

Warden Message

February 2, 2010

DEMONSTRATIONS IN GUAYAQUIL (FEBRUARY 11, 2010)

Dear Warden and/or Registrant:

The U.S. Consulate in Guayaquil informs American Citizens residing in and traveling to Guayaquil that political demonstrations will take place in Guayaquil on Thursday, February 11, at 3 p.m., in response to Mayor Jaime Nebot's call for a rally in support of Guayaquil's progress and autonomy.

The march will be held along Ave. 9 de Octubre, starting at Parque Centenario and ending at the Malecon Simon Bolivar. At this time, city officials have provided no estimates of the number of people expected to participate in the rally. However, large crowds and disrupted traffic on adjoining streets are expected throughout the afternoon.

American citizens are urged to avoid demonstrations if possible and to exercise caution when in the surrounding areas. The U.S. Consulate reminds American citizens that even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and possibly escalate into violence. Please note that foreigners participating in political demonstrations or protests of any kind may be subject to arrest and deportation under Ecuadorian law.

Americans living or traveling in Ecuador are encouraged to register with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate through the State Department's travel registration website, and to obtain updated information on travel and security within Ecuador. Americans without Internet access may register directly with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate. By registering, American citizens make it easier for the Embassy or Consulate to contact them in case of emergency. Please see the following links for local warden message information in Quito and Guayaquil, respectively, <http://ecuador.usembasy.gov/> and <http://guayaquil.usconsulate.gov>

U.S. citizens should consult the Country Specific Information for Ecuador and the latest Travel Alerts and Warnings and Worldwide Caution at the Department's web site at <http://travel.state.gov>. Updated information on travel and security in Ecuador may also be obtained from the Department of State by calling 1-888-407-4747 within the United States or by calling 1-202-501-4444 outside the United States.

The U.S. Embassy in Quito is located at Avigiras E12-170 y Eloy Alfaro. The telephone during business hours (8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) is (011) 593 2 398 5000 X3800. Within the same city use the last seven digits. Add the city code for intercity telephone calls. See also the Embassy web

site at <http://ecuador.usembassy.gov/>. American Citizen walk-in hours are between 1:30 p.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday thru Thursday, excluding U.S. and Ecuadorian holidays.

The U.S. Consulate General in Guayaquil is located at the corner of Avenida 9 de Octubre and Garcia Moreno (near the Hotel Oro Verde); telephone (011-593-4) 232-3570 during business hours (8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) or 232-1152 for after-hours emergencies; fax (011-593-4) 232-0904. See the Consulate General web site at <http://guayaquil.usconsulate.gov>.