



U.S. Embassy, Manila, Philippines

Security Message for U.S. Citizens: Security Reminders about the Upcoming May 9 Elections

April 1, 2016

THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES IS TRANSMITTING THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION AS A PUBLIC SERVICE TO U.S. CITIZENS IN THE PHILIPPINES. PLEASE DISSEMINATE THIS MESSAGE TO ALL U.S. CITIZENS IN YOUR ORGANIZATION OR NEIGHBORHOOD. THANK YOU.

The U.S. Embassy reminds U.S. citizens in the Philippines that May 9 is a national and local election day in the Philippines. Philippine authorities have taken steps to reduce the possibility of election-related disturbances before, during, and after May 9. The Philippine National Police and the Armed Forces of the Philippines have established checkpoints in areas near polling places. Additionally, on January 10, Philippine authorities implemented a ban on bearing, carrying, and transporting firearms in public areas during the election period, from January 10 through June 8. The penalty for anyone caught in violation of the ban is one to six years in jail, with foreigners subject to possible deportation after completion of any prison sentence. For more information please visit the [Comelec website](#).

We remind U.S. citizens to remain vigilant and aware of their surroundings, assess their personal security, avoid public gatherings in connection with the May 9 elections, and avoid demonstrations. As a reminder, even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and possibly escalate into violence. Avoid areas where demonstrations are taking place and exercise caution when in the vicinity of any large gatherings, protests, or demonstrations. The Embassy also wishes to remind U.S. citizens to pay attention to the local news media and Philippine government announcements regarding possible election-related disturbances and any additional security measures imposed during the election period.

Note: The timestamp on this e-mail message may reflect Washington, D.C., time, which may differ from local time.

For further information:

- See the [State Department's travel website](#) for the [Worldwide Caution](#), Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and the [Philippines Country Specific Information](#).
- Enroll in the [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#) to receive security messages and make it easier to locate you in an emergency.
- Contact the U.S. Embassy in Manila, Philippines, located at 1201 Roxas Boulevard, at +(63) (2) 301-2000, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. After-hours emergency number for U.S. citizens is +(63) (2) 301-2000.
- Call 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or 1-202-501-4444 from other countries from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).