

**Security Message for U.S. Citizens
U.S. Embassy, Manila, Philippines**

August 28, 2014

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.

Continued Security Threats in the Southern Philippines

The U.S. Embassy reminds U.S. citizens residing in, or traveling to, the southern Philippines of the ongoing threat of violence and kidnappings in many parts of the region. Al-Qa'ida-linked terrorist groups and insurgent groups remain active in the southern Philippines, including many areas of Mindanao and the Sulu archipelago. Kidnappings of foreigners by the Abu Sayyaf Group in neighboring Malaysia and kidnappings in Mindanao by various groups underscore the continuing threat. Despite recent movement towards a political settlement in Mindanao, separatist and insurgent groups remain active, conducting bombings and attacking Philippine security forces. The Embassy strongly reiterates the recommendation in our current Travel Warning that U.S. citizens exercise extreme caution if traveling to Mindanao and the Sulu archipelago and to keep personal safety and security in mind during any stay in the southern Philippines. The Embassy's strict restriction on all but the most essential travel by Embassy employees to Mindanao and the Sulu archipelago remains in effect. Embassy employees must receive special authorization from Embassy security officials to travel to any location in Mindanao and the Sulu archipelago, including urban centers.

For more information on security conditions in the southern Philippines, please refer to the May 20, 2014 Travel Warning for the Philippines which can be found at:

<http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/alertswarnings/philippines-travel-warning.html>.

The Embassy wishes to remind all U.S. citizens to remain vigilant and maintain an appropriate level of personal security in all circumstances by reviewing your personal safety plans; remaining aware of your surroundings, including local events; and monitoring local news sources for updates.

The Embassy is located at 1201 Roxas Boulevard, Manila, Philippines and is open 0730-1600, Monday through Friday. The Embassy's main telephone number is (632) 301-2000. U.S. citizens needing to speak to the Embassy can dial this number and ask to be connected to the American Citizen Services (ACS) unit or with the Embassy Duty Officer (for calls outside of normal business hours). You can also contact the ACS unit through email at ACSInfoManila@state.gov or through the [Embassy Facebook page](#). Please visit [our website](#) for information on all services offered by the ACS unit.

We strongly recommend that U.S. citizens traveling to or residing in the Philippines enroll in the [Department of State's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#) at www.Travel.State.Gov. 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](#), where you can find current [Travel Warnings](#), including the [Travel Warning for the Philippines](#), Travel Alerts, and the Worldwide Caution. Read the [Country Specific Information for the Philippines](#). 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 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](#), and download our free [Smart Traveler iPhone App](#) to have travel information at your fingertips.