

United States Embassy Dakar, Senegal
Security Message for U.S. Citizens Possible Protests Regarding Charlie Hebdo Magazine
January 23, 2015

Local press is reporting the possibility of protests in the area of the Independence Monument (Obelisk) on Friday, January 23, and Saturday, January 24. The protests are in response to the controversy surrounding this week's cover of the Charlie Hebdo magazine and President Sall's participation in the march in Paris after the attacks.

The U.S. Embassy recommends avoiding Independence Monument (Obelisk) during this time. There is also a possibility that spontaneous protests will take place immediately after Friday prayers. Historically the Grand Mosque has been a focal point for demonstrations. The French Embassy or other French interests may also draw demonstrators this weekend.

U.S. citizens are encouraged to practice good situational awareness and remain observant at all times. Be aware that protests and demonstrations intended to be peaceful can quickly escalate into violence. Avoid crowds, political gatherings, and street protests and demonstrations, even if they appear to be peaceful. Exercise caution when in the vicinity of demonstrations or police activity and be aware of your surroundings at all times. When travelling by car, keep your doors locked and windows up.

We strongly recommend U.S. citizens traveling to or residing in Senegal or Guinea-Bissau enroll in the Department of State's [**Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)**](#). STEP enrollment gives 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.

In addition, if you wish to participate in the optional SMS/text messaging program to receive security notices via text message, please send an email to [**DakarACS@state.gov**](mailto:DakarACS@state.gov) for additional information.

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 Senegal and neighboring countries. For additional information, refer to the [**Traveler's Checklist**](#) 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**](#) to have travel information at your fingertips.

The U.S. Embassy in Dakar is located on Route des Almadies and is open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Fridays from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. If you are a U.S. citizen in need of urgent assistance, the emergency number for the U.S. Embassy is +221 33 879 4444.