

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

**October 24, 2013**

*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.*

## **Security Reminders for Upcoming October 28 Elections**

The U.S. Embassy reminds U.S. citizens in the Philippines that October 28, 2013, is a local election day in the Philippines. Philippine authorities already have taken some steps to reduce the possibility of election-related disturbances before, during, and after that date. Philippine authorities have implemented a ban on bearing, carrying, or transporting firearms in areas around polling places and are expected to establish increased checkpoints staffed by both the Philippine National Police and the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Philippine authorities will also impose a liquor ban in the period immediately preceding the election.

We wish to remind U.S. citizens to remain vigilant and aware of their surroundings, assess their personal security, and avoid areas of demonstrations and public gatherings in connection with the October 28 elections. As a reminder, even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and possibly escalate into violence. U.S. citizens are therefore reminded to avoid areas of demonstrations if possible. 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.

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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](mailto: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](http://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.