times.

Americans living and traveling abroad should regularly monitor the Embassy's website at <http://malaysia.usembassy.gov>, the U.S. Department of State's, Bureau of Consular Affairs' website www.travel.state.gov, 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 to "A Safe Trip Abroad," found at http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/safety/safety_1747.html, which includes valuable security information for those living and traveling abroad. In addition to information on the Internet, travelers may obtain up-to-date information on security conditions by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free 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 U.S. federal holidays).

Americans living or traveling in Malaysia are encouraged to enroll in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) at the following website: <https://travelregistration.state.gov>. Enrolling allows us to contact you in an emergency and provide updated information on travel and security. Americans without Internet access may register directly with the Embassy.

The U.S. Embassy is located at 376 Jalan Tun Razak, 50400 Kuala Lumpur and can be contacted at:

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Fax: 03-2148-5801

Website: <http://malaysia.usembassy.gov>

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