

PERSONAL SECURITY REMINDER FOR U.S. CITIZENS

For U.S. citizens living overseas, a serious oversight in personal safety can be thinking that "It can't happen to me", or "if it's going to happen, it's going to happen". This can put you at higher risk than you need to be.

The Embassy would like to remind all citizens to regularly self-assess their personal security practices by using the checklist below. Answering each question will help provide you with a picture of your personal security posture. Identifying areas for improvement and implementing measures to correct those deficiencies will make you, and your family members more secure.

CHECKLIST:

- ✓ Have you and family members registered with the Embassy or Consulate through the Department of State's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/registration/registration_4789.html?
- ✓ Do you vary your times and routes to and from work? You should select at least three routes (if feasible) and vary your times by 30-60 minutes daily. Schedules that are the most predictable leave you the most vulnerable. Be unpredictable in your work and social schedules. Whenever possible, do not have a set day for shopping, errands and personal needs.
- ✓ Do you check the interior and exterior of your vehicle for things out of the ordinary prior to getting into your car?
- ✓ Be sure to have your vehicle serviced before traveling. Make sure to check your tire pressure and have a sufficient amount of gas.
- ✓ Know where you are going and have a plan. What would you do if you encounter demonstrations or unrest?
- ✓ Do you and your family members carry fully-charged cellular telephones at all times? Are important contact numbers pre-programmed into your cell phone?
- ✓ In traffic, do you leave space between your car and the vehicle in front of you? Leave space to ensure you are able to maneuver around a vehicle in the event of an emergency. Be prepared to take evasive action at all times.
- ✓ Avoid choke points while traveling. Be wary of diversions.
- ✓ Do you keep your doors locked and windows closed (residence and vehicle)?
- ✓ Do you maintain a low personal profile by not doing anything that draws attention to yourself?
- ✓ Do you report to your security officers or local police vehicles or persons possibly involved in surveillance or similar suspicious activities?
- ✓ Are your colleagues and family aware of your daily plans and do they know how to reach you?

- ✓ Never give out your personal information such as family member and household staff names, addresses and telephone numbers in an open setting.
- ✓ To the extent possible, ensure all of your family members are briefed on security measures.
- ✓ Do you keep abreast of the latest news? Monitor local and international media to stay informed of events that could potentially affect U.S. interests in Saudi Arabia.
- ✓ If you are an employer, consider making this kind of checklist available to your employees.
- ✓ Likewise, do you encourage your staff to vary their hours of arrival and departure? (e.g., you do not schedule meetings the same time each morning that would preclude staff from varying their reporting times.)

For more tips on Personal Security – at home, on the street and while traveling, please visit http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/safety/safety_1747.html and <http://www.state.gov/m/ds/rls/rpt/19773.htm>