

U.S. Embassy Asuncion, Paraguay

Security Message for U.S. Citizens – March in Asuncion, scheduled on March 21, 2013

March 20, 2013

Please be advised that the Federación Nacional Campesina has scheduled its yearly march in Asuncion for Thursday, March 21, 2013. The group reportedly plans to start congregating as early as March 20 in the vicinity of the “ex-Seminary Park” located on Kubitschek and 25 de Mayo, just behind the U.S. Embassy. The theme for this year’s march is “agricultural reform, land distribution/exploitation, and transparency in the electoral process”.

While the exact number of protesters is unknown, the National Police estimate between 3,000 to 4,000 participants.

The intended route of the march is Avenida Kubitschek to Avenida Eusebio Ayala continuing to the city center. The protestors are expected to congregate in the plaza, in front of the congressional building downtown.

The Ministry of Interior and the National Police plan to implement rigorous security measures.

Please anticipate major congestion throughout the downtown area and possible intermittent road closures, including major routes. Even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and escalate into violence. You should avoid areas of demonstrations, and exercise caution if in the vicinity of any large gatherings, protests, or demonstrations.

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

The U.S. Embassy in Asuncion is located at 1776 Mariscal Lopez Avenue.

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