

## **UNITED STATES EMBASSY MOSCOW, RUSSIA**

Security Message for U.S. Citizens: Demonstrations on March 2, 2013  
March 1, 2013

Embassy Moscow notifies U.S. citizens that the Russian government authorities will permit two demonstrations to take place in downtown Moscow on Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The first demonstration is identified by organizers as being for the "Protection of Children," expressing their opposition to the adoption of Russian children by U.S. citizens. Anti-U.S. rhetoric may be a component of this event. Participants will gather at 12:00 noon at Gogol Boulevard and then proceed along the Boulevard Ring to the area of Pushkinskaya Square. As many as 7,500 participants are expected.

The second demonstration, led by opposition groups, is being held for the "Rights of Muscovites," with similar events scheduled in approximately 20 other cities across Russia, including St. Petersburg, Rostov, Nizhny Novgorod, Ufa, Kirov, Perm, Ivanovo, and Voronezh. According to media sources, participants in Moscow will gather at 1:00 pm at the beginning of Strastny Bulvar, near Pushkinskaya Square. At 2:00 pm, the group will begin marching along the Boulevard Ring towards Prospekt Sakharova. The event is scheduled to conclude at 6:00 pm hours. Organizers anticipate 10,000 - 15,000 participants.

The potential for confrontation cannot be ruled out in the event that the two divergent groups meet. A larger-than-usual police presence will likely be evident in and around downtown Moscow to monitor the events. U.S. citizens should carry their identification and show it if requested by legitimate authorities. U.S. citizens should also be aware of the possibility for counter-demonstrations or other spontaneous protest activity throughout the Moscow region and other urban areas of Russia. Such large gatherings may further cause significant traffic and mass transit disruptions.

The U.S. Embassy also takes this opportunity to notify U.S. citizens that the Department of State has issued a [Worldwide Caution](#) to update information on the continuing threat of terrorist actions and violence against U.S. citizens and interests throughout the world, as well as to remind U.S. citizens to maintain a

high level of vigilance and to take appropriate steps to increase their security awareness. This Worldwide Caution replaces the previous issuance dated July 18, 2012.

While this Worldwide Caution may not signal a change in the security environment within Russia, it does underscore the importance of sound personal security practices and situational awareness – regardless of one’s activities or location.

**Please note the following guidance from the U.S. Department of State’s [Country-Specific Information Sheet for the Russian Federation](#): “U.S. citizens should avoid all public demonstrations, whether properly authorized by local officials or not, and avoid any large crowds and public gatherings that lack enhanced security measures.”**

Review your personal security plans, remain aware of your surroundings, including local events, monitor local news stations for updates. Maintain a high level of vigilance and take appropriate steps to enhance your personal security. For additional information, please refer to "[A Safe Trip Abroad](#).”

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*We strongly recommend that U.S. citizens traveling to or residing in Russia enroll in the Department of State’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 Bureau of Consular Affairs website](#), where you can find current Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and the Worldwide Caution. Read the [Country Specific Information for Russia](#). 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. You can also download our free Smart Traveler App, available through [iTunes](#) and the [Android market](#), to have travel information at your fingertips.

*American Citizen Services Unit of the U.S. Embassy in Moscow assists U.S. citizens in Russia. We can help you with passport issuance and renewal, voter assistance, notarials, and registering a child born abroad. We also provide emergency services for U.S. citizens in case of a disaster or in case of illness, arrest, death or destitution while in Russia. Appointments are required for all non-emergency services; you can make an appointment by calling the ACS Unit at 7 (495) 728-5577, or you may click [here](#) to schedule an appointment online. To contact us with questions, please write to [moscowwarden@state.gov](mailto:moscowwarden@state.gov). The Embassy's website is <http://moscow.usembassy.gov>.*

#### **Emergency Contact Information in Russia:**

##### ***U.S. Embassy Moscow:***

*American Citizens with an emergency during regular office hours (M-F 9am-6pm, excluding Russian and U.S. holidays) are welcome to visit the ACS Unit at the U.S. Embassy, 21 Novinsky Blvd., Moscow.*

*Tel: (7) (495) 728-5577 - 9:00 am to 6:00 pm, weekdays*

***After Hours Emergencies should call (7) (495) 728-5000 - after 6:00 pm, weekends and [holidays](#)***

##### ***U.S. Consulate General St. Petersburg:***

*The U.S. Consulate General in St. Petersburg is located at 15 Furshatskaya Street. You may contact the Consulate's ACS unit by e-mail at [StPetersburgACS@State.gov](mailto:StPetersburgACS@State.gov), by fax at (+7) (812) 331-2646.*

*The consulate's website is <http://stpetersburg.usconsulate.gov>*

*Tel: (+7) (812) 331-2600*

***After Hours Emergencies should call (812) 331-2600 and listen to the recorded message for the Duty Officer's cell phone number.***

##### ***U.S. Consulate General Vladivostok:***

*Tel: (+7) (4232) 30-00-70*

##### ***U.S. Consulate General Yekaterinburg:***

*Tel: (+7) (3432) 793-001*

