

U.S Embassy Dakar, Senegal
Emergency Message for U.S. Citizens
Possible Demonstrations following the Constitutional Council's ruling

January 26, 2012

This message is to inform U.S. citizens in Senegal that the Constitutional Council is expected to announce their ruling on the validity of the Senegalese Presidential candidates on Friday, January 27, 2012. The official announcement is expected to be delivered at the Constitutional Council's offices in Les Almadies (a district of Dakar located close to the former Le Meridian hotel.) Although no time has been given for the announcement, there are indications that it will take place late in the day, possibly late in the evening. This may attract large crowds and possible demonstrations.

In response to the expected announcements, Senegalese law enforcement authorities may implement additional security measures near the Constitutional Council's offices in Les Almadies. From January 26 - 29, the Senegalese security services will have a visible presence in Almadies (in particular the area near the Constitutional Council) to monitor and respond to possible demonstration activity. U.S. citizens who live in that area of Dakar or who may plan to travel in that area should be aware that checkpoints could be implemented at any time. U.S. citizens are advised to carry identification papers with them and be prepared to respond to questions if stopped.

In addition, the Government of Senegal has banned all demonstrations in Senegal from January 26th through January 30th. However, opposition groups have stated publically that they will defy the ban and they plan to proceed with demonstrations to protest the expected decision of the Constitutional Council. Available information suggests that demonstrations will be widespread throughout Dakar, rather than one large demonstration confined to a single area. The possibility of large demonstrations, traffic disruptions and violence exists throughout Dakar, particularly Friday, January 27th and Saturday, January 28th .

In the recent past the following areas and/or types of locations have been the sites of demonstrations:

Ouakam area;
Mermoz/Fann area;
Plateau area;
Alamadies area (near the Constitutional Council)
Gas stations;
Bridges and traffic circles;
Government buildings to include local government buildings;
Public market areas;
Corniche near University Cheikh Anta Diop

In response to the widespread nature of these planned demonstrations and the possibility of violence, the Embassy is advising its U.S. employees and families to take the following precautions this weekend:

- Personnel should return to their residences by early evening on Friday, January, 27th.
- Personnel should avoid travel into, out of, or within Dakar on Saturday, January 28th.
- Personnel should complete required errands, shopping, etc. on Friday afternoon and not on Saturday.
- Personnel should park vehicles off the street.

U.S. citizens living in Senegal, and particularly in Dakar, are urged to avoid travel late Friday night and through the day on Saturday. If travel is necessary, please exercise caution. Stay tuned to media reports, maintain situational awareness, consider alternate travel routes in case of blockage and avoid demonstrations should you come upon them.

You can stay in touch and get Embassy updates by checking the U.S. Embassy Dakar web site (<http://dakar.usembassy.gov/>). You can also get global updates at the U.S. Department of State's, Bureau of Consular Affairs website where you can find the current Worldwide Caution, Travel Warning, Travel Alerts, and Country Specific Information (http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1013.html). If you don't have internet access, you can get current information on safety and security by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States, or for callers from other countries, a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).

If you are going to live in or travel to Senegal or Guinea-Bissau, please take the time to tell us about your trip by enrolling in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP - <https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/ui/>). If you enroll, we can keep you up to date with important safety and security announcements. It will also help your friends and family get in touch with you in an emergency. You should remember to keep all of your information in STEP up to date. It is important during enrollment or updating of information to include your current phone number and current email address where you can be reached in case of an emergency.

The U.S. Embassy in Dakar is located on at Avenue Jean XXIII, Dakar; the mailing address is B.P. 49, Dakar, Senegal. If you have questions or concerns about safety or related issues, you are encouraged to contact the consular section at the Embassy by sending an email message to consulardakar@state.gov. The Embassy telephone number is +221 33 829-2100. For After Hours Emergency, please call Tel: 33-829-2209 and ask to speak to the duty officer.